

SB216 INTRODUCED



1 SB216
2 84IJLH2-1
3 By Senator Carnley
4 RFD: Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Safety
5 First Read: 27-Jan-26



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, members of the National Guard may be presented awards for certain accomplishments and service by order of the Governor.

This bill would revise the requirements for Alabama National Guard members to receive these awards.

This bill would create new awards for Alabama National Guard Members for certain accomplishments and service.

This bill would also prescribe that certain awards may be presented by the Governor and that certain awards may be presented by the Adjutant General.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to state military; to amend Section 31-2-41, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the criteria to receive certain awards; to create new awards; and to prescribe that certain awards may be presented by the Governor or Adjutant General.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



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Section 1. Section 31-2-41, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§31-2-41

(a) The Governor may present, at the expense of the state, the following military awards to persons meeting the respective requirements for each award. Each award may be awarded posthumously. Concurrence of the Adjutant General shall be required to present an award unless initiated by the Governor. Recommendations for an award shall contain complete factual information, including dates, as to the service or act for which the award is recommended, with an appropriate proposed citation:

(1) Governor's Cross. The Governor's Cross of Alabama is the highest award. The award is presented for exceptional, distinguished, and heroic military or civilian service in support of military or domestic operations to the state. Recipients shall have exhibited exceptional service through personal acts of courage, bravery, or selfless service to the state, including individuals who distinguish themselves by conspicuously and voluntarily exhibiting a high degree of courage or heroism by risking serious personal injury or death in an attempt to save another individual whose life is in danger during a military or training exercise.

(2) Distinguished Service Medal. The Distinguished Service Medal of Alabama is the second highest award. The award is presented for exceptional meritorious and distinguished military or civilian service in support of military operations for individuals serving in positions of



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great responsibility during times of war or peace.

(3) Alabama Commendation Medal. The Alabama Commendation Medal is the third highest award. The award is presented for meritorious and outstanding services and accomplishments. The service may be military performance of duty in time of war or peace. The medal may be awarded to foreign military or civilian personnel who distinguish themselves in a mutually beneficial manner to both the state and the nation.

(b) The Adjutant General may present, at the expense of the state, the following military awards to persons meeting the respective requirements for each award. Each award may be awarded posthumously. Recommendations for an award shall contain complete factual information, including dates, as to the service or act for which the award is recommended, with an appropriate proposed citation:

(1) Exceptional Service Ribbon. The Exceptional Service Ribbon of Alabama is the fourth highest award. The award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have served an aggregate of 30 days in the state active service for meritorious and outstanding service during times of state emergencies in the support of upholding the law and preserving order, protecting lives and property, and in the relief of civilians in disaster and similar service ordered by the Governor.

(2) Faithful Service Ribbon of Alabama. The award is presented to~~Any~~any present or former officer, warrant officer, or enlisted~~man~~member of the Alabama National Guard



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who ~~shall have~~ has faithfully served ~~in the National Guard or~~
~~Naval Militia~~ for an aggregate of six years. ~~, shall have~~
~~conferred upon him the right to wear the Faithful Service~~
~~Cross, which shall be awarded by order of the Governor and~~
~~furnished at the expense of the state. Any officer, warrant~~
~~officer, or enlisted man of the National Guard or Naval~~
~~Militia of this state who shall have served an aggregate of 30~~
~~days in the active military service of the state, in the aid~~
~~of civil authorities in upholding the law and preserving~~
~~order, protecting lives and property, in the aid and relief of~~
~~citizens in disaster and other similar service, duly ordered~~
~~by the Governor, shall have conferred upon him the right to~~
~~wear the Special Service Medal, which shall be awarded by~~
~~order of the Governor and furnished at the expense of the~~
~~state. Any officer, warrant officer, or enlisted man of the~~
~~National Guard or the Naval Militia of this state who shall~~
~~have faithfully served in the National Guard or Naval Militia~~
~~of this state an aggregate of 20 years, shall have conferred~~
~~upon him the right to wear the Veterans Service Medal, which~~
~~shall be awarded by order of the Governor and furnished at the~~
~~expense of the state. Service in the organizations of the~~
~~National Guard or Naval Militia called, drafted, or ordered~~
~~into the service of the United States shall be credited as~~
~~active service in the National Guard or Naval Militia of this~~
~~state for the purposes named in this section, when the soldier~~
~~or sailor is a member of the National Guard or Naval Militia~~
~~on the date of federal call, draft, or order, and this~~
~~provision shall be retroactive so as to include service in any~~



