Sir Knight Grant Teaff, a giant among American college football coaches and a new member of Waco Commandery No. 10, Waco, Texas! His story starts on page 21.
March 31 the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation met in Chicago to review forty research grant applications. The six ophthalmologists and researchers who were present had studied each application in advance and discussed the merits of all of them in turn. A grade was given to every application by each doctor. (Those who had a conflict of interest abstained). When the scores were compiled, twenty applicants were awarded grants totaling $600,000. **You should be proud of our contribution to pediatric eye research.** We give more money for this purpose than any other nongovernmental organization. Each of the doctors, who assists in evaluating the applications, volunteers his or her time, both in preparing for the meeting and in traveling to Chicago from his/her home, and each has expressed his/her admiration for the KTEF for the things we do in the eye care field.

The top-line signer and new member pins for the 21st Century York Rite Odyssey are available from the Grand Encampment office. Please make sure every Sir Knight who is entitled to one has a pin to wear. All candidates Knighted after January 1, 2001, are eligible. We have 5,000 pins on hand, and we hope YOU will make us order more! Those who became Templars during the Crusade 2000 should have received a special pin. Those pins are also available from the Grand Recorder.

During the month of May, I will be visiting the Grand Commandery of Italy, the spring officers’ meeting of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, and the annual meeting of the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine. Also, my son and coworker says I need to spend more time in our office.

Dr. William Jackson Jones
Grand Master, KCT, GCT
Knight Templar
"The Magazine for York Rite Masons - and Others, too"

MAY: The 33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign is over, and well have results in the next two issues; however, there is much information concerning the KTEF and the campaign on pages 5-8. Especially, don't miss the article about the KTEF's support of pediatric eye care by Dr. Porter starting on page 5. There's a great idea on pages 11-12. Read about the Alabama Americanism project! On page 9 we begin to present praises for the Holy Land Pilgrimage for ministers. You can join an exciting tour yourself: Holy Land (page 18) or Scotland/England (page 20). We have articles about two accomplished Brothers (one a Knight Templar from the Templary 2000 Crusade!). We hope you enjoy reading about them!

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May 2001

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Needlepoint Kits Available: Several years ago the Grand Encampment began offering needlepoint kits for sale. These kits include a printed canvas with the Knight Templar emblem in red, white, yellow, and black on a white background. Kits are still available and include the printed canvas, needle and yarn (finished size is 10 by 10 inches). The cost of a single kit is $11.50 postpaid, or $10.50 each in quantities of three or more. Orders may be sent to: Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

61st Triennial Conclave mementos available: 61st Triennial badges $5.00 each gold or silver, plus $2.00 S & H (while supply lasts); and 61st Triennial program books, $3.00 each plus $2.00 S & H (limited supply), payable to the Grand Encampment, and send to: Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

Now available: 2-volume set of History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America by Francis J. Scully, M.D., and History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America - Book II by Lt. Col. Jacob C. Baird Chairman, the Committee on Knights Templar History. One or both are a great gift for that Sir Knight or anyone else who is fascinated by Templar history. As a set, the two books are $25.00 plus $3.50 S. & H. ($28.50). Separately, each book is $15.00 plus $2.50 S. & H. ($17.50). Make check or M.O. payable to the Grand Encampment and send to: the Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago, IL 60630-2460

Knight Templar magazine Index, including all previous indexes and covering the years 1969-1999, is now available at a price of 5.00. This is your chance to invest at a bargain price in the index which covers main articles of the magazine from 1969 to the turn of the century. Make check or money order payable to: the Grand Recorder, and send to: the Grand Recorder; Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

Sir Knights, Attention!: An important and invaluable booklet entitled The York Rite of Freemasonry - A History and Handbook is available. It is authored by Sir Knight Frederick G. Speidel. This comprehensive, illustrated, 78-page booklet explains the degrees, history, symbolism and benevolent programs of the Blue Lodge, the Chapter, the Council, and the Commandery. There are illustrations of officer’s jewels of each body and of the Red Cross, Malta, and Templar banners. There is no limit on orders: $1.50 each under 100 copies, plus shipping and handling; $1.00 each over 100 copies, plus shipping and handling. Write your checks to an mail to the Grand Encampment Knights Templar; 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101; Chicago; IL 60630-2460

YORK RITE FREEMASONRY ON THE INTERNET - Official Web Sites

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America
http://www.knightstemplar.org

General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, international
http://members.aol.com/GGCOUNClL/HomePage.html

General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International
http://members.aol.com/GGCHAPTER/HomePage.html

York Rite Freemasonry. The International Information Site
www.YorkRite.com
Don't Miss This Important Message!

