

**National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Veterans Recognition Committee (VRC) Charter, with Special Notice**

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Mission Statement. Provide recognition to living NSSAR Veterans, by awarding the SAR Certificates of Patriotism. Ensure the work of the VRC not only has a legacy dimension, but is also visionary and administratively sound, so that the incumbent President General can expand the Veterans Corps to include service to country during periods of peace, war and/or armed conflict.

Historical Overview. Pursuant to Special and Other Committees (Bylaw 20), five SAR Veterans Corps have been created to date. **President General J. David Sympson** (2010-2011) created the World War II Veterans Corps, under the leadership of Compatriot Daniel R. McMurray of Missouri prior to 2012. To date 856 SAR members have been inducted into this Corps. Of this number, 591 remain with us. At the Fall Leadership Conference/Trustee Meeting, September 27-29, 2012, **President General Stephen A. Leishman** (2012-2013) announced the creation of the Veterans Recognition Committee (VRC). He directed that the World War II Veterans Corps Program be placed under the purview of the VRC, and that the VRC implement the establishment of a Korean Service Veterans Corps (KSVC). His decision was visionary, since it was consistent with United States Senate Resolution 602 that followed November 27, 2012. On that date, the Senate approved a bipartisan resolution formally recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Korean War and designating 2012-2013 as the "Year of the Korean War Veteran." At this time 127 Compatriots have become members of the KSVC. During his induction banquet on July 10, 2013, **President General Joseph W. Dooley** announced the creation of a Vietnam War Veterans Task Force to bring on line the Vietnam War Veterans Corps (VWVC). President General Dooley's specific guidance concerning the implementation of this Corps is a matter of record on pages 90 and 91 of his NSSAR Committee Report of 16 Sep 2013. As of this date 390 Compatriots have signed-on to become members of the VWVC. Further, prior to the end of his tenure President General Dooley announced that on 24 June 2014 the SAR was awarded recognition as a Commemorative Partner in accordance with Public Law 110-181 Sec.598 to assist and support a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam War Veterans for their Service, Valor and Sacrifice. This was most appropriate since the Compatriots of the SAR as descendants of the heroes of the America Revolution who by their sacrifices established the United States of America and gave us the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, welcome the opportunity to affirm our support to honor those patriots who answered the call and received the Vietnam Service Medal for service to country. On 23 Jul 2014 **President General Lindsey C. Brock** placed the Vietnam War Veterans Corps as a regular VetCorps component under the purview of the VRC. His other initiatives included: (1) the creation of the Persian Gulf War Veterans Corps Joint Task; (2) The creation of the Military Service Veterans Corps Task Force; (3) the creation of

“Less we forget the Compatriots of the Greatest Generation” Program whereby the VRC maintains a database of World War II VetCorps Compatriots who are still with us and who remain active on the SAR rolls. A list of these Compatriots will be published digitally annually and forwarded to the appropriate District Vice President Generals so they can render honors as they see fit on Veterans Day; and (4) authorized the VRC to publish, at a minimum of three times a year, a Veterans Recognition Committee Newsletter entitled “The SAR Veterans Bugle.” The purpose of this newsletter is to keep veterans and leadership informed of the various ongoing recognition programs that are available to our membership. On 1 July 2015 **Judge Thomas E. Lawrence became the 112th President General**. During President General Lawrence’s 2015-2016 tenure, the VRC will (1) Continue the Grateful Nation Remembers Program, which honors the World War II Veteran Corps Compatriots who are still with us; (2) Continue the publishing of the SAR Veterans Bugle Newsletter; (3) Join the Military Service Veterans Corps Task Force, with all its functions and responsibilities, to the standard components of the Veterans Recognition Committee alongside the other SAR Veterans Corps; (4) Continue VRC vetting and processing of Certificates of Patriotism for all SAR Veterans Corps; vet and process Certificates of Patriotism for Compatriots joined to the newly created Task Forces; (5) Standup the Special Ops Veterans Corps Task Force under the VRC so as to accommodate the processing of Certificates of Patriotism for past, current and future operations which are associated with less known campaign, service and/or expeditionary medals; and (6) Standup the Southwest Asia Task Force under the VRC to accommodate the processing of Certificates of Patriotism for past, current and future conflicts in select countries of the Middle East and East Africa. On 13 July 2016 **President General J. Michael Tomme, Sr.** issued the following guidance to the VRC: (a) Continue Veterans Recognition Committee initiatives introduced by prior President Generals. (b) Continue the Grateful Nation Remembers Program until the last Compatriot of the World War II Veterans Corps passes-on or until this program is dissolved at the discretion of the incoming President General. (c) Continue the publishing of the NSSAR Veterans Bugle Newsletter until this task is dissolved at the discretion of the incoming President General. (d) Dissolve the Special Ops Veterans Corps Task Force, with all its functions and responsibilities becoming standard components of the Veterans Recognition Committee alongside the other NSSAR Veterans Corps. These Veterans Corps are: 1. The World War II Veterans Corps; 2. The Korean Service Veterans Corps; 3. The Vietnam War Veterans Corps; 4. Southwest Asia Veterans Corps; 5. The Special Ops Veterans Corps; and 6. The Military Service Veterans Corps. (e) Continue VRC vetting and processing of Certificates of Patriotism for all NSSAR Veterans Corps. After July 2017, all tasks assigned to the VRC may be dissolved at the discretion of the incoming President General, with all databases and records committed to history. (f) Accommodate the processing of Certificates of Patriotism for past, current and future conflicts in the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). Establish a Syria and Iraq Task Force to accommodate the vetting and processing of Certificates of Patriotism for Compatriots who are authorized the newly Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal. After July 2017, this task force may be dissolved at the discretion of the incoming President General, and the inclusion of qualifying SAR Compatriots in this TF may become a standard component of the Veterans Recognition Committee.

