



FOR THE FAITH AND
IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY



St John

Eyes on the Future

THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

PRIORY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Volume 10, Number 2

Fall 2019

PRIOR'S MESSAGE

On St John's Day in June of 2020, the U.S. Priory will have a new Prior. My second, and my last term as Prior concludes at that time. Because I have almost an entire year before this, rest assured that this is not a valedictory message! I thought it would be appropriate at this time to explain to Confrères the process that must transpire between now and then.

First of all, as ours is a chivalric order, the Sovereign Head selects the next Prior. Her Majesty The Queen has delegated this prerogative to our Grand Prior. I have been in communication with HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, in regard to his wishes on this subject. In the past, the Priory has submitted a recommendation to the Grand Prior, and he has indicated that he would like us to do so again.

In accordance with the Grand Prior's wishes, I am naming a committee to recommend a candidate. I will serve as Chairman and have asked these Confrères to serve on it: Polly Coreth, DStJ (our Priory's former Chancellor); Chancellor Doug Paul, KStJ; Sub-Prelate The Right Rev'd Stacy Sauls, CSTJ; Secretary Maxey Roberts, CSTJ, and Sandy Knox-Johnston, OStJ.

Now let me address the procedure (largely based on the procedures used in 2014) to which the committee must adhere. Later this year, the committee will seek nominees. Any Confrère in good standing may submit a name for consideration as long as he or she is in good standing and has agreed to serve if selected by the Grand Prior. The Confrère submitting the name must have had a personal conversation with the individual concerning his or her willingness to serve.

In order for a name to be considered, these documents must be submitted: (1) a one-page letter of recommenda-

tion for the individual, including a thoughtful portrayal of the nominee and why his or her name is being put forward; (2) a copy of the candidate's CV with a photograph; (3) a letter from the nominee describing his or her interest in the position and outlining his or her vision for a three- or six-year term of office. Self-nomination is acceptable, but the above material must be submitted.

The committee will look for individuals willing and able to devote substantial time and effort to the position. A necessary part of holding the office is travel, which includes: officiating at the Priory's annual Service of Investiture and Rededication, visiting various Regions as a featured guest and principal fundraiser, being present at the annual Grand Council meeting (held in various St John Priorities around the world), and attending three meetings each year in London, as the U.S. Prior sits on the Order's Executive Committee. Leadership and judgment are major traits assessed. Ideally, a nominee will have an understanding and ability to work and communicate with governmental officials, as this can affect aid to the Hospital.

In nominating persons, Confrères should be aware that membership in the Order is not an absolute predicate to appointment as Prior. In fact, it is fairly common in the Order to have Priors from outside the Order. In many cases, these are truly outstanding leaders who have reached the stage when they wish to give back to the world. The Order has been blessed with incredible Priors who were not Order Members at the time they were appointed yet fulfilled their duties with tremendous skill and dedication.

Let me make one final point in regard to what the committee will assess. The U.S. Priory is blessed with having the most gender diversity of any other priory in terms of its leadership at the Chapter,

Officer and Regional levels. The committee will take this seriously as it considers nominees.

While not necessary to complete this process, letters of support from Priory Members will be welcomed. However, in order to avoid turning this process into some sort of politicized process, nominees and those supporting the nominees are asked not to contact other Priory Members to seek such letters. It is acceptable to make known to others that an individual has been nominated; however, the committee will strongly discourage nominees and their supporters from campaigning for support from other Members. If the committee learns this is occurring, it will look upon this with disfavor.

Nominations will be invited after the Investiture, which occurs on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Both e-mails and snail mail are acceptable. Nominations should be submitted to the following address:

Palmer C. Hamilton
Priory in the United States of America
The Most Venerable Order of the
Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
11 N. Royal Street, Suite 1200
Mobile, Alabama 36602

The committee's recommendation will be submitted to the Chapter and then sent to the Grand Prior.

The selection of a new Prior every six years is one of the most important events in which you have the opportunity to participate. I invite you to do so. If you have any questions, please contact me at phamilton@joneswalker.com. ✱



INVESTITURE 2020: BOSTON ON THE HORIZON

Over the past few years, the Priory's New England Region has grown in numbers and spirit. We are excited about hosting the 2020 Weekend of Investiture and Rededication in Boston from November 5 – 8, 2020. We have been hard at work planning a fabulous Weekend, and the organizing committee wants to give everyone a sneak preview!

