HB

61

<TARGET><BILL>HB 61</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
61</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA29</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA
REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN
REPRESENTATIVE MAX GRUENBERG
REPRESENTATIVE LIZ VAZQUEZ
REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE LEDOUX

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2016

TO: Senator Bill Stoltze

FROM: Representative Les Gara

RE: Hearing Request for HB 61

On behalf of six co-sponsors, I respectfully request that House Bill 61, relating to Bronze Star license plates, be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate State Affairs Committee. Please feel free to contact me, or my aide Molly Carver, with questions or thoughts at 465-2647.

Attached you will find a background packet for HB 61. This includes the current version of the bill, a sponsor statement, a sectional analysis, and supporting documents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Representative Les Gara

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement for CSHB 61

Honoring Veterans Who Have Earned Medals for Valor in Combat by Creating License Plates Reflecting Those Medals

This bill is the result of veterans expressing concern that current law does not allow combat veterans to receive license plates for medals they have received for many of the highest orders of sacrifice. The bill adds a number of medals that shall be reflected in specialty plates, and, in the event award names change or are added, prevents the need for future license plate bills by authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to add license plates for a medal of valor at the request of a medal recipient. That way, by statute, veterans may be honored for any medal for valor they receive.

The Division of Motor Vehicles currently provides a license plate for the military's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. The Department of Motor Vehicles also recognizes veterans with a veteran's plate, and honors veterans who qualify for a Purple Heart, Gold Star Family, POW, Pearl Harbor survivor, and unit-specific specialty license plates.

But the Division does not allow recipients of medals license plates that reflect their sacrifice for other high honors demonstrating valor. These honors include the Navy Cross (also awarded to Marines), the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force Cross, the Coast Guard Cross, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for Valor. The department testified they have the power to add plates for those who have received "unit" honors - like the Presidential Unit - which is earned when a whole unit engages in valor in combat. This bill allows honors like the Presidential Unit and any newly created combat valor awards to be issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

With this bill we recognize the sacrifice and heroism of these individuals.

January-May: State Capitol • Room 400 • Juneau, AK 99801-1182 • (907) 465-2647 • Fax (907) 465-3518
June-December: 716 W. 4th Avenue • Room 450 • Anchorage, AK 99501• (907) 269-0106• Fax (907) 269-0109
Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

March 6, 2015

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of CSHB 61(MLV)
(Work Order No. 29-LS0287\P)

TO: Representative Les Gara
Attn: Molly Carver

FROM: Hilary V. Martin
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill -- the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Authorizes the Department of Administration to issue special registration plates to recipients of the Bronze Star Medal awarded for valor, Silver Star Medal, Navy Cross, Distinguished Services Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. Requires the commissioner to consult with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs before determining the design for the plates.

Section 2. Allows the Department of Administration to issue a special registration plate to a person who has received an award reflecting meritorious service and value issued by the armed forces of the United States, other than a Purple Heart, Bronze Star for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross.

Section 3. Sets the fee for the special plates at $30.

Section 4. Makes the Act effective on January 1, 2016.

HVM:lem
15-152.lem

29-LS0287\N
Gardner/Martin
2/18/15

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 61( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GARA, GRUENBERG, VAZQUEZ, LYNN, AND LEDOUX, Tuck

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of the Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, and other meritorious service awards; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(ii) Vehicles owned by recipients of a Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received the Bronze Star Medal awarded for valor, Silver Star Medal, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design

and color of the Bronze Star awarded for valor recipient plates, Silver Star recipient plates, Navy Cross recipient plates, Distinguished Service Cross recipient plates, Air Force Cross recipient plates, and Coast Guard Cross recipient plates.

(jj) Vehicles owned by recipients of awards reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The department, upon written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, may issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received an award reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States other than a Purple Heart, Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the award recipient plates.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

(2) special request plates for

(A) Alaska National Guard personnel $30;

(B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans $30;

(C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..... none;

(D) **recipients of the Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, or other meritorious service award $30;**

(E) owners of custom collector vehicles $50;

(F) [(E)] Iditarod race finishers $50;

(G) [(F)] other special request plates $30;

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;

*** Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

29-LS0287\H
Martin
2/6/15

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 61( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GARA, GRUENBERG, VAZQUEZ, LYNN, AND LEDOUX, Tuck

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other meritorious service awards; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(ii) Vehicles owned by recipients of a Bronze Star or Silver Star. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received the Bronze Star Medal awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone or the Silver Star Medal awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the Bronze Star recipient plates and Silver Star recipient plates.

(jj) Vehicles owned by recipients of awards reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The department, upon written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, may issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received an award reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the award recipient plates.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

(2) special request plates for

(A) Alaska National Guard personnel $30;

(B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans $30;

(C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..... none;

(D) **recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other meritorious service award $30;**

(E) owners of custom collector vehicles $50;

(F) [(E)] Iditarod race finishers $50;

(G) [(F)] other special request plates $30;

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;

*** Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

29-LS0287\W
Martin
1/7/15

HOUSE BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARA AND GRUENBERG

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other meritorious service awards; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(ii) Vehicles owned by recipients of a Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other award reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received the Bronze Star Medal awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone, the Silver Star Medal awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States, or another award reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department

of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the Bronze Star recipient plates, Silver Star recipient plates, and other award recipient plates.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

(2) special request plates for

(A) Alaska National Guard personnel $30;

(B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans $30;

(C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..... none;

(D) **recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other meritorious service award $30;**

(E) owners of custom collector vehicles $50;

(F) [(E)] Iditarod race finishers $50;

(G) [(F)] other special request plates $30;

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;

*** Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

29-LS0287\A
Martin
12/24/14

HOUSE BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARA

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other meritorious service awards; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(ii) Vehicles owned by recipients of a Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other award reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received the Bronze Star Medal awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone, the Silver Star Medal awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States, or another award reflecting meritorious service and bravery issued by the armed forces of the United States. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department

of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the Bronze Star recipient plates, Silver Star recipient plates, and other award recipient plates.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

(2) special request plates for

(A) Alaska National Guard personnel $30;

(B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans $30;

(C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..... none;

(D) **recipients of the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or other meritorious service award $30;**

(E) owners of custom collector vehicles $50;

(F) [(E)] Iditarod race finishers $50;

(G) [(F)] other special request plates $30;

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;

*** Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSHB 61(STA)
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(H) Publish Date:	3/27/2015

Identifier: HB061CS(MLV)-DOA-DMV-02-20-15
Title: MILITARY MERITORIOUS AWARD LICENSE PLATES
Sponsor: ** GARA, GRUENBERG
Requester: House Spec. Comm. on Military & Veterans' Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: Motor Vehicles
Allocation: Motor Vehicles
OMB Component Number: 2348

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2016**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Fund Source (Operating Only)							
None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Positions							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							
Change in Revenues							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

This fiscal note lists the special license plates DMV is required to issue and identifies how the plate design costs will be covered.

Prepared By:	Amy Erickson, Director	Phone:	(907)269-5574
Division:	Motor Vehicles	Date:	02/25/2015 04:00 PM
Approved By:	Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner	Date:	02/25/15
Agency:	Department of Administration		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

If enacted, HB 61 will amend AS 28.10.181 and require DMV to create special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of a Bronze Star, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross.

DMV may also issue a special license plate to recipients of awards reflecting meritorious service or bravery issued by the United States military.

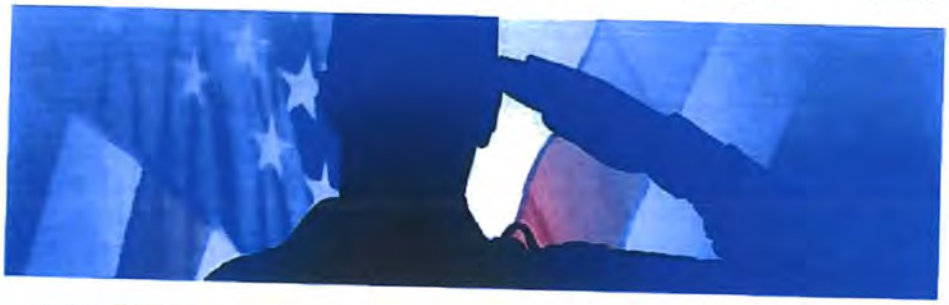
The Department of Administration will consult with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to design the new special registration plates.

Associated costs to DMV:
DMVA will collect donations for the license plate processing fee of $250 per plate design and will pass the funds to DMV.

HB 61 takes effect January 1, 2016.

MILITARY AWARDS FOR VALOR - TOP 3
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Search Military Awards for Valor - Top



"One of the most important things we can all do for veterans is to honor the service of those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty."

- Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta

WELCOME

America has a time-honored tradition of recognizing the acts of valor performed by Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. The lists included at the links below allow you to share in this tradition and honor those individuals awarded our nation's most prestigious valor awards.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Description of Awards

U.S. Army

- Medal of Honor
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Silver Star

U.S. Navy

- Medal of Honor
- Navy Cross
- Silver Star

U.S. Marine Corps

- Medal of Honor
- Navy Cross
- Silver Star

U.S. Air Force

- Medal of Honor
- Air Force Cross
- Silver Star

SERVICE RESOURCES

U.S. Army Awards and Decorations

U.S. Navy Awards

U.S. Marine Corps Awards

U.S. Air Force Awards and Decorations

Military Awards for Valor - Top 3
U.S. Department of Defense
DESCRIPTION OF MEDALS

MEDAL OF HONOR

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that may be awarded by the United States government. It is presented by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress, and is conferred only upon members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

There are three distinct versions (one for the Army, one for the Air Force, and one for the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard).

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) is the second highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Army (and previously, the United States Army Air Forces). It is awarded for extraordinary heroism:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor. The Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Navy Cross (Navy and Marine Corps, and Coast Guard when operating under the authority of the Department of the Navy) and the Air Force Cross (Air Force).

NAVY CROSS

The Navy Cross is the second highest military decoration that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, (and to members of the Coast Guard when operating under the authority of the Department of the Navy). It is awarded for extraordinary heroism:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Navy Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor. The Navy Cross is equivalent to the Distinguished Service Cross (Army) and the Air Force Cross (Air Force).

AIR FORCE CROSS

The Air Force Cross is the second highest military decoration that may be awarded to a member of the United States Air Force. It is awarded for extraordinary heroism:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Air Force Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor. The Air Force Cross is equivalent to the Distinguished Service Cross (Army) and the Navy Cross (Navy and Marine Corps, and Coast Guard when operating under the authority of the Department of the Navy).

