

**The story**

Queen Elizabeth has awarded one of Britain's highest honours, the George Cross, to the National Health Service. In a handwritten message, the Queen praised the courage, compassion and dedication of NHS staff since the publicly funded service was set up in the aftermath of the Second World War.

**Key words and phrases****honours**

shows respect, often by giving an award

- Countries often honour members of the military for their bravery.
- I felt honoured to be chosen to play for my country.

**frontline**

describes someone with a leading role in an activity

- Frontline workers have risked their lives during the pandemic.
- It's vital that frontline staff leave a good impression with customers.

**mark**

celebrate or show respect to something

- People often mark the anniversary of the end of wars with a minute's silence.
- How should we mark our 50th wedding anniversary? We should do something really special.