

## **Resolution No 9 The State of Michigan Opposes “Claim Sharks”**

Whereas: Title 38 CFR 14.629(b)(1) prohibits any party from assisting a veteran in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a Department Veterans Affairs (VA) claim unless they are accredited through VA for such purposes, and

Whereas: The Veterans of Foreign Wars and other Veterans Service Organizations, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, and the Michigan Association of County Veterans Service Officers, do not charge a fee to assist veterans in the preparation, presentation, or legal representation of claims to the VA, and

Whereas: Fees charged by some non-accredited agencies have been known to be as high as thirty percent (30%) of the claim award, and

Whereas: Such non-accredited agencies have become known as “Claim Sharks”, therefore

Be it Resolved: That the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars supports state legislation that prohibits anyone other than the claimant veteran themselves or a veteran representative accredited through the VA from filing or assisting in the filing of claims on behalf of any veteran or claimant living in the State of Michigan, and

Be it Further Resolved: That the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars supports state legislation that would require state prosecution of anyone charging any fee for assisting any veteran or claimant residing in the State of Michigan in preparing, filing or the prosecution of any VA claim.

Submitted by State Commander, Ray Lopez

Endorsed by the Michigan Veterans Commanders Group