

The Medal of Honor

In July 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill creating the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon a person serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Since then, more than 3,400 people have been honored for distinguished actions during military service that “involved extreme jeopardy of life or the performance of extraordinary hazardous duty.”

In the “Purge of 1917,” a review commission revoked the medals presented to 911 people. Several of these were reinstated decades later. In recent years, a number of these medals have been awarded for actions during World War II and later that may have been overlooked because of racial prejudice.

Most people will never be honored with a prestigious medal, but the Apostle Paul reminds his readers that God will reward all believers. We can never repay Jesus for the death He suffered to free us from the penalty of sin. Even if we spent every minute of our lives in active service for Him, it would not make us deserving of eternal life. We cannot earn our way into heaven. Yet, God promises to honor believers for service done in His name and out of gratitude to Him.

Congressional Medals of Honor and other earthly awards will be left behind when we die. But the rewards that God will bestow are everlasting and will never be revoked. His judging is impartial, and no one will be overlooked. In the heat of spiritual warfare, serving God often seems like “extraordinary hazardous duty,” but we can hope for the greatest award possible – to hear God say, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

For followers of Christ working in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, they are daily laying up for themselves treasures in heaven.

Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free. (Ephesians 6:8)

--Beecher Hunter