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# Order of the Engineer *almanac*

## Letter from the Chair

It has been a year since I first wrote to all of the Order of the Engineer Links and members by way of the OOE's first newsletter. There have been major improvements with the activities of the OOE since that first newsletter.

Roch Rochelle a member of the Board of Governors, Dean Joe Holtgreive of Northwestern and I were fortunate to gather and assist with the first ceremony of a Link of young Nuclear Engineers most of whom are associated with Exelon Corporation. It was refreshing to see a group of dedicated engineers from the Nuclear Power Industry desiring to be a part of the Order's emphasis on high ethical standards for work in the industry. Plans are in place at the time of this writing to hold a ceremony at the breakfast of the National Academy of Forensic Engineers Seminar to be held in New Orleans, LA on January 16, 2010. Members of NSPE who are attending their meeting being held at the same time and location are also invited to attend.

We are about to complete the project of providing every link with a plaque to display in a prominent place at each sponsoring organization for the purpose of promoting the Order. If you do not have yours, let our Executive Director Paula Ostaff know so that you can get your plaque for your link. Thanks to BOG Treasurer Dr. Don Rathbone who led this effort.

Our next project is providing a banner for each link that desires to have a podium banner to use in the induction ceremony. A photo of the podium banner is shown in the newsletter on page 3. If your link would

like to have one of these banners to display at your ceremony, let our Executive Director know in ample time to have it available before your next ceremony. Our BOG member Dr. Paul Hale has headed up this effort to help our Links enhance their ceremonial equipment.

As I was putting the final touches on this message to all the members of the Links of the Order, of the Engineer I picked up the December issue of the PE the magazine for Professional Engineers. On page 3 I found an article written by the mother of one of our Order of the Engineer Members. I was so moved by the article that I called Mrs. Seman and asked if I could publish her letter in this newsletter. She without hesitation gave me permission and we had a nice chat about her son John and how he valued his membership in the Order. In case you missed the article about the Order of the Engineer in the PE magazine, it was published in the July 2009 issue. On page 2, you will find Mrs. Beth Seman's article. I know you will enjoy it every bit as much as I did.

J. Derald Morgan, PhD, PE Chair Board of Governors  
Order of the Engineer

# Letter from the Chair

(continued)



## A Ring in Memory



JOHN EDWARD SEMAN

Although not an engineer myself, two of our three sons graduated from the Engineering College at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, in the past 10 years. Our youngest is a mechanical engineer, and he shares his PE magazine with me so I can enjoy it. Although it is October, I just read the July 2009 issue, which contained the article "Called to Order" (p. 20).



Having attended two Order of the Engineer ceremonies at Ohio Northern, I was excited to read this particular article. Ohio Northern has been presenting rings to engineering graduates since 1971! Our youngest son, Dan, wears his ring every single day, and we are very proud of him. I have become very observant of people who wear a stainless steel ring on the little finger of their working hand and usually inquire about it.

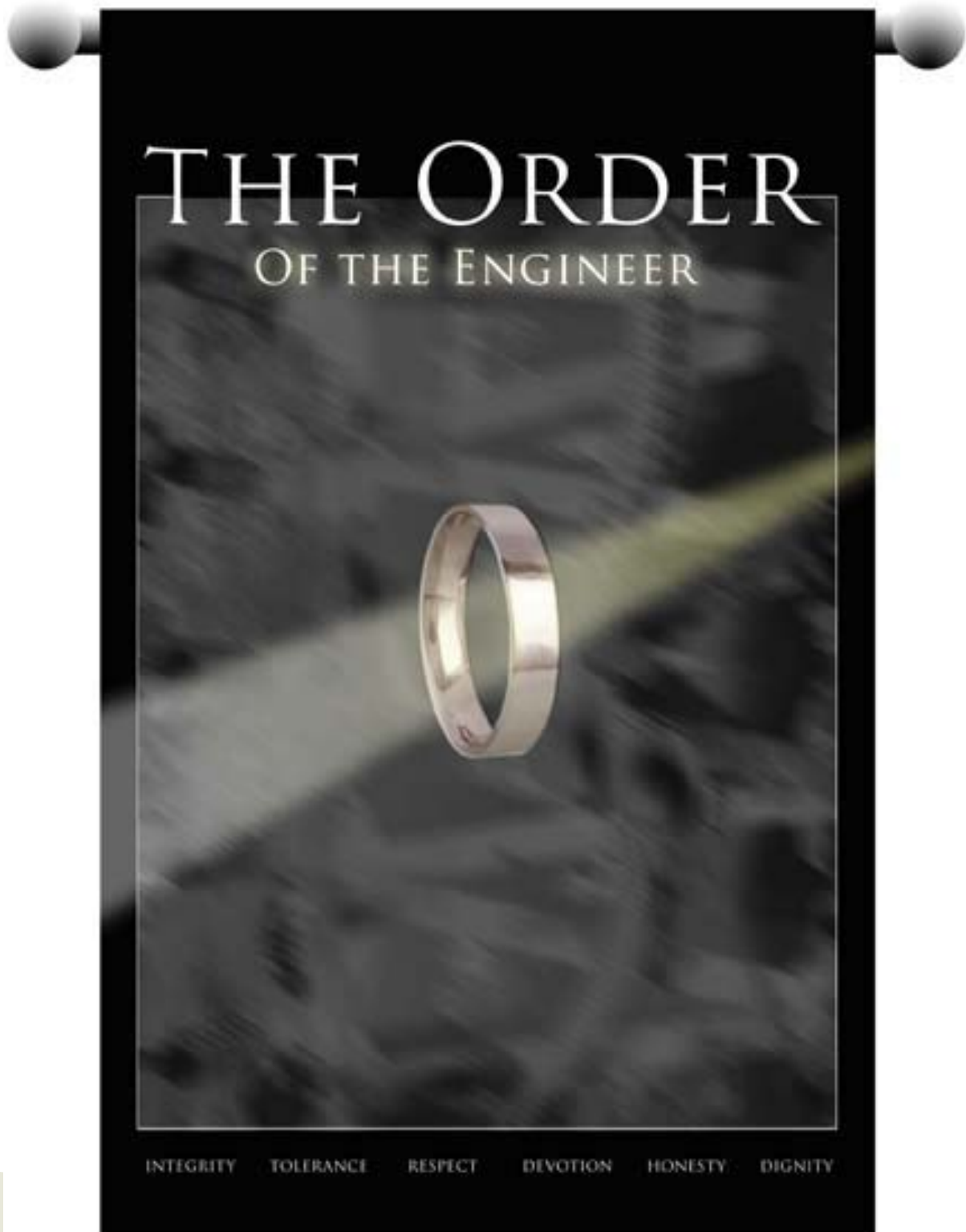
Our older son, John, also wore his ring every single day. John was a civil engineer and, unfortunately, he passed away five years ago this month, only 13 days after being diagnosed with leukemia, at the age of 26. We are fortunate that he had managed to become the assistant city engineer for our city, was well respected, and continues to be remembered to us by his coworkers and friends. An employee excellence award was established in his name!

One reason the article really meant a lot to me is because not too long after John passed away, I decided to try John's engineering ring on. I would never wear it on my little finger because I am not an engineer... of course, it was too big anyway! But, it fits perfectly on my ring finger, I wear it with great pride, and I have never taken it off! In his loss, seeing that ring on my finger means the world to me. No one really knows what it means, but occasionally I am able to share the story about the ring. I think the Order of the Engineer and the stainless steel ring are both wonderful for the engineering profession. I hope many engineers wear theirs with pride!

*Beth Seman  
Findlay, Ohio.*

# Letter from the Chair

(continued)



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