

**A SHORT HISTORY  
OF  
THE PRESIDENT'S MATCH  
AND  
THE PRESIDENT'S HUNDRED**

**By**

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## Forward

As was written in the forward the *A Short History of the Distinguished Program*, the one immutable truth about historical research is that few things are certain. Even in the most meticulously kept records there is always some “I” left undotted and some “T” left uncrossed casting a cloud of doubt on the ‘facts’ at hand.

Because match conditions sometimes change between the printing of a program and the actual firing of the match, and those changes are made official by Match Director’s bulletins there are some holes in the historical documents and records that tell the story of the President’s Match and the President’s Hundred. In light of the nature of an imperfect record the reader must be aware that “facts’ in this work are used with this *caveat* and, as such, are subject to change should more documented information become available.

There are gaps in the documentation of the President’s Hundred. Those little gaps make it impossible to write a complete and accurate story, and perhaps it is better that way. There is nothing like a little cloud of mystery in a historical tale to make it more interesting and enhance its legends and traditions.

The following document is an attempt to bring the many aspects of the President’s Hundred into a short historical synopsis. I owe debts of gratitude to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, USA Shooting, the National Rifle Association, Charlie Adams, Shawn Carpenter, Dave Cloft, and Steve Rocketto. Additional thanks to John Sylvester of Seneca Arms for his photograph of the CMP President’s Hundred Medal, Champions Choice for pictures of the President’s Hundred pins, and The Department of the Army Institute for Heraldry for the picture and information on the President’s Hundred Tab. A special thanks to Art Jackson, Dick Scheller, Dave Erickson, John Chubb, and Norman Anderson for sharing their Presidential Letters. To these people go all of the credit, but none of the blame, for this work.

In the interest of historical accuracy the author solicits insights, corrections and updates that are supported by appropriate documentation to 18 Stenton Avenue, Westerly, RI 02891.

### *Dedication*

*This monograph is dedicated to Dick Scheller and Roger McQuiggan, Connecticut National Guard Rifle Teammates and shooting mentors as well as fellow Distinguished Rifleman, and members of the President’s Hundred, who taught me how, and more importantly, where, to find the real trophies.*

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A Short History of the President's Hundred  
By  
Hap Rocketto

As the sun slants in from three o'clock and glints off of the brass cartridge cases as they click into the magazine the shooter, readying for the President's Match, is not thinking about history. Yet history is all about at Camp Perry and if one ignores it one ignores the very essence of the sport. To understand why the President's Match Trophy, and by extension, the Presidents Hundred, has such a special aura in a trophy room full of venerated shooting icons it is only necessary to let your mind travel 4,000 miles east and nearly 150 years back in time.

What may be the most difficult service rifle and pistol shooting honor to attain in the United States had its antecedents, oddly enough, at a joint meeting of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain and the Volunteer Service Club. The two organizations gathered on March 7, 1860, at London's Saint James Hall, for a business meeting and Volunteer Levee<sup>1</sup>, some 3,000 military volunteers were encouraged to both join the NRA and raise funds to "offer prizes worthy of being competed for by the Volunteer Force."<sup>2</sup>

Queen Victoria was so moved by this patriotic display that she donated the munificent sum of £250, an amount equivalent to the cost of a new house at the time, for an annual prize to be awarded to the best marksman within the volunteer ranks. As might be expected the prize became known as The Queen's Prize and, to this day, it is the most prestigious high power rifle shooting award in Great Britain.<sup>3</sup>

In the aftermath of the United States Civil War Colonel William C. Church and General George Wingate, Union veterans of the war, were troubled over the sad state of marksmanship demonstrated by their troops. To help remedy the situation they formed the National Rifle Association of America in 1871 with the goal, according to Church, to "promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis."<sup>4</sup> The organization and its concept was similar to that of the NRA of Great Britain and just as the British were headquartered in London with a range close by at Wimbledon, the NRA of America began in New York City with its range established a short distance away at the Creed farm. The Long Island location had a certain resemblance to the misty and desolate moor region of southern England and it soon became known as Creedmoor.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Humphry, A.P. and Fremantle, T.F., *History of the National Rifle Association During its First Fifty Years 1859-1909*, Bowes and Bowes, Cambridge, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> Cornfield Susie, *The Queen's Prize: The Story of the National Rifle Association*, Pelham Books, London, 1987.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> Trefethen, James, B, *Americans and Their Guns*, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, 1967.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

The NRA instituted the American Military Rifle Championship Match at its annual matches at Creedmoor in 1878 which was won by Sergeant J. S. Barton of the New York National Guard.<sup>6</sup> The name was changed in 1884 to the President's Match for the Military Rifle Championship of the United States and, in 1887, President Grover Cleveland became the first chief executive to recognize the match when he provided \$25 as a prize to be awarded to the winner.<sup>7</sup> The match was fired at Creedmoor until 1891 when the range closed. Fortunately the NRA was not without a venue as the New Jersey State Rifle Association had begun development of a 148 acre range facility at Sea Girt. When Creedmoor closed Sea Girt was ready and hosted the annual match schedule for the first time in 1892<sup>8</sup>. In the confusion of the relocation a hiatus of several years ensued and the President's Match, as we know it, was reintroduced at Sea Girt in 1894.

The President's Match has usually been a service rifle match, but with a twist. In its earliest days the various state National Guards were often armed with state purchased rifles which did not coincide with Federal service issued rifles. As a result any rifle provided by a duly constituted military authority was allowed leading to a firing line full of 50 caliber Remington rifles, Sharps Military Rifles, and .45-70 Springfields. The rifle was standardized in 1901 when only the Model 1898 Krag Jorgenson and Springfield rifles allowed in competition. The Springfield '03 became the only arm permissible between 1919 and 1951 when match conditions permitted the M1 Garand or NRA Match rifles chambered for the .30-06.<sup>9</sup> Eventually the M14 and M16 joined the approved list of service rifles as match rifle use passed into history.

Competition would continue until interrupted, in 1898, by the Spanish American War. Unfortunately, this would not be the last time the annual championships would be cancelled by international conflict. However, a hard fought action on July 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, in what Secretary of State John Hay, called "a splendid little war," would eventually have an effect upon the President's Match that would give it an aura that no other marksmanship competition in the United States could come close to matching. On that day, under a blazing heatstroke inducing sun, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt lead the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, more popularly known as Roosevelt's Rough Riders, in a highly publicized assault, Roosevelt called it a "crowded hour", on San Juan Hill. The fame he would earn as a result of that bloody battle would serve to vault him into the public consciousness, eventually leading to the White House.<sup>10</sup>

The matches would continue at Sea Girt and would gain greater prestige when, in February of 1903, an amendment to the War Department Appropriations Bill created the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP), established the National Matches, and provided funding for both. Moving rapidly the first National Matches saw 15 teams from the US Marine Corps, US Navy,

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<sup>6</sup> Emerson

<sup>7</sup> Harper, John, A. The President's Match, *The American Rifleman*, April 1959, pages 42 and 43.

