Media Release

To News Editors

140 AWARDEES HONOURED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NSMEN COMMUNITY AT 17TH SAFRA AWARDS

A total of 140 awardees, comprising 134 volunteers and six businesses and organisations, were honoured at the 17th SAFRA Awards held at SAFRA Mount Faber today. The SAFRA Awards recognises volunteers, businesses and organisations that have made significant contributions to SAFRA, the National Service Resort & Country Club (NSRCC) and *So Drama!* Entertainment, for the purpose of recognising and showing appreciation to national servicemen for their contributions to national defence. 108 volunteers also received their Long Service Awards at the event, for terms of service ranging from 5 years to 35 years.

Minister for Defence and Chairman of SAFRA Board of Governors Dr Ng Eng Hen graced the award ceremony as the Guest-of-Honour, and presented the Friend of SAFRA Award, Distinguished Service Award and Meritorious Awards. He was accompanied by Senior Minister of State for Defence and President of SAFRA Mr Zaqy Mohamad, who presented the Commendation Awards and Outstanding New Volunteer Awards.

High Quality & Affordable Facilities & Programmes

During the award ceremony, Dr Ng said that SAFRA has succeeded in providing high quality and tangible benefits to national servicemen and their families at affordable prices. He also acknowledged the important role of dedicated volunteers in driving many of SAFRA's programmes.

Dr Ng said, "SAFRA, over the past 50 odd years, we can comfortably say, is part and parcel of life in Singapore. We have become used to it. The SAFRA Family Membership is affordable, purposefully, to enable spouses and children to enjoy the facilities. And SAFRA offers a wide range of facilities and programmes to bring families together and deepen their support for NS."

SAFRA has seven clubhouses islandwide that cater to the varied lifestyle needs of our national servicemen, with facilities ranging from childcare and enrichment, to fitness, recreation and dining. SAFRA also organises unique events each year, such as the Our NS Family Camp and SAFRA Sprint Kids that enable national servicemen to share a part of their NS experience with their families.

COL (NS) Toh Han Li, one of the awardees who received the Meritorious Service Award (Bronze) and currently Chairman of the SAFRA Jurong Executive Committee, is familiar with the organisation of such unique events.

COL (NS) Toh said, "I'm glad to be able to contribute towards bringing national servicemen and their families closer together. Strong family support is important to our national servicemen as it anchors their sense of home and enables them to give their best in their NS duties. It is especially fulfilling when you see fathers and their children forging deeper bonds at events such as the SAFRA Sprint Kids or Our NS Family Camp, as children begin to understand what their dads go through in NS to defend the

nation and their loved ones. At SAFRA Jurong, we are also looking at introducing new programmes that appeal to younger national servicemen, many of whom have grown up in the Jurong area along with the club. The SAFRA Jurong Neon Night Fest is one example, and we're glad it was well-received."

Supporting NSmen Along Each Stage of Their Journey

Dr Ng also commended SAFRA for extending support to national servicemen with their careers and families.

Dr Ng said, "SAFRA offers bond-free sponsorships to some 30 NSmen each year for their tertiary studies. We also have the SAFRA Youth Network and various interest groups that connect people with shared interests, whether it is entrepreneurship, e-sports, music, and content creation."

CPL (NS) Soh Yi Da, who received the 10-Year Long Service Award, has been volunteering on the SAFRA Youth Network Committee (SYNC) since 2013 and is currently the Chairman of SYNC.

CPL (NS) Soh said, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside likeminded volunteers to connect and forge a sense of community among young NSmen. It is a very pivotal period in their lives where most are transitioning from full-time national service, back to school life, or building their careers. The range of activities we organise creates diverse opportunities for them to meet up and bond with their NS buddies, get to know others with common interests, or to expand their professional network."

Strong Positive Response to SAFRA Choa Chu Kang

The opening of SAFRA Choa Chu Kang last year was well received and has made SAFRA even more accessible to national servicemen and their families islandwide.

It is thus no surprise that among the awardees this year is LTC (NS) Andy Tan Heok, BBM, who received the Distinguished Service Award and 20-Year Long Service Award. Over the past decade, LTC (NS) Tan has played a pivotal role in shaping SAFRA's newest club at Choa Chu Kang.

