



INTERNATIONAL LEGIONS OF HONOR

Newsletter The Legion



October 2025

Volume 95, Issue 4



In Memory Joe Grayson

Joseph Cole Grayson, beloved husband, grandfather, veteran, and civic leader, passed away peacefully on August 30, 2025, at the age of 92. He graduated from Miami Edison Senior High School in 1952. Though he was awarded a football scholarship to the University of Miami, Joe instead chose to serve his country by joining the United States Navy. From 1952 to 1956, he served honorably as an aircraft engine mechanic. Following his military service, Joe graduated from the Emory-Riddle Aeronautical Institute in 1958 and began a long and dedicated career with Delta

Airlines as an aircraft mechanic. He worked with Delta in Miami for 30 years, retiring in 1988. Joe's life was marked not only by professional and family dedication, but also by his passionate civic and charitable involvement. A proud Mason for 70 years with Village Lodge 315 in Miami Shores, Florida, Joe also devoted more than six decades of service to the Shrine. His contributions to the Shriners included serving on the Board of Governors of the Shriners Hospital in Tampa, as Potentate of the Mahi Shrine Center in 1990, and as President of both the Florida and Southeastern Shrine Associations. His leadership extended nationally as International Commander of the International Association Legions of Honor. He was also a proud member of the Scottish Rite, the Order of DeMolay, and The Royal Order of Jesters. For the past five years, Joe has volunteered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children in need.

Arlington 2025

Arlington Wreath Laying.

The Crowne 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.

To registrar for Arlington visit the ILOH website at www.ialoh.org/Events/Arlington

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January 2026

Newsletter

Article Cutoff Date

December 15th, 2025

The newsletter is published quarterly and is on the ILOH 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 Commander's Message

Brethren, I would like to start this newsletter off with thanking every one of you for your prayers, cards, flowers and friendship over the past couple of months with the passing of my wonderful Lady. Vicki loved all of you and I will miss having her by my side as I make my visits over the remainder of my time as the commander of the ILOH.

It has been a busy time since my last newsletter input. Going back to June, following my assumption of command, I attended the wreath laying ceremony at the Canadian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier alongside imperial Sir Brad Koehn in Ottawa, Canada. Commander Fred Haggart did a super job as always. The banquet was excellent and the conversation and presentation were superb. Fred was deservingly awarded the Distinguish Service Award for his constant commitment to the Shrine mission and this Legion of Honor organization.

July took us to Atlanta Georgia for the imperial Session. The Legion of Honor present the flags at both the opening and closing ceremonies. Thank you for all those who participated. We had a good business meeting and for those who stayed it appeared that they had an enjoyable experience in Atlanta. Although the weather did us no favors for the parade. It was hot and humid, but the Legion fought through it in style.

Following Atlanta I found myself in the great North West at the Summer Pacific Northwest Shrine Association held in Wenatchee, Washington. I had the pleasure of installing Brother Dough McKay as the new commander of the PNSA during the business meet. Adjutant Orville Stoner Jr. did a superb job organizing the event.

Our next stop was Pigeon Forge, Tennessee for the Southeastern Shrine Association, where Steve Singleton turned over command to Tracy Lemasters. Oleka took home the trophy of their first-place win in the inline inspection. Well done, Oleka.

On 27 August I headed to Des Moines Iowa to attend the Central States Shrine Association. Sam Burnett took over the reins from Gilbert Negrete, as the new commander, and hit the floor running.

From 3 to 4 October, I will be attending the Mocha Shriners LOH Change of Command in London, Canada. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meet some new ones. My Chief of Staff, Jim Marshall, will be traveling with me.

I strongly encourage anyone who has not had the opportunity to attend the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Virginia to do so. It is a memorable experience and one you will be glad you attend. We follow the wreath laying by going to the Canadian Monument and laying poppies. There is still time to get you name on the list. Go the ILOH web page to get registered. Your point of contact is 4th ILOH Lieutenant Commander Dean Cook at 417-588-9477/417-664-9350 or dscook95w5@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there. There will be a drawing for a free hotel stay at the Campbell House in Lexington, Kentucky during the 2026 Annual convention in May. The ticket will be drawn at Arlington during the Arlington luncheon, so you will know up front if the free room is yours at the convention.

