



SAR National Precedence of Medals January 1, 2022

When wearing medals, the Position of honor is on the wearer's right and on the top, closest to the heart. The general rule of precedence is:

1. Federal decorations for military or civilian service.
2. Federal campaign medals.
3. Foreign decorations, in the order they were received
4. State decorations
5. State campaign decorations
6. State organizational and long-service decorations
7. Decorations of military, hereditary and patriotic societies, in the order of year of founding. Miniatures should not be worn without their ribbons, as the ribbon forms an integral part of the society's insignia.



The medals that we have displayed are in precedence order on this date and are subject to change. The current SAR Handbook will have a current written and photographic list of medals in order of precedence and can be downloaded at sar.org. The SAR Merchandise Department has all standards medals available for purchase; please note that some medals are event only or a reward for contributing to a particular SAR Program.



It is important that you wear medals for all appropriate occasions, such as SAR meetings or events and to the meetings of other lineage societies. Miniature medals should be worn for formal occasions only; on a tuxedo or black suit for evening events. Do not wear them on casual clothing. Full-size medals are worn on a blazer or suit only and not on casual clothing or a uniform. Per National Color Guard handbook, no medals of any kind should be worn on a SAR Color Guard Uniform.

When you wear three or more medals, they should be worn on a ribbon bar in the order of precedence. Mounted medals should be worn with the bottom bar just above the breast pocket. When wearing medals it is appropriate to only wear one pin.

Presidents General and Minutemen have a distinctive medal that they wear on a separate ribbon which is suspended from the neck. In addition State and Chapter Presidents have a medal of office which is worn on a suspended ribbon. These medals of distinction are only worn with blazers, suits, or on formal wear and should not be worn with casual clothing.

This project drew it's material from Volumes IV and V of the NSSAR Hand book which are the definitive document for how to wear the awards and decorations of this society. Please refer to these documents if you have questions.

This project was done as a Missouri Bicentennial gift to the Sons of the American Revolution by members of the Ozark Mountain Chapter, Missouri SAR.

Dan Piedlow, Photographer

J Howard Fisk, Chairman

We thank PG David Appleby, Paul Callanan and Stephen Renouf for their assistance in gathering medals to photograph for this project.



SAR Medals and Their Order of Precedence



1. SAR Badge The SAR Membership Badge is a Maltese cross of four arms and eight points, with a golden ball at each point, enameled in white and a medallion in the center bearing a profiled bust of General George Washington. Surrounding the bust is a blue enameled ribbon containing the SAR Motto – “Libertas et Patria.” A laurel wreath encircles the medallion, midway between it and the points of the cross. The reverse is the same, except that the center medallion bears the figure of a minuteman surrounded by a blue enameled ribbon, inscribed in golden letters, “Sons of the American Revolution.” The cross is surmounted by a golden eagle and suspended from a ribbon of the Society’s colors – blue, buff yellow and white.



2. Minuteman Medal (unless on neck ribbon) - The Minuteman Award is the highest award presented to a Compatriot for active and distinguished service rendered to the National Society. Annually at the Spring Leadership Meeting, the Minuteman Committee (appointed by the President General from members holding the award) will select and announce no more than six award recipients for the current year. The President General presents the award during the Minuteman Ceremony at each Annual Congress; it is not presented *in absentia*. At that ceremony, all previous recipients of the award in attendance, dressed in white dinner jackets, are seated on the dais. A previous recipient of the Minuteman Award, chosen by the honoree, escorts the new honoree to the dais.



3. Gold Good Citizenship Medal – The Gold Good Citizenship Medal is awarded for outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service of national importance to persons of prominence on a national level in the areas of government (including military service), religion, education, business and other professions, and other fields of endeavor.



4. War Service Medal – The War Service Medal was first authorized in 1899 for members who served in the Spanish-American War. It was subsequently authorized for members who served in World War I and World War II. Following World War II, the NSSAR authorized a generic War Service Medal with specific service periods indicated by bronze bars.



4. Military Service Medal – The Military Service Medal, authorized in 2006, may be presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service which does not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal.



5. Heroism Medal – It recognized 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.



6. National Society Medal of Distinguished Service – The incumbent President General may present up to two NMDS's during his tenure (ideally, at the conclusion of his tenure). The Compatriot(s) receiving this award are recognized for conspicuous service to the National Society during the President General's administration. The President General presents this Medal at his discretion; no other approval is required.



7. SAR International Medal – The SAR International Medal is presented only to a foreign dignitary or a non-citizen of the United States. The medal can only be approved by the President General and must be presented by a National Society General Officer.