Sir Knights and ladies, Dr. John D. Porter, an outstanding professor of ophthalmology at Case Western Reserve University, has written the body of this message. He has had working under him three interns who have received research grants from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. His story is the most compelling commentary on the significance of the research grant effort that I have ever heard. He was kind enough to share the following at my request. I know you will enjoy it!

Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, P.D.C., P.G.C.
Chairman of the 33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign

The Importance of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation:
The Perspective of a Vision Researcher

by John D. Porter, Ph.D.
The Carl F. Asseff, M.D. Professor of Ophthalmology
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Loss of sight is perhaps the greatest fear that many of us have. The loss of sight in a child, who then is deprived of a lifetime of vision, is an unspeakable tragedy. Your organization, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (KTEF) chose to make a difference in children's vision and has provided over $5 million in support of research in the field of pediatric ophthalmology. I am a vision researcher in Cleveland with resources from the National Eye Institute (one of the National Institutes of Health) that has supported a 20-year (and counting) research career. I recently spoke to the East Central Department Conference of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and am writing to let more of you know what a difference this support has made. My lab studies the muscles that move the eyes, the extraocular muscles, including developmental disorders of these muscles in children. We are particularly interested in a misalignment of the eyes known as strabismus, basically a deviation of the eye that the patient cannot overcome. If left uncorrected, childhood strabismus can lead to nearly complete loss of vision in one eye-amblyopia or lazy eye. Grants from the KTEF have supported the work of three different trainees who have chosen to work in my lab, each of whom has studied eye muscle development and maldevelopment in relation to strabismus.
First, Jennifer Brueckner was a KTEF trainee in my lab at the University of Kentucky. She showed that there is a critical period in the development of the eye muscles. The eyes must be aligned and moving together or else the eye muscles fail to develop properly. These findings are significant in showing that eye muscle development must be taken into account in the types and timing of treatments for childhood strabismus. Dr. Brueckner is now assistant professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the University of Kentucky, developing innovative new tools and techniques for training the next generation of medical students.

Second, Dr. Francisco Andrade received a KTEF grant to work in the lab after I moved to Case Western Reserve University. His KTEF-supported studies were a direct continuation of Dr. Brueckner's work, as he showed the eye muscles were functionally compromised as a consequence of strabismus. Subsequently, Dr. Andrade joined the faculty here in Cleveland as assistant professor of Neurology. As a direct result of the pilot data obtained with the $20,000 KTEF grant, Dr. Andrade just received a 3-year, $600,000 grant from the National Eye Institute to study the eye muscles in health and disease. That's a 30-fold return on your investment, and this was only his first research grant.

Finally, Dr. Sangeeta Khanna is a pediatric ophthalmologist from India who received a KTEF fellowship less than a year ago. This physician worked as an unpaid research volunteer for nearly six months prior to receiving KTEF support. Besides working on her own project, studying a novel mechanism for alignment of the two eyes; Dr. Khanna brings ophthalmology expertise to the other basic scientists in our research group. Dr. Khanna plans to remain in the US. Based upon her interests, motivation, and already significant contributions to eye research; I imagine that she will contribute to both patient care and research in pediatric ophthalmology.

Then, as a vision researcher, how do I fully measure the contribution the KTEF has made to the field of pediatric ophthalmology?: Each trainee is an unquestionable success. The actual projects that these three individuals undertook have indeed made important contributions that should impact upon how physicians treat strabismus. In my view, however, what they did while supported by KTEF is only a very small part of what the York Rite, Knights Templar, and the KTEF have accomplished with the eye research program. What you have done is to provide vital support at the critical, early stages of the careers of three bright, highly motivated individuals. The contributions that these individuals will make over their careers in medical education and research are immeasurable. I am personally proud of what they have done and will continue to do, and I am a firm believer in the strategy of KTEF to use its resources wisely in providing early career support to promising vision researchers. When you consider that I am only one of many vision researchers involved in the training of KTEF fellows, I think that you begin to understand the significance of your work.
Contributors to the 33° Club-33rd Annual Voluntary Campaign
(February 2001)

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Mark W. Johnson (CO), 33°
Carl E. Starkey (TX), 33°
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S. H. Allman, Jr. (TX), 33° in honor of Charles C. Holt, 33°
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Vernon Tweedie (NE), 33° in honor of Alfred M. Harvey, 33°
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Mrs. Fern Kaufman (SD) in honor of Dr. Charles N. Kaufman, 33°
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May 2001
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Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
Thirty-third Voluntary Campaign

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending April 6, 2001. The total amount contributed to date is $602,904.48.

