

Sons of

The American Legion

NATIONAL TROPHIES & AWARDS MANUAL

National Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Committee

Internal Affairs Commission

SAL Res 1 – Pre-Convention NEC 2017 August 18, 2017

NEC2017-Pre1 ~ Sons of The American Legion Trophy and Awards Manual and Review Authority

FOREWORD

This guidebook is prepared to assist National Officers, the National Executive Committee, Commissions, and Committees of the Sons of The American Legion in documenting, administering, and coordinating National trophies, awards, and related recognition programs.
The purpose of this manual is to provide a consistent and sustainable framework for National awards while respecting the history and traditions under which many awards were established. It is intended to support clarity, continuity, and effective administration across the organization.

This guidebook includes:

- Information to assist in the development and administration of National awards and recognition programs
- A general outline of key dates within the Sons of The American Legion year, as they relate to awards and recognition
- Descriptions of National awards and contests administered throughout the year

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Instructions, criteria, and forms contained in this manual shall govern National awards administered by the Sons of The American Legion. Where conflicts exist with other National publications, the guidance contained herein shall apply.
- Unless otherwise specified, required submissions and supporting documentation shall be submitted to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: **[Division – to be updated]**, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or via approved electronic submission methods as identified by National Headquarters.
- Detachments, Districts/Regions, and Squadrons are encouraged to establish initiatives that promote awareness of and participation in the awards outlined in this guidebook, in support of the broader American Legion family.
- This guidebook may be downloaded from **[link to be updated]** on The American Legion's official website and distributed electronically.
- Unless otherwise specified, all trips awarded as incentive prizes include round-trip airfare from an airport within the continental United States, as designated by National Headquarters.
- All target-date accomplishments related to membership or participation metrics are based on official transmittals received and successfully processed by National Headquarters by close of business on the applicable target date. Transmittals containing incorrect information or insufficient funds will not be counted.

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PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND AUTHORITY

Purpose
The purpose of this manual is to provide a consistent, sustainable framework for the documentation, administration, and presentation of National trophies and awards of the Sons of The American Legion. It is intended to support clarity, continuity, and accountability while respecting the history and traditions under which many awards were established.

Scope
This manual applies to all National-level trophies, awards, and recognition programs administered by the Sons of The American Legion under the authority of the National Executive Committee (NEC), its Standing Commissions, and their respective committees.
It does not govern awards administered exclusively at the detachment, district, or squadron level, except where such awards are submitted for National recognition.

Authority
This manual is issued under the authority of the National Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Committee within the Internal Affairs Commission.

Where conflicts exist between this manual and other National publications relating to National awards, the guidance contained herein shall govern for purposes of National award administration

This manual recognizes both formally established and historically recognized (legacy) awards and provides a forward-looking framework for their continued administration.

Review and Revision Authority

This manual is intended to serve as a living document and shall be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect changes in National awards, governing resolutions, organizational responsibilities, administrative procedures, and related requirements. The National Internal Affairs Commission, through the National Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Committee, shall maintain oversight of the manual and may recommend or implement revisions, as appropriate and consistent with applicable National Executive Committee resolutions and other governing authority.

Award Category Standard Outline

(To Be Used for All National Trophies & Awards)
Each National trophy or award administered under the authority of the National Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Committee shall be documented using the following standard structure. This format applies to both formally established and historically recognized (legacy) awards.

Award Name
The official name of the award.

Description
A concise description outlining the purpose, intent, and significance of the award.

Sponsored By
The sponsoring entity, committee, commission, or organization, if applicable.

Authority
The authority under which the award is established and administered.
Resolution establishing the award, if applicable
Resolution number and year adopted
For legacy awards where an establishing resolution cannot be identified, the award shall be documented using the standard legacy authority language defined in this manual.

