

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, IN
May 4-6, 1955**

Resolution No.108: Recommending Presentation of the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal to Dr. Jonas E. Salk
Origin: National Executive Committee
Submitted By: National Executive Committee

WHEREAS, The announcement on April 12 of the unqualified success of the field trials of the Salk Polio Vaccine has meant not only that humanity now has the means of eliminating one of the greatest killers andcrippler of children and young adults but that also avenues of research may have been opened leading to new methods of fighting other virus diseases; and

WHEREAS, The development of the polio vaccine was the work of Dr. Jonas E. Salk, research professor in bacteriology; and director of the Virus Research Laboratory, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who for the past eight years has devoted all his time, energy and professional skill to poliomyelitis research; and

WHEREAS, In addition to having directed the research which brought about this milestone in medical history, Dr. Salk previously carried on influenza research and assisted in the development of an influenza vaccine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Salk's work has already been recognized through the awarding to him of the Mutual of Omaha's \$10,000 Criss Award and Gold Medal upon the selection of a board of judges headed by Dr. Charles W. Mayo, the Jacoby Medallion by the Associated Alumni of Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City, and numerous other awards by professional organizations and other groups, and he has been personally commended by the president of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-6, 1955, That Dr. Jonas E. Salk be awarded our highest honor, the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal.