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Nutmeg State Distinguished Shooters

*By
Hap Rocketto*

There are 144 Connecticut Distinguished shooters of which 132 are male and 11 female, two are triple Distinguished and 25 have two badges. Between them they account for 181 Distinguished Badges of all types.

Connecticut shooter have earned nine International, 71 service rifle, 50 service pistol, 22 smallbore position, 21 smallbore prone, seven police revolver, and one police pistol Distinguished badges. They account for almost eight per cent of all NRA Smallbore Distinguished Rifleman awards.

There are 68 civilians, 51 Connecticut Army National Guardsman, eight Army Reservists, five active duty members of the US Navy, three from the Connecticut State Police, two each from the US Marines, US Army, and New Haven Police Department and, US Coast Guard and one from the Connecticut Department of Corrections represented on the list.

Triple Distinguished shooters are Cory Brunetti with International and the two NRA awards and Bill Lange, who holds service rifle and the two NRA awards.

Double Distinguished with the service arms are SGT Ray Baker CTNG; LTC Herbert "Skip" Clark, USAR; LCDR Ted Janacek, USN; PO James Kirby, USCG; civilian Ray McQueeney; MSG George Starkweather, USAR; and CWO4 Dave Vinkler, USN.

Twelve Nutmeg shooters hold two Distinguished Badges: Walt Tomsen is International and NRA Prone Distinguished while his son, Greg, is Distinguished with both the service and prone smallbore rifle as is Shawn Carpenter. Emily Caruso, Ed Etzell, Kurt Fitz-Randolph and Rod Fitz-Randolph are International and NRA Position Distinguished. Shawn McDonnell and Jessie Johnston each hold both NRA Smallbore Rifle Awards while Roger McQuiggan and Hap Rocketto are Distinguished with the Service Rifle and Smallbore Position Rifle. Angie Appi is a Police Distinguished shooters as well as a Distinguished Pistol Shot. Correction Officer Anthony F. Lombardi is a Police Double Distinguished.

Shooting, sometimes being a family sport is well represented in that way by the Colt-father and two sons, Lacy-three brothers, and Lyman-two brothers a wife and a son-families which have three Distinguished shooters each. Father and sons are the Gadds, Schellers, and Tomsens while four pairs of brothers represent the Fitz-Randolph, Rocketto, Valente, and Valinatakoni families while the Coggshalls are a brother and sister team. The Maloneys, the Sekellicks, and the Lacys represent husband and wife pairs. While Janet Tomsyn Raab's husband Marcus is not a Connecticut Shooter did he earned his Distinguished Badge, three years after his wife earned hers.

Distinguished International Shooter Badge

When, in 1962, the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP), the predecessor of today's Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), proposed new measures directed at regaining America's lost marksmanship prestige they created the Distinguished International Shooter Badge with a goal of stimulating U. S. shooters not only to "participate in international shooting" at home, but to strive to win medals in international championships abroad. Accordingly, the Board approved a medal design and criterion for awarding the Badge.

The United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge consists of a gold top bar, 1.8 inches long, inscribed with the words, "United States." A shield of stars and stripes flanked by oak leaves is superimposed on the top bar. The pendant is a gold circle 1.5 inches in diameter, with a relief of the Western Hemisphere in the center. Laurel leaves inscribed with the words "Distinguished International Shooter" surround the globe.

The NBPRP ultimately determined that the Badge could be awarded retroactively to any U. S. shooter who had won a gold, silver or bronze team or individual medal in prior Olympic, World Championship or Pan American Games competitions.

The 1996 Federal Law that created the Civilian Marksmanship Program as a "federally-chartered" corporation authorized the CMP to promote "practice and safety in the use of firearms" through the conduct of matches and competitions and "the award to competitors of trophies, prizes, badges and other insignia." This authorization carried with it the responsibility to administer the Distinguished Badge program.

Badge regulations were modified by the CMP to establish a point system similar to the Service Rifle and Pistol Distinguished Badge requirements. Shooters are now required to earn 30 points in major international competitions to receive the Badge. Prior to that one only had to medal, or place in the top 20% in the Olympics, as an individual or on a team in a world class event.

Service Rifle and Service Pistol

The Distinguished Rifleman or Distinguished Marksman, and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badges are awarded to members of the Armed Forces, or civilians, in recognition of a preeminent degree of achievement in target practice with the service rifle or pistol.

The Distinguished Marksman Badge and the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge were created by the War Department in 1884 and 1891 to recognize and reward members of the U.S. Army for Excellence-in-Competition (EIC) with the service rifle and service pistol. Other Services of the Armed Forces adopted a similar program about the same time and in 1926 civilians were authorized to participate in the program.