Wayne Steele
Commander,
International Legion of Honor



International Commander

Wayne Steele



Association Information

TALOH

Mid-Winter Conference
March 12th - 15th, 2026
Townplace Suites by
Marriott – Houston Westchase
10610 Westpark Drive
Houston, Texas 77042

Great Lakes Shrine Association
Legions of Honor
51th Annual Convention
August 5th - August 9th, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton London Ontario
300 King Street
London, ON N6B 1S2

PNSA Convention
July 30th - August 2nd, 2026
Kimberly, BC

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



1st Lieutenant Commander

Greetings. As I write this article we are approaching the coming of Fall. September 22nd marks the autumnal equinox. This occurs when the Sun is directly over the Earth's equator, resulting in approximately 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness for most locations on Earth. Fall is my favorite season of the year with the change of colors, cooler weather, football games and all the great fall Shriner events.

The following is a brief synopsis of Shriner activities I have enjoyed the last quarter and those events **"On the horizon."**

We had a great time at the **Shriner Imperial Convention** (June 28-30) in downtown Atlanta. The ILOH Honor Guard looked splendid and well-organized presenting the wide array of Imperial Flags. The parade was also well attended by your International Officers. It was a great showing by your team and I hope you will consider coming out next year, to sunny Tampa, Florida.

On the 4th of July I attended the **Fairfax Independence Day Parade**. Our Color Guard looked great and was a crowd favorite. Afterwards, we enjoyed a bounteous luncheon sponsored by the Fairfax American Legion.

-On July 12 we attended the joint **Northern Virginia Shriner-Scottish Rite (Bodies) Family Picnic**. Our organizations are very close and this partnership helps to solidify our masonic bond. Partnering is a great way to network and increase attendance. Even the Past Potentates pitched in and were in charge of the corn on the cob preparation (see photo attached). Which raised the question, "How much corn can a Past Pote shuck..."

-On July 19 we attended the **Kena Ten Thousand Dollar Drawdown**. Someone went home with the valuable grand prize. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and does not take any start-up capital (ticket sales fund the prizes). Something to consider for your home unit or Shrine.

-On Aug. 8th I attended the **South Eastern Shrine Assoc. (SESA) LOH Change of Command (CoC) & Installation** in beautiful Pigeon Forge, TN. We were all very shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of ILOH First Lady Vicki Steele. Our profound condolences go out to the family. At the CoC, I was honored to be the Installing Officer. Congratulations to all the new Officers. Next year SESA will holding the mid-year convention in Huntsville, AL in "Rocket City." I hope you will come out and join us!

-On September 5th I attended the **Mid-Atlantic Shrine Assoc. (MASA) LOH Fall Meeting and In-Line Inspection** in sunny Virginia Beach, VA. MASA LOH Cmdr B. Griffin did a great job organizing the inspection and annual luncheon. In-Line inspection was attended by the MASA President and staff; the host Khedive Divan, Past Potentates and PICs. The competition was very close, as usual. The results were....Kena Shriners taking home the first place trophy! Our thanks to all the participants, spectators and luncheon guests.

On the Horizon (events in the next ninety days)

-On Sep. 20th Lady Theresa and I will be working at the **Kena Oyster Roast and Barbeque** sponsored by the Kena LOH and Kena 500. Our annual Spring Oyster Roast has been so successful, we are trying to hold an additional Fall event. I hope we get a good assignment – Lady Theresa and I have experience shucking oysters.

Division 7



Geoffrey Lyster, PP, PC, PMC



-On Sep. 20th I will participating in an **ILOH Board of Directors** meeting.
-Over the weekend of Oct. 29 to 2 November we are looking forward to the **Arlington Wreath Laying Pilgrimage**. International Commander Steele and Arlington Chairman, 4th Lt. Commander Dean Cook have worked hard to make this a "weekend to remember." I hope you will come out and join us.

