



SAR Chapter Medals

The Do's & Don't's

Awarding of SAR Medals & Awards

- Awarding of medals & awards should always be given very careful and serious deliberation to determine that the proposed recipient is qualified, deserving, and the occasion for presentation is appropriate.
- Presentation of medals & awards should not be treated lightly by the National Society, district, state society or a chapter, and should always be given judicious thought to assure that the presentation is in keeping with NSSAR principles.
- It is essential that the integrity of NSSAR medals & awards be maintained.

References

- NSSAR Handbook Volume V - INDIVIDUAL MEDALS AND AWARDS
- NC SAR Handbook Volume I, Chapter 11 – MEDALS AND AWARDS

Definition of Dress & Wear of Medals

“Full dress”: Includes both the tailcoat and white tie in the evening and the cutaway with ascot or four-in-hand for day wear.

“Formal attire” or “black tie”: Includes the black (tuxedo) or white dinner jacket with appropriate accessories.

“Informal dress”: Includes the business suit, the blazer jacket, and the sport coat. Insignia are not worn on the overcoat.

- The rosette, the tie, and/or the blazer patch may be worn with informal dress.
- The rosette and tie may be worn with the business suit or sports coat. The blazer patch is only worn on a blazer.

Definition of Dress & Wear of Medals (cont'd)

Formal occasions, such as annual meetings, Leadership Meetings, balls, etc.:

- The invitation and/or program will specify the dress, i.e., “full dress,” “black tie,” or “black tie or white tie.”
- In the latter case, when either is acceptable, officers especially are encouraged to wear white tie dress. In addition, the invitation may specify “with decorations,” or “with miniature medals,” and members may wear the insignia, including the broad sash and miniature medals.
- The rosette is not worn with formal dress. Custom suggests that a white dinner jacket may be worn between Memorial Day and Labor Day (in most parts of the U.S.)

Definition of Dress & Wear of Medals (cont'd)

Informal occasions: Society officers may wish to wear neck ribbons to indicate past or present office.

- Other decorations should be avoided on such informal occasions
- SAR custom has been to wear full size medals with business suits and blazers at SAR meetings. Wearing miniature medals is discouraged.

SAR Badge & Full Size Medals

- Other full size medals may be worn with the SAR Badge, either pinned separately or mounted on a bar so that the medals are 3-1/8th inches in length and the bottoms are in a horizontal line.
- Full size medals suspended from a chest ribbon are not worn at the same time miniature medals are worn.
- Miniature medals are appropriate for full dress or formal attire and full-size medals should be avoided in this situation (unless absolutely necessary).
- Full size medals can also be worn on a bar and overlapped no more than fifty percent, as covered under miniature medals.

Miniature Medals

The miniature medal is formal and worn on left breast of the coat four inches below the midpoint of the shoulder seam. Worn with formal dress. Wearing on informal dress is discouraged.

- A small number of miniatures may be pinned side by side but, as the number increases, they should be attached to a bar for neatness and convenience.
- Usual bar used by the armed forces in standard lengths of 1-3/8th inches, 2-3/4th inches, 4-1/8th inches. Miniatures should be mounted by gluing and sewing. When the number more than fills the holding bar, the ribbons may be overlapped not more than 50% and not more than 11 miniatures on the large bar.
- More than one row may be worn. Display of more than 3 rows is strongly discouraged.

Order and Detail of Medal Precedence

The position of honor is on the wearer's right and on the top. The general rule of precedence when SAR medals are worn with other medals follows.

- 1. Federal Decorations**
- 2. Federal Campaign Medals**
- 3. Foreign Military and Civilian Decorations**
- 4. U.S. State Decorations, U.S. State Campaign Medals and U. S. State Organizational and Long Service Medals**
- 5. SAR Insignia**
- 6. Insignia of Other Hereditary, Patriotic and Veterans Societies**

Wearing Insignia of Other Organizations

- Compatriots may wear membership and service medals of another organization (full size or miniature, as appropriate) in conjunction with SAR insignia and service medals on a medal bar.
- Compatriots should not wear the broad sash of another organization while at the same time wearing the SAR Membership Badge (including the President General, Former President General or Society President Badges) suspended from SAR Neck Ribbon.
- Compatriots should avoid wearing the broad sash, star, neck ribbon or other officer insignia of another organization at SAR functions; provided, however, that if a Compatriot is bringing greetings or is otherwise invited as an official representative of that organization, he may choose to wear that organization's insignia, subject to the protocol rules of the organization being represented.

