



THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

Medals & Awards

Revised February 2026

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I. AWARDS COMMITTEE

- A. Awards are an important motivator when effectively used to recognize the accomplishments of a deserving individual or organization. This requires that the right organization is willing and able to identify and use awards correctly. This document focuses on the recognitions available to the State Society and member Chapters to provide guidance that will ensure that the awards given are commensurate with the actions and achievements of the recipient. The National Society provides guidance for awards given by the National Society, and that information will not be repeated except where Virginia-specific guidance augments or clarifies that of National. The Virginia Society, via the Awards Committee, shall retain exclusive authority for the recognition of state-level service but may recognize chapter level service at its discretion. Virginia Society Chapters may only reward commendable service at the chapter level. Additional criteria for the proper recognition of service are provided for each award.
- B. The Awards Committee (The Committee) is responsible for the selection of those individuals to receive Virginia Society awards and to ensure that nominations for National Awards from the Virginia Society meet the criteria and are submitted properly. The Committee coordinates the Virginia Society program for Chapter performance awards and is responsible for ensuring that National Society and Virginia Society standards for awards are followed. The Committee also ensures the fair and equitable granting of awards under its purview based on the criteria for the awards and accepted practice. The Committee is responsible for maintaining these standards and reserves the right to final judgement regarding the distribution of all state level recognitions.
- C. The Committee coordinates the presentation of awards at the annual business meetings of the Virginia Society and at other times as required. Chairmen of the various contest committees should report the names of their contest winners to the Awards Committee as soon as the contests have been judged. Any other award recommendations should be sent to the Awards Committee as early as possible so that the recommendation may be reviewed and approved recognitions be procured in time to be presented at the appropriate meeting. The submitter of the award is responsible for ensuring that submission is put forward in time for all necessary processing to be accomplished by the Awards Committee.
- D. The Chairman shall be appointed by the State President. The Chairman should be experienced in the Virginia Society awards process and familiar with current and past interpretations of the Virginia Society awards guidelines. The Chairman shall advise the committee how guidelines and precedents apply to particular award proposals and the judging of contests that fall within the jurisdiction of the Awards Committee. In short, the Chairman shall provide continuity and institutional knowledge to the Awards Committee, the Executive Committee, and the General Membership. He should be capable of serving for many years in this capacity. As a representative of the Executive Committee, The Third Vice President shall serve as the Vice Chairman of the Awards Committee. The Chairman shall be responsible for recruiting and maintaining membership on the committee, focusing on personnel with extensive knowledge of the Society, its membership, and its general

workings. The Chairman normally retains custody of the Virginia Society stock of awards materials.

- E. For each meeting of the Virginia Society where awards are to be presented, the Chairman, with the help of the committee, prepares a list of the awards and a presentation script for review by the President. During the awards ceremony, the President or appropriate official presents the awards. The members of the Awards Committee work together to: layout the awards in the proper sequence, hand the awards to the presenter or recipients as required, and read the script. After the awards presentation, the Chairman sends the list of awards to the Editor for publication in *The Virginia Bulletin* and to the web master for inclusion on the Virginia Society Web Page.
- F. The general guidelines for the progression of awards are as follows:
1. For one or two years of service, a chapter should award a member a Certificate of Appreciation
 2. For two or three years of service, a chapter may consider awarding a member a Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal
 3. For three or four years of service, a chapter may consider awarding a member a Virginia Society Medal (with the approval of the Awards Committee).
 4. The performance of the nominee must be commensurate with the guidelines of the award to be presented and not based solely on the time served in a position.
 5. The Virginia Society or a chapter may opt to give an award within a lesser timeframe than the guidelines provide for exceptional work in a unique endeavor. For example, recently a Virginia Society compatriot has been awarded a Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal for his seminal role in establishing a new chapter. This is less than two or three years of service, but his service was exceptional and in a unique endeavor.
 6. A medal should not be awarded for service for which a medal has already been given.

II. INDIVIDUAL MEDALS AND AWARDS

Presented to SAR Members		
Medal/Award	State	Chapter
Gold Good Citizenship Medal	X	X ¹
War Service Medal or Military Service Medal		X
Patriot Medal	X ²	
Medal of Distinguished Service	X	
Meritorious Service Medal (Silver)	X	
Roger Sherman Commendation Medal (Silver)	X	
Henry Knox Achievement Medal	X	

Good Citizenship Medal (Silver)	X	
Outstanding Young Member Medal (Silver)	X	
Service to Veterans Medal	X ²	
Color Guard Medal (Bronze)	X	
Youth Education Medal	X	
250 th Anniversary Award (Silver)	X ²	
Medal of Distinguished Service (Bronze)		X
Meritorious Service Medal (Bronze)		X
Roger Sherman Medal (Bronze)		X
Henry Knox Achievement Medal (Bronze)		X
General Casimir Pulaski Founders Medal	X	
Good Citizenship Medal (Bronze)		X
Outstanding Young Member Medal (Bronze)		
250 th Anniversary Award (Bronze)		X ²
Medal for Heroism	X	X
Life Saving Medal	X	X
Law Enforcement Commendation Medal	X	X
EMS Commendation Medal	X	X
ROTC Medal (Silver)	X	X
ROTC Medal (Bronze)	X	X
CAR-SAR Medal of Appreciation (Silver)	X	
CAR-SAR Medal of Appreciation (Bronze)	X	X
Eagle Scout Medal		X
Youth Color Guard Medal		X
SAR State Society Medals	X	
SAR Chapter Medals		X
Annual Congress Attendance Medals	X	
Former State Society President's Pin	X	
Former Chapter President's Pin		X
Distinguished Service Certificate	X	X
Outstanding Citizenship Certificate	X	X
Outstanding Citizenship Lapel Pin	X	X
Certificate of Appreciation	X	X
C.A.R. Membership Pin		X ³
Eagle Scout Pin		X ³
5-60 Year Membership Pin		X ³
Life Membership Pin		X ³

1. A Chapter may present this medal only if approved by its state society.
2. Nomination form may be found on the Member Clicks website.
3. Chapters may give these pins to members, or members may purchase them on their own.
4. Persons awarded medals at the Chapter level and nominated to the state level competitions cannot be given the same medal at the state level.

Presented to Ladies		
Medal/Award	State	Chapter
Daughters of Liberty Medal	X	
Lydia Darragh Medal	X	X
Good Citizenship Medal (Silver)	X	
Medal of Appreciation	X	X
Martha Washington Medal	X	X
Henry Knox Appreciation Medal (Silver)	X	
Youth Education Medal (Lifetime Ach.)	X	
250 th Anniversary Award (Silver)	X	
Good Citizenship Medal (Bronze)		X
Henry Knox Appreciation Medal (Bronze)		X
250 th Anniversary Award (Bronze)		X
Medal for Heroism	X	X
Life Saving Medal	X	X
Law Enforcement Commendation Medal	X	X
Fire Safety Commendation Medal	X	X
EMS Commendation Medal	X	X
ROTC Medal (Silver)	X	
ROTC Medal (Bronze)		X
CAR-SAR Medal of Appreciation (Silver)	X	
CAR-SAR Medal of Appreciation (Bronze)	X	X

Virginia Society Medals/Awards		
Medals/Awards	State	Chapter
Virginia Society Medal	X	X ^{1,2}
Madison Medal	X	
Dolley Madison Medal (Ladies Medal)	X	
Chapter Service Medal		X ²
Graves Preservation Medal	X	
Patrick Henry Youth Education Medal	X	
Billy Flora Medal (Color Guard)	X	
Eagle Scout Recognition Medal	X	
Road to Virginia's Independence	X	
Virginia Society Presidential Certificate	X	

1. Chapters may award the Virginia Society Medal with the approval of the State Awards Committee.
2. Request forms may be found on the Member Clicks website.

III. RULES, PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES FOR MEDALS AND

AWARDS

A. NATIONAL AND MID-ATLANTIC MEDALS AND AWARDS

The rules procedures and guidelines for the awarding medals and awards by the National Society and the Mid-Atlantic District can be found in the NSSAR Handbook and will not be discussed here.

B. THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY MEDALS AND AWARDS

1. The Virginia Society will recognize contributions to the Virginia Society and not to a chapter, other state society, or the National Society unless the contributions are deemed to have substantively benefited the Virginia Society. The Virginia Society may recognize contributions made by its members to other states and/or to Chapters other than their own. Examples of such service may include: a Virginia Society member who was instrumental in establishing a new Chapter other than his own or was an active speaker at many different S.A.R. Chapter functions. The Virginia Society may also recognize contributions made by other state society members when service is in support of the Virginia Society and its programs and events. Examples of programs and events where such support could occur include: assistance in hosting a National Congress or a Regional Meeting or significant contribution/participation in the Color Guard. The Awards Committee retains authority to make the final decision for approving awards with consideration given to recommendations initiated by the Executive Committee.
2. The Society will use The Patriot Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Silver Roger Sherman Medal, the Virginia Society Medal and/or the Virginia Society State Service Medals to recognize service to the SAR. Only the Virginia Society may present the Patriot Medal. **Both the Virginia Society and the Society's member chapters may present the Virginia Society Medal.** The Meritorious Service Medal may be presented at the National, State, District or Chapter level. The Society and its Chapters will not use Good Citizenship Medals to recognize service to the SAR. This shall not prevent Chapters from recognizing services by its members to the community, state, or nation that are in accord with SAR programs but not managed by the SAR. For example, contributions to the Boy Scouts, C.A.R., historic preservation, or veteran's hospitals could all be considered for a Good Citizenship Medal.
3. To earn a medal for service to the Virginia Society, a member must perform some significant new service that has not previously been recognized by a medal.
4. Any member of the Virginia Society, including members of the Awards Committee, may make a recommendation to the Awards Committee.
5. The normal progression of state-level awards, beginning with the first to be given, is Certificate of Appreciation, the Virginia Society State Service Medal, Virginia Society Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and then Patriot Medal. However, no medal is a prerequisite for any other medal. An Oak Leaf Cluster may be awarded to any medal

authorizing them at any point after the Virginia Society first awards the initial medal for continued service that has not been recognized by another medal. The Awards Committee shall consider the quality, impact, level, and duration of effort, and the ingenuity and diplomacy used.

C. CHAPTER MEDALS AND AWARDS.

1. Awards give the Chapter great tools to reward and encourage outstanding performance in the community and in the Chapter. Every effort should be made to recognize deserving members and citizens.
2. Chapters are encouraged to present awards to deserving recipients publicly, in front of family and peers or at other meaningful gatherings. Teachers and students could be recognized at a school assembly, policemen and firemen could be recognized at their unit roll call or at awards programs, and SAR members could be recognized at state or chapter meetings.
3. A Chapter may only recognize SAR members for contributions to its own Chapter. The recipient does not need to be a member of the Chapter. However, Chapters may not recognize its own Chapter members for service to other chapters.
4. A Chapter will use a Certificate of Appreciation, the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal, the Virginia Society Medal, the Bronze Henry Knox Medal, the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal, and the Bronze Meritorious Service Medal to recognize the service and accomplishments of Chapter members. Only a Virginia Society Chapter may present the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal. Both a Virginia Society Chapter and the Virginia Society may present the Virginia Society Medal. Only the Virginia Society may present the Silver Meritorious Service Medal.
5. The normal progression of chapter-level awards, beginning with the first to be given, is: a Certificate of Appreciation, Distinguished Service Certificate, Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal, Virginia Society Medal, Bronze Roger Sherman Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. No medal is a prerequisite for any other medal. An Oak Leaf Cluster may be awarded and added to any medal authorizing them at any point after the first award of these medals for continued service that has not been recognized by another medal. Chapters shall consider the quality, impact, level, and duration of effort, and the ingenuity and diplomacy used.
6. The Past President's Pin and certificate is the recommended recognition for any first-time, outgoing chapter president for typical service and/or one year term. The Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal (or oak leaf cluster) should be considered when the outgoing president has made a significant contribution to the Chapter. The Virginia Society Award (or an oak leaf cluster) should be considered for a multiple-year term of office. The SAR Meritorious Service Medal should be considered for an individual who is completing a term as a Chapter President who has given a great deal of service to Chapter prior to becoming the Chapter President.

7. Chapter leadership is responsible for ensuring all awards are properly vetted to adhere to the approval process, medal criteria, and spirit of the award. Questions should be directed to the Virginia Society Awards Committee that can assist Chapters with determining the correct award.
8. Chapters participating in the various SAR programs have latitude on the awards and recognitions that can be given. Some programs are associated with certain awards that are expected to be given while others may have options recognitions. For example, a Chapter carrying out the Law Enforcement Program by recognizing outstanding law enforcement personnel is expected to award at least one Law Enforcement Medal, even if it does not enter the state-level contest. For other programs, such as the chapter-level Orations or Essay contests, an award is optional. Recognizing participants in these programs could include a certificate instead of a medal if the cost is a barrier to participation. The following table shows the awards typically associated with each program and the degree of latitude Chapters have when making an award.

PROGRAM NAME	MEDAL OR CERTIFICATE	NOTES/CAVEATS
Youth and Education Programs		
Teacher of the Year	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Typical recognition
Tom and Betty Lawrence History Teacher	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Typical recognition
History Day Support (General)	Good Citizenship Pin	Typical recognition
History Day Support (Am. History)	Good Citizenship Pin	Optional recognition for outstanding student in Am. History 1750-1800
History Day Support (Non-SAR)	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Optional recognition for recognizing History Day support by non-SAR members
Outstanding Student (General)	Good Citizenship Pin	Typical recognition
Outstanding Student (Outstanding)	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Optional chapter recognition for outstanding accomplishments
Historical Oration (General)	Oration Participation Certificate	Typical recognition
Historical Oration (Optional)	Chapter Oration Medal	Optional
Historical Essay (General)	Essay Participation Certificate	Typical recognition
Historical Essay (Optional)	Chapter Essay Medal	Optional
ROTC/JROTC		
JROTC	Bronze ROTC Medal	Expected
ROTC	Silver ROTC Medal	Expected
C.A.R. (C.A.R./SAR)	Bronze C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation	Optional chapter recognition for service to the local SAR chapter or C.A.R. society

C.A.R. (Community)	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Optional for service to the community by a C.A.R. member
Eagle Scout Recognition	Eagle Scout Certificate	Typical recognition
Community Affairs Programs/Outstanding Public Service		
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement	Expected
Fire Safety	Fire Safety	Expected
Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medical Services	Expected
Life Saving	Life Saving Medal	Typical recognition
Heroism	Heroism Medal	Typical recognition
Other Civil Service	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Optional chapter recognition
Good Citizenship		
Good Citizen of the Year	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Typical recognition
Good Citizen (Misc. - See Note)	Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Optional chapter recognition. Other significant contributions of local nature or not rising to the level of a Silver Good Citizenship Medal
Good Citizen - Child (Misc. - See Note)	Good Citizenship pin	Optional chapter recognition. Other significant contributions of local nature or not rising to the level of a Silver Good Citizenship Medal
Proper Display of the U.S. Flag	Flag Certificate	Typical recognition

9. A Chapter may not substitute a Good Citizenship medal for a specialty medal, such as a Law Enforcement Medal. In some instances, a Chapter may award a Silver Good Citizenship Medal (with State Awards Committee approval) instead of a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal if the person qualifies.

D. AWARD DESCRIPTIONS AND CRITERIA FOR STATE AND CHAPTER LEVELS

1. Military Service



War Service Medal - This medal is presented to members now serving or who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States or a country that was an ally of the United States or in a United Nations Peace Keeping Force. They must also have fought against a common enemy of the United States in a war or action that has been recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and for which a campaign medal or ribbon was authorized. *Precedence 4.*



Military Service Medal - This medal may be presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service which does not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal. Proof of service, in the form of a copy of the member's discharge (or other U.S. or Allied Government proof in the case of a member in active service), must be provided to the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee, State Society Secretary or Chapter secretary (depending on presenting authority) before the medal can be purchased and/or worn. Such proof must show that the Compatriot served, or is serving, honorably in: (1) the armed forces of the United States, (2) the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or (3) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force. Members may NOT wear both the Military Service Medal and the War Service Medal at the same time. *Precedence 4.*

2. Service to the SAR Awards



Patriot Medal - The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a compatriot by the Virginia Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual. Service at the national level is not considered in making the award. It is desirable that it be presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Society. A representative cannot accept the Patriot Medal. A compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.

As a state society with over 1000 members the Virginia Society may present one medal for each 500 members each year, based on the membership on 31 December of the prior calendar year. The Virginia Society presents the medal in sterling silver. *Precedence 29.*



State Medal of Distinguished Service - The State Medal of Distinguished service may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered particularly distinguished service to the incumbent State Society President during his term of service. The distinguished service rendered should be stated in the citation. The incumbent State President may present one medal during his term (or each year of his term if elected to a multiyear term) at the Society's Annual Meeting to a Compatriot in recognition for that Compatriot's conspicuous service to the State Society during his administration.

