



TENNESSEE SOCIETY

2015 TNSSAR Color Guard Manual

Sons of the American Revolution Tennessee Society Color Guard

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Sons of the American Revolution Tennessee Society Color Guard

Organized: April 2010

I. Charter

Through participation in historical, patriotic and educational endeavors, the Tennessee State Society SAR Color Guard (TNSSARCG) is to honor our patriot ancestors; promote the TNSSAR; and inspire the community with the principles on which our nation was founded.

II. Organization

Following NSSAR guidelines/policy, the TNSSARCG is made up of those Compatriots who come to SAR events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers, Militiamen, as Revolution-era clergymen or other period correct attire.

The TNSSARCG functions under a standing committee of the Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution. The Color Guard Committee chairman, appointed by the Tennessee Society President, serves as the State Commander. Division Commanders are appointed by the State Commander. Committee membership is subject to the Tennessee Society Bylaws.

State Commander, is responsible for overall TNSSARCG organization and activities. This includes, but is not limited to: appointing and overseeing all committee functions; leading events; maintaining the list of scheduled events; approving expenditures; recruiting new personnel; receiving and evaluating requests for TNSSARCG appearances; producing a quarterly report for the TNSSAR President.

Division Commanders, whose areas of responsibility are set by geographical boundaries, are responsible for TNSSARCG organization and activities within his designated geographic area. This includes, but is not limited to: leading events; maintaining a roster of compatriots who wish to participate in TNSSARCG activities; maintaining a record of attendees at each Division event; recruiting new personnel; assuring all participants are properly attired; receiving and evaluating requests for TNSSARCG appearances.

TNSSARCG Divisions, Companies and flag standards are identified as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Flag Standard</u>
Eastern Division	Mountain Brigade	Guilford Courthouse
Middle Eastern Division	Tanasi River Brigade	Tanasi River Flag
Middle Division	French Lick Company	Bourbon Flag
Western Division	Frontier Company	Gadsden Flag
Statewide	Highland Guard	Scottish National

III. Fiscal Responsibility

The TNSSARCG is self-funded, primarily from honorarium. Funds received are maintained in a separate operating fund, with oversight by the Tennessee Society Treasurer. The State Commander will have discretionary spending authority for supplies, equipment acquisition and maintenance, and event associated expenses. Expenditures other than those directly related to Color Guard activities will be subject to approval by the committee.

IV. Health & Safety Regulations

The following regulations were enacted for the health and safety of the Guardsmen participating in the various SAR sponsored outdoor events.

The Color Guard Commander at the event (assisted by the Event Coordinator) shall be responsible for enforcing these regulations as much as practicable, but each individual Guardsman is ultimately responsible for his own health and safety including, but not limited to, obtaining the necessary liability insurance.

It shall be the responsibility of individual Guardsman to be aware of their own physical limitations and to excuse themselves from parades or events that will exceed their capabilities. They should also advise the Commander of this situation so appropriate arrangements can be made. In participating in a parade, each Guardsman is expected to maintain the set pace.

The Commander shall be responsible to inform Guardsmen of the expected physical activity required at any event including, but not limited to, the length of any march, the route of march, expected maneuvers and obstacles. The Commander or his designee shall be responsible for arranging transportation both to and from parades. When participating in a reenactment event not directly sponsored by the SAR, the Guardsman must make themselves subordinate to the effective rules and regulations of the sponsoring organization. An SAR Safety Officer can be appointed by the Commander for such events.

Only reenactor quality uniforms may be worn when participating in a firing squad or when the color guard will be in close proximity of a firing squad. If a Guardsman is wearing a polyester uniform, he will be asked to move to a safe location or asked to defer in direct participation at that time (credit for attendance will still accrue towards medals).

V. Operations Protocol

Individuals are to first contact the designated Division Commander regarding opportunities for color guard appearances. Requests received by the State Commander will be forwarded to the responsible Division TNSSARCG Commander for consideration.

The Division Commander will evaluate the request against prior commitments, available assets and appropriateness of the event, and then forward a recommendation to the State Commander whether to accept/decline the request. This recommendation should include a short statement in support of the Division

Commander's decision and, if accepted, whether assets (people, flags, uniforms, etc.) would be required from outside his Division of responsibility (usually from an adjacent Division).

