

*Ambassade de France
aux Etats-Unis*

F. Smbassadeur

1650

Washington, July 3, 2013

Dear Mr. Sklar:

I am pleased to inform you that by decree of President Hollande on June 10, 2013, you have been appointed a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor.

This award testifies to President Hollande's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of exceptional merit. The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom.

It is a true pleasure for me to convey to you our sincere and warm congratulations.

In order to determine a date and time when the insignia could be bestowed upon you, please contact our Consulate in Boston (timothy.deer@diplomatie.gouv.fr, +1 (617) 832 4412). In the meantime, please find enclosed a brief fact sheet, which explains in more detail the award you will receive.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations.

Sincerely,



Francois Delattre

Mr. S. Eliot Sklar
11 Par Three Court,
Mashpee, MA 02649

The French Legion of Honor

The French *Légion d'honneur* or "Legion of Honor" is an order of distinction first established by Napoleon Bonaparte in May of 1802. The Legion of Honor is the highest decoration bestowed in France and is divided into five degrees: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand Croix (Grand Cross). The highest degree of the Order of the Legion of Honor is that of Grand Master, which is held by the sitting President of France.

Initially intended to recognize military service, early honorees were required to have served twenty-five years in the French military, with other acts of civilian service or bravery also being considered. While requirements gradually changed during the course of the 19th century, World War I (1914-1918) was an important turning point in the history of the Order. Following the two World Wars, the Legion of Honor was awarded to honor the heroism of veterans and to comfort the families of soldiers who had sacrificed their lives to protect their country.

Following the 1963 founding of the French National Order of Merit, the Legion of Honor award criteria was expanded to recognize contributions in various disciplines of civil life. The award now recognizes entrepreneurs, high-level civil servants, sports champions, and even filmmakers in addition to members of the French military.

Foreign nationals who have served France or the ideals it upholds may receive a distinction for the Legion of Honor. U.S. veterans who risked their lives during World War II to fight on French territory qualify to be decorated as Knights of the Legion of Honor. Veterans must have fought in one of the main campaigns of the Liberation of France: Normandy, Provence, or Northern France. Other prominent Americans such as Miles Davis, Walt Disney, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jerry Lewis, Julia Child, Tomi Morrison, Barbara Streisand and Woody Allen have been awarded the distinction.