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**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

RH/CL

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 376, *approved January 16, 2018*  
Assembly, No. 4195 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning service medals for members of the military and  
2 veterans and amending N.J.S.38A:15-2.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. N.J.S.38A:15-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 38A:15-2. The Governor may present in the name of the State of  
9 New Jersey a distinguished service medal of appropriate design, and  
10 ribbon to be worn in lieu thereof, to<sup>1</sup>:

11 a. <sup>1</sup>any person who is a member of the organized militia or the  
12 Armed Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof, or  
13 who was honorably discharged therefrom, if the person was a resident  
14 upon entry into service or has been a resident of this State for at least  
15 20 years in the aggregate. [who] To qualify for a distinguished service  
16 medal, the person, while serving in [any capacity under orders of the  
17 Governor] the organized militia, or while in federal service, <sup>1</sup>[shall  
18 have been distinguished by especially meritorious service and] <sup>1</sup> [who  
19 has been or may be] <sup>1</sup> [cited in orders for distinguished service by the  
20 Governor or by appropriate federal authority] <sup>1</sup> [;] <sup>1</sup> [or] <sup>1</sup> shall have  
21 served in a combat theater of operations <sup>1</sup>during a time of war or  
22 emergency as attested to by the awarding of an honorable discharge  
23 and DD 214 or WD 53 by the respective Armed Forces or shall  
24 have been officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action  
25 by the United States Department of Defense<sup>1</sup>. The distinguished  
26 service medal may be awarded to a deceased person who would have  
27 qualified for the medal pursuant to this section.

28 The Governor may present in the name of the State of New Jersey  
29 a meritorious service medal of appropriate design, and ribbon to be  
30 worn in lieu thereof, to any person who is a member of the organized  
31 militia, or <sup>1</sup>the Armed Forces of the United States, or a Reserve  
32 component thereof<sup>1</sup> who was honorably discharged therefrom, <sup>1</sup>if the  
33 person was a resident upon entry into service or<sup>1</sup> if the person has  
34 been a resident of this State for at least five years in the aggregate. To  
35 qualify for a meritorious service medal, the person <sup>1</sup>[, while serving]  
36 shall have served<sup>1</sup> in the organized militia, or <sup>1</sup>[while in federal  
37 service, shall have been distinguished by either (a) meritorious  
38 achievement resulting in an accomplishment that was not lifesaving,  
39 but which was so exceptional and outstanding as to set the person apart  
40 from the person's peers or from another person in similar

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SMV committee amendments adopted December 11, 2017.

1 circumstance, or (b) meritorious service in support of the New Jersey  
2 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the organized militia  
3 in the performance of a special requirement or of an extremely  
4 difficult duty performed in a clearly exceptional manner】 the Armed  
5 Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof<sup>1</sup> . The  
6 meritorious service medal may be awarded to a deceased person who  
7 would have qualified for the medal pursuant to this section.

8       **【b.** any resident or former resident of the State of New Jersey who  
9 was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military  
10 service or who has been a resident of this State for at least twenty 20  
11 years in the aggregate and (1) who while serving in the organized  
12 militia or in federal military service on active duty in time of war or  
13 emergency, shall have been distinguished by especially meritorious  
14 service and who has been or may be cited in orders for distinguished  
15 service by the Governor or by appropriate federal authority or (2) who  
16 shall have seen active military service in the Armed Forces of the  
17 United States of America in a combat theater of operations during time  
18 of war or emergency as attested to by the awarding of an honorable  
19 discharge and DD 214 or WD 53 by the respective Armed Force;

20       c. any deceased person who, on the date of induction into the  
21 organized militia or federal military service, was a resident of this  
22 State or who was a resident of this State at the time of death and for at  
23 least 20 years in the aggregate immediately preceding death and (1)  
24 who, while serving in the organized militia or in federal military  
25 service on active duty in time of war or emergency, shall have been  
26 distinguished by especially meritorious service and who has been or  
27 may be cited in orders for distinguished service by the Governor or  
28 appropriate federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active military  
29 service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in a  
30 combat theater of operations during time of war or emergency as  
31 attested to by the awarding of an honorable discharge and DD 214 or  
32 WD 53 by the respective Armed Force or who, having seen such  
33 service, died while on active duty as evidenced by DD 1300; or

