

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION LEGIONS OF HONOR

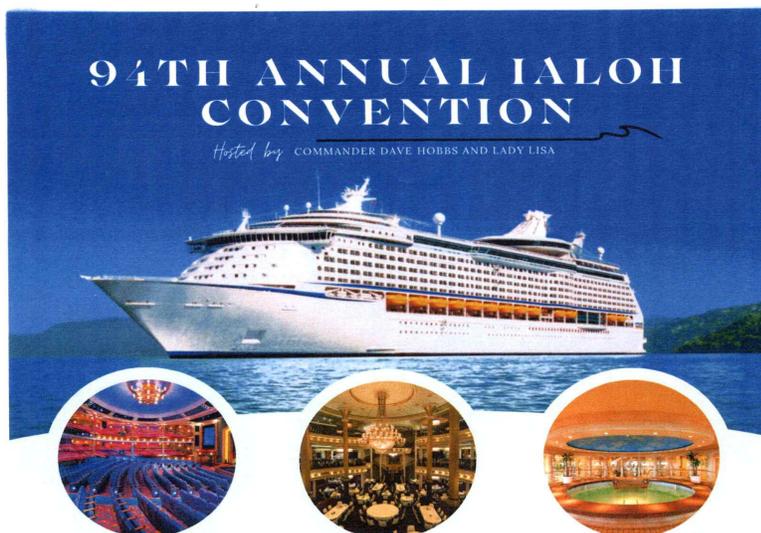
Happy New Year



January 2025

Volume 95, Issue 1

94th Annual Convention



The incredible Voyager of the Seas introduced many of the iconic features that Royal Caribbean guests still love today. Conquer the rock-climbing wall, or find your adventure on the basketball court, ice-skating rink or mini-golf course. If it's zen you seek, achieve it poolside or at the relaxing Vitality® Spa. Live up your nights on the Royal Promenade, with parades, dancing, and duty-free shopping deals. And bring along some friends—with spacious public areas, enhanced staterooms, and a spectacular three-story dining room, this ship has room for your whole crew.

You can dine in the Main Dining Room with complimentary, multi-course dining for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Additional complimentary options including Windjammer Café and Café Promenade for coffee, pastries and snacks. There are also Specialty restaurants where for a cover charge guests can choose any items on the menu from appetizers to dessert.

Enjoy complimentary Broadway-style entertainment in the Main Theater and ice-skating shows in Studio B. The 9,625 square foot Vegas-style Casino Royale® with 162 slots and 25 tables. Enjoy one of the 13 bars, clubs, and lounges that never have a cover, including Scoreboard Sports Bar, Pig & Whistle Pub. Visit the Royal Shops for duty-free shopping featuring premium designer brands and onboard exclusives including apparel, accessories, fine jewelry, beauty and more.



SCAN HERE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO BOOK!

No smart phone? visit www.AristocratTravelFL.com/BookIALOH25 to start your booking from a computer

Any questions regarding the cruise or your bookings can be directed to Dana with Aristocrat Travel LLC
AristocratTravel@outlook.com FL T189303

The annual convention is fast approaching so don't delay get your application in. Commander Hobbs and Lady Lisa have planned a great trip and it should be a lot of fun. All you have to do is just set back relax and enjoy the cruise. For more information go to the IALOH website at [www.ialoh.org/Events/Annual Convention](http://www.ialoh.org/Events/Annual%20Convention) or scan the bar code. We look forward to see you on the cruise.



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**April 2025
 Newsletter
 Article Cutoff Date
 March 15th, 2025**

The newsletter is published quarterly and is on the IALOH website at <http://www.ialoh.org/newsletter.html>. If you would like something in the newsletter please sent it to me. My contact information is on Page 15.

Now Hear This

"From the Bridge" Greetings Brothers,

Talk about time flying. It seems like only yesterday we were in Las Vegas for the Change of Command from Jr. Past International Commander Russ Gray and now we are approaching the 94th Annual Convention/ Cruise slated for April 2025.