The beautiful Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel, in the heart of Boston's Back Bay, will be our headquarters for the Weekend. The grande dame of Boston hotels, the Copley Plaza opened its doors in 1912, the same year as Fenway Park. Across from the hotel is Trinity Church, where the Investiture will take place. Trinity is the only church in the U.S. (and the only building in Boston) that has been honored as one of the "Ten Most Significant Buildings in the United States" by the American Institute of Architects.

Weekend activities will showcase some of the best of Boston. Early arrivals on Thursday will enjoy cocktails and dinner at The Somerset Club, a private club located in the historic Sears Mansion on Beacon Hill. On Friday and Saturday, Confrères and their guests will be able to explore many Boston area attractions and see firsthand why Boston is such a special city.

On Friday evening we will gather to welcome guests to Boston with an unforgettable reception. Afterwards, we have made optional dinner reservations at some of Boston's finest restaurants, helping make this a turnkey Weekend for everyone participating.

The Weekend will be capped off on Saturday night with a gala black tie dinner and dancing in the grand ballroom of the Copley Plaza. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Boston in 2020. Make plans now to attend! ❄️

-Richard D. Batchelder Jr., OSTJ -Benjamin M. Faucett, OSTJ
-Simon P. Boyd, MStJ -David H. Burnham, MStJ
-Dr. Gary P. Kearney, OSTJ -The Rev'd Robert G. Windsor, CStJ



Photo Courtesy of Trinity Church

PRIORY PILGRIMAGE SIGN-UP DATE NEARS

One of the first pilgrimages to Jerusalem and the Holy Land was in the early 380's by Egeria, a Spanish nun who recorded her experiences for her circle of women at home. She was received in Edessa, which would become 700 years later one of the four small states comprising the Crusaders' Kingdom of Jerusalem.



Its holy bishop welcomed her with the words, "As I see, daughter, that for the sake of devotion you have undertaken so great a labour in coming to these places from far-distant lands, if you are willing, we will show you all the places that are pleasant to the sight of Christians."

Modern-day Confrères and guests will visit the Holy Land much more easily and comfortably, but the pilgrimage is still for the "sake of devotion." Our pilgrims will embark to deepen faith, to more clearly understand the Order's roots, and to witness its 21st century mission.

Our pilgrims will visit famous holy sites, yet they will also dis-

cover off-the-beaten track places such as the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem, the hanging desert Monastery of St George of Kosiba and the port city of Acre.

There are many tours of the Holy Land, but unique to Confrères is the chance to see the Order's mission in action, with in-depth visits to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the Hebron and Anabta clinics, and a mobile clinic. Confrères will not only talk with staff but break bread with them as well.

Our pilgrims will not have to feel the discomforts Egeria did, as each evening we return to the fabled, luxurious American Colony Hotel in the heart of Jerusalem. Through it all, prayer will be interlaced with the history of the Order and the Holy Land.

As pilgrimage leader, I invite you to join a centuries-long line of the devout who have visited "the places that are pleasant to the sight of Christians." ❄️

*The Rev'd Canon Nicholas T. Porter, KStJ
Founder, Jerusalem Peacebuilders*

Please contact the Priory Office for more details and to register before the November 1st deadline.

PRIORY STAFF & OFFICE INFORMATION

Michele Blair
Executive Director

Diana McCormick
Director, Membership and Events

William "Billy" Brown
Senior Director, Philanthropy

Fendey Jean-Baptiste
Director, Technology

Elaine Sokolowski
Executive Office Administrator

OFFICE INFORMATION

1850 M Street, NW, Suite 1070
Washington DC 20036-5856
Tel: 202-510-9691
Fax: 202-822-0040
ID#: 13-6161455
E-mail: prioryUSA@saintjohn.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Karen Miller Lamb, DStJ

MARK PIGOTT, KBE, KStJ

The Urban Dictionary defines “polymath” — aka “Renaissance Man” — “from the Greek *polymathēs*, (having learned much) as a person with expertise in a large number of different subjects who can draw on this knowledge to solve problems.” Mark Pigott, KBE, KStJ, has been called “a game-changing leader, an expert industrialist and global philanthropist.” His accomplishments range from being ranked by the Harvard Business Review as a top global CEO, to co-producing the Tony Award-winning play *Angels in America* on Broadway.

