



AN EXPLANATION OF AWARDS FOR THE LEGION OF HONOR OF THE CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS

Membership in the Legion of Honor (LOH) of The Chapel of Four Chaplains is awarded based on documented acts of selfless service. Selfless service consists of deeds and actions on behalf of others irrespective of their race, ethnicity or faith. There are many folks whose everyday job responsibilities call for them to serve in a helping/caring capacity. However, the performance of their job responsibilities alone does not qualify as “selfless service”. Selfless service constitutes going the “extra mile” beyond what their job responsibilities call for to serve others.

Further, service given to a service organization including its auxiliary in a service organization does not in and of itself qualify as selfless service. However, if a LOH candidate uses his or her membership or position in a service organization to perform selfless service (regular acts of kindness and caring such as visits to hospitals or shut-ins, volunteer chaplaincy, community service, toys for tots, giving time and energy to community projects, charities, youth programs, mentoring, etc.) this meets the requirement.

Distinguished military careers are commendable but do not, by themselves, constitute selfless service. However, Service Members may perform acts of selfless service that go beyond their regular responsibilities and qualify as selfless service. For example, acts of compassion or kindness to children and adult civilians in a combat area or protecting noncombatants at personal risk. In non-combat areas, engaging in acts of selfless service that go beyond their regular military responsibilities.

Here are some important nominating guidelines:

- A nomination should consist of a concise statement which clearly spells out the nominee’s acts of selfless service on which their candidacy for membership in The Chapel’s Legion of Honor is based.
- Please be specific. If it is related to the selfless service, a candidate’s life history, business/career resume or military resume may be added for background information but does not represent the nominating statement.
- Many people lead commendable personal and professional lives and have parented great families. However, by itself this does not constitute selfless service. In your nominating

statement, please focus on those exceptional acts of selfless service that qualify your nominee for a Chapel Legion of Honor award.

- A nomination should consist of the Nomination Contact Form, One-page nomination summary and up to two supporting documents. We get over 200 nominations per year so be precise and limit the size of your nomination to fit this profile of four pages or less.

The Six LOH Award Categories

The Legion of Honor Award is our most basic and common award. It is given to individuals who perform acts of selfless service in their local community. Often this can be a one-time event such as organizing a clothing, food or fund drive to raise money for an organization or a cause.

The Junior Legion of Honor Award is given to a young person under the age of 18 or 12 grade or under who have selflessly served members of their community or school.

The Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award is given in recognition of a lifetime commitment to selfless service and societal advancement that has demonstrably affected the quality of life in the individual's community or region.

The Charles W. David, Jr. Lifesaving Medallion is given to persons who fall into two distinct categories:

- Those who have saved the life of another at grave personal risk. (Gold) This is normally reserved to someone who does this act outside of their professional position such as a police officer, fire or Service Member (but there can be exceptions to this rule).
- Those that have saved the life of another with no risk to their own person. (Bronze) Such as someone stopping and giving aid to a person in a traffic accident.

The Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion is the second highest award and is granted for extraordinary contributions to the well-being of others at the State, Regional or National level.

The Legion of Honor Gold Medallion is the highest and most prestigious award presented by the organization. It is given to a person whose leadership has brought his/her actions to National or International attention, and whose very life epitomizes the spirit of the sacrifice of the Four Chaplains. The Gold Medallion has been given to notable individuals such as President Jimmy Carter, Marian Anderson and Bob Hope. The Gold Medallion is generally awarded at The Chapel's annual banquet or on other occasions in locations convenient to the awardee.

Other Awards

The Posthumous LOH Award is given in recognition of those Service Members, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, Federal and State agents of law-enforcement agencies who lost their lives in the line of duty, and would not qualify for other Legion of Honor Awards as described above.

Legion of Honor Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition can also be awarded to individuals who have volunteered for a singular event in your community.

