

AWARDS OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

by Thomas Lee Caskey

A. Order of Precedence:

Louisiana Medal of Honor
Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal
Louisiana Cross of Merit
Louisiana War Cross
Louisiana General Excellence Medal
Louisiana Emergency Service Medal
Louisiana Longevity Medal
Louisiana State Guard Service Ribbon

B. Name: Louisiana Medal of Honor

Awarded to: any person who served honorably in the active Louisiana National Guard while in State service.

Awarded for: distinguishing himself conspicuously by gallantry at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty.

Description: a Greek laid on a green laurel wreath, superimposed on an 3 point golden star of 8 acanthus leaves laid on a green laurel wreath, all in high relief and 2½ inches in diameter. The cross is enameled with devices symbolic of the countries which have had jurisdiction over Louisiana: at the top the red, white and blue shield of the U.S.; on the left arm the golden fleur de lis of the French Bourbon monarchy on white; on the right arm the golden castle and red Lion of Spain; on the lower arm the red, white and blue tricolor of the French Directory; in the center is the golden seal of Louisiana superimposed on the blue St. Andrew's Cross of the Confederacy, with a white star on each point representing the conflict between the States.

The decoration is suspended by a golden loop on a blood red cravat 1 3/8" wide. Reportedly, this decoration was originally pinback worn pinned in the center of the chest in the center of a red sash 4" wide, called the "Cordon Rouge", which was worn over the right shoulder to the left hip.

The service ribbon is 1 3/8" wide and of the same color as the suspension ribbon. Originally it has a golden rosette on it.

Subsequent awards are not to be made.

Administration: Will be awarded by Joint Resolution of the Louisiana Legislature upon recommendation of the Decorations Award Board and approval by the Adjutant General. The recipient will be ordered to the State Capitol and the presentation will be made by the Governor in the presence of a Joint Session of the Legislature.

* C. Name: Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal

Awarded to: any person who served honorably in the active Louisiana National Guard while in State service.

Awarded for: exceptionally meritorious duty of great responsibility.

OR

Awarded to: any person.

Awarded for: distinguishing himself by exceptionally meritorious service of great responsibility in the interest of the Louisiana National Guard and in furthering the security and welfare of the State and/or Federal government.

Description: A red enameled golden Greek cross 1½ inches having on the upper arm 1682 (discovery of Louisiana by La Salle), on the left 1718 (settlement by Bienville), on the right 1769 (cession to Spain), on the lower arm 1803 (cession to the U.S.), with in center the golden Seal of Louisiana superimposed on a blue enameled St. Andrew's Cross of the Confederacy, laid on a golden laurel wreath and suspended by a golden fleur de lis.

The decoration is suspended by a cravat 1 3/8" wide and is navy blue with white edges 1/8 inch wide.

The service ribbon is 1 3/8" wide and of the same color as the suspension ribbon.

Subsequent awards will be denoted by a bronze fleur de lis 5/16 inch high and a silver fleur de lis is authorized for wear in lieu of five bronze fleur de lis.

Administration: Awarded by the Adjutant General upon recommendation of the Decorations Award Board.

D. Name: Louisiana Cross of Merit

Awarded to: any person who served honorably in the active Louisiana National Guard while in the service of the State.

Awarded for: distinguishing himself by exceptionally meritorious military conduct in a duty of responsibility.

Description: Same as the Distinguished Service Medal except that the wreath is of green enamel and the suspension is a ring.

The suspension ribbon, 1 3/8 inches wide, is white with blue edges.

The service ribbon is of the same width and color as the suspension ribbon.

Subsequent awards are denoted the same as for the DSM.
Administration: Same as for the DSM.

E. Name: Louisiana War Cross

Awarded to: Any member of the Louisiana National Guard

Awarded for: Honorable service for a period of at least 90 days during a National Emergency in Federal Service (during war).

Description: A bronze medal $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter bearing the Seal of Louisiana, superimposed on a Greek cross of red enamel. (An early account states that the dates of major wars in which the recipient served will be inscribed on the arms of the cross and the name of the recipient and date, surrounded by "Honorable Service to Louisiana" will be on the reverse.)

The suspension ribbon, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, is red with white edges $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide.

The service ribbon is of the same width and color as the suspension ribbon.

Subsequent awards are denoted the same as for the DSM.

Administration: Same as for the DSM.

F. Name: Louisiana General Excellence Medal

Awarded to: Any enlisted man who served honorably in the active Louisiana National Guard while in the service of the State.

Awarded for: Completing 6 years continuous honorable service, attending 90% of the drills or assemblies, missing not more than one tour of Summer training, qualifying in his individual arm, having no disciplinary punishment, and is certified by his commanding officer.

Description: A bronze medal bearing the Seal of Louisiana within a ring inscribed "SOLDIER'S MEDAL FOR / GENERAL EXCELLENCE", encircled by an oak wreath, and suspended a ring.

The suspension ribbon, is $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, is gray with blue edges $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide.

The service ribbon is of the same width and color as the suspension ribbon.

Subsequent awards are denoted the same as for the DSM.

Administration: Same as for the DSM.

G. Name: Louisiana Emergency Service Medal

Awarded to: Any person who served honorably in the active Louisiana National Guard while in State service.