The SMDS is awarded by a State Society President at his discretion; no other approval is required. *Precedence 30.*



Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service - The incumbent Chapter President may present one medal during his term (or each year of his term if elected to a multiyear term) at the Chapter's Annual Meeting, to a Compatriot in recognition for that Compatriot's conspicuous service to the Chapter during the president's administration. The Chapter President presents this Medal at his discretion; no other approval is required. The CMDS is the highest medal that can be awarded by a Chapter President. *Precedence 40.*



State Meritorious Service Medal - The State Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered long, faithful, and meritorious service to their state society. The meritorious service rendered should be stated in the citation. Description: The medal has a silver finish and bears on the obverse a relief of Thomas Jefferson. *Precedence 31.*



Chapter Meritorious Service Medal - The Bronze Chapter Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered long, faithful, and meritorious service to their chapter. The meritorious service rendered should be stated in the citation. Description: The medal has a bronze finish and bears on the obverse a relief of Thomas Jefferson. *Precedence 41.*



State Roger Sherman Commendation Medal - The State Roger Sherman Commendation Medal may be awarded to a compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding services rendered to a State Society. The medal is presented to a compatriot for significant service which lacks the requirements for the Meritorious Service Medal. It should be awarded in place of the Bronze and Silver Good Citizenship Medals, which cannot be awarded for service to the SAR. The recipient must have served as an active officer for a minimum of two years, as an active committee chairman for three years, or as an active member of a committee for four years.

Precedence 32.



Chapter Roger Sherman Commendation Medal - The Chapter Bronze Roger Sherman Commendation Medal may be awarded to a compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding services rendered to a Chapter. The medal is presented to a compatriot for significant service which lacks the requirements for the Meritorious Service Medal. It should be awarded in place of the Bronze and Silver Good Citizenship Medals, which cannot be awarded for service to the SAR. The recipient must have served as an active officer for a minimum of two years, as an active committee chairman for three years, or as an active member of a committee for four years. *Precedence 42.*



State Henry Knox Achievement Medal - The State Henry Knox Achievement Medal may be awarded by a State Society to a Compatriot or non-SAR member to recognize a specific outstanding contribution, achievement, accomplishment, deed, performance, or effort that advances the mission, governance, programs, or activities of that State Society. This award is not limited by a specific time of service requirement and may be presented to recognize a singular act or multiple acts. *Precedence 32.*



Chapter Henry Knox Achievement Medal - The Chapter Henry Knox Achievement Medal may be awarded by a Chapter to a Compatriot or non-SAR member to recognize a specific outstanding contribution, achievement, accomplishment, deed, performance, or effort that advances the mission, governance, programs, or activities of that Chapter. This award is not limited by a specific time of service requirement and may be presented to recognize a singular act or multiple acts. *Precedence 43.*



General Casimir Pulaski Founders Medal - This medal can be presented to the primary chartering members of any new chapter; however, compatriots can only be awarded the medal once. The State Society decides who is to be awarded the medals, based on the initial signers of the Chapter Charter on the date it is chartered. The medal set and accompanying certificate can be given to the Charter signing Compatriot Members of a new chapter, as seen fit by the Chapter's parent Society.

3. Public Service Awards



Heroism Medal - Recognizes outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice in the face of imminent danger, i.e., acts which involve great personal courage and risk to the recipient. It is intended primarily for acts by civilians not in uniform but does not exclude police, firemen, and SAR members. It is not intended to recognize acts that would have been covered by armed forces medals for valor. The medal may also be presented posthumously. An individual may receive this medal multiple times. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy. *Precedence 46.*



Life Saving Medal - The SAR Life Saving Medal is presented to those individuals who have acted to save a human life without necessarily placing their own life or themselves in imminent danger. The medal is intended primarily for acts by civilian ns not in uniform, however, police officers, fire fighters, emergency medical personal, lifeguards, and SAR Compatriots are not excluded from receiving this award. The medal is not intended to recognize acts that would otherwise qualify for military or another organization's valor medals and, in all cases, the fact that the actions of the rescuer saved the life of the victim must be validated by EMS or medical personnel. A Compatriot may receive this medal multiple times. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy. *Precedence 47.*



Law Enforcement Commendation Medal - The Law Enforcement Medal may be given to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement and public safety. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement and is not limited to peace officers but extends to the entire range of persons who make and enforce the law to include, attorneys, judges, prosecutors, legislators, game wardens, court officials, etc. who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected. This does not exclude SAR members. This medal may only be presented to an individual and only once to a person. A chapter must recognize its entrant in the Virginia Society Law Enforcement Officer of the Year contest with this medal. Single acts of heroism must be recognized with the SAR Medal for Heroism. *Precedence 48a.*



Fire Safety Commendation Medal - This award is given to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of fire safety and service. The medal is not limited to firefighters. It may be presented to recognize a variety of fire safety and field service that has evolved into a highly technical and skilled profession with constant study, development, and involvement by dedicated citizens with a single goal – protect human life and property by preventing injuries/casualties due to fire/chemicals. It may be presented only to an individual and only once. This does not exclude SAR members. A chapter must recognize its entrant in the Virginia Society Fire-Safety Person of the Year contest with this medal. Single acts of heroism must be recognized with the SAR Medal for Heroism. *Precedence 48b.*



Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal - This medal is given to those for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of emergency medical services. The medal is intended for paramedics and certified Emergency Medical Technicians and others in the emergency medical field who have performed an act or service beyond that normally expected. It may be presented only to an individual and only once. This does not exclude SAR members. A chapter must recognize its entrant in the Virginia Society Emergency Medical Services Person of the Year contest with this medal. Single acts of heroism must be recognized with the SAR Medal for Heroism. *Precedence 48c.*

4. Citizenship Medals



Silver Good Citizenship Medal - The Silver Good Citizenship Medal recognizes outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service that is of a more local degree (state or regional level) than required for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal. The medal is presented to persons of prominence in the areas of government (including military service), religion, education, business and other professions, and other fields of endeavor. Since it recognizes extensive service, a biographical sketch of the candidate should accompany the request for a medal. There is no requirement that persons must be awarded a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal before they may be awarded a Silver Good Citizenship Medal. Description: The award consists of a circular medal, silver in color, suspended from a ribbon of the society's colors. The obverse of the medal depicts a minuteman standing in front of a plow with an image of the Liberty Bell and the date "1776" surrounded by the words "THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION®" and "GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL." The reverse is inscribed with the phrase "OUR INSPIRATION IS FROM THE PAST, OUR DUTY IS IN THE PRESENT, OUR HOPE IS IN THE FUTURE. AWARDED TO" and includes a space for engraving, all surrounded by laurel leaves. A certificate suitable for engrossing is

available. A miniature medal is also available. Non-member Service Requirements: In the case of a non-member, the National Society or a state society determines the qualifications. Awards of this medal to a national officer of organizations must be approved by the President General before a district, state or chapter makes the award. Compatriot Service Requirements: In the case of a Compatriot, in order to have uniform criteria, the requirement has been established that the member shall have served in six leadership capacities in any of the following local organizations: Church, School, Scouting, Fraternal, Business Associations, Government, Patriotic, Military, Veterans, Conservation, Hereditary, Genealogical, Historical or organized Sports (Little League, etc.). SAR Service Restriction: The Silver Good Citizenship Medal is not used to recognize service to the SAR. SAR service is only recognized by the service medals identified in this handbook and any nationally approved District or State Society service medal. Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: An individual (including Compatriots) may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized. *Precedence 33.*

A Chapter may present this medal only if approved by its state society.



Bronze Good Citizenship Medal - The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is a multi-purpose award designed to recognize individuals whose community (i.e., school, locality, or state) achievements are noteworthy. It can be presented to both adults and minors and to Compatriots (subject to below limitation) and non-Compatriots alike (subject to the below restriction regarding national officers of other organizations).