SILVER STAR

The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces. It is awarded for gallantry in action:

- While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Silver Star must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the meet Medal of Honor or a Service Cross (Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross).

Army Regulation 600–8–22

Personnel-General

Military Awards

Rapid Action Revision (RAR) Issue Date: 24 June 2013

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
11 December 2006

UNCLASSIFIED

Section II
Terms

Above and beyond the call of duty
Exercise of a voluntary course of action the omission of which would not justly subject the individual to censure for failure in the performance of duty. It usually includes the acceptance of existing danger or extraordinary responsibilities with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage. In its highest degrees it involves the voluntary acceptance of additional danger and risk of life.

Active Federal military service
The term "active Federal military service" means all periods of active duty, AGR service and, except for service creditable for the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, excludes periods of ADT and full-time training duty (FTTD). Service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy is considered to be active duty for the purposes of military awards and decorations.

Active Guard Reserve
Army National Guard of the U.S. (ARNGUS) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) personnel serving on active duty (AD) under Title 10, United States Code and Army National Guard personnel serving on full-time National Guard duty (FTNGD) under Title 32, United States Code. These personnel are on FTNGD or AD (other than training) for 180 days or more for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components and are paid from National Guard Personnel, Army or Reserve Personnel Army appropriations.

Area of eligibility
The foreign territory on which troops have actually landed or are present and specifically deployed for the operation. Adjacent water areas in which ships are operating, patrolling, or providing direct support of the operation. The air space above and adjacent to the area in which operations are being conducted.

Area of operation
The foreign territory upon which troops have actually landed or are present and specifically deployed for the direct support of the designated military operation; adjacent water areas in which ships are operating, patrolling, or providing direct support of operations; and the airspace above and adjacent to the area in which operations are being conducted.

Award
Recognition given to individuals or units for certain acts or services, or badges, accolades, emblems, citations, commendations, and streamers. Also an adjectival term used to identify administrative functions relating to recognition (for example, awards boards, award recommendations, and so forth).

Award precondition
Any eligibility criterion not specified by this regulation which must be met before awarding a decoration.

Biographical sketch
Identification of an individual that includes as a minimum: Full name, SSN, date and place of birth, marital status, education, and military service.

Bravery
Quality or state showing courage; level of conduct which is expected of professional Army Soldiers.

Combat heroism
Act or acts of heroism by an individual engaged in actual conflict with an armed enemy, or in military operations which involve exposure to personal hazards due to direct enemy action or the imminence of such action.

Combat zone
The region where fighting is going on; the forward area of the theater of operations where combat troops are actively engaged. It extends from the frontline to the front of the communications zone.

Decoration
Distinctively designed mark of honor denoting heroism or meritorious/outstanding service/achievement for individuals and units.

a. Individual U.S. Army decorations are the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

b. U.S. unit decorations are the Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Army Superior Unit Award.

Direct participation
"Hands-on" activity at the site, or sites, of the military act or operation. The individual must be physically present at the designated location, having contributed to and influenced the action.

Direct support
Services being supplied to participating forces in the area of eligibility by ground units, ships, and aircraft provided in involves actually entering the designated area of eligibility. This includes units, ships, and aircraft providing logistic, patrol, guard, reconnaissance, or other military support within the designate area of eligibility.

Distinguished himself or herself by
A person to have distinguished himself or herself must, by praiseworthy accomplishment, be set apart from other persons in the same or similar circumstances. Determination of this distinction requires careful consideration of exactly what is or was expected as the ordinary, routine, or customary behavior and accomplishment for individuals of like rank and experience for the circumstances involved.

Duty of great responsibility
Duty which, by virtue of the position held, carries the ultimate responsibility for the successful operation of a major command, activity, agency, installation, or project. The discharge of such duty must involve the acceptance and fulfillment of the obligation so as to greatly benefit the interests of the United States.

Duty of responsibility
Duty which, by virtue of the position held, carries a high degree of the responsibility for successful operation of a major command, activity, agency, installation, or project, or which requires the exercise of judgment and decision affecting plans, policies, operations, or the lives and well-being of others.

Extraordinary heroism
Act or acts of heroism or gallantry involving the risk of life. Minimum level of valorous performance in combat consistent with a recommendation for the Distinguished Service Cross.

Foreign Decoration
Any order, device, medal, badge, insignia, emblem or award, tendered by or received from a foreign government.

Foreign government
Includes any unit of a foreign governmental authority, including any foreign national, State, local and municipal Government; any international or multinational organization whose membership is composed of any unit of foreign government described above; and any agent or representative of any such unit or organization while acting as such.

Gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life
Fearless spontaneous conduct at the certain risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, which clearly sets the Soldier apart from all other comrades. Minimum level of valorous performance in combat consistent with a recommendation for the Medal of Honor.

Gallantry in action
Spirited and conspicuous acts of heroism and courage. Minimum level of valorous performance in combat consistent with a recommendation for the Silver Star.

Heroism
Extreme courage demonstrated in attaining a noble end. Varying levels of documented heroic actions are necessary to substantiate recommendations for the Bronze Star Medal with "V," Air Medal with "V," and the Army Commendation Medal with "V." In connection with military operations against an armed enemy. This phrase covers all military operations including combat, support, and supply which have a direct bearing on the outcome of an engagement or engagements against armed opposition. To perform duty, or to accomplish an act or achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, the individual must have been subjected to either personal hazard as a result of direct enemy action, or the imminence of such action, or must have had the conditions under which his or her duty or accomplishment took place complicated by enemy action or the imminence of enemy action.