Method of Award
A description of how the award is earned or selected, such as:
Nomination
Application
Performance- or metrics-based evaluation
Committee selection
Other approved method

Presentation
The authorized forum(s) at which the award is formally presented, such as:
National Convention
Spring or Fall National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting
Other approved National-level event

Conditions
The conditions governing the award shall define the following:
Eligibility
Who is eligible to receive the award, such as:
Individual member
Squadron
Detachment
Other defined group or entity

Award Item
What is presented to the recipient, such as:
Trophy or plaque
Certificate or cover
Pin, ribbon, or other insignia
Other approved recognition item

Judging Period
The time period under consideration for the award, such as:
National Convention to National Convention
Membership year
Defined calendar period or target date(s)

Selection & Tabulation (If Applicable)
Where scoring or tabulation is required:
Description of the evaluation method

Reference to the approved scoring or tabulation tool (e.g., Excel-based worksheet)
Oversight and validation responsibility

Exception — Externally Administered Awards
Certain awards or recognitions referenced in this manual are established, owned, and administered by external organizations and are presented to or in coordination with the Sons of The American Legion. Such externally administered awards are included in this manual for informational and coordination purposes only and are not required to conform to all elements of the Award Category Standard Outline, including Method of Award or Award Item.
Documentation for these awards shall reflect their external ownership and administration.

Award Ownership

Each National trophy or award shall have a clearly identified owning committee.

Where an award is clearly aligned to the mission, scope, or subject matter of a specific committee, that committee shall serve as the owner of the award and be responsible for its administration from establishment through presentation. Responsibilities of the owning committee include, as applicable:

Establishment and maintenance of authorizing documentation, including resolutions where required

Definition and maintenance of award criteria and eligibility

Determination of award timing and judging period

Administration of the selection and validation process

Coordination of award presentation

Maintenance of award records and historical documentation

The owning committee shall serve as the primary point of contact for the award.

Default Ownership for Unaligned Awards

In cases where an award does not clearly align to the scope or mission of a specific committee, the Internal Affairs Committee shall serve as the default coordinating body for purposes of continuity and execution until ownership is formally established.

This default role is intended to support consistency and effective administration and does not preclude future assignment of ownership through appropriate governance action.

National Convention Committees

In accordance with the Uniform Code of Procedures for the Organization of National Conventions of the Sons of The American Legion, we have nine established Standing Convention Committees.

They are:
1. Americanism
2. Children & Youth
3. Constitutional Amendments
4. Credentials
5. Internal Affairs

6. Membership
7. Finance
8. Legislation and Rules
9. Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation

The convention rules state that the National Commander is to designate the members of these committees prior to the opening of the convention. The members of these committees are not restricted to delegates and alternate delegates. Any member attending the convention can serve on a committee, but they can serve on only one committee. The only restrictions are there be a minimum of five members per committee, committees must be appointed in odd numbers, and no more than one member from any Detachment. However, any member is welcome to attend any meeting.

AMERICANISM AWARDS:

SAL National Scholastic Awards

Description

The SAL National Scholastic Awards recognize outstanding achievement by eligible participants in nationally sponsored American Legion and Sons of The American Legion programs, including scholastic and youth leadership initiatives.

Awards under this category include, but are not limited to:

- James H. Parke VA Scholarship
- American Legion Baseball Scholarship
- National Oratorical Contest Recognition
- President Pro-Tempore, American Legion Boys Nation
- Secretary of the Senate, American Legion Boys Nation

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Americanism Commission Chairman or designee

Conditions

Method

- Program-based recognition in accordance with the governing rules of each associated national program, with coordination through the SAL Americanism Commission."

Eligibility

- Individuals meeting eligibility requirements of the respective national programs

Award Item

- Scholarship, certificate, plaque, or other recognition items as applicable

Judging Period

- As defined by the governing program year for each associated national program

Junior Shooting Sports Champions

Junior Shooting Sports Competition - Precision Champion

Junior Shooting Sports Competition - Sporter Champion

Description

Recognizes the top Junior Shooting Sports competitors in the Precision and Sporter divisions at the national level.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

Resolution No. NEC-01-S93B, Adopted May 1-2, 1993, established. | NEC-8-F97, Adopted October 11-12, 1997, increase to $750.00 each. | NEC 2–F07, Adopted October 13-14, 2007, increase to $2500.00 each.