The optimum number in a color guard is five guardsmen, with a minimum of three. Major media events, revenue producing appearances, support of DAR & CAR activities, etc., should be treated with "maximum effort." In all cases, the appropriate number of guardsmen should be evaluated based upon the particular event. It may not be suitable to have fifteen participants at a simple flag posting. Conversely, the SAR would not be adequately represented with only two people participating in a large parade.

Once an event is approved, the event will be "published" and sanctioned by the Tennessee Society. The Division Commander will contact personnel within his Division of responsibility to finalize the roster for the event and keep them fully informed regarding details of the event (date, time, location, special requirements, etc.). It is suggested that the Division Commander identify a local point of contact who would be responsible for gathering and forwarding details regarding the event, particularly last minute changes, to the Division Commander.

VI. FORMATION OF A COLOR GUARD UNIT

Minimum Number in a Color Guard Unit:

- The optimum minimum number of men that form a Color Guard unit consists of four (4) men:
- Two (2) Color Bearers who carry the United States National Flag and the State or SAR Flag;
- Two (2) Musketeers or Riflemen who escort the Color Bearers.
(It is understood that many state and chapter Color Guards do not have Musketeers or Riflemen.)

A Color Guard may consist of a minimum of three (3) members with at least one Musketeer or Rifleman marching to the right of the National Colors. The left side of the National Colors should be covered either by a second Musketeer or Rifleman or another Color Bearer who would carry another flag (most often the state flag). In either situation, the Commander of the Color Guard will either be the Musketeer guarding the National Colors or the Guardsman carrying the National Colors. As the Color Guard grows, the Commander will march ahead of the National Colors separate from any other rank.

VII. Uniform Policy

The TNSSAR Color Guard does not require members to obtain a standardized uniform. Members are encouraged to research and acquire the uniform or dress of their Revolutionary War patriot ancestor(s). Either regimental or field dress is appropriate as long as it is historically accurate. The Color Guard is a group activity with the primary mission of presenting and guarding our national colors. Therefore certain criterion needs to be adhered to in the interest of reasonable uniformity.

A. SAR Medals

We will adhere to the National guideline of not wearing any S.A.R., military or hereditary pins, badges or awards.

“... when we wear our “regimentals”, in public or even at internal SAR events, we are memorializing our Revolutionary War heroic ancestors, not our personal accomplishments! It should be noted that when we wear our regimentals we are reminding the public of our countries origins. The medals we wear, SAR, are not known to the public, and therefore are meaningless, hence confusing.

*Donald N. Moran
Founding National Color Guard Commander
Editor, The SAR Guardsman”*

See appendix for reporting form and qualifying requirements to be used for submitting application for any of the Color Guard Medals.

B. Accoutrements

1. The headgear of choice is the black tricorne. The brim may be lined with white, yellow or black ribbing as appropriate for the particular uniform. Excess decoration beyond a cockade and a single unit pin is to be avoided unless historically based, i.e. feathers. Other tasteful and historically accurate headgear, such as brimmed hats, stocking caps, and scarves may be worn with hunting and minuteman attire.
2. The shoe of choice is plain black lace or buckle oxford. Other tasteful and historically accurate footwear, such as moccasins may be worn with hunting and minuteman attire. Black riding boots may optionally be worn with officer's regimentals or gentleman's or squires attire.
3. Socks, depending on the type of breeches being worn, shall appear to be historically accurate, i.e. over the knee, non-ribbed and solid in color.
4. At the discretion of the event leader, white cotton gloves may be worn during formal ceremonies. If gloves are deemed appropriate, they are to be worn by all formation members. An exception will be made for militiamen and musketeers if a salute is to be fired.
5. Other than at formal occasions, such as Posting Colors, all historically accurate accoutrements can be worn by those dressed in either Continental or militia attire.
6. Any questions regarding accoutrements can be directed to the Color Guard Commander or of the Chief of Protocol.

VIII. Weapons Policy

Our main concern is safety for the individual and the environment.

