

LEGIONS OF HONOR

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EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Arlington Wreath Laying
November 3—5, 2011
- TALOH March 2-4, 2012
- IALOH Convention
March 21—24, 2012
- PNSA Convention
May 17—20, 2012
- CSSA Convention
August 8—12, 2012
Cedar Rapids, IA

Commander Donnie Bowerman

Legionnaire Nobles of the Central States Shrine Legions of Honor, I take great pride and pleasure in saying how thrilled and honored I am to have been chosen to lead this very distinguished group of men of Shriners in the CSSA. We represent not only one of the finest aspects of Masonry, but we also represent one of the finest and most honorable aspects of citizenry of this country – men who have served our nation as members of the military, in times of war and peace, at home and abroad. Over the years, as I have traveled throughout portions of the Central States, I have been greatly impressed at who you men are, the variety of parade and formal dress uniforms you wear, and I have been humbled by what seems to be a large portion of our membership, those of you of the Greatest Generation. In my home unit at Tangier Shrine, we have a sizeable number of men who served in WWII. I have listened to their stories from that world-altering event and I am still awed by their tales. I, myself, like some others of you, fought in Viet Nam, a different kind of war in a very different political climate at home. But like the title of a tremendous book and movie, we are a singular “Band of Brothers,” Freemasons and men of the U.S. Armed Forces. I thank you for your service and I thank you for being my heroes, as all members of our military, past and present, are.

Let me take a moment to introduce myself to those of you who don’t know me, and that should be a whole bunch!!! I was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in the last century, the son of long line of ministers and a nurse. We immigrated to Missouri via short stays in Washington and Nebraska. In 1969, I entered the U.S Navy and served as a quartermaster (navigation duties) aboard three ships, two tin cans and a bird farm, and two WestPacs to the Nam. When I was discharged in 1972, I soon joined the U.S. Army Reserves because many of my co-workers in the Kansas City, MO, Police Department were members of the 159th Military Police Battalion at nearby Richards-Gebauer AFB. I

served in that capacity for a number of years and then cross-decked to the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and served until October 1, 2002, spending my entire career with them as a special agent in the Coast Guard Investigative Service, finally retiring at the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer. A mere fifteen days later, I closed my career in law enforcement, having worked at the city, county, state, federal levels, and in a wide variety of law enforcement capacities. I was in Dallas, TX, when I retired, having worked my last years in the business with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. After that, I chose to move back to Council Bluffs, IA, where I’d lived before as a youngster, telling people who asked why there, by replying, “It’s the only metropolitan area in the entire United States where I have not arrested half the population!!!”

My lovely bride, Tina, and I have four children: two cats and two dogs. My wife is also an immigrant, having been born and raised in post-WWII Germany. We love to travel and camp throughout the U.S. and Canada. We enjoy a variety of hobbies, but love reading, especially. Tina is active in the Daughters of the Nile and has been a source of boundless enthusiasm and support to me in my various Masonic duties. I am Past Master of Bluff City Lodge #71, in Council Bluffs, IA, and a dual member in G.W. Lininger Lodge #268 in Omaha, NE. I am also a Scottish and York Rite Mason, and a member of the National Sojourners, Chapter #19 and the Joseph Warren Camp of Camp Heroes of ’76. I am a lifetime member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I have two goals for the CSSA LOH during my tenure: COMMUNICATION and MEMBERSHIP (both new members and INCREASED participation and visibility). I want to improve and, if necessary, restore communication in our group, something that has waned over the last few years. Effective communication, however, flows both ways, so I

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CSSA LOH CONVENTION
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
August 8 to 12, 2012