<sup>8</sup> Emerson

<sup>9</sup> Harper

<sup>10</sup> Walker, Dale, *The Boys of '98: Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders*, Tom Doherty Associates, New York, 1998.

US Infantry, US Cavalry, and various state National Guards competing at Sea Girt just eight months later on October 8 and 9. For the next 64 years the NPBRP and the NRA would act in concert to produce an ever enlarging National Match program.

The hero of San Juan Hill was now President of the United States and had been an active supporter of the legislation that led to the creation of the NBPRP and the National Matches. A few weeks after the conclusion of the 1904 National Matches, held at Fort Riley, Kansas, TR sat down, on September 25, 1904, and penned a letter to the winner of the President's Match which gave even greater meaning to the event's name as well as greater prestige to the winner.

Roosevelt wrote to Private Howard Gensch of the New Jersey National Guard,

I have just been informed that you have won the President's Match for the military championship of the United States of America. I wish to congratulate you in person, and through you not only the First Regiment of the National Guard of New Jersey, but the entire National Guard of New Jersey. As a nation we must depend upon our volunteer soldiers in time of trial; therefore, the members of the National Guard fill a high function of usefulness. Of course, a soldier who cannot shoot is a soldier who counts for very little in battle, and all credit is due to those who keep up the standard of marksmanship. I congratulate you, both your skill and your possession of the qualities of perseverance and determination in long practice by which alone this skill could have been brought to its high point of development.<sup>11</sup>

Thus began the tradition of the President of the United States sending to each winner of this match a personal congratulatory message. So important became this accolade that it was incorporated into the National Match Program President's Match announcement, "Prizes.-To the winner, an autographed letter from the President of the United States..."<sup>12</sup> or "...a personal letter of Commendation from the President of the United States..."<sup>13</sup> or "...a congratulatory message from the President of the United States..."<sup>14</sup> Although there was a lapse during the period of the Viet Nam War and again when the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) was transitioning from Army control to that of the privatized CMP<sup>15</sup>, by and large, this tradition has been honored by all of the nation's chief executives including Presidents Carter, Reagan, G. H. W. Bush, Clinton and G. W. Bush.<sup>16</sup>

Thomas R. Woods, US Army Master Sergeant and multiple President's Match winner with the pistol, lamented the earlier lapses in letters when, in 1986, he

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<sup>11</sup> *Americans and Their Guns*.

<sup>12</sup> *Official Program of the National Matches and the Small Arms Firing School*, 1929.

<sup>13</sup> *Official Program of the National Matches*, 1939.

<sup>14</sup> *Program of the National Matches*, 1965.

<sup>15</sup> Anderson, Gary, DCM, Letter to author February 18, 2008.

<sup>16</sup> Anderson, Gary, *The President's Rifle and Pistol Matches* briefing paper, September 28, 2007.

won his second President's Match. In a post match interview he good naturedly remarked that, "I never got the letter from Jimmy Carter when I won in 1977, so I'm looking forward to getting one from Reagan. I'd like to have won it when Nixon was president. That's the one that'll be worth something some day."<sup>17</sup>

The first of what might be considered the first of the modern National Matches was held at the United States Navy's Great Piece Meadow Range at Caldwell, New Jersey through out August of 1919. Under the direction of Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel William "Bo" Harlee, the month long event incorporated high power, pistol, introduced smallbore events, a training school for civilian instructors, and an exhibit of the cutting edge military technology of the day.<sup>18</sup>

The President's Match, the entry fee of 50 cents included ammunition, was fired over three days. On day one competitors fire standing at 200 yards followed by a slow fire prone at 500 yards on day two. After the scores of the first two days were totaled only the top 500 riflemen were allowed to fire slow fire prone at 1,000 yards on the final day. The 1919 elimination round seems to have presaged the shoot-off adopted in 2007 which was, in effect, created an elimination round. In the end Sergeant J.B. Rhine, Coast Artillery Corps, topped the field with a 289X300 earning a letter from President Woodrow Wilson, a gold medal, and an arm brassard. Major Harry L. Adams of the US Cavalry, a former enlisted man and Distinguished Marksman<sup>19</sup>, was presented with the Cavalry Cup while Seaman E. Phillips, USN, received the Crescent Cup as well as brassards.

The match was restricted to military personnel until 1920. Civilians were first allowed to participate in 1921, several years before they were eligible to participate in Excellence in Competition matches to earn Distinguished Marksman status. No sooner were civilians allowed into the competition than O.B. Emshwiller of Minnesota won the 1921 match, establishing his place in Presidents Hundred history. The military still had a strong grasp on the match and it would be another 33 years before New Yorker Fred Willing would become the second civilian winner.

It is always tough to make the cut in the President's Hundred. However, in 1926, when an "economy smitten Congress" withheld funding for the National Matches the NRA stepped in and, aided by the Marine Corps, conduct the event. In lieu of Camp Perry the state ranges at Seagirt, New Jersey were once again the venue but attendance was down and only 188 riflemen entered. Marine Sergeant John M. Thomas, one of The Corps most outstanding shots, won the match and took home a gold medal and \$7.50 in cash. The top 47 also was awarded cash, \$6.13 for second and \$4.16 for third. Awards in the amounts of \$3.66, \$3.33,

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<sup>17</sup> *American Rifleman* October 1986 page 66. Note that Carter did send a letter to Richard Scheller, winner of the Rifle President Match in 1979 but the Pistol President's Match, as we know it, did not come into being until 1981.

<sup>18</sup> *Program of the National Matches 1919*, Captain Edward C. Crossman, 1919

<sup>19</sup> *Distinguished Marksman and Pistol Shots*, War Office, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1926.

\$3.00, \$2.66, \$2.33, \$2.00, \$1.66, \$1.33, and \$1.00 went to the rest of the men. The prize pot was not rich, but it was deep.<sup>20</sup>

With the development of match quality M16 rifles in the late 1990s junior high power shooter ranks began to swell quickly and 17 year old Chris Atkins, of Georgia, became the first junior, to win the Presidents in 2004. Atkins was no stranger to shooting as his father is Billy C. Atkins, for whom an NRA National Championship Trophy is named. His score of 298-15X tied the second highest score fired in the modern format and is a point and four Xs off of the record held by Marine Staff Sergeant Richard Scott Threatt. Tyler Rico, a 14 year old Distinguished Rifleman became the youngest to earn President's Hundred honors in 2008.

