



THE AMBASSADOR

DER BOTSCHAFTER

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Chartered as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

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GAHF announces Robert M. Hitt III as 2017 Distinguished German American of the Year™

Secretary of Commerce, South Carolina

Council of 1000 Annual Award and Fundraising Gala on November 3, 2017

Robert "Bobby" M. Hitt III was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley to serve as Secretary of Commerce in January 2011. Hitt offers a wealth of economic development experience to the South Carolina Department of Commerce as he was the previous manager of corporate affairs at the BMW Manufacturing Company in Spartanburg, South Carolina and has worked closely with the previous five commerce secretaries.

Hitt is a native of Charleston, South Carolina and is of German descent. His ancestor, Peter Heite/Hitt, was born in 1683 in Siegen, Germany and subsequently emigrated to Germanna in 1714, Virginia where he was a ranger searching for silver and iron deposits. At the time, Germanna was the westernmost settlement of the British Empire, and it was all German-speaking.

Robert M. Hitt III is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. In 1987, Hitt received the prestigious Nieman Fellowship for journalists, which enabled him to study for a year at Harvard University where he specialized in management and law. Hitt served as the director of planning and development for the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm and worked at *The State* and *The Columbia Record* newspapers for 17 years. He served as managing editor of both publications.

Prior to his position as Secretary of Commerce, Hitt was the manager of corporate affairs at the BMW Manufacturing Company in Spartanburg for 18 years. Hitt was involved in bringing the BMW Plant to the Upstate, which has proven to be one of South Carolina's largest success stories regarding economic development and job creation. During his time at BMW, Robert M. Hitt III was chairman of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance and board member of the Upstate South Carolina Alliance, a regional economic development organization.

As Secretary of Commerce, Hitt has proven to be a leader in economic development for the state of South Carolina. He has recruited more than \$23 billion in capital investments and 86,000 new jobs to the state. During Hitt's tenure, South Carolina has consistently ranked number one in the export of both completed passenger motor vehicles and tires. Moreover, South Carolina has also led the nation in jobs created from foreign direct investment per capita, in three of the last four years.



Robert M. Hitt III

OUR MISSION

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® is dedicated to preserve, educate and promote the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to be a leading voice of German-Americans in cultural and public policy matters in the USA.

We serve as a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® was established in 1977 and chartered the following year as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. as an independent, tax-exempt, educational not-for-profit organization.

We are committed to:

- Sharing a positive image of Americans of German-speaking heritage by focusing on their historical contributions to American society
- Strengthening the ethnic awareness and cooperation of German Americans
- Promoting the German language and culture
- Cultivating German-American friendship and cooperation
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations

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Message from the President

Greetings from the German-American Heritage Museum in the Nation's capital!

I hope to see you in Washington on November 3rd for our signature event of the year – when Americans of German-speaking heritage across the country come together to celebrate one of their own for a life well-lived in service to our fellow Americans.

This year, our Distinguished German-American of the Year is Robert M. Hitt III, a man with deep German-American roots who is credited with bringing more than \$23 billion in capital investments and 86,000 new jobs to the state of South Carolina, which has led the nation in jobs created from foreign direct investment per capita in three of the last four years.

The Award was established in 1987 to help promote the accomplishments of German-Americans and their contributions to the building of our great nation. The Distinguished German-American of the Year Award provides national recognition for outstanding leadership and achievement of an American of German-speaking ancestry in business, the arts, education, science, politics and society. GAHF is the only national organization presenting an award of this kind.

America is a better Nation because of those German-speaking immigrants who chose to leave their homes overseas for the promise of a better future for themselves and their posterity in America. Whether they were among the first to arrive in colonial Virginia or among the arrivals who contributed so much to our industrial states, all have played a significant role in achieving the defining accomplishments of our American democracy.

From time to time, hysteria against historical memory will rise and attempt to suppress an aspect of the American experience. One hundred years ago, as the United States entered World War I, a wave of intolerance swept the country and resulted in book burnings, renaming of buildings and streets, and the collapse of the German-language press all in an effort to purge the country of some of its non-English-speaking culture.

I am pleased to write to you that one of the members of our Advisory Board, Don Heinrich Tolzmann, has succeeded in reversing a century-long injustice: the changing of street names in Cincinnati back to their pre-World War I names. Woodrow, Stonewall, and Yukon streets will return to their original names of Berlin, Hamburg, and Hanover streets!

Other streets will retain their current names, but the German names of seven streets will hang below: Republic (Bremen); Edgecliff (Brunswick); Merrimac (Hapsburg); Panama (Vienna); Orion (Wilhelm); Beredith (Schumann) and Connecticut (Frankfort).

The renaming of streets is just one example of renewed interest in the role of German-speakers in the peopling of America. Recently I was in the Midwest at the first conference of the International Germanic Genealogy Partnership, to which I was personally invited to attend from key organizer Dirk Weissleder on a visit to Berlin in November 2016. The organizers were hoping for 200-300 attendees; 700 enrolled, leading the hotel to request that no more be allowed to register! I spoke with a sizeable number of the attendees, including Germans, a Canadian, an Australian, a Brazilian, and Americans from all over the country, many of whom are already members of German-American heritage societies like the Germanna Foundation, the Sacramento Turn Verein, Germans in St. Louis, Germanic Genealogy Society, and the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.

Many of the people with whom I spoke were keenly interested in our German-American Heritage Survey (under the able chairmanship of Dorris Keeven-Franke) to identify important heritage sites and are likely candidates to be GAHF state-coordinators for this project. The survey is intended to revive interest in local German-American clubs by demonstrating to their local communities the value to cultivating heritage tourism and the social benefits of adaptive use of German-American sites.

What was striking about the high energy and excitement of helping Americans of German-speaking background connect with their ancestral villages in Europe was how much at odds it was with what we read in the press about the relatively glum statistics measuring German public opinion of the U.S.: the level of trust the Germans hold of Americans is at about the same level of confidence they hold of communist China.

I am convinced more than ever that there is a deep commitment among Americans to keep the relationships we enjoy with our European cousins, and perhaps the renewed interest is being kindled because many of us perceive the connections to be under a greater strain than at any time since the deployment of Pershing II missiles at the height of Russian saber-rattling in the early 1980's.

Because relationships are under strain, now is the time to get active. Elevate the energy of local German-American clubs, enlist volunteers for the German-American Heritage Survey of historic sites, and recruit volunteers with the German-American Heritage Foundation at our museum in Washington or from your own home.

The German-American Heritage Foundation works to recall the contributions of Americans who come from a German-speaking background; it is our story told by ourselves, and we seek to inspire others to seek out their own immigration story and preserve it for future generations.

The flourishing forty-year legacy of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA could not have been accomplished without the dedication of those who came before us, and it will all stop without you. Whether you can join us on November 3rd or not, please sponsor this important event and give generously.

Best to you and your family,
J. Marc Wheat
President

Message from the 1st Vice President

Steuben Parade

Courtesy of Advisory Board Member Uli Gamerding and the German American Business Council, 1st VP Ron Kosmahl attended this year's Steuben Parade on behalf of the GAHF Executive Committee. A special recognition to the Steuben Parade organization for the contributions they make each year to German-American understanding!



This year's Grand Marshals Admiral Manfred Nielson of the German Armed Forces, and Mr. Heinz Buck, former President of the German-American Committee of Greater New York were honored among the various German-American political, cultural and historical cultural and society guests.

The event was a great success with thousands supporting and honoring the many German-American contributions to the United States and Germany. Thousands attended the parade and Oktoberfest celebration afterwards in Central Park.

German-American Friendship Award

Recently, German Consul General Herbert Quelle, Chicago, presented Dr. Joachim "Yogi" Reppmann (Flensburg, Germany & Northfield, MN) with the German-American Friendship Award during the Euro-Atlantic Conference "The Legacy of 1848, Through Today" in Northfield, Minnesota. The conference, co-sponsored by the German Consulate General, was organized by Dr. Reppmann and was the most recent of a lifetime of contributions to German-American relations.

Since his first visit to the United States as a college student in 1978, Reppmann, a historian, has focused his scholarship primarily on the role and legacy of the "Forty-Eighters" from his native Schleswig-Holstein. These German immigrants supported the democratic revolutions of 1848 in German states. Through his scholarship, he has uncovered many bonds that unite Germans and Americans and demonstrated the depth and breadth of the German influence on American life. He has also made important contributions in linguistic research and in facilitating German-Jewish dialogue.

The German-American Friendship Award, established in 1981, is given by the German Ambassador to those who have shown extraordinary commitment to fostering German-American relations.



1st row (f.l.t.r.): Herbert Quelle, Yogi Reppmann, Michelle Lasswell, President Northfield Rotary Club
2nd row (f.l.t.r.): German born Hollywood actor Eric Braeden, conference keynote speaker and German and American Rotarians.
www.Moin-Moin.us

31th Annual
Council of 1000
Award and Fundraising Gala

German-American Heritage Foundation
of the USA®

Friday, November 3, 2017

honoring

Mr. Robert M. Hitt III

Secretary of Commerce, South Carolina

as 2017 Distinguished German-American of the Year™



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hall of Flags
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062

\$200 per person - members
\$250 per person - non-members

Reception: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm
Award Ceremony: 8:45 pm

Black Tie

Sponsorship Opportunities at the 31st Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala

- **Individual Sponsor: \$200** (Individual Ticket)
Seating for one guest at the dinner including pre-dinner reception
- **Supporter: \$500**
Two guest tickets for the dinner including pre-dinner reception
Plus Recognition Benefits
- **Bronze Sponsor: \$1,000**
Participation Benefits: Four guests at the dinner including pre-dinner reception
Plus Recognition Benefits
- **Silver Sponsor: \$2,500**
Participation Benefits: Six guests with preferred seating at the dinner including pre-dinner reception
Plus Recognition Benefits
- **Gold Sponsor: \$5,000**
Participation Benefits: One table for ten guests with preferred seating at the dinner incl. pre-dinner reception
Plus Recognition Benefits
- **Platinum Sponsor: \$10,000**
Participation Benefits: Two tables for twenty guests total with premium seating at the dinner including pre-dinner reception
One seat at one of the two head tables
Twenty reservations to the
Plus Recognition Benefits
- **Diamond Sponsor: \$25,000**
Participation Benefits: Three tables for thirty guests total with premium seating at the dinner
Two seats at the two head tables
Thirty reservations to the pre-dinner reception
Plus Recognition Benefits

German Language Society

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) is honored to welcome the membership of the German Language Society (GLS), effective as of August 2, 2017. Members and programs of the German Language Society will find a new home at GAHF, further strengthening our mission of promoting and preserving German-American culture.

