MEMBERSHIP

“THE LEGION ACT”

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Southern Membership and Blood Donor Chairman
THE LEGION ACT

“Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for The National Service Act”
The Law’s Journey

It began on February 14, 2019 when Senator Kyrsten Sinema, D-AZ, introduced S.504, along with Senator Thom Tillis, R-NC. A companion measure, HR 1641, was introduced in the House by Representatives Lou Correa, D-CA and Ben Cline, R-VA. President Trump signed the bill on July 30, 2019.
WHY?

It is way to honor thousands of Veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

Approximately 1,600 Veterans
REDEFINED

The American Legion’s membership eligibility dates were redefined. The new dates now span from December 7, 1941 until the time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE AMERICAN LEGION?

1. The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from 7 to 2. They are April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 and December 7, 1941 and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE AMERICAN LEGION?

2. Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at: www.legion.org/join
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE AMERICAN LEGION?

3. The American Legion’s founding fathers believed, “A Veteran is a Veteran”, an axiom that has held true throughout the organization’s more than a century of service.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE AMERICAN LEGION?

4. The difference in the Legion’s criteria and AMVETS states that Veterans must have served during “Wartime”. When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer at war, the membership eligibility period will close and AMVETS will continue.
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5. The Son’s eligibility criteria will change along with that of the American Legion. For example, a Son of a Veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. Now the Veteran and his Son would now be eligible. The same goes for the Auxiliary.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE AMERICAN LEGION?

6. New membership material is still being developed. Until then, new applications for these new members should have a write-in of: “Other Conflicts” in the war eras section.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE AMERICAN LEGION?

7. There are no changes to the PUFL (Paid Up For Life) Program though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about PUFLs visit www.legion.org/PUFL
QUESTIONS??