Alabama .......................... $11,996.10
Arizona .......................... 3,334.00
Arkansas .......................... 4,268.00
California ......................... 32,246.61
Colorado .......................... 7,893.00
Connecticut ........................ 6,486.00
Delaware .......................... 1,843.00
District of Columbia .............. 4,783.00
Florida .......................... 14,860.49
Georgia .......................... 50,828.72
Idaho ................................ 2,044.00
Illinois .......................... 20,345.64
Indiana .......................... 10,011.50
Iowa .............................. 12,830.50
Kansas ............................ 6,084.20
Kentucky .......................... 10,976.17
Louisiana .......................... 9,595.80
Maine .............................. 24,153.00
Maryland .......................... 15,022.65
Mass./R.I. ......................... 14,444.00
Michigan .......................... 15,110.00
Minnesota .......................... 5,320.17
Mississippi ........................ 5,081.00

Missouri .......................... 11,307.59
Montana .......................... 3,754.25
Nebraska .......................... 5,163.74
Nevada ............................ 3,962.75
New Hampshire ..................... 5,545.00
New Jersey ........................ 5,447.25
New Mexico ........................ 6,585.91
New York .......................... 13,599.00
North Carolina ..................... 12,125.66
North Dakota ....................... 905.50
Ohio ............................... 28,693.15
Oklahoma .......................... 7,572.50
Oregon ............................. 8,325.93
Pennsylvania ....................... 41,782.70
South Carolina ..................... 16,568.20
South Dakota ....................... 34,579.50
Tennessee .......................... 11,144.00
Texas ............................... 44,233.17
Utah ............................... 8,454.50
Vermont ............................ 1,455.00
Virginia .......................... 11,814.88
Washington ......................... 6,166.00
West Virginia ...................... 7,915.50
Wisconsin .......................... 7,623.65
Wyoming ........................... 3,143.50
Philippines ........................ 440.00
Panama Canal No. 1 .................. 30.00
Honolulu No. 1, Hawaii ................ 230.00
Alaska No. 1, Fairbanks .............. 1,304.00
Tokyo No. 1, Japan .................. 313.00
Heidelberg No. 2, Germany ............ 2,900.00
Miscellaneous ........................ 261.10

IN MEMORIAM

James H. Doyle
Maine
Grand Commander—1971
Born: January 17, 1909
Died: March 1, 2001

Albert H. Getchell
Connecticut
Grand Commander—1996
Born: April 21, 1919
Died: March 3, 2001
Comments from 2001 Holy Land Pilgrimage Ministers...

Our trip to Israel is still fresh on my mind. But it will take years for me to process all I experienced. Seeing the Holy Land has helped put in perspective the biblical stories and message. Being there has given me fresh insights. There is, of course, a sense of sadness because of the divisions, tensions, and prospects for violence that exist there now. But I will benefit from this trip for the rest of my ministry and life.

I was impressed and pleased at the special planning, attention to details, and the care expressed in doing everything to make our trip special and enjoyable. I do not know how it could have been done any better. Ezra and Amnon added a special joy and excitement to the trip. I feel we had the best guide and driver in Israel. The Knights Templar are to be commended for such a major and worthwhile ministry. I am very grateful for your making it possible for me to have this rich experience.

A great bonus was being with the other pastors. They made me proud to be a part of the Christian ministry. Though they represented a variety of understandings of the Christian faith, there was a common bond and fellowship that made me feel unity with all the Church. I enjoyed their company and was enriched by their insights, values, and commitment to ministry. Each of them, like me, was tremendously impressed that they were afforded such a valuable experience.

John H. Brown, Pastor
Muskegon, Michigan

Thanks again for your outstanding service and leadership in taking our group of pastors to the Holy Land, February 12-22, 2001. I would not trade that experience for anything else in the world.

Even though there were tensions in the Middle East and some were concerned for my safety, I want to say that I felt safe and well cared for.