Non-Compatriot Presentation Suggestions: The following are some examples: 1. Community Involvement: An individual who has made an important contribution to the community that is not as significant as those contributions that would qualify for the Silver Good Citizenship Medal. 2. School Involvement: The outstanding high school student in his/her school considering both citizenship and scholarship. The exact criteria is at the discretion of the presenting authority (i.e., it could be presented to a high school senior or junior based on overall scholarship and citizenship, a high school student with the highest grades in American history, or a high school student with the best record in citizenship, etc.) 3. U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC): This medal is authorized for presentation to an Outstanding Cadet of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), as nominated by his/her Commanding Officer. Eligibility criteria: The award is presented to a cadet who (1) is in the NSCC Program (not the NLCC Program), (2) is in the last, or next to last, year in the NSCC program, (3) is at least a Petty Officer Second Class; (4) is in good standing militarily and scholastically at the time of selection and presentation; (5) demonstrates a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence in the performance of duties; (6) has the potential for greater leadership responsibilities; and (7) is recommended by the unit Commanding Officer. (See Bronze ROTC Medal summary for more information). Compatriot Presentation Requirements: A Compatriot may be awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal if either (1) he has served, subject to the restriction described immediately below, in at least four of the leadership capacities covered under the Silver Good Citizenship Medal (see above), or (2) he

qualifies by some other outstanding achievement in his community. Subsequent awards must be for different service than the service used for prior awards. SAR Service Restriction: The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is not used to recognize service to the SAR. SAR service is only recognized by the service medals identified in this handbook and any nationally approved District or State Society service medal. Subsequent Presentation Authorized: An individual may receive this medal multiple times. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy. *Precedence 43.*

5. Ladies Medals



Daughters of Liberty Medal -The Daughters of Liberty Medal may be presented to a lady recommended by any officer of a chapter, state or National Society, SAR in appreciation for her unselfish devotion, tireless efforts and assistance to the SAR, and who has dedicated her time, energy, ability and/or finances to the organization in support and furtherance of the stated objectives of the SAR. Awards of this medal to a national officer of any organization must be approved by the President General before a district, state or chapter makes the award. This is the highest lady's medal and consideration in awarding this medal should be given only after the SAR Medal of Appreciation or the Martha Washington Medal has been presented. Chapters: A Chapter may nominate a lady for this medal, but it must be approved by the State Society; a Chapter may present the approved Daughters of Liberty Medal if authorized by the State Society. *Precedence 13 or 18* (dependent on awarding authority).



Lydia Darragh Medal - The Lydia Darragh Medal may be awarded by the incumbent State Society President or Chapter President to the lady who has provided significant service to him during his term. The medal will recognize the assistance of the ladies who work behind the scenes supporting SAR programs, but whose service does not meet the requirements for the Martha Washington Medal. It may only be presented once per year at the discretion of the State Society President or Chapter President. The medal should be presented at the annual society meeting by the outgoing State Society President or Chapter President, and the service citation should be read at the time of presentation. *Precedence 19 or 26* (dependent on awarding authority).

A lady may receive this medal only once from a chapter or state society.



SAR Medal of Appreciation - This medal is presented to a member of the DAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the SAR. The medal may recognize assistance in obtaining a specific number of new SAR members or otherwise significantly aiding the SAR programs. Oak Leaf Clusters may be presented to an individual if she qualifies by service to SAR rendered after the presentation of the medal or an oak leaf cluster. *Precedence 21 or 28* (dependent on awarding authority).



Martha Washington Medal - This medal may be presented to a woman over 18 years of age in recognition of outstanding service to SAR. Oak Leaf Clusters may be presented to an individual if she qualifies by service rendered to the SAR after receiving the medal or oak leaf cluster. *Precedence 22 or 29* (dependent on awarding authority).

6. Specialty Medals



250th Anniversary Recognition Award - The medal is designed recognize those compatriots, chapters, societies and partner organizations who participate in local, state, national and international events which recognize and honor our Patriot ancestors and the events of the American Revolution. The Anniversary period begins in 2014, with the 250th Anniversary of Parliament's passage of the Sugar Act, and extends to 2033, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Celebrations are encouraged to honor and recognize Patriot Ancestors or significant events during public education events. All references to the 250th Anniversary at public celebrations are encouraged to give the broadest exposure to this significant time in our history. Medal points are earned for taking part in each celebration that brings attention to the 250th Anniversary period of 2014 through 2033. *Precedence 24.*

Requirements for Earning the Gold 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal:

1. A formal score sheet will be made available for the calculation of the levels.
The following should be kept in mind:
 - a. An "event" may refer to an event which may be part of an ongoing program (repetitive events) or activity focused on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution or events that led up to the Revolution, in accordance with the time period listed above.

- b. Points are cumulative, so a compatriot may earn points for multiple aspects of the event and subsequent events.
 - c. Extra points are awarded for color guard performance and for attendance in colonial attire.
 - d. Attending a Chapter, State, District or National meeting only counts towards award points if it includes a specific 250th Anniversary event.
2. Awards are based on activity and the awarding of points for each type of activity:
- a. Directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event or sub-committee for the duration of the event. (20 points)
 - b. Participation in the planning, financing, promotion or conduct of an event other than directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event. Those that do direct, chair or co-chair an event and also serve as a regular member of a committee or sub-committee in a non-leadership role, may also earn points. (10 points) Effective: April 24, 2023 - 37 –
 - c. Attending an Event (3 points)
 - d. Attending an event in Colonial Attire (5 points)

3. SAR Members may be awarded the Gold 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal for achieving a total of 150 promotion points as certified by his chapter, state, district, or national society. This is 90 points over and above the points required for the Silver Medal. Events used to qualify for the Bronze and Silver Medal may be counted towards qualification for the Gold Medal. There is no requirement for a member to earn the Bronze or Silver Medals before submitting for the Gold Medal.

The President General may award the Gold 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal to a Non-SAR member, or to one of its Partners in Patriotism, who has significantly assisted in the SAR's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: Individuals may receive only one medal for each level (i.e., one Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze). Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.

Requirements for Earning the **Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal:**

1. A formal score sheet will be made available for the calculation of the levels. The following should be kept in mind:
 - a. An "event" may refer to an event which may be part of an ongoing program (repetitive events) or activity focused on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution or events that led up to the Revolution, in accordance with the time period listed above.
 - b. Points are cumulative, so a compatriot may earn points for multiple aspects of the event and subsequent events.
 - c. Extra points are awarded for color guard performance and for attendance in colonial attire.
 - d. Attending a Chapter, State, District or National meeting only counts towards award points if it includes a specific 250th Anniversary event.
2. Awards are based on activity and the awarding of points for each type of activity:

- a. Directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event or sub-committee for the duration of the event. (20 points) Effective: April 24, 2023.
 - b. Participation in the planning, financing, promotion or conduct of an event other than directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event. Those that do direct, chair or co-chair an event and also serve as a regular member of a committee or sub-committee in a non- leadership role, may also earn points. (10 points)
 - c. Attending an Event (3 points)
 - d. Attending an event in Colonial Attire (5 points)
3. SAR Members may be awarded the Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal for achieving a total of 60 promotion points as certified by his chapter, state, district, or national society. This is 35 points over and above the points required for the Bronze Medal. Events used to qualify for the Bronze Medal may be counted towards qualification for the Silver Medal. There is no requirement for a member to earn the Bronze Medal before submitting for the Silver Medal. 4. The State President may award the Silver 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal to a Non-SAR member, or to one of its Partners in Patriotism, who has significantly assisted in the SAR's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. A State Society may also nominate one of its Partners in Patriotism to the National Society for higher recognition. *Precedence 38.*

Requirements for Earning the **Bronze 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal:**

- 1. A formal score sheet will be made available for the calculation of the levels. The following should be kept in mind: Effective: April 24, 2023 - 55 –
 - a. An “event” may refer to an event which may be part of an ongoing program (repetitive events) or activity focused on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution or events that led up to the Revolution, in accordance with the time period listed above.
 - b. Points are cumulative, so a compatriot may earn points for multiple aspects of the event and subsequent events.
 - c. Extra points are awarded for color guard performance and for attendance in colonial attire.
 - d. Attending a Chapter, State, District or National meeting only counts towards award points if it includes a specific 250th Anniversary event.
- 2. Awards are based on activity and the awarding of points for each type of activity:
 - a. Directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event or sub-committee for the duration of the event. (20 points)
 - b. Participation in the planning, financing, promotion or conduct of an event other than directing, chairing, or co-chairing an event. Those that do direct, chair or co-chair an event and also serve as a regular member of a committee or sub-committee in a non-leadership role, may also earn points. (10 points)
 - c. Attending an Event (3 points)
 - d. Attending an event in Colonial Attire (5 points)
- 3. SAR Members may be awarded the Bronze 250th Anniversary Recognition