The 1763/66 French Charleville and 2nd Land Model British Brown Bess are considered the “weapon of choice” for color guard events. Other period specific black powder flintlocks, such as Pennsylvania rifles, may also be appropriate, especially with frontiersman clothing and hunting frocks. Pistols were primarily cavalry, officers or men of importance/wealth. Pistols should only be carried by such.

Like all firearms, muskets employed by the color guard are inherently dangerous.

They must always be treated as loaded and potentially deadly. Blank charges can also cause injuries, especially at close ranges.

A. Musket/Longrifle Guidelines

1. Ball or other projectile shall never be loaded or carried.
2. Muskets shall be maintained in a clean and serviceable condition.
3. Muskets shall be equipped with leather frizzen covers.
4. All fired muskets shall be equipped with metal flash guards, if the Musket/Longrifle is so designed to accept one.
5. Only powder dispensed from paper cartridges shall be used.
6. Charges shall consist of no more than 100 grains of ffg black powder.
7. Muskets shall remain unloaded until instructed to load.
8. Paper cartridges shall be discarded and not used as wadding.
9. Ramrods and other objects shall not be inserted into charged bores.
10. Charged muskets shall be carried at half-cock.
11. Muskets shall always be pointed in a safe direction.
12. Muskets shall never be fired toward anyone.
13. Muskets shall never be fired over anyone within 100 feet.

B. Firing of Muskets

On certain occasions a musket/rifle salute is deemed appropriate and shall be conducted according to the following guidelines.

- An SAR Safety Officer, Division Commander or State Commander will perform a safety inspection of firearms prior to the beginning of the ceremony. It should be conducted as follows; the rammer should be pinged to show that the weapon is clear, and it should be hung by the trigger at half cock to make sure that it will not go off accidentally.
- As determined by the event commander, musket firings shall be aimed in a direction which protects against all possible injury to persons and property.
- All guardsmen who are assigned to fire muskets shall be certified as to their competency by the TNSSAR Color Guard Commander, Division Commander or designated safety officer, based upon the following criteria:
 - o Demonstrated knowledge of and compliance with the above stated standards.

- o Demonstrated efficiency in breaking down, cleaning and assembling musket.
- o Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing musket.

C. Bladed Weapons

1. Bayonets may be fixed for parade, color guard duty, stacking arms, drill, or other scenarios, at the direction of the officers.
2. Bayonets will be fixed only at the order of the event commander.

Note: The bayonet should only be used when the public is at a safe distance and the individuals using the rifle with bayonet mounted are able to safely perform all manual of arms procedures.

3. Edged weapons shall remain sheathed or secured at all times, except when used as a tool of command.

IX. Suggested Ceremony Guidelines

A. Posting Colors

1. The National Flag should always be protected in procession and posted on the speaker's/podium right.
2. Order of Flags shall be in the following sequence; National Flag, historical National Flags (i.e. Betsy Ross), State Flag, NSSAR, TNSSAR, Division Flags and lastly any and all historical Revolutionary War Flags.
3. Guardsmen in a militia style uniform will appear as the Color Bearers guards and may carry canteens, swords or other equipment that was customary with Patriot Militia of the Revolutionary War era. When accompanying Color Guard Flag Bearers, they will guard and protect the Flags by leading the Color Bearers and bringing up the rear.
4. On formal occasions those in Continental attire should wear white gloves. Those less formal occasions will be left to the discretion of the lead Guardsman. However, either all should wear gloves or none should.

B. Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking

1. SAR Official: Welcome and Greetings
2. Presentation of the Colors: SAR Color Guard, Military Unit, ROTC, Scouts or other appropriate group.
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag
5. SAR Pledge by SAR Members
6. Introduction of the assembly to the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
7. Life of Patriot and his/her revolutionary patriot service
8. Decoration of the grave with wreath or other floral arrangement
9. Introduction of descendants of Patriot in attendance or identify those that could not be at the service
10. Dedication of the Marker

C. SAR Compatriot Casket Guard Procedures

At the predetermined times during visitation, an Honor Guard will remain posted at all times. One member will be posted at the head of the casket and one member will be posted at the feet. Be prepared to stay at this position for 10 to 20 minutes depending on the situation.

