

§ 9275. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service medal: delegation of power to award

The President may delegate his authority to award the medal of honor, Air Force cross, and distinguished-service medal, to a commanding general of a separate air force or higher unit in the field, or to an equivalent commander of a separate space force or higher unit in the field. (Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8745; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(3), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332; renumbered §9275, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §923(c)(12)(B), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3811.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8745	10:1410.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (16th par., less words after semicolon, under "Ordnance Department"), 40 Stat. 872.

The words "under such conditions, regulations, and limitations as he shall prescribe" are omitted as surplusage. The words "his authority" are substituted for the words "the power conferred upon him by sections 1403, 1406-1408, 1409-1412, 1416, 1420, 1422, 1423, and 1424 of this title".

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 inserted before period at end " , or to an equivalent commander of a separate space force or higher unit in the field".

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8745 of this title as this section.

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 substituted "Air Force cross" for "distinguished-service cross" in section catchline and in text.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9276. Silver star: award

The President may award a silver star of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force or the Space Force, is cited for gallantry in action that does not warrant a medal of honor or Air Force cross—

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

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

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

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8746; Pub. L. 88-77, §3(3), July 25, 1963, 77 Stat. 95; renumbered §9276, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; Pub. L.

116-283, div. A, title IX, §923(c)(12)(A)(iv), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3811.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8746	10:1412.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (words after 2d semicolon of 12th par. under "Ordnance Department"); restated Jan. 24, 1920, ch. 55, §1 (last sentence); restated Dec. 15, 1942, ch. 736, 56 Stat. 1052.

The words "may award" are inserted to conform to other sections of this chapter. The words "if the person earned" are inserted for clarity. The words "commanded by" are omitted as surplusage.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 inserted "or the Space Force" after "the Air Force" in introductory provisions.

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8746 of this title as this section.

1963—Pub. L. 88-77 substituted provisions permitting the issuance of a silver star for gallantry while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party, and requiring it to be of appropriate design, for provisions which authorized the issuance of the silver star for gallantry in action and which required that the silver star be three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, the citation thereof be published in orders issued from the headquarters of a force that is the appropriate command of a general officer, and that it be worn as directed by the President.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9277. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service medal; silver star: replacement

Any medal of honor, Air Force cross, distinguished-service cross, distinguished-service medal, or silver star, or any bar, ribbon, rosette, or other device issued for wear with or in place of any of them, that is stolen, lost, or destroyed, or becomes unfit for use, without fault or neglect of the person to whom it was awarded, shall be replaced without charge.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8747; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(4), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title V, §553(c)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1116; renumbered §9277, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
8747	10:1416.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (14th par. under "Ordnance Department"), 40 Stat. 871.

The words “issued for wear with or in place of any of them” are inserted for clarity. The words “presented under the provisions of this title” and “such medal, cross, bar, ribbon, rosette, or device” are omitted as surplusage.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8747 of this title as this section.

2001—Pub. L. 107-107 substituted “stolen, lost,” for “lost”.

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 inserted “Air Force cross” in section catchline and in text.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9278. Medal of honor; Air Force cross; distinguished-service cross; distinguished-service medal; silver star: availability of appropriations

The Secretary of the Air Force may spend, from any appropriation for contingent expenses of the Department of the Air Force, amounts necessary to provide medals and devices under sections 9271, 9272, 9273, 9274, 9276, 9277, and 9282 of this title.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8748; Pub. L. 86-593, §1(5), July 6, 1960, 74 Stat. 332; renumbered §9278 and amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §§806(b)(11), 809(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833, 1840.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8748	10:1424.	July 9, 1918, ch. 143 (13th par. under “Ordnance Department”), 40 Stat. 871.

The word “amounts” is substituted for the words “so much as may be”. The word “provides” is substituted for the words “defray the cost of”. The words “medals and devices under” are substituted for the words “medals of honor, distinguished-service crosses, distinguished-service medals, bars, rosettes, and other devices provided for in”. The words “from time to time” are omitted as surplusage.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8748 of this title as this section and substituted “sections 9271, 9272, 9273, 9274, 9276, 9277, and 9282” for “sections 8741, 8742, 8743, 8744, 8746, 8747, and 8752”.

1960—Pub. L. 86-593 inserted “Air Force cross” in section catchline.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9279. Distinguished flying cross: award; limitations

(a) The President may award a distinguished flying cross of appropriate design with accompanying ribbon to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force or Space Force, distinguishes himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial or space flight.

(b) Not more than one distinguished flying cross may be awarded to a person. However, for each succeeding act that would otherwise justify the award of such a cross, the President may award a suitable bar or other device to be worn as he directs.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 541, §8749; renumbered §9279, Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §806(b)(11), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1833; Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, §582(b)(4), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1412; Pub. L. 118-159, div. A, title V, §521(k)(1), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 1882.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
8749(a)	10:1429 (less 2d and last sentences).	July 2, 1926, ch. 721, §12 (less 1st 49 words of last sentence), 44 Stat. 789; July 30, 1937, ch. 545, §4, 50 Stat. 549.
8749(b)	10:1429 (2d sentence).	
8749(c)	10:1429 (last sentence, less 1st 49 words).	

In subsection (a), the words “under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe” are omitted, since the President has inherent authority to issue regulations appropriate to exercising his functions. The words “but not in the name of Congress” are omitted as surplusage, since a medal is presented in the name of Congress only if the law so directs. The word “award” is substituted for the word “present” to cover the determination of the recipients as well as the actual presentation of the medal. The words “since the 6th day of April, 1917, has distinguished, or who, after July 2, 1926” and 10:1429 (proviso of 1st sentence) are omitted as executed.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 118-159 inserted “or Space Force” after “Air Force” and “or space” after “aerial”.

2019—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-92 struck out subsec. (c) which read as follows: “No distinguished flying cross, or device in place thereof, may be awarded or presented to a person whose service after he distinguished himself has not been honorable.”

2018—Pub. L. 115-232 renumbered section 8749 of this title as this section.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115-232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

§ 9280. Airman’s Medal: award; limitations

(a)(1) The President may award a decoration called the “Airman’s Medal”, of appropriate design with accompanying ribbon, to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force or Space Force, distinguishes himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.