34       **d.】<sup>1</sup>【The Governor may award a distinguished service medal to**  
35 **any person who, on the date of】<sup>1</sup> 【induction】<sup>1</sup> 【entry into the**  
36 **organized militia or】<sup>1</sup> 【federal military service】<sup>1</sup> 【the Armed Forces**  
37 **of the United States, or a Reserve component thereof, was a resident of**  
38 **this State or who】<sup>1</sup> 【is currently a resident of this State and】<sup>1</sup> 【has**  
39 **been a resident for at least 20 years in the aggregate and who, while**  
40 **serving in the organized militia or in federal military service】<sup>1</sup> 【on**  
41 **active duty in time of war or emergency】<sup>1</sup> 【, shall have been officially**  
42 **listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the United States**  
43 **Department of Defense.】<sup>1</sup>**

44       The service medal for a deceased person or a person absent as a  
45 prisoner of war or missing in action shall be issued to the parent,  
46 spouse, sibling or other relative who submits all of the required forms

1 and documentation on behalf of that person.  
2 (cf: P.L.2007, c.309, s.1)

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4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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9 Modifies requirements for receipt of distinguished service medal;  
10 codifies qualifications for receipt of meritorious service medal.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4195

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Space**

**SYNOPSIS**

Removes time of war requirement for receipt of distinguished service medal; codifies qualifications for receipt of meritorious service medal.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2017)**

1 AN ACT concerning service medals for members of the military and  
2 veterans and amending N.J.S.38A:15-2.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. N.J.S.38A:15-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 38A:15-2. The Governor may present in the name of the State of  
9 New Jersey a distinguished service medal of appropriate design, and  
10 ribbon to be worn in lieu thereof, to

11 a. any person who is a member of the organized militia or the  
12 Armed Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof,  
13 or who was honorably discharged therefrom, if the person was a  
14 resident upon entry into service or has been a resident of this State  
15 for at least 20 years in the aggregate. [who] To qualify for a  
16 distinguished service medal, the person, while serving in [any  
17 capacity under orders of the Governor] the organized militia, or  
18 while in federal service, shall have been distinguished by especially  
19 meritorious service and [who has been or may be] cited in orders  
20 for distinguished service by the Governor or by appropriate federal  
21 authority];] or shall have served in a combat theater of operations.  
22 The distinguished service medal may be awarded to a deceased  
23 person who would have qualified for the medal pursuant to this  
24 section.

25 The Governor may present in the name of the State of New  
26 Jersey a meritorious service medal of appropriate design, and  
27 ribbon to be worn in lieu thereof, to any person who is a member of  
28 the organized militia, or who was honorably discharged therefrom,  
29 if the person has been a resident of this State for at least five years  
30 in the aggregate. To qualify for a meritorious service medal, the  
31 person, while serving in the organized militia, or while in federal  
32 service, shall have been distinguished by either (a) meritorious  
33 achievement resulting in an accomplishment that was not lifesaving,  
34 but which was so exceptional and outstanding as to set the person  
35 apart from the person's peers or from another person in similar  
36 circumstance, or (b) meritorious service in support of the New  
37 Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the  
38 organized militia in the performance of a special requirement or of  
39 an extremely difficult duty performed in a clearly exceptional  
40 manner. The meritorious service medal may be awarded to a  
41 deceased person who would have qualified for the medal pursuant  
42 to this section.

43 [b. any resident or former resident of the State of New Jersey  
44 who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 military service or who has been a resident of this State for at least  
2 twenty 20 years in the aggregate and (1) who while serving in the  
3 organized militia or in federal military service on active duty in  
4 time of war or emergency, shall have been distinguished by  
5 especially meritorious service and who has been or may be cited in  
6 orders for distinguished service by the Governor or by appropriate  
7 federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active military service  
8 in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in a combat  
9 theater of operations during time of war or emergency as attested to  
10 by the awarding of an honorable discharge and DD 214 or WD 53  
11 by the respective Armed Force;

