

The SAR Badge



Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution entitles you to wear the SAR Badge. Our insignia, adopted in December 1889, is based on a proposal submitted by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President for Alabama.

The SAR Badge consists of a Maltese cross, the same size as the Chevalier's Cross of the Legion of Honor of France, of four arms and eight points, with the arms 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 Continental soldier, and is surrounded by a blue enameled ribbon, inscribed in letters of gold, "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.

The Maltese cross used in the SAR Badge draws its inspiration from the cross used by the Order of St. Louis of France. The wreath symbolizes the laurel wreaths presented to worthy individuals by the Roman Republic. Major West selected the Cross of St. Louis as his basis for our decoration because King Louis XVI of France, the Grand Master of the Order of St. Louis, provided badly needed aid to the fledgling Continentals. In choosing this cross, the National Society intended to recognize the French contribution to American independence.

History shows that the Maltese Cross was used by the Knights of St. John, a brotherhood of warrior Crusaders who represented all walks of life who banded together to fight for freedom and against oppression. The Knights of St. John, and other Crusaders, adopted the Maltese cross as their insignia because its eight points represented the eight Beatitudes prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount: blessed are (1) the poor in spirit, (2) the meek, (3) the pure, (4) the merciful, and (5) the peacemakers, (6) blessed are they that mourn, and (7) seek righteousness, and (8) blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

Although the Maltese cross had a religious origin, the Knights of St. John also made it their battle standard for the liberation of all men, women and children who suffered oppression. The principles freedom and justice, for which the Knights of St. John crusaded, paralleled the principles our Patriot forefathers pledged themselves to when seeking independence from Great Britain. These principles are no less applicable today.

The Saramana Chapter would strongly suggest you visit the SAR Store at: <https://store.sar.org/product/member-badge> and view either the "Member Badge" or the "Combination Set". For the majority of Compatriots, the Miniature Medallion included in the "Combination Set" will never be worn. It is ONLY worn with a tuxedo or dinner jacket at formal events of the National Society.

The Saramana Chapter also suggests you purchase the SAR Name Badge. The one that works best for your jacket and should not come off would be the *Pin Style* found at: <https://store.sar.org/product/personalized-name-badge-pin-attachement>. You will need your National Number, Your name as you want it read (example if you normally shorten your first name, do so), your chapter – Saramana Chapter, your State Society – Florida Society. The *Magnet Style* Name Badge is best for protecting the fabric when worn on a shirt.

SAR Protocol states that the "Members Rosette" should not be worn with the "Member Badge". One option is to purchase the *SAR Tie Tac* found at: <https://store.sar.org/product/sar-tie-tac>, remove the chain, and wear it on your jacket lapel when wearing your SAR Badge.