

CHAPTER MEDALS



Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service

Precedence: 39

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 50](#)

Summary: The Chapter Medal of Distinguished service may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered particularly distinguished service to the incumbent chapter president during his term of service. The distinguished service rendered should be stated in the citation.

Description: The Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service (“CMDS”) is diamond shaped with a blue SAR insignia surmounted on a white enamel background and trimmed in bronze hanging from a drape of solid maroon ribbon. A miniature medal is available. The CMDS is the highest medal that can be awarded by a Chapter President.

Authorized Presentation: 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.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.

Retroactive Effectiveness: Former chapter presidents who have not made a presentation of this award would be eligible to present the medal to a compatriot upon the presentation of a letter to the incumbent Chapter President describing the assistance provided by the member.



Chapter Meritorious Service Medal

Precedence: 40

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 50](#)

Summary: The 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. The ribbon drape is of the same style used for the membership insignia drape. The ribbon drape includes a bronze bar inscribed with “MERITORIOUS SERVICE.” The reverse includes a space to insert the recipient's name and the date of presentation, surrounded by laurel leaves. It is available in miniature and comes with a certificate, which should be engrossed and presented with the medal.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once from a chapter.



Chapter Roger Sherman Commendation Medal

Precedence: 41

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 51](#)

Summary: The Chapter 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.

This Medal is named after Roger Sherman (1721-1793), who was a founding father, and the only person to sign all four Congressional papers of the United States: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

Description: The medal is antique bronze in color and bears on the obverse a portrait of Roger Sherman, with the inscription "Roger Sherman Medal." The reverse of the medal is inscribed "In Appreciation for Service to the SAR." It is suspended from a chest ribbon of blue, white and red.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal multiple times. A bronze oak leaf cluster may be awarded for an additional two years of active service as an officer, chairman or committeeman. The service is counted cumulatively rather than consecutively, and may not be added concurrently for multiple offices, committee chairmanships, or committee memberships. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy.



Chapter Henry Knox Achievement Medal

Precedence: 42

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 51](#)

Summary: 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.

This medal is named for Henry Knox (1750-1806). In May 1775, Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga. General Washington called on Henry Knox for a seemingly impossible mission: to move the captured heavy artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, some 300 miles away. Knox selected 58 pieces of artillery. While primarily selecting 12-pounder and 18-pounder cannons, Knox also included the 5,000 pound 24-pounder cannon called "Old Sow." Weighing over 60 tons, Knox moved this train of artillery, ordinance, and powder over ice-covered Lake George and crossed the Hudson River four times. In forty days, Knox and his men completed this singular achievement and positioned the cannons on Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston city and harbor. British General William Howe commented, "these fellows have done more work in one night than I could make my army do in three months."

Description: The medal is antique bronze in color and features on the obverse a portrait of Henry Knox. It bears the inscription "Henry Knox Achievement Medal" on the top perimeter and "Sons of the American Revolution®" on the bottom perimeter. The reverse features a cannon and the phrase, "For Exceptional

Achievement.” It is suspended from a chest ribbon of Kelly green. It is available in miniature and comes with a certificate, which should be engrossed and presented with the medal.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: A Compatriot or non-SAR member may be recommended for and receive this medal multiple times. A bronze oak leaf cluster may be awarded for an additional, qualifying achievement. Multiple oak leaf cluster recognition shall follow NSSAR policy.



Bronze Good Citizenship Medal

Precedence: 43

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 52](#)

Summary: 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).

National Approval REQUIRED for Certain Presentations: Awards of this medal to a national officer of a non-SAR organization must be approved by the President General before a district, state or chapter makes the award.

Description: The award consists of a circular medal, bronze 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-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.



Chapter Outstanding Young Member Medal

Precedence: 44

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 53](#)

Summary: The Chapter Outstanding Young Member Medal is awarded to a member of the Chapter who is 40 years old or younger. The recipient shall have exhibited continued, exemplary service to the Society at the Chapter level, especially focused on leadership and service to youth and younger members.

The medal is named for Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin, who enlisted at the young age of 16, and served for the duration of the war, fighting in many notable campaigns, being mustered out in 1783. This young man, dedicated to seeing the war through to the end, is a Patriot that all our younger members should emulate.

Description: The Chapter Outstanding Young Member Medal (OYMM) is bronze in color and bears on the obverse a depiction of Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin in front of a circle of 13 five pointed stars. The reverse is inscribed “For the Duration—Outstanding Young Member” and a space to engrave the recipient’s name and date of presentation. The medal is suspended from a ribbon drape of navy blue, buff, old glory blue, white, and old glory red. It is available in miniature and comes with a certificate, which should be engrossed and presented with the medal.

Approval Requirements: The Chapter President shall approve the award of the medal. Nominations for the award shall be made by the Chapter. All nominations should be submitted on the standard Outstanding Young Members Medal application form. The recommending authority should carefully read the form and follow the instructions relative to the type of supporting documentation needed.

Subsequent Presentation NOT Authorized: A Compatriot may receive this medal only once. Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.



Bronze 250th Anniversary Recognition Award

Precedence: 45

[NSSAR Handbook Vol. V \(15 Aug 2023\) pg. 54](#)

Summary: 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 is 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.

Description: The medal is bronze in color and suspended from a drape (patterned red/white/blue/white/red). The obverse is the official SAR logo for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. The reverse is blank and suitable for engraving. A certificate is available for presentation. A miniature medal is available.

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:
 - 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 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 their chapter, state, district, or national society.
4. 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 their Partners in Patriotism to the National Society or their State Society for higher recognition.

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.