

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 8 – 9, 2013**

**Resolution No. 31: Distinguished Service Medal, 2013
Origin: Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal was created to distinguish individuals and organizations for their outstanding service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be bestowed upon an organization who during its existence has actively sought to provide excitement, glamour, a constant smile of thanks and lifted spirits; and

WHEREAS, In 1979 the Department of Defense recognized the value that the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders provided to service men and women and invited them join the United Service Organization (USO) Christmas tour to South Korea and the troops so enthusiastically received them that a tradition was born; and

WHEREAS, The organization has made 75 USO tours into areas of the world where service men and women and military families are deployed to include cheerleading classes for children of military families; and

WHEREAS, Although they are cheerleaders representing and supporting an NFL football team, they are more to America as goodwill ambassadors which are often imitated but never equaled in their ability to bring something special to those they visit or entertain; and

WHEREAS, The nationally-known organization, and often called America's Cheerleaders, has been touring with the USO since 1979, travelling to more than 200 locations worldwide to extend America's thanks to troops and their families, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Belgium, Guantanamo Bay, Germany, Iceland, Iraq, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, When not performing for the Dallas Cowboys football games or traveling overseas, they spend their time supporting charities and visiting hospitals such as the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals, the Salvation Army, Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Association for Hearing Impaired Children, American Heart Association, the March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, Make A Wish Foundation, nursing homes and children's homes; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of their outstanding service, in 1991 the organization was presented the USO's prestigious "50th Anniversary Award" and in 1997 their many years of distinguished service to the men, women and families of America's Armed Forces were recognized with the presentation of the USO's first ever "Spirit of Hope" award; and

WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders have partnered with the USO as a morale builder to deliver a "touch of home" to our troops and military families around the world and our service personnel and their families have welcomed them with open arms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 8-9, 2013, That the 2013 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.