



Thank you for your Service!

# ***The NSSAR Veterans Bugle***

## **A Veterans Recognition Committee Newsletter**

### **National Society Sons of the American Revolution**

**EXTRA**

**For 1,141 NSSAR Veteran  
Corps Compatriots & Friends**

Editor Chuck Sweeney

***Not all can attend the 2015 Spring Leadership Conference at National HQ in Louisville, KY on 6 & 7 March. So here's what your VRC will review & discuss. Index on page 10; Agenda & Briefing Assignments on page 11; Self-Test page 11 and 12.***

#### **NATIONAL SOCIETY SAR VRC**

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***Item 1: The VRC Charter.*** Members of the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee are listed to the left.

***Historical Overview.*** The VRC provides recognition to NSSAR Veterans. Currently the VRC has five Veterans Corps, established as follows: At the 120th Annual SAR Congress during June 2010, in Cleveland, Ohio, President General J. David Symphon (2010-2011) created the World War II Veterans Corps. Following the 122nd Annual SAR Congress during July 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona, President General Stephen A. Leishman (2012-2013) established the Korean Service Veterans Corps. At the 123rd Annual SAR Congress during July 2013, in Kansas City, Missouri, President General Joseph A. Dooley (2013-2014) established the Vietnam War Task Force to bring on line the Vietnam War Veterans Corps. And at his induction ceremony at the 124th Annual SAR National Congress on 23 July, in Greenville, SC, Present General Lindsey C. Brock (2014-2015) announced initiatives for the VRC; namely, the VRC Charter remains in effect, to include prior President Generals' decisions concerning the establishment, administration, and management of NSSAR Veterans Corps. Further, on 30 January 2015 President General Lindsey Brock brought on-line the Military Service Veterans Corps.



**PG Symphon**



**PG Leishman**



**PG Dooley**



**PG Brock**

***"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."***

***George Washington***

*"Badge over Glory" photo staged and taken by Chuck Sweeney 08 Oct 2011*

***Mission Statement.*** Provide recognition to NSSAR Veterans, by awarding the NSSAR 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 veterans of other wars and/or armed conflicts.

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### **Item 1: The VRC Charter Continued**

**Authority.** Pursuant to Special and Other Committees (Bylaw 20), five NSSAR Veterans Corps have been created to date. President General J. David Sympton (2010-2011) created the World War II Veterans Corps, under the leadership of Compatriot Daniel R. McMurray of Missouri. To date 839 SAR members have been inducted into this Corps. Of this number 585 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 119 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), which falls under the purview of the Veterans Recognition Committee. President General Dooley's specific guidance concerning the implementation of this Corps is contained on pages 90 and 91 of his NSSAR Committee Report of 16 Sep 2013. As of this date 370 Compatriots have signed-on to become members of the VWVC. On 23 Jul 2014 the 111<sup>th</sup> President General Lindsey C. Brock placed the Vietnam War Veterans Corps under the purview of the VRC and created the Persian Gulf War Veterans Corps. On 30 Jan 2015 President General Brock brought on-line the Military Service Veterans Corps. Currently the Persian Gulf War Veterans Corps has 26 members and the Military Service Veterans Corps has 40 members.

**Governing Policy.** In accomplishing its mission the VRC holds these understanding as core beliefs:

(1) The Compatriots who authorized the Military Service Medal in 2009 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 creditable 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. In this regard, a stand-alone National Defense Medal doesn't meet the spirit or intent consistent with the awarding of the SAR War Service Medal.

**The VRC is Focused, else:** "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." Cheshire Cat (Alice in Wonderland).

**Focus 1: The Military Service Veterans Corps.** To qualify for this Veterans Corps, a Compatriot must be a veteran who received a discharge under conditions other than dishonorable, and does not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal. The qualifying standards for this recognition program include a discharge other than dishonorable, or a discharge other than dishonorable plus a National Defense Service Medal (NDSM).



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***Be proud of your service to country and the SAR. Wear decorations with honor and integrity.*** SAR Handbook, Volume V: Individual Medals and Awards, Effective September 27, 2014, lists the War Service Medal and Military Service Medal as holding a co-precedence value of four.



