

Military Discharge Medal Qualifying Criteria

Air Medal

The Air Medal is awarded to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces, distinguish themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement, or by meritorious service while participating in aerial flight. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Airman's Medal

The Airman's Medal for Heroism is granted to service members in the U.S. Air Force who distinguish themselves by heroic actions, mostly at the voluntary risk of life, but not involving actual combat. The saving of a life or the success of the voluntary heroic act is not necessary. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Bronze Star Medal

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, after December 6, 1941, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguishes himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Distinguished Flying Cross Medal

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any persons who, after April 6, 1917, distinguish themselves by single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the nation's most prestigious military decoration that may be awarded to recognize American armed forces personnel – U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, and U.S. Coast Guard – who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor in combat. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Navy Cross Medal

The Navy Cross Medal is the highest decoration that may be bestowed by the Department of the Navy and the second highest decoration given for valor. It is normally only awarded to members of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps and United States Coast Guard, but can be awarded to all branches of United States military as well as members of foreign militaries. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on

information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Navy/Marine Corps Medal

The Navy and Marine Corps Medal may be awarded to service members who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps, distinguish themselves by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Purple Heart Medal

The Purple Heart medal is presented to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. military. A Purple Heart is a solemn distinction and means a service member has greatly sacrificed themselves, or paid the ultimate price, while in the line of duty. Because the Purple Heart Medal designation wasn't implemented until 1932, Montgomery County VAC Superintendent assisted the Montgomery County Recorder to include qualifying WWI Veterans with Purple Heart designations. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Silver Star Medal

The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Soldier's Medal

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States, or of a friendly foreign nation who while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, distinguished him/herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. This list of medal recipients was compiled in 2019 based on information provided on Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 which is public record per 55 ILCS 5/3-5015.

Other Medals

This category was intended to list recipients of other medals other than those provided for in individual categories. No Veterans' military discharge records with dates of separation prior to 1959 were found to list such other medals.