

# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



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OFFICE OF  
JEFFREY N. NELSON, GCT  
MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER

March 4, 2019

To the Sir Knights Under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar—  
My Dear Fraters:

It is with deep sadness that I advise you of the death of our beloved Sir Knight Donald Hinslea Smith, GCT, Most Eminent Past Grand Master.

Sir Knight Smith served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of Kentucky in 1974-75. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Captain General on August 15, 1979 at Indianapolis, Indiana, and served in that capacity until February 16, 1980, when he was advanced to the office of Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo upon the death of William P. Wilson. He was elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master on August 18, 1982, at Hot Springs, Arkansas; and, elected Most Eminent Grand Master on August 13, 1985, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sir Knight Smith laid down his sword and entered the Supreme Asylum above on Wednesday, February 27, 2019.

It is my order that the Charters of all Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment be draped in Sir Knight Smith's honor at their next Stated Conclave following receipt of this notice. The Charter is to remain draped until the following Stated Conclave.

I further direct that the Charters of all Grand Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment be draped in Sir Knight Smith's honor during their Annual Conclave.

Each Commandery and Grand Commandery is expected to pay appropriate tribute to Sir Knight Smith at their Annual Memorial Service. Please remember Sir Knight Smith's family in your prayers.

Yours in Templary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey N Nelson", followed by a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Norman Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master

**DONALD HINSLEA SMITH, GCT**  
**M:E: Grand Master**  
**Grand Encampment of Knights Templar**  
**1985-1988**

Donald Hinslea Smith was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up in Detroit, Michigan, where he was educated in the public schools. He began his career life simultaneously with the beginning of the Second World War, serving from the week of Pearl Harbor until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in April 1964. He served as a combat infantry officer in Europe in 1944-45, and in 1946 transferred to the Military Police Corps, the branch in which he was serving when he retired. His service included the Korean Conflict and Vietnam. He was decorated for bravery and for meritorious service.

He entered Eastern Kentucky University upon retirement from the Army and graduated with honors in 1966, subsequently earning a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He was an Assistant Professor of Police Administration and the University Registrar of his Alma Mater when he retired in 1985. He is a past officer in Phi Kappa Phi National Scholastic Honor Society; Phi Delta Kappa, Professional Education Fraternity.

He was preceded in death by his wife the former Kathleen Virginia McCallum of Detroit, and their daughter Susan Burks Smith. He is survived by their two sons: The Reverend Donald H. Smith, Jr., and Mark M. Smith. Sir Knight Smith was a Deacon in the Berea Baptist Church, Kentucky, where he taught a Men's Bible Class beginning in 1960.

Masonically, he was Raised in Atlanta Lodge No. 59, Georgia, from which he demitted in 1962 to become affiliated with Richmond Lodge No. 25 near his home in Kentucky. In the latter, he served as Worshipful Master in 1977. In the York Rite, Sir Knight Smith was a member of Richmond Chapter No. 16, Council No. 71, and Commandery No. 19, Richmond, Kentucky. He served as High Priest of Richmond Chapter, and as Illustrious Master of R. & S.M. of Richmond Council, and served as Grand Chaplain of both the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Kentucky. He was Knighted in June 1960 and in 1969 was elected Eminent Commander of Richmond Commandery. In the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, Sir Knight Smith held the office of Grand Commander, 1974-75. He served as Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on the Educational Foundation being appointed to that position at the 53rd Triennial Conclave by Grand Master Willard M. Avery.

Appendant membership includes the following: Kentucky Priory No. 25, Knights York Cross of Honour; Golgotha Tabernacle, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Kentucky; Kentucky Chapter No. 134, National Sojourners; St. Barnabas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Louisville, Kentucky; Royal Order of Scotland and the Philalethes Society. He was Past Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council, Knight Masons, U.S.A.; Past President of the Forty-Fivers; and held the Honorary Legion of Honor, Order of DeMolay. He also held membership in the York Rite Sovereign College and in the Scottish Rite Bodies of Lexington and Louisville; Oleika Temple, AAONMS, Lexington; Allied Masonic Degrees; Colorado College, SRICF; and Order of Eastern Star. He served as Most Eminent Grand Preceptor of the Grand College of America, HRAKTP, in 1991. He served the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the USA as Most Excellent Great Chief in 1999.

In the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, he was elected Right Eminent Grand Captain General on August 15, 1979, at Indianapolis, Indiana. He was advanced to the office of Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo on February 16, 1980, following the death of William P. Wilson. Elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master, August 18, 1982, at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Elected Most Eminent Grand Master, August 13, 1985, at Cincinnati, Ohio. He presided over the Fifty-Seventh Triennial Conclave held in Lexington, Kentucky, August 8-10, 1988. He was appointed Right Eminent Grand Prelate in 1996 by Grand Master Blair C. Mayford.

Sir Knight Smith laid down his sword and entered the Supreme Asylum above on Wednesday, February 27, 2019.

THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

IN MEMORIAM

**DONALD HINSLEA SMITH**  
MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER

1985 - 1988

Born: May 31, 1923  
Cleveland, Ohio

Died: February 27, 2019  
Richmond, Kentucky

ATTEST:



LAWRENCE EUGENE TUCKER  
GRAND RECORDER



JEFFREY NORMAN NELSON  
GRAND MASTER