Awards administered through the National Americanism Division of The American Legion in accordance with the "SAL National Scholastic Awards Program Outline"

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Americanism Commission Chairman or designee

Conditions

Method of Award

- Awarded to the Precision and Sporter National Champions based on official national competition results administered through the National Americanism Division of The American Legion."

Eligibility

- Junior Shooting Sports competitors meeting national competition requirements

Award Item

- Two (2) $2,500 scholastic awards, awarded annually

Judging Period

- Annual competition cycle

National Emergency Fund (NEF) Banner

Description

The National Emergency Fund (NEF) Banner recognizes Detachments that demonstrate outstanding financial support of the National Emergency Fund through per capita donations.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Metrics-based evaluation using per capita National Emergency Fund donation totals

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Americanism Commission Chairman or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion
- One Detachment per Region awarded annually

Award Item

- National Emergency Fund Banner

Judging Period

- Annual evaluation period based on NEF contribution reporting as established by the Americanism Commission

Five Star Award

Description

Recognizes individual members who demonstrate knowledge of and dedication to the Five-Point Program of Service through successful completion of approved testing requirements.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Individual achievement based on successful completion of testing administered by the authorized testing authority

Presentation

- Awarded upon completion
- May be presented at the National Convention or other appropriate forum

Conditions

Eligibility

- Individual members of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Award pin(s) corresponding to level of completion

Judging Period

- Rolling; awarded upon successful completion

Ten Ideal Award

Description

Recognizes members who successfully complete testing demonstrating knowledge of the Ten Ideals of the Sons of The American Legion: patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence, and comradeship.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award

- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Individual achievement based on successful completion of testing administered by the authorized testing authority

Presentation

- Awarded upon completion
- May be presented at the National Convention or other appropriate forum

Conditions

Eligibility

- Individual members of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Award pin(s)

Judging Period

- Rolling; awarded upon successful completion

Atwood, Beyea and York Memorial Trophy

Description

2003 ~ A new Americanism award was created to memorialize the three members of the SAL that were killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Gerald Atwood (Squadron 1060, Brooklyn, NY - New York Fire Department), Edward Beyea (Squadron 173, Bath, NY - a computer programmer, who worked in the Towers) and Raymond York (Broad Channel Squadron 1404, New York, NY - New York Fire Department). The Award to be presented at the Detachment, District and Squadron levels beginning with the 2004 National Convention.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Evaluation based on Americanism Program reporting data from Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR)

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Americanism Commission Chairman or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadron, District, and Detachment levels

Award Item

- Trophy

Judging Period

- Annual CSR reporting period

Color Guard Competition Award

Description

Recognizes the Squadron Color Guard achieving the highest ranking in The American Legion National Color Guard Competition.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Re-established in 1996
    - In 1996 the 25th National Convention. During the Convention the "SAL Color Guard Award" was re-established for presentation to the Squadron Color Guard which ranked highest in The American Legion's National Color Guard Competition.
- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Performance-based evaluation through national competition results

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Americanism Commission Chairman or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadron Color Guards participating in the National Competition

Award Item

- Certificate, plaque, or approved recognition item
    - Clyde Stillwell Award and Guide on (Certificate Plaque).

Judging Period

- Annual competition cycle

Child Well Being Foundation (CWF) & Related Awards

Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) Awards

(SAL-Administered)

Ownership

Sons of The American Legion

Americanism Commission
Child Well-Being Committee

Description

Recognizes Detachments and members for fundraising support of the Child Well-Being Foundation.

Award Types

- Per Capita Awards
- Largest Donation Awards
- $1 and $2 Per Capita Donation Levels

Awards Presented By the Child Well-Being Foundation to SAL

(Awards Presented by CWF to SAL)

Description

Recognition presented by the Child Well-Being Foundation to the Sons of The American Legion for overall support.

Authority

Established and administered by the Child Well-Being Foundation

Awards Include

- U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award

- Garland D. Murphy Award
- Regional Per Capita and Donation Level Awards

Presentation

- National Convention
- Coordinated with SAL Child Well-Being Committee

Americanism Awards

Award Name

Americanism Award

Description

The Americanism Award recognizes outstanding programs and activities that promote patriotism, citizenship, and American values in support of the Sons of The American Legion's Americanism mission.