Key individual
A person who is occupying a position that is indispensable to an organization, activity, or project.

Medal
A term used to includes the three categories of awards, namely: decorations, Good Conduct Medal, and service medals. Also refers to the distinctive physical device made of metal and ribbon, which constitutes the tangible evidence of an award.

Meritorious Achievement
An act which is well above the expected performance of duty. The act should be an exceptional accomplishment with a definite beginning and ending date. The length of time is not a primary consideration; however, speed of accomplishment of an important task can be a factor in determining the value of an act. Meritorious Service which is distinguished by a succession of outstanding acts of achievement over a sustained period of time. Individual performance must exceed that expected by virtue of grade and experience, based on accomplishments during an entire tour of duty.

Military merit
Demonstrated conduct or character deserving of recognition.

Officer
Except where expressly indicated otherwise, the word commissioned or warrant officer.

Operation
A military action, or the carrying out of a strategic, tactical, service, training, or administrative military mission; the process of carrying on combat including movement, supply, attack, defense, and maneuvers needed to gain the objectives of any battle or campaign.

Outstanding or unusually meritorious performance
Performance of duty determined by the employing component to have contributed to an unusually significant degree toward the furtherance of good relations between the United States and the foreign government tendering the decoration. This requires that the service be of national significance to the foreign government and that it be performed under exceptionally difficult, extraordinary, or hazardous conditions.

Peacetime criteria
Peace criteria is defined as follows:
a. a. A period when the United States is not engaged in the prosecution of a formally declared war. Applied outside a combat zone when the United States is engaged in military operations against an armed enemy, but is not prosecuting a formally declared war, except that in the communications zone those individuals whose duties are in connection with military operations against an armed enemy may be considered under wartime criteria.
b. b. A period in specified areas where U.S. troops are engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Primary next of kin
Primary next of kin are, in order of precedence, surviving spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest brother or sister, or eldest grandchild.

Reserve components of the Army
The Army National Guard of the United States and the U.S. Army Reserve.

Significant activity
A United States military operation considered to be of such a high degree of scope, impact, and national or international significance as to warrant the permanent commemoration and recognition afforded by award of a campaign or service medal.

Valor
Heroism performed under combat conditions.

Wartime criteria
Wartime criteria is defined as follows:
a. a. A period of formally declared war and for 1 year after the cessation of hostilities.
b. b. A period of military operations against an armed enemy and for 1 year after cessation of hostilities. Only those

individuals actually in the combat zone or those in the communications zone whose duties involve direct control or support of combat operations are to be considered under wartime criteria. A period of national emergency declared by the President or by the Congress.

Section III
Special Abbreviations and Terms

APFT
Army Physical Fitness Test

ARPERCEN
U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center

C&S
command and staff

DA Bull
Department of the Army bulletin

ENRC
Enlisted records clerk

FAR
Forces Armee du Royaume

KLB
Katusa Lapel Button

KLM
Kuwait Liberation Medal

NPDR
NCO Professional Development Ribbon

OR
officer records

PAB
Personnel Actions Branch

PPA
personnel plans and actions

PS
personnel support

RCC
recruiting commander course

RD
research and development

SAC
senior Army commander

USAID
U.S. Agency for International Development

USAJFKSWA
U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center

WD
War Department

WD Bull
War Department Bulletin

Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Medals and Awards Manual

COMDTINST M1650.25D
MAY 2008

LEGEND

* Authority applies only when personnel or units are permanently or temporarily assigned to DoD units.

** Authority applies to Headquarters Office Chiefs and Service Directors at the O-6 and GS-15 levels, and Area & District O-6 Division Chiefs only.

Distinguishing Devices:

"O" Operational Distinguishing Device. For use on personal and unit awards. Each case must be carefully judged on its own merits, and the citation must specifically authorize the device. To qualify for this device on a personal award, both the person's work and unit must be operational in nature. For example, an individual in a non-operational rating, specialty, or position assigned to an operational unit is not inherently or automatically eligible for the Operational Distinguishing Device on a personal award, though the member is not prohibited from receiving the Operational Distinguishing Device if the award is for operational achievements. Similarly, an individual in an operational rating, specialty, or position is not eligible for the device for duties performed at a non-operational unit (e.g., headquarters or district staff), or whenever the personal award only acknowledges administrative achievements. Personal awards earned while in a leave or liberty status for heroism may be considered eligible for the Operational Distinguishing Device. Eligibility criteria are based on a member's or unit's:

- direct participation in missions of an operational "hands on" nature (e.g., SAR, fire fighting, maritime law enforcement, disaster relief, pollution response, aids to navigation maintenance and operations); and/or

- extended periods of service (not for a specific incident) only if the majority of the citation used to justify the award is operational and not administrative, and the individual/unit participated "hands on" in the operational achievements.