Just as President Roosevelt's 1904 letter started a tradition so did the 1919 President's Hundred Brassard. The two lines of uppercase letters embroidered in metal wire on a two inch by five inch strip of olive drab cloth read "PRESIDENT'S HUNDRED" and "1919" were distributed to the top 100 rifleman. The device was to be worn on a soldier's uniform's left arm midway between the elbow and shoulder. The cloth brassard was replaced by a metal device in 1920 and it would follow a basic design that existed until 2001. The metal brassard was superseded by a traditional medal, in 2002, whose pendent is a copy of the slate disk that bears a gilded presidential seal that is the focal point of the President's Rifle and Pistol Trophies.

During many of the years between the World Wars, and for a time after 1957, the President's Retreat Parade was conducted when the results of the match had been tallied and posted. The ceremony, full of pomp, circumstance, and military music, was held to recognize the recently named members of the President's Hundred who would line up in order of merit to be presented the slim metal brassard that recognized their accomplishment<sup>21</sup>.

The curved metal brassard was about one inch high and three and one half inches long. Fixed to the center was an enameled representation of the flag of the President of the United States<sup>22</sup>, giving the bronze colored award a particularly elegant look. At the top of the strip, flanking the flag, were the raised words "PRESIDENT'S" to the left and "HUNDRED" to the right. Beneath the word President's was the letters US in a circular monogram motif while the letters NRA were likewise embossed under the word Hundred.

Until World War II a new die was created annually with the number "19" appearing to the left of the flag and the two digits representing the year of award to the right. After the war the date was indicated on a small metal strip attached just below the flag. Sometime during the 1970s the strip disappeared and the date was inscribed on the back.

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<sup>20</sup> *American Rifleman*, October 1, 1926, page 203.

<sup>21</sup> Harper

<sup>22</sup> The flag on the President's Hundred Brassard is described in Navy Department General Order 300 of August 9, 1882. It was superseded by the current design promulgated by President Truman on October 25, 1945, in Executive Order 9646.



When the NBPRP assumed responsibility for the President's Match in 1977 the NRA's initials were replaced, first with the circular logo of the NBPRP and later, when the authority to conduct the match was transferred to the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice & Firearms Safety, Inc. (CPRPFS), that of the CMP. At the same time the circular US was replaced by the seal of The President of the United States.<sup>23</sup>

At various times the NRA also distributed President's Match medals which were made up of a top bar, ribbon, and pendent. During the 1920s and the late 1940s it was an NRA National Match top bar, including year attached to a dark green ribbon with a thin red, white, and blue stripe running vertically through the center of the ribbon which supported a bronze colored disc upon which were centered two crossed Springfield 1903 rifles. Contained within the upper vertex of the rifles is the Great Seal of the United States while in the lower vertex is a circular NRA monogram. Running along the upper edge of the disc are the word "PRESIDENT'S" while "RIFLE MATCH" fill the lower segment. Pinned to the ribbon is a small enameled flag of the President of the United States.<sup>24</sup> According to the contemporary match programs these were awarded to the high scoring competitor from each state, territory, or the District of Columbia and varying percentages of top scoring competitors.

A second medal, manufactured by the Blackinton Company, was used from the early 1950s until 1976. A red white and blue ribbon hung from a National Championship top bar with date, suspended from the ribbon was a medal that featured crossed rifles behind a disc with a left profile of George Washington. Beneath it was a scroll with the words "THE PRESIDENT'S MATCH" which was attached to a rectangle with the words "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION" above a target surrounded by laurel leaves. Various bars could be fitted to the ribbon to indicate type of rifle and place of finish.<sup>25</sup>

Records indicate that there were no brassards distributed when the National Matches resumed in 1951 after an 11 year hiatus caused by World War II and the conflict in Korea. The coveted curved metal award returned in 1957 only to be retired again in 1968.

Between 1968 and 1976 the President's Match was a non fired match with both match and service rifles and any ammunition allowed.<sup>26</sup> The aggregate of scores fired in the 20 shot standing Members Trophy, the 20 shot rapid fire sitting Scott Trophy, the 20 shot rapid fire prone Coast Artillery Trophy, and the 20 shot slow fire prone Army Cup matches determined the President's Hundred. The NRA presented a belt buckle sized medallion, embossed with the seal of the President

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<sup>23</sup> Emerson, William, K, *Marksmanship in the U.S. Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 2004.

<sup>24</sup> Emerson

<sup>25</sup> Author's Collection

<sup>26</sup> *The American Rifleman* October 1967 page 32.

of the United States, to the top 50 competitors in the rifle and the pistol championship making 100 awardees.<sup>27</sup>

The metal brassard was resurrected again in 1977 and remained a fixture until 2001. As noted earlier the CMP began issuing a conventional style medal style in 2002 featuring a CMP/National Match top bar, red white and blue ribbon, and a pendent which was a close replica of the circular gilded slate Presidential seals that adorn the two President's Hundred trophies, a black pendent for rifle and a white one for pistol. With the National Matches of 1998 the CMP also began the practice of proving a handsome certificate proclaiming that the bearer had earned membership in the President's Hundred. Small pins, which duplicate the trophy discs, and maybe used for lapel/hat pins or tie tacks are commercially available.

Through out the years various trophies had been donated the NRA as awards for specific categories in the President's Match. In addition to the already mentioned Appreciation and Crescent Cups the Clarke Trophy was awarded to the high civilian, the Appreciation Cup went to the high scoring Marine, The Coast Artillery Cup went to the best score form that branch of the Army, and the to Coast Guardsman received the Coast Guard Trophy.

Infantry men were eligible for the Farnsworth Medal, the high Reserve Officer Training Corps member received the National Society of the Scabbard and Blade Trophy, the best shooting engineer was presented the Society of Military Engineers Trophy, and the National Guard Association Trophy went to the high scoring Guardsman. The Vandenberg Trophy was for an Air Force competitor while Hankins Trophy was awarded to the top scoring reservist, not a member of the National Guard.<sup>28</sup> When the NBPRP assumed responsibility for the President's Match, and made it part of the National Match Program, these venerable awards remained with the NRA to be reassigned to various matches fired in the NRA Championship competition.

Another noteworthy award presented to the winner of the match was the Army Ordnance Association Trophy, in reality a selected trophy rifle. Awarded sporadically in the early years, the trophy rifle was as prized as the presidential letter. Some of the rifles have included the so called "Springfield Special", which may well have been a specially selected 1921 National Match 1903 with 'S' style stock and star gauged barrel, awarded in 1925 and 1927<sup>29</sup>, a U.S. Rifle Caliber .22, Model 22, M1" in 1928, as well as the "U.S. Rifle caliber .30 Sporter" in 1929 and 1931. A Winchester Model 70 with Balvar scope was presented in 1963 while in 1964 a Remington Model 700 sporting rifle with Balvar telescopic sight was given the winner a Winchester Model 100 sporting rifle with Balvar telescopic sight was awarded in 1965, 66, and 67. A National Match M1 Garand was awarded in 1977<sup>30</sup> and in 1997 the CMP began drawing on its inventory of

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<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, page 31.