Wearing the War Service Medal



Wearing the Military Service Medal



War Service Medal



Military Service Medal

*The VRC welcomes the creation of the SAR Military Service Veterans Corps and the equality of precedence between the SAR Wars Service Medal (WSM) and the SAR Military Service Medal (MSM).*

*Before the Spring Leadership Conference of 2013, the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee was requested to comment on proposed changes to the SAR Handbook, Volume V. The VRC interposed no objection to the MSM being raised to the same precedence level as the WSM. The VRC did not support, however, the placement of unnecessary and meaningless attachments on the drapes of the MSM or the WSM, especially if the attachment degrades the medal for which the attachment is intended to represent. Both recommendations have precedents. In the first instance the decision to have co-precedence between the War Service and the Military Service Medals can easily date back to the Revolutionary War.*

*Not all of our SAR ancestors were at Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, or in the smallest of skirmishes. Yet they are revered as having contributed in the service to country. By establishing co-precedence between the War Service Medal and the Military Service Medal we in affect acknowledge that qualifying veterans have contributed equally in the service to country.*

*In the second instance, the lack of support by the VRC for the unnecessary and/or meaningless attachment of devices to the drapes of the Military Service Medal or the War Service Medal centers on what is respectful and what is not respectful. There is no federal law which describes the method of wearing medals and decoration with civilian clothes. Each of the military services, however, has uniform*

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### **The Military Service Veterans Corps Focus Continued**

regulations which cover this. Although the specifics differ somewhat between each military service, there is one universal truth: Individuals should ensure that the occasion and the manner of wearing medals and decoration will not reflect discredit on the award.

Unfortunately the latest changes to our Official Handbook, Volume V: Individual Medals and Awards, effective September 27, 2014, seem to have overlooked this mandate. On pages 37 and 38 of that Handbook, it's noted that "A Purple Heart Pin" may be worn on the drape of a full-sized War Service Medal or the Military Service Medal. The Purple Heart Pin referred here is a piece of custom jewelry, which can be purchased at the SAR Merchandise Store. This piece of jewelry has no resemblance to the most recognizable medal given for wounds suffered in combat.

**Purple Heart Pins** are costume jewelry. As such, the Uniform Regulations of the various Armed Forces of the United States is quite clear. The wearing of uniform items, to include awards and decorations, must be done in such a manner to reflect credit upon the award, the individual, and the service from which he serves or served.



To the left are PH pins. Both are costume jewelry. The top pin is the SAR PH lapel pin. The pin at the bottom is an over-the-counter lapel pin. Placing either on the War Service Medal or the Military Service Medal is demeaning.

Costume jewelry, especially the top pin shown above is the authorized Purple Heart Pin for attachment to the drape of the War Service Medal or Military Service Medal. It has no resemblance to the Purple Heart Award. A lapel pin is not welcomed on a medal authorized for wear by the Department of Defense; it shouldn't be welcomed for wear on an NSSAR medal. To do so is **demeaning and inappropriate**, for it causes a severe loss in the dignity of and respect for the purpose for which the Purple Heart stands. (To understand further the significance of this paragraph as it relates to the wearing of Federal Decorations and SAR Medals see pages 8 and 10, Volume IV, and page 5 of Volume V of the SAR Handbook.)

**Focus 2: The Persian Gulf War Veterans Corps... aka SW Asia VetCorps.** To qualify for this Veterans Corps you must have served in Southwest Asia and directly supported combat operations between 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995 during Operations Desert Shield and/or Desert Storm. Further, the qualifying standards for this recognition program include a discharge other than dishonorable and the awarding of the **Southwest Asia Service Medal**.



**The Geopolitical Realities of SW Asia.** This region consists of 16 nations and their capitals as follows: **Turkey** –Ankara; **Cyprus** –Nicosia; **Syria**—Damascus; **Lebanon**—Beirut; **Israel** –Jerusalem; **Jordan**—Amman; **Iraq**—Baghdad; **Kuwait**--Kuwait City; **Saudi Arabia**—Riyadh; **Bahrain** –Manama; **United Arab Emirates**--Abu Dhabi; **Oman**—Muscat; **Qatar** –Doha; **Yemen**—Sana'a; **Afghanistan**--Kabul.



