

Dear Madam,

It is my duty to inform you as a representative of the Office of the Master at Arms that your husband has died in combat in orbit of Nancora.

I feel I should not dissimulate, nor conceal, nor soften this for you in any way; for though I yearn to ease your pain, I know that my words will be cold comfort to a woman who has lost a husband and father. In the face of your grief I am powerless. I cannot hope to do anything but tell you the truth of your husband's death, as it is the very least of my obligations to you.

In service to Clan Arcona your husband, Michael Santorini, was serving as an officer on board the *Will of our Lady*. During combat the *Will of our Lady* was struck directly by enemy fire, crippling the ship. Your husband did not abandon his post. He did not flee and he did not forsake his duty, but instead dedicated himself to his comrades, organizing the evacuation of the 3rd Arconan Expeditionary Regiment. In doing so, he saved many thousands of lives.

Your husband refused to evacuate with the 3rd when his duty was finished, instead remaining behind to aid the evacuation of the 4th as well. It was as he was moving to the 4th Regiment's evacuation area that the *Will of our Lady* was struck once more by enemy fire, collapsing the hallway above him and trapping him in the wreckage. He was discovered in this state by Professional Koliss Welcott, administered a sedative, and then died of his wounds.

I am informed by Dr. Welcott that, even in his dying moments, your husband directed him towards the *Will of our Lady's* last functioning medical bay.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,

Lana Zheen,

Office of the Master at Arms.