Commander Donald Bowerman, cont'd from pg 1 —

am requesting that unit commanders keep the CSSA LOH line officers apprised of your units' activities throughout the course of this year. My 1st Lt. Commander, Russ Gray, is equally adamant about seeing that function improve and will be just as gung-ho about it when he assumes the helm in 2012. The attendance of our group's members at CSSA conventions has also declined in the last few years. Age, repeat convention locations, jobs, kids, health, and interest have all impacted participation. Please consider this an open invitation for anyone in the CSSA LOH to make suggestions directly to me or any line officer as to how we can reverse that trend. The truth is we are not the only group in the CSSA facing this issue. Many of you are members of other units and clubs and you know that attendance, read participation, has steadily become an issue across the board. Central to attendance is membership, I believe. Every unit out there in the CSSA must make increasing membership their top goal each and every year. New blood is the principal key to our future, but I know I'm preaching to the choir. Whatever the total number of CSSA LOH members is, we could easily double it before Cedar Rapids, IA, next year if every current member brought just ONE new member into our local units. One...how hard can that be? Every last one of you out there personally knows several Nobles in your Shrine Temple who are veterans or current members of the military, of that I have zero doubt. How about it? You'll never know until you ask.

Included in this first addition of the reinstated CSSA Legions of Honor newsletter is a listing of the line officers for the Central States Shrine Association. It includes every possible way to contact them is listed, except carrier pigeon! Use it. Post it where your members can see it. Publish it in your unit's newsletter or the minutes of your next unit meeting. Reprint it. Pass it out to your members. "Nuff said, eh???"

Let me take a few additional moments to talk about our convention in Cedar Rapids, IA, in August 2012. First off, we will begin our CSSA LOH activities on Wednesday, August 8th, with registration and the opening of our Hospitality Suite. The convention itself is earlier due to hotel housing and other local conflicts when we would normally hold our convention, usually in September. Secondly, based on legislative action taken by the LOH delegates at the convention just concluded in Overland Park, KS, we will now be starting our own portion of future CSSA conventions a day early, thus Wednesday, August 8th. Thursday, August 9th, we will hold our Necrology Service, annual business meeting/luncheon, and evening banquet, together with the installation of new CSSA officers. I will hold off announcing any planned competition because we have had only one unit participate in Drill Competition in the last two years. One unit is not competition. Three or more units would warrant competition, and it is something I will be personally talking with unit commanders about long before next August. This new convention schedule will give our attending members two full consecutive days (Friday and Saturday) to spend with their home Temples, something that many of our members have talked about for years. They can watch or participate in other unit competitions, go to other Friday night banquets. I have reserved thirty king or double rooms at the Marriott Hotel in Cedar Rapids, which is the convention hotel next year. The room price is \$99.00, plus applicable taxes. The hotel will be handling the reservations directly and will submit monthly reports to our adjutant and myself. If you plan on staying with your own Temple, inform your housing chairman, as soon as your Temple begins registration, that you will be staying an extra day EARLY, and your housing chairman will handle your reservation appropriately. My wife and I and many members of my Temple have been doing

this for years as well. So, housing will not be an issue coming in early and, thereby, starting our part of the CSSA convention early.

You will see included in this newsletter photos of a quilt my wife made expressly for the purpose of raffling it off at the 2012 convention. The selling of raffle tickets for the quilt has already begun, \$1 a piece or six for \$5. We will sell tickets until just prior to the start of the evening banquet. The second half of this raffle is that the winner of the quilt, either man or woman, present or not, will choose the Masonic philanthropy of their choice to which the money will be sent in their name, on behalf of the CSSA LOH. All funds collected during this raffle will go to that philanthropy. It must be a Masonic-related charity, however: for example, your Temple's specifically-supported Shrine hospital, your Temple's Transportation Fund, RiteCare, your state's Masonic Home, etc. I sincerely hope that you will help support our effort to make an impressive donation to one of our worthy philanthropies and, in the process, win a guaranteed-one-of-a-kind quilt representing our military services, Masonry, Shriners International, and the Legion of Honor. Requests for raffle tickets may be handled by contacting any of the line officers, but I will be collecting the funds and dispersing the tickets from my home until the convention next year, so you may want to address all ticket requests to me. As I travel around the CSSA this coming year, I will bring the quilt with me and you can see it up close and personal. If I am not able to make it to your Temple, contact me and I will send you pictures, tickets, whatever you need to promote this raffle. By the way, the quilt measures a little over five feet by four and would make a beautiful wall hanging in your "I Love Me" room!!!