War in this region will persist. History will show that the SW Asia Veterans of the Sons of the American Revolution fought here, in a strategic focal point that is often considered the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of writing and the wheel. Yes, we fought here—almost continuously for 14 and one half years.

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### **The Persian Gulf War Veterans Corps Focus Continued**

First it was the Persian Gulf War (2 August 1990 – 30 November 1995). During this war only three campaigns were designated. They included: (1) Defense of Saudi Arabia—2Aug1990 to 16Jan1991; (2) Liberation and Defense of Kuwait—17Jan1991 to 11Apr1991; and Southwest Asia Cease-Fire—12Apr1991 to 30Nov1995.

Then following the Persian Gulf War, other combat ops continued in SW Asia. Each of the following operations were approved for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and qualify for the awarding of the SAR War Service Medal. These qualifying operations included: (1) Vigilant Sentinel—1Dec 1995 to 15Feb1997; (2) Maritime Intercept Operation—1Dec1995 to 18 Mar2003; (3) Southern Watch—1Dec1995 to 18Mar2003; (4) Northern Watch—1Jan1997 to 18Mar2003; (5) Desert Fox—11Nov1998 to 22Dec1998; (6) Desert Thunder—16 Dec1998 to 22Dec1998; & (7) Desert Spring—31Dec1998 to 18Mar2003.



AFEM

After that came the Iraq War. As we know, that war has been a protracted armed conflict that began with the 2003 invasion of Iraq led by the United States. The invasion toppled the government of Saddam Hussein; however, the conflict has continued for the past decade as an insurgency emerged to oppose the occupying forces and the post-invasion Iraqi government. The United States officially withdrew from the country in 2011, but the insurgency and various dimensions of the civil armed conflict continue. Sooner than later our involvement there will again occur. The qualifying medal for the awarding of the SAR War Service Medal for service during the Iraq War in SW Asia is the Iraq Campaign Medal. The ICM award dates are from 29Nov2004 to 31Dec2011. US military personnel serving inside the borders of Iraq after December 2011 will not be eligible to receive the Iraq Campaign Medal.



Iraq Campaign Medal

Troops serving in the present-day 2014 Iraq conflict will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and not the Iraq Campaign Medal because the conflict remains nameless and the American government has not designated the fighting to be a Military Campaign.

**It's important to understand that there is a difference between the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal, since both qualify for the awarding of the SAR War Service Medal.**



GWOT Expeditionary Medal



GWOT Service Medal

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) is a United States armed forces military award created by George W. Bush on March 12, 2003 by Executive Order 13289. It recognizes those military service members who have deployed overseas in direct service to the War on Terror from September 11, 2001 to a date to be determined. Prior to April 30, 2005 the medal was awarded for service within Iraq and Afghanistan, but has been replaced with the Iraq Campaign Medal and Afghanistan Campaign Medal. It now serves primarily as recognition for personnel who have deployed in support of the War on Terror to locations in SW Asia and beyond.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOTSM) is a military award of the United States military which was created by Executive Order 13289 on March 12, 2003 by President George W. Bush. The award recognizes those military service members who have performed service in the War on Terror from September 11, 2001, to a date yet to be determined.



Afghanistan Campaign Medal

The War in Afghanistan (back then, now and presently) refers to the periods of the War in Afghanistan during 2001–2014, which was led by NATO. Information about where we were back then, where we are now, and where we are most likely going in that war follows.

**Back then--**The NATO-led war followed the September 11 attacks. It aimed to dismantle al-Qaeda by denying it a safe basis of operation in Afghanistan and to remove the Taliban from power.

**Now--**On 28 December 2014, NATO formally ended combat operations in Afghanistan and transferred full security responsibility to the Afghan

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**The Persian Gulf War VetCorps Focus...aka SW Asia VetCorps continued**

government via a ceremony in Kabul, marking the beginning of the new phase of the conflict. The planned withdrawal of NATO combat troops from Afghanistan and the transfer of all combat roles from NATO forces to the Afghan security forces occurred between 2011 and 2014. A bilateral security agreement was signed between the US and Afghanistan that would allow NATO troops to remain after the withdrawal date in an advisory and counter-terrorism capacity.