<sup>28</sup> *Official Program of the National Matches*, 1940 and 1953.

<sup>29</sup> Campbell, Clark, *The '03 Springfields*, Ray Riling Arms Books Co, Philadelphia, 1978

historic M1 Garand rifles and had them prepared for presentation by Phil Arrington of Arrington Accuracy Works, Tucson, Arizona.<sup>31</sup>

It is likely that there are other trophy rifles awarded in the President's in existence as the announcement of them as part of the prize package did not always appear in the match program. As an example, there was no notation of a trophy rifle in the 1979 program yet after the awards ceremony Sergeant First Class Richard Scheller, of the Connecticut Army National Guard, the match winner, was called aside and told that there was an additional award awaiting him in the DCM offices. Not knowing what to expect he was happily surprised to receive a Remington Model 700 .308 rifle mounting a Redfield telescopic sight with an accompanying sling and cleaning rod. A 3 inch by 1½ inch German silver plate was inset into the right side of stock upon which was engraved, in four lines, "1979 President's Match winner SFC Richard M. Scheller ARNG 293-8x." Not one to let a good rifle gather dust the pragmatic Scheller traveled to Maine in the fall later that year and used it to harvest a brown bear.<sup>32</sup>

When, in 1977, the President's Match became a National Trophy event the occasion was marked by the introduction of the President's Rifle Trophy. The handsome trophy is comprised of a substantial hardwood base that carries the gold gilded words, "THE PRESIDENT'S TROPHY" and supports a disc of black New England slate upon which the Presidential Seal is engraved and gilded. On the reverse side are individual plates listing all those who have won the award.

The first pistol President's Match was conducted in 1966 and was a 900 point aggregate of the 22 caliber, centerfire, and 45 caliber National Match Courses fired in the National Pistol Championship won by Petty Officer First Class Don Hamilton, USN who went on to win the NRA pistol championship that year. Civilian John H. Johnson was the first civilian to win in 1967. There were no special awards for this non-fired match. The pistol President's Hundred continued on in this fashion until 1980.

When the NBPRP assumed the control of the match it became a service pistol match shot over the NMC and pistol shooters, who had not had an award of this stature, were pleased when The National Trophy Pistol Match and its new trophy were added to the National Match program and awards schedule in 1981. The pistol used was the Colt 1911 series, the service pistol of the day, with ammunition issued on the line, much the same procedure as Excellence in Competition matches for the rifle of the time. Issue ammunition would continue under the auspices of the DCM until the program transitioned to the CMP. Competitors are now required to provide their own ammunition which means either 'rolling your own' handloads, purchasing commercial ammunition, or buying CMP ammunition at Camp Perry.<sup>33</sup> The pistol trophy is a duplicate of the rifle award but for a white New England marble disc which carries the Presidential Seal.

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<sup>31</sup> CMP Newsletter

<sup>32</sup> Interview with author, February 24, 2008.

<sup>33</sup> CMP Rulebook and various National Match programs

The first of the service pistol President Hundred matches was won in 1981 by Gunnery Sergeant Stephen W. Edmiston, USMC, shooting a 40 shot course of fire, 20 shots slow fire at 50 yards followed by ten shots each at 25 yards timed and rapid fire, with a score of 385-15X. Two years later Martin I. "Babe" Magnan, of Massachusetts, became the first civilian to win the President's over the service pistol course of fire. Magnan showed great versatility that year as he also competed in the NRA Pistol Championships with a trio of revolvers and became the first person to break 2600 at Perry with a 'wheel gun,"<sup>34</sup>

Under DCM/CMP auspices the winner of the President's Hundred Pistol Match was awarded a trophy plaque, which resembled the trophy introduced in 1981. A metallic brassard was presented the top 100 shooters, until 2003, when it was replaced, like rifle, by a medal with a pendent resembling the trophy. A Presidential letter was presented from 1985 through 1997. Certificates were introduced in 1998 and were awarded retroactively, if requested. A trophy M1 was first presented in 1997 and resumed again in 2000.<sup>35</sup>

A multiple winner in the President's Hundred is a rarity, but not uncommon. Ronald Troyer was the first when he won it back to back in 1971 and 72 and Gary Anderson won it three times, 1973, 1975 and 1976 both when it was an unfired aggregate sponsored by the NRA. Military riflemen Staff Sergeants Greg Strom, USA 1980 and 1984, Kevin R. Kistler, USMC, 1991 and 1993, Sergeant Grant Singley, USA, 1991 and 1996, and Master Sergeant John Chubb, USA, 1995 and 1999, have also doubled with the service rifle.

Petty Officer First Class Donald L. Hamilton, USN, was the first to win two President's Hundred titles, winning the inaugural President's Pistol Match in 1966 and again 1968. He won his third, and the first back to back in the match, in 1969 with a score of 892-52X, the record for the 900 point aggregate format. Ken Buster and Hershel Anderson are also two time winners of the match in the 900 point format. Army Master Sergeant Thomas R. Woods won two President's Matches, one under the NRA format in 1977 and the second in 1986 with the service pistol. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Mitchell R. Reed was the first to win two President's Matches with the service pistol with consecutive victories in 1990 and 1991. Sergeant James Henderson, of the US Army Reserve, has an incredible four wins to his credit. His first was in 1997; his second in 2002, with back to back wins in 2005 and 2006. In the last victory he established the current match record of 389-10X.

Shooters with more than a few trips to Camp Perry have certainly experienced the effects of rain; from simply wet equipment to flooded firing points, delayed relays, and even cancelled matches. Bad weather in 1990 caused The President's Pistol Trophy Match to be fired under the most unusual of circumstances. Torrential rains destroyed most of the target backers and what the rain missed the high winds finished. The water level rose high enough to

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<sup>34</sup> [www.odcmp.com/NM/Trophies/RI\\_Presidents.htm](http://www.odcmp.com/NM/Trophies/RI_Presidents.htm) and *American Rifleman*, October 1983.

<sup>35</sup> Various National Match programs

short circuit the electric motor used to the operate targets on range four, rendering the range inoperative. Under severe schedule and time constraints the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) ruled that the Presidents Pistol Match and the National Trophy Individual (NTI) Pistol match would be fired concurrently, using the NTI score for both matches. It was a good call as range four's replacement motor faired no better, it failure requiring that the 1,022 competitors all be resquadded. In the end Marine Mitchell Reed, then a Staff Sergeant, won both matches, a first, with a score of 291-10X.<sup>36</sup>

While no competitor has ever won both the rifle and pistol President's Matches three names of unrelated individuals do appear on both lists, John and Lowell Johnson, Hershel and Gary Anderson, and Eric and F.C. Wilson have won the pistol and rifle match respectively.