Nobles, the immediate and future destiny of the CSSA LOH is in our hands. Give to it what time you can, participate at the level you can without causing conflict with family, occupation, or church activities, but help us this year to begin to restore a higher level of participation at the local temple and CSSA convention levels. Your assistance and your presence will be greatly appreciated.

Donnie Bowerman

Commander

C.S.S.A. Legion of Honor

Raffle for Masonic Philanthropy LOH Quilt



1st Lt. Commander Russ Gray



Allow me to introduce myself. As you can tell from the fez, I hail from the western part of CSSA in the State of Colorado, a noble of El Jebel

Shrine in Denver. That beautiful lady next to me is my bride of 27 years, Virginia (MSgt/USAF/RET.).

I've been a Shriner since 2005! As a new noble, every inner body tried to recruit the new kid however, I joined the Legion of Honor to once again stand with my military brothers. A 22 year veteran on the U.S. Air Force I missed the camaraderie that civilians will never understand or appreciate.

I joined the Air Force in 1967. After attending technical school at Sheppard AFB, TX my first duty assignment was Myrtle Beach AFB, SC. Then it was off to Viet Nam, where I did a 6 month tour at Tuy Hoa AB before being reassigned to Tan Son Nhut AB. From Nam I went to McConnell AFB in KS for a brief period before being assigned to Spangdahlem AB Germany. All that time I was a crew chief on century series fighter aircraft. Opting for a change of pace, I made a career move and became a Flight Engineer on C141 strategic transport aircraft and was assigned to Norton AFB, CA. I retired as a Master Sergeant in 1989.

My getting in the CSSA LOH line was somewhat interesting! I was attending the convention in Colorado Springs two years ago as Commander of El Jebel LOH. I was asked by then Commander Smokie Siecgrist and our present Commander Donnie Bowerman, to fill the vacancy of 3rd Lt Commander that was unfilled at the convention I agreed, was appointed to the position by the new Commander Jeff Carter and was officially elected at the mid-winter meeting after the required documents had been filed. It's been a fantastic journey ever since, meeting new friends and enjoying the camaraderie that I had been missing.

Just two weeks prior to our recent convention, I had the opportunity to visit with the nobles at the Midian Shrine LOH in Wichita and their Commander Jerry Rodman, whom I proudly nominated for the position of 3rd Lt Commander and I'm pleased he was elected. I am honored to have Jerry in line with me and I'm confident he will do an excellent job.

I've been working for United Air Lines for the past 15 years, managing the Ground School program for the Airbus Fleet.

I look forward to the next two years and if there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Russ Gray, 1st Lt Commander
C.S.S.A. Legion of Honor

2nd Lt. Commander James Benton

2011 CSSA in Overland Park has come and gone. It was quite eventful for my Lady Chaz and I. Although I was severely sick from a Spider Bite and a reaction to the antibiotic we still tried our best to make the event memorable. I want to just say Thanks for all the concern that everyone showed for my well being. While I am throwing out Thanks, I will have to say that I really appreciated the way that everyone welcomed my Lovely Lady Chastity (Chaz) into the family of Shrinedom and Legion of Honor.

With all that being said, who am I. In my eyes it's easy to explain, I am just a good old country boy from the backwoods in Florida. Yes we have backwoods, lol. I joined the Army straight out of High School to expand my horizon outside my little home Town. After serving three years active I came home and continued to serve with the Florida National Guard, where I just retired from in 2008. While home I worked in the Heavy Diesel industry as a shop manager then decided to fulfill my ambitions and became a Wild land Firefighter then on to a Structural Firefighter/EMT. After the destruction to our beautiful country in 9-11, I gladly stepped up to be activated. I was called upon to work as an EMT instructor in Ft. Stewart, GA and a liaison for the State Commander for the Emergency Operations center then sent here to good ole Missouri, where I now call my home, to teach in the Engineer field. After retirement I went back into my traits and become a WMD/ HazMat Instructor for DOD, which I am still currently doing.