Mark’s passion for learning is demonstrated by earning three degrees from Stanford University — a B.S. – Industrial Engineering, a M.S – Business, and a B.A. – Humanities. The oldest of seven, Mark was raised in Seattle, where he lives with his wife, Cindy. He worked summer jobs during school in factories and foundries for PACCAR Inc (\$25 billion revenue), a technology company that designs and manufactures Kenworth, Peterbilt and DAF trucks worldwide. Mark’s great-grandfather founded the company in 1905 to produce railway and logging equipment. Mark has worked at PACCAR for 41 years, was CEO for seventeen years, and is Executive Chairman.

Mark is a major supporter of the Order of St John in the USA and U.K. He first became interested in the Order when he and his wife lived in Manchester, England and experienced the dedication, upbeat approach and hard work of St John Ambulance men and women. Since becoming a Member of the Order, he is equally impressed by the selfless, heroic work at the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. He says, “having had my share of eye issues that were ably treated by Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, I felt drawn to the Order’s commitment to world vision.”

PACCAR and the Pigott family are major philanthropists in the countries where it has a major concentration of employees. Through its foundation, PACCAR annually donates \$5 to \$10 million dollars for scholarships, professorships, and capital programs in the arts, education and social services. Beneficiaries range from medical laboratories to hospitals, theaters to youth centers, and art museums to libraries. Pleased about the long-term positive impact of the donations, Mark commented, “This philanthropic approach to life has been firmly rooted in our company’s and family’s DNA. It is humbling and encourag-



ing to meet the talented and deserving recipients benefiting from the charitable donations.”

Mark Pigott and the company have earned recognition from many countries for their business and philanthropic contributions. These honors include the National Medal of Technology (USA) for the company’s pioneering and innovative work in aerodynamic environmentally friendly commercial vehicles, as well as the KBE (Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) and Chevalier of the “Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” in France.

Mark shared, “These honors are a wonderful recognition of the long-lasting benefits of the company’s business investments, coupled with business and personal philanthropy.” He devotes his considerable energy to many boards and advisory councils, ranging from the Royal Shakespeare Company America and the British Library Foundation to Saint George’s Society New York and Trinity College (Ireland) Foundation.

The Order of St John is very grateful to Mark and his family for their support over the years. Mark’s philanthropic generosity and visionary acumen are evident in his many contributions to the Order, which include conceiving and shepherding the design and production of the *Treasures* book, designing the colorful (and much loved) St John ties, and graciously funding many events at Investitures over the years. ✨

Karen Miller Lamb, DStJ

TREASURES

“The Order has a fascinating 1000-year history, with wonderful memorabilia and historical documents located at the Clerkenwell museum in London. Our opportunity was to make the Order’s iconic historical touchstones accessible for Members all over the world, and to explore its story of faith, care and valor in the 21st century. The concept of *Treasures* was in the works for several years and we were fortunate to be ably assisted by Julian Calder, a superb photographer, and Director of Heritage Tom Foakes and his team to deliver the narrative. I am proud of the team and the book, which will delight our Members and introduce the Order to the world around us.” ✨

Mark Pigott KBE, KStJ

Treasures is available for purchase at \$75 plus shipping through the Priory office. Proceeds will be shared between the U.S. Priory and the Museum of the Order of St John.

WORKING TOWARDS THE LIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM NEW HOSPITAL CEO AHMAD MA'ALI, PHD, CSTJ

Last year, I had the privilege of meeting many of you when I spoke at the U.S. Priory's Weekend of Investiture and Rededication. I was able to experience firsthand the invaluable work the Priory undertakes to support the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group's mission.

I am proud to have been part of the St John Family for almost 30 years. My roles have ranged from Staff Nurse to Nurse Tutor and Director of Nursing. I have worked closely with six Chief Executive Officers and, over the years, have gained great insight into the unique challenges the Hospital faces. It has supported me in my further training and education, both locally and in the UK. In 2009, I became the first homegrown Nursing and Allied Health Director and a member of the Hospital's Executive Committee.