The President's Hundred is one of the nation's most venerable sporting events, with a longevity and history as distinguished as the Kentucky Derby, organized baseball, or the America's Cup. Like the Derby it only happens once a year at a very special location. Like professional baseball perhaps 1,200 players participate during a season but only 25 will be on a World Series winning team in any given year. Like the America's Cup it is an event where the basics skills for success have not changed in 130 years, but the technology has opened whole new vistas.

Membership in the President's Hundred and Distinguished status are the Gemini Twins, the Castor and Pollux, in the firmament of the service arm competitor. Yet they are different-not identical twins, but fraternal, if you will. The quest for Distinguished is a marathon while the chase for the Presidents is a 100 meter dash. The President's Match is once a year happening and an event where there is no room for error because, like the dash, it is over so quickly but like the marathon, the field is huge and crowded with talent, making it harder to win.

Simply put, there are a greater percentage of Distinguished shooters in the ranks of the President's Hundred then there are President's Hundred members in the Distinguished rolls. Skilled competitors certainly have an advantage in the President's Match but there is always enough uncertainty in a short match to make things interesting. Perhaps the key to success in earning a President's Hundred brassard is that first you've got to be good, and then you've got to be a little bit lucky.

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<sup>36</sup> *American Rifleman*, October 1990, pages 74-75.

## APPENDIX A

### THE PRESIDENT'S PISTOL MATCH WINNERS

The President's Pistol Match was created in 1966 by the NRA, it became a National Trophy Match in 1981

Year		
1966	ADRI DONALD L. HAMILTON, USN	876-36X
1967	MR. JOHN H. JOHNSON	874-42X
1968	ADRI DONALD L. HAMILTON, USN	876-45X
<b>1969</b>	<b>ADRI DONALD L. HAMILTON, USN*</b>	<b>892-52X</b>
1970	GYSGT JIMMIE R. DORSEY, USMC	887-51X
1971	SSG KENNETH BUSTER, NGUS	880-39X
1972	GYSGT BILLY TAGGART, USMC	888-44x
1973	SFC KENNETH BUSTER, MONG	887-34X
1974	SFC HERSHEL L. ANDERSON, USA	891-53X
1975	SFC BONNIE D. HARMON	881-38X
1976	SFC HERSHEL L. ANDERSON, USA	887-51X
1977	SSG THOMAS P. WOODS, USA	886-50X
1978	GYSGT STEPHEN W. EDMISTON, USMC	884-40X
1979	SP4 DARIUS YOUNG, USAR	882-41X
1980	SFC JOSEPH PASCARELLA, TXNG	
1981	GYSGT STEPHEN W. EDMISTON, USMC	385-15X
1982	MAJ ALLAN R. BACON, USMC	381-16X
1983	MR MARTIN I. "BABE" MAGNAN OF MASSACHUSETTS	380-09X
1984	GYSGT JAMES M. BAIR, USMC	383-13X
1985	SSG SUMTER R. NELSON, OHNG	387-16X
1986	MSG THOMAS R. WOODS, USA	383-12X
1987	MSGT RICARDO RODRIQUEZ, USMC	386-10X
1988	GYSGT ANDY E. MOODY, USMC	383-16X
1989	SFC JIMMIE W. McCOY, USA	382-11X
1990	SSGT MITCHELL R. REED , USMC	291-10X
1991	GYSGT MITCHELL R. REED, USMC	385-09X
1992	SGT MARIO LOZOYA, USMC	384-10X
1993	SGT SHANE CLEVINGER, USMC	387-16X
1994	SGT BRIAN ZINS, USMC	380-12X
1995	MR RONALD ZALEWSKI OFMICHIGAN	385-14X
1996	SGT ERIC WILSON, ARNG	384-07X
1997	SGT JAMES HENDERSON, USAR	381-09X
1998	SMSGT JIM-BOB McCARTY, USAF	380-05X
1999	MR DARIUS R. YOUNG OF WASHINGTON	382-11X
2000	MSG STEVE REITER SR, USAR	387-12X
2001	SGT FRITZ FICKE, USAR	386-13X
2002	SGT JAMES HENDERSON, USAR	383-17X
2003	SGT ROBERT PARK, USMC	381-15X
2004	SSGT MICHAEL LAWSON, USMC	381-11X
<b>2005</b>	<b>SSG JAMES HENDERSON, USAR**</b>	<b>389-10X</b>
2006	SSG JAMES HENDERSON, USAR	387-12X
2007	MR STEVE REITER SR OF ARIZONA	386-15X

\* Match Record-900 Point Aggregate

\*\*Match Record-40 Shot Course of Fire

## THE PRESIDENT'S RIFLE MATCH WINNERS

The President's Rifle Match was created in 1884 by the NRA, it became a National Trophy Match in 1977

Year	Competitor	Score
1894	SGT C.W. DICKEY, DCNG	64
1895	SGT WILLIAM BOYLE, NYNG	126
1896	SFT T.J. DOLAN, NYNG	178
1897	F.C. BATTEY, GANG	190
1898	<i>No competition held</i>	
1899	LT F.C. WILSON, GA NG	267
1900	CAPT WALTER F. WHITTEMORE	262
1901	LT H.H. LEIZER, DCNG	137
1902	PVT G.E. COOK, DCNG	189
1903	LT KELLOGG KENNON VENERABLE CASEY, NYNG	192
1904	PVT HOWARD GENSCH, NJNG	192
1905	SGT C.E. ORR, OHNG	292
1906	PVT E.C. SIMPSON, CTNG	193
1907	SGT W.A. BERG, DCNG	310
1908	SGT ARTHUR BREST	304
1909	MIDSHIPMAN ANDREW D. DENNY, USN	316
1910	SGT W.A. FRAGNER, USMC	283
1911	CPL CALVIN A. LLOYD, USMC	281
1912	CPL CEDRIC LONG, MANG	235
1913	CAPT WILLIAM H. CLOPTON, US CAVALRY	266
1914	<i>No competition held</i>	
1915	SGT ANDREW HAGEN, USMC	247
1916	CPT W.GARLAND FAY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS	290
1917	<i>No competition held</i>	
1918	SGT H.J. HAFFNER	285
1919	SGT J.B. RHINE , COAST ARTILLERY CORPS	289
1920	LT MICHAEL FODY US CAVALRY	296
1921	MR O.B. EMSWILLER of MINNESOTA	243
1922	CAPT E.W. KING , COAST ARTILLERY CORPS	191
1923	LT PIERSON E. CONRADT, USMC	193
1924	LT LOUIS V. JONES, US INFANTRY	190
1925	LT BRUCE C. HIEL, US ENGINEERS	194
1926	SGT JOHN M. THOMAS, USMC	196
1927	CPL OREN J. TOBEY, USMC	196
1928	SGT HARVEY R. KING, USMC	146
1929	ENS CLARENCE E. COFFIN, USN	147
1930	SGT R.L. SPEERS, 17 <sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY	146
1931	SGT R.A. HERIN	145
1932-34	<i>No competition held</i>	
1933	<i>No competition held</i>	
1934	<i>No competition held</i>	
1935	SGT JOHN BLAKELY, USMC	147
1936	CPL VALENTINE J. KRAVITZ, USMC	147
1937	SGT CLARENCE J. ANDERSON , USMC	147
1938	SGT EDWARD V. SEESER, USMC	146
1939	SGT THOMAS J. JONES, USMC	147
1940	CPL THADDEUS A. FERENC, US INFANTRY	146
1941-50	<i>No competition held</i>	
1951	LT ARTHUR C. JACKSON, USAFR	198-15V
1952	RALPH G. COX, USMC	149-17V

