



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

HOUSTON

2018 Grand Prioral Council

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Spiritual Message

By The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite, Msgr. George Appleyard, VG,
GCLJ, KMLJ, GCrLJ, BD
From a Season of Growth

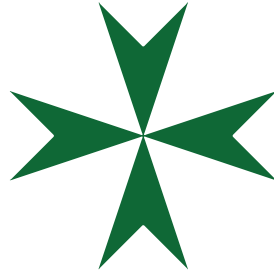
The Bible lays out three “pilgrimage” feasts when those, who are able, are to go to Jerusalem. The first is the spring festival of Passover, celebrating Israel’s release from Egyptian bondage.

The second is reported In Exodus 34:22 when the Lord decrees you shall celebrate the feast of weeks (*shavuoth* in Hebrew) seven weeks later: the first cutting of the wheat harvest. The third is a harvest festival at the end of the growing season, when other crops--usually limited to the seven crops mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8, foodstuffs that would not easily spoil, including wheat, barley, olives, dates, etc. – were to be offered in the Temple as they began to ripen. This feast came to be called Pentecost, and the produce known as *bikkurim*. It is obvious that these crops would not necessarily all ripen at the same time, so an allowance was made permitting various crops to be brought to the Temple earlier as they began to ripen, and not held back until the actual general harvest. The *bikkurim* would be loaded onto a decorated cart and taken in a joyful procession to the Holy City to be handed over to a priest as the donor recited a short act of thanksgiving that included these lines, “The Lord brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flowed. So I bring the first fruits of the produce of the soil that you, O Lord, have given me.”

The giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai quickly became attached to the Jewish feast of Pentecost. As Jesus insisted he did not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it, what lesson is there in this ritual for Christians today? All members of our Order are taught the mandate of the Pentecostal appeal, because God himself – in providing these thanksgiving rituals, said “No one is to appear before me empty handed.” But returning some of God’s blessings to him as a token of gratitude should not be limited to one or two days in the year. God gives us the opportunity to offer him not only a monetary gift, but also the fruits of our labors, even spiritual labors, on any day and every day.

In the closing lines of Mark’s Gospel, the evangelist reports the Ascension, which closes our Easter season and opens the longer season of Pentecost, and says “The Lord was taken up into heaven... while they (the disciples) went out and preached everywhere: the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.” We are the Lord’s laborers, but the Lord doesn’t watch from a distance. He is working with us and through us. Let us produce for him a generous return on his kindness to us whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Enjoy devotionals from Prelate Msgr. Appleyard at www.st-lazarus.us/gpa/devotion.php



History of the Order

Dedicated to the care and assistance of the poor and the sick

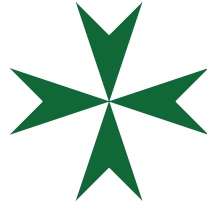
The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus is one of the orders of chivalry to survive the downfall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and the attempts by the Crusader knights to win control of the Holy Land from the forces of Islam. In theory the Order remained a military one, but with the exception of a brief period in the 17th century it played no military role after 1291. The Order of Saint Lazarus is one of the most ancient of the European orders of chivalry. At the very least it dates back to the time of the Crusader knights. From its foundation in the 12th century, the members of the Order were dedicated to two ideals: aid to those suffering from the dreadful disease of leprosy and the defense of the Christian faith.

Today the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is an international self-governing and independent

body, having its own Constitution; it may be compared with a kind of electoral kingdom. According to the said Constitution the Order is nonpolitical, oecumenical or nondenominational, as its membership is open to all men and women being practicing members of the Christian faith in good standing within their particular denomination. Its international membership consists of Roman-catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox, United, Old Catholic, New Apostolic and other Christians, upholding with their lives, fortunes and honour the principles of Christianity. Traditionally it is organized as a Christian Chivalric Order. The Order is registered in London in accordance with the laws in England.

It is both a Military Order of Mercy and a Hospitaller Order dedicated to the care and assistance of the poor and the sick. Its aim is to preserve and defend the Christian faith, to guard, assist succor and help the poor, the sick and dying, to promote and maintain the principles of Christian chivalry and to follow the teachings of Christ and His Holy Church in all its works.

With the exception of the present Teutonic Order (“Deutscher Orden”) the Order of Saint Lazarus is today the smallest of the orders of Christian chivalry. It is made up of approximately five thousand members in the five continents. The Order sees itself as an oecumenical Christian order whose genesis goes back to the Holy Land, to the crusades and to the Kingdom of Jerusalem.



2018 Grand Prioral Council

Dear Confreres and Consoeurs,

On behalf of the Grand Commandery of the Southwest, we invite you to Houston for the 2018 Grand Prioral Council. Houston is truly one of the great cities of the world. It is the home to NASA, world class museums, eclectic international restaurants and multiple sporting teams such as the World Champion Astros. Houston has rebounded from hurricane Harvey and stands proud and ready for you to enjoy.

Our host hotel, Hilton Post Oak, is located near the upscale Galleria and River Oaks District where we have a special rate of \$128 / standard King or \$151 / 2 standard Queens. You can come early or stay longer as the rate is good for 3 days on either side. Go online to www.hilton.com or call 800-445-8667 and be sure to use Group Code “OSL” to get this special rate. Please use this registration form or go online to www.st-lazarus.us for a form or to register online.

The Texas Medical Center Is the largest medical center in the world. There are 54 medically related institutions with 21 hospitals employing 106,000 and serving 160,000 people who visit the facility each day. On Thursday afternoon, Houston Methodist, ranked as one of the top hospitals in Texas, is giving our group an optional tour to have an inside look at advances they are making in various areas of medicine. This is limited to only 40 attendees, so sign up early.

There will be an optional tour Friday morning of Bayou Bend, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, which houses one of the most extensive collections of furniture, decorative arts, and paintings made or used between 1620 – 1876. Following this, we will have our lunch at the hotel with speakers from Nora’s Home.

The Vigil and Investiture services are always moving spiritual experiences. The Vigil will be followed by dinner at The Houston Country Club, the Investiture by the Gala at the Junior League of Houston.