**Presently**--The NATO troop presence will remain, with approximately 13,000 troops including 9,800 Americans. But this presence will more than likely grow as US strategy for SW Asia is redefined to combat the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

**SW Asia especially the area of the Tigris-Euphrates river system, corresponding to modern-day Iraq, Kuwait, the north-eastern section of Syria has been the strategic focal point of the region for millennia. Its resources affect countries far away. The dividing line between the Shiite and the Sunni worlds runs through its center – indeed, through its capital of Bagdad. Iraq's Kurdish provinces rest uneasily between Turkey and Iran and indigenous adversaries within Iraq. It cannot be in the American interest to leave the region....” (Words and thought adopted from Henry Kissinger, Op Ed The Washington Post, Wednesday, February 3, 2010.)**

As we move forward with the administration and managerial scope of the initiative given to us by President General Brock, we must remember two important facts. First, governing policies numbers 1, 4, and 5 as presented on page 2 of this brief are essential if we intend to provide meaningful and creditable recognition to our SAR veterans. Next, the Persian Gulf War Veterans Corps is part of a bigger whole; namely, the SW Asia VetCorps. Campaign and Service Medals that relate to SW Asia service and rate the awarding of the War Service Medal are pictured below. We must always be ready to honor those who served there, with Certificates of Patriotism.



**Focus 3: The Vietnam War Veterans Corps...** To qualify for this Veterans Corps and receive a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the President General you must be a recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal as appropriate.



Vietnam  
Service  
Medal

The Vietnam Service Medal is a campaign medal and is retroactive to 1961. It supersedes and replaces the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, which was issued for Vietnam service prior to 1965.

SAR Compatriots are considered eligible for the NSSAR Vietnam War Veterans Corps if they served in the Republic of Vietnam, pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 38, Paragraph 3.2 (f), during the period beginning on February 28, 1961 and ending on May 7, 1975.

Much thought has gone into the structure of qualifying Compatriots for any one of the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Programs. Our committee procedures and administrative actions must conform to common sense and sound judgment based upon research found in SAR policy, law, legislation, and Armed Services documents, especially as we link the awarding of an SAR War Service Medal to Campaign Medals. It's not our job to act as "police" in the decision process that is clearly vested in the Chapter President or his designee, for we hold sacred the integrity of sound staff action, good policy implementation and the honesty of Compatriots.

But when it comes to forwarding a request for the President General's signature on a Certificate of Patriotism, we 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 participated in military service as claimed. To these ends, it's important that all parties to the veteran recognition process understand the limits of the VRC Charter and the uniqueness of qualifying standards for each Veterans Corps so as to entitle Compatriots for the issuance of a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the President General.

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### **The Vietnam War Veterans Corps Focus continued**



*For some the war ended long ago. For others it is not so. And for many, they weren't required to go.*

#### **The Vietnam Era Veterans Issue**

Vietnam Era is a term used by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to classify veterans of the Vietnam War. For VA purposes, and in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 38 Paragraph 3.2 (f), the Vietnam Era is the period beginning on 28 February 1961 and ending on 7 May 1975, inclusive, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period.

For those who did not serve in the Republic of Vietnam the term Vietnam Era is defined as the period beginning on 5 August 1964 and ended on 7 May 1975 inclusive.

The U.S. Congress, U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs elected to designate those years as such into two groups to accord veteran privileges to all persons who served the country's armed forces during those periods.

Stated differently, the Vietnam Era War Veteran is one who has been classified as having participated in the Vietnam War (28 Feb 1961 – 7 May 1975); the Vietnam Era Veteran is one who has been classified as having served in the armed forces but didn't participate in the Vietnam War (5 Aug 1964 – 7 May, 1975).

For determining eligibility to join the NSSAR Vietnam War Veterans Corps, attention is given to the Vietnam Era War Veterans. A Vietnam Era Veteran with a stand-alone National Defense Service Medal is not eligible for this recognition program.

**Focus 4: The Korean Service Veterans Corps...** To qualify for this Veterans Corps and receive a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the President General you must be a recipient of one or more of the following service medals.