Ahmad Ma'ali (L) and Ra'ed Bannourah

I was recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Eye Hospital Group at a time when it has reached an exceptional level of quality care and patient safety. Our recent reaccreditation by The Joint Commission International confirms that safe, quality care has become a core value of our mission. We continue to reach out to even more disadvantaged and impoverished people and have treated close to 150,000 patients

in 2018. This almost doubles the number of patients treated over the past 10 years. Our success is the outcome of staff dedication and hard work as well as visionary leadership.

Starting now, my senior management team and I will capitalize on these achievements, continuing to execute the strategic vision of the Board while preserving and protecting the Hospital's mission, which is so vital to the region.

One of my main objectives over the next five years is to enhance the sustainability of the Hospital and its services. I have already started to plan and organize private practice schemes to meet the needs of wealthier Jerusalem-based patients who can afford to pay for their care at the Hospital. I am also undertaking a number of initiatives such as revisiting agreements and contracts with both Israeli and Palestinian Ministries of Health, UNRWA and other health insurance firms.

Before we embark on any new projects we will continue to build on delivery of more quality eye care to the people needing it most. Our much-valued partnerships with other health

care providers such as Hadassah Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital will be further extended to invest in the training, education and development of our clinical staff. Right now, we have 268 medics and staff caring for over 147,600 patients every year. Without their expertise, our patients would not receive the vital ophthalmic care they deserve and need.

We plan to reinforce the fine work of our fundraising teams in Jerusalem and London, enabling them to focus more on raising funds from trusts and foundations, and on securing major gifts and multi-year funding that supports our long-term financial stability. The extremely valuable working partnerships we have with all of the St John Pories will be maintained and strengthened.

During my 2018 visit, I was humbled by the level of dedication and admiration U.S. Priory Members have for the Hospital and its work. I would like to express our appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to you and your leadership for continuing to believe in our sight-saving work and to support our mission in the Holy Land.

PRIORY CHAPTER ESTABLISHES DR. KENNETH FORDE, KSTJ, NURSE SPONSORSHIP

In June 2019, the Order lost a very special Member, Kenneth A. Forde, MD, KStJ. A gifted surgeon specializing in diseases of the colon, he pioneered the use of endoscopy as a diagnostic and surgical tool. Ever a source of wise and gentle counsel, he was a member of the Priory Chapter, which in his honor, created a nursing sponsorship at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

The first recipient of the Forde Nurse Sponsorship is Ra'ed Bannourah, who grew up just outside Bethlehem. Ra'ed was attracted to the medical industry as a humanitarian and scientific field, and to the Hospital as his best source for training to work in it. Ra'ed knew where he wanted to be!

In 1995, Ra'ed joined what he calls the St John "family" and 14 years later, was appointed a charge nurse. Ra'ed met his wife, who works in the Hospital's Central Sterile Service Department. They live in East Jerusalem with their three teenagers. Ra'ed says, "Being a father myself has helped me to empathize with parents and treat our patients, particularly young ones."

Ra'ed recently undertook an Advanced Cardiac Life Support course as well as a management one, which he says will help him to relate more effectively to both his staff and patients.

"I would like to thank the Priory in the U.S.," Ra'ed says, "for their generous support of me, and to the Hospital and its family. We are all on one team, working hard together to make a difference. At the end of the day our first priority is the same — providing the high standard of care our patients deserve." ❄️

“YOUR EYE IS THE LAMP OF YOUR BODY. WHEN YOUR EYE IS HEALTHY, YOUR WHOLE BODY IS FULL OF LIGHT, BUT WHEN IT IS BAD, YOUR BODY IS FULL OF DARKNESS.” — LUKE 11:34 (ESV)

The Priory is fortunate to have many Rectors as Confrères. Their support is critical in encouraging parishioners to visit the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Below are first-hand accounts by two Rectors, one from an urban congregation of over 9,500 members, and the other from a lovely church in the mountains with 250 congregants in summer and 100 in winter.

SEEING WITH OUR OWN EYES

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a visit is worth ten thousand. That is the way my wife, Laura, and I felt when we visited the Hospital in Jerusalem. We arrived there prior to joining a Lenten spiritual pilgrimage to Israel with members of our parish. We intentionally set aside a morning to visit the Hospital, its staff and patients – and the decision was worth every minute spent.

