



Ninety First I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns May 2-4, 2025, Arlington, Virginia

November 2024

Greetings to all members, families and friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. You are cordially invited to attend the Ninety First Annual Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. Members of all units of the Order are encouraged to participate. The Pilgrimage Committee is pleased to provide the following information about this annual event.

The 2025 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 4 at Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial services will begin at noon followed by the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb immediately after the 1:00 p.m. changing of the guard. ***Please note the dates and times the program will be held.*** The Pilgrimage address at the Tomb will be delivered by the Honorable Gerald V. Workman, Sovereign Grand Master.

The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, at 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311, will be our headquarters. Room reservations are to be made directly with the hotel, at toll-free 1-800-Hiltons (1-800-445-8667) or 1-703-845-1010. You **MUST** mention "Odd Fellows Pilgrimage" when reserving your room to receive the special rate of \$136 for up to four (4) in a room. All room rates are subject to applicable hotel tax. (See attached information about hotel accommodations).

The annual Pilgrimage banquet will be held in the hotel on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM. (Advance ticket purchase required - see attached pre-registration form.) A social hour will be held from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM. After the banquet, all present will have the opportunity to meet and greet the Honorable Gerald V. Workman, Sovereign Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Lodge from the Jurisdiction of West Virginia, Sister C. A. 'Mira' Pittman, President, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from the Jurisdiction of Colorado, and General G. L. 'Jeff' Lasswell, General Commanding, General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant, from the Jurisdiction of Illinois.

We recommend that you schedule flights to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), the nearest airport to the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The hotel no longer offers shuttle service. However, other transportation services are available from the airport. The Washington metro area is also served by Dulles International Airport (IAD), located 30 miles southwest of the Capital in Northern Virginia. Metro subway service is now available from Dulles with several stops in Northern Virginia from which you can get transportation to the hotel. Please note the event could be cancelled at the last minute by the military; therefore, travel arrangements should be made accordingly. In addition, masks may be required for events if circumstances warrant it.

We encourage you to publicize this special annual event. Additional information is listed on the attached forms. We look forward to seeing you May 2-4, 2025, in Alexandria, Virginia.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,
Chuck Renninger, Chairman

**Ninety First I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns
May 2-5, 2025, Arlington, Virginia**



HOTEL INFORMATION

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311
1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667)

Reservations are now being accepted and should be made as soon as possible.

The **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center** is the headquarters hotel for the 2025 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. To receive the special rate of \$136 for up to four (4) persons per room plus hotel tax, available for the nights of May 1-5, reservations must be made **no later than April 1, 2025**. You must mention the "**ODD FELLOWS PILGRIMAGE**" when making your reservation in order to receive this rate and to obtain the specially reduced parking rate. The hotel will accept reservations **on a space available basis after April 1, 2025, but not at this reduced price**. Only telephone reservations are accepted 1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667).

It is imperative that reservations are made as early as possible. Although the deadline to place a reservation is **April 1, 2025**, occasionally in past years the hotel has sold all the rooms set aside for the IOOF Pilgrimage at the reduced rate before the deadline. So, although a person may call to place a reservation before April 1, 2025 if there are no more rooms available **AT THAT RATE**, the person will be faced with a choice of **reserving a room at a higher rate**, if any are available, or seeking a room at another hotel. ***If you have any problems with hotel reservations, please call Chuck Renninger at 1-301-350-4495.***

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 2, 2025

3:00-5:45 PM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

Saturday, May 3, 2025

8:30 AM-4:00 PM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

5:45-6:45 PM CASH-BAR SOCIAL HOUR, hotel lower level

7:00 PM PILGRIMAGE BANQUET, hotel lower level. **Prepaid reservations required.** (See attached pre-registration form) Open seating. Dress code for men - tux, business suit, or military uniform.; Dress code for women: - formal dress, street-length dress, dress suit, or military uniform.

Please note times for all events

Sunday, May 4, 2025

8:00-10:00 AM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

10:30 AM BUSES LOAD-DEPART 10:45 AM promptly from the hotel lobby entrance.
No cars or buses will be allowed in the cemetery. Commercial parking lot available.
No exceptions

Noon Memorial Service followed by wreath laying after 1:00 PM changing of the guard.

NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR WOMEN IS PERMITTED FOR WREATH LAYING.

Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform
Dress code for women: street-length dress, dress suit or Lady's military uniform.
No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, open-toe shoes, etc.

91st Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns

May 2-4, 2025, Arlington, VA

Pre-Registration Form

One Form Person

Please Print or Type

Pre-registration Deadline April 1, 2025



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State/Province, Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Highest Title you want printed on certificate _____

Jurisdiction _____

Registration Information

NO BANQUET OR TRANSPORTATION TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON SITE UNLESS CANCELLATIONS ARE RECEIVED

Registration on or before April 1, 2025 - \$7.00 \$ _____

Registration after April 1, 2025 - \$10.00 \$ _____

Saturday Pilgrimage Banquet \$65.00 \$ _____

Arlington Bus To The Tomb \$25.00 \$ _____

Total Fees Enclosed for 2025 Pilgrimage to the Tomb \$ _____ **Check #** _____

All Funds Stated in U.S. Dollars and must be paid in U.S. Dollars

Please mail all Registration Forms with a check or money order to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee

P.O. Box 7165

Woodbridge, VA 22195

Any questions contact Wanda Smith

Phone: 1-703-590-1267 - Email 0302wsmith@gmail.com

Note: Pilgrimage Committee Buses will go directly to the Tomb

Will you be bringing a motorized scooter? _____ If so, will it fit under the bus? _____

Ninety First I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns May 2-4, 2025, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia



Jurisdictional Wreath Order Form

Your jurisdictional wreath must be ordered directly from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee. The cost of the wreath is **US \$65.00**. No other wreath option is available. Payment for the full amount (payable to Independent Order of Odd Fellows *Pilgrimage Committee*) must accompany this order.

Only one (1) wreath per jurisdiction may be ordered. It may be placed by **no more than four** (4) representatives from your jurisdiction. A jurisdiction with no representative in attendance may order one wreath to be placed by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee's designee.

Questions: Wanda Smith 1-703-590-1267 or Chuck Renninger 1-301-350-4495.

ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES MUST ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING DRESS CODES,

or they will **NOT** be permitted to participate in laying a wreath.

NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR FOR WOMEN IS PERMITTED.

Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform.

Dress code for women: street-length dress, suit, or Ladies' military uniform

No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, open-toe shoes, etc.

Reservation Deadline: April 1, 2025

Order forms will NOT be processed without the following information:

Jurisdiction: _____ Person ordering wreath: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Print the person's name(s) (maximum of 4) **participating in wreath laying** of your jurisdictional wreath:

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

OR _____ No jurisdictional representative will be in attendance. Please have our jurisdictional wreath placed by the I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage Committee's designee.

Please advise members attending that masks may be required for all events.

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Check # _____

Make check payable to: Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee & mail to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee
P.O. Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195

Phone: 1-703-590-1267 — E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com