Initial Posting of the Guard

All of the assigned guards will proceed to a position just in front of the casket in order to give their last respects to the deceased. Depending on the layout of the room, their procession may be done down the center aisle or the side aisle. It is preferred that the center aisle be used so the guards can proceed to the casket side by side, at the front of the casket, the guards will salute the flag (Present...Arms., Order...Arms. done quietly) if the flag is present either on the casket or folded nearby. The guards will then remove their caps and pay last respects as they see appropriate (prayer, sign of the cross, moment of silence, etc.). The guards shall then place their caps on their heads and make a facing movement (Ready...Face. quietly) and proceed to the separate positions at the head and the foot of the casket. The guards shall do an **ABOUT FACE** automatically upon reaching his/her position and shall then assume the position of **PARADE REST** without a command. The guard(s) that are not part of the initial group will proceed to the area designated for them to wait in.

Time

After the designated time (ten/twenty minutes) both guards are to be relieved by the procedures below. If only three Guards are available, then one of the guards would be relieved every 10 minutes (the max guard time then being again being 20 minutes).

Changing of the Guard

Upon seeing the relief guard(s) ready to enter the room, (or when the relief stops in front of them, in case they come in from the rear) the guards at the casket will assume to position of **ATTENTION**. The relief guards will make their way stand in front of the guard they are to replace. Upon arrival, they will **HALT** and **Salute** the guard to be relieved. They will **FACE** the retiring guards and give a salute. The retiring guards shall return the salute and then take one step to the side to allow for the new guard to take his/her position. The new guards shall take one step forward and perform an About Face movement and shall then assume the position of **Parade Rest**. The retiring guards shall then perform a **FACE** movement towards the direction that they came from and **Forward March** down the aisle until they have exited the area.

End Of Guard Duty

Coordination for the end of the honor guard will be made with the funeral director. The honor guard will leave their positions before the beginning of the formal service – a suggestion is that the members on duty come to **ATTENTION** as the family takes their seats and perform a **FACE** movement towards the direction that they will exit and **Forward March** down the aisle until they have exited the area.

D. Commands

While many members of the SAR have a military background, some do not. Accordingly, this section is intended to familiarize all Guardsmen with the standard commands. The commands given below are a mixture of both modern commands and those commands used during the Revolutionary War. Some units may prefer to use all modern commands while some will use a mixture and some will exclusively use those commands outlined in the Revolutionary War Drill Manual. A specific policy has not been adopted as of the writing of this manual.

A. Posting the Colors & Other Indoor Events

The most common activity of any Color Guard will be the posting of the Colors at a meeting or some other public event that occurs indoors. Given the wide variety of locations, meetings, and other details, there is no specific program that can be provided as an example. However, the basic commands that will be used in such an event are provided.

- **“Color Guard, Attention”**. With this command, the color guard should come to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- **“Order, Arms”** With this command, the flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- **“Mark Time, March”** With this command, the color guard marches in place starting with the left foot so that tempo for subsequent commands can be established.
- **“Forward, March”** With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- **“Mark Time, March”** With this command, the front rank halts their forward progress and continues to march in place allowing for subsequent ranks to catch up to the final position if necessary.
- **“Color Guard, Halt”** With this command, all marching should cease within two beats or steps.
- **“Left / Right, Face”** With this command, all members face the appropriate direction as ordered by the Commander.
- **“Present, Colors”** With this command, all flags except the National are dipped and firearms are brought to the Present Arms position for pledges and the National Anthem.
- **“Post, Colors”** With this command, the color bearers place the flags in the flag stands and dress the flags appropriately. Color bearers are free to move forward and back one step as necessary. Musketeers continue to maintain the present arms position.”
- **“Center, Face”** With this command, all members face the appropriate direction to move out of the room in a single column or in double column.
- **“Post (or To your post)”** With this command, all members move to a previously designated location, or post.

The same series of commands can be used for the Retiring of Colors at the end of the meeting except that there will be no Present Colors command and the Post the Colors

command would be replaced by a Retrieve the Colors command.