What struck us first was how large it is-- the impressive, sprawling facilities rival any hospital of equal size in the West. By mid-morning Friday, it was already buzzing with activity, despite Friday being the Muslim Holy Day for prayer and fasting. Many patients had been served even before our arrival, yet a steady stream of all ages kept coming through the Hospital's doors.

We spent two generous hours with Hospital CEO Dr. Ahmad Ma'ali and Peter Khoury, its Chief Financial Officer. We were reminded of the expansive work of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. We knew the yearly treatment statistics, but we were really touched to meet personnel and patients. Everyone – and I do mean everyone – was jovial and friendly. Their interactions with one another were laced with gentility, sincerity and compassion.

Clearly, they were not just “doing their job,” but living into their mission and their vocation to heal and serve others.

We also spent time learning more about the Hospital's financing. Political unrest, the ongoing issues around Brexit,

and the ups and downs of financial markets have all brought their share of challenges to the over \$12 million budget. But what became even clearer to us was the careful stewardship of resources at the Hospital. Only 3% of its budget goes to governance and 6% to generate additional funding, but over 90% goes directly to the services rendered by the Hospital to everyone who walks through its doors – regardless of race, gender, age, income or religion. All are touched by the healing hands and hearts of the Hospital.

Undercutting this is the urgent need for more contributions. Our Priory's support (topping 16% of the annual budget) is crucial, along with other donations, patient-related income, and foundation gifts. All this comes at a time when major cut-backs have occurred in aid to Middle East service agencies.

Laura and I were deeply moved to spend time at the Hospital. and to know that our prayers and generosity enable its work to flourish. Our visit resulted in both our own gift and that of St Martin's. We saw the motto – “saving sight, changing lives” with our own eyes. Indeed, a picture is worth a thousand words and the Order is making those pictures possible every single day for tens of thousands more.

The Rev'd Dr. Russ Levenson, Jr., MStJ, is Rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas, the largest Episcopal congregation in the U.S.

AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT

As we prepared for a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018, Charleston regional chair and parishioner Julian V. Brandt III, KStJ, asked, “Do you think you might get by the St John Eye Hospital?” I had become familiar with the Hospital's ministry through the summer gathering of Members of the Order in Cashiers, N.C., and through parishioners involved in the Order. My response was an enthusiastic “Yes!” Little did I know what a special visit was in store.

Eight of our Holy Land pilgrims joined the visit to the Hospital in March, 2018. We were greeted warmly by Ahmad Ma'ali and the entire staff. Our impressions of the operations were stellar. Besides being clean and in good physical shape, the Hospital was warm and friendly, from the conference room to the patient waiting room. We were fortunate enough to visit briefly with a young patient as we toured the floor.

Later, we met doctors working on a research project. The medical and cultural problems the Hospital faces are truly difficult. For example, patients have great difficulty getting to and from Gaza for treatment. They are scheduled, but then may not be given clearance to travel. That's part of the political struggle. Culturally, there is a high percentage in the region of cousins

UNFORGETTABLE VISIT CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Ahmad Ma'ali, Chief Financial Officer Peter Khoury, Russ Levenson, and Laura Levenson. (l. to r.)

ORDER OF ST JOHN RULES MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW

Founded as a military order, the Order of St John has been for centuries governed — and well served — by strict rules and regulations. Confrères may not be aware of some of these and confusion ensues. The Priory's Protocol Advisor sets the record straight on two such questions.

QUESTION # 1: WHO CAN WEAR MANTLES?

From time to time, questions arise as to who may wear the black mantle of the Order. If you have attended the annual Service of Investiture and Rededication, you will have observed the investiture of Knights and Dames. Candidates are presented to the person investing them with the honor, usually the Grand Prior, Lord Prior, or one of the Order's Great Officers. The candidate for promotion is first questioned by the promoting Officer and advised of what is expected of him or her.

The candidate being promoted to the grade of Knight is then dubbed with the Sword of the Order (the "accolade") and receives the neck insignia. He is then clothed with the black mantle bearing the badge of his grades. Candidates for Dame go through the same procedure, except that they are not dubbed. Order Regulations state: "Following the practice of the bestowal of the Accolade of the Realm of the United Kingdom, the Accolade of the Order is not bestowed on Dames of the Order."

