

## MEDALS AWARDED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, A STATE SOCIETY OR A CHAPTER FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS

### War Service Medal

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**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

**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.

**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.

**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:
  - a. the armed forces of the United States,
  - b. the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or
  - c. 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.

**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.

### **Military Service Medal**

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**Precedence:** 4

**Year Authorized:** 2006

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

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

**Description:** The medal is available in miniature. A Military Service Medal Certificate is available.

**Summary:** The Military Service Medal, authorized in 2006, may be presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service which does not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal.

**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 provided 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 served, or is serving, honorably in: (1) the armed forces of the United States, (2) the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or (3) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force.

**Medal Devices & Attachments:** A *Purple Heart Pin* may be worn on the full-sized Military Service Medal 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 an “M” device may be worn by a Compatriot whose uniformed organization permits wear of such ribbons.

**Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized:** A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.