

Medals and Decorations

The most accurate source for information pertaining to awards and medals received by military personnel is their service record. The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC.) NPRC (MPR) also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependent and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. Information from the records is made available upon written request (with signature and date) to the extent allowed by law. If you are a veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, you may now use vetrecs.archives.gov to order a copy of your military records. For all others, your request is best made using a Standard Form 180.²⁹³

This information is included because on July 12, 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF). The records affected:

Branch	Personnel and Period Affected	Estimated Loss
Army	Personnel discharged November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960	80%
Air Force	Personnel discharged September 25, 1947 to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.)	75%

The information within this project related to medals held and or received by our fallen warriors is incomplete. What is provided has been collected from newspaper articles and other military related sources without any ability to verify or corroborate the accuracy or absence of specific information on specific people. It is provided for information and subject to the limitations supra.

Note, records exist which identify nearly all of our Vietnam warriors as recipients of the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross by award number and the Veterans Affairs Counselor.²⁹⁴

²⁹³ <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

²⁹⁴ <http://www.ancestry.com>; NYS Veterans Affairs Counselor Richard J. Dzimian, 125 Main St. Buffalo NY

Fallen Warrior Medals as listed:	Warriors
Air medal with three oak leaf clusters	1
Air medal with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart	1
Air medal with six oak leaf clusters	1
American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal	2
Bronze Star, Purple Heart	2
Bronze star medal of the American Red Cross	1
Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart	1
Bronze Star, Combat infantryman, Purple Heart	1
Bronze Star, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster	1
Distinguished Flying Cross, Air medal with three oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart	1
French Fourragere	1
Navy Commendation, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal, National Defense Medal	1
Purple Heart	55
Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster	2
Purple Heart, Air medal	6
Purple Heart, Air medal with three oak leaf clusters, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal	1
Purple Heart, Air medal with two oak leaf cluster, Presidential Unit Citation	1
Purple Heart, Air medal with eleven oak leaf clusters, and one bronze cluster. One enemy Aircraft to his credit.	1
Purple Heart, Air medal, Distinguished Flying Cross	1
Purple Heart, Air medal, Presidential Unit Citation	1
Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal	2
Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation	7
Purple Heart, Elks Club Medal of Valor	1
Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal	4
Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal	1
Conspicuous Service Cross, New York State	7
Total	104

The **Distinguished Flying Cross** is a military decoration awarded to any officer or enlisted member of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."²⁹⁵



The **Bronze Star Medal**, is a United States decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.²⁹⁶



The **Purple Heart** is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed, while serving, on or after April 5, 1917, with the U.S. military.²⁹⁷



The **Air Medal** was created in 1942 and is awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. During World War II, the medal's award criteria varied widely depending on the theater of operations, the aircraft flown, and the missions accomplished.



In Europe, the airspace was considered completely controlled by the enemy and heavy air defenses were encountered - so the criteria was altered from than that of the original medal. Bomber, photographic reconnaissance, or observation crewmembers and air transport pilots received it for five sorties, fighter pilots received it for ten sorties, and individual pilots or aircrewmen received one award per enemy aircraft shot down.

Elsewhere in the Pacific and China-Burma-India (CBI) the pilots and crews flew mostly over uncontrolled or contested airspace for long hours and lighter air defenses were encountered, so much higher criteria were used.²⁹⁸

²⁹⁵ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_(United_States))

²⁹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze_Star_Medal

²⁹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple_Heart

²⁹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Medal

An **oak leaf cluster** is a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem that is authorized by the United States Armed Forces as a ribbon device for a specific set of decorations and awards of the United States Army, Air Force, and Department of Defense to denote subsequent decorations and awards.



The bronze oak leaf cluster represents one additional award, while the silver oak leaf cluster is worn in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.²⁹⁹

The **Presidential Unit Citation (PUC)**, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces and those of allied countries for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941 (the date of the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of American involvement in World War II). The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and *esprit de corps* in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign.³⁰⁰



Navy and Marine
Corps Units

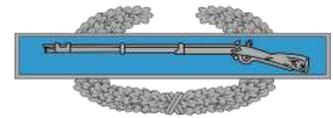


Army Units



Air Force Units

The **Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB)** is a United States Army military award. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of Colonel and below, who *personally* fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an infantry, ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941.³⁰¹



The **Conspicuous Service Cross** is also awarded to those members of the New York Organized Militia who were Prisoners of War, served at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, directly participated in the Invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, or have been declared by the Department of Defense as Killed or Missing in Action. It may also be awarded for conspicuous service to the State of New York.



²⁹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_leaf_cluster

³⁰⁰ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_Unit_Citation_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_Unit_Citation_(United_States))

³⁰¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_Infantryman_Badge