

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
MAY 9 - 10, 2012**

**Resolution No. 45: Distinguished Service Medal, 2012  
Origin: Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Committee  
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, our highest award, was created to recognize individuals and organizations that have performed outstanding service to the nation and to 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 during his years in public office has served community, state and nation in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS, After graduating first in both his high school and college classes he attended Pembroke College at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar where he studied politics, philosophy and economics then entered the United States Navy where he served as an intelligence briefer for Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations; and

WHEREAS, After his military service he returned to Central Indiana to manage his family's 604-acre corn, soybean and tree farm and in 1968 decided to enter public service and was elected to the office of Mayor of our host Convention city for two terms; and

WHEREAS, With over forty years of public service, the last thirty-six years serving as the United States Senator from Indiana, his core values of hard work, perseverance, dedication and service to veterans represent the hallmark of his life and service to our country; and

WHEREAS, In 1991 he led the fight to reduce the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons when he forged a bipartisan partnership with then Senate Armed Forces Chairman, Sam Nunn to eliminate these weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union with, to date, more than 7,500 nuclear warheads being deactivated; and

WHEREAS, He is an unwavering advocate for the United States to be a proactive world leader in the geopolitics of energy because of its impact on national security, free-trade, and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, While serving on the Senate Foreign Relations and Agriculture Committees, he realized that energy security impacts every aspect of life in the United States, from turning on the lights in the morning to our vulnerability to terrorism, thus he promoted energy policies that would stimulate economic growth, which leads to job creation, as well as less bureaucratic red tape for American businesses so they could reduce costs and employ more workers; and

WHEREAS, His record of supporting the United States military on the national level and in the State of Indiana goes uncontested; and

WHEREAS, He is the senior serving Senator on the minority side and the longest serving Member of Congress in Indiana history; and

WHEREAS, He has received numerous awards such as Guardian of Small Business, the Spirit of Enterprise, Watchdog of the Treasury, and 46 honorary degrees from colleges and universities in 15 states and the District of Columbia, and is the fourth person ever named Outstanding Legislator by the American Political Science Association; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9 and 10, 2012, That it does hereby authorize and direct that the 2012 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to the Honorable Richard G. Lugar.**