GAHF is dedicated to preserving, educating and promoting the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to be a voice of German-Americans in cultural and public policy matters in the USA. It is a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The German Language Society, founded in 1961 has attracted German speakers from all backgrounds and has worked tirelessly to promote the German language in the broader DC metro region. GLS has provided programs in the form of presentations by distinguished guest lecturers from academia, the arts, media, and sciences. After 56 years of providing top quality German language programs, the GLS is joining the GAHF as a perfect fit to advance its mission. "We saw a natural alignment with the mission and goals of the GAHF. We believe the GAHF can provide the organizational support and meeting space we need to further our purpose of providing a cultural forum with the German language as a medium of expression, and to continue providing high quality German language programs," said GLS President Frederick Schroeder.

J. Marc Wheat, President of GAHF, welcomes GLS members: "We are pleased to see GLS continue its mission and honored to integrate them into our foundation. Our missions align and we share common goals. As a national organization we strive to see our German-American organizations flourish, and where possible to serve as a repository of their history."

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® German Language Society Program Series – Fall 2017

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 8:00 PM

Dr. Hans-Martin Sass, Professor Emeritus, Ruhr University in Bochum and Senior Research Scholar Emeritus, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. will give an illustrated lecture on **"Der 9. November – Ein Schicksalstag der deutschen Geschichte"**.

Location: German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
719 Sixth Street NW, Washington DC 20001

A social hour with refreshments will follow.

Reservations required: GermanLanguageSociety@gmail.com or (202) 239-0432

Thursday, November 2, 2017, 2:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Olaf Wassmuth, Pastor of the German Lutheran Church / Deutsche Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Washington, D.C. will screen and lead a discussion on **"Katharina Luther"**, a critically acclaimed film about Katharina von Bora, the nun who became Martin Luther's wife; premiered on German television last February.

Location: German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
719 Sixth Street NW, Washington DC 20001

Cake, coffee, and other refreshments will be served.

Reservations required: GermanLanguageSociety@gmail.com or (202) 239-0432

Sunday, December 17, 2017, 3:00 PM

The Washington Sängerbund will present its traditional German Christmas Concert "Deutsches Weihnachtskonzert", sung in German.

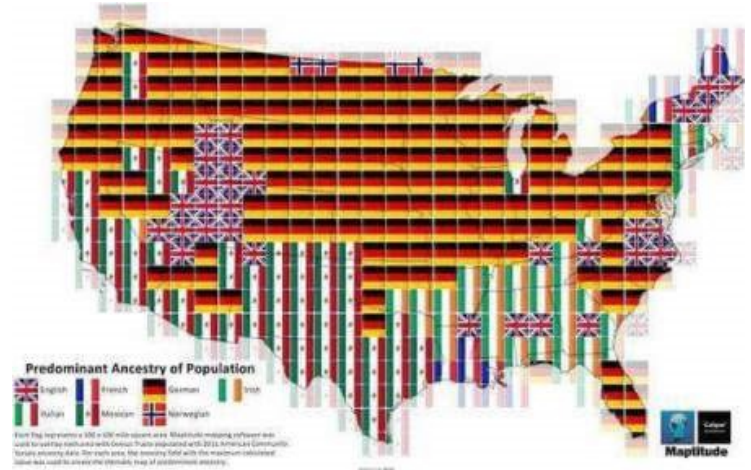
Location: The United Church/Die Vereinigte Kirche
1920 G St NW, Washington DC 20006

A social hour with refreshments will follow.

The Survey of America's German heritage begins here!

When you think of German Heritage in the U. S. what is the first place that comes to mind? Is it an event in our Nation's history? Is it a person or group that created a colony or settlement? Perhaps its the story of a group of German immigrants that has migrated?

The German-American Heritage Foundation has created the German-American Heritage Survey to highlight America's German culture and history across the entire United States. From the original settlement of Germantown (Philadelphia) founded in 1683 until today, the *Deutschamerikaner* has played a huge role in our nation's history. A wide belt of German settlement runs across the northern tier of our entire country from the east coast to the west coast. Within the "German Triangle" created by the cities of Cincinnati, St. Louis and Milwaukee lies the largest number of German settlements begun in the Nineteenth century. With an estimated size of approximately 46 million in 2014, German-Americans are the largest of the ancestry groups reported by the US Census Bureau in its American Community Survey. The group accounts for about 1/3 of the total ethnic German population in the world.



The German-American Heritage Survey will assemble the past and present influence of the German heritage in the United States. An inventory of sites, prominent people and institutions, settlements, culinary memories, conflicts, scenic byways, migration routes, religious influences, agricultural influences, maps, prints, and images, and music, art, and architecture, along with a list of current organizations with whom to collaborate will be gathered. From this survey, we will use GIS mapping information to share these sites and stories across the country. We will also assemble an interactive website and app, allowing access to our nation's rich German Heritage.