**The Korean War.** July 27, 2015 marks the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement. It was not signed by Heads of States but by military men representing their commands. It was signed by U.S. Army Lieutenant General William Harrison, Jr., for the United Nations Command (UNC), and North Korean General Nam Il for the North Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. A representative of South Korea didn't sign the agreement; but the country's official position was that it would not obstruct the Armistice Agreement's implementation.

An armistice agreement is usually a temporary measure, created to give warring parties ample time to negotiate a peace treaty. But a final settlement hasn't happened. The Korean Armistice Agreement remains a truce document and appears for now to have effectively prevented the war from resuming. Yet armed forces of South Korea and the United States stand at the ready while armed North Korean troops stand at the ready, each opposing force monitors the movements of the other across a demilitarized zone that measures 2.4 miles.



Strange reality exists, about the Korean War. Chief in this regard is the fact the war never ended with a peace settlement. Only an armistice agreement was signed. Any veteran from the WWII era knows if he was a participant in a World War. But many Compatriots who served in this undeclared war, which is often referred to as an "UN" or police action of the 1950's, don't know they are eligible for this Korean Service Veterans Corps. Furthermore, many current-day Compatriots who served a tour in Korea at any time following the war are unaware they are eligible to join this VetCorps.

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### *The Korean Service Veterans Corps Focus continued*

Clarification on the matter of who is eligible to become a member of the Korean Service Veterans Corps comes clear when we review the history of the service and campaign medals which serve as a qualifying standard.

(1) Korean Service Medal (KSM) is a U.S. Campaign Medal. It has specific dates associated with it. It's the primary United States medal for participation in the Korean War and is awarded to any U.S. service member, who performed duty in the Republic of Korea, between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954.

(2) AFEM is a U.S. Campaign Medal. The medal is awarded for participation in any military campaign of the United States for which no other service medal is authorized. This medal has been awarded for at least 45 designated military campaigns, from events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and Korea to retroactive campaigns such as Quemoy and Matsu. Sometimes the AFEM is authorized before a specific campaign medal or service medal is authorized; witness the authorization of the AFEM before the effective dates of the Vietnam Service Medal and Southwest Asia Service Medal.

(3) Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is a U.S. Campaign Medal authorized for those members of the United States Armed Forces who have served actively in the defense of the Republic of Korea, after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement. It was created in 2002 when it was signed into law by President George W. Bush. The Korea Defense Service Medal is retroactive to the end of the Korean War and is granted to any service member performed after July 28, 1954. The National Personnel Records Center is responsible for verifying entitlement of the KDSM to discharged members of the military who served in Korea prior to the creation of the KDSM. As an official Department of Defense exception to policy, service members may be entitled to both the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the KDSM for participation in operations in Korea during the same time frame between October 1, 1966 -- June 30, 1974. Only one award of the Korean Defense Service Medal is authorized, regardless of the amount of time or tours served in the Korean theater.

(4) United Nations Service Medal (UNSM) is an international military decoration which was established by the United Nations on December 12, 1950. This decoration was the first international award ever created

by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War. The UNSM today is known as the United Nations Service Medal for Korea (UNKM). Although it's not a U.S. Campaign Medal, we need to understand its history, for if a compatriot indicates he has this medal we need to inquire further as to what U.S. Campaign Medal it is tied too. In the United States Armed Forces, any service member awarded the Korean Service Medal is automatically granted the United Nations Service Medal.

(5) Korean War Service Medal (KWSM), also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM), is not a U.S. Campaign Medal; it's a decoration of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950. Like item (4) above, it's valuable to know its history. Initially we did not authorize our troops to wear this medal. In 1954, the South Korean government authorized the now called Korean War Service Medal to all United Nations troops who had fought in the Korean War between the dates of June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. While a number of countries accepted the award, at the time of the Korean War Service Medal's presentation to U.N. troops the United States of America declined to award the medal to U.S. soldiers. This was based on regulations of the time which curtailed the acceptance and the wear of foreign decorations on U.S. military uniforms. Although subsequently some veterans attempted to have the decoration accepted, the Korean War Service Medal faded into history and was not heard of again until 1996. At that time the Army noted that it could find no record that the Korean Government ever offered the medal to the Department of Defense. This was technically true since the original offer was made to the United Nations Command. The Army took the position that unless the Korean Government resurrected their original offer, it was "not in a position to officially recognize or approve acceptance of the medal." In 1999, the South Korean government proposed the decoration be reactivated and retroactively awarded to all Korean and U.N. veterans who had served in the Korean War. On August 20, 1999, Francis M. Rush Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army authorized the Korean War Service Medal for distribution and wear by service members of the United States military. The task of issuing the medal