12 c. any deceased person who, on the date of induction into the  
13 organized militia or federal military service, was a resident of this  
14 State or who was a resident of this State at the time of death and for  
15 at least 20 years in the aggregate immediately preceding death and  
16 (1) who, while serving in the organized militia or in federal military  
17 service on active duty in time of war or emergency, shall have been  
18 distinguished by especially meritorious service and who has been or  
19 may be cited in orders for distinguished service by the Governor or  
20 appropriate federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active  
21 military service in the Armed Forces of the United States of  
22 America in a combat theater of operations during time of war or  
23 emergency as attested to by the awarding of an honorable discharge  
24 and DD 214 or WD 53 by the respective Armed Force or who,  
25 having seen such service, died while on active duty as evidenced by  
26 DD 1300; or

27 d. **】** The Governor may award a distinguished service medal to  
28 any person who, on the date of **【induction】** entry into the organized  
29 militia or **【federal military service】** the Armed Forces of the United  
30 States, or a Reserve component thereof, was a resident of this State  
31 or who **【is currently a resident of this State and】** has been a resident  
32 for at least 20 years in the aggregate and who, while serving in the  
33 organized militia or in federal military service **【on active duty in**  
34 **time of war or emergency】**, shall have been officially listed as a  
35 prisoner of war or missing in action by the United States  
36 Department of Defense.

37 The service medal for a deceased person or a person absent as a  
38 prisoner of war or missing in action shall be issued to the parent,  
39 spouse, sibling or other relative who submits all of the required  
40 forms and documentation on behalf of that person.

41 (cf: P.L.2007, c.309, s.1)

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43 2. This act shall take effect immediately.



1 STATEMENT

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This bill removes the requirement that a person have served in a time of war or national emergency in order to receive a distinguished service medal, and codifies qualifications for receipt of a meritorious service medal. To qualify for a meritorious service medal, the person, while serving in the organized militia, or while in federal service, must have been distinguished by either (a) meritorious achievement resulting in an accomplishment that was not lifesaving, but which was so exceptional and outstanding as to set the person apart from the person's peers or from another person in similar circumstance, or (b) meritorious service in support of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the organized militia in the performance of a special requirement or of an extremely difficult duty performed in a clearly exceptional manner.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4195**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2017

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 4195.

This bill removes the requirement that a person have served in a time of war or national emergency in order to receive a distinguished service medal, and codifies qualifications for receipt of a meritorious service medal. To qualify for a meritorious service medal, the person, while serving in the organized militia, or while in federal service, must have been distinguished by either (a) meritorious achievement resulting in an accomplishment that was not lifesaving, but which was so exceptional and outstanding as to set the person apart from the person's peers or from another person in similar circumstance, or (b) meritorious service in support of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the organized militia in the performance of a special requirement or of an extremely difficult duty performed in a clearly exceptional manner.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4195**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4195.

As amended, this bill modifies the requirements for receipt of the distinguished service medal and codifies the qualifications for receipt of a meritorious service medal.

As amended, only those individuals who served in a combat theater of operations during a time of war may receive the distinguished service medal. Further, as amended, veterans who did not serve in a time of war may be eligible to receive a meritorious service medal.

# SENATE, No. 3057

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 6, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JEFF VAN DREW**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Beach and A.R.Bucco**

**SYNOPSIS**

Removes time of war requirements for receipt of distinguished service medal; codifies qualifications for receipt of meritorious service medal.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2017)**

1 AN ACT concerning service medals for members of the military and  
2 veterans and amending N.J.S.38A:15-2.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. N.J.S.38A:15-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 38A:15-2. The Governor may present in the name of the State of  
9 New Jersey a distinguished service medal of appropriate design, and  
10 ribbon to be worn in lieu thereof, to

11 a. any person who is a member of the organized militia or the  
12 Armed Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof,  
13 or who was honorably discharged therefrom, if the person was a  
14 resident upon entry into service or has been a resident of this State  
15 for at least 20 years in the aggregate. [who] To qualify for a  
16 distinguished service medal, the person, while serving in [any  
17 capacity under orders of the Governor] the organized militia, or  
18 while in federal service, shall have been distinguished by especially  
19 meritorious service and [who has been or may be] cited in orders  
20 for distinguished service by the Governor or by appropriate federal  
21 authority];] or shall have served in a combat theater of operations.  
22 The distinguished service medal may be awarded to a deceased  
23 person who would have qualified for the medal pursuant to this  
24 section.