8. 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. 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.



9. Patriot Medal – The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State 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 State Society. A representative cannot accept the Patriot Medal.



10. State Medal of Distinguished Service – 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 President during his administration. The SMDS is awarded by a State Society President at his discretion; no other approval is required.



11. 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.



12. National/District/State/Chapter Meritorious Service Medal – The National/District/State/Chapter Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered long, faithful and meritorious service to their National Society/District/State/Chapter. The meritorious service rendered should be stated in the citation. The medal is the same medal used for the National Meritorious Service Medal.



13. Gold Roger Sherman Medal – The Gold Roger Sherman Medal may be awarded by the National Society to a Compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding service that does not meet 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. General Officers and National Society Committee Chairman may recommend Compatriots who have served as (i) an active officer for a minimum of two years, (ii) an active committee chairman or vice chairman for a minimum of three years, or (iii) an active member of a committee for a minimum of four years to the President General for recognition at the President General's discretion. In addition, the President General may present this medal to those Compatriots providing significant service to the National Society during his term of office.



14. Silver Roger Sherman Medal – The Silver Roger Sherman Medal may be awarded to a compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding services rendered to a District or State. 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.



15. 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 the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal before they may be awarded the Silver Good Citizenship Medal.



16. Florence Kendall Award Medal – The Florence Kendall Award is awarded annually at the SAR Congress to the top three members who were first-line sponsor for the largest number of new members during the previous year. Previous editions consisted of a member’s SAR Badge bearing on the chest ribbon a bar inscribed “Florence Kendall” and was given to the member who during a year was first-line sponsor for the largest number of new members.



17. SAR 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 civilians 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 actually saved the life of the victim must be validated by EMS or medical personnel.



18. Law Enforcement Commendation Medal – The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement. Eligibility is not limited to peace officers but extends to the entire range of persons who make and enforce the law to include but not limited to peace officers, attorneys, judges, prosecutors and legislators who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected. The medal may be presented posthumously.



19. Fire Safety Commendation Medal – The Fire Safety Commendation Medal is presented to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of fire safety and service. The award is not limited to firefighters. It may be presented to recognize a variety of fire safety and service that has evolved into a highly technical and skilled profession with constant study, development and involvement by numerous dedicated citizens with a single goal – protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties die to fire and chemicals. The medal may be presented posthumously.



20. Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal – The Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal is presented to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contribution in an area of emergency medical services. The award 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. The medal may be presented posthumously.

21. Gold CAR-SAR Appreciation Medal – The National society may present the Gold C.A.R.-SAR Medal of Appreciation to a member of the C.A.R. or SAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the National Society C.A.R. The award may also recognize outstanding National C.A.R. leaders or SAR members who have contributed at a National level to the N.S.C.A.R. The medal shall be awarded for documented services rendered and not by tradition or as an entitlement of office.



22. Silver CAR-SAR Appreciation Medal – The National society or a State Society may present the Silver C.A.R.-SAR Medal of Appreciation to a member of the C.A.R. or SAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to a State C.A.R. Society. The award may also recognize outstanding C.A.R. Senior leaders of a State Society or SAR members who have significantly supported or served a State C.A.R. Society.



23. Bronze CAR-SAR Appreciation Medal – The National society, a State Society or a local Chapter, may present the Bronze C.A.R.-SAR Medal of Appreciation to a member of the C.A.R. or SAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to a local C.A.R. Society. The award may recognize assistance in promoting C.A.R. members that qualify to obtain SAR memberships, C.A.R. members who participate in the State Society Annual Meetings or at the National Congress, C.A.R. members who have otherwise significantly aided SAR programs, or SAR members and C.A.R. Senior Leaders who have supported or served a state or local C.A.R. Society.



24. Liberty Medal – The Liberty Medal commemorates the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, reminds us of our liberty and is presented for recruiting new members to the SAR. Presentation will take place at the Annual Congress; however, if a recipient is not present, it will be mailed to him.



25. Lafayette Volunteer Service Award Medal – The National Society presents the Lafayette Volunteer Service Award to an individual for volunteer service performed at the NSSAR Headquarters in Louisville, KY or other significant volunteer work as determined by the President General. The award is presented when forty (40) hours of volunteer service have been accumulated. The Executive Director will provide a list of projects requiring volunteer assistance. Volunteers must meet acceptable experience criteria and will be supervised by a department head. Department heads and volunteers must ensure that the volunteer service form is completed at the end of each day that service is performed. The Executive Director will be responsible for maintaining a volunteer service file.