Other LOH Information

Distinguished recipients of the Legion of Honor Awards have included Presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, James Carter, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Notable luminaries who received the award were Bob Hope, John Glenn, Mickey Rooney, Martha Raye, James Michener, Marian Anderson, C. Everett Koop, Tommy Lasorda and Shirley Chisholm as well as deserving military personnel, veterans, and civilians from all walks of life.

Nominations are accepted for any of these awards from Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, Trustees, past recipients of a Legion of Honor Awardees; church and government leaders; and leaders of civic, fraternal and veteran organization only. All awards must be publicly presented at a Legion of Honor service or as part of an appropriate ceremony which includes the Story of the Four Chaplains. Note: Many organizations present the awards at an event in which a special offering is collected for the LOH Program. This is much appreciated since awards are free to the nominee but is our most expensive of the Four Core Programs our organization provides.

The Award Ceremony should be a special event and the number of awardees should be limited in order to maintain the atmosphere of the special occasion. We suggest no more than four basic LOH awards and two medallions should be presented at any one event. (Exceptions can be made only by the Executive Director.)

Awards of membership in The Chapel's Legion of Honor are highly valued worldwide. They are designed not only to recognize unusual acts of selfless service but also to perpetuate the message of selfless service and interfaith cooperation exhibited by the heroic acts of the Four Chaplains. They are also intended to motivate awardees to continue performing selfless service and to encourage others to do so as well.

When making nominations please remember that legibility is important. Nominators should make every effort for their nominations to be typed. If a handwritten nomination is unavoidable, the writing should be neat and readable. Many nominations have been returned to the nominator by the Awards Committee for the inability to read them. Others have been delayed in review for this reason. Also, please do a Google Search on your nominee to make sure they fit the model of the Four Chaplains.

Nominating statements must include a description of the selfless service performed by the nominee on behalf of others without consideration to the race, ethnicity, faith, gender, sexual orientation, military service status or background of the people served. Service performed as a part of the nominee's job or compensated position will not be considered.

Please do not include in your nominating statement the nominee's Job or vocational history Military history, unless the level of self-sacrifice is exceptional. Family history or service for/to others that is performed as part of his or her paid job or position.

Offices and titles held in service organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, fraternal organizations or civic groups in and of themselves do not justify an award but may reflect the group's recognition of leadership and/or as a springboard for exceptional service to others.

Persons who, while performing their duties in compensated positions, go beyond their job requirements to engage in selfless service and humanitarian acts of significance may be eligible for Chapel awards for "going the extra mile" to serve others. However, the nominator must make clear the special service performed that was not compensated.

Candidates for office are not eligible for action on nominations for or receiving Chapel awards during the active campaign period.

Using membership or a position in a service organization or VSO as a means of performing selfless service is valid. This service must exceed what the candidate does as an active member or officer of a VSO or service organization. It is important to explain the selfless service in as clear detail as possible, not simply the position held in the organization.

If you are nominating several persons from the same service organization or Volunteer Service Organization (VSO) please make certain that each nomination is individualized and reflects that individual's unique service.

If the nominator believes that the nominee's biography, etc. would provide clarification or support for the nomination, this may be appended to the nomination statement. However, a biography is not considered a nomination statement. The nominating statement is the vehicle for evaluation of the nominee's qualifications for membership in the Legion of Honor Award Program.

If you are planning a presentation of a Chapel LOH award at a ceremony or event, please leave ample time for the Awards Committee to review your nomination. If the nomination is for one of the medallion awards, please allow a minimum of six weeks prior to the presentation date.

Good luck. We appreciate the caring that goes into nominating a worthy person for membership in The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor. Once your nominee has been awarded membership, he or she becomes eligible to nominate other worthy candidates.

Legion of Honor recipients are asked to maintain annual membership to the Chapel of Four Chaplains and to nominate new members to the program.

If you have questions or need further explanation please contact the Chapel at chapel@fourchaplains.org or phone 215-218-1943.