

AN ACT

relating to awarding certain medals for military service performed individually or as part of a crew.

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

SECTION 1. Section 437.352, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 437.352. LONE STAR MEDAL OF VALOR. The Lone Star Medal of Valor shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this state, another state, or the United States who performs, either individually or as a member of a crew, specific acts of bravery or outstanding courage, or who performs within an exceptionally short period, either individually or as a member of a crew, a closely related series of heroic acts, if the acts involve personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life and result in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the person or crew apart from the person's or crew's comrades or from other persons in similar circumstances. Awarding of the medal requires a lesser degree of gallantry than awarding of the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, but requires that the acts be performed with marked distinction.

SECTION 2. Section 437.355(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The governor or adjutant general, if delegated the authority, may adopt policies and regulations relating to awarding:

1 (1) the Texas Purple Heart Medal, which shall be
2 awarded to a service member who:

3 (A) after September 11, 2001:

4 (i) was inducted into federal service from
5 the Texas National Guard; and

6 (ii) meets the criteria for an award of the
7 federal Purple Heart Medal; or

8 (B) was wounded or killed at Fort Hood on
9 November 5, 2009;

10 (2) the Texas Superior Service Medal, which shall be
11 awarded to:

12 (A) a service member of the Texas military forces
13 who has:

14 (i) completed 30 or more years of honorable
15 state service or a combination of state and federal service; and

16 (ii) continually demonstrated superior
17 performance and service while assigned to key leadership positions
18 demanding responsibility; or

19 (B) a civilian who has contributed significant
20 service to the Texas military forces;

21 (3) the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, which
22 shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this state,
23 another state, or the United States for exceptionally outstanding
24 achievement or service to this state in performance of a duty of
25 great responsibility while serving with the Texas military forces
26 for whom the department receives a letter of recommendation for
27 award of the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal that:

1 (A) gives an account of the exceptional
2 achievement or service; and

3 (B) includes facts and photographs, and extracts
4 from official documents to support and amplify the facts;

5 (4) the Texas Outstanding Service Medal, which shall
6 be awarded to a service member of the military forces of this state,
7 another state, or the United States who has performed service,
8 either individually or as a member of a crew, in a superior and
9 clearly outstanding manner;

10 (5) the Texas Humanitarian Service Medal, which shall
11 be awarded to a service member who:

12 (A) does not meet the criteria for an award of the
13 federal Humanitarian Service Medal;

14 (B) is a member of the Texas military forces; and

15 (C) while serving on state active duty or active
16 duty under state authority in accordance with Title 32, United
17 States Code, participates satisfactorily in defense support to a
18 mission under civilian authority to protect life or property during
19 or soon after a natural disaster or civil unrest in the state;

20 (6) the Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal, which
21 shall be awarded to a service member of the Texas military forces
22 who served:

23 (A) on or after September 11, 2001;

24 (B) on state active duty or active duty under
25 state authority in accordance with Title 32, United States Code;
26 and

27 (C) satisfactorily in defense support to a

1 mission in the state under civilian authority;

2 (7) the Federal Service Medal, which shall be awarded
3 to a service member who was inducted into federal service from the
4 Texas military forces between June 15, 1940, and January 1, 1946, or
5 after June 1, 1950, if the service was for more than 90 days;

6 (8) the Texas Combat Service Ribbon, which shall be
7 awarded to a service member of the Texas National Guard who served,
8 after September 11, 2001, in a hostile fire zone as designated by
9 the United States secretary of defense;

10 (9) the Texas Faithful Service Medal, which shall be
11 awarded to a member of the Texas military forces who has completed
12 five years of honorable service during which the service member has
13 shown fidelity to duty, efficient service, and great loyalty to
14 this state;

15 (10) the Texas Medal of Merit, which shall be awarded
16 to a member of the military forces of this state, another state, or
17 the United States who performs outstanding service or attains
18 extraordinary achievement, either individually or as a member of a
19 crew, in behalf of the state or United States;

20 (11) the Texas State Guard Service Medal, which shall
21 be awarded to a service member who completes three consecutive
22 years of honorable service in the Texas State Guard during which the
23 service member has shown fidelity to duty, efficient service, and
24 great loyalty to this state;

25 (12) the Texas Desert Shield/Desert Storm Campaign
26 Medal, which shall be awarded to a service member who was inducted
27 into federal service from the Texas National Guard after August 1,

1 1990, in support of Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert
2 Storm, without regard to the place that the service member was
3 deployed while serving on active federal military duty;

4 (13) the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal, which shall be
5 awarded to a service member who was inducted into federal service
6 from the Texas National Guard, without regard to the place that the
7 service member was deployed while serving on active federal
8 military duty, after:

9 (A) March 19, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi
10 Freedom; or

11 (B) August 31, 2010, in support of Operation New
12 Dawn;

13 (14) the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal, which shall
14 be awarded to a service member who was inducted into federal service
15 from the Texas National Guard after October 6, 2001, in support of
16 Operation Enduring Freedom, without regard to the place that the
17 service member was deployed while serving on active federal
18 military duty; and

19 (15) the Cold War Medal, which, subject to Subsection
20 (c), shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this
21 state or the United States who:

22 (A) served between September 2, 1945, and
23 December 26, 1991; and

24 (B) was a resident of this state at the time the
25 service member entered military service.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

S.B. No. 1597

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1597 passed the Senate on April 17, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1597 passed the House on May 3, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor