

# VOICES ★ OF ★ VALOR

## SILVER STAR



The Silver Star may be awarded to any US Armed Forces member who performs so gallantly in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations, that his or her actions stand apart from others in the battle with “marked distinction.”

First established as the Citation Star in 1918, the award was presented retroactively to soldiers who were cited for gallantry in action during campaigns from World War I back to the Spanish-American War. On July 19, 1932, the Secretary of War approved the Silver Star medal to replace the Citation Star.

Only 14 women in US military history are known to have received the Silver Star. In addition to six Army nurses in World War I, seven Army nurses were decorated for valor for their actions at the 56th Evacuation Hospital and 33rd Field Hospital in Anzio, Italy, during World War II, and in 2005, SGT Leigh Ann Hester of the KY National Guard was awarded the Silver Star as a result of direct combat.

Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

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