After Knights and Dames are invested and take their seat, candidates for Commander, Officer and Members are invested with their grade insignia in the same manner, but do not receive the accolade, and are not vested with a mantle. Order regulations restrict the purchase and wearing of the mantle to Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross, and Knights and Dames of Justice and Grace (Grades I and II). They are then privileged to wear their mantles on all appropriate occasions. The fact that Commanders, Officers and Members are *not* vested with a mantle at the time of their investiture is a clear sign that these grades are not authorized to purchase or wear the mantle.

The above regulations are explicit, but there are exceptions to the rules about wearing mantles. In addition to Members of Grades I and II, mantles appropriate to their grade can be worn at Investiture or other Order/Priory event services by Principal Officers of the Priory (e.g., the Priory Secretary), Honorary Of-

ficers and Chapter Members, and the ceremonial staff of the Priory or Commandery Chapters. Members desiring to borrow a mantle for a special event such as the funeral of a Member, Regional St John's Day services, or Evensong should contact the Priory office with their request. A limited number of mantles are available for such occasions.



QUESTION #2: WHAT IS A VALID ORDER OF CHIVALRY?

A valid order of chivalry is one that has its foundation in a sovereign source, a fount of honor (in Latin a *Fons Honorum*), which is defined as "a sovereign ruler possessing the authority to grant honors — specifically knighthoods." For an order of chivalry to be valid, its origins must be in a sovereign source such as a reigning monarch, country or international body. The five recognized Orders of St John all find their origin in sovereign foundations — The Queen of the United Kingdom, The Kings of Sweden and the Netherlands, the government of the Republic of Germany and the Holy See.

Many organizations claim to be sovereign orders of chivalry but cannot prove foundation in a sovereign source. They are called "unrecognized" or "self-styled" orders, and are not seen as legitimate by monarchs, countries or international bodies. If they are closely examined, no true sovereign foundation can be found. Thus, some claim to be Orders of St John — but are no more than social clubs claiming to be valid orders of chivalry. Many are sponsored by nobles and titled persons claiming to have authority to confer knighthoods and other titles. Some are short lived, but some continue to dupe people into believing they are "sovereign orders." Members must avoid association and membership in them, however tempting!

COL USA(Ret) Howell Crawford Sasser Sr., KStJ is a retired priest of the Church of England who ministered to congregations in Europe, the Gulf, and Somalia. He served as Priory Historiographer from 2009 to 2015. Promoted to Knight of Justice in 2017, Howell is now the Priory's Protocol Adviser, and in 2018 was appointed Honorary Order Librarian. He and his wife, Elaine, live in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. They are the parents of The Rev'd Howell Crawford Sasser, Jr., OStJ. ❄

UNFORGETTABLE VISIT CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

marrying cousins, which for them is fairly standard, but which leads to congenital eye problems. Education, therefore, is part of the Hospital's preventative work.

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is doing what it can to get treatment to Gaza and other parts of the Holy Land via mobile care units. Our pilgrims were inspired to help those efforts financially. Back in the U.S., we held a campaign in Lent of 2019, raising over \$10,000 to help with staff and equipment. Having become a Member of the Order of St John, I look forward even more to my next visit to the Hospital and, importantly, to encourage others to do so. They will never forget it.

The Rev'd Rob Wood, MStJ, is rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, in Cashiers, North Carolina. ❄

ST JOHN VOLUNTEER CORPS: TRUE TO THE HOSPITALLERS' TRADITION

The St John Volunteer Corps (SJVC), formed in 2013, carries the 11th century Hospitallers' practice of service to the sick and the poor into the 21st century. The SJVC's guiding motivation continues to be building *esprit de corps* through service to Veterans and their families in need.

Initially, the SJVC's services were solely for Veterans in the nation's Veterans Administration Medical Centers. With its success, the program has expanded, and from 2016 onward, the scope of authorized services has included serving Veterans and their families in the general community as well as in VA centers. The SJVC's vitality is reflected by the ever-increasing number of participants and the hours they serve. In 2018-2019, 186 members contributed 6,153 hours of voluntary service.

Selected recent activities in nine SJVC regions illustrate some of the diverse opportunities SJVC members have created to render meaningful service to those who "shall have borne the battle."

CHARLESTON, SC: Writing workshops and annual Memorial Service at the Citadel honoring those veterans who have died during the year. Arranged for Major General James Livingston, MOH, USMC (Ret) to speak to local Boy Scouts on service and sacrifice.

