

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 4-5, 2005**

**Resolution No. 40: Distinguished Service Medal  
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 this award to distinguished individuals 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 now being bestowed upon a person who during his years of public service has actively served the community, state and nation in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS, There are strong personality traits that serve as the hallmark of this person's life, which are hard work, perseverance, dedication, and service of over 40 years in the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, He grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, attended Kansas State University and received a master's degree in business administration from Auburn University before pursuing a career in the military; and

WHEREAS, His Midwestern roots contributed both to his ability to maintain strong family ties while traveling throughout the world in service to his country, and to his ability to maintain an optimistic attitude about the world around him; and

WHEREAS, He began his military career in 1965 when he was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant after graduating from the Reserve Officers Training Corps Program; and

WHEREAS, He served from November, 1963, to June, 1966, as commander of the U.S. forces in Japan, and the 5th Air Force at Yokota Air Base Japan; and

WHEREAS, He served as commander Pacific Forces located in Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii from July, 1997 to July, 1998; and

WHEREAS, As the commander in chief North American Aerospace Defense command, and U.S. Space command, commander, Air Force Space Command and Department of Defense manager, space transportation system for contingencies support at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, he was responsible for taking America through space, and intercontinental ballistic military operations; and

WHEREAS, He is a command pilot with more than 4,100 flying hours in the T33, C37, C21, F4, F15 and F16, including 600 hours combat hours in F4; and

WHEREAS, He is serving since October 1, 2001, as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2005, That the 2005 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to Richard B. Meyers, general, U.S. Air Force, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.**