

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 2-3, 1995**

Resolution No. 39: Distinguished Service Medal Nomination

Origin: Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion 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 a group of Americans who flew the historic aircraft Enola Gay on the world's first atomic mission; and

WHEREAS, They brought a quick and decisive end to World War II; and

WHEREAS, They saved the lives of countless thousands of Americans and allied servicemen who otherwise would have been lost in an invasion of Japan; and

WHEREAS, They ushered in an era of unprecedented peace and prosperity marked by the total rejection by the world's powers of the use of atomic weaponry in subsequent conflicts; and

WHEREAS, They were commanded by an officer who continued his service to the nation in the United States Air Force, eventually rising to the rank of brigadier general, and throughout his entire life publicly and privately defended the historic mission of the Enola Gay; and

WHEREAS, 1995 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and of the historic mission of the Enola Gay; and

WHEREAS, The commander of the Enola Gay and the members of the crew throughout their lives supported the highest principles and objectives of The American Legion as evidenced by their courage and dedication both in uniform and out; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 2-3, 1995, That the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to Brigadier General Paul M. Tibbets, United States Air Force, Retired, and the crew of the Enola Gay; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon formal acceptance of this award by the nominee, this resolution shall be amended to reflect the personal and professional achievements of Brigadier General Paul M. Tibbets, United States Air Force, Retired, and the names of all crew members of the Enola Gay, together with a notation as to them living or deceased.