

Chapter 9 - LAPEL BUTTONS FOR NEXT OF KIN

SECTION 1 - GOLD STAR BUTTON

910. AUTHORIZATION. Act of Congress (Public Law 80-306) of 1 August 1947 as amended by 10 U.S.C. 1126 of 11 August 1966.

911. PURPOSE. To provide an appropriate identification for widows, widowers, parents, and next of kin of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who lost their lives during World War I, 6 April 1917 to 3 March 1921; World War II, 8 September 1939 to 25 July 1947; any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before 1 July 1958 (United Nations action in Korea, 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954); or who lost their lives after 30 June 1958, while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing Armed Force.

912. DESCRIPTION. The Gold Star Lapel Button consists of a gold star on a purple circular background, bordered in gold and surrounded by gold laurel leaves. On the reverse is the inscription: United States of America, Act of Congress, August 1966. It has space for engraving the initials of the recipient. Gold Star Lapel Buttons inscribed August 1947 may be issued until present inventories are exhausted.

913. DISTRIBUTION. One Gold Star Lapel Button will be furnished without cost to the widow or widower, to each of the parents, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half brother, sister, and half sister of a member of the Armed Forces who lost his or her life while in the active military service during the periods indicated above. The term widow or widower includes those who have since remarried, and the term parents includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis. Request for replacement of the Gold Star Lapel Button (lost, destroyed or unserviceable) will be submitted on DD 3 (Application for Gold Star Lapel Button) to Navy Liaison Office, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

SECTION 2 - LAPEL BUTTON FOR NEXT OF KIN OF DECEASED PERSONNEL

920. AUTHORIZATION. Act of Congress (Public LL. 80-306) of 1 August 1947 as amended by 10 U.S.C. 1126 of 11 August 1966.

921. PURPOSE. To provide widow(er), parents, and primary next of kin of armed services members who lose their lives while serving on active duty or while assigned in an Reserve unit in a drill status.

922. DESCRIPTION. The button consists of a gold star within a circle (commemorating honorable service) surrounded by springs of oak (referring to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps).

923. DISTRIBUTION

1. Current Cases. One lapel button will be furnished without cost to the widow or widower, to each of the parents, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half brother, sister, and half sister of a member of the Armed Forces who lost his or her life while on active duty. The term widow or widower included those who have since remarried, and the term parents included mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in place of a parent. The buttons are furnished with the Casualty Assistance Package.

2. Retroactive Cases. This Lapel Button is authorized for issue retroactive to 29 March 1973. The next of kin of personnel who died since that date may request issue of the button by writing to the Navy Liaison Office, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Furnish the name, grade, SSN, and date of death of the deceased member. The names and relationships of the next of kin must also be provided.