Ya’ll come and be ready to have a good time.

Confraternally,

John B. Kane, KCLJ, OMLJ, JD
Commander, Grand Commandery of the Southwest



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

May 6-16, 2019

PROPOSED ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA
(Gateway City: New York)

DAY 2: ARRIVE
Tel Aviv Airport / Jerusalem

DAY 3: JERUSALEM

- Mt. of Olives
Church of Pater Noster
Church of Ascension
Gethsemane/Church of
All Nations
- Crusader Church of St. Anne
- Pool of Bethesda
- Via Dolorosa
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

DAY 4: JERUSALEM/BETHLEHEM/ BETHANY

- Wailing Wall/Dome of the Rock
- Mount Zion/Upper Room/
David's Tomb
- St. Peter in Gallicantu

- Bethlehem
Church of the Nativity
Church of St. Catherine
Grotto of St. Jerome
Shepherds' Field

- Bethany
Lazarus' Tomb

DAY 5: JERUSALEM/JUDEAN WILDERNESS

- Dead Sea
- Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls)
- Children's Welfare Center

DAY 6: JERUSALEM

- Jericho/Mount of Temptation
- Latrun
- Castellum Emmaus
(Crusader Castle)
- St. Louis Hospital (site of first
St. Lazarus Crusades Hospital)

DAY 7: TRAVEL TO TIBERIAS/SEA OF GALILEE

- Jordan River Baptismal Site
- Sea of Galilee
- Capernum
- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Tabgha (multiplication of
loaves & fishes)
- Height of Arbel
(Crusader battle)

DAY 8: TIBERIAS

- Cana
- Nazareth
- Mt. Tabor (site of Transfiguration)

DAY 9: TIBERIAS

- Horns of Hittin
- Acre

DAY 10: HAIFA/CAESAREA/TEL AVIV

DAY 11: RETURN TO U.S.

GEORGE'S INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Member Spotlight

An interview with Jeff Zollicoffer

By Chevalier Jack Spalding Schroder, Jr., KCLJ, KMLJ, JD

Q For starters, please tell us a little about your background and professional life.

I was born in Milwaukee, WI. I attended St. Leo's Academy which was run by Dominican Sisters and Jesuit Priests. I was settled on the idea of becoming a Priest, but decided against it so that I could one day get married and have children. There aren't many Zollicoffer's around and it was important to my father that I keep the family name going. I moved to Georgia with my uncle, who is a Baptist Pastor and invited me to visit and tour Atlanta's Colleges. I began studies at Kennesaw State University and later transferred to Oglethorpe University as a Psychology Major. I began my professional career in law enforcement. I was injured on duty and decided to pursue a career in Healthcare. I met Charles Bearden and was fascinated by his career as a Physician Assistant, and decided to set the goal of becoming a PA. I am currently an Anesthesia Technical Assistant at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, still pursuing the goal of becoming an Orthopedic PA, and I am a part-time medical asset for the State of Georgia Department of Defense.

Q Thank you for your continued service in the Georgia Department of Defense. What's been the most interesting assignment you've had in that position?

My most interesting assignment was a training operation at Ft. Stewart. I was part of a team responsible for pre-deployment tactical training for a group of Medics preparing to deploy.

Q How did you first learn about the Order of St. Lazarus, and what attracted you to join it?

I was conducting research about Chivalric Orders as a contributing member and foreign correspondent for the The Grand Lodge Alpina Research Lodge (Masonic Grand Lodge of Switzerland). One of my Swiss counterparts drew my attention to the historic works of The Order, and I thought the military and medical mission was noble. I was connected to the priory in Malta, who connected me with the GPA.

Q You currently serve the Order as Editor of the Grand Priory's newsletter. If you had to pick three main goals of the newsletter, what would they be?

To inform, recruit and maintain our membership by providing relevant and inspiring information.

Q What does your job entail, and how do you manage to get contributing authors to submit their articles by the publication deadline?

When I took over as Editor I had some very big shoes to fill. I was responsible for finding a printer and shipping service, basically establishing a print operation from the ground up. I maintain relationships with our printers, commanders and other officers to ensure that we receive relevant material to disseminate to our members. After I have received enough material, I bounce the articles to my team as we make edits. I then formatted the newsletter and try to produce a cohesive body of work.



Jeff Zollicoffer

Q You've made some changes to the newsletter since becoming Editor. Do you foresee any additional changes coming in the future?

I am always thinking about ways to improve the newsletter. I would like to see more featured articles and educational/historical ones as well. If anyone has any ideas for improving the newsletter, please let me know!

Q As members go, you're relatively young, and you've gotten very involved in a short period of time. What advice would you give to a new member of the Order?

I would say to be patient. Surround yourself with well-informed members. Look for an opportunity to serve and to remember that Christ has called us all to this Order as workers in his vineyard.

Q What other organizations or causes grab your time and attention?

I teach cadets in the United States Air force Auxiliary. I am a member of the Knights of Columbus and I support Scottish Rite and Shriners Hospitals.

Q If you could wave a magic wand, what would you see our Order doing 10 or 20 years from now?

I would steer the Order into developing an active Non-Governmental Organization division that provides medical relief training and supplies to underserved and disaster-stricken populations.

A Special Day for our Spiritual Protector – and our Order!

Reported by Charles W. Raborn, Jr., OSL

Imitating a famous newsman, I will start by saying:

**"Good Morning Lazarites!
Stand by for news!"**

Each of us, as members of our Order, should know that for over 150 years the Patriarch of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, has been the Spiritual Protector of The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. Last year a change occurred in terms of who our Spiritual Protector was when Patriarch Gregory III Laham stepped down. For those who do not yet know, a new Spiritual Protector stepped forward when Bishop Youssef Absi was elected for elevation to the position of Patriarch of Antioch. It is important to be clear that the full, formal and complete title of our new Spiritual Protector is: Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, Alexandria, and Jerusalem.

These points of information are brought up because, while scanning for reportable news, I noted Patriarch Absi was quickly stepping into his new role and a Synod had been held in Lebanon this past February; at the conclusion of which Patriarch Absi and all the Greek Melkite Catholic bishops traveled to Rome.

