

§ 9278. 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 9271, 9272, 9273, 9274, 9276, 9277, and 9282 of this title.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8748; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(5), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332; renumbered §9278 and amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §§806(b)(11), 809(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833, 1840.)

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

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8748 of this title as this section and substituted "sections 9271, 9272, 9273, 9274, 9276, 9277, and 9282" for "sections 8741, 8742, 8743, 8744, 8746, 8747, and 8752".

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

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9279. 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.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8749; renumbered §9279, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, §582(b)(4), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1412.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8749(a)	10:1429 (less 2d and last sentences).	July 2, 1926, ch. 721, §12 (less 1st 49 words of last sentence), 44 Stat. 789; July 30, 1937, ch. 545, §4, 50 Stat. 549.
8749(b)	10:1429 (2d sentence).	
8749(c)	10:1429 (last sentence, less 1st 49 words).	

In subsection (a), the words "under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe" are omitted, since the President has inherent authority to issue regulations appropriate to exercising his functions. 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 word "award" is substituted for the word "present" to cover the determination of the recipients as well as the actual presentation of the medal. The words "since the 6th day of April, 1917, has distinguished, or who, after July 2, 1926" and 10:1429 (proviso of 1st sentence) are omitted as executed.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-92 struck out subsec. (c) which read as follows: "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."

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8749 of this title as this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9280. Airman's Medal: award; limitations

(a)(1) The President may award a decoration called the "Airman's Medal", of appropriate design with accompanying ribbon, to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force, distinguishes himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.

(2) The authority in paragraph (1) includes authority to award the medal to a member of the Ready Reserve who was not in a duty status defined in section 101(d) of this title when the member distinguished himself by heroism.

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

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 542, §8750; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(6), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title V, §574(c), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1758; renumbered §9280, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8750(a)	10:1428 (less last sentence).	July 2, 1926, ch. 721, §11, 44 Stat. 789.
8750(b)	10:1428 (last sentence).	

The words "Under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe" are omitted, since the President has inherent authority to issue regulations appropriate to exercising his functions. 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 word “award” is substituted for the word “present” to cover the determination of the recipients as well as the actual presentation of the medal. The words “a decoration called” are substituted for the words “a medal to be known as”. The words “including the National Guard and the Organized Reserves” are omitted as surplusage. The words “or herself” are omitted, since, under section 1 of title 1, words importing the masculine gender include the feminine. The words “after July 2, 1926” are omitted as executed.

In subsection (b), the words “that would otherwise justify” are substituted for the words “sufficient to”.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8750 of this title as this section.

1997—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-85 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 substituted “Airman’s Medal” for “Soldier’s Medal” in section catchline and wherever appearing in text.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9281. Service medals: issue; replacement; availability of appropriations

(a) The Secretary of the Air Force shall procure, and issue without charge to any person entitled thereto, any service medal authorized for members of the Air Force or the Space Force after September 26, 1947, and any ribbon, clasp, star, or similar device prescribed as a part of that medal.

(b) Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, any medal or other device issued under subsection (a) that is lost, destroyed, or becomes unfit for use without fault or neglect of the owner, may be replaced at cost. However, if the owner is a member of the Air Force or the Space Force, the medal or device may be replaced without charge.

(c) The Secretary may spend, from any appropriation for the support of the Air Force or the Space Force, amounts necessary to provide medals and devices under this section.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 542, §8751; renumbered §9281, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §923(c)(12)(A)(v), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3811.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8751(a)	10:1415a (less 21st through 30th words, and less clauses (a) through (n)).	May 12, 1928, ch. 528, §1 (less 25th through 34th words, and less clauses (a) through (n)), 2 (less applicability to §1 (clauses (a) through (n))), 3 (less applicability to §1 (clauses (a) through (n))), 45 Stat. 500.
8751(b)	10:1415b (less applicability to 10:1415a (clauses (a) through (n))).	
8751(c)	10:1415c (less applicability to 10:1415a (clauses (a) through (n))).	

In subsection (a), the words “authorized for members of the Air Force after September 26, 1947” are substituted for the words “hereafter authorized”, since,

under Transfer Order 1, that date was the effective date of the transfer of personnel from the Army to the Air Force under section 208(e) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (5 U.S.C. 626c(e)). 10:1415a (proviso) is omitted as surplusage, since the revised section is not limited to persons who are members of the Air Force at the time of the issue.

In subsection (b), the words “member of the Air Force” are substituted for the words “persons in the military service of the United States”.

In subsection (c), the last 16 words are substituted for 10:1415c (last 16 words).

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 inserted “or the Space Force” after “the Air Force” wherever appearing after the first appearance.

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8751 of this title as this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9282. Medals: posthumous award and presentation

(a) If a person dies before the award of a medal of honor, distinguished-service cross, distinguished-service medal, distinguished flying cross, or device in place thereof, to which he is entitled, the award may be made and the medal or device presented to his representative, as designated by the President.

(b) If a person dies before an authorized service medal or device prescribed as a part thereof is presented to him under section 9281 of this title, it shall be presented to his family.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 542, §8752; Pub. L. 85-861, §33(a)(23), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1565; renumbered §9282 and amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §§806(b)(11), 809(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833, 1840.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES 1956 ACT

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8752(a)	10:1409 (words between 1st and 2d semicolons). 10:1429 (1st 49 words of last sentence).	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (words between 1st and 2d semicolons of 15th par. under “Ordnance Department”), 40 Stat. 871.
8752(b)	10:1415a (21st through 30th words, less applicability to clauses (a) through (n)).	July 2, 1926, ch. 721, §12 (1st 49 words of last sentence), 44 Stat. 789; July 30, 1937, ch. 545, §4, 50 Stat. 549. May 12, 1928, ch. 528, §1 (25th through 34th words, less applicability to clauses (a) through (n)), 45 Stat. 500.

In subsection (a), the words “If a person” are substituted for the words “In case an individual * * * dies”, in 10:1409, and “In case an individual * * * shall have died”, in 10:1429. The words “within three years from the date”, in 10:1409, are omitted as covered by section 8744 of this title. The words “who shall distinguish himself”, in 10:1409, and “who distinguishes himself”, in 10:1429, are omitted as covered by the words “the award * * * to which he is entitled”.

1958 ACT

The change reflects the fact that the source statute for these sections (sec. 1 of the Act of May 12, 1928, ch.