

## **ARTICLE II      **Membership****

### **Section 1.      Types and Qualifications**

Membership in The Association shall consist of two (2) groups: Regular and Associate Members.

#### **A. Regular Members**

1. Any person who has been assigned or attached to and honorably served with The Brigade, under competent orders, shall be eligible for Regular Membership.
2. Any applicant for Regular Membership shall first file with the Secretary an Application for Membership, or such forms as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors, accompanied by payment in full of initiation fees and dues in US money current. Such applicant shall become a Regular Member on approval of the Application by the Secretary.
3. No applicant, having made proper application and possessing the foregoing qualifications, shall be denied membership in The Association, provided however, that the Board of Directors may, at its discretion, refuse membership to any applicant who at any time during or since his service in The Brigade has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a Sky Soldier.
4. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, elect any person to Regular Membership who was assigned to and honorably served with the 173d Infantry Brigade prior to its designation as the 173d Airborne Brigade.

#### **B. Associate Members**

1. Spouses of deceased former members of the Association.
2. Gold Star Members

Any immediate family member of a former member of the brigade who was performing military duty and was killed while on active duty is eligible for Gold Star Membership. Immediate family defined as spouse, children (natural, adopted or step), mother, father, brother or sister. Dues of Gold Star Members to be commensurate with regular members.

Any applicant for Gold Star Membership shall first file with the Secretary

An Application for Membership or the Board of Directors shall prescribe such forms. Such applicant shall become a Gold Star Member upon documentation of their relationship to the KIA Sky Soldier/Allied Service member or may propose candidacy to the Board of Directors for Honorary Gold Star Membership by written recommendation documenting such qualifications of that candidate.

### 3. Veteran Members

Any Person who served the United States or its' Allied Forces shall be eligible for Associate Member in The Association upon application for Associate Membership.

### 4. Gold Star Parents / Spouses shall be eligible for Life Membership.

### 5. Honorary Member

- a. Any person whose activities have fostered the Airborne ideals on a national scale or who has provided great service to the United States of America or to The Brigade may be elected an Honorary Member of The Society by the Board of Directors. Any member of The Association may propose a candidate for Honorary Member, by written recommendation, to the Board of Directors stating the qualifications of that candidate.
- b. Each recommendation shall be certified to the Secretary not less than five (5) weeks prior to the Annual Reunion. Honorary Membership will be approved by majority vote at the Annual Membership Meeting. The Board of Directors may withdraw any Honorary Membership.
- c. Each Chapter of The Association may provide in its own By-laws for the designation of qualified persons as Honorary Chapter Members so long as they do not conflict with these By-laws.

## Section 2. Dues and Initiation Fees

- A. The Board of Directors shall from time to time fix Initiation Fees and Dues from all members, except that Life and Honorary Members are exempt from paying Dues.

- B. Past Presidents of The Association, upon completion of their term or terms as President, when duly elected by the Board of Directors, shall be Life Members.
- C. All Sky Soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor and Allied Service members awarded their nation's highest decoration for Valor, when duly elected by the Board of Directors, shall be Life Members.
- D. All Regular Members and Gold Star Parents / Spouse who pay the Life Membership Fee shall be Life Members.
- E. Annual Dues are due January 1 of each year.
- F. A portion of yearly dues, which are received from those members belonging to a Chapter, shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Executive Committee.
- G. The President, or his designee, will be the only person of The Association authorized to issue a membership card.

Section 3. Termination of Membership

The name of any member may be made an inactive member from the membership rolls by: 1) upon written resignation or, 2) upon direction by the Board of Directors based upon non-payment of dues or assessments, or for any reason that would warrant refusal of membership to an applicant.

Section 4. Appeal of Membership Denial or Revocation

Any person removed other than by a written resignation shall have the right of appeal to the Membership Appeals Committee and shall be informed of that right and the means to exercise it at the time the decision is made to deny or revoke membership