



For Immediate Release:

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**The National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Awards Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Aeson Akins its 2020
Outstanding JROTC Cadet of the Year Award**

Denver, CO, July 15, 2020 – The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) awarded Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Aeson Akins of Glenwood Springs High School, Colorado its 2020 Outstanding JROTC Cadet of the Year Award.

Known as “Colorado’s Land of Water,” because of the Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers that flow through the city, its numerous hot springs and the lake hanging in the hills above it, Glenwood Springs can now be known as the home of SAR’s 2020 Outstanding JROTC Cadet.

SAR recently announced the results of its annual competition for this honor among Outstanding JROTC Cadets representing twenty-five State Societies. Emerging first from the competition among these very accomplished junior cadet candidates was Cadet Aeson Akins of the Glenwood Springs High School Air Force JROTC Program.

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) was instituted by Congress “to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the value of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.” Each of the four military branches: Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy, have established JROTC Programs in high schools across the United States. In Colorado, there are 38 JROTC Programs: 20 Air Force; 12 Army; 2 Marine Corps; and 4 Navy.

The SAR is composed of members who can trace their ancestors to those who either fought in or supported the American Revolution. Many of these were members of the Continental Army or Navy or of the local militia. They were the first “Citizen Soldiers,” who won the war and established the United States of America. The SAR honors these “Citizen Soldiers” of yesteryear by supporting today’s young “Citizen Soldiers.”



Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Aeson Akins

Each year SAR presents a junior JROTC cadet in each JROTC High School Program, selected by the Senior Military Instructor, with the Bronze JROTC Medal. It also conducts an Outstanding JROTC Cadet Program, where each Chapter in a State Society selects an Outstanding Cadet from the JROTC High School Programs within its area and the State Society then selects its Outstanding Cadet from these Chapter winners. The Outstanding Cadet then competes with the other State Society Outstanding Cadets for the SAR Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award. There were 25 Outstanding Cadets from 25 State Societies competing for the top award this year.

The Glenwood Springs High School Air Force JROTC Program is led by Col. Ben Akins (USAF, Ret.) and Chief Master Sergeant Paul Nunemann (USAF, Ret.). Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Aeson Akins was selected as the Glenwood Springs Outstanding Cadet and won the Grand Mesa Chapter competition for which he received a neck ribbon with a bronze medallion. He competed with the other Chapter winners and was selected as the Colorado Society Outstanding JROTC Cadet, for which he received a neck ribbon with silver medallion and a check for \$500. Competing with the other 24 State Society winners, the SAR recently announced that he had been selected as the SAR’s 2020 Outstanding JROTC Cadet. He will be presented with a check for \$5,000 and a gold medallion at a future SAR national meeting.

“I will admit that it was somewhat awkward to nominate my own son for this award,” remarked Col. Akins. “However, in addition to raising him, I have been his JROTC

instructor for the past three years and have seen him steadily rise through the ranks to where he holds the unit's highest position, Squadron Commander. Along the way, he has gained the respect of his fellow students, which is absolutely critical in selecting our senior leadership."

To be nominated for the Outstanding Cadet award, the JROTC junior must be in the top 10% of his JROTC class. Cadet Akins is clearly at the top his. The cadet must also be in the top 25% of his overall class. Aeson has a GPA of 4.12 and ranks 5th out of a class of 259. A successful candidate must demonstrate JROTC leadership and hold increasingly responsible leadership positions. He or she must participate in and demonstrate leadership in academic extra-curricular activities. He or she must also show well roundedness by participating in and holding leadership positions in non-JROTC and non-scholastic activities. Cadet Akins' participation in his many varied activities and his demonstrated leadership is truly impressive. His activities were highlighted by his varsity and club swimming, his third degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do and his qualification to be an Eagle Scout.

"I am truly honored to be selected by the Sons of the American Revolution as its 2020 Outstanding JROTC Cadet," stated Cadet Akins. "I could not have achieved the things that I have without the support of many people, including my family, the JROTC instructors and my fellow students. Because of JROTC, I know that I will leave high school and enter the world with a stronger character than before and live a better life of service, integrity and be an active participant in my community."

"We were proud to have Aeson represent the Colorado Society in the SAR 2020 Outstanding JROTC Cadet competition," remarked Richard A. Neeley, President of the Colorado Society, SAR. "In all respects, he is a remarkable young man and we are grateful that SAR recognized these characteristics as well. He is a great ambassador for his high school and Glenwood Springs and a great representative of the State of Colorado."

If you are interested in participating in the 2021 Colorado Society Outstanding JROTC Cadet competition, please contact Bob Haines at rwhdjh@aol.com. You must complete an application, write an essay and provide recommendations from your Senior Military Instructor and Principal. The application package must be submitted through your Senior Military Instructor by March 15.

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the largest male lineage organization in the U.S., consists of 50 societies with more than 500 local chapters, several international societies and almost 39,000 members. The Colorado Society (COSSAR) is one of these societies representing the SAR Compatriots residing in the State of Colorado. SAR is dedicated to assisting our members, schools, teachers and the general public in their efforts to sustain and preserve our history and constitutional principles.