

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Awards and Recognition Policy

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, hereafter referred to as the SUVCW, through actions of various National Encampments, Commanders-in-Chief, and the Council of Administration has established a number of awards and recognitions for Departments, Camp, Brothers, and unassociated individuals and entities. This policy establishes in one location all the awards and recognitions authorized and the criteria for their presentation. There are two awards for Brothers which have been established through the Regulations.

1. ***The Meritorious Service Award*** – The award consists of a certificate awarded at the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief to a Brother of the Order for exceptional service to the Order or to society.

2. ***The Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star*** – This award consists of a certificate and a ½ inch Gold Star appliance to be worn on the ribbon of the Brothers Membership badge. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief, with the concurrence of the Council of Administration, to a Brother who has served the Order for an extended period in an outstanding and exemplary manner or for an extraordinary action by a Brother. Recommendations for this award are to be made to the Commander-in-Chief no later than 45 days prior to the National Encampment and accompanied by an appropriate Citation utilizing SUVCW Form 17, which can be found on the National Website. If the Commander-in-Chief concurs with the recommendation, he will bring the recommendation before the Council of Administration for consideration. A majority vote of the members of the Council of Administration is required to authorize the Commander-in-Chief to make the presentation.

3. ***The Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Award*** – This award may be presented by the Commander-in-Chief or a Department Commander to a female member of one of the Allied Orders in recognition of and appreciation for her outstanding service to the SUVCW. At the National level, she must be recommended by a Past Department Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief, the Commander-in-Chief, or an elected National Officer. At the Department level, she must be recommended by a Past Camp Commander, Past Department Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief or the Department Commander.

a. The Commander-in-Chief may present up to three awards in any one year. A Department Commander may present up to two awards in any one year. It is not mandatory for either the Commander-in-Chief or a Department Commander to present this award.

b. The medal shall be gold in color. The obverse bears a portrait of Doctor Mary Edwards Walker wearing a Medal of Honor within a raised bordure bearing the inscription “Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Medal” above and SUVCW below, separated by stars. The reverse of the medal will be inscribed as follows: “Awarded in grateful appreciation for service to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.” (Note: the reverse also bears the copyright © 2011 SUVCW)

c. The medal shall be suspended from a neck ribbon, gold in color for national awards made by the Commander-in-Chief, and dark red for awards made by a Department Commander. The medal is accompanied by a certificate which should be presented with the medal. The medal may be presented in accordance with the ceremony in the “Ritual & Ceremonials.”

4. ***The Certificate of Recognition*** – This award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief to any individual or entity which has contributed significantly to the Order, assisted in maintaining the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic, or exemplified the ideals and purposes of the SUVCW. Recommendations for this award will be made to the Commander-in-Chief no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

The following awards have been established by action of the National Encampment and or Commanders-in-Chief.

5. ***The Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award*** – This award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief at his discretion to the SUVCW Camp, which he judges to be the most outstanding Camp within the Order during his term of office. Recommendations for this award will be made to the Commander-in-Chief no later than 60 days prior

to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

6. ***The Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award*** – This award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief at his discretion to the Brother whom he judges to be the most outstanding member within the Order during his term of office. Recommendations for this award will be made to the Commander-in-Chief no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

7. ***The David R. Medert Award (formerly The B.F. Stephenson Award)*** – This award is presented to the individual Brother who recruits the greatest number of new members during the period from 1 April through 31 March. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief based upon the information provided within the Annual Reports received by the National Executive Director No later than 31 May.

8. ***The Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award*** – This award is presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members during the period 1 April through 31 March. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief based upon the information provided within the Annual Reports received by the National Executive Director no later than 31 May.

9. ***The U.S. Grant Cup*** – This award is presented to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the period 1 April through 31 March. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief based upon the information provided within the Annual Reports received by the National Executive Director no later than 31 May.

10. ***The Under Forty Award*** – This award is presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members under age forty (40) during the period 1 April through 31 March. The award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief based upon the information provided within the Annual Reports received by the National Executive Director no later than 31 May.

