

# **SAMPLE NOMINATION LETTER**

## **NOBLE PATRON OF ARMOR AWARD**

MEMORANDUM FOR Executive Director, US Army Armor Association

SUBJECT: Nomination for the Noble Patron of Armor Award.

1. Request the Noble Patron of Armor Award be favorably considered for LTC Santa H. Claus, German Army. LTC Claus retired from the German Army on 30 April 1994 with 35 years service as an Armor officer. A summary of his valuable and distinguished contributions to Armor/Cavalry follows.

a. LTC Claus was enlisted as an Officer Cadet for the German Armor Branch in 1959 and commissioned from the German Armor School in 1961. For the next nine years, LTC Claus trained and led Armor soldiers serving with Armor Bn 104 Amberg, Germany. He served as a tank platoon leader, tank company executive officer, battalion S3, and a tank company commander. During this time, he worked closely with units of the 2nd ACR.

b. LTC Claus' next assignments were with the 10th (GE) Armored Division in Sigmaringen, Germany. He served as the Brigade S3 for three years and the Executive Officer for Armor Bn 294 for five years. During this time, he was involved in numerous multinational training and exercises, including four REFORGERS, with Cavalry and Armor units from France, Canada, and the U.S. While serving as Bn XO, LTC Claus contributed significantly to modern armor technology. The battalion was the first unit equipped with the Leopard 1A4 to assist in the testing of the Leopard 2. This challenge ended in a victory for the battalion, winning the Canadian Army Trophy competition. LTC Claus was responsible for developing the training plans and preparation for this event.

c. LTC Claus served for two years at the German Armor School in Munster as the commander of the officer cadet training division. There he was responsible for training and education armor, cavalry, and mechanized infantry officer cadets, preparing them for platoon leader assignments.

d. His next assignment was a battalion and garrison commander for five years in the 1st (GE) Mountain Division, where LTC Claus commanded the only independent tank battalion in the German Army. His influence in the division as an expert in training an armored force for war had a significant impact on a predominantly light force. His battalion rotated to all major training areas in Germany, Wales, Great Britain, and Shilo, Canada. His training challenged his battalion with large scaled maneuver exercises and live fire exercises.

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e. LTC Claus has spent nine years with the US Army serving as an LNO with the V Corps, Exchange Officer and Instruction Division Chief, Center for Army Tactics USACGSC, and the National Simulation Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. As the V Corps LNO, he contributed significantly to numerous partnership and training activities between units of V Corps, II (GE) Corps, and German Military District CMD IV. He visited US Army National Guard Units with a capstone mission to V Corps providing them with information to assist them with their planning for employment to Germany. As the Exchange Officer and Instruction Division Chief, Center for Army Tactics, he taught US Army doctrine at brigade, division, and corps level to US and international officers. As the Instruction Division Chief, he mentored his 17 officers and made significant contributions to improving CGSC curriculum in the college. He is currently serving in the National Simulation Center as the German Exchange Officer. In this position, he is responsible for coordinating and synchronizing simulation efforts between the US and German Armies to improve the training of battle staffs.

2. Throughout his 35 year Armor career, LTC Claus has truly represented the finest qualities of the Armor/Cavalry tradition. He has selflessly dedicated himself to giving Armor/Cavalry soldiers the best equipment and training possible. This officer has been farsighted in seeking realistic solutions to challenges facing the Combat Arm of Decision.

3. Request the Noble Patron of Armor Award for LTC Santa H. Claus in recognition of his 35 years of distinguished service and significant contributions to Armor and Cavalry, to the US Army, and the German Army.

Signed  
BIG S. CHICKEN  
COL, AR  
Director, Center for Army Tactics