

## WVDAR DAR Service for Veterans

Cynthia Kolsun, Chair

The DAR Service for Veterans Committee was one of the original committees of DAR at its founding. As an organization we have always recognized the importance of assisting and recognizing our vets.

Many chapters have been working on their individual projects to assist our veterans. Please continue to do what works for your chapter. There are specific projects that NSDAR has suggested in helping our veterans.

### RECOGNITIONS

It is important to recognize our veterans. Individual chapters can give their own awards (and are encouraged to do so) and may provide input and nominations to WVDAR and NSDAR for state and national awards including:

Outstanding Veterans Volunteer Award

Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award

Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Awards

Any recognition that you can provide your veterans is supported. Remember, it is important to show up at Veterans' activities and support your local veterans, their accomplishments, and their events. Please note that promoting young people to volunteer and assist veterans is important. If you have youth that help veterans or participate in youth military events, consider recognizing them.

### WORKING CONNECTIONS

DAR Service for Veterans Committee works closely with the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) and Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS).

### HOW CAN WE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

Register and support Wreaths Across America. Participate in laying wreaths at veterans' graves and encourage youth to assist you with this activity. Remember, wreaths can be laid at local cemeteries. It is not necessary to go to a national cemetery where there may be a plethora of volunteers. (Check with the need for assistance at your national cemetery). Let members in your community know they can purchase a wreath through your local chapter if you are a supporter of the project. If your chapter is participating in wreath laying, invite community members to join you. This activity can be very meaningful.

Local areas in West Virginia sponsor Honor Flight activities. You can get your chapter involved in supporting these activities through offering your support, writing thank you notes, and providing assistance, as needed. Check with the needs with your local Honor Flight Program. Perhaps have someone from the organization in your area present a program on the Honor Flight Program.

Support the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Your chapter can assist in preserving and recording oral histories of our veterans. If you have letters, pictures or other documents from family members who were corresponding during a war or their service, consider gathering them into a book or article in order for their stories to live on. These documents can be filed with the Library of Congress.

Women veterans are often forgotten. One of our State Regent's Projects is to preserve women's history through the Tell Her Story project called HERstory through the Military Women's Memorial (MWM). Find out more about this memorial. Perhaps take a visit there. Definitely, participate in the Tell Her Story project. The Regent's Project goal for 2025 is to have 76 women veterans registered with the MWM and/or have their stories added to the registry. Make sure you visit <https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/tell-her-story>. It is easy to register to participate in this project. It can be very rewarding to author the story of a women veteran. Also, you can register yourself, if you are a veteran as well as register other women veterans that you know. WVDAR will put special emphasis on this project this year as it is both a DAR Service for Veterans Project and a Special State Regent's Project. If you would like me to come to your local chapter and encourage members to participate in this project, I would be willing to do so.

The MWM also needs financial support and has launched a fund raiser "Square Foot Society." Perhaps your chapter can pledge to support this organization. For additional information, go to <https://womensmemorial.org/square-foot-society>

Promote Vivian's Outreach to Women (VOW) Grant Program. Originally, this program was administered by the Women's Issues Committee, however, it is now part of the DAR Service for Veterans Committee. This grant came about through an endowment from DAR member Vivian Schafer who recognized shelters and centers that provide services to women veterans are in need of financial support. If you know of a need in your community, consider applying for a VOW Grant. Applications need to be submitted to me electronically by November 1. The application forms may be found under the national DAR Service for Veterans Committee.

Local women veterans may require help. Please explore the needs of the women vets in your community and consider hosting events to help i.e., baby showers, housewarming parties, etc. After reviewing the needs of your local women veterans, brainstorm your ideas of what can be effective.

Support our younger veterans. Perhaps hold a pizza party or game night for them. Then present them with a pin or award.

As you can see, there are many projects and areas of support available for the DAR Service for Veterans Committee. I, as your state chair, cannot, of course, be an expert on all of these projects. That is not my job. However, I will find out the information that you need to be successful with your projects. Continue to use your creativity to assist our veterans. Veterans have experienced events that have helped to make them the people they are now; however, some have been traumatized or are dealing with their own issues. They have made sacrifices. Do what you can to make each veteran realize that his or her service to our country has helped to keep our country safe and free. You can't say thank you often enough.

