

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 1-2, 1996**

Resolution No. 30: Distinguished Service Medal Nomination

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 is bestowed upon an American, who during his years of public service and extraordinary patriotism, has actively served his country and among his achievements he is a retired major general in the Mississippi National Guard, having served his country for more than 35 years in the military; and

WHEREAS, His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star for Valor, Combat Infantry Badge, Army Commendation Medal, WWII European Theatre Ribbon and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross Award; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction in the United States House of Representatives since November, 1966, and has ably addressed thousands of wide-ranging issues, and served on a number of House committees, including Veterans Affairs, VA Committee, Armed Services, Personnel and Compensation, Installations and Facilities, and House Select Committee on U.S. Involvement in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, He has been very involved and instrumental in determining a full accountability of those classified as POW/MIA in Indochina, and has made 14 trips to Vietnam on behalf of missing American servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, He headed the official House contingent to the 40th and, again led the delegation to the 50th anniversary observance of the D-Day invasion at Normandy, France; and

WHEREAS, He was the first member of congress to lead the House of Representatives in the Pledge of Allegiance when it became a permanent part of the daily operations in the House on September 13, 1988; and

WHEREAS, He introduced in the 98th Congress, and guided to passage, a peacetime G.I. education bill, which provides incentives for both recruitment and retention of qualified young men and women for the all-volunteer armed forces; and

WHEREAS, He supports the highest principles and objectives of The American Legion through his life-long dedication to his country and its citizens 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 1-2, 1996, That the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to the Honorable Gillespie V. (Sonny) Montgomery.