Project Director Dorris Keeven-Franke has assembled a team who will assist in coordinating this project. She works closely with Megan Lott, who heads the Development Committee on the German-American Heritage Foundation's Board of Directors, and Naomi Revzin who will be spearheading the DC portion of the project. We are seeking collaboratio with individuals, organizations, and Vereins to gather this information. Tourism, Convention and Visitors Bureaus, and Chamber of Commerce organizations will be tapped for their contributions as well. Please consider sharing information about German-American sites, byways, or current organizations with us today.

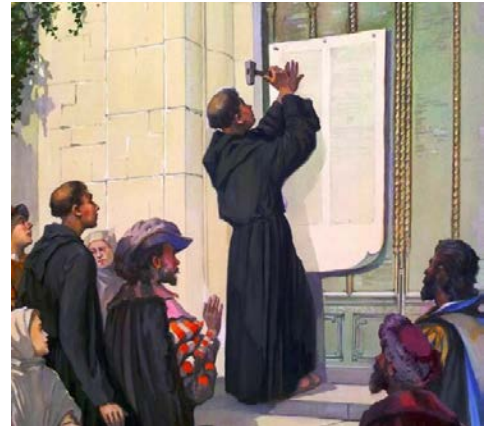
It is so easy! Visit <https://germanamericanheritagesurvey.com/> and help us secure your German Heritage in America! For further information please contact Dorris Keeven-Franke at dorris.keevenfranke@gmail.com. On the website you will also learn of submissions for the survey! Visit us often and see more stories about places, and voices of heroes that have a place in our German heritage.

– Dorris Keeven-Franke, Executive Director, Missouri Germans Consortium

**Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation
By presenting "Luther in Worms" Oratorio in Philadelphia**

If you traveled through Germany this past summer, as I did, you will likely have encountered the portrait of Martin Luther everywhere you went. With more than a thousand events in hundred locations, the whole nation is celebrating the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting his 95 theses on the Castle Church door at Wittenberg. That action, on October 31st, 1517 touched off more than a century of warfare in Europe and changed the practice of Christianity worldwide as well. But the Reformation was not just about religion. It shaped the German language, mentality and way of life.

According to Luther, Christians were guaranteed salvation through Jesus, but had a duty to live in such a manner as to deserve it. He shared his distaste for visual ornamentation with other Protestant reformers, but he different in the role he saw for music. For him, it was a divinely inspired weapon against the devil. He wanted believers to sing together, in church and at home. Today, Germany has 130 publicly financed orchestras, more than any other country. And concerts are still attended with reverence like church services.



During my trip across the mid-section of Germany, I visited various Lutheran sites, and also met with friends in Eisenach, Leipzig, Dresden and Cottbus. A total of 40 choristers, soloists and the conductor of the Staatstheater of Cottbus agreed to fly to Philadelphia, at their own expense, for a five day visit, and present – in a joint transatlantic effort with an equal number of choristers, drawn from various Philadelphia churches, plus a full orchestra – the oratorio "Luther in Worms" at the German Society on November 5th, 2017

This two-hour masterpiece was composed by Ludwig Meinardus in Dresden in the early 1870's. It's artistic impact arises from the dramatic scoring of its two contrasting choirs – representing the Imperial and Lutheran forces (in remembrance of the Imperial Diet of 1521). It was performed more than 300 times up to the 400th anniversary of Luther's birth in 1883 – both throughout Germany and internationally, among others once stateside, in Philadelphia. It will be altogether fitting to present this oratorio here again, after more than 130 years.

For further information please contact the German Society at 215-627-2332 or info@germansociety.org
– Hardy von Auenmueller

<p>WELCOME NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>Jon Elsasser, OH Eva Frederick, TX Clytie Roberts & Rico Glage, DC William Holly, FL Grand Lodge, CA Robert Ludwig, DC David A Klaus, DC Alfred Robinson, VA Kevin Mersol-Barg, DC Gene M Smith, DC Jacqueline Halbig von Schleppenbach, VA Prof. Dr. Richard Voss, FL Tania Wieck, NY Peter Willen, VA</p>	<p>MEMBER'S CORNER</p>
	<p>COUNCIL of 1000 MEMBERS – 2017</p> <p>Norman Keller, NY</p> <p>CLUB MEMBERSHIP GOLD</p> <p>Die Alten Herren des Cannstatter, PA</p>
	<p>DONORS \$1,000 and above</p> <p>Erich Ast, PA Rolf Hoffmann, NC American Federation, IN Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Sass, VA Troy German Hall Association, NY</p>

Meet the Candidates for our Board of Directors

On Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® will hold its 2017 Annual Membership Meeting / Election of Directors on the premises of the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114; Tel: 215-332-0121.

Thirteen (13) candidates are presented for your consideration. Their vision statements and photos are found below. Complete statements will be mailed with the Notice of the Annual Membership Meeting. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than the end of business Friday, November 10, 2017. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting, or cast their vote by Proxy and/or Ballot.

As in prior years, the Board of Directors will convene after the Annual Membership meeting at which time the election of officers will take place in keeping with our By-Laws. In the event you have any questions please contact our Administrative Director, Christine Yang, at the GAHF Foundation office at 202-467-5000 or her email at yang@gahmusa.org.