Governing Policy. In accomplishing its mission the VRC holds these understanding as core beliefs: (1) The Compatriots who authorized the Military Service Medal in 2006 and articulated the policy relating to this award in the SAR Handbook grasped the difference between a congressional declaration of war as authorized by Article One, Section Eight of the US Constitution and undeclared wars as provided by the War Powers Resolution. The VRC too must be familiar thoroughly with the difference. (2) The decision as to what service medal a veteran receives is a function of proof and certification that resides at the chapter, state, and national levels. (3) The VRC is not a policeman in the decision process that is clearly vested in the Chapter President or his designee, for we believe in the integrity of sound staff action, good policy implementation and the honesty of Compatriots.

(4) When questions are asked for interpretation or justification of the War Service Medal over the Military Service Medal, the VRC must be ready to provide credible recommendations based upon research as found in law, legislation, Armed Services documents, and/or common sense. (5) When it comes to forwarding a request for the President General's signature on a Certificate of Patriotism, the VRC must be accurate in the understanding of SAR policy and confident that a chapter president's verifying endorsement holds water. Meaning, the Compatriot is an eligible veteran and he served consistent with the awarding of either the SAR War Service Medal or the SAR Military Service Medal.

[Special Notice regarding a Failure to Complete a Veterans Multi-Corps Survey Form Successfully. The most frequent complaint that is received from the field centers on the inability to fill-in our form successfully, to include a notice which appears that a password is needed. Such a problem usually occurs because (1) Instructions aren't followed. (2) A compatriot's computer does not have an authentic Adobe Reader installed on it. (3) A compatriot's computer hasn't been programmed to associate PDF files with an authentic Adobe Reader. And/or (4) a compatriot doesn't realize that Microsoft Windows 10 uses Edge as the default internet browser. To correct the inability to fill-in a Survey Form correctly, the VRC advises a Compatriot to take the following steps, knowing that the first two steps will solve most problems. First, follow the first six lines on the Survey Form exactly, which instructs you to (1) Open the survey. (2) Immediately save it to your computer with a file name such as MY Survey.pdf. Make sure you remember what you named the file and where you saved the survey form file on your computer. (3) Open your newly named file and fill it out. (4) If the mail button doesn't work for you, it's because your system isn't harmonized with JAVA script. No problem, however, just sent your completed survey via an email with the survey as an attachment to it. It's important that you are using an authentic Adobe Reader, preferably version XI or later as your default PDF reader.

Please know some computer software manufactures install alternative software instead of the "FREE" Adobe Reader. While these PDF viewers will open and let you read the Veterans Multi-Corps Survey Form, they will NOT allow you to complete it successfully. Again, let me say it's crucial that one's computer has an authentic ADOBE PDF Reader, preferably Adobe Reader XI or later. Notice I said AUTHENTIC ADOBE PDF READER. I didn't say PDF 10 or 11, which is not an authentic Adobe PDF reader--it's a cheap imitation reader bundle with some computers just so you think your system can do all things. Other PDF Readers that are not an authentic Adobe Reader include Sumarta PDG, PDF-Xchange, Preview PDG, and Foxit PDF. By now I trust you got the point that you must have an Authentic Adobe PDF Reader, preferably version XI or later, to process the survey correctly. After ensuring that Adobe Reader is the default PDF reader, verify that it has been "associated" properly by following these instructions: GO control panel—click Default Programs—click "associate a file type or protocol with a program."—scroll down to .pdf and read across the line through description to CURRENT DEFAULT. I trust it says Adobe Reader or something like that. In my case I associated it with Adobe Acrobat.

If you are using the recent free Windows 10 software, know that your browser is EDGE and not Explorer. The Edge and Explorer icons look alike but on close examination it's not so. Edge doesn't work currently with certain PDF files, especially adobe created files. The cure is to download Google Chrome or reinstall Explorer. Windows 10 doesn't tell you that Explorer is in the Windows 10 bundle, but it is there. In my judgment, it's simpler to download Google Chrome than to uncover where Explorer is hidden. On my computer I have available as my browser all three--Edge, Explorer, and Google Chrome. Google Chrome works best for me and for the work I do. Vic McMurry uses FIREFOX as his browser and he swears by it; meaning, it's beautiful for what he does. The Bottom line—the Edge Browser will not work with the survey form. So download Google Chrome and use it.]