-Over Veterans Day-Weekend I have been invited to several events including a parade, memorial event and luncheon. I promise to provide a full briefing.

-During the Yuletide season I am looking forward to attending LOH Holiday parties and assorted events. It is going to be a busy fall season leading into a great Yuletide Shriner season. Lady Theresa and I would like to wish all of you and your families our very best. We hope to see soon, at a Shrine Center near you!

YITF,
Geoffrey D. Lyster, PC, PP, PMASAC

1st Lt. Commander Continued Page 4

1st Lt. Commander Continued from page 3**Clockwise:**

- Top left: SESA LOH Installation of Officers, Aug. 8 (Pigeon Forge, TN)
- Top center: Spectacular Flag Ceremony at Imperial Session, July 29 (Atlanta, GA)
- Top right: L to R-LCDR Lyster; Kena Adj P. Cutler; MASA Insp. General. T. Kalinowski; and MASA Cmdr B. Griffin, Sep. 5, (Virginia Beach, VA)
- Lower right: Posing with the first place "Hillbilly Jalopy" at SESA Parade, Aug. 9 (Pigeon Forge, TN).
- Lower center: Past Potentates shucking corn at Shriner & Scottish Rite Family Picnic Jul. 12 (Manassas, VA).
- Lower left: Kena LOH Color Guard at the Fairfax 4th of July Parade, July 4 (Fairfax, VA).

**Arlington Tomb Shirts**

To order an Arlington Tomb shirt: Go to the ILOH website [www.ialoh.org/Event/ Arlington Wreath Laying Ceremony/"Order Your Tomb Shirt"](http://www.ialoh.org/Event/Arlington%20Wreath%20Laying%20Ceremony/Order%20Your%20Tomb%20Shirt). If you have any questions please contact: Charles McIntosh, 2310 Skipcha Dr. Harker Heights, TX 76548 HP: 254-245-8930, CP: 254-368-1542, Email: charlesmci@hotmail.com



2nd Lieutenant Commander

Greeting Nobles and families,

Lady Jenn and I attended the Shrine Imperial Session this July in Atlanta. It was a great time visiting with Shriners that I haven't seen in some time and renewing old friendships. We look forward to attending the 152nd Imperial Session next July in Tampa Florida.

I also attended the Great Lakes Shrine Association (GLSA) Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this past August. It was a great event in a beautiful city and state. I had the opportunity to visit the Indiana War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis. If you have never seen this memorial, you need to add it to your bucket list. It is a truly fantastic piece of military history for the state. A good convention indeed and congratulations to Cmdr Brian Harris and all the newly installed Officers.

My travels then took me to Central States Shrine Association (CSSA) in Omaha, Nebraska. It was a full one day event with much being accomplished during that time. Congratulations to Cmdr Sam Burnett and to all the newly installed CSSA officers.

Finally, Lady Jenn and I will head to Arlington, Virginia for the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If you have never seen a wreath laying ceremony at the tomb you should consider attending. The cutoff time to register for the event and to get hotel reservation is 1 October. The forms are located on the ILOH web-page under events.

Doug Tayrien,
Lt. Commander

Division 2



Doug Tayrien, PC



Left Photo: 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Doug Tayrien performing the installation of Brian Harris as the GLSA Commander.

Top Photo: 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Doug Tayrien marching in the Imperial parade.

**95th Annual Convention
Lexington, Kentucky
May 6 - 10, 2025
The Campbell House**



The 95th annual convention will be at the Campbell house in Lexington, Kentucky. Commander Steele and Lady Vicki have would hard on making this a great event. The Campbell House is a historic hotel with an equestrian heritage The recently renovated Campbell House is conveniently located near downtown, four miles from Blue Grass Airport and Keeneland Racecourse, putting the best of Lexington at your doorstep. Visit the nearby Kentucky Horse Park, University of Kentucky, or one of the many local bourbon distilleries. Start your day at Outpost Cafe with a freshly brewed specialty coffee and end your night with live music and a flight at The Rackhouse Tavern.