LTC (NS) Tan said, "SAFRA Choa Chu Kang holds a special place in my heart. It's been a long and fulfilling journey for me and my team, working on this new club since 2015, from concept, to development, to fruition, where we can really bring something fresh and exciting to national servicemen and their families. Today, we have an average of more than 120,000 visitors coming to the club each month to keep fit, recreate, dine and spend quality time with their families. It is also a popular destination for SAF unit cohesion activities."

Recognising the Support of Corporate Partners

Several businesses and organisations also received awards for their strong support and contributions to recognise national servicemen such as DBS Bank Ltd, Association of Early Childhood and Training Services (ASSETS), Burger King Singapore and McDonald's Singapore (Hanbaobao Pte Ltd).

Kindly refer to the following for more information:

- Annex A – Full list of 17th SAFRA Awards recipients
- Annex B – More information and quotes from selected award recipients

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About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of National Servicemen and their families through quality sports, social, educational and cultural programmes to recognise National Servicemen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of seven clubs conveniently located at Choa Chu Kang, Jurong, Mount Faber, Punggol, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun, along with another facility at 29 Carpenter Street. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs are a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 460,000 (as of 31 March 2024) NSmen and their families.

Issued by SAFRA National Service Association on 18 November 2024

Annex A

17th SAFRA Awards Recipients

Fact Sheet

Award Category	Recipient
Friend of SAFRA	DBS Bank Ltd
Distinguished Service Award	LTC (NS) Tan Heok Andy, BBM*
Meritorious Service Awards (Gold)	Mr Ho Chin Ning
	BG (NS) Liow Kenneth
	SLTC (NS) Low Kian Ngian Ace*
Meritorious Service Award (Silver)	Mr Teo Keng Siang*
Meritorious Service Awards (Bronze)	LTC (NS) Choe Zheng Guang Evan
	SLTC (NS) Koh Ley Boon Patrick
	MAJ (NS) Koh Ping Haw Justin
	COL (NS) Lee Chee Chow Roysten
	1WO (NS) Leng Chiak Sun
	CPT (NS) Ng Yao Hwee Andy*
	Mr Siva Shanmugam
	CPT (NS) Tan Seng Kiat James*
	COL (NS) Tan Yeow Tiong
	COL (NS) Toh Han Li
Commendation Awards (Individual)	Mr Chua Swee Kiat*
	LTC (NS) Fu Yunjie Desmond
	COL (NS) Halmie Hussein Mattar
	LTA (NS) Lau Mun Fai Joel*
	Mr Lee Hing Foo Edward*
	Mr Lee Shu Hao*
	Mr Leong Yew Hock Rudin
	ME5-2 (NS) Lian Chin Wah Daniel
	MAJ (NS) Liu Jiahao Ivan*
	3SG (NS) Rajavarman S/O Mathichandran
	2SG (NS) Sathiaseelan Jagateesan
	Dr Sim Ching Sing Evan
	MWO (NS) Surindranath S/O Kaseenathan*
	MAJ (NS) Tan Le-Wei Sherman
	CPL (NS) Tang Hong Wei Arvin
	LTC (NS) Ting Chi-Yen**
	Mr Wee Chong Yee
	Dr Wong Keng Siong
	Mdm Yeo Ivy