Awards may be presented at the Squadron, District, Detachment, and National levels, as applicable.

Awarded to one (1) squadron in each Region based on CSR

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Evaluation based on Americanism program reporting and submitted documentation within the CSR.
- Selection criteria as established by the Americanism Commission

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Americanism Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Certificate, plaque, or other approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual reporting period as defined by the CSR.

Best Overall Children & Youth (C&Y) Program Award

(Americanism Commission – Children & Youth Committee)

Description
The Best Overall Children & Youth (C&Y) Program Award recognizes excellence in Children & Youth programming by Sons of The American Legion organizations based on documented activities and outcomes.

Awards may be issued at the Squadron, District, and Detachment levels, with one National-level recipient recognized as the best overall program in the nation.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission
Children & Youth Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Performance-based evaluation using data reported through the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Americanism Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadrons
- Districts
- Detachments

Award Item

- Certificate, plaque, or other approved recognition items

Judging Period

- Annual CSR reporting period

Community Service Award (Scrapbook)

Award Name

Community Service Award (Scrapbook)

Description

The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission established a trophy to be awarded, beginning with 1976, as a "Community Service Award". This trophy was to be awarded annually to the Squadron which submits the best "Community Service Scrapbook". The first winner was Squadron #193 (CO).

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Commission

Authority

- Established by action of the American Legion Internal Affairs Commission (1976)
- Resolution reference: *To be identified or developed*
- Historically recognized National award

(Note: Administrative ownership for SAL rests with the Americanism Commission.)

Method of Award

- Evaluation of submitted Community Service Scrapbooks based on established judging criteria

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Americanism Commission or designee
  - Pre-Made Picture Plaque

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion
- District and Detachment recognition may be included where applicable

Award Item

- Pre-made picture plaque or other approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual reporting period as established by the Americanism Commission

INTERNAL AFFAIRS AWARDS

History Book Award

Owning Commission: Internal Affairs
Owning Committee: Membership & Squadron Activities Committee
Judging Chair: National Historian
Convention Coordination: Internal Affairs Convention Committee

Description

The History Book Award recognizes excellence in documenting and preserving the activities and history of Sons of The American Legion Squadrons and Detachments. The first National History Book Contest was conducted in conjunction with the 1980 (62nd) National Convention, with the Detachment of Indiana named the inaugural winner.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Official Rules adopted by the SAL National Executive Committee on May 7, 2000
- Resolution establishing the award: *to be identified or developed*

Method of Award

- Evaluation of submitted History Books in accordance with the official History Book Contest rules

Presentation

- National Convention
- Coordinated through the Internal Affairs Convention Committee
  - Pre-Made plaque

Conditions

- Eligible entities: Squadrons and Detachments
- Award item: Pre-made plaque
- Judging period: Annual contest cycle as defined in the official rules

100% Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Reporting

Awarded to all Detachments that have achieved 100% (all squadrons) reporting

Description
Recognizes Detachments that achieve 100% reporting compliance for Consolidated Squadron Reports.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Verification of CSR submission for all squadrons within the Detachment

Presentation

- As determined by the Membership & Squadron Activities Committee
- May be recognized at National Convention or through official reporting

Conditions

- Eligibility: Detachments
- Judging period: Annual reporting cycle

Membership and Squadron Activity Awards

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Individual Recruitment Award (IRA)

Description

Recognizes individual members who recruit five (5) new members during the membership year (July 1 – June 30).

