

(2) provide badges or buttons in recognition of special service, good conduct, and discharge under conditions other than dishonorable.

(Added Pub. L. 89-529, §1(1), Aug. 11, 1966, 80 Stat. 339.)

EX. ORD. NO. 11545. DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Ex. Ord. 11545, July 9, 1970, 35 F.R. 11161, provided:  
By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a Defense Distinguished Service Medal, with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances, for award by the Secretary of Defense to a military officer who performed exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a specified or unified command, a Defense agency, or such other joint activity as may be designated by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 2. The Defense Distinguished Service Medal and appurtenances thereto shall be of appropriate design approved by the Secretary of Defense and shall be awarded under such regulations as he shall prescribe. These regulations shall place the Defense Distinguished Service Medal in an order of precedence after the Medals of Honor and the Distinguished Service Crosses of the Armed Forces and before the Distinguished Service Medals of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 3. No more than one Defense Distinguished Service Medal shall be awarded to any one person, but for each succeeding exceptionally meritorious period of service justifying such an award, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with that Medal as prescribed by appropriate regulations of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 4. The Defense Distinguished Service Medal or device may be awarded posthumously and, when so awarded, may be presented to such representative of the deceased as may be deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

RICHARD NIXON.

**§ 1126. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution**

(a) A lapel button, to be known as the gold star lapel button, shall be designed, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, to identify next of kin of members of the armed forces—

(1) who lost their lives during World War I, World War II, or during any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before July 1, 1958;

(2) who lost or lose their lives after June 30, 1958—

(A) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(B) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(C) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force; or

(3) who lost or lose their lives after March 28, 1973, as a result of—

(A) an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Defense; or

(B) military operations while serving outside the United States (including the com-

monwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force.

(b) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned, upon application to him, shall furnish one gold star lapel button without cost to each next of kin of a member who lost or loses his or her life under any circumstances prescribed in subsection (a).

(c) Not more than one gold star lapel button may be furnished to any one individual except that, when a gold star lapel button furnished under this section has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, the button may be replaced upon application and without cost.

(d) In this section:

(1) The term “next of kin” means individuals standing in such relationship to members of the armed forces described in subsection (a) as the Secretaries concerned shall jointly specify in regulations for purposes of this section.

(2) The term “World War I” includes the period from April 6, 1917, to March 3, 1921.

(3) The term “World War II” includes the period from September 8, 1939, to July 25, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon.

(4) The term “military operations” includes those operations involving members of the armed forces assisting in United States Government sponsored training of military personnel of a foreign nation.

(5) The term “peacekeeping force” includes those personnel assigned to a force engaged in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

(Added Pub. L. 89-534, §1(1), Aug. 11, 1966, 80 Stat. 345, § 1124; renumbered § 1126, Pub. L. 89-718, § 9, Nov. 2, 1966, 80 Stat. 1117; amended Pub. L. 98-94, title XII, § 1268(8), Sept. 24, 1983, 97 Stat. 706; Pub. L. 100-26, § 7(k)(5), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 284; Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title XI, § 1143, Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1757; Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, § 581, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1411.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in sections 1 to 3 of act Aug. 1, 1947, ch. 426, 61 Stat. 710, which were classified to sections 182a to 182c of former Title 36, Patriotic Societies and Observances, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-534, § 2, Aug. 11, 1966, 80 Stat. 345.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116-92, § 581(a)(1), struck out “widows, parents, and” after “identify” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-92, § 581(a)(2), substituted “each” for “the widow and to each parent and”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-92, § 581(b), substituted “and without cost.” for “and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 116-92, § 581(a)(3), added par. (1), redesignated pars. (5) to (8) as (2) to (5), respectively, and struck out former pars. (1), (2), (3), and (4) which defined “widow”, “parents”, “next of kin”, and “children”, respectively.

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-160, § 1143(a), struck out “of the United States” after “armed forces” in intro-

ductory provisions, redesignated cls. (i) to (iii) of par. (2) as subpars. (A) to (C), respectively, and added par. (3).

