

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 5-6, 1999**

Resolution No. 45: 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 is bestowed upon an American who during his years of public service and extraordinary patriotism, has actively served his country; and

WHEREAS, Among his achievements, he is a graduate, he is a genuine American hero, the son of Russian immigrants who served his country for most of his adult life through philanthropic contributions; and

WHEREAS, He was a bricklayer in his youth and became one of New York's most accomplished developers, helping to shape the most famous skyline in the world, and further enrich the lives of millions of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, He is a recent recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, this country's highest civilian award, and has been further honored by Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton for his efforts to support the nation's charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, His civic minded generosity has a special place in the hearts of American military families; and

WHEREAS, He is a person who has devoted his life to giving back to those who fought for his freedom, and has donated more than eight million dollars to the families of those who died serving their country's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, He has done this through his active participation in the nation's armed services by providing support for its members via such outlets as the Intrepid Museum Foundation; Fisher Armed Services Foundation; the Fisher House Program, and is currently establishing a medical foundation for research into Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, He has established Fisher Houses in a number of states and the District of Columbia in providing a home away from home for families of military patients receiving medical care, primarily on an inpatient basis, allowing loved ones who are a far distance from home to stay in a family environment close to the patient; and

WHEREAS, He supports the highest principles and objectives of The American Legion through his lifelong dedication to his country and 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 5-6, 1999, That the Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented Zachary Fisher.