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: *to be identified or developed*
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Submission of the approved IRA form by June 30
- New members must be processed and assigned a SAL ID

Presentation
National Convention

Conditions
- Eligibility: Individual members
- Award item: Pin, certificate, or other approved recognition
- Judging period: Membership year

Blue Brigade New Member Recruiter Award

Description

Recognizes individual members of the Sons of The American Legion who recruit thirty (30) or more new members during a single membership year.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

NEC Resolution NEC-6-S01 (May 5–6, 2001)

Method of Award

- Verification of new member recruitment totals through the national membership database
- Transfers do not count as new members

Presentation

National Convention

Conditions

Eligibility

- Individual members of the Sons of The American Legion
- Only *new members* are counted; transfers do not qualify

Judging Period

- July 1 through June 30 of the applicable membership year

Submission Requirements

- Submission of the approved Blue Brigade form no later than thirty (30) days prior to the National Convention
- All new members listed must be processed and assigned a SAL ID number in the national membership database prior to submission

Award Items

- Blue Brigade jacket for first-time recipients
- Hash marks for second, third, and fourth awards
- Recipients earning the award for five (5) or more consecutive years, including the current membership year, are eligible for a $150 National Emblem Sales gift certificate

Recruiter of the Year

Description

Recognizes the Sons of The American Legion member who recruits the highest number of new members during a membership year.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

NEC Resolution NEC-2019–S6 (May 4-5, 2019]

Method of Award

- Verification through national membership reporting

Presentation

National Convention

Conditions

- Eligibility: Individual members
- Judging period: Membership year

SQUADRON AWARDS

Squadron Commander of the Year

Description

Recognizes one Squadron Commander nationally for outstanding contributions to the community and organization.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Resolution updated in 2023 and 2025 *(citation to be updated)*

Method of Award

- Nomination submitted by Detachment Adjutant prior to Spring NEC

Presentation

- National Convention

Conditions

- Criteria published on the National SAL website

Largest Squadron within the Nation Award

Description

Recognizes the Squadron with the largest membership nationally.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Verification through national membership totals

Presentation

- National Convention

Conditions

- Award item: Plaque
- Judging period: Membership year

DETACHMENT AWARDS

The Arthur D. Houghton Trophy

Description

The premier National membership growth award recognizing Detachments achieving the greatest percentage membership increase within defined size categories.

On April 21, 1941, Mrs. Florence G. Houghton agreed to allow the memorial trophy for her husband to be a "National Membership Award" for the SAL. Mrs. Houghton, widow of Dr. Arthur D. Houghton, a famed botanist and an American Legion Founder, had earlier contributed an award in his honor, the purpose for its use to be agreed upon by both herself and the national organization. The trophy was first presented for the year 1942 and awarded to the Detachment of Utah.

The "Houghton Trophy" was originally presented to the Detachment which on January 1 had attained the greatest percentage of increase over the previous year's total membership.

In 1953, a stipulation was added that the Detachment must have had a minimum of 100 members the previous year, the Detachment of Texas was the first winner under these new rules. In 1966 the minimum was increased to 200 members the previous year; the Detachment of Missouri was the first winner under these new rules.

1998 ~ At the Fall National Executive Committee Meeting a resolution was presented and adopted to increase the award categories for the Houghton Membership Award from three to five effective with the 1999 Membership Year. This was approved by the Internal Affairs Commission.

General: Sun-metal trophy; spread eagle at top; mounted on composition ivory base; 23" in height. Inscription; "The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy"

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- May 1941 report of the National Trophies & Awards Committee
- NEC Resolution No. 15 (October 6–7, 1976), as amended

Method of Award

- Analysis of national membership reports

Presentation

- National Convention

Conditions

- Five membership size categories (effective 2025)
- Original trophy retained at National Headquarters

- Laminated plaque awarded to recipients

Lawrence Hartline Memorial Trophy

Description

The "Lawrence Hartline Memorial Trophy" to be awarded annually to the Detachment chartering the most new squadrons during the membership year.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Verification of new Squadron charters (July 1 – June 30)

Presentation

- National Convention

Detachment Recruitment Award "Most members"

Description

For the Detachments with the most new members recruited.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- NEC Resolution NEC-2019-S7 (May 4–5, 2019)

Method of Award

- Detachments with the highest number of new members recruited

Presentation

- National Convention

Conditions

- Award item: Ribbon via National Emblem Sales

Membership Incentive Award
Triple Nickel

Description

Recognizes Detachments achieving:

- 105% in membership by July 1st
- Five (5) new Squadron charters (not reactivated)
- 85% Renewal Rate by July 1st

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority
Reference: 2017 S 11, Criteria Triple Nickel)

Presentation

National Convention

Conditions

Award item: $555.00 Emblem Sales certificate

National Regional Membership Award

Description

Recognizes the first Detachment in each Region to reach 100% membership.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Presentation

- As determined by the Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Retention & Recruiting

Highest Renewal Percentage Award

Description

The Highest Renewal Percentage Award recognizes Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion that achieve the highest membership renewal percentage within their respective Regions during the membership year.

One award is presented annually in each Region.

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Authority

- NEC-7-S96 (April 27–28, 1996)

Method of Award

- Metrics-based evaluation using official national membership renewal data

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Membership & Squadron Activities Committee or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion
- Minimum Detachment membership of 200 members
- Renewal percentage must exceed 90%

Award Item

- Plaque
- Total awards issued annually: five (5) (one per Region)

Judging Period

- Membership renewal activity through December 31 of the applicable membership year

Regional Categories

- Central Region
- Midwest Region

- Northeast Region
- Southeast Region
- Western Region

Detachment Membership Recognition Awards

(Internal Affairs Commission – Membership & Squadron Activities Committee)

This category includes National-level membership recognition awards issued to Detachments based on verified membership performance metrics. These recognitions are non-competitive and are awarded automatically upon achievement of defined criteria.

Includes:

- Detachment Honor Ribbon (Gold)
- Detachment All-Time High Ribbon (Red)
- 100% Detachment Commander Award
- Honor Ribbons
- Citation of Achievement Awards

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Internal Affairs Commission
Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Presentation

- National Convention or official recognition

Detachment Honor Ribbon (Gold)

Description

The Detachment Honor Ribbon (Gold) recognizes Detachments that achieve 100% membership by the opening of the Annual National Convention.

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Detachment All-Time High Ribbon (Red)

Description

The Detachment All-Time High Ribbon (Red) recognizes Detachments that achieve an all-time high membership total during a membership year.

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

100% Detachment Commander Awards

Description
The 100% Detachment Commander Award recognizes Detachment Commanders whose Detachments achieve 100% membership by the established National target date.

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Conditions

Award Item

- $100 Emblem Sales per eligible Detachment

Honor Ribbons –

Description

Honor Ribbons recognize Detachments that surpass their previous year's total membership by the designated target date.

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Citation of Achievement Awards

Description

Citation of Achievement Awards recognize Detachments that meet or exceed their previous year's membership total by the designated evaluation date.

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION AWARDS

Kirby Kepler Award (Squadron)

Description

(Squadron Level)

Description
The Kirby E. Kepler Memorial Award recognizes excellence in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) programming at the Squadron level. The award is presented annually to the Squadron submitting the best VA&R program report. The inaugural recipient was Squadron #108 (Maryland).

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Performance-based evaluation using Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation data reported through the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Memorial trophy or approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual CSR reporting period

Allen I. O'Brian Award (District)

Description

The Allen I. O'Brian Memorial Award recognizes excellence in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programming at the District level. The award is presented annually to the District submitting the best VA&R program report. The first recipient was the Southern District of Maryland.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Performance-based evaluation using VA&R data reported through the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Districts / Regions of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Memorial trophy or approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual CSR reporting period

Earl Webster Award (Detachment)

Description

The Earl A. Webster Memorial Award recognizes excellence in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programming at the Detachment level. The award is presented annually to the Detachment submitting the best VA&R program report. The inaugural recipient was the Detachment of Maryland.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Performance-based evaluation using VA&R data reported through the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Memorial trophy or approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual CSR reporting period

The Charles B. Rigby Memorial National Volunteer of the Year Award (Individual Award)

Description

The Charles B. Rigby Memorial National Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual member of the Sons of The American Legion for outstanding volunteer service in support of Veterans Affairs programs, particularly service to veterans at VA Medical Centers.