Having just come away from the 94th Annual Arlington Pilgrimage, there are a lot of people to thank. First to Lady Lisa with her untiring effort in setting up the wonderful Washington, D.C. / Arlington Bus Tour and so much more. A big thank you go to 4th Lt. Commander Gerry Massey, Lady Connie and their team for making it a huge success. Lisa and I look forward to next years Arlington already. As previous Commanders have experienced, picking a single highlight of the event is impossible to do; however, nothing can compare to going down on the platform and laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I was extremely proud to have Imperial Sir Richard Burke and Dr. Leslie Stewart (President of the Board of trustees for

Shriners Hospital) to join me. I especially want to thank the Ladies of the Egypt Shrine Legion of Honor of Tampa, Florida for donating the wreath for this years event and for Frances Lingrel for accompanying us on the platform. At this years Memorial Luncheon we were lucky to have Junior Past potentate Tony Lacava of Kena Shrine give the memorial address. I also want to thank all the people who donated items for our raffle this year. It was great to see the IALOH Store set up again in the hospitality room. All in all, it was a tremendous weekend that Lisa and I will always remember.

Now its time set focus for the new year with trips planned to Buffalo, New York and to Houston, Texas. January will also see I.S. Mark D. Miles, IALOH 7th Lt. Commander become the Junior Past Potentate of Egypt Shrine and set his focus on the IALOH. We wish him and Lady Tara continued success in his endeavors.

Don't forget the IALOH Convention/ Cruise. The dates are April 24 - April 28, 2025 on the RCCL Voyager of the Seas. Information is on the IALOH website



David Hobbs, PC



under "Events". There are many exciting events planned on the cruise both from the IALOH and the cruise line itself. Be sure to take part of the Golf Tournament, Door Decorating Contest, the Great Caribbean Duck Hunt and you won't want to miss the Unit In-Line Inspection. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you. Lady Lisa and I hope you have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone again

Dave Sobisa

2024 Ottawa Wreath Laying Ceremony

The Tunis Shriners Legion of Honour will be holding their 21st Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National War Memorial Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Saturday 7 June 2025. Form-up is at 0930 hrs. We will be using the Brookstreet Hotel in Kanata as our base hotel. Participants will be bused to the National War Memorial for the Ceremony. Further details will be available on the Tunis website (tunisshriners.ca) early in the new year.



1st Lieutenant Commander

I want to start this article by taking this opportunity to congratulate Commander Hobbs on a very successful Arlington Pilgrimage. The event went very well and all who attended seemed to have a great time. The time of the wreath laying was earlier than normally held and as a result the event was more personal for the legion.

During the first weekend of June, I was honored to fill in for Commander Hobbs laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa, Canada hosted by the Tunis Shriners. If you ever get the opportunity to attend that event you should try to do so.

In August I attended the Southeastern Shrine Association convention at Pigeon Forge Tennessee. I want to congratulate Steve Singleton for being elected as the new commander. It was a good event and Vicki and I had a very good time meeting with old friends and meeting new. Another association I attended was the South Atlantic Shrine Association where Barry Spenser became the commander. I believe both of these associations are well served by the election of these two nobles.

Parade season is upon us again and I know that many of the temples, which fall under the Sixth Division, will be actively putting our face, as Shriners and members of the Legion of Honor, out to our community. It is one of the greatest advertisements we have for people to see their Veteran Shriners. I say their Shriners because as a group we serve the children and families of our communities. We are always recognized during parades by those who are aware of what we mean to them and what we do, so it is important that we are active in these parades.

Vicki and I are looking forward to the Annual Convention aboard the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Sea 24 through 28 April 2025. David and Lisa Hobbs have done a great job putting together what appears to be a great event and we hope to see many of you there.

Vicki and I hope everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed the spirit of the season. We visited family members we hadn't seen in years. They are getting old.

YITF
Wayne Steele

Division 6



Wayne Steele



If you have a business, think about putting an ad in the yearbook to publicize your business. Just complete the yearbook ad form; submit the form along with the ad narrative and payment to the Adjutant. The ad form can be completed and sent electronically.

