A miniature of the Type III pendant was authorized for wear as a lapel button in 1909. In 1928, the button was replaced by a rosette made of “two stripes of equal width” (color not specified) with a narrow gold stripe in the center.

The 1890 constitution established Union officers at the National Corps and Garrison (local) levels. By 1913, there were Department (state) officers, and a second type of local group, the Naval Branch, had been chartered. Under the direction of Captain H. Oden Lake, a capable and vigorous National Commander, the Union was reincorporated, an official uniform was designated, and all present and past officers were authorized to wear “miniature rank straps attached to the top of the ribbon, with insignia of rank engraved upon it.” Background colors of the rank straps were white for national officers, red for Department officers, and purple for Garrison and Naval Branch officers. The rank strap could be used in place of the plain pin bar. Rank insignia for Union officers were as follows:

**National Officers**

- **National Commander** - Four stars
- **Senior Vice Commander** - Three stars
- **Junior Vice Commander** - Two stars
- **Adjutant General and all other elective and appointed officers** - One star
- **Staff Officers** - (Gold?) splayed eagle

**Department Officers**

- **Commander** - Gold splayed eagle
- **Senior Vice Commander** - Silver splayed eagle
- **Junior Vice Commander** - Two silver bars at each end
- **Other elective and appointed officers** - One silver bar at each end

**Garrison and Naval Branch Officers**

- **Commander** - Gold oak leaf
- **Senior Vice Commander** - Silver oak leaf
- **Junior Vice Commander** - Two bars at each end (color not specified)
- **All other elected and appointed officers** - One bar at each end (color not specified)

The 1913 rank straps confused some members, and they were subsequently revised. At the national level, it appears that a Latin cross, centered on the strap and tilted 15 degrees, was added for the Chaplain, but the other straps remained unchanged. A number of changes were made to the Department-level straps. The Commander’s gold eagle was replaced with a silver eagle, the Senior Vice Commander’s silver eagle became a silver leaf, and the Junior Vice Commander’s two silver bars were upgraded to a gold leaf. The Adjutant and other officers would wear two bars, except for staff officers who wore only one bar. A cross was authorized for the Chaplain. The rank strap insignia for local officers remained the same. Besides these changes in the insignia, new strap background colors were instituted at all levels including colors to distinguish between active and former officers. Straps with a white background were adopted for all active officers at any level, while a blue background indicated a past national officer, purple a past Department officer, and crimson a past Garrison or Naval Branch officer.

Following World War I, the Union decided to decorate General John J. Pershing with a special medal to recognize his service to a grateful nation. This medal was subsequently designed, fabricated in gold, and suitably engraved. The date of presentation is not known; however, the Union contracted the Robbins Company to manufacture replicas of the Pershing medal for presentation to members of the armed forces for “outstanding service to the nation” and to civilians for “meritorious and outstanding service to the Order” (Union). The medal was also awarded to Honorary Life Members of the Union. It was known as the “Medal of Honor,” and recipients included Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, J. Edgar Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The pendent of the Union Medal of Honor has a gilt finish and is 48mm in height by 41mm in width. Its design is basically a Type III pendant that is superimposed over an eight-pointed star with eight groups of rays. Each ray group consists of a wide center ray tipped with a small ball and two narrow adjacent rays. There are two variations of the Medal of Honor. One variety has a fob-type suspension device, while the other variety uses three rings to suspend the pendant from its ribbon - one ring that is attached to the pendant through an eyelet between the wings of the eagle, another ring for the ribbon, and a third ring or link to connect the ribbon ring to the pendant ring. Awards of the Medal of Honor to nonmembers have a plain bronze pin bar. The reverse of the pendant is blank except for the maker’s mark, ROBBINS CO/ATTLEBORO, which is impressed in the bottom arm. Various ribbon devices have been seen on the ribbon including year bars, blank bars, and an enameled pin.
On 7 June 1937, the Union incorporated a type of honorary fraternal group for its members, the Military Order of the Firing Squad. This order is similar to the Military Order of the Cootie founded earlier by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The badge of the order is a Templar’s cross in black enamel and gilt edging that is superimposed over a gilt star with eight groups of ascending and descending rays. Centered in the upper arm of the cross is a gilt letter A followed by a gilt N in the right arm, a gilt U in the bottom arm, and a gilt & in the left arm, and in the center of the cross is the frontal view of a silver skull. The reverse of the badge has a vertical pin and is blank. It is not known whether this scarce badge merely signified membership in the order or if it was awarded for service to the order.

