



The history of American Veterans - AMVETS

1943 AMVETS was founded August during WWII with victory still two years away. The new Veteran organization, later to be known Americans of World War II, had its beginning. Formed in Washington D.C., two independent clubs, one on the campus of George Washington University, the other a group of Veterans employed by the government, joined together to sponsor a serviceman's party.

September 1944, other veterans' clubs organized in California, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas and Tennessee were formed.

December 1944 leaders met in Kansas City, MO, to link the service clubs under one national organization. The word AMVETS was later coined by newspaper headline writers, and soon became the organization's official name.

October 1945, two months after the end of WWII, the first national convention was held in Chicago.

1946, AMVETS petitioned Congress for a federal charter.

July 23, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the AMVETS charter.

September 14, 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill redefining the eligibility dates for AMVETS membership, stating "Any person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or any American citizen, who served in the armed forces of an allied nation of the United States at any time after September 16, 1940, and on or before the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States is eligible for regular membership in AMVETS, provided such service when terminated by discharge or release from active duty be by honorable discharge or separation."

May 31, 1984 President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98304 which amended the AMVETS congressional charter to open membership to all members of the military who served honorably and actively after May 15, 1975. AMVETS is now the only congressionally chartered Veterans organization that recognizes the sacrifices of those Veterans and service personnel by extending membership eligibility.

Today, Team AMVETS™ Department of California and the Service Foundation lead the way assisting the over two million brave men and women Veterans and their families of our great state. Team AMVETS™ Department of California Service Foundation is "Committed to Serve...Those Who Served"® through numerous supportive programs...our heroes deserve "NOTHING LESS!"