



CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENT

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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE FOR JULY 2010 *"Serving God By Serving Others"*

Greetings to the Sir Knights of California: The following information was obtained from research gathered from MASONIC AMERICANA, Volume I, issued by the Knights Templar Magazine, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A.

In the early years of this country, before the spark of revolution kindled the flame that lead to the birth of our nation which we celebrate this month, many leaders came to the front. One whom everyone remembers because of a popular but historically inaccurate poem was Sir Knight Paul Revere.

The name of Paul Revere is important in the history of our nation but it is equally important in the history of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar in the United States. He was the second man to be Knighted on the North American continent – a full ten years prior to any recorded knightings in England. Revere became a Mason in St. Andrew's Lodge (working under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland as a "Chapter".), Boston, on September 4, 1760, the first Entered Apprentice to receive the work in that Lodge, and he subsequently served as Master in 1770.

In October 1768 several British regiments arrived in Boston, including two Irish regiments who brought with them an Army Lodge. The next month another Irish regiment arrived with their Army Lodge. They also brought to Boston knowledge of the Order of the Temple. On August 28, 1769, at a meeting of St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge, four members of Army Lodge No. 322 from one of the Irish regiments were present. The Order of the Temple was conferred for the first time in the history of the North American continent on Captain William Davis, a Past Master. On December 11, the Lodge Knighted Paul Revere and on May 14, 1770, General Joseph Warren, who was later to die at the Battle of Bunker Hill, received the Order of the Temple.

After a very active participation in our fight for independence, Sir Knight Revere continued to work in the cause of the new nation. He engraved the currency of the Colony of Massachusetts and was employed to oversee the casting of new cannon. After the War ended, Sir Knight Revere turned to casting church bells and established the first copper rolling mill in the United States. It was here in this mill that the copper bottom was made for the frigate CONSTITUTION, generally known as Old Ironsides.

In 1795 Sir Knight Paul Revere became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, a position he held until 1797. St. Paul Lodge, chartered January 6, 1797, in Groton was one of the first daylight lodges. Their charter bears Revere's signature and they possess a pair of silver ladles made by him and presented to the Lodge at its consecration on August 9, 1797. Soldier, Patriot, Master Craftsman, Mason, Templar....Sir Knight Paul Revere's later years were prosperous. He died in 1818 at the age of 83. His grave, along with many other early patriots, is in the Granary Burial Ground in Boston.

After voting for independence on July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining its decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail: "The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

May we, as the Knights Templar of California, forever remember the sacrifices our forefathers made to create this great Nation; and may our Lord and Savior continue to richly bless the United States of America.

Happy Fourth of July, my Fraters....

In His Service,
David J. Kussman
Grand Commander

GRAND COMMANDER'S ITINERARY --- 2010

Jun	3	Ice Cream Social	San Luis Obispo
	4	4 th of July Parade	Newhall
	31	Grand York Rite Reception	Alameda
Aug	1	York Rite Picnic	South San Francisco
	11	Scottish Rite Unity Night	San Diego
	19-21	Arizona York Rite Sessions	Scottsdale, AZ