The educational and spiritual benefits of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land make the long trip well worth the effort. It takes a lot of organization to get 45 people to Newark and then on the same El Al plane to Tel Aviv. Then, once there, getting 45 ministers headed in the same direction is like "herding cats." I congratulate the Knights Templar for such professional and caring service to the clergy, spiritual leaders of churches of all persuasions in the United States.

I shall never forget those most personal and moving experiences such as touching the silver star marking the place of Jesus' birth in the Church of the Nativity, reliving the horrors of the Holocaust as I looked at the pictures and read the texts in the Memorial to the Holocaust, Yad Vashem, and standing on the porch of the Church of the Beatitudes, on the Mt. Of Beatitudes, singing with our group, "Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God My Father." The Holy Land Pilgrimage was a dream come true. Thank you to all the Knights Templar for making it happen.

Reverend Dr. Don Houdeshell
Highland Park Presbyterian Church
Denver, Colorado
It was a privilege to visit the rich land of Jesus and the Bible. Ascending to the heights of Carmel, Tabor, Masada, and Jerusalem uplifted my heart and spirit. To see those sites made holy by our Lord's presence has truly enriched my faith.

The most meaningful moment for me was my first glimpse of the Sea of Galilee, knowing that Christ did so much of his ministry on its shores. My parishioners have told me that they can sense the excitement and renewal that the pilgrimage created.

Ezra was an excellent guide! He shares so much about Israel, Judaism, and Christianity. The accommodations were good, as was the food. Our group was friendly, fun, and welcoming. I loved our singing together! The days were busy, but we experienced so much. Reading scripture has been amplified as I think of my tours of the local geography,

I must admit that I was not ready for my Pilgrimage to end. I continue to give it much thought, remembering where I was and what I was doing several weeks ago.

Thanks so much, Knights Templar, for this gracious gift! Believe me; it has become part of my faith and life. The Lord be with you!

Dennis K Hagstrom, Pastor
Westminster, Colorado

Thank you for selecting me to go to Israel. What a great trip it was: The guide was just wonderful, and Fred Lesley treated every one of us like a king!

It was a dream of mine to go to Israel for the last thirty years. You folks made a dream come true for me, and for that I will always be grateful. The Bible has really come alive to me. When I read it now, I can say I was there, and this surely makes a lot of difference.

The whole trip was just perfect, and there is no way I could say anything but good things about it. With my heart I say to all of you - thank you!

Houston Berry
Americus, Georgia
Alabama Americanism Project
by Sir Knight Thomas Craig, Alabama Supplement Editor

First, we admit that this is not yet an Alabama project. At our last Grand Lodge of Alabama session (November 22-23, 2000), members of Apollo Lodge presented and discussed this project which they have been carrying out, distributed information packets to each lodge present, and asked for the support of the other lodges in Alabama. The presentation was well received, and it is the hope of the originators of this project that it will indeed become a statewide program. It is intended to be a project supported by the individual lodges and not by the Grand Lodge itself, although the Grand Lodge officers have voiced their support for this project and have authorized its existence as the “Apollo Americanism Project.”

The Apollo Americanism Project started about three years ago when members became aware of a small, pocket-sized book containing the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with all approved Amendments. Some members had been concerned for some time that our schoolchildren were not getting a firm enough foundation in the basics of how our government works, and they felt that making a booklet like this available would be a step in reinforcing the instruction in American history and government that they were receiving. The members first obtained Grand Lodge approval to pursue this program, and then they spent about a year researching methods of obtaining the book and discussing with educators what grade would be the best place to present this book. After they determined that the fifth grade seemed the most appropriate age group for making this presentation, they set about gaining the approval of the various school administrators. There was really no problem in this, except in a few cases where there had been a change in staffing and there was a delay in contacting the appropriate person.

Once necessary approvals were given, the committee set about determining how many fifth grade classes and students there were in Madison County, including Huntsville City schools, Madison City schools, Madison County schools, and as many private schools as could be identified. At the same time, the committee also undertook the task of identifying a printer who could print a copy of the booklet of suitable quality for presentation at a reasonable price. The committee referred to consists of five members of Apollo Lodge, all of whom also hold offices in the Huntsville Scottish Rite Bodies.