Officer Candidates



Gilbert "Gil" Negrete
Lt. Commander



David Lavoie Lt.
Commander



Buddy Givens
Finance Officer

2nd Lieutenant Commander

Greetings. At the time of this writing Lady Theresa and I are enjoying the holidays and looking forward to the arrival of winter.

The holiday season is one of the best times of the year during which all our Shrine Temples are illuminated with holiday decorations and blessed symbols. The following is a brief synopsis of recent Shrine Legion of Honor (LOH) happenings and a preview of events "on the horizon."

On October 23 we participated in the Vienna Halloween Parade. This night parade is well attended and always brings out large crowds. This year's theme was "Party Like it's 1999." The LOH Honor guard looked splendid marching down the avenue and we were very well received by spectators.

The Arlington Wreath Laying sponsored by the IALOH was a great success this year. International Cmdr David Hobbs and 4th LCDR Gerry Massey (Arlington Chairman) worked hard to make it a memorable event. If you missed it, we enjoyed a Halloween costume party on Thursday evening; a Memorial Service at the hotel on Saturday morning and a stoic wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Imperial Potentate Richard Burke was our featured guest speaker at the Memorial Service, and Ill. Anthony LaCava of the CIA, was our guest speaker at the luncheon.

We had a great time at the Kena Oktoberfest held on September 21st. This event, sponsored by the LOH was held at the Kena Pavillion and was packed with theme dressed attendees. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the LOH and proceeds enable the LOH to pay it forward all year for veterans service events like the annual Veterans Brunch.

Over Veterans Day-weekend I attended many veteran related events including parades, luncheons and Poppy Drives. The highlight, was the special ceremony to honor our fallen comrades at the Warrenton Cemetery. On the horizon....

We are looking forward to visiting various Shrine centers for the "2025 Shrine Installation Season." I am scheduled to attend Kena Open Installation on January 11th; the Boumi LOH Installation and the Kena LOH Change of Command (January 18th).

We are looking forward to a couple of very large parades including the George Washington Parade on February 16th and the Ballyshaners St. Patrick's Parade on March 1st; both parades will be held in Alexandria Virginia.

Lady Theresa and I have RSVP'd for the Kena Oyster Roast on March 15th and are really looking forward to it. This event, sponsored by the Council of Units is one of the Temple's largest fundraisers of the year. The Kena LOH will be on hand to ensure it's success.

On March 29th I will be lacing up my sneakers and participating in the 2025 Vietnam Veterans 5K in Warrenton, VA. Proceeds to benefit Heroes Bridge, to support veterans.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the spring is going to be the IALOH Convention at Sea; to begin April 28th setting sail out of Port Canaveral, Florida. To book your cruise go to the IALOH web page:

<http://www.ialoh.org/annual-convention.html>.

Ahoy matee!

Lady Theresa and I would like to wish all of you and your families-Happy Holidays! We hope to see soon, at a Shrine Center near you!

YITF,

Geoffrey D. Lyster, PC, PP, PMASAC

2nd Lt. Commander Continued on Page 5

Division 7



Geoffrey Lyster, PP, PC, PMC



Association Meetings

TALOH
February 20 - 23, 2025
Houston, TX

SESA
March 13 - 18, 2025
Helen, GA

SASA
April 3 - 6, 2025
Jericho Shrine
Kingsport, TN

For more information scan the QR Code or go to the website at www.ialoh.org/ Associations



2nd Lt. Commander Continue from page 4



-Top left: With Lady Theresa at Arlington Nov. 2nd.

- Top Ctr: Kona Honor Guard at Vienna Halloween Night Parade Oct. 23 (Vienna, VA)

- Top rt: Crowd scene at Kona Oktoberfest sponsored by the LOH; Sep. 21 (Manassas, VA)

- Lower left: With Imp. Pote Richard G Burke at Arlington Nat'l Cemetery Nov. 2 (Arlington, VA)



Lower rt: Lady Theresa at the Oktoberfest Ladies Beer Stein Races! Sep. 21 (Manassas, VA)

3rd Lieutenant Commander

Greeting Nobles and families, January will be filled with many memorable visits to Unit Installations in which we look forward to participating. February takes Jennifer and I to the great state of Texas for the TALOH mid-winter in Houston.