The Distinguished Marksman Badge was awarded by all services until 1956 when the Army and its reserve components, as well as the Air Force, changed the title to Rifleman when they concluded that the use of the term marksman, also used in regular qualification, was not sufficiently dignified. The more traditional, some would say hide bound, sea services, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, have retained the original title.

Distinguished Badges are awarded when a competitor accrues 30 'points' earned in EIC matches. Points are awarded on the basis of an individual's placement among

the non-distinguished competitors in an EIC or 'Leg Match.' Points are awarded to the top 10% of non-distinguished competitors in the match. The first one sixth of the 10% are awarded ten points, the next one third eight points and the remaining competitors six points. Points accumulate throughout a competitor's lifetime until Distinguished status is attained. It is required to earn at least one eight or ten-point leg, known as a "hard leg", in the total of 30 needed. In the "Old Days," when there was a 1,000 yard stage in the EIC match, a leg at Camp Perry was required.

Any leg winner placing in the top three at a regional EIC match also receives a special medal. Those above cutoff at Perry are presented a General Custer Trophy Medal for pistol or a Daniel Boone Medal for rifle, with the color of the pendant indicating a gold, silver, or bronze leg. The competitor who places first after cut-off is traditionally called "first wood" or "first leather."

Pistol shooters fire a National Match Course EIC match consisting of 30 rounds. Slow fire is ten shots are fired in ten minutes at 50 yards, Next is timed fire: ten shots, in two five shot strings, with a 20 second per string time limit followed by rapid fire. Rapid is two five shot strings, with a ten second per string time limit. No sighting shots are allowed.

The course of fire for a rifle EIC Match is the 50 shot National Match Course and it has gone through some changes. Slow fire standing begins the match with a ten shot string in ten minutes at 200 yards. This is followed by a ten shot rapid fire sitting stage in 60 seconds at the same yard line. The shooters then move to the 300 yard line where a ten shot string is fired prone in 70 seconds. The final stage is 20 shots slow fire prone, in 20 minutes at 600 yards. There are no sighting shots allowed.

Time limits for rapid fire, once 50 seconds for sitting and 60 seconds for prone, were brought into line with longer NRA time limits in the late 1970s. At about the same time competitors were allowed to use previously forbidden mats and shooting pants.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program, and each service, has its own specific rules that govern the awarding of Distinguished status. They are, in general, the same meaning that one may not compete in more than four EIC matches for either arm per calendar year and EIC matches held in conjunction with NRA state or regional matches are limited to three per year. The fourth match must be the National Trophy Individual Match held each year at the National Matches. At the National matches the point rule is suspended for civilians and any leg earned is valued at ten points. Points earned as a member of the Armed Forces will transfer toward Distinguished designation as a civilian if Distinguished designation is not attained while serving with the military.

When a competitor "legs" for the first time, whether it is for six, eight or ten points, they are awarded a bronze EIC badge. When the competitor achieves 20 points, a silver EIC badge is awarded. When 30 points are earned the Distinguished Badge will be issued by either the Director of Civilian Marksmanship for civilians or the Armed Service of the competitor, the badge is engraved with the competitor's name, year earned, and, for civilians, a Distinguished Badge serial number.

The United States Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge is gold badge 2 3/16 inches (5.56 cm) in height overall consisting of a bar and pendant. The bar is 9/16 inch (1.43 cm) in height and 1 13/16 inches (4.60 cm) in width, upon which is superimposed a shield of stars and stripes with the letters "U.S. ARMY" thereon. While the civilian badge is similar in design to the Army badge the other services have a bar without the

shield The pendant is gold shield shape 1 1/2 inches (3.81 cm) in height and 1 13/32 inches (3.57 cm) in width, in the center is an enameled target between the words "DISTINGUISHED" and "RIFLEMAN" in the case of the sea services the word "MARKSMAN" replaces rifleman. All top bars have small gold spheres attached to the ends.

The Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge is a gold badge 2 43/64 inches (6.79 cm) in height overall consisting of a bar and pendant. The bar is 15/32 inch (1.19 cm) in height and 1 1/2 inches (3.81 cm) in width, upon which is superimposed a shield of stars and stripes with the letters "U.S. ARMY" thereon. While the civilian badge is similar in design to the Army badge the other services have a bar without the shield The pendant is a gold shield shape 1 1/4 inches (3.18 cm) in height and 1 3/64 inches (2.66 cm) in width, in the center is an enameled target between the words "DISTINGUISHED" and "PISTOL SHOT." All top bars have small gold spheres attached to the ends.

The Distinguished Badge has always been gold. In the beginning they were 14 Karat, then 10 Karat, and, as supplies run out, are now are gold filled-a thin gold plating. Gold badges have a large pin for attaching it to the uniform while the newer plated badges have clutch fasteners. Small hat pins of a design identical to the pendant are available for display on hats, to be used as a lapel pin, or a tie tack. From time to time the NBPRP/CMP has issued certificates to accompany the badges.