"V" For Valor, Combat Distinguishing Device. The bronze letter "V" may be authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations. Eligibility of decorations and distinguishing devices awarded for combat will be based upon acts or services by individuals who are exposed to direct hostile actions, or imminence of such actions, and not solely upon the geographical area in which the acts or services are performed. Each case must be judged on its own merits, and the citation must specifically authorize the device.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

AFI36-2803_AFGM2015-02

26 February 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION C
ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU/CC

FROM: HQ USAF/A2
1040 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1040

SUBJECT: Air Force Guidance Memorandum for Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2803, *The Air Force Military Awards and Decorations Program.*

Releasability: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

This is a Guidance Memorandum immediately implementing changes to AFI 36-2803. It adds the new forms for the Virtual Personnel Center and the criteria for the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal and Air Force Special Duty Ribbon; changes to the Legion of Merit eligibility criteria; expansion of the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and Air Force Achievement Medal approval authorities; and announces the closeout date for the Air Force Recruiter Ribbon and Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor Ribbon. Compliance with this memorandum is mandatory. To the extent its directions are inconsistent with other publications; the information herein prevails in accordance with AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management.

See attachment 2 and 3 for changes. If you have questions, please contact AFPC Contact Center at 800-525-0102/DSN 665-5000.

This memorandum becomes void after one-year has elapsed from the date of this memorandum, or upon publication of an Interim Change or rewrite of the affected publication, whichever is earlier.

SAMUEL D. COX
Lieutenant General, USAF
DCS, Manpower, Personnel and Services

Attachments:
Attachment 1
Attachment 2

SS—Silver Star

SSN or SSAN—Social Security Number

SWASM—Southwest Asia Service Medal

TAFMSD—Total Active Federal Military Service Date

TBD—To Be Determined

TBI—Traumatic Brain Injury

TDRL—Temporary Disability Retired List

TDY—Temporary Duty

TMSD—Total Military Service Date

UIF—Unfavorable Information File

UNM—United Nations Medal

UNSM—United Nations Service Medal

USAF—United States Air Force

USAFR—United States Air Force Reserve

U.S.C.—United States Code

USUHS—Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences

VSM—Vietnam Service Medal

Terms

The following definitions are provided to the use, implementation, and interpretation of AFI 36-2803. All definitions provided have been cleared and defined by both the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force.

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty—Exercise of a voluntary course of action the omission of which would not justly subject the individual to censure for failure in the performance of duty. It usually includes the acceptance of existing danger or extraordinary responsibilities with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage. In its highest degrees it involves the voluntary acceptance of additional danger and risk of life.

Appurtenances or Devices—A term that identifies authorized subordinate parts to an award or medal (i.e. the Medal of Honor Flag is an appurtenance of the Medal of Honor). These include ribbon bars, lapel buttons, rosettes, oak leaf clusters, stars, arrowheads, service clasps, and similar appurtenances (i.e., hourglass device, ribbon borders, alphabets, and numbers).

Area of Eligibility (AOE)—Also known as (AKA) the Area of Responsibility, the designated area identified as theater of combat/expeditionary operations. These areas are typically defined by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or competent authority designated commander-in-chief of the operation.

Armed Forces—The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Armed Forces of the United States—A term used to denote collectively all components of the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. (Also U.S. Armed Forces)

Aviation—The art and science of flying airplanes or aircraft, especially military airplanes or aircraft, collectively.

Award—Recognition given to members or units for certain acts or services, or badges, accolades, emblems, citations, commendations, and streamers. Also an adjectival term used to identify administrative functions relating to recognition (for example, awards boards, award recommendations, and so forth).

1. Joint/DoD Unit Awards consist of: The Joint Meritorious Unit Award

DoD Campaign & Expeditionary Awards consist of: The Prisoner of War Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic—Pacific Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and Iraq Campaign Medal.

2. DoD Service Awards consist of: The American Defense Service Medal, Medal for Humane Action, National Defense Service Medal, Antarctica Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
3. US Air Force Unit Awards consist of: The Presidential Unit Citation, Gallant Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

US Air Force/Army Air Corps Service Awards consist of: The Combat Readiness Medal, Good Conduct Medal (Army), Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Reserve Force Meritorious Service Medal, Outstanding Airmen of the Year Ribbon, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbons with/without Gold Border, Air Force Overseas Ribbons—Long & Short, Air Force Longevity Service Award, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, USAF Basic Military Training Honor Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and Air Force Training Ribbon

Battle Casualty—See Killed in Action and Wounded in Action.

Associated USAF Units—Units consisting of more than one USAF Total Force component (Active Duty, ANG or AFR).

Bravery—Quality or state showing courage; level of conduct which is expected of professional Air Force Airmen.

Campaign—A series of related military operations aimed at accomplishing a strategic or operational objective within a given time and space.

Campaign Medal—A subcategory of DoD Service Awards, campaign medals are used to recognize active participation in a war or significant military combat operation, of long duration and significant scope. Award is typically limited to those who have physically participated in the campaign from within the actual area of operations. Historically, all of the following factors are

present before a campaign medal is created: (1) A declared war, state of emergency or legislative resolution; (2) The presence of sustained hostilities by an opposing force within a defined geographic area; and (3) The assumption of significant risk (proximity to the enemy), personal hardship, or extended family separation by the Service member.

Campaign Star—Also known as a Battle Star, is a bronze or silver five-pointed star, 3/16 inch in diameter worn on the suspension ribbon to denote subsequent awards. See also "Service Star".

Combat Area—A restricted area (air, land, or sea) that is established to prevent or minimize mutual interference between friendly forces engaged in combat operations. See also combat zone.

Combat Heroism—An act or acts of heroism by an individual above what is normally expected while engaged in direct combat with an enemy with exposure to enemy hostilities and personal risk.

Combat Support—Fire support and operational assistance provided to combat elements.

