



# VNGA

Virginia National Guard Association

# Awards Program

# Purpose of the VNGA Awards Program

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The Virginia National Guard Association Awards Program is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who, by superior performance, acts of heroism or service of a meritorious nature, make a contribution to the goals of the Virginia National Guard Association, to the purpose and effectiveness of the broader Virginia National Guard or to the stability and security of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the United States.

The origin of the Awards Program stem from 1961 with the creation of the Awards and Medals Board. Since establishment, the committee has added nine awards: a commendation; the Meritorious Service Award; the Distinguished Service Award; the Captain Harry Q. Rose Award; the Chief Warrant Officer 4 James H. Hurt Award; the Brig. Gen. Bert W. Holmes, Jr Award; the Brig. Gen. William E. Haymes Award; the Chief Warrant Officer 3 Antoinette M. Kunka Award; and, the Brig. Gen. Edward M. Hudgins Award.

# Awards Procedures

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## Presentation of Awards

Awards are presented during the Virginia National Guard Association's annual business meeting and conference to afford maximum visibility to award recipients by the Virginia National Guard peers and leaders.

## Awards Committee

The VNGA Awards Committee is responsible for reviewing the VNGA Awards Program for adequacy, administrative effectiveness and makes program changes or recommendations to the Executive Council, as necessary. The Awards Committee reviews all nominations for awards and makes final selection recommendations to the Executive Council.

## Deadline

The deadline for the receipt of nominations for all VNGA Individual Awards is March 31. Nominations should be submitted digitally to [awards@vnga.us](mailto:awards@vnga.us) but may be mailed to:

Virginia National Guard Association, Inc.  
c/o Chair, Awards Committee  
Post Office Box 37037  
Richmond, Virginia 23234-7037

# Commendation

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**This award was conceived to provide recognition for an individual who, as member of the Virginia National Guard, performed outstanding service to the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Virginia National Guard or to the Virginia National Guard Association.**

## Eligibility

Any member of the National Guard, Virginia National Guard Association or the Armed Forces of the United States, or any civilian assigned to a National Guard Bureau or Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia is eligible to receive the Virginia National Guard Association’s Commendation.

## Description

This award is a certificate printed on ivory colored, 32 lbs. weight, 100 percent cotton paper and contains the a colored Virginia National Guard Association seal, the inscriptions “Virginia National Guard Association”, “This is to announce that the President and Executive Committee have awarded a Commendation to (INSERT RANK, FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME) for (INSERT CITATION) and is signed by the President of the Virginia National Guard Association and the document is dated. The certificate is embossed in the lower left of the certificate with the Virginia National Guard Association seal for authenticity.

## Criteria

An individual must have demonstrated outstanding achievement or performance on behalf the Virginia National Guard or the Virginia National Guard Association.

Outstanding achievement or performance must have been such as to clearly identify them as having played a key role in the accomplishment for which the award is to be given. Superior performance of duties normal to the grade, branch, specialty or assignment and experience of an individual are adequate for this award.

A single accomplishment may be considered as qualification for this award if it is sufficient significance and magnitude.

## Nominations and Selection Procedures

Any member of the Virginia National Guard Association may nominate an individual to receive this award. An individual may not receive more than one Commendation in any given calendar year.

More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

# Meritorious Service Award

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**The Meritorious Service Award was conceived to provide recognition for an individual who, as member of the Virginia National Guard, performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Virginia National Guard or to the Virginia National Guard Association. This award was created based upon a perceived need for an additional award that would specifically recognize individuals for significant contributions that may not warrant the Distinguished Service Award.**

## Eligibility

Any member of the Virginia National Guard Association is eligible to receive the Virginia National Guard Association's Meritorious Service Award.

## Description

This award is an 8x10" wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top. Beneath the seal is the inscription "Virginia National Guard Association presents the Meritorious Service Award to (INSERT RANK, FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME) for exceptionally meritorious service" and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination.

## Criteria

An individual must have demonstrated exceptional achievement or performance on behalf the Virginia National Guard or the Virginia National Guard Association.

Exceptional achievement or performance must have been such as to clearly identify them as having played a key role in the accomplishment for which the award is to be given. Superior performance of duties normal to the grade, branch, specialty or assignment and experience of an individual are not adequate for this award.