* Also a recipient of a Long Service Award

**Also a recipient of the Outstanding New Volunteer Award

Award Category	Recipient
Commendation Awards (Corporation)	Association of Early Childhood and Training Services (ASSETS)
	Burger King Singapore
	McDonald's Singapore (Hanbaobao Pte Ltd)
	M1 Limited
	Singapore Life Limited (Singlife)
Outstanding New Volunteer Awards	ME3 Liaw Kwek Chong
	LTC (NS) Neo Say Wei Eric
	3WO (NS) Ng Yu Quan Jeremy
	LTC (NS) Ting Chi-Yen
Long Service Awards (35 Years)	Mr Chan Mun Yew
	Mr Teo Tiat How Bernard
Long Service Awards (30 Years)	Mr Lim Chek Kwang Eddie
	Mr Quek Mong Huat Eric
	Mr Teo Keng Siang
Long Service Awards (25 Years)	Mr Koh Tuck Loong Max
	Mr Luey Kwong Yuen Bernard
	Mr Pang Tong Kuan Andy
Long Service Awards (20 Years)	Mr Kwa Hian Djoe Andrew
	Mr Lew Yeow Koon Joseph
	Mr Lim Teck San Winston
	Mr Ong Freddy
	Mr Shum Kwok Khoon David
	Mr Sim Yew Soon Michael
	LTC (NS) Tan Heok Andy, BBM
	Mr Tang Gee Hian Michael
	Mr Wong Teck Khim
	Mr Yuen Ka Wei
Long Service Awards (15 Years)	CPT (NS) Cheok Kai Weei
	Mr Law Kah Hock Dave
	Mr Lee Chee Peng
	SLTC (NS) Low Kian Ngian Ace
	CPT (NS) Tan Seng Kiat James
	LTC (RET) Tan Swee Kee
	Mr Tay Kian Hwee David
	Mr Toh Eng Keong Enders
Long Service Awards (10 Years)	MWO (RET) Ang Wei Chye Hansen
	CPT (NS) Boey Lee Chea James
	Mr Chan Wai Kin
	LCP (NS) Chang Wai Choon Chris
	Dr Chiam Tut Fu
	Mr Chien Koh Wei
	Mr Chua Swee Kiat
	Mr Goh Yi Long
	CPT (NS) Ion Danker
	SLTC (RET) James Suresh
	Dr Khoo Yong Chuan

Award Category	Recipient
Long Service Awards (10 Years)	CPT (NS) Lee Hung Han
	Mr Lim Teck Chye
	Mr Lim Tze Wei
	Mr Lin JiaLiang
	Mr Oh Koh Chuan
	LTC (NS) Ow Tai Zhi
	CPL (NS) Soh Yi Da
	MWO (NS) Surindranath S/O Kaseenathan
	LTC (RET) Swee Boon Chai
	Mr Tan Kah Han
	COL (NS) Tan Tze Hian
	Mr Toh Loo Pheng
	Mr Too Chee Keong Patrick
	3SG (NS) Yap Song Niah Clarence
Long Service Awards (5 Years)	LTC (NS) Chan Boon Kiang
	Mr Chee Wee Leong Raymond
	Mr Cheng Mao Xin
	1SG (NS) Chng Eng Keng Adrian
	Mr Choe Peng Sum
	Mr Chua Han Lun Andrew
	Mr Chuang Feng Er Eric
	Ms Gan Wee Lin
	Mr Goh Biong San
	COL (NS) Goh Kee Yong
	CPL (NS) Guo Longjin
	Mr Ho Lai Mun
	Mr Hong Khai Piaw
	SLTC (NS) Jeremiah Jonathan Mark
	CPT (NS) Khoo Stanley
	LSW (RET) Kong Judy
	Mr Kong Seng Foo
	SLTC (NS) Kwek Yiu Wing Kevin
	Mr Lam Soon Onn Randy
	Mr Lau Chee Wee Jeffrey
	LTA (NS) Lau Mun Fai Joel
	Mr Lee Hing Foo Edward
	Mr Lee Jian Ming
	Ms Lee Pheck Li Helen
	Ms Lee Pheck Luang Patricia
	Mr Lee Shu Hao
	Mr Lee Su Peng
	Mr Leong Zhi Xuan Justin
	CPT (NS) Lim Inn Poh