In 1999 these efforts came to fruition. The committee obtained generous financial backing from several members and local businesses to produce an adequate number of presentation copies for all the schools (public, private and parochial) in the old District IA (Madison County). They also realized that they had misnamed the project, because they had received enthusiastic support in terms of assistance in distributing the books from other local lodges. They were able to distribute approximately 4,400 booklets to fifth grade students, as well as to their teachers and their school administrators. Also, Brethren in the surrounding area took action to adopt this program; for example, the Brethren in Cullman Lodge distributed about a thousand books that they printed on their own, and Brothers on Sand Mountain obtained several hundred books from us to distribute in their area schools. The committee has also distributed a handful to a school in California and hopes to see other areas of the country adopt this program.

In 2000 the executive committee took steps to formally incorporate the project and insure that it qualified as a charitable
institution. Working with the IRS, the Apollo Americanism Project is now qualified as a 501(c)10 organization under the Grand Lodge filing. Also, with the new districting system the Grand Lodge has adopted, the committee has included all the schools in our new District II, which now includes Athens City and Limestone County schools. They have also identified a "home-school" organization through which they will distribute some more of these booklets. During the week of Veteran's Day 2000, the project; which includes members of Apollo, Solar, Helion and Union Grove Lodges; distributed some 5,500 books to the schools in the District II area, and Cullman Lodge is again distributing another 1,000 books in their area. In addition, Lloyd O. Glen Lodge in Lawrence County has purchased 600 copies for students in their area, and Brothers from Killen Lodge have acquired 175 books for distribution in Lauderdale County. Other lodges participating in the program are Gordo Lodge in Pickens County (130) and Arab Lodge in Marshall County (400). Masons in Jackson County have indicated their intention of purchasing and distributing another 600 copies.

Each community represented by a lodge in Alabama has individuals and businesses who would readily support this project. The lodges are not and should not be expected to fund this project by themselves. What the lodges do need to do is in the area of administering the project by carrying out the work of obtaining school administration approvals, getting local funding (under the Grand Lodge IRS filing), and obtaining and distributing the books. There are approximately 58,000 fifth grade students in Alabama in the school year 2000-2001. The dream of the founders of this project is that within a couple of years, each and every fifth grade student in this state will have the opportunity to receive this booklet. Beyond that, they have hopes that other jurisdictions will consider the merit of this program and adopt it for their respective states.

The booklets which are distributed are inscribed with a message that they are made available through the Apollo Americanism Project, and they have contact information. Although the project is based in part on the hope that Masonry, through this program, will gain a more favorable image in the public's eye, far more important than any credit Masons or anyone might get from this project is the fact that our young people are exposed to these documents, which have served as the foundation of the world's oldest, constitutionally-based government. Through that exposure, they should gain a greater appreciation for the concept of Americanism and be better, more active, and more responsible citizens as adults.

For further information on this project, contact The Apollo Americanism Project, 314 Bob Wallace Avenue, S.E., Huntsville, AL 35801, or the author at Tfcraigllao1.com

In the picture Brother Bernie Belcher, 33, KYCH, Order of the Purple Cross, a past presiding officer of each of the Huntsville Scottish Rite Bodies and Past Master of Apollo Lodge, presents a copy of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution to his grandson, Ethan Andrew, at Central School in Madison County, while Ethan's teacher, Mrs. Mary Smithley, looks on. Ethan is one of over 7,500 fifth grade students in Cullman, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Pickens counties in Alabama to receive this booklet this year.

Sir Knight Thomas Craig, Knight Templar's Alabama Supplement editor, resides at 1000 Lexington Street, S.E., Huntsville, AL 35801-2533
On the Masonic Newsfront...

Lyons, Kansas, Minister To Walk Where Jesus Walked

On Sunday, January 7, 2001, sixteen Sir Knights and their ladies assembled at the First Christian Church in Lyons, Kansas, to make the official presentation of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land to Reverend Tom Eastman. This Pilgrimage was jointly sponsored by St. Omer Commandery, Great Bend, and Reno Commandery, Hutchinson.

Reverend Eastman holds a Master of Divinity degree from Phillips University Theological Seminary. He has ministered at various churches in Oklahoma and Kansas and has been pastor of the First Christian Church in Lyons since June of 1989. He and his wife Teri have six children.