J. Marc Wheat, Esq., President

Robin Estey, PA



My interest and love of my German heritage started at a very young age. I was born in Princeton, New Jersey. My family moved to the Netherlands when I was 2 and lived there for 9 years. We lived close to the German border, and made regular trips to visit our relatives in Germany. My grandparents emigrated to the United States from Kiel and Eschelbronn. I became very close to my grandparents during our summer trips back to the Lebenstraum Farm in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania. With our grandparents, we attended German American Club events, my favorite being Oktoberfest at the Charlemagne restaurant.

I studied at Gettysburg College where I earned my B.A. in German with a minor in Economics and concentration in French. During my junior year I spent a semester at Heidelberg University and took every opportunity to visit my father's cousins in nearby Waibstadt. I am grateful that could study abroad to improve my German skills and to develop close relationships to my relatives and get acquainted with my grandmother's home town.

Since 1994 I have been working at Hannover Fairs USA, Inc., US subsidiary of Deutsche Messe AG. As Director of Operations, I have been responsible for organizing USA Pavilions at our exhibition grounds in Hannover, Germany. I managed the logistics and planning with our German vendors; while helping US companies prepare for successful trade show participation in Hannover. Currently I am handling the operations for several North American events, including HANNOVER MESSE USA taking place in Chicago in 2018. It is exciting to be part of this event, as it is the first time our flagship HANNOVER MESSE event will take place outside Germany.

The German American Heritage Foundation is dear to my heart, because it was my father's passion. As a board member, it would be my goal to get younger generations of German Americans involved in the organization to ensure that the foundation would thrive and continue to grow.

Dorris Keeven-Franke, MO



I have served as the U.S. Project Director for Utopia – Revisiting a German State in America and as a consultant on Missouri Humanities Council's German Heritage Corridor, I've presented several papers for the Society of German American Studies, and have been writing for 30 years. I am founder and Executive Director of the Missouri Germans Consortium which helps organizations and people connect with their German heritage through our blog, events, traveling exhibits, public speaking, tours and other venues.

I am President of St. Louis' German American Committee, the coordinating umbrella for nearly 20 German American clubs, associations, societies, Vereins and organizations in the region, some over 125 years old. In 2016 I was honored by the Federal Republic of Germany when Consul General Herbert Quelle presented me with the German-American Friendship Award for my work in behalf of German American relations. I am extremely passionate about the preservation of America's largest ethnic group, our 46 million German-Americans, and for that reason am proud to serve as Project Director of the Foundation's new German-American Heritage Survey.

Fred Gauss, PA

I am a first generation German-American. My parents came from small German villages in the former Yugoslavia. From my earliest days, I was involved with the Vereinigung der Donauschwaben-Danubia Soccer Club of Philadelphia. I danced with the club's dance group, I attended its German Language School, sang in the Kinder-/Jugendchor and played soccer from the youth level to the Alte Herren.

On an administrative level, I have been active on the Donauschwaben's Board of Directors. I was President for eight years, then treasurer for eight years. Only recently have I again accepted the presidency position of the Donauschwaben. I also actively participate in two local German-American Organizations, the Steuben Day Observance Committee and the German American Committee.

I am currently retired, but professionally I was an auditor for 38 years – at both, the federal and city level. I had previously served on the GAHF Board for ten years. During that time I served as Head of the Audit Committee.

My goal in serving again on the GAHF Board is to provide a perspective of one of the many subcategories of German Americans. My involvement with the Donauschwaben has helped me to see the economic, historical and cultural contributions of the many Volksdeutsche who immigrated to the United States. I also hope to provide a voice for those who live and work in the Philadelphia region.

William H. Holly, FL

I am the Founder and President of Patton Real Estate Group, a Miami based, full service commercial real estate firm providing brokerage, property management, development and consulting services throughout the State of Florida.

Previously, I earned local and national business and real estate accolades including being awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, being named one of the Top Ten "Hot Commercial Real Estate Brokers" in the U.S. by Commercial Property News, and being awarded the Top Sales Broker, Top Leasing Broker, Development of the Year and Broker of the Year in Miami. In addition, I developed the first LEED-Certified Green Office Building in Miami.

I play an active role in the Community serving on numerous charitable and for-profit boards. I am a founding shareholder of Florida Gulf Bank and Coral Gables Trust and currently serve as Chairman of the Board of Young Presidents Organization (YPO) Americas Gateway Chapter and the YPO Northeastern Region Board. I am also the Chairman of the Patton Real Estate Foundation, a board member of JB Green Estate (a local real estate investment firm), and Chairman of the Board of the Edgewater Trust Company. Moreover, I was the past Chairman of the Ransom Everglades Board of Trustees, the past President of the Brickell Area Association and the past Chairman of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (History Miami). I served as a councilman on the Coconut Grove Village Council (1999, 2000) and as the past Senior Warden at St. Phillips Church in Coral Gables. I graduated from Florida State University.

I became acquainted with the organization since my parents and other members of my family have long been members and my uncle Bern E. Deichmann was President Emeritus of GAHF and the 2013 Distinguished German-American of the Year.

My grandparents emigrated to the United States from Kiel, Germany and Ossigen, Switzerland and have always instilled in our family members pride in our German heritage. My grandfather's papers (he was a founder of the International Society of Toxicology) are located in Kiel today.

