

John Cauthorn 18th Senate District

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The Cauthorn Report

Recognizing Missouri's World War II, Korean War Veterans

Missouri veterans have defended our American values, our democracy and freedoms, and our safety throughout history. Those who have put their lives on the line for God and country are being recognized by the State of Missouri. During the 2005 legislative session we expanded the Missouri World War II and Korean War Medallion Programs and we must spread the word to our veterans about these changes.

The Program awards veterans with a medal, medallion and certificate to Missouri veterans who served during either war. Previously, any World War II veteran who wanted to receive a medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation must have been a Missouri resident before August 28, 2000, and must have made application for the medals prior to July 1, 2004. Veterans of the Korean War must have been Missouri residents before August 28, 2003, and must have made application for the medals prior to January 1, 2005.

Since the deadlines had passed, and many deserving veterans had yet to be recognized, we took action in Jefferson City. The legislature approved, and I voted for, House Bill 163. This bill allows veterans of World War II or the Korean War to receive the medals of appreciation as long as they are a resident of Missouri, had been a resident at the time of entering or being discharged from the military, or had been a resident at the time of death. The application deadlines for both medical programs are removed.

In both programs, the bill requires that the medallions, medals, and certificates be awarded until the supply is exhausted. When there are fewer than 100 medallions, medals, and certificates for either program, the Adjutant General must notify the General Assembly.

If you are a veteran who served in World War II or the Korean War, please look into applying for this great program. If you are the spouse, child, grandchild or friend of a veteran, gather the information and assist with this application process so we can thank our defenders of freedom. We made these great changes to ensure all who served are recognized.

Applications can be found on the Missouri National Guard website http://www.moguard.com under the 'Program' heading. For additional information please call the Missouri Veterans Award Recognition Office at 573-638-9561.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri's 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6858. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.