To register for the convention you can go to the ILOH website and [www.ialoh.org/Events/Annual convention](http://www.ialoh.org/Events/Annual%20convention). All the forms at there just click on the required buttons. To make a hotel reservation click on the picture with the hotel reservation link. For more information you can scan the QR code which will take you to the website. We look forward to seeing you in Lexington.

The room rate is \$116.00 from May 5 - 10, 2026. The cut off date to make hotel reservations is April 12, 2026. After that date there is no guarantee you will get the room rate of \$116.00.



4th Lieutenant Commander

On Jun 14th-Jun 18th 2025, Susanne and I went to Gatlinburg, TN for our 2025 Potes Trip. A big thanks to Potentate Steve and Lady Sandy Allgood for letting us enjoy a week of pure relaxation.



**4th Lt. Commander Continued on
page 8 and 9**

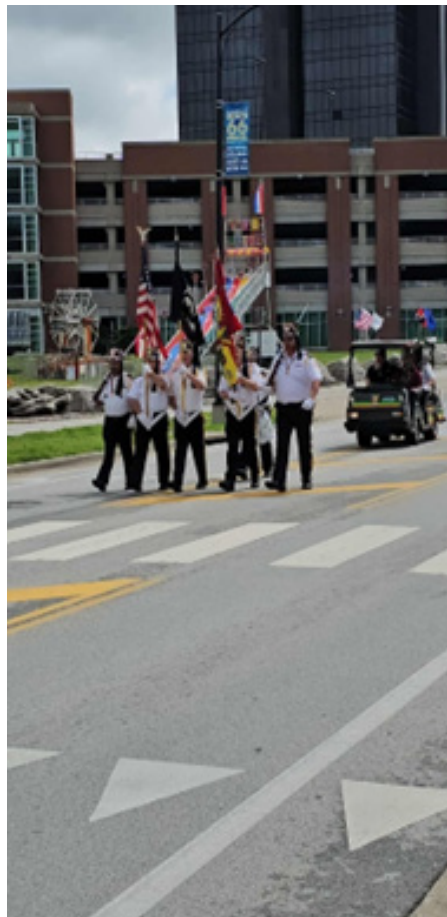
Division 3



Dean Cook, PC



On Jun 6th-Jun 7th 2025 Lady Susanne and I attended About Ben Adhem Ceremonial and was introduced as Our Temple Division Representative for ILOH and 4th Lt Commander of the International Legions of Honor.



On July 28th -July 3rd 2025 we attended Imperial Session in Atlanta, Ga with this stranger PIC/PC CSSA LOH Russell Gray.



On Aug 6th – Aug 10th 2025 we attended Great Lakes Shrine Association Legion of Honor Installation in Indianapolis, IN. Commander Brian Harris of Mocha Temple, London, ON, takes Command (bottom left photo). The next Great Lakes Shrine Association Legion of Honor meeting will be in London, ON. Information can be found on the ILOH website.



It was my Honor and Privilege to present Larry Hearn (bottom photo) with the Distinguished Service Award. This award is reserved for the highest recognition of deserving individuals that have gone above and beyond the call of duty.



On the 19th of Aug 2025 I attended Ainad LOH monthly stated meeting in East St. Louis, IL with PIC Jim Pulley.



On Aug 27th -Aug 31st 2025 we attended Central States Shrine Association Ceremonial in Des Moines, IA. We were honored to attend the CSSA LOH Installation and be the Master of Ceremonies. Congratulations CSSA LOH JPC Gilbert Negrete for his year as Commander. Commander Sam Burnett takes the reins and will take us to Davenport, IA.



6th Lieutenant Commander

Division 4

Hi Brother Legion Nobles,

I am honored to serve as your 6th Lieutenant Commander this year. As you may know, Commander Steele appointed me to serve as the 6th Lieutenant Commander. As always, it is an Honor to Belong to the Legion of Honor.

