CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE

A CHICAGO

FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL:
FRANCE EXPRESSES HER GRATITUDE TO WWII VETS

US veterans who helped in the liberation of France during World War II could be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal in the future. Created to celebrate extraordinary contributions to the country, this medal is <u>France's highest distinction</u>. *

To be eligible for this outstanding award, he/she has to fit strict criteria:

- Applying veterans of the Ground Forces, Air Forces, Navy, Coast Guard must have fought on French territory in one or more of the four main campaigns of the Liberation of France: Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes. <u>Actions taking place in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg or other border/European countries will not be taken into account</u>.

- To provide written documentation, which is normally a copy of his/her military separation order, DD-214, will help verify their military history during combat.

- The veterans must provide citations for previous military awards such as Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal or <u>higher</u> distinctions. These awards will indicate meritorious actions during combat operations.

- To be considered, these citations must have been issued during WWII or the close aftermath and must relate to events (outstanding actions, wounds, having been taken prisoner of war, etc.) that took place on the French soil only.

Copies of these documents should be forwarded with the request for consideration for the French Legion of Honor to the closest French Consulate in the US. <u>The French Consulate in Chicago serves the following 13 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin.</u> The Legion of Honor Committee in Paris must approve these French medals after appropriate review. Please note this process can take several months.

* The Legion of Honor medal is not awarded posthumously.