

Date:

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear

EDM327: THE NATIONAL DEFENCE MEDAL

Early Day Motion 327 has recently been laid down supporting the campaign for a National Defence Medal. As my elected representative I sincerely hope that you will sign it on my behalf. If you are unsure in any way, then I will be more than happy to meet with you to discuss the details and why it is so important to give this EDM your full support.

Service personnel once they have taken the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty are likely at any time to be called upon to make personal sacrifices in the service of the nation. It is a myth that there is such a thing as a normal service life. Most service personnel and certainly families will tell you it is a most abnormal life. In putting the needs of the Service before their own they forgo the rights enjoyed by those outside of the armed forces. In return British servicemen and women must always be able to expect fair treatment, to be valued and respected as individuals and that their families will be sustained and rewarded by commensurate terms and conditions of service. This is what the military covenant is all about and it includes recognition.

Only a fraction of the population put themselves through the rigorous training and in doing so they become a special breed. The recognition of the hundreds of thousands who kept our nation secure and were part of national service does not demean the medal system. The National Defence Medal would certainly not demean campaign medals as every medal tells its own story.

Our comrades in Australia have been awarded a defence medal with Her Majesty's official approval. One Aussie ex soldier recently said; *"The Australian Defence Medal has been acclaimed to such a degree that it has been applied for posthumously by relatives of deceased veterans. The Queen has been gracious to honour the wish of the government without demur or delay."*

In New Zealand the government is on the threshold of officially giving the go ahead for a National Defence Medal and seeking Her Majesty's endorsement. Here is what one Kiwi soldier said; *"I feel a bit sorry for The Queen, whom we all serve. She must be confused why no one in the UK is asking her to sign off on resolving this medal issue."*

The MOD has stated "The British Government is under no obligation to follow suit", rather than feel obliged the government should "Desire" to properly honour its military forces.

This is a passionate campaign with huge and growing support. I hope you will play your part in righting this injustice and help restoring our confidence the political system. In a time when respect for our nation seems to be diminishing, those who have taken pride in serving it should be given the opportunity to display that commitment on parade with the United Kingdom's National Defence Medal.

I look forward to hearing your response, and an indication of your positive support.

Sincerely,

EDM327: THE NATIONAL DEFENCE MEDAL

That this House notes the significant personal sacrifice our Armed Forces personnel make in their service to the Nation once they take the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen; acknowledges our ex-service personnel are proud to receive and wear Her Majesty's Veterans Badge, but notes that it is not awarded posthumously and it is considered by many to be insufficient recognition for the contribution veterans have made to the safety of the Nation since the ending of the Second World War; and therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to rescind their recent decision not to more appropriately recognise our veterans by the award of a National Defence Medal and instead to establish a working group to work with the Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals, with a view to implementing a National Defence Medal as soon as possible.

Additional important information may be viewed on line at <http://nationaldefencemedal.webs.com/>