

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 7 – 8, 2014**

Resolution No. 35: Distinguished Service Medal, 2014
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal was established to recognize distinguished individuals and organizations for their outstanding service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, As the result of the work of surgeons like Colonel (Ret) Donald H. Jenkins and the nation's investment in combat casualty care research since 2001 resulted in the most advanced trauma system in history resulting in the lowest fatality rate recorded in war; and

WHEREAS, Those improvements in the care of casualties coming from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars almost all involve hemorrhage, the medical term for bleeding, included better ways to stop, keep from restarting, and reverse the loss by restoring blood to the circulation system resulted in a higher rate of survival of the battlefield casualties as compared to the past wars and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, While deployed to Oman in 2002, he and his colleagues began using a different transfusion formula that reduced the mortality rate from 70 percent to 20 percent, plus reintroduced the use of tourniquets on the battlefield which for many years was "thought to be evil"; and

WHEREAS, Data presented at a nation-wide medical conference in August 2010 revealed that 8.8 percent of the U.S. combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan died of wounds which was a dramatic decrease when compared to the 16.5 percent of the Vietnam War's casualties and 22.8 percent of World War II's; and

WHEREAS, The decrease in battlefield injuries that occurred between 2003 and 2006, with "blast injuries" the most common cause of trauma, wounds in 2006 were much less fatal because of the medical procedures instituted; and

WHEREAS, Almost none of the improvement is the consequence of new drugs or new devices and involved old technology and old practices that fell out of favor in the past 50 to 100 years were rediscovered and improved on; and

WHEREAS, "It was just unbelievable that you could have this kind of success record. It made us stop and ask how this was happening," recalled Colonel (Ret) Donald H. Jenkins, who was a surgeon in Iraq during the Fallujah battle in 2004 and is now director of the Trauma Center at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Colonel (Ret) Jenkins graduated from the University of Scranton with a BS degree in Biochemistry received his MD from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and with his internship and residency in Surgery at the United States Air Force Wilford Hall Medical Center along with other certifications and fellowships obtained during his 24 year career in the Air Force; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from the Air Force in 2008, Colonel (Ret) Jenkins accepted his position in Trauma, Critical Care and General Surgery at the Mayo Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Because of his success, not only in the military but in his civilian medical field, he was elected president of the National Trauma Institute where he is one of the nation's resources in traumatic injury, a major public health problem in the United States which accounts for 41 million

emergency department visits and 2.3 million hospital admissions each year, and is the leading cause of death in Americans between the ages of 1 and 44, and its effect on productive life years lost far exceeds that caused by any other disease; and

WHEREAS, Colonel (Ret) Jenkins was a leader of military medical personnel who provided life- and limb-saving care on the battlefield, en route to surgical stations and at 30,000 feet in the back of transport aircraft, and in the continental United States at both active duty military treatment facilities and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers; and

WHEREAS, It is in keeping with the principles, purposes and traditions of this award that it now be bestowed upon a person, organization or a group of individuals who during their years of public service has actively served community, state and nation in an exemplary manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 7-8, 2014, That it does hereby authorize and direct the 2014 Distinguished Service Medal of The American Legion be presented to Colonel (Ret) Donald H. Jenkins for his accomplishments in the military medical trauma system in introducing life-saving procedures for our military members.