

9811

# Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.



Headquarters Commandery of the State of New York,

140 NASSAU STREET,

New York, Oct 10, 1905.

DEAR

*Madam*

It becomes my official duty to announce to you, as a member of the family of the late *Chief Albin W. Tourgi*

that he was a Companion in full standing in this Order, and to request, that in accordance with the Constitution, you will see that the proper steps are taken to the usual succession.

## CONSTITUTION.

### "ARTICLE V.

#### MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—The Companions of this Order shall be elected, in the manner hereinafter provided, from the three classes below defined, and shall be entitled Companions of said classes respectively.

SECTION 2.—FIRST CLASS: 1st. Commissioned officers and honorably discharged commissioned officers of the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Regular or Volunteer, including officers of assimilated or corresponding rank by appointment of the Secretary of War or Navy, who were actually engaged in the suppression of the Rebellion prior to the fifteenth day of April, 1865, and whose names appear in the Official Registers of the United States Army and Navy and of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army, or appeared upon the official records of the United States War or Navy Department during their term of service as commissioned officers of organizations mustered into the service of the United States, and not restricted to service within any given State for period of service not less than ninety days, or who served under the President's call of the fifteenth day of April, 1861; or who, having served as

non-commissioned officers, warrant officers or enlisted men during the War of the Rebellion, have since been commissioned as officers in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, or were commissioned as officers in the Volunteer Force prior to the twentieth day of August, 1866; and persons who, having served as non-commissioned officers, warrant officers or enlisted men as aforesaid, shall have become eligible to membership either through inheritance from officers who were members of the Order or who were eligible as such and shall have died; those who have been or shall be elected from the First Class as aforesaid shall be designated Original Companions of the First Class.

2d. The eldest direct male lineal descendants, according to the rules of primogeniture, of deceased Original Companions of the First Class, and of officers not members of the Order, but who were eligible as such, who shall have died; and if there are no such descendants, then the male heirs of such deceased Companions or officers in the collateral branches of their families in the order of genealogical succession according to the rules of primogeniture, disregarding intervening female lives.

*Provided, however, First.* That the inheritance shall in every case of succession be traced anew from the original founder of the membership in the Order, or deceased officer as aforesaid, and not otherwise, and shall be limited in cases of collateral succession to the brothers, and descendants of brothers and sisters, of such Original Companion or deceased officer; in cases of representation through females, the elder branches shall be preferred to the younger:

*Second.* That any person eligible to membership by inheritance, or by renunciation of another, may, in writing, waive and renounce his right to such eligibility in favor of the person next entitled at the time of such renunciation, excepting that no person who is a direct lineal descendant of an Original Companion or deceased officer as aforesaid, shall be allowed to waive his right in favor of a collateral relative of such Original Companion or deceased officer:

*Third.* That in case a Companion of the First Class or person already eligible to membership is next in the line of inheritance from a deceased Original Companion or officer as aforesaid, the eligibility to membership derived from such deceased Companion or officer shall devolve upon the person next entitled other than such living Companion or person already eligible or the direct lineal descendants of either; but any Original Companion having no direct lineal descendant may by writing filed with the Recorder of the Commandery in which he may be enrolled, or by his last will and testament, or instrument in the nature thereof, nominate for life his successor from among his male heirs within the said limits in the collateral branches of his family:

*Fourth.* That in cases of inheritance by persons under the age of twenty-one years the right of succession to eligibility to membership, or of renunciation thereof, shall remain in abeyance until they shall attain that age:

*Fifth.* That the resignation, expulsion or forfeiture of membership of a Companion who has obtained such membership by inheritance shall only work as a waiver of his rights in favor of the next person in the line of inheritance from the Original Companion or deceased officer as aforesaid:

*Sixth.* That no right of inheritance shall be derived from any Original Companion who has been expelled from the Order and not reinstated, but, in case an Original Companion shall have resigned or been dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues, his successor may be allowed by vote of a majority of the members of the Commandery present at any stated meeting to revive the said right:

*Seventh.* That such descendants or collateral heirs shall have first filed affidavits setting forth the facts upon which eligibility to membership is claimed.

SECTION 3.—SECOND CLASS: The eldest sons of living Original Companions of the First Class who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. Upon the death of his father, a Companion of the Second Class shall become a Companion of the First Class, and be so announced to the Order by circular. Companions of the Second Class shall have the right to vote in all cases except in elections for membership in the First Class.

SECTION 4.—THIRD CLASS: Gentlemen who in civil life, during the Rebellion, were specially distinguished for conspicuous and consistent loyalty to the National Government, and were active and eminent in maintaining the supremacy of the same; but the number of Companions of the Third Class in any Commandery shall not exceed the ratio of one to thirty-three of those of the First Class. *Provided, however:* That no Companion of the Third Class shall be elected after the fifteenth day of April, 1890."

The Order, which extends throughout the Union, was instituted April 15th, 1865, to commemorate the services and memory of Officers of the Army and Navy who served in the suppression of the Rebellion of 1861-5 (a Roll of Honor), and is purely both non-sectarian and non-political.

Members are regularly elected (see blank Application enclosed) and the Initiation Fee is Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) which includes use of Diploma, Badge and Ribbon; the Annual Dues to Resident Members are Twelve Dollars (\$12.00); to Non-Resident Members Six Dollars (\$6.00). Meetings are held on the first Wednesday in May, October, December and February.

With expressions of the sympathy of the Order in your bereavement,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

*Alfred W. Bourgeois*

RECORDER.

To

*Mrs. Albion W. Bourgeois*