I have been fortunate to visit relatives in Switzerland and Germany many times over the past twenty years and have always been interested in promoting German interests and cooperation with the United States.

John M. Manoyan, Ph.D., CA

I have been a Council of 1000 member for the past decade and have served three consecutive 3-year terms on the Board of Directors since joining GAHF. Over the years, I have served in various capacities, as director and officer, including two one-year terms as president.

Additionally, I have represented GAHF at numerous diplomatic and cultural events, and successfully reached out to many German-American clubs and to other German-American organizations across the United States in order to establish closer ties, develop reciprocal program exchanges, and gain further support for GAHF in Washington, DC.

As directors, we are called to carry out duties that minimally include attending Board meetings, making an annual financial membership contribution to the organization, and reaching well-reasoned and impartial decisions concerning foundation business. However, I also believe, and know first-hand, that our organization requires far more involvement from directors in order to progress and thrive. Fortunately, I have been privileged to work with some very able and committed individuals on our board during my years of service.

Our foundation is a work in progress, at many levels, facing challenges along with exciting opportunities.

Should the membership choose to re-elect me, it will be my honor and privilege to continue to serve as an active member of the Board of Directors for another term and to continue to work on behalf of GAHF.

Oliver M. Moss, DC



I would welcome the opportunity to join the board German American Heritage Foundation. As a presenter to an event hosted by the GAHF to the Jewish Museum of Washington on Kaisertreu, the contributions of German Jews in World War I, I experienced first-hand how the GAHF has a positive impact on fostering close ties between the United States and Germany, on a personal, historical and cultural level. At this event, I met a professor of history at the German School who is helping me to transcribe my mother's diary, written between 1940-1950 in Stuttgart, so there was a personal history attached to my participation.

Recently, I obtained my German citizenship and now am a dual national, proud of both heritages. My sons have done the same. I have been active with the German American Business Council in various iterations for 20 years and am also a member of the German Executive Roundtable in Washington. The German-American relationship is vital under any circumstances, but even more important in the current political environment.

As a side note, I am also a recipient of the Order of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) bestowed upon me by the German government.

As a banker and businessperson, I believe that I can make a positive contribution to the continued growth and expansion of GAHF. In addition, I can be an asset to the GAHF in outreach to other communities as well as to the business community in general, both US companies with operations in Germany and vice versa.

Joseph Murphy, PA



For seventy years my father and I have operated, saved and preserved an as yet unrecognized German - American heritage site within the City of Philadelphia. It is the Mount Vernon Cemetery at Ridge and West Lehigh Avenues, the Strawberry Mansion District. Founded by an Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1856 it has more than thirty three thousand persons interred over the last 161 years. Strawberry Mansion was one of the districts of Philadelphia that was heavily populated with German immigrants from 1848 to the end of the Nineteenth Century. Over half of the persons interred are German immigrants or their descendants.

My father became associated with operation of this site through his close association with the German immigrant community in Philadelphia where represented as an attorney many of the brewery industry suppliers, beer breweries and distributors. Through his close connections with these men he was asked in 1940 to save their cemetery from bankruptcy due to the great depression. He did so and the German - American community was very grateful for his efforts. Many of them conveyed to him their personal investment interest in the site which came to me when he died in 1973.

Since my tenure began in 1973 I have operated the site which is now an historical matter. Having it designated a German - American heritage site and its perpetual preservation is now my overriding life goal. There are many other such sites in America which need to be designated and preserved. I believe that I can be leader in this area and assist all such efforts.

Personally, I am a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. I have been commissioned an officer in the United States Navy and as a Naval Reservist. I have served on active duty throughout the world including the Far East, South America, Canada and the Mediterranean, principally on aircraft carriers. I retired from the reserve with the rank of commander. I am a life member of the United States Navy League.

I have practiced law in Washington throughout my professional life with a concentration in the area of government contracts particularly U. S. Navy logistical shipping. I am a member of all federal courts including the U. S. Supreme Court. During the Vietnam War I served as a private attorney in the General Counsel's Office of the Navy Department.

I have been active in politics and have served in the White House advance office. I served with Governor Reagan in the campaign of 1980 and I have been an alternate delegate to two Republican Conventions pledged to George H.W. Bush.

I married Elaine Mead (Vassar College), the daughter of the respected American artist, Roderick F. Mead, and we have four grown children. We live in Washington, D.C. and alternate with her historic site home in New Mexico. She has been active in the diplomatic community through the THIS and Meridian House organizations.

I look forward to serving in the preservation of the German - American heritage throughout the United States and particularly the German - American Heritage Foundation and its museum.

Lucas Pipes, DC



It has been a pleasure getting to know you and the German-American Heritage Foundation over the year. The presence of the Foundation in my new home, Washington DC, has already greatly enriched my life. I appreciate your warm welcome to the Foundation, and I am honored to stand for election to a three-year term to the Board of Directors.

I believe "German-American" has always defined my identity. Born in the USA to a German mother and an American father, I was mostly raised in Germany through my early twenties. Eleven years ago, I came to the U.S. for college and then established myself professionally. I am married to a southern lady from Tennessee.

