

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 18-19, 1995**

Resolution No. 24: National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion includes as one of its objectives "...to maintain Law and Order"; and

WHEREAS, Americans in recent years have been experiencing an unprecedented crime wave which has permeated all states and communities, and crime is rapidly becoming America's number one domestic problem; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 13, "Certificates of Commendation for Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters," adopted by the National Executive Committee at its Spring 1970 meetings, authorized the issuance of suitable Certificates of Commendation for presentation to outstanding law enforcement officers by Posts and Departments; and

WHEREAS, At its 75th National Convention, The American Legion adopted Resolution No. 258, "National Law Officer of the Year," in which The American Legion recommended that a program to recognize a National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year be established; and this recommendation was reiterated in Resolution No. 171 adopted at the 76th National Convention; and

WHEREAS, According to a Law and Order Committee survey of Departments conducted in early 1994, fourteen of the responding twenty-nine Departments have programs at the Department level which recognize a Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; in the same survey, twenty-seven of the twenty-nine responding Departments indicated their willingness to participate in National Law Officer Enforcement Officer of the Year Award program if one were adopted; and

WHEREAS, According to The American Legion's 1993-94 Consolidated Post Report, which represents nearly 56 percent of all reporting Posts, over 1,519 Posts have crime prevention/law order programs; and

WHEREAS, The presentation of an annual American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award would reflect great credit on law enforcement officers and agencies, communities and states, our Nation and The American Legion; and such an award program also has the potential to encourage the development of additional Department and Post law and order programs; and

WHEREAS, The National Security Commission during the Fall 1994 meeting of the National Executive Committee approved the formation of an informal Law and Order subcommittee to explore the feasibility, practicality, and procedures for developing a National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award and, to this end, to propose an implementing resolution; and

WHEREAS, Copies of this resolution have been referred to the Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission for their appropriate action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 18-19, 1995, That The American Legion annually recognize a National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year with an appropriate award which shall be presented at the National Conventions or other American Legion settings as deemed appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this annual award shall be named “The American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award,” and that monetary expenses shall not exceed the cost of the award and related travel expenses of the winning recipient; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Law and Order Committee of the National Security Commission be fully authorized to develop appropriate eligibility criteria, application procedures and deadlines, and selection guidelines for Department submissions.