DALLAS, TX: Assistance to VA Medical Center staff in welcoming, processing and briefing the 52 young men and women of the 2019 Class of Summer Youth Volunteers.

GREENWICH, CT: A Veterans' mentoring program in conjunction with American Corporate Partners, which assists Veterans transitioning from military to civilian life.

GULF STATES: Creation of a program at the William Green Veterans Home in Bay Minette, Alabama, that recruits and oversees volunteer work of high school students.

NEW ENGLAND: Cooperation with the Soldier's Fund, which helps support military Veterans from the U.S. and the U.K.

RICHMOND, VA: In addition to working with VA programs, hands-on work with Fisher House, a network of comfort homes where military and Veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment.

SAN DIEGO, CA: Participation in various outreach programs for Veterans, and service at the VA Long Beach Hospital.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Organization of a Wheelchair Regatta on San Francisco Bay, music concerts, craft projects, fun activities and a Fort Miley Speaker Series.

ST. LOUIS, MO: Service with the St. Louis VA Medical Center's Volunteer In-Home Visitor Program, and a new collaboration with *Missouri Veterans Endeavor*, which provides transitional housing for Veterans and their families.

The SJVC is always open to new ideas that will extend our ways to serve. Discussions are underway to explore the possibility of a Dog Therapy Program, following the model of a well-established one run by St John Ambulance Canada.

The majority of new programs such as the one above come from suggestions by active SJVC members and from the Regional SJVC Coordinators and the Regional Chairs. Before the project is eligible for service hour credits, a formal proposal request is submitted in writing to the Regional SJVC Coordinator, endorsed by the Regional Chair and forwarded to SJVC Vice Chancellors for review and final approval.

While we encourage our members to be creative in developing new program in support of Veterans, we have the following criteria to approve them:

The project must directly support Veterans, either in the Medical Centers, or in the general community, maintaining consistently high quality, adhering to established ethical standards, and being supervised by the Regional SJVC Coordinators and Regional Chairs.

We ensure that we effectively record the hours of our SJVC Members. We produce regular, accurate reports of the services provided to demonstrate the contributions we are making in support of Veterans, ensuring that such service is considered by the Honors and Awards Committee in awarding promotions. This data also serves to recognize individuals for their volunteer contributions and enables them to qualify for the St John Service Medal, awarded by the Order. LTC (Ret) Jeffrey Ritsick, OSTJ, the SJVC Administrative Coordinator, has developed a new, effective format for these reports. Regional SJVC Coordinators submit a formal, written report each year to us, as SJVC Vice Chancellors. The Regional SJVC Coordinator works with the Regional Chair to address any concerns or problems.

There is a growing *esprit de corps* and commitment among our SJVC Members, who are demonstrating regularly throughout the nation that service is a vital component of our time-honored mission as Members of the Most Venerable Order of St John. If you wish to join us, we will be delighted to welcome you as members of the Corps! For more information contact your regional SJVC coordinator or your Regional Chair as to opportunities and standards.



Major General James Livingston, MOH
(center l. with Ron Plunkett OSTJ).

D. Gray Heppner, KStJ, MD, COL USA
Richard F. Southby, KStJ,, Ph.D. (Med), COL USAR

IN THE FAIRBANKS TRADITION: LIVES WELL LIVED

Prior Palmer C. Hamilton, KStJ, has invited two very special guests to attend the 2019 Weekend of Investiture and Rededication in Charleston, S.C., Colonel Anthony Fairbanks Weston, TD, CStJ, DL, VR, and Benjie Fairbanks Weston, Esq., together with Anthony's wife Clare. Anthony and Benjie are the grandson and great-grandson of the legendary Douglas Fairbanks Jr., a founder of the Priory in the U.S. As tribute to the Fairbanks' family's long involvement with the Priory in the U.S., Benjie will carry its banner at the Investiture Service.

Born in the U.S. in 1909, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. earned three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – one for motion pictures, one for radio, and one for television – and remains on the International Best-Dressed Hall of Fame list. According to his IMDb biography, he was “handsome, distinguished and extremely bright.” A painter and sculptor, he succeeded in the businesses of film production, hotel management, mining, bowling alleys and popcorn manufacturing. Fairbanks was a highly decorated WWII naval hero, with honors from the U.S., U.K., France, Italy, Belgium, Chile and Brazil.