One might think this was normal, standard, or to be expected; but each of us should know that this was not your run-of-the-mill visit to the Vatican. In fact, while at the Vatican, the entire leadership of the Greek



Greek Melkite Church in Lebanon

Melkite Catholic Church participated – celebrated – in a special Mass that was led by Pope Francis and held in Casa Santa Mart, a building next to St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

None other than Pope Francis himself explained the special nature of our Spiritual Protectors' visit by saying: *"He is the father of a church, a very ancient church, and he comes to embrace Peter, to say, 'I'm in communion with Peter.'"*



Pope Francis and Patriarch Absi
Photo by Vatican News

For those of us who are not complete masters of religious history, one should note that the Greek Melkite Catholic Church is an Eastern Catholic Church in full communion with the Holy See as part of the worldwide Catholic Church. The Melkites

are Byzantine (Eastern) Rite Catholics who are of mixed Eastern Mediterranean and Greek origin, and who trace their history to the early Christians of Antioch (formally part of Syria and now in Turkey) of the First Century.

Recognizing that Patriarch Absi headed one of the many Eastern Rite churches in full union with Rome, Pope Francis added that the Melkite Church *"has its own theology within Catholic theology; it has a marvelous liturgy and a people of its own."* He went on to say *"At this time, a large portion of that people are being crucified like Jesus."* At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis asked Patriarch Absi to join him in giving the final blessing, adding: *"We offer this Mass for the people, for the people who suffer, for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East."*

Speaking his heart, Patriarch Absi said to Pope Francis, *"I cannot describe how beautiful this moment is,"* and that he was *"very moved by your fraternal charity, by the gestures of fraternity and solidarity you have shown our church."* Patriarch Absi finished by promising that he would always remember the event as being historical, beautiful and one which binds together all of the disciples of Christ.

Again in imitation, I say:

Hello Lazarites! You know what the news is – now for the rest of the story.

In developing the information needed to report on the special event that Pope Francis and Patriarch Absi shared, I realized several things – the least of which was that I was terribly ignorant. In reading the raw information, I was bright enough to pick up on the fact that it was an important event. But what made it special? I had questions.



Pope Francis and Patriarch Absi
Photo by Vatican News

These questions set the feet of an uninformed, but determined to be enlightened Southern Baptist, on the path to better understanding. In fact, it has occurred to me that a good title for such a missive might well be *“The Education of a Southern Baptist into the History of his Faith.”* But I digress.

Recognizing the depth of my ignorance, and my desire to understand, I put in the time in front of computer screens and reading books – but for every answer I found, two questions popped up. Ultimately my struggle became less one of learning, and more of one to correctly understand the information. So, as I and many other members have done, I turned to our Orders’ clergy. As fate would have it, at the recent Grand Prioral Council in Pasadena, a member of our clergy made the awful mistake of being kind to me. With that in mind, I reached out to this gentle, kind and thoughtful soul – and immediately embarked on the mission of making him rue meeting me in Pasadena by pelting him with endless questions. So much so that he said: *“Wow – this is starting to look like some of my Church history courses, not a short concise article! Having said that, this is sort of fun; however, in the spirit of brevity let’s see where this goes...”*

Yes my fellow Lazarites! I dragged another well-intentioned soul into the shrouded mists of history with me as I tried to force the past to grant better understanding of today, a well-intentioned Protestant guided by a kind, yet beleaguered, Catholic Priest. *[Father, I hope you will still take my calls - I’m considering a Part Deux!]*

Now for my most immediate questions:



St. Peter Statue at Capernaum

- “What is a Synod?”
- “What is an Eastern Rite?”
- “What did the Pope mean by ancient church?”
- “What is the background of Patriarch Absi?”
- “What is meant by ‘being in communion with Peter?’”

1. What is a Synod? In terms of a “Synod,” that is a council or governing body of a church which usually convenes to decide an issue of doctrine, or the administration or application of a doctrine. The roots come from the Greek words: “sun” which means “together”, “hodos” which means “way, and “sunodos” which means “meeting.”

2. What are Eastern Rites? Within the Roman Catholic Church there is a portion of the Church that uses Rites that follow style and liturgy similar to their Orthodox counterparts. However, these Eastern Rite churches are in full communion with Rome because they recognize the supremacy of Rome as opposed to Constantinople. Many important figures of the Church of the imperial city came from Antioch, including St. John Chrysostom, who is named as author of the foremost Byzantine liturgy.

3. Ancient Church – Marvelous Liturgy – People of Its Own? The Patriarch of Antioch is one of the original patriarchs of Early Christianity. Antioch was considered an extremely important center for Christianity, being third in importance only behind Rome and Alexandria. It shifted to fourth in prominence after the Roman Emperor transferred his capital to Constantinople and established it as the New Rome. In time, the Patriarch of Antioch came to be Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, Alexandria, and Jerusalem.



Patriarch Youssef Absi

4. What is the new Patriarch’s Background – Youssef Absi?

- I. May 6, 1973 – Ordained, named Chaplain of the Missionary Society of St Paul.
- II. June 22, 2001 – Appointed Titular Archbishop of Tarsus of Greek Melkites, and Curial Bishop and Auxiliary Bishop in the Melkite Patriarchate.
- III. September 2, 2001 – Appointed Superior General of his religious community.
- IV. 2007 – Appointed Patriarchal Vicar in the Archdiocese of Damascus.
- V. June 21, 2017 – Elected Patriarch of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church.

5. What is the Significance of the “Peter” Reference by Pope Francis? The Roman See, headed by the Roman Bishop (Pope), traces its history back to the apostles, specifically to the Apostle Peter. Because of this, each Roman Bishop (Pope) is considered to be the spiritual successor of the Apostle Peter. The needed spiritual authority when making decisions that guide the Faith.

