



# Estonian Reserve Officers' Association's Decorations Statute

## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1. Estonian Reserve Officers' Association's Cross of Merit (hereinafter Cross of Merit) was instituted on Victory Day on June 23, 2001. Cross of Merit is bestowed on members of the Estonian Reserve Officers' Association (hereinafter Association), who have significantly contributed to the pursuit of its statutory objectives and to those Estonians and foreigners who have outstandingly helped the Association in achieving its objectives.
- 1.2. Estonian Reserve Officers' Association's Special Merits Cross for International Cooperation (hereinafter Special Merits Cross) was instituted on Victory Day on June 23, 2019. Special Merits Cross is bestowed on individuals who have supported Association's members in international cooperation with Allies.

## 2. BESTOWAL OF DECORATIONS

- 2.1. Cross of Merit comprises of three classes. Highest class is I class. Upon taking office the chairman of Association is bestowed the Cross of Merit I class – Gold Cross.
- 2.2. Special Merits Cross has one class.
- 2.3. Cross of Merit and Special Merits Cross (hereinafter Decorations) are bestowed by the Estonian Reserve Officers' Association's Decorations Council (hereinafter Council). The Council consists of Association's Chairman, Secretary General, Board of Elders Chairman, Court of Honour Chairman, Audit Committee Chairman, longest in office department head (in case of equal term, senior in rank) and longest in office section head (in case of equal term, senior in rank).
- 2.4. Chairman of the Council is Association's Chairman, in his/her absence, a member of the Council appointed by the Chairman. The Council shall act by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote. Council has a quorum if more than half of the members are present. Authorized representation is not permitted. Association's Secretary General shall act as Secretary of the Council; in his/her absence, the Chairman of the Council shall appoint the Secretary from among the members of the Council present. Secretary keeps correspondence and records of issued Decorations and archives documentation. Council meetings are closed. Only final decisions shall be recorded. The Council may establish its own rules of procedure.



Upon termination of the issuance of the Decorations, liquidation of Association or any other reason, the archives of the Council shall be handed over to the Committee on Decorations of the Republic of Estonia or an institution designated by it.

- 2.5. Bestowing a Decoration to the member of the Council, shall be discussed and decided by the Council without the participation of that candidate for Decoration.
- 2.6. All active, honorary and supporting members of the Association are entitled to make proposals to the Council to bestow a decoration to someone.
- 2.7. Following information about the candidate must be submitted to the Council:
  - full name;
  - rank;
  - date of birth;
  - nationality;
  - is he/she bearer of any Association's decorations;
  - to which class and for what merits is the candidate presented;
  - a detailed description of the merits;
  - details of the proposer.
- 2.8. Cross of Merit will normally be issued on the anniversary of the Association on June 22 or in special cases, as decided by the Council. Special Merits Cross is issued in accordance with the need arising from participation in international cooperation.
- 2.9. Decorations will be issued with a certificate that has the Association's seal, signatures of the Chairman and Secretary of the Council. Detailed design of the certificate shall be approved by the Council.
- 2.10. Miniatures, ribbons, rosette device and certificates of the Decorations shall be paid for by the Association.
- 2.11. A member expelled from the Association, on the proposal of the Court of Honour, automatically loses the right to wear Association's Decorations and is no longer considered a Decoration holder.
- 2.12. Undignified handling of a Decoration is the basis for initiating proceedings by the Court of Honour.

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE CROSS OF MERIT**

- 3.1. Cross of Merit is a Mantuan cross.



