



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Recognizing Heroes

Vietnam War Medallions Honor Service

JEFFERSON CITY – This month the state of Missouri began formally recognizing the heroic contributions of the Missouri men and women who served in the Vietnam War. It is a recognition that is long overdue.

Last year the House and Senate unanimously approved legislation creating the Vietnam War Medallion Program, which is modeled after programs honoring veterans of World War II and the Korean War. HB 978 states, “Every veteran who honorably served on active duty in the United States military service at any time beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975, shall be entitled to receive a Vietnam War medallion, medal, and a certificate of appreciation,” if the veteran is or was a legal resident of this state at the time he or she entered or was discharged from military service or at the time of his or her death, and the veteran was honorably separated or discharged from military service or is still in active service in an honorable status, or was in active service in an honorable status at the time of his or her death.

This month the first two ceremonies were held, in Jefferson City and St. Peters, honoring Missouri’s Vietnam War veterans. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with the reasons America entered the Vietnam War, or how that war was conducted, it is right and honorable that we recognize the men and women who answered our nation’s call in a time of war.

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Our nation began to honor the memory of those who served in the Vietnam War with the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. No one who has seen or visited the Wall can fail to be moved by the sacrifice of so many young men and women in the service of their country. In fact, the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Wall will be held in Washington, D.C. on November 10.

Applications for the Missouri Vietnam War Medallion can be filed with the Office of Adjutant General. Anyone who meets the eligibility criteria can apply for the medallion by visiting www.moguard.com, and selecting the Missouri Veterans Award Page (lower right section) or select Programs (top banner) and click on Veterans Awards. You may also call the Missouri National Guard at 1-888-526-MONG.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.