Medal for achieving a total of 25 promotion points as certified by his chapter, state, district, or national society. The Chapter President may award the Bronze 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal to a Non-SAR member, or to one of its Partners in Patriotism, who has significantly assisted in the SAR's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. A Chapter may also nominate one of its may also nominate their Partners in Patriotism to the National Society or their State Society for higher recognition. *Precedence 45.*



Patriot Grave Marking Medal - To qualify for the Patriot Grave Marking Medal, the following criteria must be met:

- a. The Compatriot/C.A.R. Member must have participated in a prominent role during the planning and execution of the grave marking. This includes, but is not limited to, researching/finding the grave, paying for or placing the SAR marker, or being the Master of Ceremonies and Speaker/Presenter. If the member is paying for the marker his contribution towards the marker must be at least \$60 per marker. With respect to the researching or paying for the SAR marker, a compatriot does not need to be a resident of the state in which the grave is located to conduct these activities.
- b. The Compatriot/C.A.R. Member must have participated, as defined above, in at least fifteen (15) grave marking events with a look-back period to 1 March 2011. For the purposes of this requirement, if a mass grave is marked or if multiple graves are marked in a single cemetery, the Compatriot/C.A.R. Member will be allowed to count a maximum of five (5) patriots towards this requirement.
- c. Up to, but no more than, 50% of the submitted grave markings may be without the placement of an SAR marker.
- d. The Compatriot/C.A.R. Member must have submitted data on the Grave location, including but not limited to providing photographs, address, GPS location and such other data as required by the NSSAR Patriot Records Committee, to both their State Patriot Graves Committee (if one is established) and the NSSAR Patriot Records Committee prior to applying for the medal.

Special Application Required: Compatriots/C.A.R. Members who believe they qualify for the medal must complete the appropriate form setting forth their qualifications and including the supporting documentation. This form is available on the SAR website and must be signed by either the state society president or the state patriot graves committee chairman (as reported to the NSSAR Patriot Records Committee). The form must be submitted to the NSSAR Patriot Records Committee. Subsequent Presentation Authorized: The medal may be awarded multiple times. Effective: April 24, 2023 A bronze oak leaf cluster shall be awarded for each additional fifteen (15) grave markings

meeting the requirements listed above. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy. *Precedence 19.*

7. Youth Awards & Programs



Eagle Scout Medal - This medal is presented to the winner of the Chapter Eagle Scout contest. Application form can be found at <https://www.sar.org/?s=eagle+scout>. Due date for application submission to local VASSAR chapter is 15 December of each year.



JROTC Medal - This bronze medal and ribbon bar are awarded to students enrolled in a JROTC program at a local school or academy. The unit commander/senior military science instructor should pick the winner.



ROTC Medal - This silver medal is presented to students enrolled in a college or university R.O.T.C. program based on leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. The unit commander/senior military instructor should pick the winner.



JROTC State Award - This medallion and ribbon bar are presented to the JROTC State winner of the Enhanced JROTC Scholarship Competition.



JROTC Chapter Award – This neck medallion and ribbon bar are presented to the JROTC Chapter winner of the Enhanced JROTC Scholarship Competition



Chapter Orations Medal – This bronze neck medallion and certificate are presented to the chapter orations winner.



State Orations Medal – This silver neck medallion and certificate are presented to the state orations winner



Chapter Essay Contest Medal - This medallion and certificate are presented to the winner of the Chapter's Essay Contest winner.



State Essay Contest Medal - This medallion and certificate are presented to the winner of the State's Essay Contest winner



Youth Education Award - The Youth Education Medal will be awarded to a Compatriot after 15 educational presentations have been made. The look-back period for qualifying presentations will extend back to 1 January 2021. The presentations must be given to preschool or school age children. The presentations may be given in both public and private schools. The presentations may be given in or out of the classroom. Presentations made in different classes during the same day, in the same school, may be counted as separate presentations if specific data such as teacher or separate class periods is provided. Presentations given as part of a 'school day' for living history events are acceptable. The presentations may also be given to youth groups or organizations such as, but not limited to the following: Children of the American Revolution, American Heritage Girls, Trail Life, Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, home school COOPS, church youth groups, etc.

The presentations must be recorded in the Chapter and Societies' Americanism Report to be used towards the tracking and award of the PG's Education Outreach Streamer. Presenters should develop and submit Presenter Data Sheets to the National Education Committee and must have completed Youth Protection Training.

8. Virginia Society Medals



The Virginia Society Medal - shall be awarded on behalf of the Virginia Society for outstanding contributions to the State Society and its Chapters, such as but not limited to consistently enrolling new members, making an exceptional effort to further National, State, and/or Chapter programs, making *extraordinary* contributions to a patriotic community project, or consistently providing a Chapter with distinguished representation at the state level, or the state distinguished representation at the national level. The State Society Awards Committee shall have the authority and responsibility to review, consider, and then approve or deny the award of the Virginia Society Medal on behalf of the Virginia Society for service or contributions to the State Society, a Chapter or Chapters. If the award of the Virginia Society Medal is recommended by a Chapter for service to a Chapter or Chapters the recommending Chapter in its nomination shall fully justify its request at the time of the nomination of the candidate for such Award. The medal is worn above; the Virginia Society State Service Medal, the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal, above all other specialty medals of the Virginia Society, including the Jamestown Medal, and above all Chapter medals. Virginia Society Medals can be purchased from the Society office or through the Virginia Society Awards Committee. An individual may receive this award multiple times. An Oak Leaf Cluster may be awarded in lieu of another Virginia Society Medal to compatriots who already have been awarded this medal. *Precedence 61*



The Virginia Society State Service Medal - also known as the Madison Medal, may be awarded by the Virginia Society to recognize the service of individuals to the Society. This medal was developed to provide a logical and sequential way to recognize at the various levels of service by members and non-members to the Virginia Society and to the National Society. The medal features a portrait of James Madison, a colonial 'giant' known for his service to his state and his nation. This award is to be presented by VASSAR, as the State Society, to individuals who make a **significant** contribution to the overall success, membership growth, positive public exposure, or program participation by the State Society above that which warrants a simple certificate of appreciation and below that which would justify the award of the Virginia Society Medal. While not mandatory, this Award normally would encompass service beyond a single event. An Oak Leaf Cluster may be awarded in lieu of another Virginia Society State Service Medal to individuals who already have been awarded the medal.

The State Society Awards Committee shall be responsible for determining if the actions or service of a specific individual meet the INTENT of this award. However, the Committee shall use caution that the Award NOT be indiscriminately awarded. The order of precedence of the Virginia Society State Service Medal is immediately below the Virginia Society Medal and above the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal.

Note: This award will ONLY be presented by the Virginia SAR at the STATE level. This medal may not be presented by a Chapter; however, Chapters or individual SAR members may recommend to the Committee the award of this medal to a deserving individual. *Precedence 61a.*



The Virginia Society Ladies State Service Medal (Dolley Madison Medal)

Established in 2010, the Virginia Society Ladies State Service Medal, also known as the Dolley Madison Medal, may be awarded by the Virginia Society to recognize the service of women to the Society. The medal features a portrait of Dolley Madison, an indispensable ally, helper and companion to her husband, James Madison. This award is to be presented by VASSAR, as the State Society, to individuals who make **significant and sustained** contributions to the overall success, membership growth, positive public exposure, or program participation by the State Society above that which warrants a certificate of appreciation. While not mandatory, this Award normally would encompass service beyond a single event.

The State Society Awards Committee shall be responsible for determining if the actions or service of a specific individual meet the intent of this award. However, the Committee shall use caution that the award is not indiscriminately awarded. Among SAR medals that may be awarded to women, the order of precedence of the Virginia Society Ladies State Service Medal is immediately below the Martha Washington Medal and above the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal.

Note: This award will ONLY be presented by the Virginia SAR at the STATE level. This medal may not be presented by a Chapter.



The Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal - Established in 2007, the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal may be awarded by any Chapter to recognize the service of individuals to that Chapter. The medal is an elliptical medal bearing the image of a pineapple, the colonial symbol for hospitality. The medal is earned for service or a set of services rising to a level of significance above that normally warranting a Certificate of Appreciation but below the level of valuable and outstanding contributions required for the Virginia Society Medal. Each Chapter, appropriate to its own circumstances, should develop guidelines for distinguishing among these three levels of service within the guidelines established in paragraph 1.F. An Oak Leaf Cluster may be awarded in lieu of another Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal to individuals who already have been awarded the medal. The medal is worn below the Virginia Society State Service Medal and above all specialty medals of the Virginia Society, including the Jamestown Medal. Chapter Service Medals may be purchased from the Virginia Society Awards Committee. *Precedence 61b.*



The Virginia SAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal - Established in 2019, The Virginia SAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal shall be awarded to Virginia SAR, DAR and/or C.A.R. members who successfully enroll ten (10) patriot graves according to the guidelines of the Virginia SAR Revolutionary War (VSRWGPP) and have complied with the following requirements:

- A. Identify a patriot and verify his/her service.
- B. Locate the burial spot and record the location of the cemetery by physical address and/or decimal latitude and longitude.
- C. If a gravestone or plaque exists, photograph and record its position in decimal latitude and longitude.
- D. Identify the caretaker of the grave and ensure that the proper form is completed to request funds from the VSRWGPP.
- E. Submit the completed form to the VSRWGPP administrator via email and/or U.S. Postal Service.

The Virginia SAR President may also award this medal to individuals demonstrating exceptional service in the preservation of Revolutionary War patriot graves in Virginia. Such award is not limited to SAR, DAR or C.A.R. members and may be awarded posthumously.

Oak Leaf Clusters may be awarded in lieu of an additional medal for each ten (10) graves subsequently enrolled in the VSRWGPP.

Note: This award will ONLY be presented by the Virginia SAR at the STATE level. This medal may not be presented by a Chapter; however, Chapters or individual SAR members may recommend to the Committee the award of this medal to a deserving individual. *Precedence 61c.*



The Virginia SAR Patrick Henry Youth Education Medal - This medal is designed to recognize and reward Compatriots for making historical, educational or patriotic presentations to elementary school classrooms and youth groups. The medal is earned upon 10 historical, educational or patriotic presentations to elementary school classrooms or other youth groups in the same grade range including public, private and home schools, CAR societies or Scouting groups. Presentations made in different classes during the same day in the same school may be counted separately as long as specific data such as teacher name or separate class period is documented. The medal will recognize presentations for the 2020 calendar year forward.

The Compatriot must have completed and currently hold a NSSAR Youth Protection

Training certificate. Precedence 61d.



The Virginia SAR Color Guard Medal (William Flora Medal) - Earning this medal requires active color guard participation (dressed out) in 6 events with at least 1 from each of the 3 categories listed below. This would increase if the number of State Events from Presidential Initiatives, or National events that are sponsored by Virginia State Society are counted.

• Categories:

o Meetings: Annual, Semi-Annual.

o National: Crossing the Dan, Raid at Martin's Station, Yorktown Monument, Great Bridge.

o State: Peter Muhlenberg's Last Sermon, Daniel Morgan's Beeline March, Wayne's Crossing, Fairfax Resolves Commemoration, Culpeper Minuteman Muster, Abingdon Muster, Battle of Spencer's Ordinary.

Policy in effect as of June 1st, 2023.



Eagle Scout Recognition Medal - The Eagle Scout Recognition medal was authorized in 2022. The red, white and blue colors of the drape symbolize honor, loyalty and courage and are present on ribbons of the BSA Eagle Scout and the Robert E Burt awards. The silver eagle on a field of blue in the center of the medallion represents the eagle on the eagle statue awarded to the state winner of the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest.

The medal is earned upon the presentation of 10 Eagle Scout recognition packages consisting of a certificate, congratulatory letter and scholarship information flyer at an Eagle Court of Honor. Presentations at a Court of Honor for more than one Eagle Scout counts as the number presented. Alternatively, delivery of fifty such packages via mail satisfies the requirement. The Virginia SAR President may also award this medal to individuals demonstrating exceptional service in the cultivation of relationships with the Boy Scouts of America in Virginia.

The Eagle Scout Recognition medal will be administered by the Virginia SAR Eagle Scout Program committee. Chapters will be responsible for documenting the names of Compatriots who participated in qualifying presentations for the purposes of the Eagle Scout Recognition medal. The Compatriot must have completed and currently hold a NSSAR Youth Protection Training certificate. *Precedence 61f.*



The Road to Virginia's Independence Medal (aka Virginia's Independence Medal) - This medal shall be presented to members of the SAR/DAR/C.A.R. who meet the criteria of being present at all six of the events leading to Lord Dunmore's departure. These events are:

- Gunpowder Incident in Williamsburg
- Skirmish at Hampton
- Skirmish at Kemp's Landing
- Battle of Great Bridge
- Burning of Norfolk
- Battle of Cricket Hill & Gwynn's Island

A bar denoting the 250th Anniversary will be added to the drape for those who attend all six events during the commemoration of their 250th anniversary.

9. Chapter Medals

Chapters may develop, design, and present their own 'Chapter' Medals but they must conform to the guidelines specified in the Virginia Society Bylaws. Specifically, Chapters wishing to issue their own medals after December 01, 2007 must obtain approval from the Virginia Society Awards Committee prior to production or purchase of new Chapter medals.

10. Pins and Certificates

Former State President's Pin and Certificate

The pin is worn in the "V" of the officer's neck ribbon to show he served as a state president. The certificate and pin should be presented by the society to the former president immediately after the new president is sworn in.

Former Chapter President's Pin and Certificate

The pin is worn in the "V" of the officer's neck ribbon to show he served as a chapter president. The certificate and pin should be presented by the chapter to the former president immediately after the new president is sworn in.

Commonwealth of Virginia Pin

This pin bears the logo of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is presented to the outgoing state president after the new president is sworn in.

Distinguished Service Certificate

This certificate is to recognize outstanding personal service exemplifying the finest American ideals.

Outstanding Citizenship Certificate.

This multipurpose certificate may be used at the discretion of the Virginia Society or Chapter making the presentation. One specific use is to present this certificate in lieu of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal when there are budgetary constraints.

Outstanding Citizenship Award Lapel Pin. (for Non-SAR Members)

This pin recognizes deserving students for high ideals of character and citizenship. Usually awarded to grades K-10, grades 11, 12 may be awarded the Bronzed Good Citizenship Medal vice the pin.)

Virginia Society Presidential Award Certificate.

The President may present to those persons who have assisted him during his term with the Virginia Society Presidential Award. This award is a certificate recognizing services rendered to the President and in turn to the Virginia Society. The President, without any prior approval, may make a maximum of five awards per term. The Awards Committee, based upon written justification, must approve any awards over this number.

Certificate of Appreciation.

This is a multi-purpose certificate that can be used by any SAR organization for recognition of service by members, speakers, and for any other persons that may provide services and support to the SAR.

C.A.R. Membership Pin

This is a lapel or tie tac style pin that shows your pride in transferring your membership from the Children of the American Revolution to the Sons of the American Revolution. Chapters may order it for presentation to Chapter members.

Eagle Scout Pin

This is a lapel or tie tac style pin that shows a member's pride in being an Eagle Scout and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Chapters may order it for presentation to Chapter members.

5 to 60 Year Membership Pin

These are lapel or tie tac style pins showing the number of years in 5-year intervals of membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. Chapters may order it for presentation to Chapter members.

Life Membership Pin

This is a lapel or tie tac style pin showing that you have enlisted as a Life Member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Chapters may order it for presentation to Chapter members.

The Eagle Scout Certificate

This certificate is presented by chapters to scouts achieving Eagle Scout.

State Oration Certificate

This certificate accompanies the medal but may also be purchased and given separately.

Joseph S Rumbaugh Certificate

This certificate may be given to all contestants of the state and chapter level orations

contest.

Joseph S Rumbaugh Sponsor Certificate

This certificate may be given to sponsors of the contest.

State Essay Certificate

This certificate accompanies the medal but may also be purchased and given separately

Chapter Essay Certificate

This certificate accompanies the medal but may also be purchased and given separately

Flag Certificate.

This certificate is presented to an individual, company, or government agency that flies the American Flag properly and for patriotic purposes only.

E. RULES FOR ADDITIONAL AWARDS OF THE SAME MEDAL AND THE USE OF OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

1. You must present any medal within its eligibility criteria. Please review the guidance for each medal carefully. Questions about the criteria or approval process should be directed to the Awards Committee.
2. Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC) are awarded for additional, separate, and distinct acts of service. If a person has received additional medals of the same kind, he or she should use the oak leaf cluster system and not wear two or more of the same medals.
3. OLCs come in three colors, bronze, silver and gold. A bronze OLC is worn for each additional medal up to five. If more than five medals are presented, a silver OLC should be worn in lieu of each five bronzes, and a gold OLC is worn in lieu of two silver OLCs.
4. As a rule, OLCs are worn in a vertical row centered on the ribbon with each leaf nearly horizontal and the large part of the leaf slightly elevated and pointed to the wearer's left.
5. OLCs may be worn on the War Service Medal when a bronze bar for the action is not available, please consult the SAR Handbook for details.
6. The Liberty Medal is an exception to both the numbers and the placement. Bronze oak leaf clusters are given for each additional 10 new members recruited in a five-year period, silver oak leaf cluster is given in lieu of 10 bronzes, a gold oak leaf cluster is given in lieu of 10 silvers. Consult the description of the Liberty Medal in SAR handbook for the placement of OLCs on the ribbon.