## SHARING IDEAS

I would like to feature a unique, eventful, fun or meaningful DAR Service for Veterans project in our state newsletter each edition. I'll let you know when I need your information. Other chapters may want to hold an event like yours, and this is a way we can share "things that worked."

## NEED TO CONTACT ME?

If you need to contact me, feel free to do so. My email is [drkolsun@atlanticbb.net](mailto:drkolsun@atlanticbb.net), text/phone number is 304-553-1012, and my address is 605 Central Ave., Parsons, WV 26287. Please continue to run your ideas by me. I appreciate those of you who have already contacted me with ideas. I've shared some of them here.

## WHAT AN HONOR

I would be remiss if I did not mention what an honor it is to serve as your state DAR Service for Veterans Committee Chair for State Regent Sandra Isner-Johnson's Administration. I know WVDAR will continue to provide exemplary service for our veterans.

Ladies,

I was late in completing my SIP information for you as I was traveling around the country like I was 35 years old again. I visited 8 National Parks, 1 National Seashore, 3 Historic Trails, and 11 National Monuments or Historic Sites over the 16 days came home exhausted. You know I've survived 6 different types of cancer over a-53 year period, so I do get tired. So, I brought in my suitcases to my house Friday night and headed to Deep Creek Lake to celebrate my daughter's birthday. I was finally near a computer this afternoon as I returned home, and just sent my SIP report to Mary at 10:17 this evening. At 10:20 this evening, yes, 3 minutes later, I received this email from Nancy Schrim Wright who is our East Central Division Chair for DAR Service for Veterans. She provided copies of forms and dates for some awards that I did not have. Therefore, I am forwarding this email in hopes that you will have all the information you need. I will thank Nancy for her hard work as she researched each award date and form for us. Put these dates on your calendar and then send nominations for worthy candidates! Please add this email to the SIP for DAR Service for Veterans. Thank you.

In DAR Service,

Cindy Kolsun

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Hi Everyone,

I hope that you had a wonderful Labor Day weekend. As you well know, we are part of an important and busy committee, and I wanted to share with you some of the important parts, deadlines and forms. Please share with your chapters.

**Vivian's Outreach for Women (VOW).**

It originally began under the Women's Issues Committee but has been moved over to DAR Service for Veterans. It is an award program which will fund awards made to 501 (c)(3) organizations/shelters helping women veterans in need of the following services: medical, educational, childcare, housing, clothing, food, or other needs consistent with assisting these women to become self-sufficient in their communities. Attached are the following:

DSFV-WP-1014 - Instructions and Timelines for Completing Forms (VOW)

DSFV-WP-1015 - Self-Evaluation Form (VOW)

DSFV-WP-1016 - VOW Award Application

Deadline to State Chairs - **November 1st**

Deadline to Division Vice Chair - **December 15**

Deadline to National Vice Chair - **February 1st**

### **DAR Service For Veterans Committee Awards**

Our committee sponsors three awards: 1) Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award; 2) Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award; and 3) Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Award. Attached are the following:

DSFV-1007 - DAR Service for Veterans Committee Awards Information for Chapter Chairs

DSFV-1001 - DAR Service for Veterans Committee Awards Nomination Form

DSFV-1004 - DAR Service for Veterans Committee Awards Judge's Form

DSFV-1005 - DAR Service for Veterans Committee Awards Verification Form

DSFV-1006 - DAR Service for Veterans Committee Awards Publicity Release Form

DSFV-1011 - DAR Service for Veterans Committee Awards Judge's Evaluation Form

Deadline to State Chairs no later than **December 15th**

Deadline to Division Vice Chair - no later than **January 15th**

Deadline to VPG Judge - no later than **February 1st**

Be sure to check out the DAR Service for Veterans Webpage on the Members Only site. Read about the various things in which we are participating such as the Veteran's History Project, associated with the Library of Congress. NSDAR has been participating for several years in collecting oral histories of America's War Veterans. Also read about the Military Women's Memorial "Adopt a Woman Veteran" Project. Read about HER Story and the Square Foot Society. Be sure to share this information with your chapters and encourage them to get involved and support our Veterans. Also encourage your chapters to submit write-ups and pictures, not only as they occur but also on their Chapter Master Report.