SOURCES:

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Grand Priory of America Annual Hospitaller's Report 2017–2018

The Grand Priory of America is pleased to submit the annual report of our charitable and humanitarian activities for the years 2017/18. The Grand Priory of America (GPA) is comprised of 8 sub-jurisdictions, covering all 50 states and the Delegation of Mexico. Each year the Hospitallers of the sub-jurisdictions submit requests to the GPA for funding of programs of local, national or international concern, and during the annual meeting of the GPA the Board of Directors of the American Association of St. Lazarus (AASL) reviews and approves selected programs based on available resources and criteria established by the Hospitaller/Almoner Working Group. These criteria state that either one of the GPA's two adopted "Signature" program areas – *Leprosy Treatment, Education and Awareness* and *Organ Donation and Education* – are highly encouraged to be included in all submitted programs. Towards that goal, the Grand Priory of America's Organ Donation and Education Committee works to identify, support and participate in programs related to organ donation and education both locally and nationally.

Additionally, each of the 8 sub-jurisdictions of the GPA supports local programs through-out the year in their own regions, with financial support and resources coming directly from their membership.

The following report includes the 2017/18 charitable and humanitarian support of the Grand Priory of America as well as its sub-jurisdictions.

2017/18 Grand Priory of America Funded Programs

1.	Infant Welfare Center	\$45,000
2.	RSO	\$55,000
3.	Mexico Clinics	\$50,000
4.	Donate Life	\$12,000
5.	Tree House	\$6,640
6.	Global Outreach	\$8,000
7.	AMAR	\$15,000
8.	NWCU	\$5,000
9.	Nora's Home	\$25,000
10.	Kalaupapa	\$15,000
11.	Matching Grant Program	\$18,000
12.	Grand Prior's Fund	\$5,000
13.	St. Lazarus Shrine, NOLA	\$5,000

Total	\$264,640
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Infant Welfare Center, Jerusalem (\$45,000)

The GPA has been a long-time supporter of the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem, and this clinic serves the needs of Christian and non-Christian children in the Holy Land. To date, the GPA has contributed over \$750,000 USD to the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem.

Mexico (\$50,000)

The GPA, along with the Delegation of Mexico, has supported two leprosy clinics in Mexico for many years. Combined, these clinics have served thousands of leprosy afflicted patients and their families in rural Mexico. To date, the GPA has contributed well over \$1 million USD to our colleagues in Mexico who serve those in need.

Donate Life (\$12,000)

The Donate Life Transplant Games is a multi-sport festival event produced by The Transplant Games of America for individuals who have undergone life-saving transplant surgeries. Competition events are open to living donors, organ transplant recipients, bone marrow, corneal and tissue transplant recipients. More than an athletic event, the Donate Life Transplant Games highlight the critical importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, while celebrating the lives of organ donors and recipients.



Courtesy of RisingStar.org

Rising Star Outreach (\$55,000)

This is an NGO, founded in Atlanta and based in Chennai, India, dedicated to the treatment of leprosy afflicted patients in southern India. Included in our multi-year funding of RSO have been micro-lending programs for leprosy afflicted beggars, mobile medical vans and medical supplies. To date, the GPA has contributed over \$550,000 USD to Rising Star Outreach.

Tree House (\$6,640)

Located in Walworth County, Wisconsin, this organization coordinates child abuse investigations and intervention processes in addition to exceptional medical and therapy services to children who have been sexually or physically abused, neglected, drug endangered or a witness to a violent crime.

Global Outreach (\$8,000)

Project Generation, a program of Global Outreach, plans to build and run two schools for children ages 11 and under in order to help the health and education of Syrian refugee children in the Bekka Valley, Lebanon.

Nora's Home (\$25,000)

While the Texas Medical Center is the largest medical center in the world and has the top transplant centers in the United States, the Healthcare Hospitality Network reports that Houston is one of the most underserved cities in the country for hospitality bed space. Nora's Home is helping to fill the housing void and is currently the only hospitality-housing program in the Gulf Coast region to address the specific needs of transplant patients.

AMAR (\$15,000)

The AMAR International Charitable Foundation provides humanitarian assistance to women and children off all faiths displaced by the crisis in Iraqi Kurdistan.

National Workshop for Christian Unity (\$5,000)

The GPA sponsors the Keynote speaker each year at this very important ecumenical gathering in the United States.

Kalaupapa (\$15,000)

The Sisters of St. Francis live with and care for the residents of Kalaupapa, the last remaining leprosy village in the United States. Located on a remote peninsula on the island of Molokai, near Maui, Hawaii. This grant provides needed medical supplies for the remaining patients and their caregivers.

AASL-GPA Matching Grant Program (\$18,000)

Each year the GPA will match up to \$3,000 with each sub-jurisdiction in the US for local projects dedicated to our Flagship programs of leprosy and organ donation/education.

Grand Prior's Discretionary Fund (\$5,000)

This grant allows the Grand Prior, at his discretion, to expediently allocate financial resources that may be needed for an emergent humanitarian cause.

St. Lazarus Shrine, NOLA (\$5,000)

The GPA provides this grant annually for the care and preservation of the St. Lazarus Shrine at the Old Ursuline Convent in New Orleans.

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Annual Hospitaller's Report *continued*

Grand Priory of America's Organ Donation and Education Committee

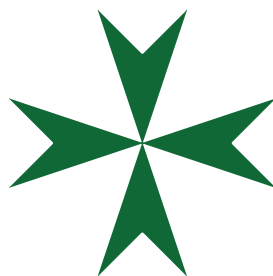
Co-chairs: Charles Bearden, KCLJ, Brain Hinsley, OLJ and Kim Hinsley, OLJ (Donation - \$5,000)

The Order of Saint Lazarus were proud sponsors and supporters of the Chris Klug Foundation (CKF) Summit for Life event held in Aspen, Colorado, in December, 2017. The CKF was founded by Chris Klug, an Olympic bronze medalist in the Parallel Giant Slalom at the 2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chris accomplished this less two years after receiving a life-saving liver transplant due to primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC), thus making Chris the first Olympian to participate in the Olympics, winter or summer, after an organ transplant. The OSL chose to support the CKF because of their continued dedication to

promoting life-saving donation and improving the quality of life for donors, donor families, organ transplant candidates, and recipients. The Chris Klug Foundation seeks to inspire people to register to be organ donors and to give inspiration and hope to those who are on the waitlist or have already received a transplant.