The rifle badge is senior to the pistol badge and, as such, is also larger and worn to the far left, from the viewers prospective, of the left hand uniform pocket. If an international badge has been awarded it takes the senior position with rifle and pistol following. National Rifle Association awards are not worn on the military uniform. Tradition dictates that if a person is distinguished the regular silver small arms qualification badge is not worn.

The history of the Distinguished Badge is a rich one and can not be done justice in this small space. Those wishing to learn more are directed to *Marksmanship in the US Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training* by William K. Emerson and published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

The National Rifle Association Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award

In 1965, The National Rifle Association (NRA) established a series of Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman awards modeled after those awarded to service rifle and pistol shooters. In many respects it is one of the best-kept secrets in smallbore competition. The details are listed in the final pages of the NRA Smallbore Rule Book. Earning this award brings to the shooter self-satisfaction as well as a number of more tangible awards.

Upon earning the title Distinguished the NRA issues a gold plated medallion, a brassard, and a lapel pin. In addition, the shooter's name is added to a trophy plaque and the record book that is displayed in the NRA Awards Room, at Camp Perry. When at Perry it is worth taking a few moments out of your hectic schedule to visit the trophy room and see these, as well as the other trophies awarded at the National Championships.

A shooter must earn four 'steps' to be eligible for distinguished. No more than two 'steps' may be earned in any one-year. A 'step' certificate is awarded when a shooter

places in the top ten percent of all the competitors in an open regional and the National Indoor or outdoor National Smallbore Rifle Championships.

Parting from the method used in awarding legs in service firearm competition the NRA makes it a bit harder to win this award as there is no distinction made between Distinguished and non-distinguished shooters when determining the top ten percent. An additional requirement is that at least one 'step' must be earned at the National Outdoor Championships. Distinguished awards are presented for both prone and position shooting. While both awards are not easy to earn, the prone awards appears to be harder. The plaque for prone shooters is not yet full, while the position shooters have filled one plaque, and started on another. There are some 550 shooters who have earned the honor of NRA Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman and 103 of them are "Double Distinguished"

Police and Revolver Distinguished

The NRA Distinguished Revolver/Pistol Program recognizes excellence in Police Combat competition. It is similar to the Distinguished Program of the various military services and the Civilian Marksmanship Program and follows the same 30 point format.

The Distinguished match is fired during NRA Practical Pistol Course Regional tournaments and during the NRA National Police Shooting Championships. It is a service revolver/pistol type match and the equipment requirements are more stringent than in normal NRA sanctioned combat competition because there is no standard service gun for police, as there is for the military. Specific regulations for the firearm and ammunition are necessary. The intent of the regulations is to provide a competition with minimum variations to firearms and no variation in ammunition, so equipment will not be a major factor in determining the best shooter.

Connecticut Distinguished Shooters

Shooters on this list are or have been residents of Connecticut or so closely associated with shooting within the state that they may be claimed as such.

Richard Aiello was awarded Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 964 in 1992.

Charles Allen, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1982.

Paul Anthony earned Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 914 in 1991 while shooting for the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association Pistol Team.

Angelo Appi, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1977. As an officer with the New Haven Police Department he earned Police Revolver Distinguished badge number 40 in 1976, the first Connecticut law enforcement officer to do so.

Ray Baker, Connecticut Army National Guard, earned his Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1993 and Distinguished Rifleman in 1994. He is the first to earn his badges exclusively through the National Guard combat course of fire. Ray was an All Guard rifleman.

Michael R. Bardoorian, of New Haven, was presented Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1391 in 2006.

David H. Bates, badge number 88, of the Connecticut State Police, earned Police Revolver Distinguished honors in 1977.

Milton Beckwith is one of Connecticut's senior most Distinguished Pistol Shots, having earned his badge in 1969.

Murray Bennet, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1982.

Edward Biatowas, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1980. Biatowas was the 1976 All Army Individual Combat Rifle Champion.

Ralph Blumenhagen, Connecticut Army National Guard, earned his Distinguished Badge in 1962 shooting in just three leg matches.

Lindley Bonner, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1985.

William Brophy, United States Army, became a Distinguished Marksman in 1955. Brophy was a prolific firearms historian authoring seminal works on the Krag and Springfield Rifle. A recognized authority on Springfield armory and Springfield made arms, L.C. Smith Shotguns, and Marlin Firearms, he had a life long love of the '03 that was forged when he entered competitive shooting in the late 1930s. Not restricted to target shooting Brophy once took a brown bear that stands fourth in the Boone and Crockett record book standings. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Robert Broughton, a National Record holder, earned NRA Smallbore Rifle Distinguished honors in 1988. He was a member of the West Virginia University Rifle Team where earned All American honors in smallbore rifle and air rifle.

