Are we done?

Well, we are getting through our labors as “Organizational Knights Templar”: We’ve recruited new candidates, provided them their Festivals of degrees and orders, and are beginning to assimilate them into our ranks and meetings. This has been our recent “high priority” imposed upon us by our WW II Sir Knights no longer being able to carry the reins. And we are starting to deal with this in a successful way. This has taken a great effort on many Sir Knights’ behalf. We also have done well on our drives for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. We have also been able to raise funds for the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, but have not been able to send a minister the last few years. Hopefully we will send some soon. Our Christmas and Easter Observances have been quite successful and are becoming annual events that everyone looks forward to. We even have a West Coast Easter Observance now. And of course, there is the Templar Ball.

With all this behind us we start thinking it is “time for refreshment” or “time to go dark”; there’s nothing left to do but open, close and go through the agenda. But we are missing the best part of our quest. Now, in this short opportunistic window of time in our busy schedule, we should seize the moment to ask who we really are as Knights Templar. What is our ultimate mission? Do we even contemplate this? What will really make us better Sir Knights?

With spring upon us, as nature is beginning to renew itself, shouldn’t we as Knights Templar start finding ways to move our Commanderies to a more meaningful level? How can we do this? Should we explore lectures, discussions, electronic presentations, and other ideas of which many of us are probably unaware? I think we should at least try. Or should we go home early or go dark longer?

I used to know a Priest who had the dubious reputation of having “the fastest sermon in the west.” Do we want this to be us, Sir Knights? Or do we want to be known for a greater purpose?

Bob Richards,
Arizona Grand Commander

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In Memoriam
Sir Knight James E. Hughes, PGC
March 30, 1940 - February 10, 2013

Sir Knight and Most Illustrious Companion Jim Hughes was Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery (2005), Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons (2008), and Associate Guardian of Bethel #13, Job’s Daughters (2010-2012). He was a short-tempered, passionate man, obsessed with politics, eBay, the Roadster Company, guns, and the “right” way to do things. He could build cars from the ground up, especially that special breed of 1960’s TR3’s. Jim had his failings, but he was a man who fed people. He cooked for parties, events, and gatherings. He used food as a celebration and a way to draw people together. He fed his family by supporting their goals and dreams. He fed Masonry by constantly inviting new members and shepherding them through the Order. He fed those around him with a deep, radio announcer voice, and excitement for his many plans, and his witty (and at times caustic) remarks. He fed us – and for that we are eternally grateful.

Jim is survived by his wife Suejane, three daughters: Lisa Pearman, Krissy Elwood (Stan), and Kim Carter, four grandchildren, his sister Marilyn West (Bill), and his brother Billy Hughes.

(Source: family of Jim Hughes)

Sir Knight Jim’s memorial service was attended by numerous Masons and uniformed Knights Templar. No one surpassed Jim in his love of Templary. He would have been very pleased. — Editor