

## **War Service Medal**

***Precedence:*** 4

***Year Authorized:*** 1899

***Presented By:*** National Society, State Society, Chapter (or purchased by a Compatriot)

***Approved By:*** NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee, State Society or Chapter

***Summary:*** The War Service Medal was first authorized in 1899 for members who served in the Spanish-American War. It was subsequently authorized for members who served in World War I and World War II. Following World War II, the NSSAR authorized a generic War Service Medal with specific service periods indicated by bronze bars.

***Description:*** The medal is bronze in color. The medal is available in miniature. A War Service Medal certificate is available. Bronze Service Bars or Oak Leaf Clusters may be attached to the ribbon drape as described below.

***Proof of Service:*** Proof of service, in the form of a copy of the member's discharge (or other U.S. or Allied Government proof in the case of a member in active service), must be presented to the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee, State Society Secretary or Chapter secretary (depending on presenting authority) before the medal can be purchased and/or worn. Such proof must show that the Compatriot:

1. served, or is serving, honorably in:
  - the armed forces of the United States,
  - the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or
  - a United Nations Peace Keeping Force; and

2. served against a common enemy in a war or action recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; and
3. **received a campaign medal, combat ribbon or badge as shown on the DD-214 form (or equivalent).** *Note:* The National Defense Service Medal *is not considered a campaign medal* for purposes of qualifying for the War Service Medal.

***Medal Devices & Attachments:*** The following attachments are authorized for wear with the full- sized War Service Medal:

- *Bronze Service Bars* indicate that a Compatriot received an authorized campaign medal during a specific qualifying period. Available bronze bars include: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Southwest Asia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terrorism (for service associated with the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal).
- *Oak Leaf Clusters* may be worn (1) to recognize participation in a war or action for which a specific Bronze Service Bar is not available, or (2) in lieu of a Bronze Service Bar or multiple Bronze Service Bars (at the Compatriot's discretion).
- A *Purple Heart Pin* may be worn by a Compatriot who received the Purple Heart from one of the United States' Armed Forces.

***Cloth Ribbon:*** A ribbon bar in the colors of the medal drape with a "W" device may be worn by a Compatriot whose uniformed organization permits wear of such ribbons.

***Subsequent Presentation Authorized:*** A Compatriot may receive additional Bronze Service Bars or Oak Leaf Clusters for

subsequent qualifying war service.

***Posthumous Presentation Authorized:*** The medal and any authorized appurtenances may be presented posthumously.

***Special Note on Precedence:*** The War Service Medal and Military Service Medal have equivalent precedence. However, Compatriots who qualify for the War Service Medal should wear the War Service Medal. A Compatriot may **not** wear both the Military Service Medal and the War Service Medal.

## **WAR SERVICE MEDAL**

SKU: 0101

PRICE: \$35.00