Cory Brunetti, the 1998 United States National Prone Champion, was awarded International Distinguished Badge number 397 the same year. He is a recipient of both the NRA Smallbore Distinguished Rifleman Awards and a collegiate All American, as well as a National Record holder. He has been a member of the Pershing, Roberts and Dewar Teams. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Eugene Bucceri, Connecticut Army National Guard, began his shooting career with the rifle but earned Pistol Distinguished in 1993.

Fremont Burdick, United States Army, a long time member of the Mystic Rod and Gun Club earned his Distinguished Pistol Shot badge while on active duty with the United States Army.

Sam Burkhalter, *United States Army Reserve*, was awarded *Distinguished Marksman* status in 1956 18 years after he was an *All American* at the *University of Alabama*.

Dave Carlson, the 1940 *United States National Prone Champion*, earned the *International Distinguished Badge* number 135 retroactively for his performance at the 1937 *World Championships in Helsinki*. He was a member of the *United States Pershing Team* the same year.

Shawn Carpenter, an *All State shooter at Grasso Tech* earned his *Distinguished Rifleman Badge*, number 1361, in 1998 and *Distinguished Prone* in 2010. Carpenter later returned to his *alma mater* to take the reins of the *Grasso Tech rifle team*. He is a *US Dewar Team member*.

Art Carr, *United States Army Reserve*, was designated a *Distinguished Pistol Shot* in 1960. Carr was a major figure in *Connecticut State Association* activities during this time.

Robert Carroll earned his *Distinguished Rifleman Badge* as a civilian in 1964. "Doc" spent many years as an official in the scoring room at the *National Smallbore Championships*. He and *Barry Colt*, another *Distinguished shooter*, wrote, in 1974, the *smallbore scoring manual* which is still used at the *National Championships*.

Emily Caruso, a member of the 2004 and 2008 *United States Olympic Team* as an *air rifle shooter*, was an *All American* at *Norwich University* in both *smallbore* and *air rifle*. The *air rifle specialist* was awarded *International Distinguished Badge* number 441 in 2000. An accomplished *smallbore shooter* she holds *NRA Smallbore Rifle Position Distinguished* status and is a member of the *Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame*.

James Castonguay, a *Connecticut State Trooper*, was designated a *Distinguished Rifleman* in 1990.

Ryan Castonguay, *Badge number 1860*, is the son of *James Castonguay* who went out at *Camp Perry* in 2007 as well as making the *Presidents Hundred* and winning the *Inaugural M1A Match*. He was also one of the top 100 scoring juniors in the 2007 *NRA Indoor Junior Smallbore Rifle Championship*.

Russell Lloyd Chapman. a *staff sergeant in the US Army Reserve* was designated a *Distinguished Rifleman* in 1992.

Larry E. Clark *badge number 1155*, earned *Distinguished Pistol Shot* status in 1998.

Herbert "Skip" Clark, *United States Army Reserve*, earned *Double Distinguished honors with service arms*, *rifle* in 1966 and *pistol* in 1974.

John Coggshall was one of the youngest shooters in state history to earn a Distinguished Rifleman Badge, which he did in 2003 being presented badge number 1618. He was a member of the winning 2003 High Power Whistler Boy Team coached by Brad Palmer. In 2004 he won the Golden Eagle Trophy emblematic of the CMP's National Junior Service Rifle Championship and the William Deneke Trophy. He is a member of the All National Guard Service Rifle Team.

Julie Coggshall was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 2004, a year after she teamed with her brother, John, to win the High Power Whistler Boy Match at Camp Perry. She is a member of the Elihu Root Team, President's Hundred, and a National Record holder.

David Colt, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1980.

Lebaron Colt, father of David and Stephen, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1971.

Stephen Colt, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1980.

W.C.J. Conlin, earned Distinguished Pistol badge number 1574 in 2002.

Michael Dane, a former president of the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, was presented Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1218 in 2000.

Thomas Daniel was named an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman in 1988. He was a member of the 1989 Pershing Team as well as two Dewar Teams.

Harry DeBenedet, an officer with the New Haven Police Department, was awarded Police Distinguished Badge number 236 in 1983.

Maurizio DeFina, noted long range shooter, Palma Team member, and former Connecticut high power champion, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1967.

William R. Denison a captain with the 192nd Field Artillery Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1924.

Joseph Diaz, Jr. was named an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman in 1981.

Jeffery Doerschler, the 2004 United States National Outdoor Three Position Champion and the 2004 US National Indoor Four Position Champion, is a National Rifle Association Smallbore Position Distinguished rifleman. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame as well as the US Dewar Team.

