

# TSRA Service Rifle Team Wins 2022 Leatherneck Trophy

BY: JOHN ILZHOEFER AND JUSTIN BURNS

The Texas State Rifle Association Service Rifle Team won the Leatherneck Trophy in the National Infantry Trophy Team Match (NTIT) on August 5, 2022, with a score of 1341. The TSRA Service Rifle Team placed second overall to the Army Marksmanship Unit's score of 1344.

In the match, known as "Rattle Battle," six-man teams fire a combined total of 384 rounds at eight silhouette targets from multiple distances from 200 to 600 yards. TSRA Captain, **Justin Utley**, and Coach **Danny Arnold** made perfect wind calls and directed team members, **Dan Pate**, **Clay Hefner**, **Justin Burns**, **Gary Troxell**, **Clay Maugans**, and **John Ilzhoefer** to 144 hits in 50 seconds at 600 yards. They followed with 149 hits at 500 yards in 50 seconds and finished with 63 hits at 300 yards.

The **Leatherneck Trophy** is awarded to the top civilian team competing at the National Trophy Rifle Matches held at Camp Perry, Ohio. TSRA has won the Leatherneck Trophy six times in the last 10 championships (2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021, and 2022).

The win was the culmination of a week of competitions, which began on Monday with the President's 100 (P100), with 5 TSRA members earning a President's 100 tab in the P100 match: **Justin Utley**, **Clay Hefner**, **Gary Troxell**, **Danny Arnold**, and **Clay Maugans**. A total of 52 Texans were in the competition, with 847 total competitors.

On Tuesday, in the National Trophy Individual Match (NTI), **Justin Utley** won the Nathan Hale Trophy (highest civilian) and the Police Rifle Trophy with a 499-26X and set new national records for both. Five other TSRA Service Rifle Team members: **Clay Maugans**, **Gary Troxell**, **Clay Hefner**, **Justin Burns**, and **Danny Arnold**, and one TSRA Junior, **Charisma Owen**, each earned Daniel Boone medals.

The Hearst two-man team event took place on Wednesday. TSRA Service Rifle Teams, **Arnold-Burns**, **Pate-Hefner**, and **Utley-Troxell** all won Hearst Doubles medals. A total of 261 teams were in the competition.

Thursday was the National Trophy Team Match (NTT), where the TSRA Service Rifle Team shot a 2931-86X, and tied on points, but lost the X-count tiebreaker to Illinois. The team was comprised of **Justin Utley**, **Clay Hefner**,



TSRA Service Rifle Team members, (back row, left to right) **Danny Arnold**, **John Ilzhoefer**, **Clay Maugans**, **Clay Hefner**, **Dan Pate**, **Justin Utley**, (front row) **Gary Troxell**, and **Justin Burns**

**Gary Troxell**, **Danny Arnold**, **Dan Pate**, and **Justin Burns**, with **John Ilzhoefer** as the Captain. The TSRA Service Rifle Team holds the national record, with a score of 2947-121X set in 2016. Texas was further represented by two out-of-competition teams and three junior teams.

In addition to the individual match awards, the CMP also awards aggregate trophies. **Justin Utley** won both civilian aggregate trophies: the Alice Bull (P100 + NTI) and Pietroforte (NTI + NTT). Justin holds the national record for both awards.

At the awards ceremony, 2022 Distinguished Riflemen Badges were awarded to the following TSRA members: **Justin Burns**, **Michael Burke** (LA resident), and **Jessie Dunbar** (former TSRA Junior Team member).

The National Trophy Rifle Matches are held annually at Camp Perry, Ohio, by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP).

**For a complete list of results:**

<https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=match&task=edit&tab=results&match=22780>

**For more information on Service Rifle shooting in Texas, please contact:**

[HPSR@tsra.com](mailto:HPSR@tsra.com)