The award originated as the National VA Volunteer of the Year Award, commencing with the 1991 membership year, and was renamed in honor of Past National Commander Charles B. Rigby following his passing.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Authority

- Originally established as the National VA Volunteer of the Year Award

- Renamed by NEC Resolution NEC-3-S94 (April 30 – May 1, 1994)
- Initial establishing resolution: *to be identified or developed*
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Nomination and evaluation in accordance with published criteria

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Sons of The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Individual members of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Trophy, plaque, or approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual evaluation period as defined by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION AWARDS

Marvin P. Nay Award

Description

The Marvin P. Nay Award recognizes outstanding contributions to veterans' employment and education at the National level.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Authority

- Established by S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall 2020
- Award commenced with the 2021 membership year
- S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall 2021 authorized the issuance of a custom Sons of The American Legion uniform cap to award recipients

Method of Award

- Nomination and selection by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission from qualified applicants

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to veterans' employment and education

Award Item

- Engraved plaque
- Custom Sons of The American Legion uniform cap

Judging Period

- Annual evaluation period as established by the Commission

LEGISLATIVE AWARDS

George B. Evans Grassroots

Description

The George B. Evans Grassroots Award recognizes a Sons of The American Legion member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to Grassroots Veterans' Advocacy through significant contributions of time, effort, and initiative.

At most, one award may be presented annually. The award may be withheld in years where no qualified candidate is identified.

Sponsored By
Sons of The American Legion
Legislative Commission

Authority

- Resolution establishing the award: *to be identified or developed*
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Nomination and evaluation in accordance with published criteria

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Legislative Commission Chairman or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Individual members of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Embroidered Sons of The American Legion cover

Judging Period

- Annual evaluation period as defined by the Legislative Commission

PUBLIC & MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Snapshots of Service

Description

The Snapshots of Service Award recognizes excellence in visual storytelling that highlights the Sons of The American Legion's service and workmanship in support of the Four Pillars of The American Legion:

- Americanism
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- Children & Youth
- National Security

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Public & Media Communications Commission

Authority

Established by: S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2012, (October 13-14, 2012)

Method of Award

- Evaluation of submitted photographs in accordance with published rules and criteria

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Public & Media Communications Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Plaques awarded to first- and second-place Squadron winners in each Four Pillars category

Judging Period

- Annual submission period as defined by published criteria

Videos of Service

Description

The Videos of Service Award recognizes Squadrons that demonstrate excellence in video storytelling highlighting membership, program support, and community engagement activities.

Awards are presented for first and second place in each of the following categories:

- Membership and Recruitment
- Program Support
- Community Engagement

Sponsored By

Sons of The American Legion
Public & Media Communications Commission

Authority

- Historically recognized National award
- Resolution establishing the award: *to be identified or developed*
- Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Method of Award

- Evaluation of submitted video entries in accordance with published criteria

Presentation

- National Convention
- Presented by the Public & Media Communications Commission or designee

Conditions

Eligibility

- Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion

Award Item

- Plaque or approved recognition item

Judging Period

- Annual submission period as defined by the Commission

Currently not being recognized

Cleveland Trophy

In 1937 the first **National Championship Trophy** was established for the SAL. This trophy known as the **"Cleveland Trophy"** was awarded to the **National Championship Drum & Bugle Corps,** and was first awarded to Squadron #274, Des Moines, IA.

Louis J. Canepa Trophy

In 1939 the second National Championship Trophy was established for the SAL. This trophy known as the **"Louis J. Canepa Trophy"** was awarded to the **National Championship Band**, and was first awarded to Squadron #21, Meridian, MS.

Document Approval/Change History

Date	Revision	Change/Description
03/18/2025	NTACC - .01	Internal Affairs - Initial Draft Release
09/22/2025		Internal Affairs - Revision
05/02/2026	Version 2.0	Internal Affairs submitted to NEC

Appendix I — Legacy National Awards Without Identified Establishing Resolutions

Purpose

This appendix documents National trophies and awards of the Sons of The American Legion for which no clearly identifiable establishing resolution has been located. These awards are widely recognized, historically administered, and actively presented at the National level.

