

Public Law 89-534

AN ACT

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide gold star lapel buttons for the next of kin of members of the armed forces who lost or lose their lives in war or as a result of cold war incidents.

August 11, 1966
[H. R. 3013]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by adding the following new section at the end thereof:

“§ 1124. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution

“(a) A lapel button, to be known as the gold star lapel button, shall be designed, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, to identify widows, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces of the United States—

“(1) Who lost their lives during World War I, World War II, or during any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before July 1, 1958; or

“(2) who lost or lose their lives after June 30, 1958—

“(i) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

“(ii) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

“(iii) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force.

“(b) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned, upon application to him, shall furnish one gold star lapel button without cost to the widow and to each parent and next of kin of a member who lost or loses his or her life under any circumstances prescribed in subsection (a).

“(c) Not more than one gold star lapel button may be furnished to any one individual except that, when a gold star lapel button furnished under this section has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, the button may be replaced upon application and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.

“(d) In this section—

“(1) ‘widow’ includes widower;

“(2) ‘parents’ includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis;

“(3) ‘next of kin’ includes only children, brothers, sisters, half brothers, and half sisters;

“(4) ‘children’ includes stepchildren and children through adoption;

“(5) ‘World War I’ includes the period from April 6, 1917, to March 3, 1921; and

“(6) ‘World War II’ includes the period from September 8, 1939, to July 25, 1947, at 12 o’clock noon.”; and

(2) By adding the following new item at the end of the analysis:

“1124. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution.”

SEC. 2. The Act of August 1, 1947 (61 Stat. 710), as amended (36 U.S.C. 182a-182d), is repealed.

Approved August 11, 1966.

Armed Forces.
Gold Star lapel
buttons.
10 USC 1121-
1124.

Definitions.

Repeal.