



Lord Charles Kennedy, 8th Marquess of Ailsa, 19th Earl of Cassillis, 21st Lord Kennedy

1956 - 2015

It is my sad duty to pass on to my fellow Kennedys who may not have heard the news of the passing of our beloved chief Lord Charles. In this age of instant communication and social networking, word spreads fast, but unfortunately not all of it correctly.

Lord Charles passed away Thursday evening, January 15, 2015, at the host hotel in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as he prepared to join with other Kennedys at the Central Florida Games. While awaiting dinner with a small group of members who arrived early, he suffered a fatal massive aortic coronary.

On Saturday prior to the Opening Ceremonies at the Games, the Honor Guard did a fantastic job of adapting a planned reviewing of the Guard by Lord Charles and Chief Michael Woodward of the Titusville Fire & Emergency Services, to a very moving Memorial to Lord Charles.

Chief Woodward and President/Chief Paul Key and Great Lakes Chieftain Kona Gant of the Kennedy Society paid their respects with a tribute to Lord Charles to a large crowd of attendees from many clans and friends. Kennedy friend and Chaplain of Clan Henderson, Fred Sanford, assisted in the memorial tribute to Lord Charles.

Lord Charles' daughters, Lady Rosemary and Lady Alicia arrived in Orlando to take their father, and our hereditary Chief, back home to Ayr, Scotland. Funeral services will be held at Kirkmichael Church on Thursday 29 January. Lord Charles will then be interred in the family cemetery on the grounds of Culzean Castle in Ayrshire, Scotland. At this time, former KSNA President/Chief Chris Kennedy, Great Lakes Chieftain Kona Gant, and Frank Kennedy III are planning to represent the Society at the services.

We have a lost a great friend, who, as often as he could, attended many of our U.S. Highland Games. Few Scottish chiefs have shown as much genuine affection for their American "families" as did Lord Charles.

When the opportunity arises, please raise a glass and toast our most "Wild and Mighty Kennedy".

Lord Charles, we loved you and we will miss you! Rest in peace.

Avise La Fin,

Paul L. Key, KSNA President/Chief