Combat Zone—1) That area required by combat forces for the conduct of operations. 2) The territory forward of the Army rear area boundary. See also combat area.

Combatant Command—A unified or specified command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander established and so designated by the President, through the SECDEF and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Combatant commands typically have geographic or functional responsibilities. See also unified command (Source: DoD Joint Publication 1-02).

Combatant Commander—A commander of one of the unified or specified combatant commands established by the President.

Component—One of the subordinate organizations that constitute a joint force. Normally a joint force is organized with a combination of Service and functional components.

Conspicuous—Attracting attention by being unexpected, unusual, outstanding, remarkable, striking.

Conflict—An armed struggle or clash between organized groups within a nation or between nations in order to achieve limited political or military objectives. Although regular forces are often involved, irregular forces frequently predominate. Conflict often is protracted, confined to a restricted geographic area, and constrained in weaponry and level of violence. Within this state, military power in response to threats may be exercised in an indirect manner while supportive of other instruments of national power. Limited objectives may be achieved by the short, focused, and direct application of force.

Courage, Act of—Act or actions performed were dangerous, difficult, and required a level of courage. Level of courage is the ability to continue to function effectively when there is physical danger present. These actions usually do not involve risk of life to the individual performing the act or actions.

Death or Wounding by Friendly Fire—Service member(s) killed in action or wounded in action mistakenly or accidentally by friendly forces who are directly engaged with the enemy and directing fire at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force.

Decoration—Distinctively designed mark of honor denoting heroism or meritorious/outstanding service/achievement for members and units. Individual U.S. Air Force decorations are the Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Airmen's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. DoD/Joint decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. Each of the other US Service Branches (i.e., US Army, US Navy, US Marine Corps, and US Marine Corps) have their own distinct decorations named after their Service (***Note:*** US Navy and US Marine Corps share the same Service decorations). There are also decorations from non-DoD organizations (i.e., National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Air and Space Administration (NASA), US Public Health Services, etc.), and foreign decorations from other countries that may or may not be credible for update in an Airman's military record.

Direct Support—Services being supplied to participating forces in the area of eligibility by ground units, ships, and aircraft provided it involves actually entering the designated area of eligibility. This includes units, ships, and aircraft providing logistic, patrol, guard, reconnaissance, or other military support within the designated area of eligibility.

Directly Impacting—"hands-on" employment of a weapons system, including remote employment, or other activities in any domain , that had direct, immediate, and on-site effects on the outcome of an engagement or other operation intended to have an effect upon the target.

Distinguished Himself or Herself By—A person to have distinguished himself or herself must, by praiseworthy accomplishment, be set apart from other persons in the same or similar circumstances. Determination of this distinction requires careful consideration of exactly what is or was expected as the ordinary, routine, or customary behavior and accomplishment for members of like rank and experience for the circumstance involved.

DoD Components—A term used to refer collectively to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), and the DoD Field Activities supported by OSD or CJCS.

DoD Decorations and Awards—AKA, DoD-Wide decorations and awards, includes the medals and ribbons that are common to the Military Departments. Appendix 3 lists the DoD Decorations and Awards.

DoD Defense/Joint Decorations—The subset of the DoD-Wide decorations and awards that are awarded by the SECDEF to recognize the accomplishments of Service members permanently assigned to a qualifying joint activity. Appendix 1 in DoD 1348-33-M lists the DoD Defense/Joint Decorations.

DoD-Wide Decorations and Awards—See DoD Decorations and Awards.

Domain—Described as air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace domains (Joint Publication 1-02, Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms). While domains are useful constructs for visualizing and characterizing the physical environment in which operations are conducted (the operational area), the use of the term "domain" is not meant to imply or mandate exclusivity, primacy, or command and control of any domain.

Dual Recognition—The recognition of an act, achievement, or period of service that occurred during an award inclusive period, and utilizing the same act, achievement, or period of service in a subsequent award submission. This applies to both individual decorations and unit awards, and is prohibited.

Employing Component—The DoD Component in which the recipient is appointed, employed, or enlisted. If a recipient is not so serving, but is a spouse or dependent of a serving individual, then the employing DoD Component is that in which the serving individual is appointed, employed, or enlisted.

Employment—The strategic, operational, or tactical use of forces (Joint Publication 1-02).

Engage—1) In air defense, a fire control order used to direct or authorize units and/or weapon systems to fire on a designated target. See also cease engagement; hold fire. 2) (DoD only) To bring the enemy under fire.

Engagement—1) In air defense, an attack with guns or air-to-air missiles by an interceptor aircraft, or the launch of an air defense missile by air defense artillery and the missile's subsequent travel to intercept. 2) A tactical conflict, usually between opposing lower echelons maneuver forces. See also battle; campaign.

Entitlement Award—The subset of DoD-Wide decorations that Service members are entitled to based on meeting eligibility requirements. The current entitlement awards are the Prisoner of War Medal and the Purple Heart.

Expedition—A military operation conducted by an armed force to accomplish a specific objective in a foreign country.

Expeditionary Medal—A subcategory of DoD Service Awards, expeditionary medals are used to recognize direct participation: 1) In military operations against an armed opposing force; or, 2) In limited hostilities against an opposing force; or, 3) In military operations where Service members are exposed to the imminent threat of hostilities. Award it typically limited to those who have physically participated in the military expedition from within the area of operations.

