



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim

December 30, 2017

Subject: New Year's Eve Message

Dear Confreres and Consours,

As we wait in anticipation for the coming New Year, there is much to remanence and look forward to. The activities of the American Commandery of the Order of Saint Joachim have been substantial in 2017. We have seen the execution of the 501c(3) status of our Commandery to ensure our members receive the tax benefits they well deserve. We have had several 'Meet and Greets' whereby we have renewed or established bonds amongst members of our Commandery and Order. Of historical import, we lead the efforts to ensure our first President, George Washington, was given the accolades of our esteemed Order initiated by the Order's representative in Poland at that time, Chevalier Jean de Heintz, in 1784 and closed by this Commandery in September 2017. The chief Archivist of the Washington Library at Mount Vernon, Virginia stated that the circle is now 'closed'.

We have seen pain and suffering of our fellow citizens with the onslaught of the Hurricane season this year. Members of our Commandery have supported a fund to provide some relief, as we can, to those in need. This fund will be open to contributions through February 15, 2018.

We have cemented the month of September 2018 (and generally in September of each year) for an Investiture with the host city of San Antonio, Texas. There will be more details to follow in the coming months. We will continue to conduct 'Meet and Greets' with the goal of personally meeting more of our members.

The year 2018 will find our Commandery growing and renewing ties with members who have been on the roles for some time. To ensure maximum tax benefits, we will be receiving the Grand Chapter's Oblations in 2018, thus ensuring the entire oblation (Grand Chapter and American Commandery) will benefit from our charitable status for our members.

Many congratulations to all of the Commandery's members. Our future is positive and the coming year is full of potential. The American Commandery of our Order of Saint Joachim wishes you a Happy New Year, good health and peace to you and your families.

DEO, PRINCIPI, LEGI

Martin von Grossmann

Lt. Col. (ret.) The Chevalier Martin von Grossmann, GCJ

Volume 4
December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)
pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim

The American Commandery Medal

The two-tone gold medal, available as a miniature only, is a likeness of President George Washington in profile with a small enamel Order of Saint Joachim cross superimposed and "American Commandery - The Order of Saint Joachim" on the edge. The ribbon is dark blue with white stars.



The Washington Medal is available to our members at \$60.00. You can mail a check to the American Commandery-Order of St. Joachim to the following address: Martin von Grossmann, Order of St. Joachim, P.O. Box 789, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. Also, you can pay thru PayPal.

New Member – Please welcome

Confrère Tomonari Kashimura reside in Texas U.S. and works in civil service as a Police Officer. He was accepted into The Order as a Knight Expectant in May of this year. Prior to his present occupation, he served 11 years of active duty in the United States Army as a Military Police Staff Sergeant until being honorably discharged in 2012 for combat related injuries sustained in Afghanistan. Since 2013, he has continued to serve his country as a member of the Texas State Guard Army Component.

Volume 4
December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)
pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim

He currently supports and volunteers his assistance in various state and community organizations including his local police officer's association, the American Legion, the Military Order the Purple Heart, and the State Guard Association of the United States

As a police officer, Tomonari serves a youth advisor in the Police Youth Service Division. He is also a volunteer advisor for the Police Explorer Post 227, mentoring and training young adults who have interest in law enforcement careers and community service. He provides supervision of young adult volunteers at community events, and annual fundraisers for charitable organizations such as local veteran organizations. In 2016, he was awarded the Civic Achievement Award for continuous volunteer service and commitment by his local law enforcement organization.

With his strong dedication to youth services and community support, it was no surprise to hear that Tomonari was called to duty when the Governor of Texas activated the state national guard in response to the devastation of hurricane Harvey and the urgent need for rescue, recovery and public safety. At a rare moment of downtime in early September, Tomonari shared some news of his status and involvement with relief operations which we would like to share in part with our membership:

September 9

I have returned home safely. The experience proved that there are good people who help despite the circumstances.... My team was great, vigilant, and plain tired by the 8th day. We are continuing shelter operations in the Houston-Beaumont area, rotating Texas state guard teams on a weekly basis.

[At] the end of August, Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent rains caused massive flooding in the communities of South East Texas. I volunteered with a group of Texas State Guardsmen to assist in shelter operations... Driving through the flooded routes to find passable routes lead us to our mission in facilitating temporary shelter, distributing food, [as well as] evacuated 450 [civilians] within a 2-hour time frame. My team moved around the Houston area from 27th of August to the 8th of September. It was with great pride to volunteer to assist fellow Texans ... during a time of need. The Texas State Guard is non-federal affiliated and is comprised of over 1500 members both civilian and prior service that support disaster relief operations and training throughout Texas.

We are proud to have members in our Commandery such as Confrère Tomonari Kashimura!

Volume 4

December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)

pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim

The Mount Vernon Event

On September 23, 2017, a historical event of great importance took place for the American Commandery of the Order of St. Joachim and The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, VA. This is a historical event because a member of our Order, Chevalier Jean de Heintz', reached out to George Washington over 234 years ago to pay tribute for his leadership. Today, the new American Commandery bestowed that honor to the father of our country.

The Library was the ideal venue for this ceremony since it sits on the Estate of George and Martha Washington. The Library was gracious and excited about hosting this ceremony because they saw the importance of the honor to George Washington and the Order of St. Joachim.

The event took place in the main part of the Library, where busts from the Founding Fathers and Washington's cabinet looked down on the participants. The American Commandery Commander, Martin von Grossmann GCJ, gave gifts to the Chief Librarian and Archivist, Mark C. Santangelo. These gifts included a timeline and binder of material about the Order, a certificate, medal and neck cross.

Mr. Santangelo accepted these gifts and mentioned that the "circle is closed". The circle was started by Chevalier Jean de Heintz' letter to George Washington in August 1783 that invited him to become a member of the order. We gathered in tribute to celebrate the leadership and legacy of the father of our country.

After the ceremony, Mr. Santangelo gave the delegation a tour of the rare book collection of the Library. We then had a VIP tour of the Mt. Vernon grounds and the mansion. We had the honor of placing a wreath at the Tomb of George Washington to close the day's events. The American Commandery delegation met at the Gadsbys' Tavern in Old Alexandria, Virginia for a lovely dinner and fellowship that evening.

It was a great honor to lead this important historical event for the American Commandery of the Order of St Joachim. I want to thank the Grand Master H.E. The Chevalier Stephen Lautens GCJ and H.E. Lt. Col., the Chevalier Martin von Grossmann GCJ for giving me the opportunity to "close the circle".

Volume 4
December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)
pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim



Volume 4
December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)
pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim



Volume 4
December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)
pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



The Quill

The American Commanderies Newsletter of the Order of St. Joachim

Volume 4
December 2017

Peter I. Bruemmer, KJ (The Herald)
pbruemmer.pb@gmail.com

The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is an IRS-approved, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.