B. Graveside / Outdoor / Other Outdoor Events

There are two common types of outdoor ceremonies in which the Color Guard most often participate:

- The commemoration or celebration of the anniversary of a Revolutionary War battle or event.
- A wreath-laying and/or marker dedication at the grave of a Revolutionary War patriot or of a compatriot member of the SAR.

The commands used at these ceremonies are the same as those outlined above.

The differences between the indoor posting of colors and the outdoor ceremony are that there are more program elements associated with the outdoor event, and the Color Guard will often remain in place after the presentation of Colors due to the lack of outdoor flag stands. If stands are available then the Color Guard will move away. If the Color Guard remains in place, the Commander should issue the following commands after the presentation of Colors:

- **“Order, Arms”** With this command, all guardsmen return flags and muskets to the carry position.
- **“Parade, Rest”** With this command, flags and muskets are lowered to rest on the ground and the guardsmen are able to stand without being at attention.

If the program includes an honorary firing of muskets and/or the playing of Taps, the Commander should bring the Color Guard to attention and order the Color Guard to Present Arms using the appropriate commands. In most cases, the master of ceremonies will ask for the Retirement of Colors shortly after this event, so the Color Guard should remain at attention and be prepared for further commands.

C. Parades

Given that most parades will only entail simple movements, the commands associated with parades are:

- **“Color Guard, Attention”**. With this command, the color guard should come to attention with flags and firearms on the floor to their right.
- **“Order, Arms”** With this command, the flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- **“Mark Time, March”** With this command, the color guard marches in place starting with the left foot so that tempo for subsequent commands can be established.
- **“Forward, March”** With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- **“Color Guard, Halt”** With this command, all marching should cease within two beats or steps.
- If there is a Reviewing Stand during the parade, the Commander should brief the Color Guard of the following additional commands that will be used:

- **“Present, Arms”** With this command, all flags are dipped except the National Colors and all guardsmen will turn their heads 45 degrees towards the review stand)
- **“Order, Arms”** With this command, all flags and firearms are returned to the carry position and heads face straight ahead.

X. Flag Protocol

Although this is not an exhaustive list it does include useful information for our purposes. For an exhaustive list see NSSAR Handbook Vol. II pg. 21

1. The Flag should be either on the Flag’s own right when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, or in front of the center of the line if there is a line of other flags.
2. The Flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff.
3. No other flag or pennant should be placed above or to the right of the Flag of the United States of America, if it is on the same level, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the Flag during church services for naval personnel.
4. The Flag of the United States of America should be on the right when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs. The Flag’s own right and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag. The Flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
5. The Flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as a covering for a statue or monument.

XI. Appendix

A. Links

The following is offered as an aid to finding supplies/suppliers for Guardsmen’s period attire and in no way implies explicit use of these suppliers only. Each Guardsman is free to search and buy wherever;

1. C & D Jarnigin Company- uniforms,etc.- www.jarnaginco.com
2. Military Heritage-supplier of muskets - www.militaryheritage.com
3. Hamilton Dry Goods-good supplier of period cloth, and some militia type clothing - www.hamiltondrygoods.com
4. G. Gedney Godwin-uniforms, etc. - www.gggodwin.com
5. James Townsend and Son- uniforms, etc. - www.jas-townsend.com
6. Smoke and Fire-great selection of patterns - www.smoke-fire.com
8. Index to Uniforms of the Revolution - ww.srcalifornia.com/uniforms/uindex.htm

B. Activities

Remember, the Color Guard is the “face” of the TNSSAR and we need to take full advantage of being able to promote our organization anytime we can. Although not an exhaustive list, here are as few suggested ways to get involved:

1. Grave markings for either Revolutionary War Veterans of SAR members.
2. Organizing a living history presentation at schools, State Parks or other places.
3. Participate in celebrations of historic events or national holidays.
4. Partner with other Patriotic organizations for public events.
5. Post colors for DAR or other organizations.
6. Parades of all sorts.
7. Attend local "Heritage" or "Pioneer" Days
8. Make your awards presentations in Color Guard attire, i.e. JROTC/ROTC, Eagle Scout Certificates or the Americanism Poster Contest.