The author would like to acknowledge Adam E. Rohloff for providing some of the photographs used for this article and to Ronald E. Fischer for the use of his copies of The Army and Navy Union of the United States of America, A History of the Union and Its Auxiliary and the Union’s Constitution and By-Laws and Book of Ceremonies and for the photograph of the badge of the Military Order of the Firing Squad.

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Among the honors established by the former Soviet Union and Soviet-bloc countries was a form of recognition known as an "honorary title." The award of an honorary title was accompanied by a distinctive badge that identified the person wearing the badge as a recipient of the title. The honorary titles of the Soviet Union and the countries of the bloc generally fell into one of the following three categories:

- "Hero" Titles, such as Hero of the Soviet Union and Hero of Labor
- Titles of "Mother-Heroine"
- Professional honorary titles

The People's Republic of Poland (1952-1989) was the only country within the orbit of Soviet influence that never established any "Hero" title, but professional honorary titles were an integral part of its honors system. However, there is far less information available about the badges of the Polish honorary titles than information about Polish orders, decorations, and medals. Many collectors have not seen illustrations of these badges or are even aware that they exist.

Honorary titles were among the most prestigious awards of the People's Republic of Poland (P.R.L.). They were conferred for exceptional professional skill, efficiency, and merit and far less often than decorations or the lower classes of orders. Besides the distinctive badge, recipients of an honorary title received a diploma and the award of a special pension. Before the restoration of the office of the President of Poland in 1989, honorary titles were conferred by the State Council, which was the collective presidency of the P.R.L., but now the authority to grant all state awards resides with the President.

In the thirty-year period between 1955 and 1985, the P.R.L. instituted fifteen honorary titles. The first three honorary titles, Meritorious Miner, Meritorious Iron Worker, and Meritorious Railroad Worker, were instituted by three separate acts of Parliament on 9 November 1955. The honorary title of Meritorious Teacher was added the following year. During the 1960s, only one honorary title was instituted, but four new titles were instituted during the late 1970s. The last six honorary titles were instituted in the 1980s, four in 1985 alone.

The badges for the honorary titles were manufactured exclusively by the State Mint in Warsaw. Except for the Pilot-Cosmonaut and Meritorious Military Pilot badges, all the honorary title badges are similar in design. These badges basically consist of a ten-pointed star that is suspended from a pin bar. The star is 43mm in diameter with five groups of gilt rays alternating with five groups of silver rays, the uppermost group in gilt. In the center of the star is a circular medallion bordered by a gilt wreath. The middle of the medallion contains a silver Polish eagle without a crown on a red enamel background. Surrounding the eagle is a white enamel band edged in gilt that is inscribed with the name of the honorary title in gilt letters. At the top or bottom of the wreath is a small symbol, usually in oxidized silver, of the profession recognized by the badge. The reverse of the star is blank.

The pin bar, which is an enameled version of a ribbon bar, is 8mm by 34mm in size. On the obverse is a color pattern of enamel stripes edged in gilt that is distinctive for each title. In the center of the bar is a protruding device in gilt. The badge is attached to clothing by a safety pin on the reverse of the pin bar.

The title Pilot-Cosmonaut of the P.R.L. and the Pilot-Cosmonaut badge are unique. The only person to be conferred this title is Miroslaw Hermaszewski, then a Pilot-Major, for the Soviet-Polish space flight in 1978. Hermaszewski is presently a Major General in the Polish Air Force.

The obverse of the Pilot-Cosmonaut badge is dominated by a large, circular center in light blue enamel, 34mm in diameter, that contains the silver profile of a cosmonaut in a white enamel space helmet. On the front of the helmet are two horizontal stripes, white enamel above and red enamel below, for Poland's national colors. Superimposed on the helmet is a small silver rocket, and partially surrounding the helmet at an angle is the orbital trail of the rocket in silver. Partially covering the helmet on the right and extending beyond the edge of the circular center is the inscription LOTNIK/KOSMONAUTA/PRL (Pilot/Cosmonaut/People's Republic of Poland) in silver. The bottom half of the circular center is bordered by a stylized laurel branch inset with three small diamonds.