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### **The Korean Service Veterans Corps Focus continued**

was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base while the National Personnel Records Center was responsible for providing documentation to verify eligibility.

The Korean War Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 was not a political solution but a non-war-ending event. It was an agreement between the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's volunteers. The war never came to an end. Only an agreement was signed by military field commanders. Realizing this helps us understand under what conditions a Compatriot is eligible to become a member of the SAR Korean Service Veterans Corps.

**Focus 5: The World War II Veterans Corps...** To qualify for this Veterans Corps and receive a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the President General we must understand two significant facts:

(1) WW II was the last of the current-day declared wars. (In American history our nation has had five declared wars. Since the creation of the SAR and the War Service Medal, our nation has had three declared wars—Spanish American War, WW I and WW II.)

(2) The standard of eligibility to become a member of this VetCorps is tied to specific dates of military service vice having been awarded a campaign or service medal. Stated differently, any Compatriot who was a member of the US Armed Forces or a member of an armed force allied with the United States during the period of 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946 qualifies for membership in the World War II Veterans Corps and to receive a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the President General.

A quick litmus test to ascertain if a Compatriot is eligible for this recognition program is to ask him if he received the World War II Victory Medal for his service to country as a member of the US Armed Forces.

The World War II Victory Medal spans the qualifying dates for membership into the World War II Veterans Corps. Specific details about this medal are: (1) The World War II Victory Medal is a service medal of the United States military which was established by an Act of Congress on 6 July 1945 (Public Law 135, 79<sup>th</sup> Congress) and promulgated by



Section V, War Department Bulletin 12, 1944; (2) The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon"; (3) By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal; (4) The medal was awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946. (5) The National Personnel Records Center has reported some cases of service members receiving the award for simply a few days of service. As the Second World War ended on September 2, 1945, there may be cases of service members, who had enlisted in 1946, receiving the medal without having been a veteran of World War II. The reason for this late date is that President Harry S. Truman did not declare an official end of hostilities until the last day of 1946.

On August 8, 1946, the separate Merchant Marine World War II Victory Medal was established for members of the United States Merchant Marine who served during World War II. The qualifying dates of this medal are the same for the World War II Victory Medal.

For Compatriots who served with an armed force allied with the United States during World War II, there is no quick litmus test. In such cases, eligibility to become a member of the World War II Veterans Corps and to receive a Certificate of Patriotism signed by the President General is dependent upon verification of military service during a period beginning on 7 December 1941 through 31 December 1946.

"**Lest we forget**" relates to one of President General Brock's initiatives; namely, continue the VRC vetting and processing of Certificates of Patriotism for NSSAR Compatriots who served during the Second World War. Further, each year Vice President Generals shall receive a list of living World War II Veterans in his VPG District so that honors may be given to Compatriots as deemed appropriate on Veterans Day.

Under this initiative the VRC created "A Grateful Nation Remembers" certificate program to perpetuate the memory of our World War II Veterans Corps

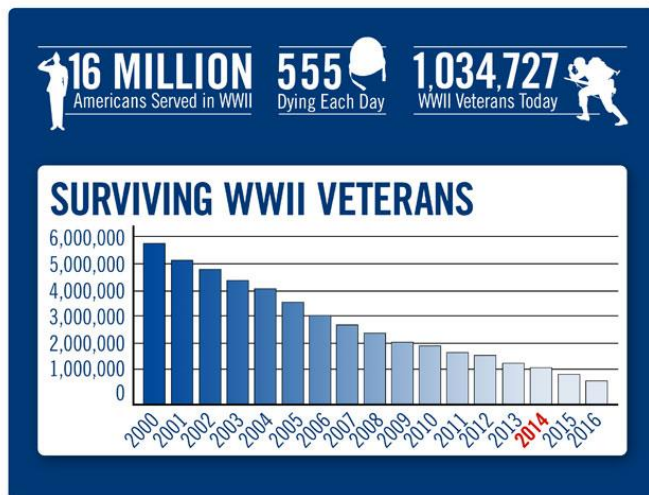
*"Lest we forget" roots reside in Rudyard Kipling's "Recessional" poem to spare England from oblivion or profanity. As time passed, these three words have become renown across most countries to show remembrance of those who have fought and/or served. It's a plea not to forget past sacrifices; else passing out of existence befalls even the most powerful people, armies and nations.*