C. Medals Reporting Form and Requirements

SAR Color Guardsmen who believe they qualify for the Silver Color Guard Medal must complete the appropriate form, setting forth their qualifications. This form is available from the State, District or National Color Guard Commander, and must be submitted to the District and/or National Color Guard Commander for authorization to award the Silver Color Guard Medal.

I. Earning the Bronze Color Guard Medal

The Bronze Color Guard Medal is for service at the State and/or Chapter levels. Award of the Bronze Color Guard Medal is authorized by the State awarding authority, and should be presented by the State or Chapter President as appropriate.

A. Point System

To earn an SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal, a Color Guardsman must accrue at least three hundred (300) points by participating in uniform at qualifying Chapter and/or State Color Guard events. A Color Guardsman shall earn five (5) points for his participation in uniform in each Chapter event. A Chapter event shall be defined as an event in which a Chapter participates, but to which an invitation has not been extended to the State Color Guard. Examples include, but are not limited to: participation at schools, civic clubs, churches and other public organizations, Chapter meetings, flag retirement ceremonies, local veterans events, local Revolutionary War event celebrations, proclamation ceremonies by local governments, and similar local events. The Chapter President should approve a Chapter event before the event may be counted.

A Color Guardsman shall earn ten (10) points for his participation in uniform in each State event. A State event is an event in which the State Color Guard has been requested to participate. Examples include, but are not limited to: Revolutionary battle and historic sites celebrations, grave markings, parades, State Society meetings. The State President should approve a State event before the event may be counted.

A Color Guardsman must keep track of the events in which he has participated, and must prove that he has accrued 300 points to the State President or State Color Guard Commander, or to such other appropriate State authority.

II. Earning the Silver Color Guard Medal

The Silver Color Guard Medal is for service at the District and National levels. An SAR

Color Guardsman must have the Bronze Color Guard Medal before he can be awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal.

SAR Color Guardsmen who believe they qualify for the Silver Color Guard Medal must complete the appropriate form, setting forth their qualifications. This form is available on the SAR website, and must be submitted to the State or District Color Guard Commander for review and recommendation, and to the National Color Guard Commander for final authorization to award the Silver Color Guard Medal.

The Silver Color Guard Medal should be presented, as appropriate, by the District Vice President General, by the State President, or by the District or State Color Guard Commander. Under special circumstances, the Silver Color Guard Medal may also be presented by the President General or the National Color Guard Commander. The SAR National Congress and semi-annual Leadership Meetings are National events, and Color Guardsmen are strongly encouraged to participate in them. Other qualifying events which may be substituted for National Congresses and Leadership Meetings shall include:

- An historic commemoration recognized by the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, e.g. Point Pleasant, the Cowpens, Yorktown, etc.;
- An Annual State Meeting at which the President General is present;
- An Annual District Meeting or Annual District Conference;
- Any National or District event at which the President General is present;
- Any event specifically determined by the National Color Guard Committee to be a qualifying event, including Washington's Birthday Parade in Laredo, Texas, and the George Washington Massing of the Colors in Los Angeles, California.
- See National Color Guard Events under MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION at the back of this Handbook. Other events may be determined by the National Color Guard Committee to be qualifying events on a case-by-case basis.

A. Point System

To earn an SAR Silver Color Guard Medal, a Color Guardsman must have participated in at least nine (9) District and/or National events. In addition, the Color Guardsman should earn a minimum of 500 points (i.e. 200 points for participation in District and/or National events in addition to the 300 points required for the Bronze Color Guard Medal). For those events that are both state and National events (e.g. Kettle Creek, Guilford Courthouse or Yorktown), it is the policy of the NSSAR Color Guard Committee that any such event can be counted only once each year toward either the Bronze or Silver Color Guard Medal. The Color Guardsman will determine toward which medal his participation in an event will be counted.

A Color Guardsman shall earn twenty (20) points for his participation in uniform in each District or National event.

III. Mileage

For Color Guardsmen whose State societies employ the point system, they may also earn points based on mileage, whether such miles are traveled by driving or by flying.

