

# Sons of the American Revolution



13 July 2016  
Westin Copley Hotel  
Boston, MA

In his Inaugural Remarks, President General J. Michael Tomme, Sr., indicated the work of the Veterans Recognition Committee (VRC) will continue. Chief in this regards are the following guidance given to the VRC:

## **President General Tomme 2016-2017 VRC Initiatives**

- 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. **[New PG Initiative]** Accommodate the processing of Certificates of Patriotism for past, current and future conflicts in the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR), which consists of 18 countries in the Middle East and East Africa. These countries include: [Afghanistan](#), [Bahrain](#), [Egypt](#), [Iraq](#), [Jordan](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Kuwait](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Lebanon](#), [Oman](#), [Pakistan](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [U.A.E.](#), [Uzbekistan](#), and [Yemen](#). After July 2016, 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.

To this end, establish a Syria and Iraq Task Force to accommodate the vetting and processing of Certificates of Patriotism for Compatriots who are authorized the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal. This medal was announced on Wednesday, 3 April 2016 and came into being by an Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama. The medal reflects service to country during operation Inherent Resolve, which has as its focus the warfighting effort associated with the destruction of the Islamic State, aka ISIS or ISIL which is based in Iraq and Syria.

The responsibility of the VRC with this initiative is to verify service of an SAR Compatriots in Iraq and Syria (or other conflicts in the CENTCOM AOR) so as to recommend to the President General that a Compatriot be presented a Certificate of Patriotism and have his name added to the SW Asia Veterans Corps. The verifying instrument shall be the appropriate campaign medal, service medal, or expeditionary medal as associated with a particular operation and/or several operations in the CENTCOM AOR. Currently the following medals and operations are gateway qualifying awards for the SW Asia Veterans Corps. Item #6 is a picture of the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal:



#1 is the Southwest Asia Service Medal. It recognizes military service during the Persian Gulf War, which is also known as the First Gulf War. Specific Campaigns for the awarding of this medal are the Defense of Saudi Arabia (August 2, 1990 – January 16, 1991); Liberation and Defense Kuwait (January 17, 1991, -- April 11, 1991); and Southwest Asia Cease-Fire (April 12, 1991 – November 30, 1995)

#2 is the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. It recognizes military service in support of specific operation in the Persian Gulf and/or Southwest Asia. These operations included the following: (1) Operation Earnest Will (July 24, 1987, -- August 1, 1990); (2) Operation Southern Watch (December 1, 1995, -- March 18, 2003); (3) Maritime Intercept Operation (December 1, 1995, -- March 18, 2003); (4) Operation Vigilant Sentinel (December 1, 1995, -- February 15, 1997); (5) Operation Northern Watch (January 1, 1997, -- March 18, 2003); (6) Operation Desert Thunder (November 11, 1988, -- December 22, 1998); (7) Operation Desert Fox (December 16, 1998, -- December 22, 1998); (8) Operation Desert Spring (December 31, 1998, -- March 18, 2003).

#3 is the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. It recognizes military service during the conduct of combat operation from September 11, 2001, to a date to be determined.

#4 is the Iraq Campaign Medal. It recognizes military service during the conduct of combat operations during the Second Gulf War from March 19, 2003, to December 31, 2011. The Second Gulf War is also known as **Operation Iraqi Freedom**.

#5 is the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. It recognizes armed forces service of members who have deployed overseas in direct support of the War on Terror from September 11, 2001, to a date to be determined. [Further, the official name used by the government of the United States is describe the overseas Global War on Terrorism is **Operation Enduring Freedom**. Subordinate operations to Operation Enduring Freedom are: (1) Operation Enduring Freedom—Afghanistan (September 11, 2001, to December 31, 2014). The US uses the Operation Enduring Freedom—Afghanistan to officially describe the War in Afghanistan from October 2001 to December 2014. Continued operations in Afghanistan by US military forces, both non-combat and combat now occur under the name Operation Freedom’s Sentinel; (2) Operation Enduring Freedom—Philippines; (3) Operation Enduring Freedom—Horn of Africa; (4) Operation Enduring Freedom—Pankisi Gorge; (5) Operation Enduring Freedom—Trans Sahara, to include the Insurgency in the Maghreb; (6) Operation Enduring Freedom—Caribbean and Central America; and Operation Enduring Freedom—Kyrgyzstan.

#6 is the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal. It recognizes service to country deployed to Iraq and Syria in support of operations against the Islamic State. This medal comes almost two years after the United States began

*sending troops back to Iraq to combat the Muslim Jihadist group known as ISIS or ISIL. To qualify, individuals must spend at least 30 consecutive days in Iraq or Syria of a total of 60 nonconsecutive days. Thousands of troops will be eligible for the new medal. Previously troops who deployed to Iraq were eligible to receive the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal; review item #5 above. Troops who received that medal for past deployments there will be allowed to exchange that medal for the new Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal.*

### **Executive Summary of Proposed 2015-2016 VRC Initiatives**

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- 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. *[New PG Initiative] 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 2016, 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.*

Respectfully documented

*Charles T. Sweeney*

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