

# Polish Falcons of America Legion of Honor Handbook



Revised May 2020

# My Legion of Honor Record

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nest: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

I received my **Bronze** LOH on: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

LOH Oath Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

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I received my **Silver** LOH on: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

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I received my **Gold** LOH on: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

# Welcome

Welcome to the Legion of Honor.

The Legion of Honor Members are the most dedicated and supportive Falcons in the Nest, District and Executive bodies of our organization.

The Legion of Honor offers direction and experience to all levels of our Polish Falcon Organization.

You were inducted into the Legion of Honor because you have shown the extra effort needed to make our organization survive for 130 years.

Please continue to lead, guide and give support to all your Nest, District and National Officers and Directors. With your strength and guidance, the Polish Falcons of America will thrive for another 130 years.





# Purpose

“The purpose of the Falcon Legion of Honor is the preservation and fostering of the noble ideals, principles, traditions, precepts and customs of the Falcon Order, as defined by its’ founders and originators. Those Members entitled/qualified for the honor are the deserving men and women who by their untiring sacrifice have worked within the Falcons and among Polonia gaining respect and esteem. They have also shown integrity and an unimpeachable character to obtain the finest reputation amongst the Falcon Members.”

From the LOH Rules and Regulations

## **Druh Walter Pawlak** **Founder of the Legion of Honor**



Druh Walter Pawlak was born in Płock (not far from Warsaw) and moved to America when he was 14 in 1902. He became active in the Falcons immediately and served the PFA in many capacities.

During the First World War, Pawlak became a Captain in the Polish American army and served in the Polish-Soviet War in 1919-1921.

As Physical Instructor, Druh Pawlak sought to revitalize the gymnastics and athletic program of the PFA after the War.

He also proposed the establishment of an order of merit for recognizing dedicated Falcons and their services. The Legions' establishment of special recognition of men and women who helped bring about Poland's independence in WWI.

The Legion idea was strongly supported by Dr. T.A. Starzynski. Dr. Starzynski formed the committee of Druhowie Walter Pawlak, Thomas Zielinski and Anthony Cebula.

The idea was presented and approved at a Special Convention in Detroit, MI in 1925.

The purpose of the order was to more appropriately recognize longtime past service to the causes of Poland's freedom and the welfare of Polonia by individuals belonging to the Falcons movement.

## **Druh Pawlak**

- Regarded as Father of the Legion of Honor
- Member of Nests 8, 41 & 69
- President of District IV
- National Military Technical Committee Member
- Captain in the Polish Army from America
- National Physical Director
- National Flag Bearer
- Created Legion of Honor Medal Design

## **Original Commandery** (also the first recipients )

- Apolinary Ruszczyk-Chicago, IL
- Stanislaw Emil Brykczynski-New York
- Franciszek X. Sztbatka-Pittsburgh, PA
- Romuald Ostrowski-Hammond, IN
- Maria Rosentretter-Joliet, IL
- Angela Kasprowicz-Detroit, MI
- Alfred Czarnota-Holyoke, MA

## **Grand Masters of the Commandery**

- Michael Milonski-Nest 45, District II 1949-1959
- Henry Kolakowski-Nest 68, District V 1959-1968
- Edwin Kalczynski-Nest 4, District VI 1968-1976
- Zygmunt Gonglewski-Nest 68, District V 1976-1988
- Edmund Pett-Nest 79, District XIII 1988-2004
- Louis Tremiti-Nest 52, District IX 2004-2012
- Bernard Wolny-Nest 124, District XIII 2012-2016
- Frania Tracz-Nest 208, District V 2016-2019
- Edward Ciesla-Nest 946, District I 2019-Present



# Legion of Honor Medal with Ribbon



Legion Honor Sokol Polski



# Meaning of Symbols on LOH Medal

## **Head of Mercury**

- A Roman God with well-proportioned and disciplined body
- Ever alert to respond to our organization's needs
- Members should try to emulate Mercury

## **Lamp of Knowledge**

- Ancient origin provided light to scholars
- Symbolically, it depicts a Falcon ever seeking enlightenment and higher cultural learning
- Polish history and literature

## **Crossed Keys**

- Traditional insignia of exchequer
- Keeper of property
- Well versed in managing Falcon fiscal affairs
- Accountability and Integrity

## **Handshake**

- Expression of brotherhood
- Readiness to respond to aid a fellow Member

# Levels

- There are three levels of Legion of Honor Awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. A period of five full years of service must lapse between awards.
- To be eligible for the Legion of Honor Award, the candidate must hold the Falcon Bronze, Silver and Gold Star of Merit Awards. These, likewise, have been awarded by National Headquarters upon the recommendation of the Nest, District or National Organization.

- **This means, at a minimum, a Member qualifies for the Legion of Honor Cross after at least 18 years of uninterrupted membership in the Polish Falcons of America. Work in other organizations, whether political or professional, cannot be the main consideration. Activities within the Nest are the main criteria for being considered for the awarding of the Legion of Honor or an elevation. Outside activities may be listed for informational purposes.**

# **Rights & Benefits of LOH Membership**

Legion of Honor Members have the privilege to attend:

- District Plenary Meetings
- District Conventions as a Delegate
- National Conventions as a Delegate
- LOH Conclave held in conjunction with National Conventions
- Legion of Honor Nest/District Ceremonies
- Falcon Funeral Rituals

## **When and Where to wear Service Medals**

- The Commandery encourages all LOH Members to proudly wear their medals as they deem appropriate.
- Official Nest & District functions
- Funerals and Wakes
- Lapel pins (over your heart) when dressed in nice attire or Falcon uniform at all Falcon events

# Suggestions for Presentation Ceremony

- Surprise-If at all possible, recipient should be unaware of honor
- Escorted by LOH Members, preferably at least two if available
- Gathering of your choosing
- The LOH Membership Handbook should be presented to all when receiving their Bronze Award
- The Oath of LOH Membership should be given when the Member is receiving their Bronze Award

# PFA Pin Placement

(With and without a PFA Patch.)





# Oath of LOH Membership

(This Oath is given when a Member receives a Bronze Legion of Honor Award.)

I, (state your name) having been inducted in the Legion of Honor Circle of District \_\_\_\_\_, promise on my word of honor to uphold the Rules and Regulations of the Falcon Order and to continue to work for the Good of the Polish Falcons of America, so help me God.

