

Senator Bill Stouffer Senate District 21 Capitol Building, Room 332 Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Veterans Recognition Programs Have Extended Deadlines

I have recently been contacted by Missouri Adjutant General King E. Sidwell to promote an awards program available to Missouri veterans. The Missouri World War II and Korean War Veterans' Recognition Programs have extended eligibility deadlines thanks to recently passed legislation. The legislation, passed this year, removes application deadlines and allows Missourians to be acknowledged for their service.

The brave Missourians who put their lives on the line in World War II and the Korean War deserve formal recognition for their sacrifices. They have gone overseas to ensure our nation and its people are allowed to be free. Fortunately, this new legislation permits any Missouri resident who either entered or was discharged from military service during these wars to be recognized for their service to the United States and the state of Missouri.

The Missouri World War II and Korean War Veterans' Recognition Programs award a medal, medallion and certificate to these Missouri veterans.

Of course, I know these courageous individuals did not engage in warfare for medals and certificates. They did so to preserve freedom and security for Americans. However, these tokens of merit allow fellow Missourians to express our gratitude for the achievements of these heroic veterans of international war.

I encourage all veterans in the 21st District to apply for these medals recognizing your contributions to the history of our nation. And to all other residents of the 21st, please contact anyone you know who might qualify for these programs. The actions of all veterans deserve to be recognized and honored.

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Questions about the programs can be directed to the Missouri Veterans Award Recognition office at (573) 638-9561. Applications for both programs can be obtained through the same office or are posted on the Missouri National Guard Web site at www.moguard.com under the 'Programs' link.

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While the state of Missouri looks to honor its World War II and Korean War veterans, the State Capitol in Jefferson City also recently hosted the Moving Wall, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The wall is a half-size replica of the national memorial and includes all of the more than 58,000 names of soldiers killed in or declared missing from the Vietnam War. The wall was on the Capitol lawn from Nov. 22 through 28.

Many Missourians have visited the wall in its stops throughout the state to pay homage to the men and women who fought in Vietnam. The memorial is a moving testament to the sacrifices made by American soldiers.

If you have questions or comments about this issue or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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