Before moving to Washington DC late last year, I lived in New York City for over seven years. I was a member of the "German Forum," which aims to bring German-speaking music performers to a New York City audience. I was also regularly attending events at the "Deutscher Verein." In both groups, I drew in young people and facilitated introductions across my professional, personal, and broader German-American network. I look forward to making similar contributions to the German-American Heritage Foundation.

I believe my professional background is a valuable asset for the Board. I am considered one of the leading financial analysts of the global mining industry, and I am currently working for a premier middle-market investment bank, FBR & Co., headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. In my current board assignments, I have been able to apply my expert knowledge of investment analysis, accounting, and statistics for event planning, budgeting, and fundraising efforts, among others. I serve the GAHF Board as secretary/treasurer.

Hans-Martin Sass, Ph.D., VA



Hans-Martin Sass is a Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, and Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University, Washington DC. He came to the USA in 1980 with his family and is a leading expert in bioethics and applied ethics. He is a Knight of Justice of the Johanniterorden and an Honorary Commander of the Order of Malta, also carries the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Commander's Cross of Merit), of the Federal Republic of Germany. He had been the Chairman of the Board of the German Language Society for over 20 years, and looks forward to bringing these networks into GAHF membership.

Hans P. Stein, PA

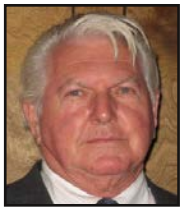


I have lived and worked in Philadelphia for the past sixty years. As a young man, I came to the United States from Vienna, Austria to study at the University of Pennsylvania. I received a Master Degree in Architecture, and in 1973, I opened my own Architecture Studio.

Fifteen years ago, I became active in the German-American Heritage Foundation (GAHF), when Bern Deichmann asked me to perform a structural and economic feasibility to study on Heurich House in Washington DC. However, we recommended again this action.

In 2007, we provided a preliminary feasibility study for Hockemeyer Hall, an empty building shell on 6th Street, NW in the old Penn Quarter section of Washington, which GAHF subsequently purchased. My architecture Studio provided pro bono services to the Foundation to design and supervise the construction of the facility, which was opened and dedicated in 2010. It was an honor and pleasure to work with Bern, Erich Ast, Walter Lehmann and other members of the Board of Directors to complete the building.

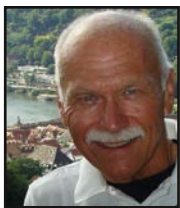
I was an early "Council of 1000" member, and I have attended eight ceremonies honoring our "Distinguished German American of the Year" both in Washington and Philadelphia. It would be an honor to serve on the Board of Directors to help continue the vision of Bern Deichmann and so many other wonderful people.

Hank Stoffel, CA

I am a first generation American, born and educated in New York, as son of a German immigrant who hailed from Wuppertal. He established a textile business in Northern New Jersey, and nurtured me in my dream to become a pilot. After having served Pan Am for a few years, I joined TWA for the rest of my flying career, and retired to Northern California, where I built my home in the mountainous area of Auburn, CA.

As an active member of several local German-American clubs, I became involved in Bern Deichmann's efforts to establish our organization's presence in Washington, DC – as Second Vice President for more than ten years. I am grateful to many German-American clubs and individuals who supported me in those efforts. In fact, my travels on behalf of GAHF have taken me all over the country, and my rolodex – with more than 400 names and telephone numbers – bears witness thereto.

As senior member of our Board – with a tenure of 12 years – I am prepared to render support in fundraising to any new colleague who joins our call to build GAHF to the premier German-American organization in our country. I am ready, willing and able to continue my service on our Board, if so elected by the membership at the next Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on November 18, 2017.

Richard W. Voss, FL

I am a 4th generation German-American with ancestral roots in Mecklenburg. I am a Professor Emeritus of Social Work after 20 years of service teaching at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. My tenure at West Chester has provided numerous opportunities to collaborate with German colleagues and students at Friedensau Adventist University (FAU) in Sachsen-Anhalt in 2011 and 2013 where I taught graduate level classes (in English) on international social work. I also conducted intercultural research in collaboration with FAU on distinctive German approaches to social work and social science methodologies.

Another collaborative project undertaken at FAU enabled me to conduct research about former East German elders' current views of the Wende. Through this work, I was immersed in East German views and perspectives which motivated me to learn more about their experience – deeply aware of my own German regional roots. I found that I was able to establish almost immediate trust with my subjects. Along these lines, I was honored to help make initial contact with the Berlin Senat for the donation of two certified sections of the Berlin Wall which are now placed on the premises of the German Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., respectively.

Academically, I completed the B.A. in Psychology with a Minor in Spanish at St. Fidelis College in 1975, the M.S.W. Master of Social Work from Fordham University in 1977, the M.T.S., Master of Theological Studies from the Washington Theological Union in 1986, and finally the D.P.S., Doctor of Pastoral Counseling in 1990. Along with my teaching and research in Germany, I took German language classes at FAU and have a basic grounding in German language and culture.

My compelling interest in this nomination is basically to promote German language, history, diversity, and culture in the U.S., particularly East German experiences and prerogatives. I now live in Fort Myers, Florida which has a large German community and also as a German-American Social (GAS) Club in nearby Cape Coral, of which I am a member. I would see myself as playing a liaison role between our local GAS Club and the German-American Heritage Foundation, and would like to promote the beauty and depth, range and scope of Eastern German culture, language, history, resources, and opportunities for collaboration, and see this nomination as a perfect fit.

