

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 7-8, 2003**

**Resolution No. 59: 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 bestowing it upon distinguished Americans in recognition of their outstanding service to the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be conferred on two Americans, who during their years of public service, humanitarianism and extraordinary patriotism, have actively and consistently served their country; and

WHEREAS, They are both physical chemists by training, and are scientists, public health researchers and professors at the prominent and prestigious Mailman School of Public Health at New York's Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, Other personal achievements include a Guggenheim Fellow, a NIH Fogarty Senior International Fellow, the editor of an esteemed occupational health and safety encyclopedia, editor of the journal Women and Health, author of several books and many papers; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1970's they became involved in studying whether Vietnam veterans had been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides; and

WHEREAS, In 1984 they initiated research in conjunction with and supported by The American Legion; a broad-based epidemiological study of Vietnam veterans titled the Columbia University and American Legion Vietnam Veterans Study; and

WHEREAS, The findings of the Columbia University and American Legion Study, published in 1988, demonstrated a link between exposure to combat and herbicides in Vietnam and subsequent health problems, which some in the government said could not be done and showed a real need for mental health assistance and other services from VA among Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, They continue to do research work on environmental exposures and the enduring effects of PTSD and are in the process of publishing further findings, some of which are a follow-up to the study of Legionnaires; and over much of their careers they have worked with The American Legion on the health and well-being of Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, They have worked closely with The American Legion in its legal battles to force the federal government to fulfill its obligation to carry out a major epidemiological studies of the effects of herbicides on veteran's health and their children; and

WHEREAS, Their continued research includes studying whether prostate cancer is related to herbicides; and

WHEREAS, They are world-recognized experts on tobacco and health and assist many groups and organizations in preventing further health problems related to smoking; and

WHEREAS, They are individuals who support the highest principles of our objectives of The American Legion through their life-long dedication to this country and its citizens both in uniform and out; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeanne Mager Stellman has a particular affection for the men and woman who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, as she was a child of survivors of the Holocaust and was born in a U.S. Army relocation camp in Germany, she has stated without the selfless and valiant efforts of the American soldiers, she doubts very much that she would have been born or that her parents would have survived; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7-8, 2003, That the 2003 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to Dr. Jeanne Mager Stellman and Steven D. Stellman.**