I am the father of three lovely children, Kaitlynn 18, Kalob 16 and Karlee 14, The grandfather of a precious angel Addison Blake, Loving husband of a wonderful woman, Chastity Dawn (Chaz) and a father figure for her to wonderful boys, Taylor 12 and Weston 9. I stay busy with my family, in my personal automotive business and Shrinedom. I also love to ride and I am gladly a part of The Brethren of The Mystic Tie, Widows Sons Masonic riding organization. I am the Past Commander of Abou Ben Adhem Legion of Honor in 2008.

It was a pleasure to be voted in as the 2nd Lt CMDR of CSSA LOH this year. It is definitely a position in which I will do my best to accomplish my duties and my personal goals. We are looking forward to a busy year with Commander Bowerman. He has a goal that is certainly achievable with the help of the Officers and the membership. It takes teamwork to achieve goals and make a progression toward that achievement. That team work should come from each and every one of us. If we all do a little then others won't have to a lot. By asking how you can help and taking the motivation to do so, it shows others the right direction and they will eventually step in and help as well. We are all hopefully committed to enhancing the Legion of Honor, so let's do it together. It is my personal goal to motivate as many members and potential members as possible to become involved and hopefully the excitement will expand throughout the CSSA LOH to keep our organization driving forward.

I've got so much more to say but we will save that for next time. I look forward to meeting each of you as our time together progresses. Until then be safe, stay motivated, and GOD SPEED.

James (BJ) Benton, 2nd Lt. Commander
C.S.S.A. Legion of Honor

Adjutant Ron Buchanan

Thanks to all who attended CSSA. The newly elected officers thank you for your vote of confidence. We have a great team this year. Legion of Honor election of your officers will be soon. Please send me a list of your officers.

We had a very fine CSSA meeting. A proposal voted on states that we will be having a regular CSSA Legion of Honor meeting one day ahead of the start of CSSA in 2012. We will do all of our business and then we will have time to spend with our other temple activities.

We are also starting up a web page again. Bulletins will be four times a year.

Yours in Faith,

Ron Buchanan, Adjutant
CSSA LOH

November 6th, Arab LOH will have a Tea Dance in honor of our veterans. We will have the Ararat Big Band from Kansas City. The time is 2:30 – 5:30 PM at the Arab Temple, 1350 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas

3rd Lt. Commander Jerry Rodman

Greetings from your new CSSA LOH 3rd Lt. Commander. My name is Jerry Rodman and most of you probably remember me as your Finance Officer. After seven years as your finance officer, I decided to enter the officer line and become more active by visiting as many units as possible. I have always enjoyed talking to many of you through the last seven years and really look forward to our visits in the future. I also look forward to supporting your CSSA Commander Donnie Bowerman and other officers this year and in the future.

It is an honor to be your 3rd Lt. Commander and will always be ready to help and support all units. Please feel free to call me anytime about anything. For those of you that missed our CSSA this year, you really missed a great time. Start now on planning to attend next years CSSA meeting.

My wife Rita and I wish you a great year and good health.

Jerry Rodman, 3rd Lt. Commander
CSSA Legion of Honor

Finance Officer Charles Siecgrist, PC

I would like to congratulate Commander Bowerman, Lts. Gray, Benson & Rodman and Adj. Buchanan on their recent installations. I am honored to have been appointed for Finance officer and look forward to several years serving in that position. I have approximately 25 years previous experience by being Treasurer for Olathe Lodge, Olathe Youth Baseball and Abdallah LOH. I also congratulate our Jr. Past Commander Dunham for his year and a successful convention. I am looking forward to our convention in 2012 at Cedar Rapids, IA.