26. Bronze Roger Sherman Medal – The Bronze Roger Sherman 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.



27. 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 and non-Compatriots alike.



28. Silver ROTC Medal – The National Society, a state or a chapter, may present this award only to students enrolled in a college or university ROTC program. The medal endeavors to foster the principle of “citizen-soldier” exemplified by the Minutemen and recipients should be selected by the commanding officer of the ROTC unit based on their military bearing, leadership potential, attitude, scholastic achievements and general excellence. Commanding officers should be given full latitude in selecting an outstanding ROTC cadet.



29. Bronze ROTC Medal – The National Society, a state or a chapter, may present this award only to students enrolled in a high school or secondary school JROTC program. The medal endeavors to foster the principle of “citizen-soldier” exemplified by the Minutemen and recipients should be selected by the commanding officer of the ROTC unit based on their leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence.



30. Eagle Scout Medal – A chapter may award this medal annually to the Eagle Scout who is the winner of the chapter’s Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition.



31. Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award Medal – The Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award is a BSA-recognized Community Organization Award presented to members of the SAR in good standing who have displayed outstanding dedication to the Scouting Program. Award criteria are based on work accomplishment and dedication rather than specific length of service time. The medal is awarded by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution upon nomination by a state society.



32. General William C. Westmorland Award – This award is a special gold version of the Service to Veterans Medal. A certificate accompanies the medal. This award is presented to the SAR member who has the most outstanding record of service as a VA Volunteer donating time to veterans in the VA hospital. It is presented to only one person per year as selected by the Veterans committee.



33. Service to Veterans Medal – The Service to Veterans Medal may be awarded to SAR members who have given long and exemplary service to veterans. The medal is awarded for 5000 USS Stark Award points accrued by the SAR member. Additional awards may be earned for each additional 3000 points earned,



34. Patriot Grave Marking Medal – The Patriot Grave Marking Medal recognizes both past efforts to identify and report data on Revolutionary War graves and to encourage new efforts to identify graves. The data generated by these efforts will meet educational objectives by continuing to build and improve the existing database on these patriots by listing their final resting places. It meets historical objectives by providing data to potential members and by identifying these significant places so that they may not be lost to future generations.



35. Compatriot Grave Marking Medal – The Compatriot Grave Marking Medal recognizes each Compatriot's contributions to the Sons of the American Revolution and honors our deceased Compatriots (while simultaneously honoring each Compatriot's Patriot Ancestor) while publicizing the value of membership to their descendants.



36. SAR Medal of Appreciation – The SAR Medal of Appreciation may be presented to a member of the DAR in good standing in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the SAR. The award may recognize assistance in forming new SAR chapters, obtaining a specific number of new SAR members or otherwise significantly aiding the SAR programs.



37. Martha Washington Medal – The Martha Washington Medal may be presented to a woman over 18 years of age in recognition of outstanding service to the SAR. A DAR may receive the Martha Washington Medal and the SAR Medal of Appreciation (on separate occasions) if her service warrants it.



38. Lydia Darragh Medal – The Lydia Darragh Medal may be awarded by the incumbent President General, Vice President General, 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 President General, a Vice President General, State Society President or Chapter President.



39. Gold NSSAR Color Guard Medal – The SAR Gold Color Guard Medal may be awarded for SAR Color Guard service at the National level. The National Color Guard Committee will be the final judge of who is qualified to be awarded the Gold Color Guard Medal. Waivers to these requirements will be granted only under very special circumstances, and requests for such waivers must be submitted in writing to the National Color Guard Commander for Committee consideration.



40. Gold Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal – The Gold Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal recognizes outstanding services of the NSSAR Congress Planning Committee Chairman and the services of no more than one additional recipient in hosting the annual National Congress. Awards are limited to one per individual annually, in the event of multiple year service, oak leaf clusters should be awarded in accordance with guideline listed in NSSAR Handbook. Two may be awarded annually.



41. The Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard – The National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard, may be awarded for sustained service to the Society as a Color Guardsman at the National or District Levels. Recipients must already have been awarded the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals.



42. Silver NSSAR Color Guard Medal – The Silver Color Guard Medal is for service at the District and National levels. The medal is awarded for at least three years of service at the applicable level. The three years may be broken, not continuous. Award of each medal may be for retroactive service, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore. *An SAR Color Guardsman must have the Bronze Color Guard Medal before he can be awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal.*



43. Silver Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal – The Silver Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal recognized outstanding services of the volunteers in hosting the annual National Congress. The medal is presented to persons that held prominent positions during the annual National Congress. A certificate, suitable for engraving, is presented with each medal.