A single accomplishment may be considered as qualification for this award if it is sufficient significance and magnitude. Particular considerations will be given to those individuals who have contributed superior service on a sustained basis. Personal dedication and self-sacrifice also will be regarded as factors deserving consideration.

## Nominations and Selection Procedures

Any member of the Virginia National Guard Association may nominate an individual to receive this award. An individual may not receive more than one Meritorious Service Award in any given calendar year.

More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

# Distinguished Service Award

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**The Distinguished Service Award was conceived to provide recognition for an individual who, as member of the Virginia National Guard, performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Virginia National Guard or to the Virginia National Guard Association. This is the highest honor the Virginia National Guard can bestow.**

## Eligibility

Any member of the Virginia National Guard Association is eligible to receive the Virginia National Guard Association's Distinguished Service Award.

## Description

This award is an 11x14" wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top. Beneath the seal is the inscription "Virginia National Guard Association presents the Distinguished Service Award to (INSERT RANK, FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME) for exceptionally distinguished service" and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination.

## Criteria

An individual must have distinguished him/herself in particularly exceptional performance on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia National Guard or the Virginia National Guard Association.

Outstanding performance of normal duty alone will not justify the award. An individual must have offered exceptionally outstanding contributions over an extended period of time to clearly merit the award. Contributions to specific units may be considered, but this award is intended to recognize state-level contributions.

## Nominations and Selection Procedures

Any member of the Virginia National Guard Association may nominate an individual to receive this award. An individual may not receive more than one Distinguished Service Award.

More than one award may be given in a calendar year.



# Captain Harry Q. Rose Award

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**This award was created in memory of Capt. Harry Q. Rose a graduate of the Virginia National Guard's Officer Candidacy School, Class VI in 1966. Rose initially served as a Field Artillery Officer but later reclassified as an Aviation Officer. Rose flew the Bell UH-1C Iroquois (nicknamed the "Huey") and served as a pilot during the Vietnam War while assigned to the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. Rose was Killed in Action during an aerial flight in connection with a military operation against a hostile force. Rose received an Air Medal with Valor posthumously Oct. 28, 1968. This award is presented annually as the "Outstanding Leadership Award of the Virginia National Guard Officer Candidacy Class.'**

## Eligibility

Nominees must be a graduate of the Virginia National Guard Officer Candidacy School and a commissioning second lieutenant in the Virginia National Guard.

## Description

This award is an 8x10" wooden plaque with metallic (antique gold or brass colored) plate that has a laser-etched photo of Capt. Harry Q. Rose on the left and on the right is an inscription that reads "The Virginia National Guard Association presents the Captain Harry Q. Rose Outstanding Leadership Award to (INSERT RANK, FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME), Virginia National Guard Officer Candidate School Class (INSERT CLASS NUMBER)." The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a life membership to the Virginia National Guard Association and a complementary invitation to the annual business meeting and conference.

## Criteria

An individual must have distinguished him/herself through leadership throughout the program.

## Selection Procedures

The OCS Company Commander selects the awardee. An individual may not receive more than one Capt. Harry Q. Rose Award.

Only one award may be given for each OCS graduating class.

# Chief Warrant Officer 4 James H. Hurt Award

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**This award was created in memory of Chief Warrant Officer 4 James H. Hurt. Hurt, a Roanoke native, enlisted in the Virginia National Guard March 20, 1948 and was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade and served for 18 years earning the rank of Master Sergeant. Upon assignment to the Richmond area he was appointed as a Warrant Officer and assigned as a Motor Maintenance Technician with Headquarters, 29th Aviation Battalion. In 1981, Hurt left the aviation field and was assigned to the Headquarters, Virginia Army National Guard with the recruiting and retention section. Hurt retired from the Virginia National Guard with 41 years of outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States. The Chief Warrant Officer 4 James H. Hurt Award recognizes the Virginia National Guard formation or command that has contributed significantly to the goals and objectives of the association.**

## Eligibility

All Major Subordinate Commands; and, Battalion, Squadron, or Group Commands, are eligible to receive the Chief Warrant Officer 4 James H. Hurt Award.

## Description

This award is an 11x14” wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top. Beneath the seal is the inscription “Virginia National Guard Association presents the Chief Warrant Officer 4 James H. Hurt Award to (INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION) for (INSERT YEAR)” and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination, and a cash prize of \$500.