We have made our travel plans to attend the 94th Annual Convention Cruise, Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas, from 24 – 28 April 2025. I hope many of you will be able to join the beach fun and water festivities at this amazing 5-day cruise to the Bahamas. All the general information and registration forms can be found on our IALOH website, www.ialoh.org.

I hope you and your families have a safe, happy and blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. Doug Tayrien, Lt. Commander



Division 2



Doug Tayrien, PC



5th Lieutenant Commander

Division 3



Abou Ben Adhem Legion of Honor leading the Waynesville, MO Christmas Parade. Left to Right, PC Christopher Story, PC Vern Hendrix, PC, 5th Lt Commander IALOH Dean Cook, and Commander Elect Derreck Sander. Riding in the cart is Captain of the Guard Michael Rice.



Abou Ben Adhem Legion of Honor leading the Abou Ben Adhem Ceremonial. Left to Right, PC, CSSA Commander Gilbert Negrete, Commander Jeff Stokes, Commander Elect Derreck Sander, PC Vern Hendrix, PC, 5th Lt Commander IALOH Dean Cook. Riding in the cart is Captain of the Guard Michael Rice.



Dean Cook, PC



Abou Ben Adhem Legion of Honor leading the Lebanon, MO Christmas Parade. Left to Right, PC, 5th Lt Commander IALOH Dean Cook, Commander Jeff Stokes, and Captain of the Guard Michael Rice.

Arlington 2025

**Arlington Wreath Laying.
The Crown Plaza**

Crystal River—Washington DC.

1480 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA 22202

October 29 - November 2, 2025

The Crowne Plaza Crystal City Washington D.C. is just one mile from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Take advantage of our complimentary shuttle from the airport to the hotel and our location, which is just four miles from the National Mall.

The Crystal City Metro Station provides easy access to Washington D.C. Visit the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, or one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Move Information will be posted once all the details has be finalized.

7th Lieutenant Commander

Division 4

Greetings from Florida! It has been an exciting year thus far to be an IALOH officer. To me, one of the greatest opportunities to show the Fez and exemplify the patriotism and service that we have all contributed is in parades. There is something about seeing and acknowledging the many veterans throughout the area as they stand and render honors to the flag as the Legions of Honor pass by. It is both humbling and heartwarming.

As I talk to LOH members of various temples (and look inwards as well), I cannot help but notice the number of units who are struggling with membership. At the same time, I am struck by the number of nobles in any given temple who are veterans yet not a member of the LOH. For those units who have shown growth and success, I have been gathering thoughts and ideas to share with units who need help.

Communication is a critical ingredient in the recipe for success, and we need to

capitalize on things that work to provide the WIIFM (What's In It For Me) that will attract and retain veteran nobles.

As we move along, I must (sadly) take a moment to acknowledge Navy's victory over Army during the recent Army-Navy football game. I can assure you all that International Commander Hobbs was quick to celebrate their victory. Well done, Navy. Bravo Zulu.

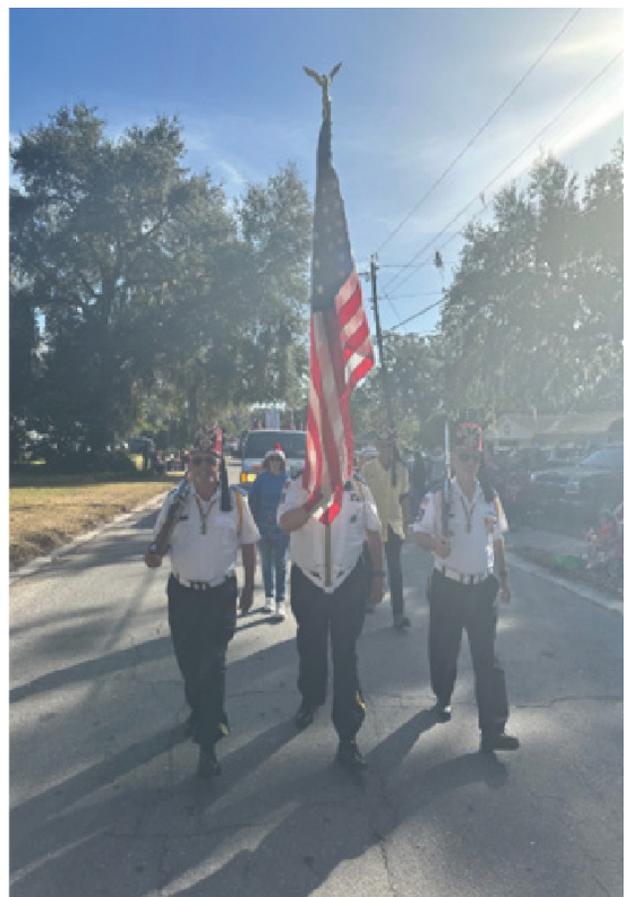
We are getting closer to our annual convention afloat, and it is going to be a fantastic event. I look forward to seeing everyone there and hope that the inline inspection participation is well attended and well represented.

On behalf of my Lady Tara and myself, I would like to wish everyone Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year. May the Great Architect bless you all and keep you safe.

Yours in the Faith,
Mark D. Miles
7th Lt. Commander



Mark Miles



From the International Adjutant/Editor

Hi Everyone!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May your new year be prosperous and fun.

The Arlington Wreath laying was a great event. Commander Hobbs and 4th Lt. Commander Gerry Massey and Lady Connie did a great job.

The annual report forms for 2025 have been sent out to all the Units. The forms

will also, be on-line on the website so you can submit them electronically.

There are three candidates running for officer positions. See the website for information.

That is all for now. Until next time, aim high.

YITF,
David Smith, PC



David Smith, PC



Around The Legion of Honor



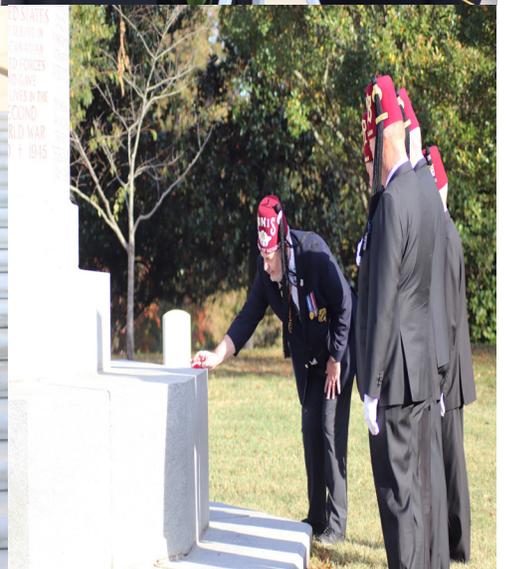
L to R: Ismailia and Al Menah presenting colors at Veterans events.



Arlington 2024



Arlington 2024



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Newsletter Requirements

The newsletter is published according to the schedule set forth by the Int'l. Commander. The purpose of the newsletter is to "pass the word" and get applications/forms to the membership. Distribution is to all Legion of Honor Units and to individual subscribers at the rate of \$10.00 per year. A free, on-line version is available for download on the IALOH website - www.ialoh.org. If you would like to receive a printed edition please contact the International Adjutant.

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It's an honor to
belong to the
Legion of Honor!

*The objectives of the **International Association**
Legions of Honor:*

*To foster a Spirit of Patriotism and Love of
Country and Flag; To Perpetuate the
memory of our Comrades in Arms who
made the Supreme Sacrifice by giving their
lives for their Country while members of the
Armed Forces; To devote our efforts as
individuals and Legion of Honor Units to
strive for and increase in Friendship and
Cooperation between our Legion of Honor
Units and other Units of Shriners
International.*



Website: www.ialoh.org

On the website you can find:

List of Current Officers

Division Assignments

Upcoming Events

Forms

Newsletter