Amanda Elsenboss was High Intermediate Junior with the service rifle at camp Perry on 2004. She was one half of the winning 2006 Whistler Boy Trophy team as well as a firing member of the 6 man and 4 man winning junior teams. A member of the President's Hundred she also is a winner of the Golden Eagle Trophy at the National Matches. Amanda has competed with the USA Young Eagles long range team. A multi faceted individual she is a member of the Future Farmers of America she has also won national awards with that organization in the field of live stock judging.

Edward Etzel, the 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist in the English Match, began his career as a Connecticut junior. He holds International Distinguished Badge number 205 and is an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman, ironically not prone, as well as a collegiate All American at Tennessee Tech. He has been a member of the US Roberts and Dewar Teams.

Gurrie Fandozzie, Connecticut junior and later member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated Distinguished in 2000 when he was presented with badge number 1455.

Paul Fecteau, one of the great left hand shooters, earned the NRA Distinguished Position Rifleman award in 1980, overcoming the loss of sight in his right eye as a result of a BB gun accident as a child.

David Ferrante, a noted gunsmith, and Distinguished Rifleman number 886 was awarded his badge in 1990.

Kris Friend, an Army Reservist, was a long time member of the CSRRA Junior High Power Program. A Distinguished Rifleman he won the Presidents Hundred in 2007.

Kurt Fitz-Randolph earned NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman status in 1985 as well as being selected as an All American collegiate shooter at Tennessee Tech. He earned International Distinguished status in 1978 when he was presented badge number 236.

Roderick Fitz-Randolph, a collegiate All American at Tennessee Tech, started shooting as a junior in Connecticut. He earned NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman status in position in 1977 and International Distinguished Badge number 208 in the same year.

Robert Gadd, Sr, a member of the Connecticut National Guard in the early part of the 20th century was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1924. Gadd was the first Connecticut shooter to earn Distinguished designation.

Robert Gadd, Jr rose to the rank of colonel in the Connecticut National Guard after he was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1930.

James E. Gartell, earned Distinguished Rifleman Badge number 1613 in 2003.

Virginia Gerold-Bergman, a protégé of Kermit Montross, earned NRA Distinguished Prone Rifleman status in 1995. She is a Randle Team member and a National Record holder.

Norman Girardin, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1982. As a Novice class shooter Norm was the open winner of the All Army Combat Pistol Championships in 1977. Entered as a Novice for the 1978 All Army Composite Pistol Championships, he won the open championship. He was the 1985 NRA National Indoor Pistol champions and then finished second overall in pistol at the National Championship at camp Perry. He was a member of the President's Hundred many times

Al Gowdy was awarded Distinguished pistol Shot Badge number 792 in 1986.

Ashley J. Griffin, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1928.

Kevin Gross, United States Navy, earned Distinguished Marksman designation and membership in the Presidents Hundred while serving as an electronics technician in USS Annapolis, based at Groton with Submarine Squadron Four.

Lisette Grunwell-Lacy is an NRA Smallbore Rifle Distinguished Rifleman who was an All American at Saint Johns University.

Kenneth Hagenow, badge number 1438, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 2000.

Beth Herzman holds International Distinguished Badge number 375, which was awarded to her in 1994. She was a collegiate All American while shooting for Murray State College.

Emmet Hibson, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1989.

Francis Hock, a Connecticut State Trooper was involved in marksmanship training for the force. As a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard he was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1979.

Stephen Hogan, a former Connecticut Big Bore League Champion, was named an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman in 1986. He has been a member of eh US Dewar Team.

Joseph Iacono, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1987.

Ted Janacek, a career submarine officer in the United States Navy, was designated a *Distinguished Pistol Shot* in 2000 and *Distinguished Marksman* in 2004. He earned a *Presidents Hundred* brassard with the rifle in 1997.

Steven M. Joyce, of Watertown, earned *Distinguished Rifleman Badge # 1819* while still a 16 year old high school student in 2006.

Thomas Jastermsky, a Dewar Team member, earned his *NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman Award* in 1988.

Jesse Johnston, the youngest person to earn a position on a *United States Pershing Team* and a collegiate *All American* from *Tennessee Tech*, earned his *NRA Smallbore Prone and Position Distinguished Rifleman Awards* in 1983 and 1990 respectively. He has been a *Dewar Team* member.

James T. Kallenbach, a high master, earned *Distinguished Rifleman Badge* number 952 in 1991 in just three *Leg Matches*, the same number of *President's Hundred Tabs* he earned, as a junior. Jamie was the youngest person to earn *Distinguished* with the M14. He was the 1990 *Sub Junior National Service Rifle*, 1991 *Intermediate Junior Service Rifle*, 1992 *Junior Service Rifle*, and the 1993 *Junior Champion*. Jamie has also won junior titles at 1,000 yards with metallic and any sights, including the 1993 *Junior Long Range Championship*.