Sir Knights Lawrence E. Bodine, then R.E. Grand Commander of Kansas, and Wayne H. Rolff, R.E. Past Grand Commander of Kansas, made the presentation. According to Sir Knight Bodine: "The purpose of the trip is to offer outstanding ministers from various Christian faiths an opportunity for spiritual enrichment and an educational experience." 'It's exciting to see the ministers return from the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and share their experiences with their congregations," Past Grand Commander Rolff added.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation Receives $2,100 From Connecticut High School Students

Each year a group of students at Wethersfield High School in Wethersfield, Connecticut, work together to collect bottles and cans which are turned into cash for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. This past year they collected items worth $2,100! They have been doing this for several years under the guidance of Sir Knight Emil G. Lido, Past Grand Commander of Connecticut, and his daughter, Joyce L. Porter, who just happens to be a teacher at the school.

Since one good turn deserves another, Washington Commandery No. 1, East Hartford, Connecticut, each year matches the amount and gives educational assistance to one or more of the school's deserving students. This year Washington Commandery will award one or more scholarships in the amount of $2,100.00. (submitted by Sir Knight Charles B. Fowler, P.G.C. Connecticut, and Recorder of Washington No. 1)

Ohio Commandery Inspection Means York Rite Unity!

Not since their mid-90s reconsecration have the Sir Knights of Mt. Vernon Commandery No. 1, Columbus/Upper Arlington, Ohio, had the chance to see and work with multiple grand officers from the York Rite bodies of the state, but such was the case on the occasion of their annual inspection.

On a cold and dull January day, the Community Temple in the Columbus suburb of Upper Arlington was clear and warm inside as Mt. Vernon's inspection degree team did its very best to bring Light into the day.

The team worked from the evening of the 19th and through to around 4:00 P.M. on Saturday to escort not one but two neophytes through the arduous journey from candidate status to full Knighthood. E.C. Tom Branscomb extended his warmest welcome to the new Sir Knights and sincerest thanks to the team for "finishing on time and under budget."

Visitors included: Jack Allen, M.W. Grand Master of Masons in Ohio; Ronald Ebert, Grand Commander of Ohio; Chester Hammond, G.H.P., Royal Arch Masons of Ohio; Lawrence E. Johnson, P.G.H.P.; and Aaron Hard, P.G.C.

The Commandery has 100% participation in the KTEF, which gives members an answer to the question from others, "What do you do?" But they intend to keep on "doing" and increasing their work.
Below, left, E.C. Thomas Branscomb (right), Mt. Vernon No. 1, is joined by grand officers (distinguished Masons all): Jack Allen, Ronald Ebert, and Chester Hammond at the inspection. Below, right, newest Sir Knight, Edward Dressell, is flanked by P.C.s Paul Greenwell and Robert Neff, representing the KTEF in central Ohio. (submitted by Sir Knight J. A. Spofi)

Supreme Tall Cedar Of Lebanon Vogel
And Goodwill Ambassador Brooks

Pictured is Supreme Tall Cedar of North America, Brother Ramond J. Vogel, from Be! Air, Maryland, and wife Brenda, along with the Tall Cedars' Goodwill Ambassador for 2001, Robert Allen Brooks.

Robby was born February 9, 1989 and was diagnosed with congenital muscular dystrophy in 1990. Joppa, Maryland, is the home of Robbie, his parents Tammy and John, and older sister, Melissa, and younger sister, Ken.

Robby is a sixth grade honor roll student and loves soccer, computer games, magic and playing the violin. He is a Tender Foot Boy Scout, serving as scribe and patrol leader. He is a real ham on Karaoke!

Robby has attended the Tall Cedars' convention as a guest of Baltimore Forest No. 45 and has participated with the Forest at the MDA telethon.

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon is a Masonic affiliated organization with over 18,000 members in 103 chapters, called Forests. Since 1951 the Tall Cedars have provided continuous financial support to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, contributing over $14 million to the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon. They have the distinction of being the first organization to provide financial support to MDA.
Sale Of Afghan-Throw To Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Available now, this afghan is a tapestry throw that is made of 100% cotton. This new afghan has a lot of advantages over the old triple-weave afghan. It is 360 picks per square inch, enhancing the color immensely. There are new items to this design, including the three steps to Freemasonry. It has a black and white checkered floor leading up to the center column, and the compass and square are larger and enhanced with a cluster of leaves symbolizing Acacia of Freemasonry. The afghan measures 48 inches by 60 inches, and it is lightweight but weaved very tight to give it definition.