Award Category	Recipient
Long Service Awards (5 Years)	Mr Lim Kian Wee Leonard
	3SG (NS) Lim Kowan
	Ms Lim Patsy
	Mr Lionel Hammy Maria Lee
	MAJ (NS) Liu Jiahao Ivan
	Mr Loh Teck Hua Alvin
	Mr Mah Liang True
	1WO (RET) Mohamed Haniffa
	CPT (NS) Ng Yao Hwee Andy
	Mr Ngiam Yu Xiang Eugene
	Mr Oh Wen-Jing
	SLTC Ong Chin Ann
	Mr Ong Hock Lam Johnny
	Mr Ooi Dennis
	Mr Peng Yi David
	Dr Sim Juay Cheow William
	Mr Tan Chin Wah
	Mr Tan Hock San Andy
	1SG (NS) Tan It Hong Issac
	Ms Tan Lucy
	Ms Tay Hsioa Ling Gisete
	Mr Teo Ming Yi Declan
	CPL (NS) Toh Chin Leng Danny
	Mr Wong Cheng Heow
	Ms Wong Mai Ling
	Mr Wong Simon
	LTC (NS) Wong Yong Cheong Joey
	LCP (NS) Yeo Wu Sheng Donald

ANNEX B

More Information & Quotes from Selected Award Recipients

COL (NS) Toh Han Li
Chairman, SAFRA Jurong Executive Committee
Recipient of the Meritorious Service Award (Bronze)
Age: 57

COL (NS) Toh has been volunteering on various SAFRA committees since 2017. In his current appointment, COL (NS) Toh plays a leading role in ensuring that the club provides relevant offerings and meaningful programmes for national servicemen and their families to bond. Last year, SAFRA Jurong organised the 12th edition of SAFRA Sprint Kids, featuring a series of NS-inspired obstacle challenges and attracted close to 900 participants. A new event, the SAFRA Jurong Neon Night Fest, was also introduced to appeal to younger national servicemen, featuring a mix of food, drinks, darts and singing competitions, bringing over 200 participants together for a night of entertainment and bonding. COL (NS) Toh also concurrently serves as a Member of the SAFRA Management Committee, which steers SAFRA in pursuing its vital mission of strengthening bonds among national servicemen and appreciating their contributions to defence.

CPL (NS) Soh Yi Da
Chairman, SAFRA Youth Network Committee (SYNC)
Recipient of the 10-Year Long Service Award
Age: 35

CPL (NS) Soh has been volunteering in SYNC since 2013 and was appointed as its Chairman in 2020. Under CPL (NS) Soh's leadership, the committee has organised a wide variety of programmes to engage young national servicemen, such as the SAFRA Soundbyte, e-sports tournaments, as well as the SAFRA Entrepreneurs' Marketplace which provided budding entrepreneurs with the opportunity to network and showcase their products and services. Each year, these programmes organised by SYNC reach out to over 30,000 participants. CPL (NS) Soh is also a Member of the SAFRA Punggol Executive Committee.

LTC (NS) Andy Tan Heok, BBM
Chairman, SAFRA Choa Chu Kang Executive Committee
Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and 20-Year Long Service Award
Age: 51

LTC (NS) Tan has been volunteering on various SAFRA and NSRCC committees since 2005. Over the past decade, LTC (NS) Tan has played a pivotal role in shaping SAFRA's newest club at Choa Chu Kang. From chairing the club's Concept Committee and Development Committee in earlier years, he is now the Chairman of the SAFRA Choa Chu Kang Executive Committee. He also concurrently serves as a Member of the SAFRA Management Committee.

The new club has broken many new grounds, being the first SAFRA club to have an all-weather sheltered swimming pool and futsal court, as well as a 150m sky running track. It is also the first sports and recreation building to be certified Green Mark (GM) Platinum Super Low Energy under the Building & Construction Authority's GM: 2021 Full Certification Scheme. For its innovative and sustainable design, the club has also clinched several accolades, including two awards at the World Design Awards 2023 in Sports Design Built and Corporate Interior Built, as well as the Architizer A+ Award and Green Good Design Award in 2024.

2SG (NS) Sathiaseelan Jagateesan
Member, SAFRA Punggol Executive Committee
Recipient of the Commendation Award
Age: 47

2SG (NS) Sathiaseelan has been volunteering on the SAFRA Punggol Executive Committee since 2021 and is actively involved in the organisation of unique events such as the SAFRA Diaper Dash which provided precious opportunities for national servicemen and their families to bond with their babies and connect with other families. As Singapore's largest baby crawling competition, the 7th edition of SAFRA Diaper Dash last year saw over 330 babies aged 6 to 19 months old participating in 3m to 5m races, while their parents cajoled them in various ways to cross the finish line. The SAFRA Diaper Dash also featured many fringe activities, attracting over 8,800 national servicemen and their families.

