



Company of Military Historians Recognitions

Lt. Col. William K. Emerson, USA (Ret.)

Early in its history the Company started to recognize selected members by naming them a Fellow. Since that time the Board of Governors has been instituting additional forms of recognition. As with the Fellows' designation, it is up to CMH members to initiate all of these recognitions.

General

This is a summary of the criteria, processes, and procedures used by the Company of Military Historians to nominate, approve, and award all recognitions. In some cases the following lays out time lines and other information.

Distinguished Service Award with Star

Who may nominate: Any member, through a Governor on the Board of Governors.

Nominations submitted to: A Governor, the administrator, or President, who presents the information to the Board of Governors for their consideration.

General criterion: Service to CMH. The DSA with star can only be presented five years after the original award.

Process and time line to approval: The administrator compares the nomination to the criteria and provides a report on this comparison to the Board of Governors. The Board makes the final decision for this award. No time goals.

Process after approval: Once the Board selects a person for this award the administrator coordinates all matters related to the preparation and delivery of the award. At the annual meeting, the President presents the award and reads the citation. If the recipient is not present at the banquet, the administrator forwards the certificate and medal within a week after the meeting unless otherwise arranged by the President and administrator.

Other notes: The board may or may not notify a recipient in advance of the presentation.

Recognitions: 1. Pewter oval bearing the Company Rifleman, surrounded by two laurel branches with a star where the branches cross—all suspended by a neck ribbon in the Company colors. 2. A gold colored oval membership badge with gray background bearing the Company Rifleman.



Distinguished Service Award

Identical to DSA with star. Must be a Fellow for at least five years.

Recognition: Pewter oval bearing

Distinguished Service Award

the Company Rifleman, surrounded by two laurel branches—all suspended by a neck ribbon.

Fellow

Who may nominate: Any CMH member.

Nominations submitted to: The awards committee chair, who will distribute it to other committee members and coordinate actions.

General criterion: Clearly demonstrate substantial and positive accomplishments in one or more fields of activity for which the CMH was organized; and who has displayed outstanding enterprise in furthering the welfare of the CMH or the success of its programs. Fellows are limited to 12 percent of total active membership.

Process for approval: The awards committee uses a formal score sheet providing a possible one hundred points and evaluates nominees. The committee forwards its recommendations and score sheets to the Board for final action. The Board makes the final decision for this award.

Process after approval: Once the Board selects Company Fellows, the administrator arranges for the printing the certificates and affixing the CMH seal and ribbons, and presents it to the President and Secretary for their signatures. The awards committee creates a draft citation based upon the data presented and forwards it to the administrator and President. The President reads the final citation and makes the award at the annual banquet. If the recipient is not present at the banquet the administrator forwards the certificate, usually within a week following the annual meeting.

Other notes: The scoring criterion for Fellowships allows a maximum of one hundred points to be awarded with a maximum of fifty points for scholarship and fifty points are for CMH service.

Each person made a Fellow is notified by the awards committee chair in advance of the annual meeting. This is done as soon as possible after Board action so the maximum number of new Fellows will be present for the formal recognition. The President presents each certificate at the next annual meeting. The CMH bylaws state:

Section 1. Any Active or Honorary member who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, has clearly demonstrated substantial and positive accomplishments in one or more fields of activity for which the Company was organized and who has displayed outstanding enterprise in furthering the welfare of the Company or its success may be designated as a



Fellow



“Fellow of The Company” in recognition and reward.

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall establish criteria for selection of Fellows of The Company.

Recognition: A gold colored oval membership badge with red background bearing the Company Rifleman.

Founder’s Award

Who may nominate: Any CMH member.

Nominations submitted to: The awards committee chair, who will distribute it to other committee members and coordinate actions.

General criterion: To recognize outstanding scholarship or scholarly activities by a Company member. The fields encompassed by this award are broad and include:

- Authors of books and articles of military history and material culture.
- Preservationists of military battlefields and military items.
- Museum Curators specializing in military items.
- Artists who interpret military history and material culture.
- Collectors of military material culture.
- Teachers/ Professors.
- Editors/Compilers.
- Living Historians.