GPA members Brian and Kim Hinsley attended the Summit for Life event in Aspen, representing the OSL. Brian had a liver transplant in March of 2000, and after his transplant Brian returned to work as a Firefighter Paramedic with the Los Angeles County Fire

Department, becoming the first liver transplant recipient to return to active duty firefighter/paramedic after a liver transplant. Brian participated in the Summit for Life event with Chris and over 300 organ donation advocates, recipients and donor families. The Summit led from the base of Aspen Mountain up 3267 vertical feet covering 2.5 miles in 14 degree temperature, and was done to show support, caring and compassion to the over 120,000 people in America who are waiting for an opportunity to receive their transplant. As organ donation and transplantation is a flagship program of the Order of Saint Lazarus, Brian and Kim were honored to be the face of the OSL at the Summit For Life event.



2017/18 GPA Sub-jurisdiction Funded Programs

Grand Commandery of the Southwest

John B. Kane, KLJ, MMLJ – Commander

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery Contribution – \$34,550)
(Commandery donations – \$3,000)

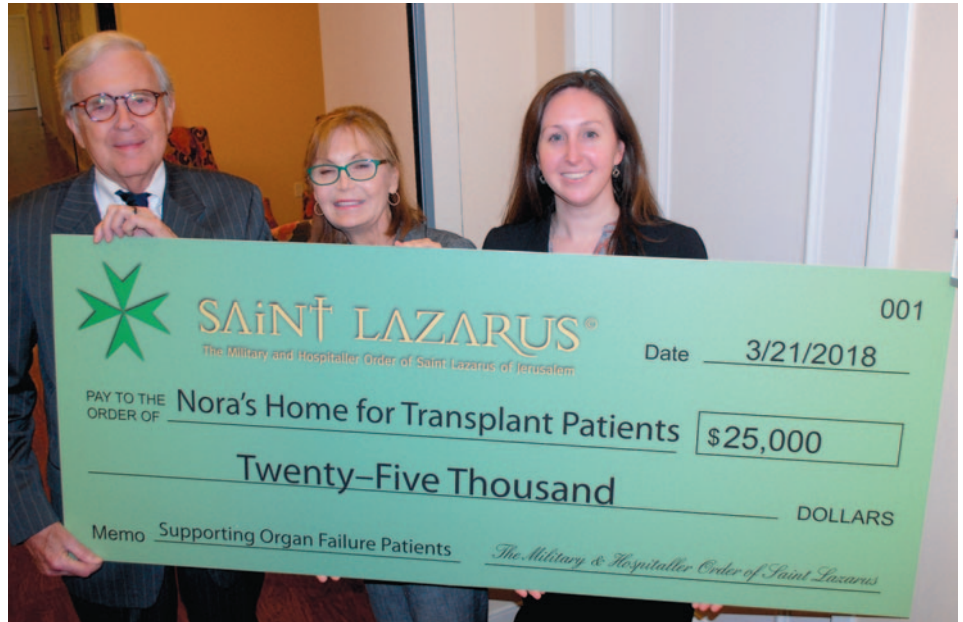


The Grand Commandery of the Southwest primarily focused on a facility that assists transplant

patients awaiting and recovering from organ transplants. Nora's Home in Houston provides affordable lodging and support to help reduce the expense and stress incurred by patients undergoing transplant care. The facility includes 16 private bedrooms and baths, a fully equipped kitchen, community room and education center, plus free shuttle service to the Texas Medical Center. This summer construction will be completed on an addition doubling the size of the Home and providing enhanced facilities. The American Association of St. Lazarus approved the Commandery's proposal to fund \$25,000 to finance a bedroom in the new addition. A plaque Recognizing the Order of St. Lazarus as a donor will be placed at the bedroom entrance. You can view the web site at www.norashome.org.



The Commandery believes this grant is one of the best examples of fulfilling one of the principal goals of St. Lazarus, assisting transplant



patients. We also expect this funding will heighten our exposure in the Texas Medical Center, the leading transplant center in the nation if not the world. The leaders of Nora's Home will be speaking at the annual GPA Friday luncheon in October.

We continued our support of the Houston Aphasia Recovery Center using \$3,000 in matching funds from the AASL for a total of \$6,000. HARC assists stroke victims in regaining their verbal skills. The organization was founded by some of our members and also has member volunteers. Thanks to support of organizations such as AASL, HARC has been able to expand its services, and recently moved into a new, larger facility to meet the needs of stroke patients.

Grand Commandery of the South

Thomas Forbes, OLJ, MMLJ, JD – Hospitaller

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery Contributions – \$50,895)
(Commandery Donations – \$9,500)



2017 was once again an active year for the Southern Commandery, with donations to a number of worthy organizations, some of which were "new to us," and some, not:

Padua House, Padua community services

Padua House is a 24-hour residential program for medically fragile children with developmental disabilities, in Belle Chasse, La, near New Orleans. It is a ministry of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. It offers its residents a home-like atmosphere along with vital services. It has been operating for

continued next page

Grand Commandery of the South *continued*

four decades. When we visited, it was housing twenty-six individuals “from infants to age 90,” though most of them are in the middle or high school range, and many are long-term residents. Most of them are in wheelchairs and require intensive staff assistance for daily activities, but a few of them do attend middle school nearby. It is a wonderful place with a campus-like atmosphere, and a caring, safe, and loving environment for these residents. Our donation of \$1,000 enabled them to update the “bath room” where, with some customized fixtures, the staff can help bathe the residents.

Grace at The Green Light

Grace at the Green Light is a local charity in New Orleans, which is dedicated to being of service to the City’s homeless. They provide meals, water, “Grace care bags” and other assistance for these souls. Our donation of \$1,000 was directed towards their “I am going home” family reunification program, which links up homeless people who want to return home with a family member who has agreed to support and care for them and provide a bus ticket and care bag to get them there. It includes follow-up with them to see how they are faring. Typically, at the three-month follow-up, only 5% of the people are back on the streets after having been united with family.

