STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1253 By: Wells

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to soldiers and sailers; amending 44 O.S. 1991, Section 195.5, which relates to awards and decorations bestowed upon military personnel; providing for an Adjutant General's Staff Identification Badge; providing for eligibility for the badge; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 44 O.S. 1991, Section 195.5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 195.5 The following awards and decorations are hereby created and established and shall be bestowed upon the federally recognized officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel of the Oklahoma National Guard under the conditions and in the manner provided in this act.

(a) An Oklahoma Distinguished Service Cross which may be awarded to any eligible person who shall perform at great personal danger and risk of life or limb in the line of military duty any act of heroism designed to protect life or property or who while on active state duty during a period of martial law shall perform such acts over and beyond the call of duty which act, danger or risk he

could have failed to perform or incur without being subject to censure for neglect of duty.

(b) An Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal which may be awarded to any eligible person who, as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, shall perform unusually distinguished and meritorious service which to a marked degree is reflected in the increased efficiency and growth of the Oklahoma National Guard or which brings exceptional honor and credit to the Oklahoma National Guard and commands the attention and respect of the citizens of the state and of members of the military establishment of the United States.

(c) An Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to any eligible person who, while as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, shall perform outstanding meritorious service which to a marked degree is reflected in the increased efficiency and growth of that branch of the Oklahoma National Guard to which he belongs or which brings credit to the Oklahoma National Guard over and above that which would occur by reason of the superior performance of assigned duties.

(d) An Oklahoma Guardsman Medal which may be awarded to any eligible person who, as a member of the National Guard having more than fifteen (15) years total service, has contributed to the efficiency and growth of the Oklahoma National Guard by an unusually high character of performance of duty and, by the contribution of extra time and effort, has made himself known as an outstanding member of the Oklahoma National Guard.

(e) The Long Service Medal shall be awarded for honest and faithful service in the Oklahoma National Guard for a period of five (5) years. Ribbons to accompany the medal will be awarded for periods of five (5) years, ten (10) years, fifteen (15) years, twenty (20) years, twenty-five (25) years and longer periods. Symbols denoting one (1) additional year may be worn on each ribbon

until the recipient shall be entitled to the next ribbon. Only the latest awarded Long Service Ribbon may be worn.

(f) At the discretion of the Adjutant General, an Oklahoma Recruiting Medal may be awarded to any member of the Oklahoma National Guard who, in any one calendar year, is personally and solely responsible for obtaining five (5) accessions to the strength of the Oklahoma National Guard. The basic medal shall be awarded to the individual for the first award and numeral, to be affixed to the ribbon awarded with the basic medal, denoting second, third, fourth and fifth awards, for a maximum of five (5) awards per individual recruiter, shall be issued to denote succeeding awards.

(g) An Oklahoma Star of Valor Medal may be awarded to any eligible person who, while a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, performs an act of heroism involving voluntary risk of life or limb designed to protect the life of another person under conditions other than those of conflict with an armed enemy, the saving of a life or the success of the act not being essential.

(h) An Oklahoma Commendation Medal may be awarded to any eligible person who, as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, influenced the success and recognition of that branch of the Oklahoma National Guard to which he belongs through performance of conspicuous military duty, distinct achievement, or an act of courage.

(i) An Oklahoma Exceptional Service Medal may be awarded to a present or former employee of the Oklahoma Military Department who has contributed to the efficiency and improvement of the Oklahoma National Guard through sustained loyal and dedicated service, demonstration of outstanding ability, or a specific noteworthy accomplishment, with subsequent awards being denoted by numeral devices affixed thereto.

(j) An Oklahoma Good Conduct Ribbon may be awarded to any member of the Oklahoma National Guard for exemplary behavior,

efficiency, and fidelity while performing a continuous year of military service in an enlisted status, subsequent to enactment. A conviction by civil court, a court-martial, or a total of more than six (6) minor traffic violations during the period considered for the award will negate the creditability of the period. Subsequent awards may be denoted by numeral devices affixed to the ribbon to signify the cumulative number of years of qualifying service.

(k) The Governor's Distinguished Unit Award shall be awarded annually to the outstanding Army and Air National Guard unit, selected by committees appointed by the Adjutant General, such units to be presented the Governor's Trophy, Army, and the Governor's Trophy, Air, respectively. The Governor's Trophy shall be designated "a traveling trophy", with miniatures thereof being awarded each winning unit for permanent possession. Membership in units awarded the distinguished unit award during period covered by the selection process shall entitle individual guardsmen to wear the Distinguished Unit Emblem on appropriate uniforms during their tenure in the Oklahoma National Guard, and subsequent awards may be denoted by numeral devices affixed thereto.

(l) A One Hundred Percent Drill Attendance Badge may be awarded to enlisted members of the Oklahoma National Guard who attended one hundred percent of the regularly scheduled drills of the unit to which assigned and a minimum of fifteen (15) days field training during a period of one (1) year. Credit will be given for constructive attendance and authorized make-up drills. Year bars to be attached to the badge will be awarded for each qualifying subsequent year.

(m) Oklahoma Active Duty Service Medal may be awarded to any eligible person who was a member of the Oklahoma National Guard on state active duty for state disaster or civil disturbance for a period of time of not less than twenty-four (24) hours and who has contributed to the success and recognition of his/her unit during

their state mission, with subsequent awards being denoted by numeral devices affixed thereto.

(n) Selected Reserve Force Medal may be awarded to any individual who served honorably as a member of an Oklahoma National Guard unit designated as a Selected Reserve Force (SRF) by the Department of the Army. Service must have been for a minimum of twelve (12) months, beginning October 1, 1965, during the period through January 31, 1968, the units so designated in the Oklahoma Army National Guard were HQ & HQ Co. 3rd Bde, 45th Inf Div; 2nd Bn 179th Inf; 2nd Bn 180th Inf; 2nd Bn 279th Inf and 1st Bn 160th FA.

(o) The Oklahoma Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame award may be awarded to any graduate of the Oklahoma National Guard State Officer Candidate School who is distinguished in military and civilian pursuits and public service activities. The award may be made to graduates who are current or former members of the Oklahoma National Guard or the U.S. Army Reserve.

(p) The Oklahoma Adjutant General's Award may be awarded to recognize the outstanding service of any retiring member of the Oklahoma National Guard or Military Department employee who is distinguished in military and civilian pursuits and public service activities. The award may be made to either full-time or part-time members of the Oklahoma National Guard and to nonuniformed employees of the Oklahoma Military Department.

(q) The Oklahoma Desert Storm Service Medal and Ribbon may be awarded to any member of the Oklahoma National Guard who was called into active federal service during the Persian Gulf Crisis. It is not necessary that the member actually served in Saudi Arabia, but rather was called into active federal service for the Desert Storm operation and served honorably for a period of at least thirty (30) consecutive days during the period August 1, 1990, to the conclusion of the operation as determined by the Department of Defense.

(r) The Adjutant General's Staff Identification Badge may be awarded to an individual serving as a member of the coordinating staff in the State Headquarters of the Oklahoma Army National Guard in a position designated as General Staff With Troops (GSWT). The policy of the Military Department of this state shall determine the eligibility for the awarding and wearing of the badge as specified in this paragraph.

(s) Any Oklahoma Medal heretofore awarded and any other medals for any war or campaign or mobilization which the federal government shall recognize by awarding to the members of the military or naval forces of the United States service medals therefor, if any federally recognized unit or units of the Oklahoma National Guard shall participate therein.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

45-1-5570 DVA/MCD