

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
May 5-6, 2021  
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 3: Support of the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, an award bestowed by the President of the United States to recognize individuals who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be bestowed upon a person who served his Nation in the United Press International, as foreign and war correspondent/ bureau chief for 22 years, helping Americans understand the experiences of their sons and daughters in war, starting with the Vietnam War, where he served five separate tours as a war correspondent and one tour in the Persian Gulf with the U. S. Army's 24<sup>th</sup> Mechanical Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, He was born in Refugio, Texas in 1941, and he describes his childhood in Texas collecting scrap metal for the war effort while his father and uncles were away fighting in World War II; and

WHEREAS, He was hired as a reporter at The Victoria (Texas) Advocate, then worked as a journalist in Kansas City, then in 1961 joined the United Press International as a reporter; and

WHEREAS, During his 22 years with United Press International (starting at the age of 17), he served in news bureaus in Kansas City, Topeka, Tokyo and Saigon, and was Chief of Bureau in Jakarta, New Delhi, Singapore, Moscow and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, he often worked alongside the American troops he covered and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor in 1998 for his bravery at the Battle of Ia Drang at Landing Zone X-Ray for having carried a badly wounded man to safety while he was under very heavy enemy fire in 1965; and

WHEREAS, As a war correspondent, he did so with courage, compassion and empathy for the servicemen and women who fought in our name, as well as with honesty and a sense of duty to his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, He took risks covering five wars and numerous combat operations across fifty years because he believed that, in our democracy, the American people must understand those wars if they were to have a say in the decisions and policies in which the stakes are the highest; and

WHEREAS, He drew his inspiration from World War II reporter, Ernie Pyle and one of his mentors was Harry Truman who he met in Kansas City, and Truman asked him to meet with Hiroshima's mayor and assess how the people were doing after the bombing, essentially to be his personal "eyes and ears" in Hiroshima; and

WHEREAS, In 1990-1991, he returned to duty as a war correspondent in the Persian Gulf and accompanied the U.S. Army's 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on its tank charge through the western Iraq

desert and at the age of 65 described his incredible story of escape from heavy machine gun fire via a garbage pit during that time; and

WHEREAS, He co-wrote with Lieutenant General (Ret.) Hal Moore, “We Were Soldiers Once... and Young” (1992) which dramatizes the Battle of Ia Drang on November 14, 1965 and was made into a movie; and

WHEREAS, He is a former Military Affairs consultant for the Knight-Ridder chain of newspapers and was a columnist with McClatchy Newspapers and received the other following awards: National Magazine Award (1991) for coverage on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ia Drang Battles, the National News Media Award (1992) for coverage of the Gulf War, the BG Robert L. Denig Award for Distinguished Service (2001) presented by the USMC Combat Correspondents Association, the Abraham Lincoln Award of the Union League Club of Philadelphia and the John Reagan McCrary Award of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, he was sworn into service as a special consultant to the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Project conducting some 1,000 interviews, and in 2016 was made a permanent consultant to Ken Burns’ Florentine Films Project to make a documentary on Vietnam War history; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, he and Marvin J. Wolf co-authored the “They Were Soldiers” book which outlined the inspiring stories of 49 Vietnam veterans who returned home to enrich America’s present and future; and

WHEREAS, Marvin Wolf, recently, took the initiative to recommend Joseph L. Galloway for Presidential Medal of Freedom Award to President Biden and he is being joined with as such noted veterans as Admiral Mike Mullen, LTG H.R. McMaster, Diane Carlson Evans, MG Mike Myatt, John Swensson and Jay Mancini who are seeking support of established veteran related organizations; and now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on May 5-6, 2021, That The American Legion supports and encourages the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to be presented to Joseph L. Galloway.**