Luke’s House Free Clinic

Luke’s House is one of a very few truly free clinics in New Orleans. Originally sponsored by Rayne Methodist Church, it has evolved into a community effort of both an ecumenical and hospital personnel-based supporters. Our donation of \$400 provided printers for a computerized medical records system that

enabled the clinic to provide more immediate care to a greater number of patients, because of increased efficiency in making diagnoses.

Young Life

Young Life New Orleans East Bank is a Christian-based summer camp program that provides middle school and high school students a summer camping experience outside the city which includes all recreational activities, plus a Christian education, for both students and mentors. Our gift to them of \$600 towards camp tuition enabled a local student to attend.

Bastion Community of Resilience

Bastion, a New Orleans-based non-profit, is a newly-design and built neighborhood for returning soldiers and families, who have need of home access and living features for wounded veterans and their families. It is located in the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans, with thirty-eight residential units along with a wellness center and common areas. Our donation of \$800 provided a screen and projector system for the common room, for all to enjoy information and entertainment.

Methodist Children’s Home

Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services Home in Mandeville, Louisiana, provides residential care to Louisiana children and adolescents. They provide guidance and support to children “aging out” of foster care and entering adulthood, who need therapeutic care. Our donation of \$700 provided a therapeutic bed to be used in a therapy room for the residents.

Camp Able

Camp Able NOLA is a week-long summer day camp community of unconditional love, compassion, and acceptance, for campers with

special needs, ages 10 on up. Hosted by St Andrew’s Episcopal Church in New Orleans, it includes arts and crafts, City Park visits, pool, games, and a “must-see” talent show! It is a non-profit, free to all campers (25 campers in 2017). Our gift of \$1000 enabled several more campers to be able to attend, and to help Camp Able grow in the future.

St. Mary’s Church

St. Mary’s Church, part of the Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter in New Orleans, is St. Lazarus’ National Shrine. Our contribution of \$500, matched by



St. Mary’s Church check presentation

a \$500 grant from The American Association, enabled repairs and maintenance to the church’s organ and piano to take place, so that we and other worshipers may enjoy the sacred music there.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos (“God’s Special Time”) is an ecumenical, lay-led, Christian international prison ministry, which visits prisons to share the love of

Christ, and teach and practice forgiveness with inmates, so that they might grow in faith, spirituality, and servanthood while still within the prison environment, which has resulted in a far lower recidivism rate for the Kairos women than for other released inmates. Kairos has



Kairos Prison Ministry check presentation

regular meetings and twice-yearly retreat weekends at the Louisiana Correctional Facilities for Women. Because of the severe floods in the St. Gabriel facility area during 2016, our grant for 2017 enabled Kairos to replace support items for the weekend prison workshops. Our \$750 grant was matched by a \$750 grant from The American Association of St. Lazarus so that this worthy mission can continue.



St. Michael Special School

St. Michael Special School

This wonderful Catholic school has served special needs children and young people of all faiths for over the past fifty years, providing a loving and caring environment, schooling and vocational training, and work careers for their own graduates. Our donation of \$500 was matched by a grant of \$500 from the American Association of St. Lazarus, and the combined donation enabled them to purchase a new defibrillator to replace an outdated one, so that they could keep both buildings of their campus open as a school.

Cornerstone Builders

Cornerstone Builders is a mission sponsored by Catholic Charities in New Orleans, and centered at Second Zion Baptist Church, which provides rented buses throughout the year to transport families to visit incarcerated family members in correctional facilities and prisons in Louisiana. This year our \$750 donation, matched by \$750 from the American Association, provided a bus to several prisons for a Christmas/New Year's visit.

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

Our donation of \$1,000 to our Statewide Conference of Churches, who represent diverse communions and congregations by holding assemblies and other means of cooperative prayer to promote ecumenical growth, is an important way for the Order of St. Lazarus to support ecumenical Christian efforts within the state of Louisiana.

Trinity Christian Community

"T.C.C." is a Christian Community Center in New Orleans' Hollygrove neighborhood, providing a safe and caring afternoon place for schoolchildren.



Trinity Christian Community

Our \$500 donation, coupled with a \$500 match from The American Association, will support hiring an instructor to teach these students how to write computer code, in the new tech lab T.C.C. is constructing upstairs in their facility.

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Commandery of the Southeast



David Juliano, AChLJ, MMLJ, MDiv, FRSA-Hospitaller

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery
Contributions – \$41,550)
(Commandery Donations – \$20,500)

Donations at a Glance

1. Buckhead Christian Ministry – \$4,000.00 (SE) \$1,000.00 (AASL), total \$5,000.00
2. Emory University Hansen's Disease Clinic – \$5,000
3. University of Miami Hansen's Disease Clinics – \$5,000
4. Ye Notorious Krewe of the Peg Leg Pirate – \$1,500.00 (SE), \$1,500.00 (AASL), total \$3,000.00
5. Bersheeba Clinic – \$5,000

Buckhead Christian Ministry

For the fourth year, our Commandery supported the efforts of the Buckhead Christian Ministry with a donation of \$5,000 (\$4,000.00 SE / \$1,000.00 AASL). Their work here in our local community to prevent homelessness and assist struggling families goes right to the heart of our charitable intentions. Commandery members also donated clothing items to the Buckhead Christian Ministry Thrift Store.



Bersheeba Clinic

This is a non-profit free community medical clinic in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee, located in Grundy County, the poorest county in Tennessee. It is staffed solely by Physician Assistants and is the only location in the county located on the Cumberland Plateau where any medical care is available. Patients pay what they can if they can but for most it is free or just a few dollars. It is completely funded by donations. The web site can be viewed at www.bershebaclinic.org.



Krewe members John and Anna Byrnes

The Peg Leg Pirates, an organization in Tampa, Florida, supports the needs of amputees and veterans and was awarded \$3,000 by the Commandery: \$1,500.00 from Commandery funds and a matching \$1,500.00 from AASL.



Two-year old Tampa boy with prosthetic legs receives specially built tricycle from Peg Leg Pirates.

The Peg Leg Pirates raise funds every year in Tampa for this worthy endeavor and are supported yearly by our members in Florida. The Krewe has been able to do this by providing hand cycles and tricycles that are custom made, home renovation, scholarships and numerous other ways of meeting their needs. Amputees come in all sizes and shapes, from near and far, young to old and everything in between. The Krewe helps amputees locally, regionally, state wide, nationally and internationally.