1953	DELBERTO A. FAULKNER, USMC	149-18V
1954	MR. FREDERICK J. WILLING of NEW YORK	147-13V
1955	SGT EMMETT DUNCAN, USMC	150-16V
1956	MSGT VIRGIL MILLER, USMC	149-22V
1957	LT JOE A. DECKERT, USAF	147-19V
1958	MR. AMMON E. BELL of PENNSYLVANIA	149-16V
1959	CPL PHILLIP T. TOLOCZKO, USA	149-14V
1960	SGT JAMES K. AVRIT, USA	150-12V
1961	WO EMMETT D. DUNCAN, USMC	150-12V
1962	CPL DAVID A. LUKE, USMC	149-10V
1963	SGT CHARLES W. GROVER, USA	150-15V
1964	SSGT L. BYERS, USA	149-15V
1965	PFC L.P. BEHLING, USA	150-17V
1966	SSGT D.A. THOMPSON, USAF	149-15V
1967	SSGT ARPAIL J. GAPOL, USA	295-09X
1968	MR MIDDLETON TOMPKINS of CALIFORNIA	789-29NF*
1969	CAPT DONICE R. BARTLETT, USMC	786-35NF*
1970	WO1 ROBERT L. GOLLER, USMC	792-36NF*
1971	MR RONALD G. TROYER of OHIO	790-35NF*
1972	MR RONALD G. TROYER of OHIO	785-24NF*
1973	MR GARY L. ANDERSON of NEBRASKA	793-36NF*
1974	MR JACK P. SICOLA of CALIFORNIA	787-36NF*
1975	MR GARY L. ANDERSON of NEBRASKA	793-36NF*
1976	MR GARY L. ANDERSON of NEBRASKA	997-58NF*
1977	SP5 WILLIAM SWANTNER, USAR	295-11X
1978	SPC GLEN H. HOFFER, PANG	296-08X
1979	PSG RICHARD M. SCHELLER, CTNG	293-08X
1980	SP4 GREG A. STROM, USA	297-10X
1981	MGYSGT RUSSELL E. MARTIN, USMC	297-04X
1982	COL KENNETH J. ERDMAN, USMCR	298-10X
1983	TDCS RALPH J. LEGLER, USN	296-12X
1984	SSG GREG A. STROM, USA	296-10X
1985	CPT DAVID B. ERICKSON, USA	298-12X
1986	CWO3 KENNETH R. COOPER, USMC	296-14X
1987	SGT LOWELL D. JOHNSON, USAR	290-08X
1988	MSG NELSON J. SHEW, ORNG	297-14X
1989	SGT ROBERT J. TOMASIK, USMC	295-11X
1990	SP4 LANCE HOPPER, USA	293-09X
1991	SSGT KEVIN R. KISTLER, USMC	297-09X
1992	SPC GRANT L. SINGLEY, USA	295-14X
1993	SSGT KEVIN R. KISTLER, USMC	293-11X
1994	SPC CHRISTOPHER HATCHER, USA	296-11X
1995	SFC JOHN CHUBB, USA	298-12X
1996	SGT GRANT SINGLEY, USA	298-08X
1997	SSG RICHARD S. ZOLNOWSKY, ARNG	288-08X
1998	GYSGT THOMAS B. GILBERT USMC	298-12X
1999	MSG JOHN CHUBB, USA	295-10X
2000	COL EDDIE NEWMAN, USA	296-06X
<b>2001</b>	<b>SSGT RICHARD SCOTT THREATT, USMC</b>	<b>299-19X*</b>
2002	SFC KEVIN B MCMAHON, USA	298-15X
2003	MR STANTON NOON of NEW YORK	297-10X
2004	MR CHRISTOPHER ATKINS of GEORGIA	298-15X
2005	SFC NORMAN ANDERSON, USA	297-17X
2006	SFC LANCE DEMENT, USA	296-06X
2007	SGT KRISTOFFER FRIEND, USAR	392-10X
<b>2008</b>	<b>SFC NORMAN ANDERSON, USAR</b>	<b>393-13X**</b>



NF\*=A non fired event. It is the aggregate score of the 20 shot standing Members Trophy, the 20 shot rapid fire sitting Scott Trophy, the 20 shot rapid fire prone Coast Artillery Trophy, and the 20 shot slow fire prone Army Cup matches

\*=Record for the 30 shot course of fire

\*\*=Record for the 30 shot course of fire with shoot off

## APPENDIX B

### Course of Fire The Presidents Rifle Match

The President's Match generally has been restricted to military-type rifles, although bolt action match rifles were permitted between 1951 and 1976. Various courses of fire were used, with firing at distances from 200 to 1000 yards. From 1894 through 1920, competition was restricted to military personnel. Since 1921, the President's Match has been open to all U. S. citizens.

**1886-1887**-Seven shots each at 200 and 500 yards with elimination, the best scores continuing to fire ten shots at 600 yards.<sup>37</sup>

**1894-1895**-Seven shots at 200, 300, 500, and 600 yards.<sup>38</sup>

**1896**-Ten shots at 200, 300, 500, and 600 yards.<sup>39</sup>

**Circa 1910**-Ten Shots at 200, 300, 500, 600, and 1,000 yards plus a Skirmish Run<sup>40</sup>

**1919 to 1922**-The National Match Course consisting of:

First stage-Rapid fire, 200 yards-target "B." Twenty shots. One string of 10 shots, kneeling from standing, to be followed by one string of 10 shots, kneeling, sitting, or squatting from standing. Time limit 1 minute for each string of ten shots. Battle sight or leaf sight may be used.

Second stage-Slow fire, 500 yards-target "B." Twenty shots Ten shots prone five shots kneeling, and five shots sitting or squatting, in order named. No sighting shots (No artificial rest)

Third stage- Slow fire, 1,000 yards-target "C." Twenty record shots. No sighting shots. (No artificial rest)

Arm- United States Rifle caliber .30 model 1903, without alterations.

Ammunition-Ammunition issued by the Ordnance Department.