Expeditionary operations are typically shorter in duration and more limited in scope than operations that qualify for creation of Campaign medals.

Foreign Government—Includes any unit of foreign governmental authority (including any foreign national, state, local, and municipal government) or any international or multinational organization whose membership is composed of the agents or representatives of any of these foreign governments.

Friendly Fire—In casualty reporting, a casualty circumstance applicable to persons killed in action or wounded in action mistakenly or accidentally by friendly forces while actively engaged with the enemy, who are directing fire at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force.

Gallantry—Nobility of behavior or spirit; Heroic courage.

General Support—1) That support which is given to the supported force as a whole and not to any particular subdivision thereof. See also close support; direct support; mutual support; support. 2) (DOD only) A tactical artillery mission. See also direct support; general support-reinforcing; reinforcing.

General War—Armed conflict between major powers in which the total resources of the belligerents are employed, and the national survival of a major belligerent is in jeopardy.

Heroism—Heroic conduct especially as exhibited in fulfilling a high purpose or attaining a noble end involving the voluntary risk of life. Varying levels of documented heroic actions are necessary to substantiate recommendations for the Distinguished Flying Cross with "V", Bronze Star Medal with "V," Air Medal with "V," and the Air Force Commendation Medal with "V." See combat heroism.

Hostile—In combat and combat support operations, an identity applied to a track declared to belong to any opposing nation, party, group, or entity, which by virtue of its behavior or information collected on it, such as characteristics, origin, or nationality, contributes to the threat to friendly forces.

Hostile Act—1) A hostile act is an attack or other use of force by any civilian, paramilitary, or military force or terrorist(s) (with or without national designation) against the U.S., U.S. forces and, in certain circumstances, U.S. nationals, their property, U.S. commercial assets, or other designated non-U.S. forces, foreign nationals, and their property. 2) Force used directly to preclude or impede the mission and/or duties of U.S. forces, including the recovery of U.S. personnel and vital U.S. Government property. When a hostile act is in progress the right exists to use proportional force, including armed force, in self-defense by all necessary means available to deter or neutralize the potential attacker or, if necessary, to destroy the threat.

Humanitarian Operation—Military support solely dedicated to the performance of relief operations in the aftermath of a natural or manmade disaster where a large number of civilian personnel have been displaced or are in want of the basic necessities for survival.

Impact Award—See Outstanding Achievement Award/Decoration.

Insurgency—An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through use of subversion and armed conflict.

Insurgent—Member of a political party who rebels against established leadership. See also antiterrorism; counterinsurgency; insurgency.

Intrepid—Not afraid, bold, fearless, dauntless, very brave.

Joint Activity—For the purpose of this Manual and the eligibility for DoD Defense/Joint decorations, the term "joint" connotes activities, operations or organizations in which elements of more than one Military Service of the U.S., as reflected in joint manpower documents or the Joint Duty Assignment List, perform joint missions under the auspices of the OSD; the CJCS; or the commander of a Unified or Combined Command.

Killed in Action—A battle casualty killed in action against the enemy or as a result of enemy action.

Limited War—Armed conflict short of general war, exclusive of incidents, involving the overt engagement of the military forces of two or more nations.

Military Decoration and Award—The DoD and Military Department medals and ribbons authorized.

Medal—A term used to include the three categories of awards, namely: decorations, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and service medals. Also refers to the distinctive physical device made of metal and ribbon, which constitutes the tangible evidence of an award.

Medical Officer—A physician with officer rank. An officer of the Medical Corps of the Army, an officer of the Medical Corps of the Navy, or an officer in the Air Force designated as a medical officer, as defined in section 101 of title 10 U.S.C.

Medical Professional—Means a civilian physician or a physician extender. Physician extenders include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other medical professionals qualified to provide independent treatment (e.g., Independent Duty Corpsman and Special Forces Medic). Basic Corpsmen and medics are not physician extenders.

Meritorious Service—Individual performance that exceeds that expected by virtue of grade and experience, based on accomplishments during an entire tour of duty. Awards given for meritorious service must cover the period of the controlled duty tour, plus any extensions. Award for meritorious service are typically awarded for a period of service greater than 12 months.

Mutual Support—That support which units render each other against an enemy, because of their assigned tasks, their position relative to each other and to the enemy, and their inherent capabilities.

Next of Kin (NOK)—Defined in descending order as the surviving spouse; natural or adopted children in order of seniority; parents in order of seniority, unless legal exclusive (sole) custody was granted to a person by reason of a court decree or statutory provision; blood or adoptive relative who was granted legal custody of the person by a court decree or statutory provision; brothers or sisters in order of seniority; grandparents in order of seniority; and persons standing in loco parentis to the member.

Operation—1) A military action or the carrying out of a strategic, operational, tactical, service, training, or administrative military mission. 2) The process of carrying on combat, including movement, supply, attack, defense, and maneuvers needed to gain the objectives of any battle or campaign.

Outstanding Achievement Award/Decoration—Also known as an impact award, is rare, and is intended to recognize a single specific act or accomplishment, separate and distinct from regularly assigned duties, such as a special project that covers a short period of time with definite beginning and ending dates.

Performance Award—A non-valorous award presented to members in recognition of their performance, outstanding achievement, or meritorious service (e.g. Meritorious Service Medal, Commendation Medal).

Permanently Assigned—Assigned to an authorized billet on an organizations permanent manning document and under the UCMJ authority of the organizations commander.