Commandery of the Midwest



Betty Paps, DLJ, CMLJ, SCLJ, SMLJ, PhD – Hospitaller
(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery
Contributions --\$24,256)
(Commandery Donations – \$3,000)

Open Arms Free Clinic



Pictured with the Cavitron equipment: Dame Betty Paps, Cindy Meschler, Dental Coordinator and Sara Nicholas, Executive Director of Open Arms clinic.

The Midwest Commandery and the American Association of St. Lazarus donated \$6,000 for a Cavitron, which is an ultrasonic scaler and air-polishing unit used for dental cleaning. Open Arms Clinic is a free clinic serving the uninsured, low income, and underserved residents of Walworth County in Wisconsin.

Food For Kids



Pictured: Betty Paps, DLJ and Kurt Speece, President of Food For Kids.

A donation of \$1000 was given to Food For Kids that provides food on weekends for elementary school children in Paris, Illinois who qualify and might otherwise go hungry. Food is sent home on Friday consisting of non-perishable and child friendly which contains 3 out of the 4 essential food groups. Teachers and the school nurse report the children are doing much better in school because of this program.

Veterans In Need



Pictured is Dame Betty Paps presenting a check for \$1000 to Charles Thomas, President of VFW Post # 3601.

The donation was designed for Veterans In Need. Monies have been used for veterans who need it for rent, water pumps, clothes and shoes, vehicle repair, gas money to get to medical appointments, and help with funerals of veterans.

Homeless Shelter

The Edgar County Homeless Organization (ECHO) is in Edgar County, Illinois where poverty rate is 60%. A donation of \$1000 was given to buy a new stove, microwave and other needs for the home. At the present time the shelter is at capacity.



Pictured: Dame Betty Paps, Hospitaller for the Midwest Commandery, Spencer Jobst, President of ECHO, Joe Jill and Mary K. Bradford.

continued next page

Sub-jurisdiction Funded Programs *continued*



Grand Commandery of the West

Chad Johnson, OLJ, and Diane Weissmuller, OLJ – Hospitallers

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery Contributions – \$19,100) (Commandery Donations – \$16,000)

1. The Commandery donated \$15,000 for the Kalaupapa leprosy patients.
2. The Commandery donated \$500 to the Ascencia Homeless Shelter, which is for families that have lost their home or apartment, but still have employment. The families can stay for months and are supported, housed, and fed until they are able to make a down payment for a new apartment. The shelter houses 40 people, many of them children who would be living on the street if not for the shelter.
3. Personal donations by Richard Payatt, and Steve Brock.
4. Personal donation of \$500 by Diane Weissmuller in memorial of Karen Sloan to the order as a gift to promote the legacy program.

Accomplishments of the Commandery of the West in 2017:

1. Our commander Richard Payatt traveled to Kalaupapa, Molokai, HI to meet with the patients and assess the needs of the hospital.
2. Richard also set up a connection between Direct Relief International and Sister Alicia Damien to provide free medical supplies to the Leprosy patients on Molokai.
3. Kim and Brian Hinsley have conducted many speaking engagements in California for the advancement of organ transplantation. They have also been working with the Chris Klug Foundation.



2017 pilgrimage to Kalaupapa, Molokai, HI

Going forward through 2018, the Western Commandery will focus on working with the following charities, and organizations. Items accomplished thus far, and future expectations:

1. Northern California dinner and evening mass at St. Peter and Paul church, hosted by Leonard and Karen Rossi, to discuss Northern California's organ transplantation needs and possible charitable work to be performed during 2018.
2. The continued support and volunteering at Organ Transplantation groups. Promoting hospital organ transplant groups on the West Coast, such as those that are provided by California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) Organ Transplant group.
4. Working with the parish churches of St. Philomena and St. Elizabeth, at St. Father Damien's community in Kalaupapa, Molokai, Hawaii. Our developing goals are to help meet the needs of these very special churches that serve the last leprosy patients in this special community.
5. To facilitate the restoration of the organ transplant wing at The Queens Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii.
6. Implementation of The Legacy program by Jerry Leudders, OMLJ, and Chairman of the program. Designed to encourage order members to remember the order in their will's, estates, donate in lieu of flowers, or in memory of recently deceased friends and family.

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Our West Coast Commander in Palermo for the Monreale Pilgrimage.



2018 Northern California Meeting and Mass.



Imperial Delegation of Calcasieu

Nina Halloran, OLJ – Hospitaller

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery Contributions – \$4,505)

(Commandery Donations – \$1,500)

The Imperial Calcasieu Delegation has been busy this year. The first project was to donate funds to the AASL to be grouped with other donations in order to fund a project to help an area that was impacted by the numerous natural disasters.

We also sponsored the second annual Givers Candlelight Ceremony honoring tissue, organ and cornea donors on March 22, 2018. This was another successful program. We had approximately the same number of people participate but we planned ahead this year and had seats for everyone. The donor family speaker was the mother of a teenager who was tragically killed in an automobile accident. The recipient speaker was a lung and kidney recipient. Both speakers brought to light the impact that donation brings to others.



We have collected approximately 30 pounds of toiletries and dozens of towels and washcloths for Oasis (battered women's shelter) and will be presenting them in the near future with a monetary donation. Our members also periodically visit the Veteran's Home in Jennings, LA.

continued next page

Sub-jurisdiction Funded Programs *continued*



Delegation of Mexico

Guillermo Salas, KCLJ – Delegate

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery Contributions – \$3,500) (Additional contribution \$620 – \$1,500 per member to their clinic programs)

The Mexican Delegation continues to supervise and finance the ongoing programs at their two clinics, in alliance with the nuns responsible for each clinic in Morelia and Irapuato belonging to the Order of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. As may be remembered, this Order is directed from their main convent in Bogotá, Colombia, as they were founded by an Italian missionary specifically to aid leprosy patients more than one century ago.

