

Legion Moves to Include Veterans of Viet Nam War

Responding to numerous inquiries, Commander Arthur N. Dupuis of the Bert S. Crossland Post 170 of the American Legion today outlined the steps which the group has taken on behalf of Viet Nam veterans.

"Regardless of what words are used to describe the hostilities in Viet Nam," Dupuis said, "The American Legion recognizes that we are engaged in a real shooting war."

The Legion is asking Congress to extend to Viet Nam veterans readjustment benefits similar to those provided under the GI Bill of Rights for veterans of World War II and the Korean War, Dupuis explained.

IN ADDITION, National Commander L. Eldon Jones has appointed a special committee, headed by Past National Commander J. Addington Wagner of Battle Creek, Mich., to iron out technical and legal problems to extend Legion membership to veterans of the Viet Nam war.

Dupuis said the Legion is chartered by the U. S. Congress and membership requirements have been spelled out in the charter. The special committee has been asked to draw up changes in the Legion's national constitution and in the federal charter to permit Viet Nam servicemen and women to join the organization after discharge, or at the cessation of hostilities.

PLANS CALL for state units to get the report by March so it may be voted on during state conventions, Dupuis explained. Final action may be taken at the national convention, scheduled in Washington, D. C., Aug. 28 through Sept. 1, 1966.

Changes in the Legion's national constitution can be made only with the approval of two-thirds of the delegates to the annual national convention.

Membership in the 2.5-million member organization currently is open to veterans who served in World War I between April 6, 1917, and Nov. 11, 1918; to veterans of World War II whose service began during the period Dec. 7, 1941, to Sept. 2, 1945, and to Korean veterans who served between June 25, 1950, and July 27, 1953.

New Club President Installed

New officers of Torrance Toastmasters Club 695 were installed at a Ladies Night meeting.

Lt. Governor Mike Luyt of District 51 served as installing officer. He formally installed Denis Bean as president of the club for the coming year.

Other new officers include Joe Huston, educational vice president; Chet D'Anna, administrative vice president; Roland Gosselin, secretary; Gil Roxy, treasurer, and Ed Curry, sergeant-at-arms. Dr. Rollin R. Smith is the immediate past president.

The club meets twice a month. Information regarding membership may be secured by calling 371-4565.

The evening's program included formal prepared speeches and Gil Roxy was voted best speaker of the evening. Roger Saunders won the extemporaneous table topics award.

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