11. ***The Marshall Hope Award For Best Newsletter*** – This award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief to the Department and Camp Newsletter he judges to be the most outstanding in the Order during his term of office or by a Department Commander to the Camp Newsletter he judges to be the most outstanding in his department. Recommendations addressed to the Commander-in-Chief for this award must be received no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

12. ***The Joseph S. Rippey Award*** – This award is presented to a new Camp, which was chartered within the last calendar year and determined to be active in the areas of recruiting, Civil War graves registration, and Civil War memorials assessment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

13. ***The National Aide Award*** – This award may be presented, by the Commander-in-Chief to any Brother who recruits five or more members during his term of office. Recipients of this award are recognized in General Orders and may wear the National Ribbon behind their respective membership badge for a period of twelve (12) months. Recommendations for this award will be made to the Commander-in-Chief no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

14. ***The Horace Greeley Award*** – This award is presented annually by the Commander-in-Chief to the Department or Camp judged to have the most outstanding website or by a Department Commander to the Camp website he judges to be the most outstanding in his department. Criteria would be (1) Promoting The SUVCW mission, (2) Information on activities, (3) Information on membership, (4) Stories about members and ancestors, and (5) Listing of Camp and/or Department officers. Recommendations for this award, from Camp or Department Commanders addressed to the Commander-in-Chief for this award must be received no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief may also use his own observations and will solely make the final determination for presenting the award.

15. ***Elmer (Bud) Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award (formerly the Lifetime Achievement Award)*** – This award is presented by the Commander-in-Chief to recognize Brothers of the Order who have a minimum of thirty (30) years with the Order and have provided significant and continuous support over that entire timeframe as either a full member or an associate. The Commander-in-Chief has sole discretion for this award and is not obligated to make an award, but is not limited to the number of awards he can make during his term of office.

16. ***The John C. Clem Award for the most Outstanding Junior Member*** – This award was established to promote greater involvement by Junior Members of the SUVCW and recognize their outstanding contributions. Criteria for the award include participation in Camp activities, promoting the SUVCW through school and youth programs, or other activities that would promote the memory of the Boys in Blue. Recommendations for this award will be made to the Commander-in-Chief no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make such an award.

17. ***The Chaplain William Corby Award*** – This award may be presented by the Commander-in-Chief to any Department or Camp Chaplain for outstanding ministry leadership in the Department or Camp, upon the recommendation of the National Chaplain. Recommendations for this award are to be made to the National Chaplain no later than 60 days prior to the National Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make any such award.

18. ***The Dwight L. Moody Award*** – This award may be awarded by a Department Commander, upon the recommendation of the Department Chaplain, to a camp chaplain for outstanding ministry leadership in his camp. Recommendations are to be made no later than 60 days prior to a Department Encampment. The Department Commander will solely make the final determination for presenting the award and he is under no obligation to make any such award.

19. ***The SUVCW Flag Certificate Program*** – This certificate program was established to recognize exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America. Certificates may be awarded by Camps or Departments to individuals, companies or agencies, which proudly, conspicuously, and properly fly or display the US Flag. Businesses which fly flags as advertising should not be considered for this award. Recommendations and nominations for this certificate are made to the Camp, Department, or National Patriotic Instructors who will make the final determination for presenting the certificate. Any Brother may nominate candidates to a Patriotic Instructor for Recognition.

Actions of Commanders-in-Chief or the Council of Administration have established the following awards to be presented to non-members

20. ***The Founder's Award*** – This award is presented a maximum of once per calendar year to a group or individual who performs outstanding service in the memory of Union Civil War Soldiers. The Award consists of a walnut plaque with the name of the recipient and the year of presentation engraved in wood. A permanent plaque with the names of the recipients is maintained in the National Headquarters of the SUVCW. No member of the SUVCW or any organization which is part of the Allied Orders of the GAR is eligible for this award. The Commander-in-Chief on behalf of the Council of Administration presents this recognition. Recommendations may be made to the Council of Administration through the National Secretary. The Council of Administration makes the final determination. The award is made solely at the discretion of the Council of Administration and the Council of Administration is under no obligation to make such an award.

21. ***The Good Citizen Award*** – This award is presented by a Camp Commander to recognize individuals, organizations, or businesses to encourage and reward outstanding contributions to the community and adherence to patriotic ideals. The recipient should exhibit the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities. Common criteria include community service demonstrated by a commitment to volunteer work and community improvement, evidence of leadership roles in community organizations or initiatives, and upholding high ethical standards and integrity in personal life. An Award Certificate will accompany the Award and, at the Camp's discretion, a Button Hole Pin, both available through the National Quartermaster.

Approved
December 2022

Revised August 2026 to add item 21, The Good Citizen Award.