



Unofficial Medal created in 2019 by Dave Palmer & Joe Drouin.

While this medal cannot be worn with official sanctioned medals, many Veterans purchased it and wear it on the right side. It was available through the former Joe Drouin Enterprises and may still be available by contacting Denis Ringuette Enterprises Inc.

Presentation to the Ottawa/Gatineau NATO Veterans of Canada – Kemptville Legion 15 February 2020

Good Morning one and all and thank you for this opportunity to speak about the honouring and recognition of all of Canada's Veterans' by means of a new medal

Since the cessation of the CVSM, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal on the 1st of March 1947, Canada has not had a means to honour and acknowledge volunteerism of Canadians who have done what most Canadians will never do, and that is to volunteer to serve in our nation's armed forces. Yes, there was the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea, but I speak to you about all Veterans' that have done what their comrades and ancestors before have done and that was with honour and resolve to follow in the footsteps of those that served before them. In many cases, I am speaking of many of you.

What I am proposing and have gone to great lengths and made continuous efforts over the past 13 years now, by many different means including letters, emails, Facebook postings and officially sanctioned petitions to the government to create a Canadian Military Volunteer Service Medal, (CMVSM).

I truly believe it is a sad reflection on the heritage and legacy of the service of all Veterans' as being discounted and in essence by the ruling of the Chancellery of Honours and Awards that established in 1967 saying it does not recognize things that Veterans have done in the past. Or by response to petitions as saying the Commonwealth does not go retroactive more than 5 years in the past, while Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain have all issued new honours in recent years that are retroactive to WW II, in many cases over 60 years in the past.

In recent years, Honours and Awards have created several Clasps to the CVSM including the Dieppe Bar, Hong Kong Bar and the Bomber Command Bar retroactive to well beyond 1967 to honour Veterans service for specific events some 60 or more years in the past. Even the Korea Volunteer Medal was retroactive beyond 1967, when it was established in 1991 for service during June 1950 to July 1954. This honour was retroactive to more than 30 years after the event.

As it stands, there have been tens of thousands of Canadians who have voluntarily served since the end of WW II yet any efforts to acknowledge, recognize and honour this service is negated and quashed repeatedly by those in a position to make a positive and lasting change to the legacy of all Veterans by means of the proposed Medal.

For thousands of our Comrades that volunteered to serve, you . . . me, our relatives, friends or neighbours in honour took up the torch of service and volunteered to serve in Canada's Armed Forces. Many served during the Cold War following WW II yet to recognize this service by the propose volunteer medal continuously falls upon deaf ears and it begs the question as to why? Truly, if we are about honour and the remembrance of Veterans' and what they did, have done, do and continue to do in the service of our nation why is it that we have chosen not to remember a specific group of Veterans from the past?

This past November it appeared that many Canadians did not understand what it means to wear a Poppy during Remembrance Week, and this sadly reflects on our society as to what we know about Canada's Military History and those that gave their lives for the rights, freedoms and democracy we enjoy in Canada. Thousands of Canadian Veterans' died for those freedoms and the courage and conviction to continue in volunteer service to our nation by thousands of Veterans' did not stop on the 1st of March 1947. Yet without this one proposed medal, the CMVSM, many Veterans have not a single medal to wear to show they once dedicated a portion of their lives in service to our nation.

The proposed medal, would at the very least be something that all Canadians could recognize as it being a medal that only Veterans who volunteered to service in our Armed Forces could wear. The education and awareness of this one medal to our youth and to all Canadians new and present could be versed on this medal and the Poppy and what their significance means to the freedoms all Canadians enjoy.

Over 30 petitions requesting the creation of this medal have been presented and read in the House of Commons yet it is rejected every time. Why is this? If these petitions represent the voice of the people, why is the government not listening? As previously mentioned, Honours and Awards have created and issued Clasps or Bars retroactively to WW II and these are worn on the CVSM. Today, if a Bar or Clasp were created for say The Cold War or a number of other historically significant contributions of our Service Men and Women what medal would these Bars be worn on? As there no longer is a volunteer medal, the efforts of those that have served in the 50 year era after the end of WW II are being forgotten and leaves no legacy of service for these our comrades and fellow Veterans' and their families. The creation and issuance of the CMVSM would rectify this void and bring about the dignity and honour to the tens of thousands of Canadians that have proudly served in our nation's Military.

Thank you one and all, be well and God Bless our Veterans and our Troops and their families, Dave W. Palmer, Sergeant (retired).