Eligibility in The American Legion

All who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States are eligible only if they have the following constitutional requirements: “Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941, to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive ... provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.”

The language “or continued honorably after any of said periods” refers to those remaining in service after the date terminal at which time eligibility may be established by all veterans having honorable active service during such periods, regardless of whether they have been discharged or stay on in the service.

Refer to the latest Post Officers Guide for further information about eligibility.

As of July 2019