## Criteria

Commands must achieved 100 percent membership in the Virginia National Guard Association; the designated unit representative(s) attend all four Executive Council meetings; and, the command must have the highest percentage of expected attendance at the annual business meeting and conference.

## Selection Procedures

The Executive Council selects the command(s) meeting the criteria.

More than one award may be given for each year if the commands have equal representation at the annual business meeting and conference.



# Brig. Gen. Bert W. Holmes, Jr. Award

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**This award was created in memory of Brig. Gen. Bert W. Holmes, Jr., a Virginia National Guard officer that served in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve and the Virginia National Guard; owned and operated a small medical practice while serving as a surgical expert at a number of hospitals and achieving the rank of Brigadier General in the Virginia National Guard. Following retirement in 2005, Holmes served 10 years on the Board of Directors for the Virginia War Memorial. The Brig. Gen. Bert W. Holmes, Jr. award recognizes the achievements and dedicated service of Virginia Army National Guard junior officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their services to the Commonwealth of Virginia and community.**

## Eligibility

Nominees must be a second lieutenant, first lieutenant, or captain serving in the Virginia Army National Guard during the award period for which the award is given. Nominees must be active members of the Virginia National Guard in good standing.

## Description

This award is an 11x14” wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top. Beneath the seal is the inscription “Virginia National Guard Association presents the Brig. Gen. Bert W. Holmes, Jr. Award to (INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION) for (INSERT YEAR)” and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination, and a one-year complementary membership.

## Criteria

Nominative summaries are evaluated by the nominees’ accomplishments in duty assignments; career progression, training and professional development activities; community service demonstrating leadership or exemplary character; military and civilian education; awards and decorations; experience and achievements; leadership qualities and character.

## Selection Procedures

The Executive Council approves the Virginia Army National Guard nominations of junior officers meeting the criteria based on recommended endorsements from unit commander; battalion, brigade, division, group or wing commander; and, the Land Component Commander. An individual may not receive more than one award.

Only one Army National Guard officer may be awarded annually.

# Brig. Gen. William E. Haymes Award

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**This award was created in memory of Brig. Gen. William E. Haymes. Haymes began his career in Company F, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, and was called into Federal service in 1941 where he transferred into the U.S Army Air Corps. Earning his pilot's wings, Haymes flew combat missions in the P-39 and P-40 fighters throughout the Pacific Theater, being credited with at least one air-to-air victory. He later flew the P-51 during the Korean War from 1952 to 1953 earning a Gold Star from the South Korean Air Force. Haymes returned to Virginia in 1953 and served as the commander of the recently reorganized Virginia Air National Guard. While serving as a rated command pilot, Haymes flew the P-47, B-26 and F-84 aircraft. Haymes was selected as the first Assistant Adjutant General – Air and was the first General Officer of the Virginia Air National Guard. Haymes retired in 1981 after more than 40 years of military service and more than 7,500 hours of flying time. The Brig. Gen. William E. Haymes Award recognizes the achievements and dedicated service of Virginia Air National Guard junior officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their services to the Commonwealth of Virginia and community.**

## Eligibility

Nominees must be a second lieutenant, first lieutenant, or captain serving in the Virginia Air National Guard during the award period for which the award is given. Nominees must be active members of the Virginia National Guard in good standing.

## Description

This award is an 11x14" wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top. Beneath the seal is the inscription "Virginia National Guard Association presents the Brig. Gen. William E. Haymes Award to (INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION) for (INSERT YEAR)" and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination, and a one-year complementary membership.

## Criteria

Nominative summaries are evaluated by the nominees' accomplishments in duty assignments; career progression, training and professional development activities; community service demonstrating leadership or exemplary character; military and civilian education; awards and decorations; experience and achievements; leadership qualities and character.

## Selection Procedures

The Executive Council approves the Virginia Air National Guard nominations of junior officers meeting the criteria based on recommended endorsements from unit commander; squadron, group or wing commander; and, the Air Component Commanders. An individual may not receive more than one award.

Only one Air National Guard officer may be awarded annually.