25 The Governor may present in the name of the State of New  
26 Jersey a meritorious service medal of appropriate design, and  
27 ribbon to be worn in lieu thereof, to any person who is a member of  
28 the organized militia, or who was honorably discharged therefrom,  
29 if the person has been a resident of this State for at least five years  
30 in the aggregate. To qualify for a meritorious service medal, the  
31 person, while serving in the organized militia, or while in federal  
32 service, shall have been distinguished by either (a) meritorious  
33 achievement resulting in an accomplishment that was not lifesaving,  
34 but which was so exceptional and outstanding as to set the person  
35 apart from the person's peers or from another person in similar  
36 circumstance, or (b) meritorious service in support of the New  
37 Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the  
38 organized militia in the performance of a special requirement or of  
39 an extremely difficult duty performed in a clearly exceptional  
40 manner. The meritorious service medal may be awarded to a  
41 deceased person who would have qualified for the medal pursuant  
42 to this section.

43 [b. any resident or former resident of the State of New Jersey  
44 who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active  
45 military service or who has been a resident of this State for at least

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 twenty 20 years in the aggregate and (1) who while serving in the  
2 organized militia or in federal military service on active duty in  
3 time of war or emergency, shall have been distinguished by  
4 especially meritorious service and who has been or may be cited in  
5 orders for distinguished service by the Governor or by appropriate  
6 federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active military service  
7 in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in a combat  
8 theater of operations during time of war or emergency as attested to  
9 by the awarding of an honorable discharge and DD 214 or WD 53  
10 by the respective Armed Force;

11 c. any deceased person who, on the date of induction into the  
12 organized militia or federal military service, was a resident of this  
13 State or who was a resident of this State at the time of death and for  
14 at least 20 years in the aggregate immediately preceding death and  
15 (1) who, while serving in the organized militia or in federal military  
16 service on active duty in time of war or emergency, shall have been  
17 distinguished by especially meritorious service and who has been or  
18 may be cited in orders for distinguished service by the Governor or  
19 appropriate federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active  
20 military service in the Armed Forces of the United States of  
21 America in a combat theater of operations during time of war or  
22 emergency as attested to by the awarding of an honorable discharge  
23 and DD 214 or WD 53 by the respective Armed Force or who,  
24 having seen such service, died while on active duty as evidenced by  
25 DD 1300; or

26 d. The Governor may award a distinguished service medal to  
27 any person who, on the date of [induction] entry into the organized  
28 militia or [federal military service] the Armed Forces of the United  
29 States, or a Reserve component thereof, was a resident of this State  
30 or who [is currently a resident of this State and] has been a resident  
31 for at least 20 years in the aggregate and who, while serving in the  
32 organized militia or in federal military service [on active duty in  
33 time of war or emergency], shall have been officially listed as a  
34 prisoner of war or missing in action by the United States  
35 Department of Defense.

36 The service medal for a deceased person or a person absent as a  
37 prisoner of war or missing in action shall be issued to the parent,  
38 spouse, sibling or other relative who submits all of the required  
39 forms and documentation on behalf of that person.

40 (cf: P.L.2007, c.309, s.1)

41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

46

47 This bill removes the requirement that a person have served in a  
48 time of war or national emergency in order to receive a

**S3057 VAN DREW, CRUZ-PEREZ**

4

1 distinguished service medal, and codifies qualifications for receipt  
2 of a meritorious service medal. To qualify for a meritorious service  
3 medal, the person, while serving in the organized militia, or while  
4 in federal service, must have been distinguished by either (a)  
5 meritorious achievement resulting in an accomplishment that was  
6 not lifesaving, but which was so exceptional and outstanding as to  
7 set the person apart from the person's peers or from another person  
8 in similar circumstance, or (b) meritorious service in support of the  
9 New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the  
10 organized militia in the performance of a special requirement or of  
11 an extremely difficult duty performed in a clearly exceptional  
12 manner.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 3057**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3057.

As amended, this bill modifies the requirements for receipt of the distinguished service medal and codifies the qualifications for receipt of a meritorious service medal.

As amended, only those individuals who served in a combat theater of operations during a time of war may receive the distinguished service medal. Further, as amended, veterans who did not serve in a time of war may be eligible to receive a meritorious service medal.