

**SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE GALA
DINNER OF THE JOHANNITER AID ASSOCIATION**

**OTTAWA
OCTOBER 22, 2011**

Mr. von Bose,

Mrs. von Bose,

Reverend Johnston,

Mrs. Johnston,

Honourable Knights:

It is a great pleasure to be in your company this evening. I want to thank you for your generous hospitality and for also inviting me to attend the annual general meeting of the Johanniter Aid Association earlier today.

Events that carry on ancient traditions keep the memory of our history alive and I am always pleased to participate. It is important that we not lose touch with the foundations of our society, and that we continue to work to improve on what has gone before.

Your efforts make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate, a role of which I heartily approve and with which I am very familiar as a Knight in both the Order of Malta and the Order of St. John.

The role of these organizations and their ability to carry out their calling in the modern world formed part of the discussion earlier today. It is important that we ensure that their work continues to be carried out in the best way possible.

We also had the opportunity to witness the robing of the Knights at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. I felt right at home in that beautiful church, perhaps in part because its sandstone came from the same quarry as the stone that was used for the Parliament Buildings. The Church also has one of the best vantage points in Ottawa, overlooking the Garden of the Provinces, Library and Archives Canada, the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills.

This wonderful gala dinner provides a fitting conclusion to the day, one which I will not soon forget, as we spend some time together in convivial surroundings. Allow me to thank you once again, particularly Mr. Botho von Bose, the Delegate of the Johanniter Order in Canada, and his wife Susan, as well as the Reverend Stanley Johnston, Chief Chaplain the President of the Johanniter Aid Association in Canada, and his wife Judith. You have made me feel most welcome.

In closing, let us raise a glass to the Knights and all assembled. I wish you good health and may you continue your good works for many years to come.