



Indiana Supplement

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Andrew Jackson, GC

PGC Duane Vaught appointed to Grand Encampment line

By **EDWARD L. SEBRING, GP**
editor



SK Duane L. Vaught has started down a path which could make him only the third Hoosier Knight Templar in more than 150 years to serve as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

A Past Grand Commander (2000-2001) of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana and currently serving as the 157th Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Indiana, Vaught recently was appointed Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment.

Vaught had already thrown his hat in the ring to run for the Grand Encampment position two years from now, and his candidacy was supported by the unanimous vote of the officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana this past spring. However, he attained that office by appointment after SK Richard Baldwin, the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, resigned his office a few weeks ago because of health reasons.

“It is a real shame to see Richard Baldwin step down due to health,” Vaught said. “I have known him for more than 10 years. He is a fine man and a good leader. It's hard to see him unable to complete the task he began.

“It was a honor to have the Grand Commandery endorse me for the Grand Encampment line last April but I certainly wasn't expecting a result so soon.”

However, attaining the office two years earlier than he had hoped does not necessarily mean Vaught could become Grand Master any earlier. SK Lawrence Tucker, Texas, Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, said immediately after Baldwin's resignation SK William Koon II, Ohio, who had been Deputy Grand Master, was installed as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Generalissimo then was installed as Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Captain General was installed as Grand Generalissimo. At that point, Koon appointed Vaught – who had been serving on the Grand Encampment's Finance Committee – as Grand Captain General.

This team will complete Baldwin's triennium, then, in August 2009, will have the option of standing for election to the same offices for the following triennium, Tucker said.

In the meantime, Vaught is well aware he has roughly eight months left in his term as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, and is keeping that office his highest priority.

“For now, I have a big job in the Grand Lodge that I committed to and which consumes all the time a Grand Master has available,” Vaught said. “I will just have to wait till next year before I can commit to more than the basics of the new position. It will be exciting and I look forward to working even more closely with the Grand Encampment officers I have come to know.”

Assuming Vaught advances up the Grand Encampment line at an anticipated pace, roughly 42 years will have passed between his installation and that of the last Hoosier Grand Master, SK Willard Avery, 100, Knightstown, who held office in the late 1970s. By coincidence, Vaught received the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite on Oct. 22, 1977, during a festival in Muncie honoring Avery.

According to his biography from the Grand Lodge of Indiana Web site, Vaught was born Feb. 17, 1956, in Crawfordsville. He graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

In December 2000, he married Georgia Jean Nagai Goode.

Vaught began his professional career with a national accounting firm in Indianapolis, during which time he was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. He subsequently moved to a Stampfli Associates CPAs, a large local accounting firm in Bloomington, advancing to partner and vice president. Although he works with individuals and many kinds of businesses, not-for-profit entities are one of his primary specialties.

Vaught began his Masonic career on April 30, 1971, when he was initiated into Montgomery Chapter of the Order of DeMolay.

In DeMolay he served as Master Councilor of his Chapter, Illustrious Knight Commander of DeMolay Order of Knighthood in Indiana and two years as an appointed officer of the DeMolay State Council. He has received the DeMolay honors of Representative DeMolay, Chevalier, and Legion of Honor (Active)

He was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Crawfordsville on March 21, 1977, and raised to the degree of Master Mason 49 days later. He served as Worshipful Master of Spencer Lodge No. 95 in 1993 during which year the lodge received the Grand Master's Award with Distinction. He has also served as Worshipful Master of Dwight L. Smith Lodge of Research.. He Served as High Priest of Crawfordsville Chapter No. 40 and Illustrious Master of Montgomery Council No. 34 in 1983. He served as Eminent Commander of Crawfordsville Commandery No. 25 in 1981 and 1982, and has been honored as a Knight Grand Cross of the Temple.

He is Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Illinois near Indiana and also holds memberships in Bloomington Commandery No. 63 and St Anselm Commandery UD. He holds honorary memberships in several other Grand Commanderies. He served ten years as an officer of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana culminating in serving as the 140th Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana.

Brother Vaught is a Past Governor of Banks of the Wabash York Rite College No. 72 and has received the Gold Honor Award and Order of the Purple Cross. He is a Past Excellent Chief of Indiana Council No. 15, Knight Masons and Past Director General of Indianapolis Preceptory, Yeomen of York. In the Allied Masonic Degrees he is a Past Sovereign Master of St. Bernard de Clairvaux Council 256, as well Past Commander Noah and Past Supreme Ruler of the Secret Monitor. He is a Knight Commander of the Red Branch of Eri and currently serves as Secretary of his council.

Brother Vaught is currently serving as an officer of St Basil Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine and St Andrew Tabernacle XXXV Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests He is a member IX degree, Knight Grand Cross of Indiana College, Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, MSCRIF, and serves as Treasurer General of the High Council, MSCRIF of the United States.

He is a member of J. Herbert Nichols and Robert A. Woods Pories of Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Terre Haute Valley of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Royal Order of Scotland, Murat Shrine AAONMS, Sahara Grotto MOVPER, Knights of Pythias, Grand College of Rites, Order of Knights Preceptor, Indiana Past Commanders Association, Goose and Tater, and Royal Order of Zanzibar. In 2005 he was crowned a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33rd Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. He is a Grand Cross of the Royal Society of Knights Occidental and an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger S. VanGorden appointed Duane as Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge in May of 2002. Brother Vaught was latter appointed as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Oregon near Indiana. In 2003 he was appointed Senior Grand Deacon by Most Worshipful Grand Master James L. Chesney of Ellettsville. In 2004, 2005 and 2006 he was elected to each successive office and, on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, was invested with the purple of the fraternity as the 157th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Indiana.