




**CALIFORNIA
SUPPLEMENT**
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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE FOR MAY 2010
"Serving God By Serving Others"

Greetings to the Sir Knights of California,

I am excited and blessed for this, my first opportunity to address you as your Grand Commander. I would like to thank you for electing me to this position of tradition, service and honor; and for trusting me with the welfare of your Grand Commandery during my term of service. Traditionally, the first message of a new Grand Commander is to introduce himself, his new appointees, and his theme or goals for his term of service. In keeping with this practice I offer the following.

I was born on Easter Sunday morning, April 5, 1953, in Houston, Texas. My parents, Frederick J. Kussman and Hazel E. Kussman had returned to my mother's hometown after they were both discharged from the United States Marine Corps at the completion of World War II. My Mother's family was very involved in Masonry and Dad soon became a member of Temple Lodge No. 4 in Houston, In June of 1955, two months after the birth of my brother Rick, the Kussman Family moved to California due to my parents missing the climate here, having been stationed at El Toro Marine Air Station in Orange County.

I was reared in Anaheim, where Mother ran our household and Dad worked for the brand new amusement park, Disneyland. We visited the park a lot in the beginning and I have some wonderful memories. I attended public schools in Anaheim and graduated from Loara High School in June 1971. I originally had planned to study marine biology after graduation, but during a school mandated police ride-a-long, I had a life altering experience and knew I wanted a life of service in law enforcement.

I started my career with the City of Anaheim Police Department on November 22, 1971. I worked uniform patrol, accident investigation, motorcycle enforcement, detectives, gang enforcement, and was assigned as a sniper for thirteen years on our special weapons and tactics team. I was promoted to Sergeant and supervised personnel in patrol, detectives, the Reserve Police Unit and Police Chaplain Program. I retired from service to the citizens of Anaheim in July of 2005.

I met Kimberly Ann Schmidt, while she was working at the Police Department. She honored me by consenting to be my wife and we were married on June 18, 1988. She is an inspiration to me and is my trusted friend and soul mate. Kimberly and I were blessed with three children: Jennifer, Stephanie and David. Jennifer, is attending BIOLA University in La Mirada and Stephanie is attending Fullerton College. David is a freshman at Valencia High School.

Our family fellowships at Plaza Bible Church in Orange, where I have served as an Elder and two terms on the Church Council. We spend our time together as a family enjoying camping, fishing, motorcycling and attending our children's sporting events. Jennifer and Stephanie were recently initiated into Santa Ana Assembly No. 61 Social Order of the Beauceant; joining their mother in membership within this wonderful organization. My Mother was a Past President of this Assembly.

While growing up, I used to see Dad's set of Mackey's Masonic Encyclopedias in the bookcase. I would often ask Dad about the Masons and he talked of the fraternity with love and pride. In 1979, I finally asked the right question, submitted my petition and was invited to join my Father in membership in Mother Colony Lodge No. 750 in Anaheim. I was raised on March 8, 1979. Mother Colony Lodge merged with La Mirada Lodge No. 778 in 1991, and I was honored to serve as their first Master. I am privileged to hold membership in the following Masonic bodies: Anaheim Lodge No. 207 (PM); Orange County Chapter No. 73, RAM (PHP); Orange County Council No. 14, Cryptic Masons (PIM); Orange County Commandery No. 36, KT (PC); Valley of Santa Clara, AASR (KCCH); Orange Coast Council No. 162, AMD (PSM); St. Croix Conclave, RCC; and many other concordant and appendant bodies. I was appointed as Grand Warder by Sir Knight Robert C. Coe in 2002, and was elected and installed as the 152nd Grand Commander on April 28, 2010. My theme for this year is **"Serving God By Serving Others."** I believe that we are each a special creation of God, placed here to serve Him and one another.

I have the honor to appoint Sir Knight Thomas N. Thomas, as Grand Warder. Sir Knight Thomas' biography will be detailed in the June Message. I am also honored to appoint Sir Knight Tomas M. Boles, Ph.D, D.Min., D.D., as Grand Prelate. Reverend Boles is a very dedicated and gifted servant. He is currently the Pastor of E.W. Presbyterian Church in Whittier, and serves on the Board of the Midnight Mission In Los Angeles. In addition, I have appointed Sir Knight Thomas R. Derby as Grand Sentinel and Sir Knight Ernesto Balba as Organist.

I encourage each and every Sir Knight to pause each day and pray for the wisdom and guidance necessary to continue effectively serving this Grand Commandery and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May our Lord continue to bless the Sir Knights and Ladies of this Grand Commandery, and may we rise to the level of Service expected of us as Christian Knights.

In His Service,

David J. Kussman
 Grand Commander

GRAND COMMANDER'S ITINERARY --- 2010

April	28	Grand Commandery Installation	Bakersfield
	30	Grand York Rite Reception	Redding
May	1	Grand York Rite Reception	Yuba City
	6-8	Utah Grand Sessions	Salt Lake City, UT
	14	Private Reception	Santa Ana
	16	Southern California YRC	Rosemead
	29	Festive Board Meeting	Long Beach
June	5	St. Croix Conclave RCC	Long Beach
	7	SASR Unity Night	Anaheim
	8	Grand York Rite Reception	San Diego
	10	Grand York Rite Reception	Bellflower
	12	Grand York Rite Reception	Ventura
	13	HRAKTP	Rosemead
	14-18	RPEA Conference	Los Angeles
	18	Grand York Rite Reception	San Bernardino
	19	REGC Reception	Anaheim
	24-25	Grand Bethel Job's Daughters	Visalia
	26	SRICF	Long Beach
	30	4-Way Reception	San Jose