IV. SOCIETY AND CHAPTER AWARDS

A. NATIONAL SOCIETY AWARDS THAT AN BE EARNED BY THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OR THE CHAPTERS

The requirements for these awards are in Vol. VI of the NSSAR Handbook.

1. NATIONAL AWARDS FOR THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY

1. President General's Streamer Award
2. Officer's Streamer Award
3. President General's Color Guard Trophy Award
4. Color Guard Streamer Award
5. N.S.C.A.R. Activity Streamer
6. Admiral William R Furlong Memorial Streamer
7. President General's State Society and Chapter Activities Competition
8. Grahame T Smallwood Jr. Award
9. Marian L. Brown Eagle Scout Award
10. Allene Wilson Groves Americanism Award
11. The SAR Magazine Award
12. William Y. Pryor Award

13. At least 14 other awards concerning membership, annual congress attendance and newsletters can be found in the NSSAR handbook.

2. NATIONAL AWARDS FOR VIRGINIA CHAPTERS:

1. President General's Streamer Award
2. USS Stark Memorial Streamer
3. President General's State Society & Chapter Activities Competition
4. President General's Cup
5. The Carl F. Bessent Award
6. Liberty Bell Americanism Award

B. VIRGINIA SOCIETY AWARDS THAT CAN BE EARNED BY CHAPTERS

1. NSSAR Americanism Report and Virginia SAR Supplement Report

The Chapter Annual Report Form was introduced in 1993 and replaced by the NSSAR Americanism Report in 2018. The annual Americanism Report and a Virginia SAR Supplement Report are the current vehicles to determine annual chapter awards. Both reports query a Chapter about its participation in the permanent programs of the national, state and chapters, special initiatives of the Virginia Society President for the year, and special initiatives undertaken by a Chapter which the Virginia Society should acknowledge and recognize. It serves as a means for the state officers and chairmen to establish direction for Chapters to plan their activities for the year, a reminder to chapters about opportunities for activities both in planning and reporting, a vehicle for the Chapters to communicate their activities to the Virginia Society, and a basis for the Virginia Society to recognize Chapters that do an outstanding job

2. Chapter Awards

1. The Chapter Excellence Award

The Chapter Excellence Award recognizes Chapters that, in a year, do a good job on a wide range of programs. The Americanism Report groups activities into program areas corresponding to the numbered items. Any Chapter that was active in most of the program areas is recognized with the award. The number of program areas will vary from year to year, so a fixed number of program areas cannot be given as a hard and fast rule. As an example, for a year in which there were 10 areas, meaningful participation in about seven or eight would be sufficient to earn the award. No program area is given weight over others for this award.

2. The Best Chapter Award

The Best Chapter Award recognizes the best Chapters in the Virginia Society for four different size categories: 1-40 members (Small Chapter); 41-90 members (Medium Chapter); 91-150 (Large Chapter) and 151 or more members (Very Large Chapter). Although it is intended that the Best Chapters cover a wide range of programs, it is not intended that the award be given to a Chapter that stretched itself so thin it shows a token effort in most areas over a Chapter that may have missed an area or two but did an excellent job in numerous activities in which it participated. “Best” means best overall, not the broadest or best in this or that program.

1) Judging for the award is accomplished in the following manner. The judges examine the Americanism and Supplement Reports; and, for a first cut, assign one of three ratings to each program area: no significant activity, participated, excelled, perhaps noting borderline cases.

2) Two “short lists” are then created for each size category: The Chapters with the fewest “No significant activity” ratings and the Chapters with the most “Excelled.” Typically, the contest will usually come down to those Chapters which, for a given size category, appear on both lists. In fact, at this point it is sometimes obvious which Chapter is the winner for a given size category because it is clearly first on both lists.

3) For a close contest, which often occurs, the judges will need to scrutinize the performance of the top contenders quite closely, ranking the contending Chapters in each program area to determine the outcome. Judges should avoid assigning specific point totals to different program areas. The use of open-ended point totals would make it possible for a Chapter to win the award by an extraordinary performance in a single activity that is by nature open-ended, such as registering 400 graves. Such a method diminishes the importance of activities that are not inherently open-ended, like sponsoring a contestant in the oration contest or essay contest and encourages gaming.

3. The Sustained Achievement Award

The Sustained Achievement Award recognizes Chapters that do a sound job in carrying out certain programs year in and year out. In 1994, these awards were established as permanent awards for Revolutionary Grave Marking and participation in the Rumbaugh Oration Contest. They were first awarded at the Annual Meeting in 1995 for sustaining the oration contest back to 1990 and the grave-marking program retroactive to 1985. A Chapter earns the award for carrying out one or both specific programs for four consecutive years. Thus, a Chapter which marked a Revolutionary War Patriot grave in 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994 would earn a Sustained Achievement Award. If the Chapter marked a grave in 1995, it would not earn another award, but rather would be credited with the first year of a possible series of 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998. For subsequent sustained achievement awards for the same program, a star is awarded that is affixed to the streamer. The criterion for sustaining the Rumbaugh Oration Contest is sponsoring an orator who delivers a speech at the Annual Meeting. The calendar year in which a Chapter conducts its local contest is not relevant, and a Chapter receives no credit for this award if its orator does not participate in the state contest.

4. The Outstanding Accomplishment Award

The Outstanding Accomplishment Award is typically useful where consecutive years of participation are not an appropriate measure, but some other measure is appropriate. The four areas where the Virginia Society has established this award are: Revolutionary War Patriot Graves Registration, History Day Support, Program Innovation, and Recognition of Forgotten Patriots.

1) The Revolutionary War Patriot Graves Registration program was established at the Semiannual Meeting in 1994 and first given at the Annual Meeting in 1994. The objective of the Revolutionary Graves Registration award is to give chapters incentive to register graves and register them quickly. We do not want to give Chapters incentive to hold registrations so they can be assured of having a grave to register the next year. A Chapter earns the award for every 10 graves it registers without respect to time limits. If a Chapter registered a grave in 1995 and then registers nine more in 1999, it earns the award. If it registers 35 graves in 1995 (assuming no carryover from previous years), it earns three awards and has five registrations to carry towards the next award. A flag streamer is awarded the first time a Chapter earns the award, and a star is affixed to the streamer on subsequent occasions when the Chapter earns the award. To receive credit for graves registered, a Chapter must submit registrations through the state program chairman or must provide copies to the program chairman.

2) History Day Support was established as a permanent program in 2006. Chapters are credited with points for supporting History Day in one of five ways:

1. Financial contributions – 1 point per \$25 donated.
2. Judging – 1 point for each judge provided.
3. Attendance – 1 point for each member attending a District, State, or National Competition. (Judges are counted here also)
4. Promoting History Day – 1 point for each school that the chapter has encouraged to participate.
5. Recognition – 1 point for each good citizenship medal or pin awarded to recognize achievement in History Day.

3) If a Chapter develops good, new ideas or processes for meeting a goal of the SAR mission or carrying out a program, it can be recognized with an award for program innovation. The Awards Committee makes this determination from the Chapter Report Form and other information that may be provided.

4) The Virginia Society voted to establish the Forgotten Patriot program as a permanent program at the 2006 Semiannual Meeting. A chapter is recognized for each application, approved by the National Society, on a patriot on whom no person has joined the SAR or DAR using a valid line and service. The Virginia Society gives further recognition for remembering Forgotten Patriots who were Virginians.

5) The Program Innovation Award allows the Awards Committee to recognize innovative ways a chapter has supported the goals of the SAR. not covered by any other award.

5. The Special Chapter Award

The Special Chapter Award is used to recognize outstanding performance in a program activity that is a part of a presidential initiative for a particular year, whether permanent or special. Because they are not permanent awards, they do not require approval by the General Membership of the Virginia Society. Presidential Initiatives are noted in the Chapter Report Form and often announced by the incoming President at the Annual Meeting.