The award is meant to recognize achievement bringing new insights in the areas of military history and military material culture to the public. It is meant to reward work which is critically acclaimed and sets the standard for future work. It is not meant to recognize a few articles or displays, simply artwork or a military uniform plate, a limited number of classes taught, a single artifact saved, or a single book compiled or edited, but rather a body of work opening new avenues for looking at the field of military history and material culture. Collectors can’t just collect, but must use their collection to teach and form new interpretations. That is not to say the author of a single book (for example) can’t be recognized for that work, but such recognition would be exceptional. What is important is the recognition the work receives by his/her peers, and whether it becomes a standard reference in the field. In the case of preservationists, curators, artists, and living historians, they must have significantly contributed to the areas of material culture and be recognized by others in the field as having made worthy contributions.

Process for approval: The awards committee uses



Founders Award with Fellows Badge

one of two formal score sheets—one with emphasis on CMH activities and the other for military history. The committee forwards its recommendations and score sheet to the Board for final action. The Board makes the final decision for this award.

Process after approval: Once the Board selects recipients, the administrator arranges for an unframed certificate and the physical award. The awards committee creates the citation based upon the data presented and forwards it to the administrator and President. The President reads the final citation and makes the award at the annual banquet. If the recipient is not present at the banquet the administrator forwards the certificate, usually within a week following the annual meeting.

Other notes: The criterion will be either scholarship or CMH service.

Recognition: A gold-plated, six-star cluster, emblematic of the six Company Founders, to be worn over the Fellows or membership pin.

Commendation Award

Who may nominate: Any CMH member.

Nominations submitted to: The awards committee chair, who will distribute it to other committee members and coordinate committee actions.

General criterion: Either a single act which merits recognition or meritorious service over time in one or more areas.

Process for approval: The awards committee considers all nominations and makes recommendations within forty-five days based upon nomination letters and the general criteria. The committee forwards its recommendations to the President for final Board action immediately after making its recommendation. The Board makes the final decision for this award.

Process and time line after approval: Once approved by the Board, the awards committee prepares a certificate with citation within fifteen days and forwards it to CMH President for signature. The President determines if the award will be presented at the annual meeting or not. Those certificates to be presented at the meeting are retained by the President. The administrator supplies the pin. Certificates approved, but not to be presented at the annual meeting, are returned to the awards committee which prepares a cover letter, obtains a pin, and forwards



Commendation Award



the certificate and pin within one week after receipt of pin and certificate.

Recognition: A gold-plated, three-star bar to be worn over the Fellows or membership pin.

Emerson Writing Award

Who may nominate: The President appoints a special Writing Award committee that selects the articles and writers to be considered.

When nominations are made: As decided by the special committee.

General criterion: The best annual article on material culture appearing in *Military Collector & Historian*.

Process and time line to approval: The committee shall be solely responsible for the selection of the award-winning article each year. No Board action required; however, the special committee notifies the CMH President at least forty-five days prior to the spring board meeting so the Board is advised of the committee's action.

Process after approval: The special committee notifies the administrator of the author and article selected at least forty-five days prior to the annual meeting. The administrator inserts the author's name and article name in a special certificate format developed by the awards committee. The administrator prints the certificate, affixes the CMH seal, and obtains signatures of the President and Secretary. The President announces the winner at the annual banquet and presents the certificate. If the winner is not present at the banquet the administrator forwards the certificate and medal, usually within a week after the annual meeting.

Recognition: A silvered colored table medal bearing the Company Rifleman with the wording "William K. Emerson WRITING AWARD."



Emerson Writing Award

the President count the ballots and provide the winner's name and the display name to the President prior to the annual banquet. The administrator supplies the actual award to the president who presents it to the winner at the annual banquet.

Recognition: A gold colored table medal bearing an image of Robert Miller in a Civil War uniform with his birth and death years "1911-1972" and the wording "ROBERT LOREN MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD."

Past President's Badge

Given to each former president of the Company of Military Historians.

Recognition: A silver colored replica of a War of 1812 shoulder belt plate with an eagle and federal shield above and over a trophy of stacked muskets, drum, flags, and cannon. Suspended by a dark blue neck ribbon.



Past President's Badge

Member's Badge

Available to each member of the Company of Military Historians, a pin which can be worn in a suit coat lapel buttonhole.

Recognition: The initial version was a large rosette. Subsequently a smaller version was used. Currently the badge is a gold color and black oval showing the CMH Rifleman.



Current Members' Badge (right) and original rosette (left)



Miller Awards

General criterion: The best display at the annual CMH meeting as determined by the vote of members present at the meeting.

Process: The administrator insures ballots are provided to each meeting at the annual meeting. The administrator and one other person appointed by



Miller Award