Be sure to read about the new procedure for submitting requests for birthday greetings to our Veterans on the Daughters Online Community (DOC).



# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

*Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General*

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DAR SERVICE FOR VETERANS COMMITTEE — Candis Martin, *National Chair*  
26222 Sunny Meadow, San Antonio, TX 78260 ★ (210) 413-1965 ★ DARServiceforVeterans@nsdar.org

## DAR SERVICE FOR VETERANS COMMITTEE AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK AWARD CATEGORY**

- Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award
- Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Award

TYPE OR PRINT complete answers to all questions, including responses to the questionnaire on page 2 of this form. One packet must be prepared and forwarded to the appropriate Chair by email.

Name of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of sponsoring chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Name of sponsoring Chapter Regent \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of sponsoring Chapter Regent \_\_\_\_\_

Street address of sponsoring Chapter Regent \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of endorsement by chapter \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note:** If a potential award recipient is identified by another state, please notify the State Regent in that state rather than initiating the award yourself.

## I. OUTSTANDING VETERAN VOLUNTEER AWARD

Answer questions on sheets of paper (not to exceed seven pages). Place corresponding number before your answer.

1. Name and address of employer (if employed) and job title.
2. Employment background: Last three job titles and dates of employment.
3. Educational background: Highest grade completed and degrees earned and other specialized training.
4. Military service: Branch of service, dates of service, campaigns, medals, awards/citations.
5. List nominee's other community service.
6. Describe nominee's participation in special programs for Veterans, state whether nominee organized any special functions, and list resourceful/creative ways nominee solicited support for the function. Special programs include, but are not limited to, community events, celebrations, stand downs, Veterans History Project, women Veterans, adopt-a-Veteran programs, Veterans Affairs programs.
7. Describe any special recognition nominee has received from organizations for service to Veterans.
8. Describe the outstanding service to Veterans given by nominee during the current year.
9. Describe nominee's past and present involvement in helping other Veterans.
10. Give number of hours volunteering for Veterans.

## II. OUTSTANDING YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Answer questions on sheets of paper (not to exceed seven pages). Place corresponding number before your answer.

1. Nominee's date of birth and present level of schooling.
2. Parents' names, address(es), phone number(s), e-mail address(es).
3. Describe nominee's goals for the future: Educational and employment.
4. Describe how nominee became involved in volunteer activities.
5. Describe the outstanding service given to Veterans.
6. Length of service: Number of months/years, total hours, frequency of service, participation in special celebrations/occasions.
7. Describe any special recognition nominee has received from organizations/school related to his/her service to Veterans.
8. Leadership: Describe the ways in which nominee serves as a role model for peers, how nominee encourages other youth volunteers to assist Veterans, and describe any creative or unusual ideas the nominee has implemented for serving Veterans or for encouraging youth to serve Veterans.
9. Give number of hours volunteering for Veterans.

## III. OUTSTANDING DAR SERVICE FOR VETERANS AWARD

Answer questions on sheets of paper (not to exceed seven pages). Place corresponding number before your answer.

1. List all Veteran-related positions in DAR **only**. If nominee is a VAVS Representative please note whether all VAVS meetings were attended. (If not, please explain.)
2. Service: List number of months/years of service, frequency of service, area(s) of service.
3. Describe nominee's participation in special programs for Veterans, which include, but are not limited to, community events, celebrations, stand downs, sewing, Veterans History Project, women Veterans, adopt-a-Veteran programs, and Veterans Affairs programs.
4. Describe nominee's efforts to recruit youth volunteers to serve Veterans.
5. Describe special functions or programs the nominee has organized for Veterans and the resourceful/creative ways she solicited support for the functions or programs.
6. Describe the outstanding service to Veterans given by nominee during the current year.
7. Describe any special recognition nominee has received from any organizations for her service to Veterans.
8. Give number of hours volunteering for Veterans.



# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General

DAR SERVICE FOR VETERANS COMMITTEE — Candis Martin, *National Chair*  
26222 Sunny Meadow, San Antonio, TX 78260 ★ (210) 413-1965 ★ DARServiceforVeterans@nsdar.org

## DAR SERVICE FOR VETERANS COMMITTEE AWARDS JUDGE'S FORM

Check level and list name of state/division:  STATE \_\_\_\_\_  DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_  NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK AWARD CATEGORY**

- Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award
- Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award
- Outstanding DAR Service for Veterans Award

**TYPE OR PRINT:**

Name of Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Biographical Information [If DAR, list position(s) held; if non-DAR, list employment or other relevant information.]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee being judged \_\_\_\_\_ State of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Judges, please write the name of the winner in the box below and return the entire winning information packet and this Judge's Form to:**

Name / address / phone \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF WINNER SELECTED**

Signature of judge \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY WINNING NOMINATION AT EVERY LEVEL OF JUDGING**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGING THE DAR SERVICE FOR VETERANS COMMITTEE AWARDS**

**JUDGES**

A committee of three (3) judges shall judge candidates at state, division, and national levels. One DAR and two non-DAR members shall serve as judges. In the event of a tie or conflict of interest, the DAR judge shall select the winner.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SUBMISSION OF NOMINATION DOCUMENTS**

All nomination packets are to be submitted for judging by scanning and emailing the nominee’s packet to be submitted for judging. **DO NOT SUBMIT PHOTOS OF THE NOMINEE.** Packets containing photos will be disqualified. If a newspaper article or other document contains a photo, please cover the photo before you make a photocopy of the article. **Renomination:** Individuals who have won at the national level are not eligible for renomination. Non DAR winners at all other levels are eligible (with updated information) for renomination at the discretion of the sponsors. DAR members are eligible for two (2) consecutive years. Following that, at least one (1) year must pass before being eligible again.

**STATE LEVEL JUDGING**

The DAR judge at the state level shall be a past State Regent who will choose two non-DAR judges. The non-DAR judges may be men. The State Chair will select the past State Regent. The State Chair will send the past State Regent scanned packages (each package will be a separate scanned attachment) of all nominations received from chapters. Upon completion of judging at the state level, the past State Regent will send via email the state winners’ nomination packets including the Judge’s Forms and the Judge’s Evaluation Forms to the national division vice chair, DAR Service for Veterans. Should there be only one entry in any category, the past State Regent may note this on her Judge’s Form and send the packet forward.

**DIVISION LEVEL JUDGING**

The National Division Vice Chair **does not** judge the contest entrants. The National Division Vice Chair will process the packets, ensuring that they contain all required documents, and disqualify any nominee’s packet that is missing items or contains photos of the nominee. The National Chair will select a Vice President General to serve as the DAR judge and notify the National Division Vice Chair of the selection. The Vice President General will not judge in the division where she resides. The Vice President General will select two (2) non-DAR judges, which may be men. Upon completion of judging at the division level, the Vice President General will send division winners’ nomination packets via email including Judge’s Forms and the Judge’s Evaluation Forms to the national chair.

**NATIONAL LEVEL JUDGING**

The National Chair will process the division winners’ documents for the national judges. The National Chair will select an Honorary President General (approved by the current President General) and two non-DAR judges (who may be men) to serve as the judges for the national contest. In the event no Honorary President General is available, an Honorary Vice President General may be selected. The non-DAR judges will not consist of the National Chair’s spouse or other relatives. The national judges will submit completed Judge’s Forms to the national chair by a specified deadline. In the event the results in a contest category are tied, the vote of the Honorary President General will carry the greatest weight and will be used to break the tie.

<b>DEADLINES</b>	
<b>December 15:</b>	<b>State Chair</b> receives chapter entries and sends entries to the past State Regent for judging.
<b>January 15:</b>	<b>National Division Vice Chair</b> receives state winners’ documents and prepares them for forwarding to the Vice President General judge.
<b>February 1:</b>	<b>Vice President General judge</b> receives division contest entries and begins division judging process.
<b>March 15:</b>	<b>National Chair</b> receives division winners’ entries from the Vice President General judges and sends them to the Honorary President General judge.
<b>April 15:</b>	<b>Honorary President General judge</b> sends national winners to the National Chair.

**Please note:** If a potential award recipient is identified in another state, please notify the State Regent in that state rather than initiating the award yourself.