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~~war or during acts of hostility. The Special Service Medal may also be awarded for such special individual acts as the Military Advisory Board may determine to be meritorious and the Governor may approve, without regard to the period of time involved or the date of the act~~ A bronze St. Andrews Cross shall be added to the award for each additional three years served beyond six years to denote the total number of years served by the member.

(3) Phenix City Civil Disturbance Medal of Alabama. The award is presented for military duty or civilian service that contributed to the overall effort during the Phenix City civil disturbance that occurred from June 18, 1954 to January 17, 1955.

(4) Operation Desert Storm Ribbon. The award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard activated on Title 10 orders who served in direct support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield for at least 30 days. Service members who worked on special duty preparing units for mobilization are not eligible for the award.

(5) National Emergency Service Ribbon of Alabama. The award includes the Berlin Crisis Clasp and 9-11 Clasp. The Berlin Crisis Clasp is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard called into active federal service during the Berlin Crisis National Emergency, pursuant to Public Law 87-117, and Presidential Executive Order 10957, dated August 15, 1961. The 9-11 Clasp is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard called to active federal service under Title 10, United States Code for Operation Noble Eagle, Iraqi



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141 Freedom, or Enduring Freedom for a minimum of 24 hours in
142 support thereof.

143 (6) Veterans Service Medal of Alabama. The award is
144 presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have
145 served an aggregate of 21 years in active service, including
146 constructive service in organizations of the National Guard
147 while ordered into the federal service. Qualifying service
148 does not include constructive service in any Reserve
149 Component, except the National Guard. A bronze oak leaf
150 cluster shall be added to the award for each three additional
151 years served beyond 21 years to denote the total number of
152 years served by the member.

153 (7) Special Service Ribbon of Alabama. The award is
154 presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have
155 served an aggregate of 30 days in the state active service for
156 meritorious and outstanding service during times of state
157 emergencies in the support of upholding the law and preserving
158 order, protecting lives and property, and in the relief of
159 civilians in disaster and similar service ordered by the
160 Governor.

161 (8) First Sergeant Service Ribbon. The award is
162 presented to a First Sergeant, Special Duty Identifier 8F000,
163 in recognition of meritorious service who has been assigned to
164 a First Sergeant Unit Manning Position for at least three
165 years and has attended the United States Air Force or Air
166 National Guard First Sergeant Academy. Acting First Sergeants
167 are not eligible for the award.

168 (9) Honor Guard Service Ribbon. The award is presented



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to all members of the Alabama Army and Air National Guard who perform military funeral honors and who satisfy all Honor Guard expectations, including completion of the requisite number of funeral details.

(10) Alabama National Guard Recruiting Ribbon. The award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have excelled as a production recruiter and who meet the qualifications set by the State Military Department.

(11) Alabama National Guard Recruiting Lead Generation Ribbon. The award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who are not assigned or employed with the Recruiting and Retention Unit in recognition of excellence in recruiting as determined by the State Military Department.

(12) Basic Training Ribbon of Alabama. The award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have successfully completed the Basic Training Course after the year 1955.

(13) Certificate of Appreciation. The award is presented for domestic and foreign military and civilian persons whose acts of good public and community relations were in the interest of and support the State Military Department.

(14) Certificate of Extension. The award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard for each extension of three years or more after his or her initial term for faithful and honorable service."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.