Virginia and I will be heading south the end of October and return the end of November as I will have the privilege of installing our son as Master of Henri Lodge, Tonganoxie on December 10th. Plan to return to the valley mid December and our son, his lady and our daughter will be coming to Texas to spend Xmas with us. Our plans are to attend TALOH'S Convention March 1–4, at New Braunfels on our return trip home.

While in Texas we will be attending Al Amin Shrine LOH meetings and activities, plus Masonic Lodges in the area.

We will be in touch via laptop where, hopefully, the weather is warmer than home.

Fraternally yours,

Chas "Smokie" Siecgrist, PC
CSSA LOH Finance Officer

The following year-end financial report is presented here for the benefit of the CSSA LOH membership. The report reflects income, expenses, and the current CSSA LOH balance, as of September 25, 2011, when the By-Laws-mandated audit of the financial records of the CSSA LOH were completed and placed on file. This year-end report is reflective of the financial status during and at the conclusion of the year in which Bill Dunham was CSSA LOH Commander, (2010-2011).

CSSA LOH 2011 Financial Report

Income CSSA LOH 2011

Income transfer from 2010 Finance Officer	\$3,195.95
Annual Temple Dues	\$ 800.00
Luncheon and Banquet Income	\$4,900.85
TOTAL	\$8,896.80

Expenses CSSA LOH 2011

Luncheon and Banquet Expense	\$4,217.83
Luncheon and Banquet Reimbursements	\$ 214.00
Office Supplies and Expense	\$ 60.44
Commanders Supplies and Expenses	\$1,005.13
Past Commander Medallion	\$ 171.35
TOTAL	\$5,668.75

Current 2012 Balance

\$3,228.05

Editor Morris Sykes

It's a pleasure to be working with the new officers of CSSA LOH as I serve as Editor and web site administrator. I appreciate their confidence in appointing me Editor of the reinstated quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will appear on our web site, www.CSSA-LOH.org, near the first of February, May, August, and November.

Imperial International Potentate Michael Severe has asked all Shrine units to be attentive to communications throughout the year. Therefore, you can count on our newsletter and web site keeping you up to date with news from your officers.

Unfortunately, my personal computer crashed recently and it lost all my name and contact lists, documents, and CSSA LOH templates for the web site. I'm still learning the ins and outs of my new computer and up-to-date software (Windows 7, Microsoft Office 2010, etc.,) Yet, I hope to be right on time for our quarterly deadlines.

Thank you, Officers, for timely submissions of news from your area for this issue. I apologize in advance for any errors or omissions on my part that might occur in the coming months.

It's an honor to be in the Legion of Honor.

Morris W. Sykes, Editor
CSSA Legion of Honor

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CSSA SHRINE & LOH LOCATIONS

Abdallah Shriners; Overland Park, KS
Abou Ben Adhem Shriners; Springfield, MO
Abu Bekr Shriners; Sioux City, NE - No LOH Unit
Akdar Shriners; Tulsa, OK
Al Kaly Shriners; Pueblo, CO
Arab Shriners; Topeka, KS
Ararat Shriners; Kansas City, MO
Bedouin Shriners; Muskogee, OK
El Jebel Shriners; Denver, CO
El Kahir Shriners; Cedar Rapids, IA - No LOH Unit
Hella Shriners; Garland, TX
India Shriners; Oklahoma, City, OK
Isis Shriners; Salina, KS
Kaaba Shriners; Davenport, IA
Midian Shriners; Wichita, KS
Mirza Shriners; Pittsburg, KS
Moila Shriners; St. Joseph, MO
Moolah Shriners; St. Louis, MO
Scimitar Shriners; Little Rock, AR
Sesostris Shriners; Lincoln, NE
Tangier Shriners, Omaha, NE
Tehama Shriners; Hastings, NE
Za-Ga-Zig Shriners; Altoona, IA