Already an Associate Knight of Justice of the Order of St John in the U.K., Douglas Fairbanks Jr., in 1956, suggested to a group of other prominent Americans the idea of creating a U.S. presence for the Order called the American Society of the Order of St John, which later became the current Priory.

Growing up, Anthony Fairbanks Weston (whose mother was Daphne Fairbanks, Douglas and Mary-Lee's eldest daughter) heard a great deal about his grandfather's role in the Order, and in 1983 was made an Esquire to him. As a member of the Order's Ceremonial Staff, he carried the U.S. Banner at many Services of Investiture and Rededication in London when Fairbanks Jr. was in attendance. Anthony remembers, “On my first duty as his Esquire, I had

to meet him at the home of the Lord Mayor of London. When I presented myself to the security staff and explained why I was there, one of the staff asked me to sign an autograph!”

Anthony goes on, “I have always been immensely conscious of his many achievements and of carrying on the Fairbanks name, yet I have always striven to be my own man. This was also important to my grandfather as the son of Douglas Fairbanks Sr., himself an illustrious film star, co-founder of United Artists and, really, the founder of Hollywood as we know it. Both had noble and inspirational values and these have shaped my own life and career.”

Anthony grew up in Suffolk, England, where he still lives with his wife of 25 years, and their three sons – Benjie, Hugo and Alfe. Following his graduation from the Rugby School, Anthony demonstrated an independent (and adventurous) streak by spending nine months as a cowboy in Montana. He found his calling in the British Army, retiring as a Lieutenant

Colonel after being involved with operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Kurdistan, as well as Afghanistan, alongside U.S. Forces. He continues in the Reserves as Chairman of Suffolk's Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association, and Honorary Colonel of Suffolk Army Cadet Force.

After Army service, Anthony created a second career in business restructuring and turnaround. An active participant in St John Ambulance and their local Suffolk Council, he is the holder of the St John Service Medal with three bars, indicative of service that is beyond what is required for the award.

Of the Fairbanks' great-grandsons, Benjie has inherited the St John gene, following in his father's footsteps as an Esquire to The Priory of England and the Islands in 2018, and participating in the Order's Ceremonial Staff. Like his father, he carries the U.S. banner at Investitures in London and, he says, “would be honored to continue to do so.” Benjie is also heir to his father's enthusiasm for St John Ambulance, saying “I have been on the receiving end of St John Ambulance volunteers' work when they have patched me up after various rugby games.”

Benjie graduated from Cirencester Royal Agricultural University in 2018 and now works as a Land Agent in North Yorkshire. Following Anthony's example, he is joining the Army Reserves, which will, he says, “allow me to continue my day job as well as have a career in the military, something that has always been of great interest to me.”

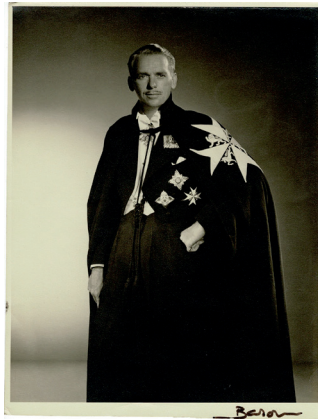
An ardent student of family history, Benjie says, “Although meeting my great-grandfather at an age when I was too young to remember, I have read parts of his autobiographies and heard anecdotes from all my family.” He adds, “Although my great-grandfather did not directly shape my life, I have always been very proud to be related to someone everyone describes so fondly!”

Both Anthony and Benjie treasure the seminal role Douglas Fairbanks Jr. played in the creation of the Priory in the USA of the Order of St John. With great enthusiasm, they look forward to meeting latter-day U.S. Confrères at the Investiture Weekend. Since 2019 is the year of Benjie's Investiture, the events will have a special meaning.

Karen Miller Lamb, DSt



Anthony Fairbanks Weston, Palmer C. Hamilton, and Benjie Fairbanks Weston at the Service of Rededication in St Paul's Cathedral.



Douglas Fairbanks Jr., KBE, DSC, KStJ

CONFRÈRES DEPARTED

*Ann Harden Babcock, CStJ James Patterson Caldwell, MStJ
Kenneth A. Forde, M.D., FACS, KStJ*

