

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 8-9, 1985**

Resolution No. 44: The American Legion's Distinguished Service Award

Origin: Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has created The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal and has authorized its award to distinguished Americans in recognition of their outstanding service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes, and traditions of this award that it be bestowed upon an American who lived a life devoted to the preservation of liberty and the highest principles of Americanism and faithfully performed the duties of a devoted husband and father though often faced with the rigorous demands of military life and extended periods of time away from loved ones in service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, Fleet Admiral William Frederick Halsey, Junior, United States Navy, (Retired) , faithfully served his country from 1909 until 1946 and distinguished himself during his naval career in numerous command assignments, culminated by his assignment as the commander, Third Fleet and the commander Western Pacific Forces, from June 1944 until November 1945; and

WHEREAS, Recognition of his outstanding performance of duty was rendered by a grateful nation in the presentation of numerous decorations and awards among which were: the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with three gold stars, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Victory Medal, Destroyer Clasp, American Defense Medal, Fleet Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal; and

WHEREAS, The formal surrender of the Japanese was signed on board his flagship, the USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay, September 1, 1945, following the last attack of World War II on mainland Japan by forces under his command; and

WHEREAS, The patriotism, devotion to duty and dedication of a life-time to service to the United States of America as an officer of the United States Navy were recognized by his promotion to the rank of fleet admiral; and

WHEREAS, His life as a great American military leader and hero was a signal contribution to the struggle for the continuation of freedom in the world and brought great honor on the United States of America; 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, 1985, That the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented posthumously to Fleet Admiral William F . Halsey, Jr ., United States Navy, (Retired) .