

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1846

A RESOLUTION memorializing the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine that various ailments warrant a presumption of service connection because of service in the armed forces of our nation during the Persian Gulf War.

WHEREAS, Nearly 700,000 members of the United States armed forces, including 7,500 Kansans, deployed to the Persian Gulf region during 1990 and 1991 to participate in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, These Gulf War veterans have been, and continue to be, afflicted by an abnormally high rate of unexplained health problems. The Kansas Persian Gulf War Veterans Health Initiative, a project of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, completed a scientific study of 2,000 Kansas Gulf War veterans. A pattern of chronic symptoms, Gulf War illness, was identified. Thirty-four percent of Kansas Gulf War veterans report a pattern of chronic symptoms that include joint pain, respiratory problems, neuropsychologic difficulties, diarrhea, skin rashes, and fatigue. Veterans with Gulf War illness experience a pattern of multiple types of symptoms that can persist for years, problems that can be severe and disabling for some veterans; and

WHEREAS, These veterans have been afflicted with the following diseases and conditions at indicated rates higher than non-Gulf War veterans: Skin conditions, 3.83; intestinal problems, 2.13; depression, 1.99; arthritis, 1.99; migraine headaches, 2.25; bronchitis, 2.61; asthma, 2.08; heart disease, 1.56; lung diseases, 4.77; thyroid conditions, 2.32 and seizures, 4.17; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized by Title 38, United States Code, section 1118, to presume a service connection for illnesses associated with service in the Persian Gulf during the Persian Gulf War: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we memorialize the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to presume that the above listed diseases and conditions be incurred in or aggravated by service in the Persian Gulf during the Persian Gulf War; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Anthony J. Principi, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20420; each member of the Kansas Legislative delegation; Veterans Information Network, 1703 S.W. 66th Street, Topeka, KS 66619; and National Gulf War Resource Center, 800 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Senate Resolution No. 1846 was sponsored by Senator Larry D. Salmans.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*