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## **The World War II Veterans Corps Focus continued**

*Compatriots. To this end, the VRC sent and will send each District Vice President General NLT the first of November each year, and until the last NSSAR World War II Veterans Corps member is no longer with us, an all-inclusive list of those who remain with us and who remain members in good standing. The intent here is to facilitate the spirit and intent of President General Brock's initiative that we not forget the Compatriots of the "Greatest Generation." This is being done by the creation and management of a database of World War II VetCorps members by SAR District and by the publishing annually of that information digitally via email to District Vice President Generals who in turn can forward the information to State Society Presidents under their purview for follow-on dissemination to Chapter Presidents.*

*The "Grateful Nation Remembers" recognition program was prompted by the realization that: (1) Over 16 million Americans served in World War II. Today there are slightly over 1 million alive, with about 532 American WWII Veterans passing-on daily.*



*(2) The VRC has joined 840 Compatriots to its WW II VetCorps since its inception. Today 586 remain with us. (3) Actuary Tables suggest that an 86 year old veteran today will slip-away in the next 5.38 years.*

***A special thank you is given to the District Vice President Generals, for they were most responsive, especially the Southern District, in remembering and honoring our World War II Compatriots on Veterans Day 2014.***

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***Please turn to page 11.***



# Spring 2015 Leadership Conference Agenda, with Briefing Assignments

0800 to 0900 Brown Hotel/Kentucky Rm 3<sup>rd</sup> FL (**But we'll meet in the Crystal Ballroom 3<sup>rd</sup> FL**).

1. **Chuck Sweeney**—Opening Remarks
2. **Charlie Brown**—On page 1 of Newsletter brief Item 1 and subparagraphs from Historical Overview through Governing Policy. In your brief, build in responses to self-test questions 1, 2, and 3.
3. **Dick Marsh**—On page 2 of Newsletter, begin brief with “The VRC is Focused” and “Focus 1.” Then continue onto page 3, and the Purple Heart Pins issue on page 4. In your brief, build in responses to questions 4, 5, 6, and 7.
4. **Brooks Lyles**—On page 4 of Newsletter, begin brief with “Focus 2.” Then continue with page 5 and left column on page 6. In your brief, build in responses to questions 8, 9, 10 and 11.
5. **Dave Jessel**—On page 6 of Newsletter, begin brief with “Focus 3.” Then continue through left column info on page 7. In your brief build in responses to questions 12 and 13.
6. **Jim Arnold**—On page 7 of Newsletter, begin brief with “Focus 4.” Then continue through page 8 and to the top left column portion on page 9. In your brief build in responses to questions 14 and 15.
7. **Bruce Buehler**—On page 9 of Newsletter, begin brief with “Focus 5.” Then continue with information through the left column on page 10. In your brief, build in responses to questions 16, 17, and 18.
8. **In The Wings**—meaning a scheduling conflict may prohibit attendance at the March 6, 2015, VRC Meeting: Paul Callanan; Bob Doughty; Stan Evans; Bill Kabel; Vic McMurry; Paul Prescott; Ken Roach; Kent Webber.