Inclusion in this appendix **does not invalidate or diminish** the award. Rather, it provides transparency, continuity, and a documented governance baseline pending formal ratification.

Governance

All awards listed herein are governed using the standard legacy authority language defined in this manual:

• Historically recognized National award
• Resolution establishing the award: to be identified or developed
• Governed on a forward-looking basis under this manual

Legacy Awards by Commission

Americanism Commission

- SAL National Scholastic Awards (SAL recognition layer)
- National Emergency Fund (NEF) Banner
- Five Star Award
- Ten Ideal Award
- Atwood, Beyea and York Memorial Trophy

- Color Guard Competition Award
- Americanism Award
- Best Overall Children & Youth (C&Y) Program Award
- Community Service Award (Scrapbook)

Internal Affairs Commission / Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

- History Book Award
- 100% Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Reporting Recognition
- Individual Recruitment Award (IRA)
- Largest Squadron within the Nation Award
- Lawrence Hartline Memorial Trophy
- National Regional Membership Award
- Detachment Honor Ribbon (Gold)
- Detachment All-Time High Ribbon (Red)
- 100% Detachment Commander Award
- Honor Ribbons
- Citation of Achievement Awards

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

- Kirby Kepler Award (Squadron)
- Allen I. O'Brian Award (District)
- Earl Webster Award (Detachment)
- Charles B. Rigby Memorial National Volunteer of the Year Award
  (Renaming resolution exists; original establishing resolution not located)

Legislative Commission

- George B. Evans Grassroots Award

Public & Media Communications Commission

- Videos of Service Award

Maintenance

This appendix shall be reviewed annually by the National Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Committee and updated as awards are formally ratified by resolution or retired by appropriate governance action.

Appendix II — National Awards Summary by Commission / Committee

This appendix provides a consolidated reference of National trophies, awards, and recognition programs documented within this manual. Detailed eligibility, authority, selection, and presentation requirements are contained within the applicable sections of the manual.

Commission / Committee	National Trophy, Award or Recognition
Americanism Commission	SAL National Scholastic Awards

Commission / Committee	National Trophy, Award or Recognition
	Junior Shooting Sports Champions – Precision
	Junior Shooting Sports Champions – Sporter
	National Emergency Fund (NEF) Banner
	Five Star Award
	Ten Ideal Award
	Atwood, Beyea and York Memorial Trophy
	Color Guard Competition Award
	Americanism Award
	Community Service Award (Scrapbook)
Americanism Commission – Children & Youth Committee	Best Overall Children & Youth (C&Y) Program Award
Americanism Commission – Child Well-Being Committee	Child Well-Being Foundation Awards – Per Capita Awards
	Child Well-Being Foundation Awards – Largest Donation Awards
	Child Well-Being Foundation Awards – $1 and $2 Per Capita Donation Levels
	CWF Awards Presented to SAL*
Internal Affairs Commission – Membership & Squadron Activities Committee	History Book Award
	100% Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Reporting
	Individual Recruitment Award (IRA)
	Blue Brigade New Member Recruiter Award
	Recruiter of the Year
	Squadron Commander of the Year
	Largest Squadron within the Nation Award
	Arthur D. Houghton Trophy
	Lawrence Hartline Memorial Trophy
	Detachment Recruitment Award – “Most Members”
	Triple Nickel
	National Regional Membership Award
	Highest Renewal Percentage Award
	Detachment Honor Ribbon (Gold)

Commission / Committee	National Trophy, Award or Recognition
	Detachment All-Time High Ribbon (Red)
	100% Detachment Commander Award
	Honor Ribbons
	Citation of Achievement Awards
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission	Kirby E. Kepler Memorial Award – Squadron
	Allen I. O'Brian Memorial Award – District
	Earl A. Webster Memorial Award – Detachment
	Charles B. Rigby Memorial National Volunteer of the Year Award
Veterans Employment & Education Commission	Marvin P. Nay Award
Legislative Commission	George B. Evans Grassroots Award
Public & Media Communications Commission	Snapshots of Service
	Videos of Service