



**GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE FOR AUGUST 2010**  
**"Serving God by Serving Others"**

**A Templar Tribute to a Fallen Frater and Dear Friend**

Greetings, Sir Knights. On Monday, April 12, 2010, the Grand Commandery of California and all Knights Templar of our Grand State lost a friend and Champion for Templar Masonry. Sir Knight Marshall F. Parker, KCT, KYGCH, PGC surrendered his mortal life here on Earth to forever reside in the bosom of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sir Knight Marshal was born in Lafayette, Tennessee, September 1, 1927. Grew up and was educated in the public school system in Nashville, Tennessee. At the age of seventeen, he entered military service and completed his education, attaining a two year degree in business administration and material management. He married Rulene Nevon Swindle in 1947, and they are the parents of one son. He served 22 years (1945-1968) in the armed forces, retiring from the U.S. Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant. He subsequently retired as Logistics Department Manager from Lockheed Aircraft Service Company in 1990 after 22 years of service. Sir Knight Parker was a member of Temple Baptist Church in Perris California, where he served as Church Building Treasurer and on the Finance Committee.

Sir Knight Marshall was raised in Polaris Lodge No. 114, A.F. & A.M., Goose Bay, Labrador (Canada) in 1955. He was a Life Member of Moreno Valley Lodge No. 804; Life member of Rosemead Lodge No. 457 (Worshipful Master in 1999); a member of Southern California Research Lodge, F. & A. M. and Southern California Past Masters Association.

In the York Rite he was Exalted in Riverside Chapter No. 67, R.A.M., Greeted in Riverside Council No. 59, C.M., and Knighted in Riverside Commandery No. 28, K.T., all in 1983. While serving in these Bodies he received many awards and recognitions, including the Grand Chapter Meritorious Service Award in 1999, the Grand Master of Ish Sodi Medal in 1995, and the California Knights Templar Meritorious Service Medal in 1993. He was appointed to the Grand Commandery Line as Grand Warder in 1995, and progressed to become the 143<sup>rd</sup> Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of California, in which office he served with great distinction.

In addition to the above, he was a member of Inland Empire Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Knight York Cross of Honour; Robert the Bruce Association, Royal Order of Scotland; National Sojourners and the Heroes of '76. He became a Scottish Rite Mason in 1980, as a member of the Valley of San

Bernardino, A.A.S.R. That same year he was constituted a Noble in the Al Malaikah Shrine Temple.

I had the great fortune to meet Sir Knight Marshall about fifteen years ago. I was instantly impressed by his love for the Craft, his soft spoken Southern Gentleman demeanor and his commitment to service. He became a good friend to my father and me as we would travel to the Inland Empire for York Rite Festivals and Receptions. As I began my Templar career in the Ritual Staff, I admired the dedication Sir Knight Marshall and his Lady Nevon had for all members of the Templar Family. He was always approachable for guidance and advice and never failed to exhibit the character of a devout Christian Warrior and Servant. During his years in the Grand Commandery line, Sir Knight Marshall instituted many new programs, displayed the value of UNITY within our York Rite and mentored numerous Templars desiring to follow in his fine examples of leadership and service.

Sir Knight Parker's Funeral Service was held at the Temple Baptist Church in Perris, California, on April 21, 2010. Many leaders and members of our Craft were in attendance. I had the honor as Grand Commander, to assist Sir Knight Marshall's Templar Family in performing the Knights Templar Memorial Service in Riverside Commandery on May 22, 2010. Working in the Honor Guard were Sir Knights Gary D. Miller, PGC, O. Reed Bollin, PGC and Stephen E. Alderete, Grand Standard Bearer. During the last season of his life, with his health failing, his body becoming weak, his vision diminishing, Sir Knight Marshall continued to exhibit his faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. His character never swayed, and his love for the Lord, his Family and his Fraternity remained true and intact---an example well worthy of imitation, my Fraters. Forasmuch as the spirit of our departed Sir Knight has entered into the life immortal; we remember his knightly qualities and commend his spirit unto God. We can confidently leave him in the hands of a Being who has done all things well. Delivered from the limitations of this life, his spirit lives and abides in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ; whose life is the judgment of our works and whose resurrection is the pledge of our Immortality. Sir Knight Marshall, farewell, and may the sunshine of Heaven beam bright on thy waking.

In the Service of Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, I remain

David J. Kussman  
 Grand Commander

**GRAND COMMANDER'S ITINERARY --- 2010**

<b>Aug 1</b>	<b>Grand York Rite Picnic</b>	<b>South San Francisco</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>York Rite Unity Night</b>	<b>San Diego</b>
<b>19-21</b>	<b>Arizona Grand York Rite</b>	<b>Scottsdale, AZ</b>
<b>Sep 5</b>	<b>So-Cal DeMolay</b>	<b>Riverside</b>
<b>26-30</b>	<b>Supreme Assembly, S.O.O.B.</b>	<b>Cedar Rapids, IA</b>
<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>SRICF</b>	<b>Oceanside</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Grand York Rite Reception</b>	<b>Santa Monica</b>
<b>16-17</b>	<b>N/W Regional Conference</b>	<b>Boise, ID</b>
<b>17-19</b>	<b>Colorado River Fall Festival</b>	<b>Laughlin, NV</b>
<b>29-30</b>	<b>S/W Regional Conference</b>	<b>Phoenix, AZ</b>