

CHAPTER 16

AN ACT concerning the issuance of service medals to certain Korean War veterans and making an appropriation.

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares:
 - a. July 27th, 2003 will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice which ended the Korean War;
 - b. The conflict, often referred to as the "Forgotten War," began on June 25th, 1950 when the North Korean Army crossed the border and invaded South Korea in an unprovoked attack. Their goal was the reunification by force of the Korean peninsula, divided after World War II along the 38th parallel;
 - c. The United States' involvement in that conflict resulted in 33,742 Americans dead and 92,134 Americans wounded; and
 - d. It is fitting and proper for this State to recognize and honor its residents who served and those who died in that conflict on the 50th anniversary of its ending.

2. a. The Adjutant General is hereby authorized to issue a medal and ribbon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice on July 27th, 1953, which ended the Korean War.
 - b. The medal and ribbon shall be issued to:
 - (1) all residents of the State who were on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23rd, 1950 and on or before January 31st, 1955, who have been given an honorable discharge for their service and:
 - (a) were attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; or
 - (b) were attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations; or
 - (c) participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Korea or contiguous waters directly supporting military operations; or
 - (d) served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Korea or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations; or
 - (2) the surviving spouse or immediate family member of any resident of the State meeting the requirements for a medal established by paragraph (1) of this subsection who was killed while on active duty or who died after receiving an honorable discharge from the armed forces.
 - c. The Adjutant General shall select an appropriate design for the award no later than the fourth month following the enactment of this act and shall issue the award to qualified persons beginning no later than the eighth month following enactment.
 - d. No person shall be entitled to more than one award of the medal and ribbon authorized by subsection a. of this section.

3. There is appropriated to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs from the General Fund \$5,000 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 3, 2003.