- Up to 100 miles, no points;
- From 101 to 200 miles, 5 points;
- From 201 to 999 miles, 10 points;
- From 1,000 miles and over, 20 points.

IV. The Gold Color Guard Medal

The Gold Color Guard Medal is awarded to the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year. Each year, there shall be no more than one SAR Color Guardsman of the Year, and he shall be selected pursuant to procedures set forth by the National Color Guard Committee. An SAR Color Guardsman must have both the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals before he can be considered for SAR Color Guardsman of the Year. The Gold Color Guard Medal should be presented by the President General during the Annual Congress Awards Night Program. To be considered for SAR Color Guardsman of the Year, a Color Guardsman must have completed three years of service at the National level. Each State Society and Chapter Color Guard may nominate one compatriot each year for the SAR Color Guardsman of the Year. State Societies and Chapters should consider that Compatriot who best exemplifies both the spirit of the Sons of the American Revolution and the use of Color Guards to display that spirit. The SAR Color Guardsman of the Year must attend the SAR National Congress at which he is awarded the Gold Color Guard Medal, and is expected to attend the subsequent National Congress as well.

The Gold Color Guard Medal is also awarded for service in a leadership capacity at the National level. The Gold Color Guard Medal is usually presented to the outgoing National Color Guard Commander by the President General at the Color Guard Change-of-Command Ceremony. To qualify for the Gold Color Guard Medal for service in a leadership capacity, a Color Guardsman must have served at least one year as Vice Commander and two years as Commander of the SAR National Color Guard. If the National Color Guard Commander has not served at least one year as Vice Commander, he must serve at least three years as Commander in order to qualify for the Gold Color Guard Medal.

The National Color Guard Committee will be the final judge of who is qualified to be awarded the Gold Color Guard Medal. Waivers to these requirements will be granted only under very special circumstances, and requests for such waivers must be submitted in writing to the National Color Guard Commander for committee consideration.

V. The Von Steuben Medal

The Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard
Year Authorized: 2012

Presented By: District Vice President General, State President, or by the District or State Color Guard Commander (as appropriate). Under special circumstances, the President General or the National Color Guard Commander may present this award.

Approved By: State or District Color Guard Commander and National Color Guard Commander.

Description: The National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard is gold in color, and depicts a likeness of Baron Friederich von Steuben.

Summary: The National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard, authorized 2 March 2012 by the NSSAR Executive Committee, may be awarded for sustained service to the Society as a Color Guardsman at the National or District Levels. Recipients must already have been awarded the Bronze and Silver Color Guard Medals.

Special Application Required: SAR Color Guardsmen who believe they qualify for the National Von Steuben Medal must complete the appropriate form, setting forth their qualifications. This form is available on the SAR website, and must be submitted to the State or District Color Guard

Commander for review and recommendation, and then to the National Color Guard Commander for final authorization to award the National Von Steuben Medal.

Qualifications: A Guardsman must employ one of the following systems for earning the National Von Steuben Medal. The first system is based on points; the second system is based on the number of events in which a Guardsman participates.

A. Points System

1. To earn the National Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the NSSAR Color Guard, a Color Guardsman must serve at least five (5) years after he has received the SAR Silver Color Guard Medal, and he must accrue at least five hundred (500) points by participating in uniform at qualifying National or District Color Guard events. Color Guardsmen may take longer than five years to accrue at least five hundred points, but may not be awarded the National Von Steuben Medal earlier than five years after he has received the Silver Color Guard Medal.

2. A Color Guardsman shall earn twenty (20) points for his participation in uniform in each District or National event. (Mileage may also count, as currently set forth in the NSSAR Color Guard Handbook.)

3. For Color Guardsmen whose State societies employ the point system, they may also earn points based on mileage, whether such miles are traveled by driving or by flying. (Please see the NSSAR Color Guard Manual for updated numbers).

- Up to 100 miles, 0 points;
- From 101 to 200 miles, 5 points;
- From 201 to 999 miles, 10 points;
- From 1,000 miles and over, 20 points.

2. The same events that count toward earning the Silver Color Guard Medal shall also count toward earning the National Von Steuben Medal. (*See National Color Guard Events under MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION at the back of the Color Guard Handbook.*)

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

Oak leaf clusters or other ribbon attachments are not authorized.

