

Awarding SAR Service Medals

This is a special event for the Mount Vernon Chapter. Tonight we honor and award nine (9) SAR Compatriots who have served honorably in the US Military. They will join the eight (8) members who have previously received their SAR Service medal.

It is something that past President Bill Floyd started, and it carried over to the spring of this year. It is one of our Chapters brightest moments.

Let me first read you something from our SAR Mission Statement: *"This organization shall strive to honor, respect, and support the sacrifices of our veterans, ... especially those confined to residential and hospital facilities provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs."*

There are two (2) medals awarded by the SAR -

- The Military Service Medal is presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service that was not in a War zone. This includes someone who served in the National Guard or the Reserves. Typically, the recipient has been awarded the National Defense Medal, which is listed on their Military DD-214 form.

- The War Service Medal is presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service within a designated War Zone, as listed on their DD-214 form.

In the case of our 4 recipients, the War Zone was in Vietnam.

They also have one or more commendations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign ribbons listed on line 24 of their DD-214

- Along with the War Service Medal, is a War Zone Bar. All are for Vietnam.

The SAR **does not rank** either medal above the other.

Both medals have a Precedence level of 4 in all the medals awarded by the SAR.

Only the SAR Badge, the Minuteman Award, and the Gold Good Citizenship Medal have a higher precedence. **source: (page 6 of the National Handbook)**

Each Medal is Bronze, with the recipients name engraved on it. There is a large and a small version awarded. Each will also receive an Award Certificate.

Those who are receiving their medal will please come up to receive their award as I call their name. They will have their photo taken in front of the flags on the right by compatriot Tom Hughes, with their award and Certificate and GA President Bill Dobbs. Then stand and wait to the left of the podium for the final group shot in front of the flags.

Those receiving their medal tonight are: <!--Individual Photo Shots -->

John H. Bivins - National Guard - 1960-1961 - MSM

John S. Galt - US Army - Vietnam - 1967-1971 - WSM

From Line 24 - Army Aviation Badge; Vietnam Service Medal; Bronze Star Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; 2 O/S Bars; Air Medal w/ 1-10 OLC; Army Commendation Medal; Vietnam Counter Offensive_IV-V-VI; TET '69 Counter Offensive; Vietnam Counter Offensive Fall '69;

Earl Hewett - US Marines - Vietnam - 1967-1971 - WSM

From Line 24 - Vietnam Service Medal w/Bronze Stars; Vietnam Campaign Medal

Thomas C. Hewett PhD - US Army - 1971-1973 - MSM

Richard L. McCrary - Air Force Reserve - 1968-1969 - MSM

Benjamin (Ham) McDonald - US Army - Vietnam - 1963-1968 - WSM

From Line 24 - Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Bronze Star Medal; Air Medal; Parachutist Badge; Combat Infantryman Badge

Graham Purkerson - Navy Reserve - 1969-1970- MSM

Joe C. Rude - Air Force - 1971-1973 - WSM

From Line 24 - Vietnam Service Medal; Air Force Medal; Republic of Vietnam Commendation Medal

James W. Styring - Navy - 1970-1973 - MSM

Please give these brave men a round of applause.

<!--Group Photo Shot -->

I also want to recognize the 8 other Mount Vernon members who have previously received their Service Medals. They are:

Bill Brannen Jr. - Air Force - 1968-1969 - MSM

Ross Glover - Navy - 1958-1960 - MSM

Past Chapter Pres Jim McDonald - Air Force - 1964-1967- MSM

Chuck Olson - Nat Guard/Army Res - 1972-1994 - MSM

Tom Owens - Army - 1969-1972 - WSM

Cecil Palmer - Air Force - 1966-1967; Reserves 1967-1975 - MSM

Randy Pollard - Army - 1969-1971; Reserves 1971-1975 - MSM

Rusty Redding - Navy - 1965-1969 - WSM

Please give these brave men a round of applause.