V. PROTOCOL FOR WEARING OF MEDALS

See NSSAR Official Handbook, Vol IV, Insignia, Protocol, Ceremonies & Rituals

VI. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THIS VOLUME

This volume may be changed by a majority vote of the general membership in attendance at a regular meeting of the Virginia Society, or a special meeting of The Virginia Society called for the purpose of considering changes. Electronic notification and posting of either the entire volume or a Summary of Changes to the Virginia Dispatches satisfies all requirements of prior notification. A summary of the proposed changes shall be distributed by the Secretary to the general membership attending the meeting.

Approval of revisions that do not materially change the substance of an article, item, or program such as correcting spelling, capitalization, grammar, syntax, organization or location of sections within the volume may be made by the Executive Committee.

VII. APPENDICES

Periodic administrative updates to Volume 4 appendices are allowed by recommendation of the Awards Committee and approval of the Executive Committee without being voted on by the General Membership.

Appendix A - Award Forms

Appendix B - Virginia Society SAR Award Streamer Specifications

Appendix C - Virginia Society SAR Individual Awards

Appendix A - Awards Forms

Listed below are the forms applicable to awards mentioned in this volume. The most current forms can be found on the NSSAR Website, the VASSAR Members Click Website and in the NSSAR Handbook.

List of Forms

Minuteman Award Guidelines

Minuteman Award Nomination Form **(Legal Sized Paper)**

Gold Good Citizenship Nomination Form

State Medal of Distinguished Service Nomination Form

Patriot Medal Nomination

Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMT and Heroism Awards Report

Color Guard Reporting Form

Robert B Vance “Best Website” Contest Entry and Reporting Form

Americanism Award Contest Entry and Reporting Form

President General’s Award Score Sheet

USS Stark Memorial Award Worksheet & Contest Entry; Service to Veterans Medal Award Guidelines.

General William C. Westmoreland Award Entry Form

Military Service Record Reporting Form

Appendix B - Virginia Society SAR Award Streamer Specifications

Streamers are 2 ½ inches wide and 30 inches long with horizontal gold lettering. The colors are generally: Purple, Maroon, Blue, Red, Black, and Hunter Green. Streamer colors and gold lettering are standard stock colors and do not require the surcharges that come with custom colors. Most streamers are dated with the award year. Subsequent awards for undated streamers are recognized with five-eighths inch (5/8") iron-on gold metallic thread stars. Chapter name is identified on the tag attached to the streamers.

Virginia Society Cup – chapter from each size category with most points on the Supplemental Report.—**Blue (1st place), Red (2nd Place) & White (3rd Place)**

Best Chapter Award –**Purple (1st Place), Red (2nd Place) & White (3rd Place)**

BEST VERY LARGE CHAPTER 20XX
BEST LARGE CHAPTER 20XX
BEST MEDIUM CHAPTER 20XX
BEST SMALL CHAPTER 20XX

Chapter Excellence Awards (no limit, often 10 or 12) --**Maroon**

CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD 20XX

BASED ON NUMBER OF CATEGORIES PARTICIPATED IN THAT ARE REPORTED ON THE AMERICANISM REPORT. AVERAGE NUMBER OF ALL CHAPTERS IS CALCULATED. AWARD IS EARNED BY THOSE CHAPTERS EXCEEDING THAT AVERAGE.

Best Program (one per program with this kind of award) --**Blue**

JENNINGS H. FLATHERS AWARD 20XX

[Best Chapter Newsletter]

CHESTER E. MAY AWARD 20XX

[Sponsor of the VASSAR Teacher of the Year]

DONALD W. BALDWIN AWARD 20XX

[Largest Membership Increase]

CARROLL WRIGHT AWARD 20XX

[Largest Percentage of Membership Increase]

Sustained Achievement (no limit, few if any per year) --**Red**

REVOLUTIONARY GRAVE MARKING (2XXX – 2XXX)

[Chapter marked at least one grave 4 consecutive years]

RUMBAUGH ORATION PROGRAM (2XXX – 2XXX)

[Chapter sponsored at least one contestant 4 consecutive years]

Program Excellence (no limit, few if any per year)—**Black**

REVOLUTIONARY GRAVE REGISTRATION

[1 for each 10 registered; multiples of 10 honored with stars for streamer]
HISTORY DAY SUPPORT 20XX
PROGRAM INNOVATION 20XX
FORGOTTEN PATRIOTS

[Streamer with one star for each additional Forgotten Patriot Recognized,
and one additional star for each Virginian {to be identified by the word
“Virginian” on the streamer}]

Sponsor of Best Contestant (one winner/program) --**Hunter Green**

SPONSOR, T & B LAWRENCE AMERICAN HISTORY TEACHER NOMINEE 20XX
SPONSOR, TEACHER OF THE YEAR
SPONSOR, BEST ORATION 20XX
SPONSOR, BEST ESSAY 20XX
SPONSOR, BEST JROTC CADET 20XX
SPONSOR, BEST EAGLE SCOUT 20XX
SPONSOR, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 20XX
SPONSOR, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSON OF THE YEAR 20XX
SPONSOR, BEST FIRE/SAFETY PERSON 20XX
SPONSOR, BEST EMS PERSON 20XX
SPONSOR, HERO OF THE YEAR 20XX
SPONSOR, LIFE SAVER OF THE YEAR 20XX
BEST CHAPTER WEBSITE 20XX
BEST CHAPTER SCRAPBOOK 20XX
BEST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER 20XX

Participant, Public Service Contests – **Light Blue**

A chapter must nominate a candidate in one or more of the public service categories.

Participant, Youth Programs/Contests – **Light Blue**

A chapter must nominate a candidate in one or more of the youth programs/contests.

100% Participation – Flag Program (if all VASSAR chapters participate) --**Hunter Green**

Presidential Initiatives (usually 2 to 3 initiatives) --**Light Blue**

John Blair Public Service Award - - **Red and Gray Double Ribbon w/Tassel**

Nominations in all 5 categories: streamer

Wink and Wayne Award – earned by those chapters that entered all 7 youth programs.

Flag Retirement Program

A chapter must present one or more flag retirement certificates to earn the award. It is not necessary that a Chapter actually perform a flag retirement ceremony. The U. S. Flag

Retirement Certificate can be presented to anyone who **PARTICIPATES IN THE DONATION, COLLECTION OR RETIREMENT OF AN UNSERVICEABLE U. S. FLAG.** Therefore, anyone that donates an unserviceable U. S. Flag may be presented a Flag Retirement Certificate. And, anyone that participates in the collection of an unserviceable U. S. Flag may be presented a Flag Retirement Certificate. Finally, anyone who participates in a proper Flag Retirement Ceremony may be presented a Flag Retirement Certificate.

Contributor Flathers-May Fund – **Light Blue**

Appendix C - Virginia SAR Individual Awards

The awards listed below are approved in the annual Virginia SAR Budget and presented at the Annual Meeting unless otherwise noted.

Youth Awards	
Eagle Scout, 1 st Place	\$1,000 and Eagle Trophy
Eagle Scout, 2 nd Place	\$500
Eagle Scout, 3 rd Place	\$300
Knight Essay, 1 st Place	\$1,000 and Medal
Knight Essay, 2 nd Place	\$500
Knight Essay, 3 rd Place	\$300
Rumbaugh Orations, 1 st Place	\$1,000 and Medal and Travel Expense
Rumbaugh Orations, 2 nd Place	\$500
Rumbaugh Orations, 3 rd Place	\$300
ROTC/JROTC, 1 st Place	\$1,000 and Medal
ROTC/JROTC, 2 nd Place	\$500
ROTC/JROTC, 3 rd Place	\$300
Middle School Brochure Contest, 1 st Place **	\$300
Middle School Brochure Contest, 2 nd Place **	\$200
Middle School Brochure Contest, 3 rd Place **	\$100
Elementary School Poster Contest, 1 st Place **	\$200
Elementary School Poster Contest, 2 nd Place **	\$100
Elementary School Poster Contest, 3 rd Place **	\$50

Adult Awards	
Law Enforcement	\$500 and Acrylic
Fire Safety	\$500 and Acrylic
Emergency Medical Services	\$500 and Acrylic
Heroism	\$500 and Acrylic
Good Citizen of the Year	\$500 and Acrylic
Life Saver of the Year	\$500 and Acrylic
Teacher of the Year	\$500 and Acrylic
Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Contest Nominee	\$500 and Acrylic

Other Awards	
Newsletter Editor of the Year	Acrylic
Scrapbook Compiler of the Year	Acrylic
Webmaster of the Year	Acrylic

** Presented in Late Spring.