

Joseph L. SantaCroce

Service to Veterans Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize a member of the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion who has devoted his time, talents, and treasure in making a difference for Veteran's and their families. Whether making that difference takes place at the residence of a Veteran, within a service organization, at a Veteran or VA facility, in the general community, or in the mind and well-being of a Veteran; If it improves the quality of their life, it deserves recognition.

Eligibility: This award is intended to recognize any member in good standing of the Sons in the Detachment of New York, who was a member more than half of the membership year, and received a nomination according to the Award guidelines. Members of the VA&R Commission, judging the nominations, are not eligible during their Commission terms.

Type of Recognition: The award will consist of an engraved plaque presented annually at Detachment Convention, by the members of the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion VA&R Commission, the current year Detachment Commander, and members of the SantaCroce family (if available).

Additional Recognition: An application for the award recipient will automatically be placed into nomination by the Detachment, as a candidate for the National Sons of The American Legion Charles B. Rigsby Veterans Service Award. This will be done by the VA&R Commission in the fall of the Convention year when National nominations are accepted.

Criteria: This award program recognizes exceptional service to veterans. Examples of service that would be considered in judging the nominee include the following:

1. Nominee participates in activities within the Squadron and/or Post that raise funds for use by Veterans and/or Veteran families.
2. Nominee participates in activities and events within the Squadron and/or Post which reaches out to Veterans and/or provides a service to various Veteran populations.
3. Nominee volunteers for activities and events that benefit Veterans and/or Veteran families at VA and Veteran facilities, Veteran residences, or in the Community.
4. Nominee has demonstrated actions which contribute to changing the life of a Veteran(s) whether they be homeless, suicidal, hospitalized, handicapped, in need of a job or education, or just in need of a lift, and improves their quality of life.
5. Nominee encourages other Sons and Legion Family members to assist and participate in services being provided to Veterans by the nominee, or other Veteran services.

Process: An eligible Son may be nominated using the Joseph L. SantaCroce Service to Veterans Award Nomination Form, by any member of the American Legion Family. The nomination will be attested to by their District Commander, and forwarded to the Chairman of the Detachment VA&R Commission no later than June 30. The VA&R Commission will evaluate all nominations, and announce the winner at the Detachment Convention.