



Soldier's Medal

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, including reserve (RC) soldiers not serving in a duty status, as defined in 10 USC 101(d), at the time of the heroic act, who distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.

The heroism must involve a clearly recognizable personal hazard and the voluntary risk of life under conditions that do not involve conflict with an armed enemy.

The minimum degree of heroism required is comparable to that of the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism.



French Croix de Guerre

The French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) 1939–1945 is a military decoration established on September 26, 1939, to honor French and Allied service members who fought against Axis forces during World War II, and is a respected and historically significant French military decoration, roughly comparable in prestige to the U.S. Bronze Star or Silver Star, depending on the level of citation received.

Every medal and ribbon has at least one ribbon device, either a palm or a star, fashioned from bronze, silver, or silver-gilt (vermeil). The Croix de Guerre may have an unlimited number of devices. The bronze palm represents the award's highest degree.



Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy, but not to a level that justifies the Medal of Honor. It may be awarded to civilians and military personnel serving in any capacity with the Army who distinguish themselves through heroic combat actions. The act or acts of heroism must be so notable and have involved risk of life so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from his comrades.

The eagle represents the United States, and the laurel leaves surrounding it represent victory and achievement.



Legion of Merit

The Legion of Merit medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service. Superior performance of normal duties alone does not justify this decoration. It is not awarded for heroism, but rather for service and achievement while performing duties in a key position of responsibility. The decoration is issued to members of the eight uniformed services of the United States, as well as to military and political figures of foreign governments.

Well-known Legion of Merit recipients:

- **General George S. Patton**
- **General Dwight D. Eisenhower**
- **General Douglas MacArthur**
- **Astronaut Buzz Aldrin** (a retired Air Force officer who earned the decoration for meritorious service before his historic Apollo 11 lunar mission).



Purple Heart

The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or to any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U. S. Armed Forces (since April 5, 1917), has been wounded, killed, or has died or may die of wounds received from an opposing enemy force while in armed combat or as a result of an act of international terrorism or being a prisoner of war.



World War II Victory Medal

The World War II Victory Medal was awarded to all members of the Armed Forces who served at least one day of honorable, active federal service between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1945, inclusive.

The medal's front depicts the Liberty figure resting her right foot on a war god's helmet, with the hilt of a broken sword in her right hand and the broken blade in her left. The ribbon's red center stripe represents Mars, the god of war. The twin rainbow stripes, suggested by the WWI Victory Medal, allude to the peace that follows a storm.



Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to United States Military personnel for heroism or extraordinary achievement in aerial flight that is clearly distinctive and not routine. It is the first decoration authorized in identical design and ribbon for all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Although the Army Air Forces never intended this decoration as an automatic award, it often used it that way during World War II, awarding DFCs for a specific number of sorties and flying hours in a combat theater.



American Defense Service Medal

The American Defense Service Medal was authorized on June 28, 1941, for military service during the limited emergency proclaimed by President Roosevelt on September 8, 1939, or during the unlimited emergency proclaimed on May 27, 1941, until December 7, 1941, if under orders for active duty for 12 months or longer. The Navy authorized the wear of a bronze letter "A" for recipients who served with the Atlantic Fleet during the national emergency.

The ribbon's golden-yellow color symbolizes the golden opportunity for United States youth to serve the nation, represented by the blue, white, and red stripes on both sides.