



**CALIFORNIA
SUPPLEMENT**
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WILLIAM D. ROBERTSON
California's 151st Grand Commander, Knights Templar

Sir Knight Bill was born on 20 September 1943 in Seattle, WA. His father was serving as a Chief Engineer in the Merchant Marine in the Alaska Theater. The family moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, and then finally to Napa. He graduated from Napa High School in 1961. He later attended Napa Valley College and obtained an AA degree based on U.S. History.

Living in Napa he spent a great deal of time with his grandmother, who instilled a passion for history, as she was the family historian. She also exposed him to Masonry, by taking him to the cemetery on Decoration Day and showing him her grandfather's headstone with a large square and compass on it. He had been a Union surgeon during the Civil War. With this background he developed a love of history and Masonry. During this time he joined the Napa Chapter Order of DeMolay. While attending a Job's Daughter valentine dance he met Thora, who was to become his future Lady. They were married on Valentine's Day in 1965, and now have three grown children, Bill, Beth, and Bob. Bob served as Master Councillor and was awarded the Order of Chevalier, and now lives in North Carolina. Their son Bill and his wife Marilyn have given them a precious granddaughter, Kaitlyn.

Sir Knight Bill had enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in 1961 and served until 1970. His employment included working at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and Contra Costa County Sheriff Department. He joined the Napa City Fire Department in 1969 and retired in 1998 with the rank of engine company Captain. In 1980 he re-enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve. He was activated on several occasions, including the Exxon Valdez spill, and floods in the mid-west. His most memorable time was when he was activated with the Pacific Strike Team to respond to the World Trade Center attack. He retired in 2003 as a Chief Petty Officer.

He was Raised in Vallejo Lodge No. 487 in 1968, and later affiliated with Napa Valley Lodge No. 97 to be with his sons, who had joined that lodge. His York Rite memberships include Napa Chapter No. 30, Royal Arch Masons, King Solomon Council No. 29, Cryptic Masons, and Naval Commandery No. 19, Knights Templar, serving as Commander in 1994. He was appointed a Grand Commandery Inspector, and later to the post of Assistant Director of Ritual. He was appointed Grand Warder in 2001 by REPGC Marshall Parker. Other Masonic memberships and affiliations include Scottish Rite, Shrine, York Rite College, Allied Masonic Degrees, Knight Masons, National Sojourners, and Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests. He is also a member of St. Philip Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. Bill has written several historical Masonic articles that have been published in the California Freemason, Knight Templar Magazine, Philalethes, and Scottish Rite Magazine. For these articles he

he was awarded the Red Branch of Erie of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

Bill, Thora, and their daughter Beth belong to the Yountville Community Church

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE FOR MAY 2009

I wish to thank you, Sir Knights, for all your support and for allowing me to serve as your Grand Commander for the ensuing Templar Year. My theme for the year is "BE STRONG IN THE LORD" and I want to encourage every Christian Mason to become a Knight Templar. I also intend to continue the excellent programs that have been set in place by our previous Grand Commanders. I have had the honor to appoint Sir Knight Harold "Hal" Barker to the position of Grand Warder. He has a very impressive Masonic history which will appear in the June issue.

As this message is for the month of May, a month of remembrance of our Service Men and Women who have made this country free, each Commandery is reminded to hold the May Memorial Day Service as described in our Manual of Ceremonies. Originally called Decoration Day to memorialize the Union soldiers who gave their lives during the Civil War, it was later expanded to include all those of all wars who gave the utmost for their country. In the little town of Sharpsburg, MD, the site of one of the earliest dedicated National Cemeteries, is a statue of a Union soldier called "Old Simon." On its base is the following inscription, which says it all: "WHEN DUTY CALLED, THEY CAME. WHEN COUNTRY CALLED, THEY DIED." Let us keep all of our Service Men and Women throughout the world in our prayers.

Fraternally,
William D. Robertson
Grand Commander

GRAND COMMANDER'S ITINERARY – 2009

May 1	Redding Commandery No. 50	GYR Reception Dept, 8
May 2	Marysville Commandery No. 7	GYR Reception
May 9	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah Grand Sessions
Jun 9	San Diego Commandery No. 25	Cmdry Reception
Jun 11	Golden West Commandery No. 43	GYR Reception
Jun 13	Ventura Commandery No. 18	GYR Reception
Jun 19	Riverside Commandery No. 28	GYR Reception
Jun 20	Orange County Commandery No. 36	Cmdry Reception