

(a) *Awards to individuals.* The award may be made to civilians who are not employed by the Department of the Army and were not so employed during the period for which the services are being recognized. It is intended that this certificate be used when the services to be recognized do not fulfill all the requirements for a decoration, but are outstanding to a degree which merits public recognition by the Army in the local area. When this certificate is presented as an individual award the recipient will be furnished with the Patriotic Civilian Service lapel button.

(b) *Awards to organizations, companies, etc.* The award may be made to business firms, fraternal organizations, quasi-military units, etc., on the same basis as stated above for individual awards. No lapel button or other device accompanies the certificate and citation when presented to organizations.

(c) *Supply.* This is a standard Department of the Army certificate which may be obtained by a written request to The Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20310, Attn: AGPS-AD. The certificates when provided will bear the signature of the Secretary of the Army in the lower right and will be countersigned on the left by the major commander or head of a Headquarters, Department of the Army Staff agency making the award. Patriotic Civilian Service Lapel Buttons will be obtained in the same manner. Not more than a 6-month supply of certificates and lapel buttons will be maintained by using agencies.

[22 FR 9693, Dec. 4, 1957]

**§ 578.25 Accolade and Gold Star lapel button.**

(a) As a token of appreciation and in recognition of services rendered by those who died in the service of their country, an Accolade signed by the President is issued to the next of kin of record of all military personnel whose death occurred in line of duty during World War II, December 7, 1941, to July 25, 1947, both dates inclusive, and in Korea during military operations from June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954, inclusive. The Accolade is also issued to the next of kin of civilians who died overseas or as a result of injury or disease contracted while serving in a civilian ca-

capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States during the dates and/or in the areas prescribed above in connection with military personnel.

(1) The Accolade reads as follows:

In grateful memory of----- who died in the service of his (her) country at----- He (she) stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow, and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it he (she) lives—in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men. (Facsimile signature) President of the United States.

(2) Accolades will be issued by The Adjutant General upon receipt of reports of death.

(b) In order to provide an appropriate identification for widows, parents, and certain next of kin of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who lost their lives in World War I, April 6, 1917 to March 3, 1921; World War II, September 8, 1939 to July 25, 1947; Korean operations, June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1954; or during any subsequent war or period of armed hostilities in which the United States may be engaged, a Gold Star lapel button was established by an Act of Congress on August 1, 1947.

(1) The Gold Star lapel button consists of a gold star on a purple circular background, bordered in gold and surrounded by gold laurel leaves. On the reverse is the inscription "United States of America, Act of Congress, August 1947," with space for engraving the initials of the recipient.

(2) One Gold Star lapel button will be furnished without cost to the widow or widower and to each of the parents of a member of the Armed Forces who lost his or her life while in the active military service during the periods indicated above. The term "widow or widower" includes those who have since remarried, and the term "parents" included mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis.

(3) One Gold Star lapel button will be furnished at cost price to each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half brother, sister, and half sister of a member of the Armed Forces

who lost his or her life during any period indicated herein.

(4) Letter applications for Gold Star lapel buttons may be submitted to The Adjutant General or to the Commanding Officer, Army Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132, by eligible next of kin of deceased Army personnel enumerated in paragraphs (b) (2) and (3) of this section.

(5) Under the act, only one Gold Star lapel button will be furnished to eligible individuals, except that whenever a Gold Star lapel button has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use, without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, such button may be replaced at cost price upon application to The Adjutant General. Private manufacture and/or sale of the Gold Star lapel button is prohibited. The design will not be incorporated in any manner in any article manufactured commercially or privately. The law prescribes a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 2 years as a penalty for unauthorized wearing or counterfeiting of the Gold Star lapel button, or for possessing a counterfeit of this button.

**§ 578.25a Certificate of Honorable Service and Record Service (Deceased Military Personnel).**

(a) *Certificate of Honorable Service.* A Certificate of Honorable Service (DA Form 1563) is issued to the closest next of kin of record in recognition of services rendered by those who die in line of duty while in active military service in time of peace when the Accolade is not appropriate.

(1) The certificate reads as follows:

Honorable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ died while in the service of our country as a member of the Army of the United States on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_. This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service. (Signature) Secretary of the Army.

(2) Certificates of Honorable Service will be issued by The Adjutant General upon receipt of reports of death.

(b) *A Record of Service—Deceased Military Personnel (DA Form 53A).* Form 53A will be issued for all military personnel

who die while in the active military service or while taking inactive status training as reservists not on active duty, regardless of line of duty status. Commanding officer having custody of the individual's records at time of death will prepare the form in duplicate. The original will be forwarded to the closest next of kin of record of the deceased individual in the following order: Widow or widower, eldest son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest sister, eldest grandchild.

**§ 578.25b Certificate of Achievement.**

Commanding officers may recognize periods of faithful service, acts, or achievements which do not meet the standards required for decorations by issuing to individual United States military personnel and United States civilian citizens a Certificate of Achievement.

(a) The Certificate of Achievement may be devised locally by commanding officers and issued under such regulations as they may prescribe; may be printed or lithographed; and may bear reproductions of authorized insignia. A Certificate of Achievement may be used locally for awarding the Good Conduct Medal.

(b) No distinguishing device is authorized for wear to indicate the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement.

**§ 578.25c Special Certificate of Achievement for Public and Community Relations.**

(a) A Special Certificate of Achievement for issuance to information media, civic, fraternal, and other types of organizations and groups who have actively supported the Army in its public and community relations efforts, including the Reserve Forces Program, has been established. This special certificate is designed to give official Department of the Army recognition to civilian groups and organizations who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of public understanding of the Army, gaining for it greater public confidence and support. Consideration should be given to the award of this certificate as an expression of the appreciation of the Army