Wearing Multiple Rosettes & Pins Discouraged

- It is strongly recommended that only one pin be worn on the left lapel of a suit coat or blazer.
- Additional lapel pins (including rosettes or membership pins of other fraternal or patriotic organizations) should not be worn when wearing the SAR Rosette.
- An exception to this guideline is when the Aide-de-Camp Pin is worn on the right lapel to denote former service

NC Color Guard Policy – No Medals/Insignia on Revolutionary War era attire

- The wearing of medals on uniforms is not in keeping with the tradition of the Revolutionary War era.
- The time and place for the wearing of such awards include on a blue blazer, tuxedo, dinner jacket or formal military uniform, dress mess, service whites, dress blues, but not when dressing out as an SAR Color Guardsmen.
- The official NC policy is not to wear medals, including the SAR neck ribbon. No insignia should be worn on any Revolutionary War era attire that is not of the era being depicted. This includes name tags, SAR Blazer Insignia, and similar badges.

SAR Badge

(suspended from chest ribbon)



- Compatriots encouraged to purchase and wear SAR Member Badge.
- Full size badge is only worn the at functions of the National Society, State Society or Chapter or when representing the SAR and when wearing a coat and tie.
- Worn on the left breast of suit coat/blazer with top of ribbon clasp 4 inches below the midpoint of the shoulder seam of the coat.
- Supplemental Stars are only authorized insignia to be worn on the chest ribbon.
- Miniature size SAR Badge from a chest ribbon when in full-dress or when wearing a tuxedo or dinner jacket.



SAR Badge

(suspended from Neck Ribbon)

- Current or former General Officers, Vice Presidents General, National Trustees, State Society Presidents and Chapter Presidents may wear SAR Badge suspended from SAR Neck Ribbon.
- Intended for wear with coat and tie (including full-dress or formal attire). Presiding officer may authorize the wear of the neck ribbon with knit collared shirts at summer outdoor events of the SAR.
- When worn with dress shirt, neck ribbon should be worn (1) drawn up to within one inch below the bowtie or four-in hand tie and (2) either: (i) over the tie and under the turned over collar or (ii) over a button-down collar.
- Authorized individual may wear supplemental stars and NSSAR officer pins on the Neck Ribbon (i.e., Chapter Past President pin).
- Not proper to wear the SAR Badge suspended from both the SAR Neck Ribbon and the chest ribbon.



SAR Rosette



- SAR Rosette is a small tightly folded circle of ribbon of the Society's colors not exceeding 7/16th of an inch in diameter.
- It may be worn by all members, at their discretion, on the left lapel of the jacket, daily if desired, during business or social hours.
- It is only worn on a coat lapel, or shirt collar, but not on an overcoat or Revolutionary War era attire.
- A rosette is commonly presented to a new member at the time of his induction into the Society.

**Rosette should never be worn when wearing the SAR Badge
(neck or chest ribbon).**

*War Service Medal

**May only be awarded once*



- Requires proof of service, in the form of a copy of the member's discharge. Such proof must show that the Compatriot:
 1. Has served, or is serving, honorably in:
 - a. the armed forces of the United States,
 - b. the military forces of a country allied with the U.S., or
 - c. a United Nations Peace Keeping Force; and
 2. Served against a common enemy in a war or action recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; and
 3. Received a campaign medal, combat ribbon or badge as shown on the DD-214 form (or equivalent).

***Military Service Medal**

**May only be awarded once*



Military Service 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, must be provided. Such proof must show that 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 U.S., or
- (3) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force.



***Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service**

**May only be awarded once*

- 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.
- Chapter President presents this Medal at his discretion; no other approval is required.



***Chapter SAR Meritorious Service Medal**

**May only be awarded once*

- 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.
- ***Special Note Regarding Oak Leaf Clusters:*** A member may receive the award **multiple times from the National Society,** and **one each from a district, a state society or a chapter,** but only one Meritorious Service Medal is worn. Subsequent awards are represented by oak leaf clusters.

Chapter (Bronze) Roger Sherman Medal



- Bronze Roger Sherman Medal may be awarded to Compatriot in recognition/appreciation of outstanding services rendered to a Chapter.
- The medal is presented to 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.
- 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.

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 limitations in NSSAR Handbook Vol. 5) and non-SAR alike.
- For Compatriots, should not be used to recognize service to the SAR.



SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal*

**May only be awarded once*



- 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 the medal may be for retroactive service, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore.
- NC SAR utilizes the Event System to determine if the Compatriot is eligible for the medal. The Compatriot is responsible for tracking his activities.



Questions?

“Ceremony of Valor”
by
Arthur E. Becher
1946