

April 2020



More than 2500 compatriots registered

COL Patrick J. Niemann,  
USA, Chairman



COL Philip Gary Pettett  
MD USA Vice Chair



Compatriots, National Vietnam Veterans Day was March 29<sup>th</sup> and I would like to say “Welcome back” to all my fellow Vietnam veterans. Over 2.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War which represented almost 10% of our generation.

Sadly, we were not welcomed back in America as veterans were in previous wars. I recall my return to the San Francisco airport and having an Army bus transport us returning vets to the Letterman Army Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco. Our bus was the subject of verbal abuse, taunts and “one fingered” salutes. Happily, today our veterans are appreciated by their fellow Americans and treated with respect and dignity that they rightfully deserve.

As many of you know, COL Gary Pettett, Vice-Chairman of the VRC

“THESE are the times that try men's souls.

The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.” Thomas Paine wrote in his American Crisis during the 100 mile march across New Jersey 1776.

Our nation under GOD will prevail during this crisis.



I have made a compilation of Certificates of Patriotism issued from January 2018 through 2020 to date (March). We are publishing an average of 35 Certificates per month. Since last NSSAR Congress we have published 286 Certificates. I took over the Certificate/Multi-Corps Recognition project on February 1, 2020 but I had worked with Vic McMurray since July of 2019 (OJT). We have added a seventh service corp to our database - World War I (WWI) and already have one veteran enrolled with several more "in the hopper". Applicants use the VRC Multi-Corps Recognition Form that is on the VRC webpage at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org). Applications should be sent to [VetCorps@sar.org](mailto:VetCorps@sar.org) Do not

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Vice Chair Continued on page 2

# The Bugle a Veterans Recognition Committee Newsletter

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has assumed the duties of processing Veterans Corps applications and printing the appropriate Certificates of Patriotism. Compatriot Vic McMurry previously had that responsibility for over five years and did a magnificent job. Virtually every compatriot who currently has a Certificate of Patriotism should be appreciative of Vic's great professionalism and tireless efforts.

We still need volunteers to assist with committee functions. COL Pettett would welcome an assistant to review Compatriot military records. We also need a newsletter editor. Compatriot Steve Monez graciously volunteered two years ago to produce the VRC Bugle. Steve is currently extremely busy. My thanks to Steve for volunteering to complete this issue. I encourage interested compatriots to contact either me, Gary or Steve for additional information.

The VRC will not meet at the Richmond Congress however, we will resume our committee meeting at the Fall Leadership in Louisville. Meanwhile may you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy as we battle the coronavirus pandemic. Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great country.

Yours in patriotism,  
Pat

COL Patrick J. Niemann, USA,  
Chairman, Veterans Recognition  
Committee

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send them to my personal email address. Several applicants have been sending their NSSAR Military Service Record Form instead of the VRC form. The information is slightly different. Yours in Patriotism,  
COL Gary Pettett Vice Chairman VRC

## Compilation

Month	2018	2019	2020	Total
January	26	28	41	95
February	30	43	34	107
March	23	42	27	92
April	33	21		54
May	55	21		76
June	52	31		83
July	26	50		76
August	27	44		71
September	57	28		85
October	44	28		72
November	35	46		81
December	40	38		78
Total	448	420	102	970
High	57	50	41	
Low	23	21	27	
Average	37	35	34	



You may be eligible for the Ambassador for Peace Medal being presented by the government of Korea if you meet certain criteria. The criteria and application form can be found at the following:

[https://kwva.us/?page=info\\_peace\\_medal](https://kwva.us/?page=info_peace_medal)

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## Thank you for your Service



Veterans at 2019 Fall Leadership



Veterans at Spring Leadership from left to right, COL Pat Niemann, LTC Bob McGuire, Major Dave VanHoot, CAPT Michael Wyler, COL Peter Davenport, MG Don Burdick and SFC Dan McMurray

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# The Bugle a Veterans Recognition Committee Newsletter

## SECRETARY

COL David Edward Thompson

Condensed Minutes of the 2020 Spring Leadership Meeting

Chairman Niemann thanked former Vice-Chairman V. McMurry for his work spanning five years of processing the Certificates of Patriotism and keeping the database accurate. Chairman Niemann introduced Vice-Chairman Pettett and thanked him for his efforts in taking over this role full-time, effective February 1, 2020.

Vice-Chairman Pettett updated the VRC on the review and processing steps. On average, between 30-50 Certificates of Patriotism are processed each month. Vice-Chairman Pettett reviews and processes the Certificates during the course of each month; at the end of the month he forwards these Certificates to Headquarters. Headquarters then distributes the Certificates to the appropriate State Societies and Chapters for presentation to the Compatriots. It takes about six weeks to get through the process.

Vice-Chairman Pettett stated that the application and processing steps are the same. Compatriots still do the application form from the website (PDF-format on the instruction sheet); submit the form to [VetCorps@SAR.org](mailto:VetCorps@SAR.org); then the form ends up in Vice-Chairman Pettett's mailbox. The forms are batched into PDF files, saved, and at the end of the month put on Share File. This enables retrieval, if necessary, of documentation at a later date. Vice-Chairman Pettett asked that the VRC members relay the processing steps to their respective State Society and Chapter points-of-contact. He further emphasized that he is here to serve the Committee, and is open to feedback and phone calls if there are questions or concerns regarding the Certificates. Chairman Niemann added that all of the Certificates are customized. There are currently 85 templates in use to customize each Certificate for the Compatriot's specific service.

Chairman Niemann received a number of inquiries from compatriots regarding the status of their Certificates of Patriotism. After checking the VRC records, it was noted that the certificates were completed and mailed to the State Secretaries in the previous 3 – 6 months. Chairman Niemann requested that VRC members stress to their State and Chapter officers the importance of honoring the veterans in a timely manner.

Chairman Niemann provided the attendees with an overview of the Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal. He explained that to be eligible, the veterans must have served during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955. To receive the medal the veteran must complete an application, attach his DD214 and send it to any Korean Consulate.

## World War I Veterans Corps

**World War One** was one of the deadliest wars in history that resulted in over 9,000,000 combatant deaths. The United States entered WWI on April 6, 1917 when President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany and joined the Allied Powers of France, England, Italy, Russia, Romania and Japan who had been fighting the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria) since 1914. It was the entry of the United States that turned the tide of war into victory for the Allied Powers. The war ended with the surrender of Germany on November 11, 1918.

There were 2.8 million American forces that served in the campaign theater during World War I. Casualties for the American Expeditionary Force were 53,402 killed in action and 205,000 wounded. Another 63,000 soldiers died of disease and other causes during “The Great War” that was supposed to end all wars. The leader of the American Expeditionary Force was General of the Armies John “Black Jack” Pershing a member of the Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



### World War I Victory Medal

Based on an approved Memorial Membership a SAR Veteran that has received the World War I Victory Medal is automatically eligible to be a member of the NSSAR Veterans Committee World War I Veterans Corps. The sponsor of the Compatriot’s Memorial Membership will need to complete the NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form and Proof of Service.