There are only 1,000 of these afghans made, and each one comes with a beautiful degree certificate so that you may write your important dates of Freemasonry on it. For every afghan ordered a certificate will be included. The price is $48.00 each, including shipping in the U.S. A donation of $5.00 for each afghan sold will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Send check or money order to: Sandra Knotts, PO Box 158, Trexlertown, PA 18087.

Northern California DeMolay Honors Grand Master

The members of the Northern California DeMolay Association have held their annual Grand Master's Membership Class. This is an initiation ceremony held every year to honor the newly elected Grand Master of Masons in California.

The class was held at the Oakland Scottish Rite. Both degrees of DeMolay were presented, as well as the Flower Talk, and the new Grand Master of Masons had the opportunity to meet each of the 61 new DeMolays who were initiated in his honor as he presented them with a certificate attesting to the fact that they were a part of the 2000 Grand Master's Class.

Pictured are the new members, Executive Officer Edwin D. Clarke, the Grand Lodge officers, and the officers of the Northern California DeMolay.

Northern California DeMolay thanks "Dad" David C. Decker and his officers for attending and for the constant support they provide the DeMolays in Northern California and throughout the world!
The Knight Templar

I

Sir Knight of the world’s oldest order
Sir Knight of the Army of God,
You have crossed the strange mystical border,
The ground floor of truth you have trod;
You have entered the Sanctum Sanctorum,
Which leads to the temple above,
Where you come as a stone,
And a Christ-chosen one,
In the kingdom of Friendship and Love.

II

As you stand in this new realm of beauty,
Where each man that you meet is your friend,
Think not that your promise of duty
In hail, or asylum, shall end;
Outside in the great world of pleasure,
Beyond, in the clamor of trade,
In the battle of life,
And its course daily strife,
Remember the vows you have made.

III

Your service, majestic and solemn,
Your symbols, suggestive and sweet,
Your uniformed phalanx in column
On gala days marching the street;
Your sword and your plume and your helmet
Your "secrets" hid from the world's sight;
These things are the small,
Lesser parts of the all
Which are needed to form the true Knight.

IV

The martyrs who perished rejoicing
In Templary's glorious laws.
Who died 'midst the fagots while voicing
The glory and worth of their cause -
They honored the title of "Templar"
No more than the Knights of to-day,
Who mars not the name
With one blemish of shame
But carries it clean through life's fray.
To live for a cause, to endeavor
To make your deeds grace it, to try
And uphold its precepts forever,
Is harder by far than to die!
For the battle of life is unending.
The enemy, Self, never tires,
And the true Knight must slay
That sly foe every day,
Ere he reaches the heights he desires.

Sir Knight, have you pondered the meaning
Of all you have heard and been told?
Have you strengthened your heart for its weaning
From vices and faults loved of old?
Will you honor, in hours of temptation,
Your promises, noble and grand?
Will your spirit be strong
To do battle with wrong,
"And having done all, to stand?"

Will you ever be true to a brother
In actions as well as in creed?
Will you stand by his side as no other
Could stand in the hour of his need?
Will you boldly defend him from peril,
And lift from him poverty's curse—
Will the promise of aid
Which you willingly made,
Reach down from your lips to your purse?

The world's battle field is before you!
Let wisdom walk close by your side,
Let Faith spread her snowy wings o'er you,
Let Truth be your comrade and guide;
Let Fortitude, Justice and Mercy
Direct all your conduct aright,
And let each word and act
Tell to men the proud fact
You're worthy the name "Sir Knight."

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1886)

The above poem was submitted by Sir Knight Charles A. Garnes; H.P.D.C., P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations. He is a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania. Write: Charles A. Garnes, 1700 Jamestown Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-4944 or e-mail: cagames@aol.com
The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
Christian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel
Itinerary For December 5-14, 2001

*It will be led by our Grand Master, Sir Knight William J. Jones, and his Lady Lois*

(More information and a reservation form are printed on page 19)

December 5, Day 1 - Depart USA on your way to Tel-Aviv, Israel.

December 6, Day 2 - Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport where your representative greets you and gives you an introduction about our forthcoming tour. Proceed to our hotel in the Galilee for the overnight stay.

December 7, Day 3 - Today we tour the Sea of Galilee; visit Capernaum and Simon Peter's house; the Mount of the Beatitudes and Tabgha, the site of the feeding of the multitudes; take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee; and enjoy a St. Peter's fish lunch in Tiberias. Then, it's back to our hotel for the overnight stay.

