

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 30, 31, September 1, 2022**

Resolution No. 62: Award for Service in Support of the Kabul Airlift

Origin: Illinois

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Internal Affairs

WHEREAS, In August 2021 and the preceding months, the order was given for troops to begin returning home from Afghanistan and for Operation Enduring Freedom to come to a close; and

WHEREAS, Intelligence analysts predicted that the U.S.-Allied Afghan government would have been more resilient to takeover, instead we witnessed a swift collapse of Kabul, the regional government, and a near complete takeover of the country by the Taliban; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of American forces, diplomats, State Department staff, American citizens, our coalition allies, special immigrant visa recipients, interpreters, and their families, and many other vulnerable Afghans who supported our efforts in the war, were left in a precarious situation with much fear about how they would be able to escape the totalitarian grasp of the Taliban under these circumstances; and

WHEREAS, In response to the fall of Kabul, the United States and her allies committed to the rescue of thousands of individuals from Afghanistan by completing one of the largest airlifts in history, known today as the Kabul Airlift; and

WHEREAS, During this operation, between August 14, 2021 and August 25, 2021, U.S. forces evacuated over 82,300 individuals from an incredibly dangerous situation and all while under duress stemming from enemy action and bombing attacks at the Hamid Karzai International Airport; and

WHEREAS, American Legionnaires and veterans from all generations, and especially those who served during Operation Enduring Freedom watched with both dismay and horror at the fall of the country of Afghanistan, but have been given some sense of solace that our forces were able to protect such a large number of Americans, our allies and their families with the highest level of professionalism, competence, and skill, and desire for their contributions to be specially recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 30, 31, September 1, 2022, That we formally request that those who served directly in support of the Kabul Airlift (August/September 2021) be specially recognized through the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, or the Medal for Humane Action (historically awarded only once, during the Berlin Airlift), or a similarly prestigious award to recognize their incredible contribution to the defense of our nation and allies and for recognition of their incredible aerial achievement in a humanitarian cause.