Retroactive Effectiveness: *SAR Color Guardsmen who were active at the time this Medal was approved by the NSSAR Color Guard Committee (July 2011), and who had previously been awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal, may count the points earned from attending any qualifying National or District Color Guard event if using the points system, or the actual number of events if using the events system, in which they participated during the two (2) year period prior to the NSSAR Color Guard Committee approval, or from the date they were awarded the Silver Color Guard Medal, whichever is more recent, toward earning the National Von Steuben Medal.*

VI. Earning the Patriot Grave Marking Medal

Presented By: National Society, District Vice President General or State Society President.

Approved By: NSSAR Patriot Index/Revolutionary War Graves Register Committee & State Society (President or state chairman).

Description: The medal is suspended from a purple and black drape and is a round disk of silver color. The obverse depicts a cemetery with a picket fence, with a rifle leaning against the fence, a Betsy Ross flag, and a cloudy sky. The words “1775 Patriot” appear at the bottom. The reverse has the words “Services for Those Who Served” flanked by laurel leaves, with space for inscription. The medal is available in full size and miniature. A certificate is available for presentation.

Summary: The Patriot Grave Marking Medal recognizes both past efforts to identify and report data on Revolutionary War graves and to encourage new efforts to identify graves. The data generated by these efforts will meet educational objectives by continuing to build and improve the existing database on these patriots by listing their final resting places. It meets historical objectives by providing data to potential members and by identifying these significant places so that they may not be lost to future generations.

Requirements for Earning the Patriot Grave Marking Medal:

1. A Patriot Grave Marking involves a ceremony as defined in the Patriot Grave Marking Manual published by the NSSAR Patriot Index/Revolutionary War Graves Register Committee. The requirement for the placement of an SAR marker or a tablet/plaque with the SAR logo (hereinafter referred to collectively as “an SAR marker”), may be waived if the marking takes place at a National Cemetery or other cemetery where an SAR marker placement is prohibited by the owner.
2. The Patriot(s) being honored must be prominently recognized in the service and printed program with a brief biography that includes the type of service during the Revolution. The program may be used to document attendance and/or participation in the grave marking.
3. To qualify for the Patriot Grave Marking Medal, the following criteria must be met:
 - a) The Compatriot must have participated in a prominent role during the planning and execution of the grave marking. This includes, but is not limited to, researching/finding the grave, paying for or placing the SAR marker, or being the of Ceremonies and Speaker/Presenter. With respect to the researching or for the SAR marker, a compatriot does not need to be a resident of the state in which the grave is located to conduct these activities.
 - b) The Compatriot must have participated, as defined above, in at least fifteen (15) grave marking events with a look-back period to 1 March 2011. For the purposes this requirement, if a mass grave is marked or if multiple graves are marked in a single cemetery, the Compatriot will be allowed to count a maximum of five (5) patriots towards this requirement.
 - c) Up to, but no more than, 50% of the submitted grave markings may be without the

placement of an SAR marker.

d) The Compatriot must have submitted data on the Grave location, including but not limited to providing photographs, address, GPS location and such other data as required by the National Patriot Graves Committee, to both their State Patriot Graves Committee (if one is established) and the National Patriot Graves Committee prior to applying for the medal.

Special Application Required: Compatriots who believe they qualify for the medal must complete the appropriate form setting forth their qualifications, and including the supporting documentation. This form is available on the SAR website, and must be signed by either the state society president or the state patriot graves committee chairman (as reported to the National Patriot Graves Committee), and be submitted to the National Patriot Graves Committee.

Subsequent Presentation Authorized: The medal may be awarded multiple times. A bronze oak leaf cluster shall be awarded for each additional fifteen (15) grave markings meeting the requirements listed above. Presentation and wear of oak leaf clusters shall follow NSSAR policy.

D. Color Guard Medal Reporting Forms

Please refer to the state website www.TNSSAR.org to download PDF Forms to fill out for your Color Guard Medals and the Patriot Grave Marking Medal or ask your TNSSAR State Color Guard Commander for these Forms or help with information on filling them out.