Pinning Ceremony Guidelines
How to honor Veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic

Please follow [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov) regarding COVID-19 and use NHPCO resources and updates regarding COVID-19 at [nhpc.org/coronavirus](https://nhpc.org/coronavirus). That page is being updated as guidance and information come out of the CDC, CMS and other valid sources. Lastly, take care of yourselves and your staff and continue to monitor your state, federal and local health departments.

**Alternative Options to In-Person Ceremonies**

**Video Pinning Ceremony:**
Similar to a planned ceremony, video ceremonies are a great alternative if staff and/or family cannot attend. *Following HIPPA regulations*, some platforms include Zoom, Facetime, Google Hangout, Skype or any other telecommunication system. Do a virtual pinning by honoring the Veteran and allowing family members to participate from across the country.

**Language:** Ms./Mr. Veteran, thank you for your service to our nation. Thank you for the sacrifices you made and our willingness to serve our country. You endured hardships and you were willing to risk your life to maintain our freedom. On behalf of (our staff, the VA, ___ Hospice) please accept our thanks and gratitude. When you see this pin (Show it on video), know that your service to the nation is deeply appreciated. We thank you.

**Thank You Card:** If a ceremony is not an option and you feel the family would appreciate it, sending the spouse or family member a pin along with a Thank You card is a good option.

Disclaimer: At this time, please cancel and reschedule any events at your organizations discretion and be assured that you will not be penalized because of this. We will be adjusting reporting requirements within the new website that will go live in April and will make recommendations as things develop over the next few months. This is just a guide, and not a mandatory requirement.