

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

Korean War veterans can take pride in being recipients of the Korean Service Medal (KSM), an award symbolizing honorable service and sacrifice in a full-scale war.

Created by Executive Order No. 10179 on Nov. 8, 1950, the medal covers the period of June 27, 1950 through July 27, 1954—a full year after the armistice was signed. It includes service within the Far East Command—Korea, combat flight crews based on Japan and Okinawa, and ships in the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea. It also recognizes 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of temporary duty in the theater.

Service with a unit or headquarters stationed outside the theater but directly supporting Korean War military operations during this time also entitles a veteran to the medal in some cases.

Approximately 1.6 million troops earned their KSM



on the soil of South Korea. Others served offshore or in neighboring Japan (in direct support), bringing the total to 1.8 million.

Some 36,576 Americans died in the war; 103,284 were hospitalized for wounds.

Often called the “forgotten war,” it has been anything but that to the VFW. Instrumental in promoting the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the organization also donated \$600,000 toward its construction. VFW has welcomed Korean War vets into its ranks since 1950, shortly after the KSM was created. Multiple Korean War veterans have led the Veterans of Foreign Wars as commander-in-chief.

For the 50th anniversary of the war, VFW magazine published a series of 50 articles and produced a 132-page book, *Battles of the Korean War*.

Campaign	Inclusive Dates
U.N. Defensive	June 27 - Sept. 15, 1950
U.N. Offensive	Sept. 16 - Nov. 2, 1950
CCF Intervention	Nov. 3, 1950 - Jan. 24, 1951
First U.N. Counteroffensive	Jan. 25 - April 21, 1951
CCF Spring Offensive	April 22 - July 8, 1951
U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive	July 9 - Nov. 27, 1951
Second Korean Winter	Nov. 28, 1951 - April 30, 1952
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952	May 1 - Nov. 30, 1952
Third Korean Winter	Dec. 1, 1952 - April 30, 1953
Korea, Summer 1953	May 1 - July 27, 1953

Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A Bronze Service Star device was awarded for each campaign credit, or a Silver Service Star device for every five campaigns. Service members who participated in at least one airborne or amphibious assault landing are entitled to wear an arrowhead on the ribbon or bar.

CCF = Chinese Communist Forces



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