Robert S. Keister, *United States Coast Guard*, became a *Distinguished Marksman* in 1996. He was an *All American* while a cadet at the *US Coast Guard Academy* and later returned to his alma mater as a faculty member and served as rifle team coach.

James "Chris" Kirby, *United States Coast Guard*, is double *Distinguished*, earning his *Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge* in 1990 and his *Distinguished Marksman Badge* the following year.

Robert Kolesar, *Connecticut Army National Guard*, was designated a *Distinguished Pistol Shot* in 1981.

Emil H. Kumnick, a second lieutenant in *Company K* of the *102nd Infantry*, *Connecticut National Guard*, was designated *Distinguished* in 1924.

Kent Lacy, several times *Mohegan Rifle League* champion is a *Smallbore Position Distinguished Rifleman*.

James E. Lacy, *102nd Infantry* of the *Connecticut Army National Guard*, was designated a *Distinguished Marksman* in 1935, the first of three brothers of the famous *Connecticut shooting clan* to earn the badge.

John J. Lacy, *102nd Infantry* of the *Connecticut Army National Guard*, was designated a *Distinguished Marksman* in 1936. "Jack" was also a prominent smallbore shooter representing the *Quinnipiac Rifle Club* in national competition.

Walter F. Lacy, 102nd Infantry of the Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1939 and the last of the Lacy brothers to earn the distinction.

William H. Lange, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1982 and NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone and Position Smallbore Rifleman in 1972 and 1980. A National Record holder, he is one of only two to fire a perfect 400 in the Connecticut Big Bore League, a feat he accomplished on more than one occasion. Lange has been on many National Championship teams, including the National Prone, All Army Combat, National Guard Composite Team, and the National Guard Smallbore Championship Teams. He was a member of the All National Guard International Rifle Team for over 25 years and is considered by his peers to be one of Connecticut's finest all around riflemen.

Mark Lasrich, of the Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman, badge number 523, as a civilian in 1983. A combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam he was the first person to shoot a perfect 400 in the Connecticut Big Bore League.

Michael Lavoie was awarded Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1135 in 1997.

Robert E. Lenigan earned Distinguished Rifleman Badge Number 643 in 1988.

Francis Lerz was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1112 in 1996.

Al Lisitano, badge number 867, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1990.

Anthony F. Lombardi, a Connecticut Department of Corrections officer, earned Police Distinguished Revolver Badge number 508 in 1993 and Police Distinguished Automatic Pistol Badge number 105 in 1996. He is the first to become "Double Distinguished" in both police categories.

John Lucas, Chief Aviation Machinist Mate, United States Navy, earned his Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge when they were still made of 14 karat gold. Only seven Navy enlisted men had earned the pistol badge when, in September of 1949, five were designated. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

David B. Lyman holds both NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone and Position Rifleman Awards. He is a former US National Civilian Position Champion and was high junior in the 1973 National Trophy Individual Match winning the Golden Eagle Trophy. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Debbie Lyman, the 1983 US National Position Metallic Sight Woman Champion, holds both NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone and Position Rifleman Awards. She has been a member of many Randle Cup Teams acting as Coach in 1988 and Captain in 1989. She holds numerous National Records and is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame. As the Shooting Sports Coordinator for the Nutmeg State Games she has helped raise public awareness and the positive image of the shooting sports in Connecticut. She is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Remington Lyman is, as of 2011, the youngest Connecticut rifleman to earn the NRA Distinguished Prone Rifleman Award. He was the 2008 Sub-Junior National Prone Champion. A National Record holder and was also a member of the 2009 United States Dewar International Trophy Cup Team. He is the son of two NRA Double Distinguished shooters, David and Debbie Lyman, and the Nephew of Distinguished Rifleman Wally Lyman.

Wallace Lyman earned his Distinguished Rifleman Badge as a member of the United States Army Reserve Rifle Team. He was a member of the Elihu Root Team as well as the Dewar team. Wally was named a Collegiate All American at Norwich University. After a tour with the Army Marksmanship Unit he became a member of both the USAR smallbore and service rifle teams. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Daniel Makucevich, United States Navy, began his shooting career in Connecticut and set several National Records in smallbore metric prone. An NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman since 1991 he has been a member and official of the Dewar Team and a firing member of the Roberts Team.

Allan Maloney served his country in all three Army components, Active, Reserve, and National Guard. While serving in the Connecticut Army National Guard he earned Distinguished Rifleman Status in 1978. He was a member of the All National Guard Smallbore Rifle Team and the US Army Reserve Running Target Team.

Mary Maloney joined her husband Allan as Distinguished Rifleman in 1983 making them one of the few married couples to share the honor.

E. David Miller earned Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge 1425 in just two shooting seasons, going out at Camp Perry in 2008. Distinguished is not an easy goal to reach over a life time but to do it in two years is most impressive.

