

## CHAPTER 237

AN ACT concerning the issuance of distinguished service medals and amending N.J.S.38A:15-2.

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

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

Distinguished service medals.

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

a. any member of the organized militia who, while serving in any capacity in the organized militia under orders of the Governor, or while in federal service, shall have been distinguished by especially meritorious service and who has been or may be cited in orders for distinguished service by the Governor or by appropriate federal authority;

b. any resident of the State of New Jersey who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military service and (1) who while serving in the organized militia or in federal military service on active duty in time of war or emergency, shall have been distinguished by especially meritorious service and who has been or may be cited in orders for distinguished service by the Governor or by appropriate federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in a combat theater of operations during time of war or emergency as attested to by the awarding of an honorable discharge and DD 214 or WD 53 by the respective Armed Force;

c. any deceased person who, on the date of induction into the organized militia or federal military service, was a resident of this State and (1) who, while serving in the organized militia or in federal military service on active duty in time of war or emergency, shall have been distinguished by especially meritorious service and who has been or may be cited in orders for distinguished service by the Governor or appropriate federal authority or (2) who shall have seen active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in a combat theater of operations during time of war or emergency as attested to by the awarding of an honorable discharge and DD 214 or WD 53 by the respective Armed Force or who, having seen such service, died while on active duty as evidenced by DD 1300; or

d. any person who, on the date of induction into the organized militia or federal military service, was a resident of this State and who, while serving in the organized militia or in federal military service on active duty in time of war or emergency, shall have been officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the United States Department of Defense.

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

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 9, 2004.