## Self-Test for Further Understanding

1. (Circle True or False) The VRC has five Veterans Corps, the newest of which is the Military Service Veterans Corps.
2. (Circle True or False). The VRC has a mission statement that defines its work, so as to ensure that what we do has a legacy dimension, is visionary and is administratively sound.
3. The VRC has five governing policies. List the governing policies numbers which are essential if we intend to provide meaningful and creditable recognition to our SAR veterans. These essential governing policies are \_\_\_\_\_. (Hint: Review page 2 and then the bottom of page 6.)
4. Circle the number of the *Alice in Wonderland* quote that best foretells of wasted staff action if the VRC fails to remain focused. (1) “Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end: then stop.” (2) “...here we must run as fast as we can, just to stay in place. And if you wish to go anywhere you must run twice as fast as that.” (3) If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.”
5. (Circle True or False). To become a member of the Military Service Veterans Corps, a Compatriot must have received a discharge under honorable conditions.
6. (Circle True or False). The War Service Medal and Military Service Medal hold the co-precedence value of three.
7. (Circle demeaning or appropriate). The **Purple Heart** is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces. After reading pages three and four of this brief, is the authorized Purple Heart pin for attachment to an SAR drape of the War Service Medal or Military Service demeaning or appropriate?

8. (Circle Yes or No). For direct support of combat operations during Desert Shield and/or Desert Storm (2 August 1990 – 30 November 1995) service members were authorized the SW Asia Service Medal. Compatriots who received the SW Asia Service Medal qualify for the SAR War Service Medal, with SW Asia Bar. Following 30 November 1995, other operations as listed on page 5 of this brief occurred, with participants being awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Should Compatriots who received the AFEM for these follow-on operations be authorized the SAR War Service Medal, with the SW Asia Bar?
9. (Circle True or False). Prior to 30 April 2005 the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) was awarded for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.
10. (Circle True or False). On 28 December 2014 NATO formally ended combat operations in Afghanistan. Following that date, no bilateral security agreement exists between the US and Afghanistan that would allow troops to remain in that SW Asia nation.
11. (Circle Likely or Unlikely). Given the “Back Then, Now, and Presently” sections on pages 5 and 6 of this brief, is likely or unlikely combat operation will persist in SW Asia?
12. (Circle True or False). The Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 38, Paragraph 3.2 (f) addresses the issue of Vietnam Era Veterans. The US Congress, US Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs established two group supported by different dates for Vietnam Era War Veterans who participated in the Vietnam War and for Vietnam Era Veterans who did not serve in Vietnam.
13. (Circle True or False). For determining eligibility to join the NSSAR Vietnam War Veterans Corps, attention is given to the Vietnam Era War Veterans. A Vietnam Era Veteran with a stand-alone National Defense Service Medal is not eligible for the Vietnam War Veterans Corps, but he is eligible for the Military Service Veterans Corps.
14. (Circle True or False). The Korean War, which was not declared by an Act of Congress but was authorized under the War Powers Act, ended on 27 July 1953 with the signing of an Armistice Agreement.
15. (Circle True or False). To become a member of the Korean Service Veterans Corps, a Compatriot will have one or more of the qualifying Campaign or Service Medals associated with participation in combat or combat support operations during that war. Further, Compatriots who have served tours in Korea since the signing of the Armistice Agreement are eligible for the Korean Defense Service Medal, which is a gateway award for membership in the NSSAR Korean Service Veterans Corps.
16. (Circle True or False). Membership in the World War II Veterans Corps, like membership in all the other NSSAR Veterans Corps, is dependent upon having been awarded a specific qualifying campaign and/or service medal.
17. (Circle True or False). The “Grateful Nation Remembers” recognition program is a President General Brock initiative. It perpetuates the memory of our World War II Veterans Corps Compatriots.
18. (Circle True or False). “Lest we forget” has nothing to do with a plea not to forget past sacrifices: else passing out of existence befalls even the most powerful people, armies and nations.
19. (Circle True or False). To become a member of a NSSAR Veterans Corps complete a Veterans Multi-Survey Form. The NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Survey Form is down-loadable by clicking on this website: [http://saramanasar.org/VRC\\_Survey\\_Form.html](http://saramanasar.org/VRC_Survey_Form.html).

### **Why We Meet in Committee Question**

20. Circle the letter below which best describes the lesson learned during our meeting at the 2015 Spring Leadership Conference.
- A. Unlike existence in Stephen Hawking’s universe, tasks in the VRC world never expand.
- B. Like existence in Stephen Hawking’s universe, tasks in the VRC world expand with purpose.