

The words “but not in the name of Congress” are omitted as surplusage, since a medal is presented in the name of Congress only if the law so directs. The words “since the 6th day of April, 1917” are omitted as executed. The word “award” is substituted for the word “present” to cover the determination of the recipients as well as the actual presentation of the medal, and to conform to other sections of this chapter. The words “or herself” are omitted, since, under section 1 of title 1, words importing the masculine gender include the feminine. The words “or who shall distinguish” are omitted as surplusage.

§ 8744. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service medal: limitations on award

(a) No more than one Air Force Cross or distinguished-service medal may be awarded to a person. However, for each succeeding act that would otherwise justify the award of such a medal or cross, the President may award a suitable bar or other device to be worn as he directs.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d), no medal of honor, Air Force cross, distinguished-service medal, or device in place thereof, may be awarded to a person unless—

- (1) the award is made within five years after the date of the act justifying the award;
- (2) a statement setting forth the distinguished service and recommending official recognition of it was made within three years after the distinguished service; and
- (3) it appears from records of the Department of the Air Force that the person is entitled to the award.

(c) No medal of honor, Air Force cross, distinguished-service medal, or device in place thereof, may be awarded or presented to a person whose service after he distinguished himself has not been honorable.

(d) If the Secretary of the Air Force determines that—

- (1) a statement setting forth the distinguished service and recommending official recognition of it was made and supported by sufficient evidence within three years after the distinguished service; and
- (2) no award was made, because the statement was lost or through inadvertence the recommendation was not acted on;

a medal of honor, Air Force cross, distinguished-service medal, or device in place thereof, as the case may be, may be awarded to the person concerned within two years after the date of that determination.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 540; Pub. L. 86-582, §1(3), July 5, 1960, 74 Stat. 320; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(2), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 331; Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title V, §§561(c), 562(b), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 766.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8744(a)	10:1411.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (12th par., less words after 2d semicolon, under “Ordnance Department”); restated Jan. 24, 1920, ch. 55, §1 (less last sentence), 41 Stat. 398.
8744(b)	10:1409 (words before 1st semicolon).	
8744(c)	10:1409 (words after 2d semicolon).	

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
		July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (less words between 1st and 2d semicolons of 15th par. under “Ordnance Department”), 40 Stat. 871.

In subsection (a), the words “may be awarded to a person” are substituted for the words “shall be issued to any one person” to conform to the other subsections of the revised section.

In subsection (b), the word “thereof” is substituted for the words “of either of said medal or of said cross”. The words “Except as otherwise prescribed in this section”, “at the time of”, “specific”, “official”, and “has so distinguished himself as” are omitted as surplusage.

In subsection (c), 10:1409 (words after 3d semicolon) is omitted as executed. The words “hereinbefore authorized” are omitted as surplusage.

AMENDMENTS

2013—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-66, §561(c), substituted “Air Force Cross” for “medal of honor, Air Force cross,”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 113-66, §562(b)(1)(A), substituted “five years” for “three years”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 113-66, §562(b)(1)(B), substituted “three years” for “two years”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 113-66, §562(b)(2), substituted “three years” for “two years”.

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 substituted “Air Force cross” for “distinguished-service cross” in section catchline and wherever appearing in subsecs. (a) to (d).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-582, §1(3)(A), substituted “Except as provided in subsection (d), no” for “No”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 86-582, §1(3)(B), added subsec. (d).

PERSONS AWARDED DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS OR SOLDIER’S MEDAL BEFORE JULY 6, 1960

Pub. L. 86-593, §2, July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332, provided that: “For the purposes of sections 8744(a) and 8750(b) of title 10, United States Code, a person who was awarded a distinguished-service cross or Soldier’s Medal before the date of enactment of this Act [July 6, 1960] shall be treated as if he had not been awarded an Air Force cross or Airman’s Medal, as the case may be.”

§ 8745. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service medal: delegation of power to award

The President may delegate his authority to award the medal of honor, Air Force cross, and distinguished-service medal, to a commanding general of a separate air force or higher unit in the field.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(3), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8745	10:1410.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (16th par., less words after semicolon, under “Ordnance Department”), 40 Stat. 872.

The words “under such conditions, regulations, and limitations as he shall prescribe” are omitted as surplusage. The words “his authority” are substituted for the words “the power conferred upon him by sections 1403, 1406-1408, 1409-1412, 1416, 1420, 1422, 1423, and 1424 of this title”.

AMENDMENTS

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 substituted “Air Force cross” for “distinguished-service cross” in section catchline and in text.

§ 8746. Silver star: award

The President may award a silver star of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force, is cited for gallantry in action that does not warrant a medal of honor or Air Force cross—

- (1) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- (2) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- (3) 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.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541; Pub. L. 88-77, §3(3), July 25, 1963, 77 Stat. 95.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8746	10:1412.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (words after 2d semicolon of 12th par. under “Ordnance Department”); restated Jan. 24, 1920, ch. 55, §1 (last sentence); restated Dec. 15, 1942, ch. 736, 56 Stat. 1052.

The words “may award” are inserted to conform to other sections of this chapter. The words “if the person earned” are inserted for clarity. The words “commanded by” are omitted as surplusage.

AMENDMENTS

1963—Pub. L. 88-77 substituted provisions permitting the issuance of a silver star for gallantry while engaged in an 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, and requiring it to be of appropriate design, for provisions which authorized the issuance of the silver star for gallantry in action and which required that the silver star be three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, the citation thereof be published in orders issued from the headquarters of a force that is the appropriate command of a general officer, and that it be worn as directed by the President.

§ 8747. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service cross; distinguished-service medal; silver star: replacement

Any medal of honor, Air Force cross, distinguished-service cross, distinguished-service medal, or silver star, or any bar, ribbon, rosette, or other device issued for wear with or in place of any of them, that is stolen, lost, or destroyed, or becomes unfit for use, without fault or neglect of the person to whom it was awarded, shall be replaced without charge.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(4), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title V, §553(c)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1116.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8747	10:1416.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (14th par. under “Ordnance Department”), 40 Stat. 871.

The words “issued for wear with or in place of any of them” are inserted for clarity. The words “presented under the provisions of this title” and “such medal, cross, bar, ribbon, rosette, or device” are omitted as surplusage.

AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-107 substituted “stolen, lost,” for “lost”.
 1960—Pub. L. 86-593 inserted “Air Force cross” in section catchline and in text.

§ 8748. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service cross; distinguished-service medal; silver star: availability of appropriations

The Secretary of the Air Force may spend, from any appropriation for contingent expenses of the Department of the Air Force, amounts necessary to provide medals and devices under sections 8741, 8742, 8743, 8744, 8746, 8747, and 8752 of this title.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(5), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8748	10:1424.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (13th par. under “Ordnance Department”), 40 Stat. 871.

The word “amounts” is substituted for the words “so much as may be”. The word “provides” is substituted for the words “defray the cost of”. The words “medals and devices under” are substituted for the words “medals of honor, distinguished-service crosses, distinguished-service medals, bars, rosettes, and other devices provided for in”. The words “from time to time” are omitted as surplusage.

AMENDMENTS

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 inserted “Air Force cross” in section catchline.

§ 8749. Distinguished flying cross: award; limitations

(a) The President may award a distinguished flying cross of appropriate design with accompanying ribbon to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force, distinguishes himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

(b) Not more than one distinguished flying cross may be awarded to a person. However, for each succeeding act that would otherwise justify the award of such a cross, the President may award a suitable bar or other device to be worn as he directs.

(c) No distinguished flying cross, or device in place thereof, may be awarded or presented to a person whose service after he distinguished himself has not been honorable.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541.)