During the year, the nuns visit the homes of registered patients to help them take appropriate care of their wounds (which continue to exist for the rest of their lives), as well as bringing them food supplies that are donated to us by Hérdez – a large company which produces canned and packaged foods, and Caritas, the Catholic Church's

hospitaler organization along with some local donors. The nuns also provide warmth and sympathy in the context of their pastoral care, for the benefit of the patients and their close relatives. They are most aware of the need of doing bacilloscopies on people living in the households of registered patients, and are capable of performing them themselves in order to detect new cases at an early stage.

In addition to their work visiting the patients at their homes in the surrounding areas, the nuns do rehabilitation treatments at the clinics and supervise the work of several dermatologists who generously spend one or two days each week giving low cost consultations at the clinics. As may be seen in the photographs below, they also organize

manual arts courses and other enjoyable social activities which are greatly appreciated by the people attending.

Every month, a diverse group of people give their time and effort to help us in various ways: between 8 and 10 members attend our monthly breakfast meetings in Mexico City to hear the Delegate's report and freely give their comments and suggestions. In addition, between two and four university students apply their expertise and relations to keep our records in order and up to date, help in organizing social events, etc., and this helps to obtain credits for their "social service" requirement. The delegate, the receiver and the marshal give freely of their time to benefit the order, and while it is difficult to estimate the number of hours donated to our cause, last year we estimated our membership have donated more than 4,000 hours of time towards our clinics.

As to the cost of operating the clinics, we are most grateful for the yearly donation received from the GPA of \$50,000, to which must be added the Delegation's members' donations which are between \$13,000 and \$16,000 (based on the current exchange rate, and of course the donations of food supplies, infirmary supplies and medicines provided by the various entities mentioned above.

Summary of work done in the clinics of Morelia and Irapuato during 2017

	Morelia	Irapuato
1 Visits to patients at their home (mostly for dermatological ailments)	859	1307
2 Low cost medical consultations at the clinic	559	863
3 Purchase of food supplies delivered	413	1251
4 Distance covered by van to visit patients' homes (km)	25,410	26,137
5 Health and pastoral talks given (nutrition, hygiene, good habits covered)	10	88
6 Personalized aid (medicine, healing supplies)	49	368
7 Registered Hansen patients at end of year	85	250



Manual Arts class taught by nuns in Irapuato.



Grand Commandery of the Atlantic

Mary Lee Ganikos, OLJ, PhD, Med – Hospitaller

(2017 Pentecostal Donation Commandery Contributions – \$19,675) (Commandery Donations – \$3,000)

The Commandery of the Atlantic continued to support wounded service members through a contribution to the Aleethia Foundation. This consisted of \$2,000 from the Commandery and a matching contribution of \$2,000 from The American Association of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem. The Organization was founded in 2003 by a Vietnam Army veteran. It provides small financial grants, short-term therapeutic recreation, family emergency aid, assistive technology items and home improvements assisting with injured members' mobility and other basic needs. The mission of the foundation is to help wounded veterans get out for meals, movies, sightseeing, etc. as it has been determined by doctors that it is beneficial for the wounded and/or ill service members to leave the hospital occasionally to help speed their recovery. The web site can be viewed at www.aleethia.org.

The Atlantic Commandery also contributed \$2,000 to the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem. This consisted of \$1,000 from the Commandery and a matching contribution of \$1,000 from The American Association of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. Established in 1950, the Infant Welfare Center has been a long-term beneficiary of our Order. Located in the heart of the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, its mission is to support babies, children, women, needy people, and severe social cases in the Old City. Examination rooms, kitchen, laboratory, dental clinic and office space and a nursery are available in the Center. Creating opportunities for women to work and/or continue their studies with the intended goal of a greatly improving the economic situation for families is their mission.



Courtesy of Rising star.org

Leprosy has existed for thousands of years, dating back to the earliest civilizations of China, Egypt and India. From as early as 600 B.C. there is evidence of Chaulmoogra Oil (a tree found in Eastern India) being used to ameliorate symptoms of the disease. Written accounts are common in ancient literature such as the Bible, and even earlier in Susrutha, regarded as the first Indian book on surgery, dating back to 400 B.C.



2017-18 Grand Priory of America Total Charitable Contributions

- Grand Priory of America Contributions (Pentecostal Appeal)
\$264,640
- Sub-jurisdictions (annual commandery dues/assessments)
\$65,000
- Donated hours
4,750 @ \$10 = \$47,500

Grand total \$377,140

Project Summaries:

Flagship Programs

- Leprosy:
8 totaling \$170,000
- Organ Donation / Education:
3 totaling \$43,500
- Percentage of total funds for Flagship Programs: 57%

Program Location and Contributions (including donated hours)

- United States (including Mexico):
29 totaling \$279,000
 - 88% of programs / 74% of funds
- International: 4 totaling \$98,140
 - 12% of programs / 26% of funds

Program Sponsor / Affiliation

- Church / Christian organizations:
14
- Community based:
19

Election and Installation

of the 50th Grand Master

of the Military and Hospitaller Order

of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



At the Chapter-General of the Order held in Madrid on Saturday May 5, 2018, attended by nearly 250 members of the Order, H.E. Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg, GCLJ was elected the 50th Grand Master of the Order by Acclamation. Thereafter, each Head of Jurisdiction in attendance pledged loyalty and support as well as conveying the best wishes of their Jurisdictions on his Election.

That afternoon he was installed as Grand Master at a solemn ceremony held in the church of the Monasterio de Santo Domingo el Real where he was solemnly Proclaimed and Sworn In to this, the highest office of the Order, in token of which he received the Grand Collar as a symbol of his rank.



Later that evening a celebratory reception was held to allow members to meet the new Grand Master, to renew acquaintances and to make new ones.



THE ORDER

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H.E. RADM the Chev. Kenneth P. Moritsugu,
USPHS (Ret.), GCILJ, GCLJ, GCMLJ, MD

Editor: Jeffrey L. Zollicoffer, Jr., CLJ
Atlanta, GA 678-558-4886 peaceful@usa.com

Associate Editor: Chev. Jack Schroder, Jr., KCLJ,
KMLJ, JD

Assistant Editor: Charles Raborn, OLJ

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