



NATIONAL  
MEDAL of HONOR  
MUSEUM FOUNDATION

# MEDAL OF HONOR: HISTORY



**1862 ARMY**  
The earliest design for the Medal made by William Wilson & Son's for the U.S. Army.



**1862 NAVY**  
The earliest design for the Medal made by William Wilson & Son's for the U.S. Navy



**1896 ARMY**  
This Medal features a newly designed ribbon with red, white, and blue vertical stripes.



**1904 ARMY**  
Designed by George Gillespie, this new design featured anew ribbon and a star with a green laurel wreath.



**1913 NAVY**  
This version replaced the flag-inspired ribbon with a light blue ribbon featuring thirteen stars.



**1919 NAVY**  
This redesigned Navy Medal, the Tiffany Cross, was created by the Tiffany Company.



**1944 ARMY**  
This revised design featured a light blue neck ribbon with an eight-sided cravat pad with thirteen stars.



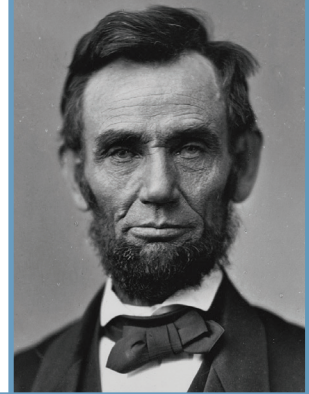
**1944 NAVY**  
During World War II, the Navy adopted the Civil War era star with an anchor attached to a light blue neck ribbon.



**1965 AIR FORCE**  
the Air Force Medal features a star with a portrait of the Statue of Liberty and a light blue neck ribbon.

## THE MEDAL OF HONOR

Established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861, the Medal of Honor is awarded by the sitting President, in the name of Congress, and commemorates service members who have shaped our nation's history and continue to inspire its future by 'going above and beyond' the call of duty. Of the 40 million Americans who have served in the Armed Forces since the Civil War, only 3,516 have earned the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest recognition of valor in combat. Now 160 years old, the Medal of Honor is our nation's oldest medal still in continuous use.



**61**  
LIVING  
RECIPIENTS

ABOUT THE MEDAL OF HONOR  
**3,519 RECIPIENTS**

**19**  
DOUBLE  
RECIPIENTS

**2,469**  
U.S. ARMY

**749**  
U.S. NAVY

**19**  
U.S. AIR FORCE

**300**  
MARINE CORPS

**1**  
U.S. COAST GUARD

## MEDAL OF HONOR FACTS

- ★ President Lincoln signed the Medal of Honor into law on December 21, 1861
- ★ Army Pvt. Jacob Parrott was the first recipient of the Medal of Honor in 1863
- ★ The only female recipient was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a Civil War battlefield surgeon, in 1865
- ★ There are three variants, one for each military department
- ★ As of April 2023, there are only 65 living Medal of Honor recipients
- ★ Theodore Roosevelt is the only President to have received the Medal of Honor
- ★ Those who receive the Medal are called "recipients" - not "winners"
- ★ The Medal of Honor is the only military decoration worn around the neck



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