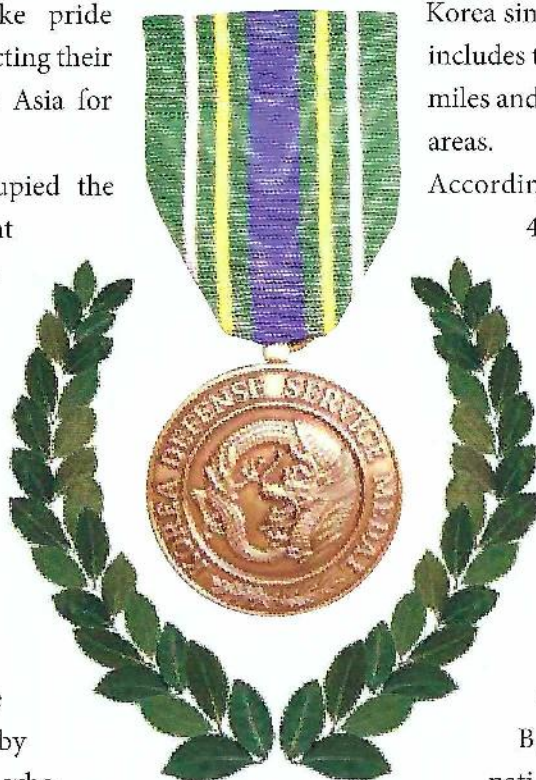


TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
**KOREA
DEFENSE**
SERVICE MEDAL

Veterans of Korea duty can take pride in defending a staunch ally and protecting their nation's vital interests in Northeast Asia for more than 50 years.

Since 1945, U.S. troops have occupied the southern part of the peninsula, fought a full-fledged war, waged a hot campaign on the DMZ during the Cold War and stood guard along a hostile border.

To recognize veterans who have served in the country since 1954, Congress established the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM). Through approval of Public Law 107-314 on Dec. 2, 2002, the KDSM gives "special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea," according to the Pentagon. It is open to all veterans who have served at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in South



Korea since July 28, 1954. The area of eligibility includes the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

According to the Pentagon, more than 40,000 veterans have served in South

Korea every year since the cease-fire agreement ending the war was signed in July 1953. After 1994, when VFW amended its bylaws, the organization exerted a special effort to welcome all Korea-duty veterans into its ranks. This included the one-year period between June 1949 and June 1950 when the Korean Military Advisory Group was stationed in Korea.

But with the creation of the KDSM, the nation as a whole recognized the importance of the U.S. military mission in South Korea. Despite other worldwide commitments, veterans still stand as sentinels in this land.

Korea Defense Service Medal

Created Dec. 2, 2002, under Public Law 107-314, the KDSM recognizes Korea service since July 28, 1954. Awarded for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in South Korea or its territorial waters.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111