Since July, when I was appointed, I have had the honor of presenting the Distinguished Service Award to 98 year old, Past Potentate William O. Bradley, from Olieka Shriners. He served as Potentate twice, in 1980 and 1983. He has been a member of the Legion of Honor for 60 years and a Shriner for 63 years. What an honor to meet this LoH member and present him with this award.

Last month, 4th Lt Commander Dean Cook and I visited the Ainad LoH in East St. Louis, Illinois. I was commander there 19 years ago. I have called most of my units or tried to contact them this past month. I was able to talk with many of the

commanders and adjutants. Most of the units in Florida have been dark for the Summer. All of the units I contacted are doing well. Everyone I talked with needed members.

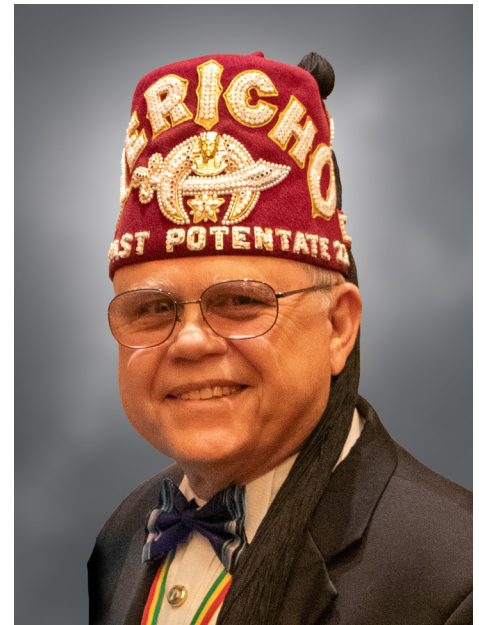
Membership is key for keeping our units vibrant in our temples. I ask all LoH members to get out and recruit for their units. I was happy to get to talk with so many of the LoH units in my division.

Here is my info for getting hold of me:
Email: collinsvillefan@comcast.net
Phone number: 423-484-9650

Please feel free to contact me any time.

Until next time, God bless you all. It's always an honor to be in the Legion of Honor.

Yours in the faith,
Jim Pulley, P.P, PIC
6th Lt. Commander



Jim Pulley, PP, PIC



7th Lieutenant Commander

Noble Roger Huff, PC Ismailia Temple, Buffalo, NY - receiving his DSA at the LOH Family Picnic held annually at the Walther estate.



Division 6



Doug Foss



Left Bottom: I attended Ismailia's Fall Ceremonial and got a picture with the photographer Noble Dave Cammarano, Ismailia Press Corps



Bottom Right: SESA Officers being sworn in by Lt. CMDR. Geoffrey Lyster PP, PC, PMC and declaration made by me! Here Ye, Here Ye!



7th Lt. Commander Continued on page 12

7th Lt. Commander Continued from page 11

I had the honor of being asked to be in the SESA parade as a rifle bearer for the Legion of Honor.



My Lady Heather and I enjoying some southern hospitality at the SESA Oasis.

Not sure what happened here at SESA but my wife Lady Heather and are Water Buffaloes now!



My Chief of Staff, Dan Walther PP, PC, DSA being sworn in as an elected officer on the GLSA Line. Congratulations Daniel!



From the International Adjutant/Editor

Hi Everyone!

The Arlington Wreath Laying is fast approaching so get your registration forms and hotel reservation in as soon as possible. I am not the Arlington registration Chairmen this year; that duty has been passed to the 4th Lt. Commander Dean Cook.

The Yearbook has been published and mailed. If you did not get a yearbook and should have received one please let me know.

If your Unit has anything they would like in the newsletter please let me know. You can send articles in a word document or PDF. If I have room in the newsletter I will include it.

