



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee – Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

September 2022



Grand Master Waldron Installs Officers at Clarksville

Previous to the Inspection at Clarksville Commandery No. 8, the following Officers were installed by RE Dept. Commander and MW Grand Master Robert W. Waldron: Robert B. Beam, RE Grand Commander; John W. Simmons II, VE Deputy Grand Commander; John L. Palmer PGM, E Grand Generalissimo; Roy T. “Tim” Sutton III, E Grand Captain General; and Kevin J. Boles, E Grand Senior Warden. The remaining Officers retained their positions:



Henry W. “Wayne” Bane, E Grand Junior Warden
James H. Purser, E. Grand Prelate
Gary A. Thomas, E. Grand Standard Bearer
Donny K. Hasselbein, E. Grand Sword Bearer
James F. Cartwright, E. Grand Warder
Ken Matheney, E. Grand Sentinel



Pictured are MW Bro. Waldron delivering a charge to the newly-installed Officers, and the newly-installed Dias along with SK Boles.

General Order No. 4

To the Officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, and to the Officers and Knights of the Constituent Commanderies thereto:

Sir Knights,

Our ritual tells us to “be ever ready” to assume the duties of Knighthood, according to the Vows we have taken and the Rules of the Order. As such, I am honored to assume the Office of Grand Commander. I would like to thank the Knights of Tennessee for their support as I and the remaining Dias Officers assume our new roles. I ask that you pray for us as we move forward.

It is my intention to continue the efforts begun by our Dias Officers and to encourage every Commandery to incorporate the Mission and Vision Statements into their activities. These statements are based on the values espoused in our ritual and should guide the decisions of your Commandery.

There are three areas I intend to focus on, that I believe will help our Order modernize and grow. These are as follows:

First, we need to include family in our public activities, including Inspection dinners. Although the Order of the Temple is for Knights only, we should invite our families to attend the meal and help us celebrate the accomplishments of our Commanderies. Christmas and Easter Observances, Installations, and Veterans Day activities are other opportunities to hold open services. In this way we will not only attract new members but show appreciation and respect to our families who have supported us.

Second, we should support our Masonic youth organizations of Rainbow and Order of DeMolay. When you invest in the life of a young person you are investing in the future. These organizations are not only our future members; we are building the next generation of civic, religious, and public leaders. The values taught in Rainbow and DeMolay will give them the tools to become leaders who will make our society stronger and better.

Third, we should continue to support our philanthropies of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage. These charitable activities provide so much benefit and increase our public image. I am asking each Commandery to engage in fundraising and promotional activities for at least one of these charities. Sir Knights Tim Sutton and Bobby Blankenship will continue in their roles as Chairmen for these and you will most likely be hearing from them.

Knights, I thank you again for your support, and let us hold each other in prayer always.
Courteously, Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

Grand Commandery Revitalization Update – Family Night

The efforts begun during the past few months are continuing. The Dias Officers met recently to discuss the latest opportunity for Commanderies to hold activities in lieu of regular business meetings. The latest option is, “Family Night.” Family Night activities are in keeping with not only the Mission and Vision Statements, but also with the latest General Order. Family Night activities could be any Templar-related activity that includes families; a suggested example is Movie Night, in which you may show a Templar or Knighthood-themed movie at the Commandery and invite family to attend. The Dias Officers are investigating options to assist in this such as purchasing a licensing option to comply with copyright regulations. Although this is one suggestion, any family activity that relates to our Order and is held under direction of the Commandery would be suitable and is encouraged. The more we include our families, the more we will attract young members and grow.

If your Commandery has tried something recently and found it to be successful, please contact one of the Dias Officers and let us know. The more we are able to share ideas, the stronger we will all be.

Inspections include family ties

The Inspections have begun and several Commanderies have knighted active Candidates. In three of these, they were father and son or son-in-law. At Clarksville Commandery, Bro. Robert Todd was knighted along with his son-in-law Matthew Lehnertz; in Dickson, SK Scott Cherry was able to assist in the knighting of his son Zachary. At Coeur de Lion in Knoxville, REGC Robbie Beam knighted his son Zephaniah. It is exciting to see Templary become a tradition passed from one generation to the next, and we congratulate these new Knights and their fathers.

Other Inspections included an Active Candidate as well. DePayens in Franklin welcomed SK John Eberle; this Commandery was also the first during the Inspection tour to use the recently-approved “cap and mantle” uniforms. Cyprus Commandery in Maryville knighted SK Josh Hutchens on behalf of Coeur de Lion. We are very happy for all these new Knights, and look forward to seeing them become active in their Commanderies.