DBS Bank Ltd
Recipient of the Friend of SAFRA Award

DBS Bank Ltd was honoured for its close collaboration with SAFRA to offer greater value to national servicemen. Since the launch of the co-branded SAFRA DBS Credit/Debit Cards in 2014, DBS Bank Ltd has enabled SAFRA members who are cardholders to enjoy greater savings by leveraging its extensive network of merchant partners islandwide, along with exclusive benefits such as competitive cash rebates on spending, attractive promotions, bonus draws and annual fee waivers.

Ms Chan Sow Han, Managing Director, Head of Payments & Platforms, Consumer Banking Group, DBS Bank Ltd, said, "We are glad to have this partnership with SAFRA to introduce the SAFRA DBS Credit & Debit Card program since 2014. Cardholders get to enjoy cash rebates, discounts and privileges at merchant outlets islandwide all year round, covering a wide array of products and services ranging from F&B, groceries and shopping to entertainment and travel, as well as access to all SAFRA clubhouses and facilities."

Association of Early Childhood and Training Services (ASSETS)
Recipient of the Commendation Award

ASSETS was honoured for playing a pivotal role in reaching out to preschools islandwide to encourage their participation in SAFRA's Appreciating NSmen Art Jam initiative since 2018. Its support has enabled more than 30,000 children from over 300 preschool centres to learn about the importance of NS and Total Defence, and make appreciation gifts for their fathers each year. In early 2021, ASSETS also collaborated with SAFRA on the introduction of the 'Our Hopes, Our Singapore Art Jam' initiative in preschools following the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage continued resilience, unity and renewed hope for the future amongst the children and their families.

Ms Susan Loke, President of ASSETS, said, "We are glad to have supported initiatives such as the Appreciating NSmen Art Jam that help preschool children gain an understanding of important topics such as National Service that are deeply relevant to their families. For many children, it helps them appreciate why their fathers are away for some time each year for their NS duties and strengthens the bond between father and child.''

Burger King Singapore
Recipient of the Commendation Award

Burger King Singapore was honoured for extending exclusive privileges to SAFRA members, and to national servicemen to show appreciation for their service to the nation. It has been offering special promotions such as the 'Book Out Bundle' every July as part of SAFRA's Appreciating NSmen Deals initiative. This year, it also gave away close to 1,500 complimentary WHOPPER burgers to national servicemen, and provided a free dessert to SAFRA members with every meal they purchased at 12 selected outlets near SAFRA clubs.

Ms Ng Lee Tieng, Chief Executive Officer, Burger King Singapore, said, "Since 1982, Burger King Singapore has enjoyed the peace and prosperity secured by the sacrifices of our national servicemen, enabling us to grow as a business alongside the community. To show our heartfelt thanks, we actively provide treats and exclusive offers to national servicemen and SAFRA members."

McDonald's Singapore (Hanbaobao Ptd Ltd)
Recipient of the Commendation Award

McDonald's Singapore (Hanbaobao Ptd Ltd) was honoured for extending exclusive privileges to SAFRA members, and to national servicemen to show appreciation for their service to the nation. Since 2012, it has been providing complimentary treats such as an apple pie or sundae to SAFRA members with every meal purchased at McDonald's outlets located within SAFRA clubs, and its outlet near SAFRA Choa Chu Kang. In recent years, McDonald's also sponsored the giveaway of McChicken Burgers in the form of gift cards to national servicemen and SAFRA members in conjunction with SAF Day and at various SAFRA events and NSF engagements. It had sponsored 3,000 burgers in 2023, and 15,000 burgers in 2024.

Mr Benjamin Boh, Managing Director, McDonald’s Singapore (Hanbaobao Ptd Ltd), said, “We are proud to be part of the local community and hope our small gestures of appreciation over the years have gone some way to delight our national servicemen and SAFRA members.”