The 500 competitors having the highest aggregate score at the end of the second stage of the mach will fire the last stage. Provided that all competitors having the same aggregate score as the competitor in last place in the 500 will also be included.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Emerson

<sup>38</sup> *ibid*

<sup>39</sup> *ibid*

<sup>40</sup> *ibid*

<sup>41</sup> Crossman, Edward, C., *Program of the National Matches 1919*, The National Rifle Association, 1919.

**1923 to 1940-**Ten shots at 200 yards standing, ten shots at 600 yards prone, and ten shots at 1,000 yards prone, no sighting shots, with the service rifle and any ammunition is allowed.<sup>42</sup>

**1941-1950-**No National Matches conducted.

**1951-1967-** Ten shots standing at 200 yards, ten shots rapid fire prone at 300 yards and ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards, fired with either NRA Match Rifle-Division A, or U. S. service rifle-Division B. Because service rifle and NRA Match rifle time limits are different-50 and 60 seconds respectively-competitors were squadded by firearm type.

**1968 to 1976-**A non fired event with match and service rifles and any ammunition allowed.<sup>43</sup> The aggregate of scores fired in the 20 shot standing Members Trophy, the 20 shot rapid fire sitting Scott Trophy, the 20 shot rapid fire prone Coast Artillery Trophy, and the 20 shot slow fire prone Army Cup matches.<sup>44</sup>

**1977 to 2006-**Ten shots standing at 200 yards, ten shots rapid fire prone at 300 yards and ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards, fired with U. S. service rifles, two sighting shots at 200 yards are allowed.<sup>45</sup>

**2007-Present-**Ten shots standing at 200 yards, ten shots rapid fire prone at 300 yards and ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards, fired with U. S. service rifles, no sighting shots are allowed. The score from a fourth stage “shoot-off” of ten additional shots at 600 yards is added to the 30 shot score for the top 20 competitors from the first 30 shots to determine the winner.<sup>46</sup>

### **Course of Fire The Presidents Pistol Match**

**1967-1980-**A 900 point aggregate of three National Match Courses of Fire for pistol, one each fired with the 22 caliber, centerfire, and 45 caliber pistol.

The National Match Course:

Stage One- One series of ten shots fired slow fire, one minute per shot, standing at 50 yards.

Stage Two-Two series of five shots fired time fire, 20 seconds per series, standing at 25 yards.

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<sup>42</sup> Appropriate National Match Programs

<sup>43</sup> *The American Rifleman* October 1967, page 32.

<sup>44</sup> *The American Rifleman* October 1967 and appropriate National Match Programs.

<sup>45</sup> Appropriate National Match Programs

<sup>46</sup> *CMP Competition Rules 12<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Civilian Marksmanship Program, January 2008.

Stage Three-Two series of five shots fired rapid fire, ten seconds per series, standing at 25 yards.<sup>47</sup>

**1981-Present-** Forty record shots fired in three stages:

Stage One-Two series of ten shots fired slow fire, one minute per shot, standing at 50 yards

Stage Two-Two series of five shots fired time fire, 20 seconds per series, standing at 25 yards.

Stage Three-Two series of five shots fired rapid fire, ten seconds per series, standing at 25 yards.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> ibid

<sup>48</sup> ibid

## APPENDIX C

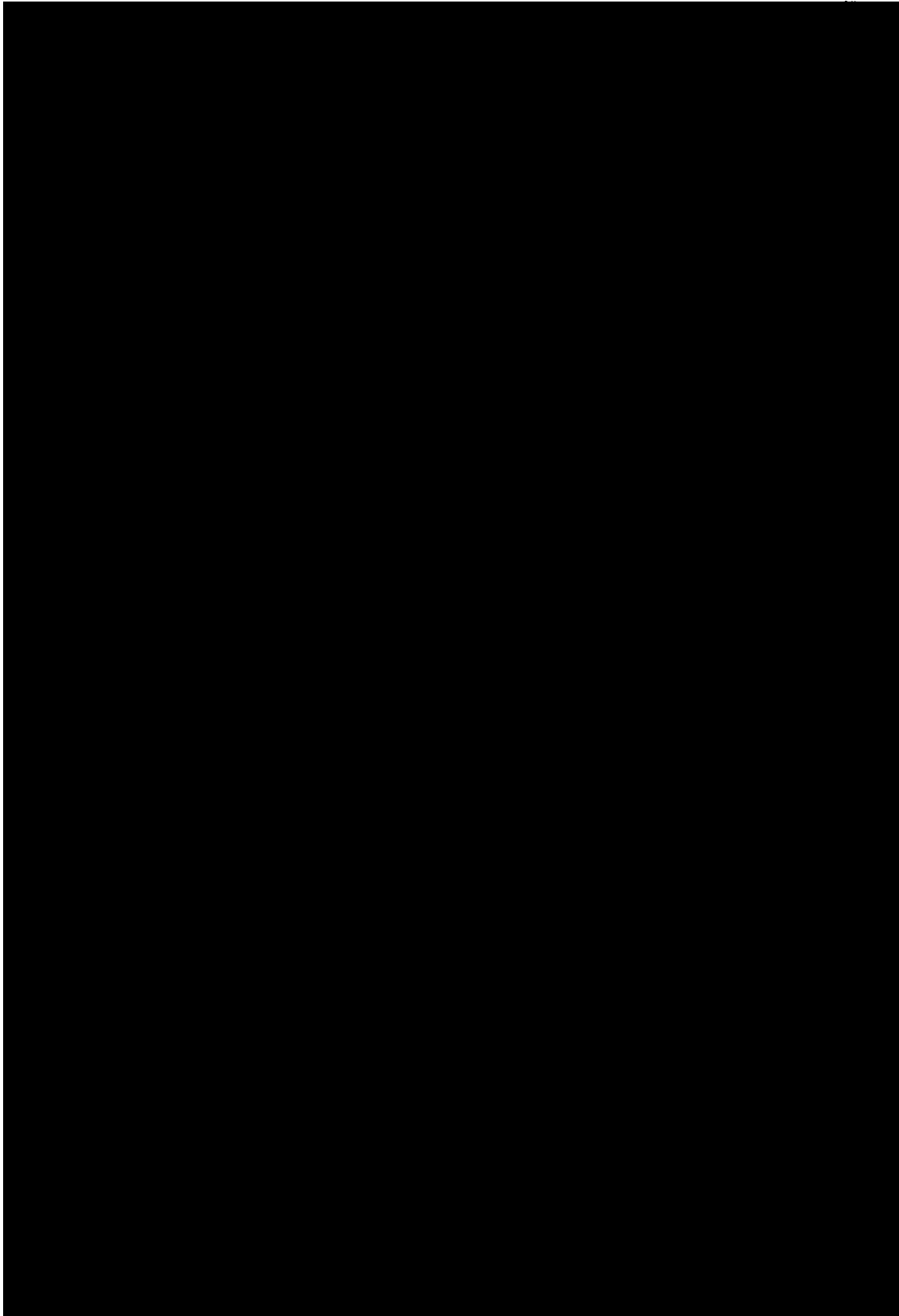


The President's Rifle Trophy, purchased by the NBPRP in 1977, consists of a disk of black New England slate mounted on a hardwood base. The Presidential Seal is carved on the disk and gilded.



