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FEE HONOR

Brother MacDonald knighted into the Order of St. John

Brother Malcolm MacDonald has received a rare honor. He has been knighted into the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.

This organization is made up of an elite group of Christians whose inception dates back to 600 A.D.

Brother Malcolm MacDonald, a prominent member of our community and of our Council has recently been accepted into the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.

The history of the Order began about 600 A.D., when Pope Gregor the Great founded a hostel for pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. Subsequently, with the persecution of the Christians and the Crusades that followed, the order took on a military role and evolved into Chivalric Order of Knights Hospitaller. The eight pointed cross was worn on a black tunic by the Hospitallers and the plain white cross on a red tunic by the Military Knights. Both of these traditional symbols have been maintained in the regalia of the Order.

Over the centuries that followed, the History of the Order is intertwined with the struggles of Christianity for survival and the political maneuvers for power. The Original Order has however undergone change with the military role becoming non-viable and the order itself fractured by circumstance of political and religious differences.

Today, various groups have adopted the fundamental principles and the humanitarian objectives of the original Order and they established in Europe, Australia and in the Americas. One of the better known institutions which derived from the original Order is the "venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the British Realm." They developed the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

This ecumenical, international



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community of Christian Knights and Dames is committed in dedication for the Faith and for Service to Mankind - "Pro Fide et Pro Utilitate Hominum." The international headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium and there are autonomous Grand Priorys. The Grand Priory of the Americas is located in Vancouver, Canada. Within the structure of this Priory, there are a number of

Commanderys (Chapters), the closest one being located in Ottawa.

Persons invited to join the Order are recognized for their achievements and contributions to their community and they are honored upon acceptance by having the title Chevalier/Dame bestowed and by entitlement to wear the medal of the Order on appropriate occasions.