Personal Award—A military decoration which is bestowed on an individual for valor, heroism, outstanding achievement, or meritorious service.

Physician—A person possessing a degree in medicine (MD) or osteopathy (DO).

Posthumous—Occurring or coming into existence after a person's death (e.g. promotion, award, etc.)

Prisoner of War—A detained person as defined in Articles 4 and 5 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949. In particular, one who, while engaged in combat under orders of his or her government, is captured by the armed forces of the enemy. As such, he or she is entitled to the combatant's privilege of immunity from the municipal law of the capturing state for warlike acts which do not amount to breaches of the law of armed conflict. For example, a prisoner of war may be, but is not limited to, any person belonging to one of the following categories who has fallen into the power of the enemy: a member of the armed forces, organized militia or volunteer corps; a person who accompanies the armed forces without actually being a member thereof; a member of a merchant marine or civilian aircraft crew not qualifying for more favorable treatment; or individuals who, on the approach of the enemy, spontaneously take up arms to resist the invading forces. Also called POW or PW.

Service Medal—A subcategory of DoD Service Awards, Service medals denote: 1) Participation in military operations that do not involve conflict with an armed enemy; or, 2) Military service meeting specific criteria (e.g., honorable service while a Prisoner of War). Prolonged military presence, peacekeeping, and humanitarian relief are examples of military actions that warrant consideration for a service medal.

Service Star—Also known as a Battle Star, is a bronze or silver five-pointed star, 3/16 inch in diameter worn on the suspension ribbon to denote subsequent awards. See also "Campaign Star".

Secretary Concerned—The Secretaries of the Military Departments.

Specified Combatant Command—Means a military command which has broad, continuing missions and which is normally composed of forces from a single military department.

Support—1) The action of a force that aids, protects, complements, or sustains another force in accordance with a directive requiring such action. 2) A unit that helps another unit in battle. 3) An element of a command that assists, protects, or supplies other forces in combat.

Team—An organized, developed component of members composed for a specific purpose (i.e., Tiger Team) or an operation (i.e., bomber crew, security forces contingent, etc.) that is not constituted as a USAF organization by a DAF letter. As such, a team is not entitled to a lineage and honors history or an emblem.

Theater—The geographical area for which a commander or combatant command has been assigned responsibility.

Unified Combatant Command—Means a military command which has broad, continuing missions and which is composed of forces from two or more military departments.

Uniformed Services—(A) The US Armed Forces; (B) the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and (C) the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service. The uniformed services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services.

Valor—An act of heroism above what is normally expected while engaged in direct combat with an enemy with exposure to enemy hostilities and personal risk.

Weapon system—A combination of one or more weapons with all related equipment, materials, services, personnel, and means of delivery and deployment (if applicable) required for self-sufficiency (Joint Publication 1-02).

Wound—An injury to any part of the body from an outside force or agent. The term encompasses all kinds of wounds and other injuries caused by an outsider force or agent, whether there is a piercing of the body, as in a penetrating or perforating wound, or none, as in a contused wound; all fractures, burns, blast concussions, all effects of gases and like chemical and biological warfare agents; and the effect of exposure to radioactive substances.

Wounded in Action—Except for those killed in action, a battle casualty who incurs a wound (see Wound) in action against the enemy or as a result of enemy action; and the wound requires the treatment of a physician. Civilian battle casualties are not classified as wounded in action.

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL

March 30, 2015

Members of the House and Senate
REF: HB 61
Authorizing DMV license plates recognizing medals for valor

Just a quick note to let you all know that the Alaska State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America and our members across Alaska strongly supports this legislation allowing those few who are awarded medals of valor for combat actions the opportunity to display such awards on their Alaska state license plates.

For many of us who have served in combat there are moments we like to remember and many we choose to forget. In the face of danger to our lives, some take extraordinary actions that often save many lives. Having the State of Alaska allow license plates that continue to recognize these actions of valor is recognition by our state of those who made a choice most often putting themselves in danger.

We would ask for the support of all members of our State Legislature for this bill and we want to express our thanks to the sponsor and cosponsors of this legislation for putting this forward.

It is important to remember. It is just as important for those who never serve to recognize those who did and those few who step up and walk through that door into hell.

It is an honor,

Ric Davidge, Director
Vietnam Veterans of America, Alaska
Legislative Affairs

Currently serves as State Secretary for VVA AK State Council
Former State President VVA AK (twice elected)

Molly Carver

From: Larry Gordaoff <907germ@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Molly Carver
Subject: Bronze Star

Representative Les Gara
This letter is in support of HB 61

I was contacted by an Afghanistan veteran Chris Thomas about his count on asking the Alaska DMV for a Bronze Star license plate for his vehicle. He was told that there is no such plate available in our state. I searched the Internet and found that Several states have this plate available for there Bronze Star recipients for there valor in combat while serving in our armed forces of the United States. I contacted Representative Les Gara and he offered to work on getting this for our Veterans. Les has represented the needs of our veterans any time he was ask and we thank him for that. It is important to recognize or veterans for the freedom they gave us each and everyday of our lives. This Bronze Star license plate will help bring closure and install the pride back to our Veterans.

Thank You for your diligent help in restoring the pride Back to or Veterans by making it possible to obtain this Bronze Starr license plate.

Laurence Gordaoff
Alaska Native Veterans
Sent from my iPhone