

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 4-5, 2022
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Resolution No. 32: 2022 Distinguished Service Medal

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award bestowed by the nation's largest veterans service organization, was created to recognize individuals and organizations that have performed outstanding service to the nation and in support of programs of The American Legion; 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 U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, He was born in Clarksville, Tenn., and graduated from Austin Peay State University in 1967, and earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1972 and soon after graduating from medical school joined the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from medical school, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, attached to the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Casey, South Korea, where he was discharged as a major in 1974; and

WHEREAS, After his separation from military duty, he went into OB/GYN practice in Johnson City, Tenn., retiring after 31 years and 5,000 babies delivered during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, He was elected to Congress from Tennessee's 1st District, where he was a champion for veterans by being instrumental in the passage of landmark legislations impacting millions, including the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the "Forever GI Bill"; the MISSION Act; and the Blue Water Navy Act; and

WHEREAS, Before retiring, his legacy to veterans was cemented as the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee decided to name a VA omnibus package the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Once the above act was signed into law, the bill had something to offer almost every one of our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure in Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs budget increased from \$94 billion in 2008 to \$240 billion in 2020; and

WHEREAS, He is a 16-year Paid Up For Life member of The American Legion of Kings Mountain Post 24 in Johnson City, Tenn.; and

WHEREAS, He has received numerous awards and honors to include the United States Chamber of Congress' "Spirit of Enterprise Award"; the Family Research Council's "True Blue Award"; the International Foodservice Distributors Association "Thomas Jefferson Award"; the American Conservative Union's Conservative Achievement Award; the National Federation of Independent Business Incorporated's "Guardian of Small Business Award"; the National Association of Community Health Centers "Distinguished Community Health Advocate Award"; the Military Officers Association of America's Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award; the Disabled American Veterans "Outstanding House Legislator of the Year Award"; and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation "Congressional Caregiver Champion Award"; 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, 2022, That the 2022 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion is authorized and directed to be presented to the Honorable David Phillip Roe, M.D.