- 3.2. Arms of the cross are 40 mm in height, made from silver, matted and oxidized and surrounded by a higher polished edge. The intersection of the arms bears Association's monogram ROK:
- III class Cross of Merit (Iron Cross) monogram is from black oxidized iron;
  - II class Cross of Merit (Silver Cross) monogram is polished silver;
  - I class Cross of Merit (Gold Cross) monogram is from gold.
- 3.3. The reverse side of the cross bears, in the intersection of the arms, a black circle with a date 23 VI 2001.
- 3.4. The ribbon of the Cross of Merit is a moiré ribbon. Ribbon is steel grey with 3 mm violet stripe on the edges and with a 3 mm golden yellow stripe bordered on both sides by a 3 mm violet stripe in the centre. Steel grey symbolizes strong will to protect, violet indicates education and spirituality, golden yellow signifies truth and success.
- 3.5. According to the class of the cross, a respective metal monogram is attached to the ribbon bar.
- 3.6. Rosette device is a 15 mm Cross of Merit ribbon with a metal monogram respective to the class of the cross attached to the middle.

#### **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIAL MERITS CROSS**

- 4.1. Special Merits Cross is a Mantuan cross.
- 4.2. Arms of the cross are 40 mm in height, made from copper, matted and oxidized and surrounded by a higher polished edge. The intersection of the arms bears black Association's monogram ROK.
- 4.3. The reverse side of the cross bears, in the intersection of the arms, a black circle with a date 23 VI 2001.
- 4.4. The ribbon of the Cross of Merit is a moiré ribbon. Ribbon is steel grey with 3 mm violet stripe on the edges and with a 3 mm golden yellow stripe bordered on both sides by a 3 mm violet stripe in the centre. Steel grey symbolizes strong will to protect, violet indicates education and spirituality, golden yellow signifies truth and success. As a characteristic of the Special Merits Cross, a rosette of the same material with a diameter of 22 mm is attached to the ribbon.
- 4.5. A rosette from the same material with a diameter of 8 mm is added to the ribbon bar.
- 4.6. Rosette device is a 15 mm Special Merits Cross ribbon with a rosette attached to the middle.



## 5. WEARING AND THE RIGHTS OF THE HOLDERS OF THE DECORATIONS

- 5.1. Only the highest decoration bestowed is worn at one time.
- 5.2. I class, II class and III class Cross of Merit is worn on the left side of the chest after the Estonian State Decorations and other national agencies decorations and before foreign decorations unless specified otherwise for a particular event. The chairman of the Association who is bestowed the Cross of Merit I class by ex officio, wears it on a ribbon around the neck for his/her term of office. After the end of his/her term, it is worn according to general rules.
- 5.3. Special Merits Cross is worn on the left side of the chest after the Estonian State Decorations and other national agencies decorations and before foreign decorations unless specified otherwise for a particular event. When the Cross of Merit is also bestowed to a Special Merits Cross holder, then Special Merits Cross is worn right after the Cross of Merit.
- 5.4. The holder of a Decoration is entitled to wear a miniature version of that Decoration with evening dress and an rosette device on the lapel of a regular suit.
- 5.5. Decorations ribbon bar is meant to be worn with a service dress uniform. It is allowed to wear Cross of Merits ribbon bar together with the Special Merits Cross ribbon bar and they are aligned to the left from the midline of the chest, highest class afore.
- 5.6. Holder of a Decoration has the right to use the image of the Decoration on his/her personal belongings or with personal details, without infringing on the dignity of the Decoration.
- 5.7. Using the Decoration in advertising publications and in any other commercial use is prohibited.

## 6. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1. The general restriction on issuing a Cross of Merit is, for every 100 Association members up to 2 Cross of Merits per calendar year per. The I class Cross of Merit bestowed on the Chairman of Association by ex officio, is excluded from that.
- 6.2. In the case of extraordinary events, the Board of Elders has the right to increase the general limit for a calendar year by up to 50% with a good justification to this decision.
- 6.3. Specials Merits Cross shall be issued in accordance with the need arising from participation in international cooperation.
- 6.4. The amendment of this statute is in competence of the Board of Elders.



EESTI  
RESERVOHVITSERIDE  
KOGU



Statute of Decorations was adopted by Association's Board meeting in April 24, 2001.

Statute of Decorations was amended by Association's Board of Elders meeting in October 29, 2016.

Statute of Decorations was amended by Association's Board of Elders meeting in October 22, 2019.