George Marinelli, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1994.

Clarence R. May, a second lieutenant in the Connecticut Army National Guard was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1924,

Shawn McDonnell, a former US Collegiate Prone Champion, is an NRA Smallbore Prone and Position Distinguished Rifleman, having earned both awards before his 19th birthday.

Albert McLaughlin, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1985. As a Connecticut State Trooper he was awarded Police Revolver Distinguished Badge number 116 in 1978.

William W. McPherson, a trooper with the Connecticut State Police became Police Revolver Distinguished, Badge number 77, in 1976, the first member of his department to earn the honor.

Raymond McQueeney is a rare civilian double Distinguished having earned his pistol badge in 1975 and his rifle badge in 1979, the first in Connecticut to achieve this goal. He is also a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Eric Mullai, Connecticut Army National Guard, began shooting as a junior and was one of Connecticut's first high power Whistler Boys. He has served as the Connecticut National Guard Marksmanship Coordinator and earned the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1995.

Victor McEntire, staff sergeant in the Connecticut Air National Guard's Air Control Squadron is Distinguished Pistol Shot.

Roger F. McQuiggan, Jr., a National Record holder, joined the Connecticut Army National Guard Rifle Team to evade the drudgery of Annual Training at Fort Drum. He became Distinguished with the rifle in 1975, earned a President's Hundred brassard, and was presented with the NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman Award in 1975. A member of the All National Guard Smallbore Rifle Team he retired from the Guard after 20 years of faithful service.

Kermit Montross, a noted Smallbore prone shooter earned his NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman Award in 1968. He was a member of the 1965 Pershing Team and several Dewar Teams as well as an avid skeet shooter and musician.

John C. Nagle, 122nd Infantry of the Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1936.

William O'Brien, a Hartford police officer was also a Connecticut Army National Guardsman and was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1975.

Gary Owens, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1996.

Nicole Panko, a National Record holder, was a collegiate All American at Saint John's University as well as a national champion with the Stratford Police Athletic League Junior Rifle Club. She is an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman.

Neal Priestly, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1973.

Janet Tomsyn Rabb, badge number 720, a former Connecticut junior, earned started High Power Rifle shooting in 1986 and became Distinguished with the M14 rifle in 1987. She is the first and only women High Power Rifle competitor to win the coveted Nathan Hale Trophy as High Civilian in the National Trophy Individual match at Camp Perry. Ms. Raab's credentials in High Power Rifle shooting are impeccable having set National Match Course and Long Range National Records and winning many National High Power trophies. Her latest shooting accomplishments consist of setting a new world record in the Women's 300 Meter Prone Team event and gaining her International Badge in 2006. Ms. Raab holds one of only three Class "A" ISSF Coaches ratings in the United States, as well as, a Level 3 Advanced Certified Rifle Coach rating with the National Rifle Association.

Leonard Remaly, an active shooter in several Connecticut rifle leagues was designated an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman in 1985. He has been United States Smallbore Position Champion numerous times.

Harold Rocketto, Connecticut Army National Guard, was rated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1981. He is one of few who have been a member of both Service Rifle and Smallbore Rifle All National Guard Rifle Teams, where he served as both a coach and shooter. An NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman he has earned Presidents Hundred honors three times, has been a member of numerous open and National Guard national championship teams, the 2002 Three Position Intermediate Senior National Champion, a member of the 2007 National Championship Four Position Indoor Championship Team, and a National Record holder. He served as Adjutant to the 2009 United States Roberts Team. A well known shooting historian and author of many articles on the subject he is also a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Stephen Rocketto, a member of the Presidents Hundred, earned Distinguished Rifleman badge number 494 in 1982. Active in junior coaching since the early 1970s he has been named Coach of the Year by the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association. He has held National Records in smallbore rifle. In 1960 he was a member of the state championship New London High School Rifle Team as well as the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Brian Roy, a senior master sergeant in the Connecticut Air National Guard, wears United States Air Force Distinguished Rifleman Badge number 296.

Frank Savino, was awarded Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1370 in 2005.

James H. Scheller began shooting as a junior and served in the Connecticut National Guard before transferring to the United States Marine Corps where he shot both high power and smallbore rifle on "The Big Team." He became a Distinguished Marksman in 1987 and won the Porter Trophy at the National Matches in 1988.