44. Bronze NSSAR Color Guard Medal – The Bronze Color Guard Medal is for service at the State and/or Chapter levels. Each medal is awarded for at least three years of service at the applicable level. The three years may be broken, not continuous. Award of each medal may be for retroactive service, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore.



45. The Molly Pitcher Medal – Many women who are the wives, daughters, sisters, girlfriends, and other female relatives and companions of SAR Color "Guardsmen routinely and with great dedication support their SAR Color Guardsman and the SAR Color Guard. The Molly Pitcher Medal may be awarded to women who have supported SAR Color Guard at the State, District, and National Levels.



46. Bronze Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal – The Bronze Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal recognizes outstanding services of the volunteers in hosting the annual National Congress. The medal is presented to persons that held prominent positions during the annual National Congress. A certificate, suitable for engraving, is presented with each medal.



47. Gold Council of State Presidents' Medal – Past or present Council of State Presidents officers may wear the Council of State Presidents Gold Medal.



48. Silver Council of State Presidents' Medal – Present or past members of the Council of State Presidents may wear the Council of State Presidents Silver medal. To qualify, a Council member (as defined by the Council of State Presidents' Bylaws) must attend four business meetings of the Council of State Presidents. Such business meetings are normally held at Annual Congresses or Leadership Meetings.



49. SAR Charter Centennial Medal – The SAR Charter Centennial Medal commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Congressional Charter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Only a member who was a dues-paying member between the dates of January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006 may wear it. In addition, new members whose applications had been submitted during that time may also wear it.



49. Paix de 1783 Medal – The Paix de 1783 Medal commemorates the special visit to France for the 225th Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris which ended the American Revolution. Any member of the party present during the visit may wear it.



49. SAR 125th Anniversary Medal – The SAR 125th Anniversary Medal commemorates the one hundredth and twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Only a member who was a dues-paying member between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 may wear it. In addition, new members whose application had been submitted during that time may also wear it.



49. Commodore John Barry Medal – The Commodore John Barry Medal commemorates the special visit to Ireland to commemorate the contributions of Irish and Scots-Irish Patriots in the American Revolution.



49. Gold Sestercentennial (250th Anniversary) Recognition Medal – The medal is designed to encourage and recognize those compatriots, chapters and societies to participate in local, state, national and international events which publicly educate, and recognize, honor, and celebrate the heroes of the American Revolution. Participation involves the planning and execution of these events, as well as attendance. The medal covers the celebration of any event's 250th anniversary where said event related directly to acts of resistance to British attempts to coerce the residents in America: from the first Parliamentary Acts protested after the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars, through the armed struggle of the American War for Independence, to the ratification of the Treaty of Paris by the Continental Congress. This therefore will cover any public celebrations in the Period from 2014 to 2033.



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50. Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Contest Medal – The Arthur M. King Eagle Scout Contest Medal is designed to recognize those individuals who make significant financial contributions to the Arthur M. & Brenda King Eagle Scout Contest. The medal may be presented to the donor or to honor any individual designated by the donor(s) to recognize contributions to Scouting through the BSA. The medal is issued for an initial donation of \$500.00; additional \$500.00 contributions are recognized by Bronze, Gold, and Silver palms.



50. Dr. Joseph Warren Medal for Orations – The Dr. Joseph Warren Medal for Orations or “The Warren Medal” is designed to recognize those individuals who make significant contributions to the endowment fund. The Medal may be presented to the donor or to honor any individual designated by the donor(s) in recognition of their contributions to the National Oration Contest. Dr. Joseph Warren, a Boston doctor, was selected to commemorate the anniversary of the Boston Massacre. Because unforgiving British officers and sympathizers would heckle the orator, Warren presented his oration with a steady and firm voice. Warren’s stirring oratory skill recruited more patriots and moved others to support the Revolution.



50. Thomas Jefferson Medal for Support of the Essay Contest – The Jefferson Essay Medal is awarded by the National Society to recognize financial support for the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. The funds generated by sales of the medal are used to increase the endowment for the scholarships awarded to the national essay contest winners.





50. SAR Americanism Youth Awards Medal – The Americanism Youth Awards Medal is awarded by the National Society to recognize financial support for the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest and the Sergeant Moses Adams Middle School Brochure Contest. The funds generated by sales of the medal are used to increase the endowment for the cash awards presented by these contests. The medal is awarded following a donation of \$250.00 or more.