J. Marc Wheat, VA

I ask for your vote for another term on the GAHF board. We cannot forget that it is our role and responsibility to create a stronger future through actively highlighting and learning from the experience of our German-speaking immigrant ancestors. They were instrumental to the building of this country and it is important that we stewards of transatlantic civilization remember their efforts. Most recently, I have worked with other members of the board to update the structure of the organization; reevaluated our mission, vision, and goals; and examined how we could best carry out our role as the national representative of Americans of German-speaking ancestry in a time of strained transatlantic relations. I have worked to launch GAHF's German-American

Heritage Survey, a pioneering initiative to bring to light historic German-speaking settlements and migration routes both to and within the United States that will revive member clubs that care for these sites through community involvement and heritage tourism. Lastly, I commit to continuing the work to strengthen our friendships with Congressional and Bundestag members and their staffs.

IN MEMORIAM

of President Emeritus

Bern Friedrich Ernst Deichmann

July 25, 1935* – June 22, 2017+



It is with great sadness that the German-American Heritage Foundation must inform you of the passing of Foundation Board Member and President Emeritus Bern Friedrich Ernst Deichmann. Surrounded by loved ones, Bern passed away on June 22, 2017 at his home in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania. He was 81. Bern is survived by his wife Joan Deichmann, son Walter Deichmann, and daughters Holly Chacon, Evelyn Diabo, and Robin Estey.

Bern was born in Willoughby, Ohio and spent his childhood in both Germany and the United States. He graduated from Princeton University with a BSME degree and went on to earn his MBA from Drexel University after serving a tour of duty as an officer in the US Army Artillery. Bern was immensely talented in the fields of business and management. A natural leader, he served in senior level positions at Transamerica-Delaval, Inc. and spent time in the Netherlands as Managing Director of Delaval-Stork, where he was in charge of a \$40 million operation with over 300 employees. He later served as President and CEO of Schulmerich Carillons, Inc. until his retirement. Outside of his professional commitments, Bern was a Life Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the American Council on Germany in New York, the German-American Chamber of Commerce in Philadelphia, AMVETS, the Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein, and the German Society of Pennsylvania, along with many other German-American organizations.

Bern was President of the GAHF from 2002 to 2012 and later, as President Emeritus, served on the Board of Directors. Enthusiastically dedicated to the preservation and celebration of German-American heritage, Bern worked to ensure that the Foundation would have a permanent home and museum in the nation's capital where friends of the Foundation and members of the public could visit and learn about the over 400 years of German-American history in the United States. He will forever be remembered for his tireless efforts to secure and restore the 19th-century rowhouse Hockemeyer Hall, which was built in 1888 by German immigrant John Hockemeyer and now serves as the Foundation headquarters.

During the presidency of Marc Wheat in 2013, Bern was honored as the Distinguished German-American of the Year™ by the GAHF for his accomplishments in business and on behalf of the Foundation, most notably the acquisition of Hockemeyer Hall. Established in 1987, the award recognizes Americans of German-speaking ancestry for leadership and achievement in business, the arts, education, science, politics, and society. Bern received his award at a stunning reception at the Cosmos Club in Washington D.C. in the presence of German Ambassador Peter Ammon, Austrian Ambassador Hans Peter Manz, and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany William Robert "Tim" Timken, Jr. In 2015, German Ambassador Peter Wittig presented Bern with the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz), an honor which was bestowed upon him by German President Joachim Gauck for his work at the Foundation.

The GAHF is honored to have worked alongside Bern and extends its deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

The Deichmann family wants to thank all for the good wishes and contributions to the church or to the GAHF.

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yes, I/we would like to support the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® by renewing my/our MEMBERSHIP / Becoming a MEMBER:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Student: (Non-voting): \$ 25 \$ _____
- Associate Member (Non-voting): \$ 50 \$ _____
- Basic Member: \$ 100 \$ _____
- Supporter: \$ 250 \$ _____
- Benefactor: \$ 500 \$ _____
- Council of 1000: \$1,000 \$ _____
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(Based on \$1 per Member with a \$25 Minimum)

- Basic: \$ 1 per member (\$25 minimum) \$ _____
- Bronze: \$ 26 - \$149 \$ _____
- Silver: \$150 - \$499 \$ _____
- Gold: \$500 and above \$ _____

Yes, I/we want to also support the Annual Operating Fund of the German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ and the Foundation offices:

- Additional Donation for 2017 Operations \$ _____
- Pledge (to be paid by ____/____/2017) \$ _____

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By including the German-American Heritage Foundation in your will, you help us to preserve, promote, and educate about the impact of Americans with German-speaking ancestry in building our nation; and to excite the next generations to rediscover their roots while strengthening the political, cultural, and economic transatlantic relations.

You can also name GAHF as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or your retirement plan (such as 401(k), 403(b), IRA or other pension plan). By naming GAHF as a beneficiary, you maintain complete control over the plan while living, but at your passing the plan passes to GAHF free of both income and estate taxes.

Please visit our website at www.gahmusa.org for more information.

