

1-1 By: Hall S.B. No. 1597
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 6, 2019; March 14, 2019, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border
1-4 Security; April 8, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 8, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Campbell	X		
1-9	Hall	X		
1-10	Johnson	X		
1-11	Lucio	X		
1-12	Menéndez	X		
1-13	Schwertner	X		
1-14	Seliger	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to awarding certain medals for military service performed
1-18 individually or as part of a crew.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 437.352, Government Code, is amended to
1-21 read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 437.352. LONE STAR MEDAL OF VALOR. The Lone Star Medal
1-23 of Valor shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this
1-24 state, another state, or the United States who performs, either
1-25 individually or as a member of a crew, specific acts of bravery or
1-26 outstanding courage, or who performs within an exceptionally short
1-27 period, either individually or as a member of a crew, a closely
1-28 related series of heroic acts, if the acts involve personal hazard
1-29 or danger and the voluntary risk of life and result in an
1-30 accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the
1-31 person or crew apart from the person's or crew's comrades or from
1-32 other persons in similar circumstances. Awarding of the medal
1-33 requires a lesser degree of gallantry than awarding of the Texas
1-34 Legislative Medal of Honor, but requires that the acts be performed
1-35 with marked distinction.

1-36 SECTION 2. Section 437.355(a), Government Code, is amended
1-37 to read as follows:

1-38 (a) The governor or adjutant general, if delegated the
1-39 authority, may adopt policies and regulations relating to awarding:

1-40 (1) the Texas Purple Heart Medal, which shall be
1-41 awarded to a service member who:

1-42 (A) after September 11, 2001:

1-43 (i) was inducted into federal service from
1-44 the Texas National Guard; and

1-45 (ii) meets the criteria for an award of the
1-46 federal Purple Heart Medal; or

1-47 (B) was wounded or killed at Fort Hood on
1-48 November 5, 2009;

1-49 (2) the Texas Superior Service Medal, which shall be
1-50 awarded to:

1-51 (A) a service member of the Texas military forces
1-52 who has:

1-53 (i) completed 30 or more years of honorable
1-54 state service or a combination of state and federal service; and

1-55 (ii) continually demonstrated superior
1-56 performance and service while assigned to key leadership positions
1-57 demanding responsibility; or

1-58 (B) a civilian who has contributed significant
1-59 service to the Texas military forces;

1-60 (3) the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, which
1-61 shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this state,

2-1 another state, or the United States for exceptionally outstanding
2-2 achievement or service to this state in performance of a duty of
2-3 great responsibility while serving with the Texas military forces
2-4 for whom the department receives a letter of recommendation for
2-5 award of the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal that:

2-6 (A) gives an account of the exceptional
2-7 achievement or service; and

2-8 (B) includes facts and photographs, and extracts
2-9 from official documents to support and amplify the facts;

2-10 (4) the Texas Outstanding Service Medal, which shall
2-11 be awarded to a service member of the military forces of this state,
2-12 another state, or the United States who has performed service,
2-13 either individually or as a member of a crew, in a superior and
2-14 clearly outstanding manner;

2-15 (5) the Texas Humanitarian Service Medal, which shall
2-16 be awarded to a service member who:

2-17 (A) does not meet the criteria for an award of the
2-18 federal Humanitarian Service Medal;

2-19 (B) is a member of the Texas military forces; and

2-20 (C) while serving on state active duty or active
2-21 duty under state authority in accordance with Title 32, United
2-22 States Code, participates satisfactorily in defense support to a
2-23 mission under civilian authority to protect life or property during
2-24 or soon after a natural disaster or civil unrest in the state;

2-25 (6) the Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal, which
2-26 shall be awarded to a service member of the Texas military forces
2-27 who served:

2-28 (A) on or after September 11, 2001;

2-29 (B) on state active duty or active duty under
2-30 state authority in accordance with Title 32, United States Code;
2-31 and

2-32 (C) satisfactorily in defense support to a
2-33 mission in the state under civilian authority;

2-34 (7) the Federal Service Medal, which shall be awarded
2-35 to a service member who was inducted into federal service from the
2-36 Texas military forces between June 15, 1940, and January 1, 1946, or
2-37 after June 1, 1950, if the service was for more than 90 days;

2-38 (8) the Texas Combat Service Ribbon, which shall be
2-39 awarded to a service member of the Texas National Guard who served,
2-40 after September 11, 2001, in a hostile fire zone as designated by
2-41 the United States secretary of defense;

2-42 (9) the Texas Faithful Service Medal, which shall be
2-43 awarded to a member of the Texas military forces who has completed
2-44 five years of honorable service during which the service member has
2-45 shown fidelity to duty, efficient service, and great loyalty to
2-46 this state;

2-47 (10) the Texas Medal of Merit, which shall be awarded
2-48 to a member of the military forces of this state, another state, or
2-49 the United States who performs outstanding service or attains
2-50 extraordinary achievement, either individually or as a member of a
2-51 crew, in behalf of the state or United States;

2-52 (11) the Texas State Guard Service Medal, which shall
2-53 be awarded to a service member who completes three consecutive
2-54 years of honorable service in the Texas State Guard during which the
2-55 service member has shown fidelity to duty, efficient service, and
2-56 great loyalty to this state;

2-57 (12) the Texas Desert Shield/Desert Storm Campaign
2-58 Medal, which shall be awarded to a service member who was inducted
2-59 into federal service from the Texas National Guard after August 1,
2-60 1990, in support of Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert
2-61 Storm, without regard to the place that the service member was
2-62 deployed while serving on active federal military duty;

2-63 (13) the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal, which shall be
2-64 awarded to a service member who was inducted into federal service
2-65 from the Texas National Guard, without regard to the place that the
2-66 service member was deployed while serving on active federal
2-67 military duty, after:

2-68 (A) March 19, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi
2-69 Freedom; or

3-1 (B) August 31, 2010, in support of Operation New
3-2 Dawn;
3-3 (14) the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal, which shall
3-4 be awarded to a service member who was inducted into federal service
3-5 from the Texas National Guard after October 6, 2001, in support of
3-6 Operation Enduring Freedom, without regard to the place that the
3-7 service member was deployed while serving on active federal
3-8 military duty; and
3-9 (15) the Cold War Medal, which, subject to Subsection
3-10 (c), shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this
3-11 state or the United States who:
3-12 (A) served between September 2, 1945, and
3-13 December 26, 1991; and
3-14 (B) was a resident of this state at the time the
3-15 service member entered military service.
3-16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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