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

YITF,
David Smith, PC



David Smith, PC



Around the Legion of Honor



4th Divisional
Asst. Chief of Staff
Bill Horrom
visiting the Mabuhay
Legion of Honor

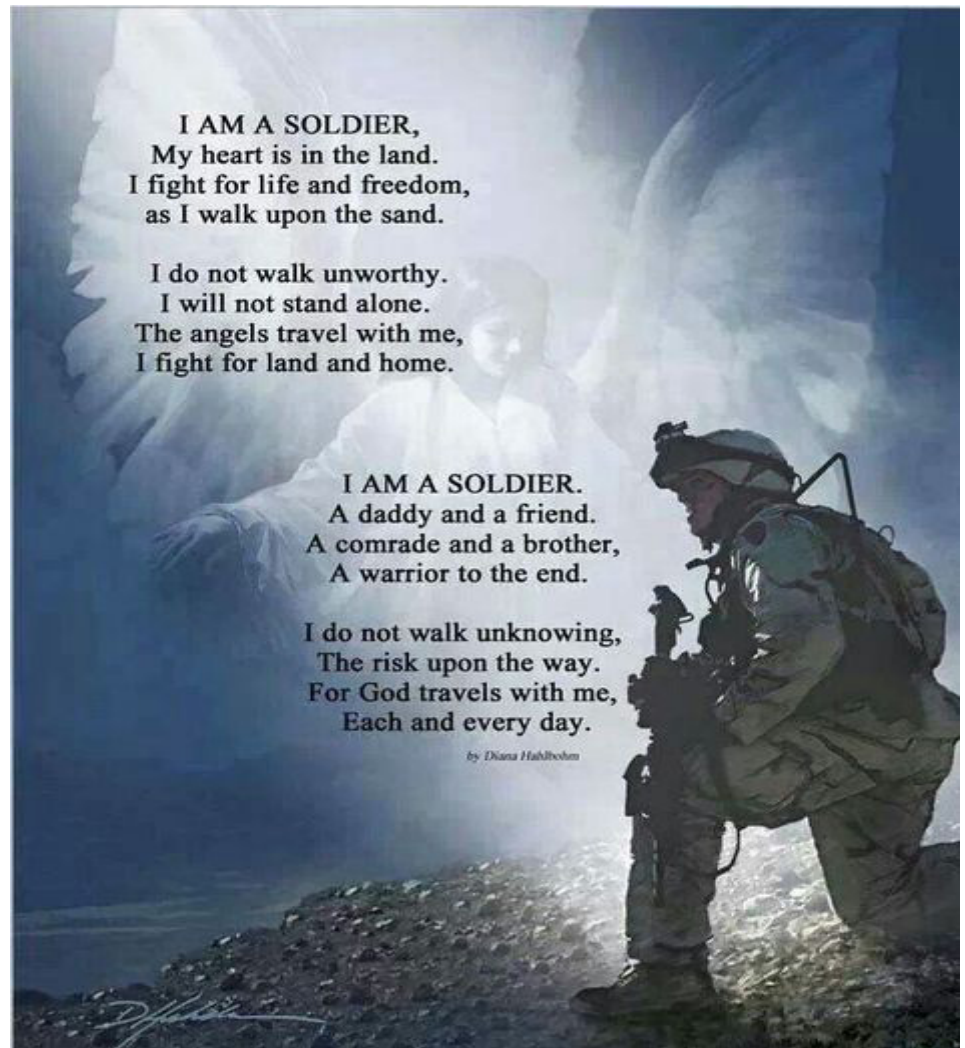


November 11th Veterans Day

Let's remember our fellow comrades that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and say a prayer for our service men and woman that are serving today that they stay out of harms way.

Happy Holidays

As the holiday season approaches the International Officers want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.



It is the VETERAN, not the preacher,
who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter,
who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the VETERAN, not the poet,
who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer,
who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer,
who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, not the politician,
who has given us the right to vote.

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Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in individual articles are the Opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editor or Office of the ILOH. Articles may be edited for size constraints but editorial content will not be changed.

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 ILOH 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 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