



Rameses Legion of Honour Unit

By Noble Stephen D. Shirk
Past Commander

The Legion of Honour was first established as a Club Unit by the Waubuno Shrine Club at a meeting on September 18th 1997 with Noble Ernie Watthey appointed as their interim Acting Commander. At this meeting there were 15 Shriners present. Nobles Murray Fraser, Ellis Gates and Bob Gilbert also assumed temporary acting officer positions. Formal elections were held at their next meeting on 15 October 1997 with the first official meeting held on 17 December 1997 with their new Commander Noble Murray Fraser elected. Noble Gates was their first Secretary, Noble John Wetham appointed as Treasurer with the By-Law Committee comprised of Nobles Jack McKay, Ernie Watthey and Frank Kirk. Motions were made by Nobles Al Poolton and Bob Gilbert to forward membership fees to the International Association of Legions of Honour. Yearly elections were held with new Commanders appointed as follows: 8 October 1998 - Noble Ernie Watthey; 19 January 1999 - Noble Robert Gilbert; 21 January 2000 - Noble Bill Gerhart; 10 January 2001 - Noble Bill Gerhart.

An Emergency Meeting was held on 7 February 2002 where it was announced that the Legion of Honour Unit must be a Unit of Rameses Temple vice a unit of the Waubuno Shrine Club. Noble William Gerhart was elected as the new Commander of the Rameses Legion of Honour Unit. During the following years new Commanders were elected as follows: November 2002 - Noble Ernie Watthey; November 2003 - Noble Stephen D. Shirk; November 2004 - Noble Gordon Culbert; November 2005 - Noble Russell McFarland; November 2006 - Noble Ernie Watthey; October 2007 - Noble Peter Penner.

The purpose of the Rameses Legion of Honour Unit is to bind all eligible servicemen, past and present, of Rameses Temple into a single Unit of comradeship and service. It holds sacred and perpetuates the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country. The Unit has cultivated a spirit of comradeship with and among all Masonic and Shrine organizations, both domestic and international. Our primary aim is to support and assist the Illustrious Potentate and Divan of Rameses Temple in advancing the best interests of the Temple. We intend to encourage Nobles of Rameses Temple, if eligible, to join the Rameses Temple Legion of Honour Unit.

This Unit is a uniformed body of Rameses Temple, and as a marching Unit, guards the Colours and acts as official escort to the Illustrious Potentate when requested.

The objectives of this Unit are: To foster a Spirit of Patriotism, 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 Honour Units to strive for an increase in Friendship and Cooperation between our Legion of Honour Unit and other Units of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.).

For membership in this Unit all members of the Temple Unit must have received an Honourable Discharge, released from active duty under honourable conditions or satisfactory Certificate of Honourable Service from his last service from the Armed Forces of his country, or produce evidence that he is presently serving honourably in the Armed Forces of his country at the time of his application. The phrase Armed Forces of his country shall be interpreted to include only those military forces as defined by the government of that country, and which would be considered veterans upon completion of their tour of duty.

An Honourary Membership may be granted for a Noble who may not be eligible for regular membership but the Unit would like to honour or pay tribute to i.e. Potentate, Past Potentate, Director of Units, Club Presidents or Nobles who have achieved a high honour within the Temple. These Nobles may be presented certificates, time-limited dues cards, etc. However, Honourary Members may not wear the Legion of Honour medallion, pay dues or hold any Legion office.

Nobles who are members of Policing Services such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police, City Police, etc. may be considered for membership in the Legion of Honour Unit if they can prove that they were performing policing duties in a theatre of action as employed by the Canadian Government Department of National Defense

Platoons have been established in locations throughout the region of responsibility governed by Rameses Temple. A Platoon must consist of a minimum of seven (7) Unit members. Unit members elect a Platoon Lieutenant that must be approved by the Unit Executive. Platoon Lieutenants are active voting members of the Unit Executive. Currently we have Platoons in Parry Sound (Waubuno), Orillia, Collingwood (Manito), Belleville, and most recently Kingston.

The Rameses Shriners Legion of Honour Unit is actively looking for new members to join our ranks. Membership fees are \$15 per year or a lifetime membership is \$100.

Two general meetings will be held annually as a Unit at the Spring Ceremonial and election at our fall ceremonial of each year at a location as designated by the Commander. Platoons will hold their meetings throughout the remainder of the year at the direction of the Platoon Lieutenants. LOH Nobles are encouraged to attend the Banner exchanges in January, Wreath Laying ceremonies in Ottawa in May, participate as a Unit at the Spring Ceremonials, and attend other official Unit functions at the request of the Commander. Please contact the Commander or any member of the LOH if you would be interested in becoming a member or if you would like to form a Platoon in your area.