# Chief Warrant Officer 3 Antoinette M. Kunka Award

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**This award was created in memory of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Antoinette M. Kunka, a Virginia National Guard warrant officer who served as a Supply Systems Warrant Officer for the Directorate of Logistics. This award recognizes the achievements and dedicated service of Virginia Army and Air National Guard junior warrant officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and professionalism in their services to the Commonwealth of Virginia and community.**

## Eligibility

Nominees must be a Warrant Officer or Chief Warrant Officer 2 serving in the Virginia Army National Guard during the award period for which the award is given. Nominees must be active members of the Virginia Army National Guard in good standing.

## Description

This award is an 11x14” wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top. Beneath the seal is the inscription “Virginia National Guard Association presents the Chief Warrant Officer 3 Antoinette M. Kunka Award to (INSERT UNIT DESIGNATION) for (INSERT YEAR)” and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination, and a one-year complementary membership.

## Criteria

Nominative summaries are evaluated by the nominees’ accomplishments in duty assignments; career progression, training and professional development activities; community service demonstrating leadership or exemplary character; military and civilian education; awards and decorations; experience and achievements; leadership qualities and character. Only one Army National Guard warrant officer may be selected.

## Selection Procedures

The Executive Council approves the Virginia Army National Guard nominations of warrant officers meeting the criteria based on recommended endorsements from unit commander, battalion, brigade, division and the Land Component Commander. An individual may not receive more than one award.

Only one Army National Guard warrant officer may be awarded annually.

# Brig. Gen. Edward M. Hudgins Award

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**This award was created in memory of Brig. Gen. Edward M. Hudgins, a Virginia National Guard officer that served in a variety of high-profile positions during and following World War 2. Hudgins served as aide-de-camp to Gen. Edward Almond and military aide to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He later served as District 23rd's Delegate to the General Assembly from 1952-1965. This award recognizes the achievements and dedicated service of local officials, civic leaders, elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state level, who in a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Virginia National Guard or to the Virginia National Guard Association.**

## Eligibility

Any civilian may be nominated for the Brig. Gen. Edward M. Hudgins Award. Primarily designed for recognition of local officials (city, county or state), civic leaders (ESGR, civilian aides, corporate CEOs), elected representatives or aids.

## Description

This award is an 11x14" wooden plaque that has the Virginia National Guard Association seal engraved at the top surrounded by a crown of dogwood blossoms. Beneath the seal is the inscription "Virginia National Guard Association presents the Brig. Gen. Edward M. Hudgins Award to (NAME) for (INSERT CITATION)" and is dated. The plaque is accompanied by a congratulatory letter, which includes a summary of the nomination.

## Criteria

Nominative summaries are evaluated by the nominee's accomplishments in their support of the Virginia National Guard or the Virginia National Guard Association.

Superior performance of normal duty alone will not justify award of this honor. An individual must have provided exceptionally strong support for the Virginia National Guard to clearly merit this award. The support of the individual must be such that the readiness and future of the Guard have been positively affected and results of the support should remain beyond the individual's affiliation with the Virginia National Guard.

Narratives should provide specifics as to the nature, e.g., legislation passed and enacted, versus sponsored and the period of service being recognized be clearly stated.

## Nomination and Selection Procedures

Any member of the Virginia National Guard Association may nominate an individual to receive this award. An individual may not receive more than one Brig. Gen. Edward M. Hudgins Award; exceptions to this restriction may be granted by action of the Executive Committee.

More than one award may be given in a calendar year.

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# VNGA

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## Individual Award Nomination

Submit to [awards@vnga.us](mailto:awards@vnga.us) by March 31

**Award:** (Select One)

- Commendation       Meritorious Service Award       Distinguished Service Award  
 Hurt Award       Holmes Award (CGO - ARNG)       Haymes Award (CGO - ANG)  
 Kunka Award (WO)       Hudgins Award (Legislator)

**Nominee Information:**

Name: (First, MI, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Component: (Select One)  ARNG  ANG

Unit of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: (Select One)  Complementary  Annual  Life  Unknown

**Nominator Information:**

Name: (First, MI, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Component: (Select One)  ARNG  ANG

Unit of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: (Select One)  Complementary  Annual  Life

**Nomination:** (Justify selected award; continuations and attachments authorized)

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Submit to [awards@vnga.us](mailto:awards@vnga.us) by March 31