Richard M. Scheller, Connecticut Army National Guard and father of James, was a member of numerous national championship teams during his 30 year Guard career. A National Record holder, Dick was designated Distinguished in 1969. He was a member of the Presidents Hundred several times, winning the prestigious match in 1979. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Ronald Sekellick, a noted long range rifleman and former member of the US Palma Team served as Captain of the New England Mini-Palma Team and is an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Position Rifleman recipient. He is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Sharon Tessman Sekellick began her quest for Distinguished as a member of the Connecticut National Guard and earned her Distinguished Rifleman Badge as a civilian in 1980. She is the first Connecticut woman to earn such an honor and as such served as a role model for others to come. She was a member of several National Guard national championship teams with both the M-14 and M-16 rifles

Kevin P. Simon, a Collegiate All American from Jacksonville State University and stand out junior in Connecticut, was presented his NRA Distinguished Position Smallbore Rifleman Award in 2000.

Robert Slattery, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1978. A career Connecticut State Trooper he served for a time as the department's spokesman.

Eric Slayton, was a sergeant in the Connecticut National Guard who became Distinguished on 1925.

Harold Slocum earned his Distinguished Rifleman's Badge in 1961. "Pappy" Slocum was a member of the Elihu Root Team and a mainstay of many Connecticut Civilian Teams. He was the Nathan Hale Trophy winner in 1962. A noted coach with a knack for both cross firing and doping the wind, is a member of the Connecticut Shooters Hall of Fame.

Perry Hartley Smith won the 24th CSRRA Annual Gallery Match in 1955 and was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1961.

John Snipes was designated an NRA Distinguished Smallbore Prone Rifleman in 1973.

Jay Sonneborn, Sr., a member of many Dewar Teams, as well as its Coach and Captain, member of several long range Mini-Palma teams and a former Intermediate and Senior US National Three Position Champion was awarded his NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman status in 1982.

Roger Sperry earned Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1196 in 1996.

Charles Spinelli was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1981.

Frank Stadmeyer was awarded Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 754 in 1987.

George Starkweather, United States Army Reserve, is a double Distinguished shooter. He earned his Pistol Shot Badge in 1979 and his rifle badge in 1997. George was a member of the All USAR Pistol Team in 1984 and 1985 and twice a member of the Presidents Hundred.

Herbert H. Stielau, 169th Infantry Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1936.

Richard Taber, a Collegiate All American at Tennessee Tech, began shooting as a Connecticut Junior. He went on to a career with the Army Marksmanship Unit and the All National Guard Smallbore Rifle Team and has been an NRA Distinguished Smallbore Position Rifleman since 1976.

Gregory V. Tomsen, Connecticut Army National Guard and son of Walter Tomsen, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1995. He is also holds the NRA Prone Distinguished Rifleman Award presented in 1968. Greg was a member of the All National Guard Smallbore Rifle Team for thirty years. He holds one of the oldest National Championship Records, a 400-40X-35X at 50 yards with any sights, set in 1970, as well as several National Records in smallbore rifle. He was the 2002 US Intermediate Senior Prone Champion.

Walter Tomsen was a world class smallbore prone rifleman who won the silver medal in the English Match at the 1948 Olympics. "Pop" Tomsen was awarded International Distinguished Badge number 68 and is an NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman as well as a member of the US Pershing and Dewar teams. The Walter Tomsen Trophy, presented by the Stratford PAL and the Bell City Rifle Club, is awarded annually at the National Smallbore Prone Championships to the high scoring senior in the metallic sight aggregate.

Karl Trompeter II, a Connecticut Army National Guardsman, earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1990.

Fredrick Valente, Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1981.

Robert Valente, Connecticut Army National Guard and Fredrick's brother, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1982.

David Valintakonis, was presented Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge number 1169 in 1998.

Paul Valintakonis, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1998 with badge number 1162.

John H. Ventres was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1962.

Nathan Verbickas, a National Record holder, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 2002 when he was awarded badge number 1598.

David Vinkler, United States Navy, a member of the Presidents Hundred, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1993 and a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 2000.

John Vivian, United States Army Reserve, was designated a Distinguished Pistol Shot in 1991.

Al Waters, earned Distinguished Pistol Shot while serving in the United States Marine Corps in 1977.

David T. Werner earned Police Revolver Distinguished badge number 294, while serving as a trooper with the Connecticut State Police, in 1984.

Andrew M. White, 192nd Field Artillery Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1936.

A. Virginia Williams was a standout prone shooter during the 1960s. She was presented one of the first NRA Smallbore Distinguished Prone Rifleman Awards in 1967.

John Woodilla, 102nd Infantry Connecticut Army National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Marksman in 1927.

Christopher Wyatt, badge number 1144, a former Connecticut junior with the Mystic Rod and Gun Club, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1981. He won the 200 yards rapid fire sitting Appreciation Cup with a score of 200-16X, at the National Matches in 2004. His father, a New Jersey resident, is also Distinguished.

Robert York, Connecticut National Guard, was designated a Distinguished Rifleman in 1996.

Christopher Zibbidio earned his Distinguished Rifleman, badge number 1213, in 1996. Chris served as a member of the Connecticut National Guard where he got his introduction to service rifle shooting.