



# Resolution 19-1

For

## MNGEA / EANGUS Resolutions Process

Date: 15 April 2019

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Chapter: 48

Category- Joint

Type Resolution - NEW

Relating To - Burn Pit Accountability

Background –

Burn pit exposure and various other toxic exposures are cause of illnesses among veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan failed to make the 2016 list of peer-reviewed medical research programs that Congress requires the Defense Department to conduct. The absence of burn pit exposure on the list was confirmed on Tuesday by a spokeswoman for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs at Fort Detrick, Maryland

On January 17, 2019, Representative Tulsi Gabbard (HI) introduced H.R. 663, the *Burn Pits Accountability Act* in the House and Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) introduced a companion bill, S. 191, in the Senate. Since the Persian Gulf War, a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside the United States was the use of burn pits. Smoke from these pits contained toxic substances that may have short- and long-term health effects, especially for those who were exposed for longer periods. Many service members reported acute symptoms of respiratory or eye irritation, gastrointestinal distress, or rashes during or shortly after exposure, but the research thus far has been inconclusive about whether there are longer lasting consequences to these exposures as many veterans, who are still struggling with health conditions that arose during or after military service believe. Both bills would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that periodic health assessments ascertain whether a service member has been at a location when an open burn pit was used or exposed to toxic airborne chemicals. It will further require the Secretary to enter into an information sharing agreement with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). If a service member was exposed, the VA Secretary will enroll the member into the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, unless the member elects not to enroll. Burn pit “symptoms” have affected members from our own state as well as hundreds more throughout the country, some with the worst outcome possible.

### Proposed Recommendation -

Propose endorsement of these bills by MNGEA and move to have these forwarded to EANGUS at the national level.

Resolution #: 19-1 Date Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit NLT 15 April to: Mail to: Marcus Erickson via email: [legislative@mngear.com](mailto:legislative@mngear.com)

*Passed*