The President's Pistol Trophy was purchased by NBPRP in 1981. It consists of white New England marble on a hardwood base. The carved and gilded Presidential Seal is mounted on the disk.

**APPENDIX D**



## APPENDIX E

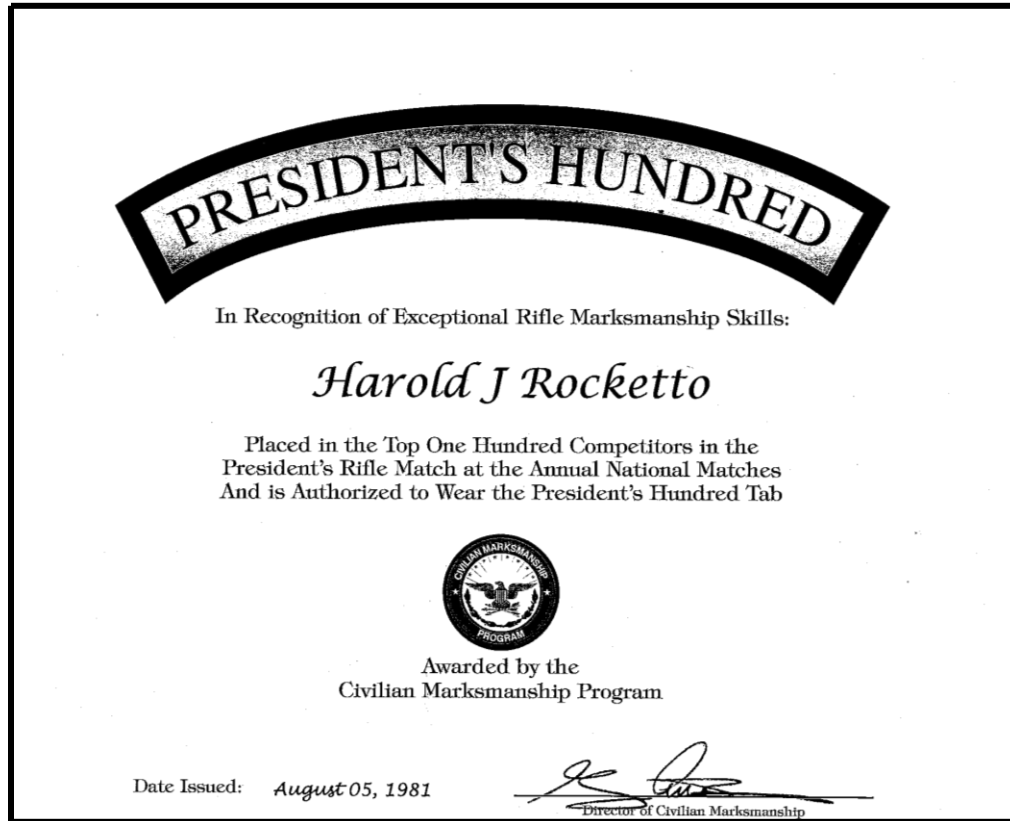


The President's Hundred Tab is a US Army award, although civilian winners often attach it to various shooting garments. It is a full-color embroidered tab of yellow 4 1/4 inch by 5/8 inch cloth crescent with the words "President's Hundred" centered in 1/4 inch tall block green lettering.

On the Army uniforms it is worn 1/2 inch below the shoulder seam on the left sleeve of the uniform. The tab is available in a subdued version for wear on the Army Combat Uniform and a desert hue for wear on the Desert Combat Uniform. Correct wear of the Tab is described in Army Regulation 600-8-22, paragraph 29-16c, and Army Regulation 670-1 paragraph 8-51.

## APPENDIX F

The Presidents Hundred Award Certificate was instituted in 1998.



This particular rifle certificate is a retroactive award, a fact which is easily detected by the date. The Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice & Firearms Safety, Inc. (CPRPFS) did not assume administration and promotion of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) until 1996 while this award was won in 1981.



**APPENDIX G**



**NRA President's Medals**

**1950**



**1970s**



**CMP President's Medal**

**2001**



**President's Hundred Rifle Pin**



**President's Hundred Pistol Pin**

## APPENDIX H

**The White House**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
October 7, 1951

My dear Lieutenant Jackson:

I offer you my heartiest congratulations on the happy occasion of your victory in the annual President's Cup match sponsored by the National Rifle Association of America, and fired at the Marine Corps range, Camp Matthews, California on September 29, 1951. Your victory was achieved only after long hours of practice and diligent study of the finer techniques of marksmanship.

Your splendid performance reflects much credit on you and attests to the thoroughness of the training you have undergone.

Well Done!

/S/ Harry Truman

**The White House**  
**Washington, D.C.**

August 14, 1979

Congratulations of your victory in the 1979 President's Match at Camp Perry, Ohio.

This is indeed an accomplishment of which you can be justifiably proud.

It is particularly impressive to have won amid the competitive pressure from some of the best marksmen in the country.

Your achievement is indicative of the perseverance, dedication, patience, and sacrifice upon which the greatness of this nation rests.

I know you will continue to uphold the highest standards that brought you this honor, and I wish you every future success.

/S/ Jimmy Carter

SFC Richard M. Scheller

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1985

Dear Captain Erickson:

I am delighted to extend my congratulations on your victory during the 1985 President's Rifle Match at Camp Perry, Ohio.

You can be very proud of your accomplishment, for you excelled in spite of competitive pressure from some of the best marksmen in the country.

Your achievement reflects the perseverance, dedication, patience, and sacrifices of our great nation. I know you will continue to uphold the high standards that characterized your performance during the match, and you have my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid black horizontal bar that redacts the name and title of the sender.

Captain David B. Erickson  
U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit  
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

September 27, 1995

SFC John O. Chubb, USA

Dear John:

I am delighted to congratulate you on winning the 1995 President's Rifle Match.

You can take great pride in this accomplishment. Your achievement in reaching this level of competition demonstrates your personal dedication to excellence. I commend you for the hard work, outstanding skills, and perseverance that earned you this special honor among some of our nation's finest marksmen and markswomen.

Best wishes for continued success and every future happiness

Sincerely,  
/s/ Bill Clinton



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 28, 2005

Sergeant First Class Norman Anderson, USA  
Fort Benning, Georgia

Dear Sergeant Anderson:

Congratulations on winning the 2005 President's Rifle Match during the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Your achievement in this prestigious competition reflects your hard work, determination, and skill. I appreciate your commitment to excellence.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWB", with a small registered trademark symbol (®) to the right of the signature.

George W. Bush

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