Subsec. (d)(7), (8). Pub. L. 103-160, § 1143(b), added pars. (7) and (8).

1987—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-26 substituted colon for dash at end of introductory provisions, inserted “The term” in each par., and substituted periods for semicolons in pars. (1) to (4) and period for “; and” in par. (5).

1983—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 98-94 substituted “who” for “Who”.

### § 1127. Precedence of the award of the Purple Heart

In prescribing regulations establishing the order of precedence of awards and decorations authorized to be displayed on the uniforms of members of the armed forces, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall accord the Purple Heart a position of precedence, in relation to other awards and decorations authorized to be displayed, not lower than that immediately following the bronze star.

(Added Pub. L. 98-525, title V, § 553(a), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2532; amended Pub. L. 99-145, title V, § 533, Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 634.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1985—Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “the bronze star” for “the lowest position accorded any award or decoration for valor”.

### § 1128. Prisoner-of-war medal: issue

(a) The Secretary concerned shall issue a prisoner-of-war medal to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the armed forces, was taken prisoner and held captive—

(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 forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(b) Under uniform regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned may issue a prisoner-of-war medal to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the armed forces, was held captive under circumstances not covered by paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a), but which the Secretary concerned finds were comparable to those circumstances under which persons have generally been held captive by enemy armed forces during periods of armed conflict.

(c) The prisoner-of-war medal shall be of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances.

(d) In prescribing regulations establishing the order of precedence of awards and decorations authorized to be displayed on the uniforms of members of the armed forces, the Secretary concerned shall accord the prisoner-of-war medal a position of precedence, in relation to other awards and decorations authorized to be displayed—

(1) immediately following decorations awarded for individual heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service, and

(2) before any other service medal, campaign medal, or service ribbon authorized to be displayed.

(e) Not more than one prisoner-of-war medal may be issued to a person. However, for each succeeding service that would otherwise justify the issuance of such a medal, the Secretary concerned may issue a suitable device to be worn as the Secretary determines.

(f) For a person to be eligible for issuance of a prisoner-of-war medal, the person's conduct must have been honorable for the period of captivity which serves as the basis for the issuance.

(g) If a person dies before the issuance of a prisoner-of-war medal to which he is entitled, the medal may be issued to the person's representative, as designated by the Secretary concerned.

(h) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a prisoner-of-war medal that is lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was issued may be replaced without charge.

(i) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that regulations prescribed by the Secretaries of the military departments under this section are uniform so far as practicable.

(Added Pub. L. 99-145, title V, § 532(a)(1), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 633; amended Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title V, § 516(a), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1441; Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title V, § 584, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1767.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2013—Subsec. (a)(2) to (4). Pub. L. 112-239, § 584(1), inserted “or” at end of par. (2), substituted period at end for “; or” in par. (3), and struck out par. (4) which read as follows: “by foreign armed forces that are hostile to the United States, under circumstances which the Secretary concerned finds to have been comparable to those under which persons have generally been held captive by enemy armed forces during periods of armed conflict.”

Subsecs. (b) to (i). Pub. L. 112-239, § 584(2), (3), added subsec. (b) and redesignated former subsecs. (b) to (h) as (c) to (i), respectively.

1989—Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 101-189 added par. (4).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title V, § 516(b), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1442, provided that: “Paragraph (4) of section 1128(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), applies with respect to periods of captivity after April 5, 1917.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 99-145, title V, § 532(b), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 634, provided that: “Section 1128 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), applies with respect to any person taken prisoner and held captive after April 5, 1917.”

### § 1129. Purple Heart: members killed or wounded in action by friendly fire

(a) For purposes of the award of the Purple Heart, the Secretary concerned shall treat a member of the armed forces described in subsection (b) in the same manner as a member who is killed or wounded in action as the result of an act of an enemy of the United States.

(b) A member described in this subsection is a member who is killed or wounded in action by