



Wherever you are, let your Christmas Day begin with the acknowledgement that God is with you – then go forward with family and friends and be at peace with the world. Have an amazing time and be safe. Always walk in love with mercy toward others. Merry Christmas from our house to yours.

### Reflections-20/20 Vision

by Kathy Watson

Looking in the rear view mirror at our KnightsTemplar activities, we could not have guessed where the adventure would take us from the beginning in 2004. Both of us have had some terrific experiences while doing what we love to do. For me, 2015 was a banner year culminating in a promotion to Grand Croix (Cross) and installation as Prior IV of the Priory of St. David of Wales. Both distinctions occurred at the Grand Convent hosted by the Priory in Boston over the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

The Priory managed the event so well that we were able to send over \$15,000 to the General **Raymond Davis** Foundation and to be able to designate funds to local charities. One such charity is the Boston City Mission Society which received \$3,000 for their coat program. The Priory chose to sponsor an IT student at the Episcopal Technical and Vocational Training Center ([www.etvtc.org](http://www.etvtc.org)) in Ramallah, Palestine. The Center provides quality technological education for 420 students in grades 7 – 10 from five private schools and two government schools.

Marston and I decided to sponsor another IT student at the same school. **Waseem's** dream is to be a programmer and study technology at a US University. We are helping him to achieve part of his dream at the Ramallah school. More and more of our time is spent helping Christians at risk both locally and in the Middle East. The need is great!

### Surprised (Again)!

by Kathy Watson

Knowing that he was going to be 80 (OMG an octogenarian!) this year, Marston insisted that he was NOT going to be surprised for his birthday as happened for his 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Since the gauntlet was thrown, planning began early in the year. Calendars were checked and ideas tossed around but we settled on a weekend in the Truckee/Tahoe area the first weekend in October when most of the family could be there. Mind you, his birthday is on November 14 so celebrating in October would definitely be a surprise!

I wish that I had captured the look on his face when he realized what happened, but it was such a challenge to get him to Truckee for a weekend without his knowing the reason. In the end, it was he who posed a trip to visit granddaughter **Sophia** in Reno on that very weekend! On the way, the marvel of technology (texting) allowed me to guide Marston to the house just after his daughter and family had arrived. Imagine the surprise to find them there and a wonderful house to spend a great weekend!

We managed to have two family dinners, breakfasts (ala Grandpa's great cooking) and a lunch on campus before the big game (UNR vs UNLV).

Sophia gave us a guided tour of the UNR campus before the game. We all made sure to be dressed in support of the Wolf Pack! Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday Marston!



*l. to r. Michael Amador, Karen Amador, Erik Watson, Jill Watson, Lexie Watson, Haley Watson, Al Amador, Sophia Amador, the birthday boy and Kathy Watson.*

## White House Tour

by Marston Watson

A lifelong dream to visit the White House finally came true on Tuesday, October 20. It was arranged through our Congressman **Mark DeSaulnier** (Contra Costa County), who we met at our Capitol tour the next day.



Kathy and I were well-prepared for the strict security measures before we were allowed into the White House. Once there, however, it seemed almost magical to go through many of the familiar rooms we have seen in photographs or on television. Of course, we were not allowed in the private quarters or the Oval Office.

The self-guided tour was well organized, which included some interesting facts from docents. We took the time to compliment the Secret Service personnel, who have had to endure some harsh criticism of late.

Our train ride to Washington, D. C. from Philadelphia was preceded by the National Congress of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion in that historic city. Marston is a member of this organization that honors an ancestor who served as a Union officer in the Civil War.

## Haley Brings Home More Medals

by Marston Watson

Granddaughter Haley Watson's amazing success in 2015 with her Aquanats Synchronized Swimming Team earned her more medals. She won a team bronze medal in April at the U. S. National Championship team event in Walnut Creek, California. She came home from the Junior Olympics last May in North Carolina with a bronze medal in the duet event. Later in July, Haley's team participated in the 2015 Swiss Open Synchronized Swimming Championships at Zurich, with other teams from around the world. Her team brought home gold and silver medals.



Haley, who is only 15, has landed a spot on the 2016 U.S. National Team in the 16-17 age group. Her skill and dedication to this sport has helped her advance beyond her age category for many years.

## Lexie Earns High Marks

by Marston Watson

Granddaughter **Alexia Watson** (13), Haley's younger sister, continues to excel in her studies as an 8th-grader at Foothill Middle School. She has been an "A" student for many years. Lexie's favorite sport is volleyball, which she enjoys as a mem-



ber of the XCELERATION team. Lexie is already looking ahead to her next four years at Northgate High School in Walnut Creek, California. She hopes to renew her interest in acting.

## Michael is the Newest EMT at Falck

by Marston Watson

Grandson **Michael Amador** received his license as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with a high score of 95% on his national, four-part examination. He turned 21 last July, which made him eligible to be hired by Falck Northern California shortly after he received his national license. Michael has been assigned to his own EMS unit, which carries a lot of responsibilities for this young man. He plans to attend classes in 2016 for his Paramedic license.

## Sophia's New Adventure in College

by Marston Watson

Granddaughter **Sophia** (18), Michael's younger sister, graduated an honor student from Carondelet High School last May. Her academic excellence in high school earned her a partial scholarship at the University of Nevada at Reno, for students majoring in pre-nursing.



Michael and Sophia Amador at her Carondelet graduation.

Sophia was selected to live in the Honors Residential Scholars Community, one of the nine Living Learning Communities for Pre-Nursing. Her residential unit includes three bedrooms, each with two students and two common bathrooms. The three units are secured by a common-entrance door, in addition to their private sleeping quarters. These honor students have to continue to excel in their studies in order to remain in the Honors Residential Scholars Community.

## High School for Xander

by Kathy Watson

After a relaxing fun-filled summer grandson **Xander Maniaci** is off to Analy High School in Sebastopol California.



He is still actively participating in Tae Kwon Do improving his skills as a black belt. He will turn 15 this week so in six months he will be able to learn to drive. He received a new computer for his birthday which will be used for videography in addition to his school work.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year