December 8, Day 4 - This morning we drive to visit Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle; on to Nazareth to visit the magnificent Church of the Annunciation, built on top of the Virgin Mary's house; continue along the coast to Caesarea, where St. Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius baptized; visit the Roman Theatre, Aqueduct, and the Crusader ruins; and ascend to Jerusalem for the overnight stay.

December 9, Day 5 - Walk into the Old City of Jerusalem; experience the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Armenian quarters of the Old City; see the Temple ruins and the Temple Mount; on to our procession of the Fourteen Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa to the sacred Church of the Holy Sepulchre; stroll through the many bazaars of the Old City; visit King Solomon's quarry located next to the Damascus gate; on to Mt. Zion to see David's tomb, the room of the Last Supper, and Dormition Abbey. Overnight stay is in Jerusalem.

December 10, Day 6 - In Jerusalem we visit the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, and the Church of Peter in Gallicantu, built over the palace of the high priest Caiaphas. We drive to Bethlehem to visit the ancient Church of Nativity, Manger Square, and view the beautiful Shepherds’ Fields. And it's back to Jerusalem for the overnight stay.

December 11, Day 7 - This is a day of leisure. Your guide directs you to places you may visit at your own pace with an overnight stay in Jerusalem.

December 12, Day 8 - Today we drive to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea area. Then, we tour Masada, site of the Jewish zealots' last stand against the Romans, and we drive to Ein Gedi to experience the salty water of the Dead Sea and continue our journey to the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Our overnight stay is in Jerusalem.

December 13, Day 9 - Today we visit the Israel Museum; the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed; and Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Later we drive to Jaffa to visit St. Peter's Church and the house of Simon the Tanner. We enjoy our farewell dinner and transfer to the airport for our flight home.

December 14, Day 10 - We arrive back in the USA.
THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
SPONSORS THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND OF ISRAEL
DECEMBER 5–DECEMBER 14, 2001

Grand Master William Jackson Jones and his Lady Lois are planning to lead the Pilgrimage. Please come and join!

PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS
- Round-trip airfare, Newark or Chicago to Tel Aviv, including international departure taxes
- All transfers and luggage handling in Israel
- First class hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily
- Hotel taxes and service charge
- Sightseeing in a deluxe motorcoach with an English speaking, licensed tour guide

- Entrance fees to sites, per itinerary
- Boat ride across the Sea of Galilee
- St. Peter’s fish luncheon in Tiberias
- Special Roman theme lunch in Jerusalem
- Farewell dinner on the last evening in Israel

Not included: gratuities to guide, bus driver, hotel staff, and items of a personal nature, such as sodas, other beverages, laundry, etc.

For further information please contact: AMI Travel, Inc., at address below; or telephone: (773) 777–4900 or outside Illinois: (800) 821–8947; fax: (773) 777–4921.

COST AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Package price per person, double occupancy:
From Newark Airport (NYC)—$2,145
From Chicago O’Hare—$2,255
Single room supplement, if needed, please add: $435

For payment by credit card, add 3.25% of total. Senior discounts (age 60+, spouses age 55+): please deduct $60 per person. Deposit due with reservation: $250 per person. Balance due: October 20, 2001. Note: All checks should be made payable to: AMI Travel, Inc., and mailed to: Knights Templar Holy Land Program; C/O AMI Travel, Inc.; 6200 N. Hiawatha Avenue, Suite 625; Chicago; IL 60646.

RESERVATION FORM


Please circle your choice—Price per person, based on double occupancy:
Newark Airport (NYC): $2,145
Chicago—$2,255

NAME (as appears on passport): ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________

CITY: ___________ STATE: ___________ ZIP: ___________

Home Telephone No. ( ) ___________________ Work Telephone No. ( ) ____________

Name of roommate, if known _______________________________________

Date of birth ______ Passport No. ___________ Issue date ______ Expire date ______

Name to be used on identification badge: _______________________

( ) Please confirm a single room supplement for an additional $435.
( ) Senior discounts—age 60+ and spouses age 55+—please deduct $60 per person.
Enclosed is my payment of $250 per person. Balance due October 20, 2001. Please make checks payable to AMI Travel, Inc., and mail to: Knights Templar, C/O AMI Travel, Inc.; 6200 N. Hiawatha Avenue, Suite 625; Chicago; IL 60646.
Join Grand Master William J. Jones of the Grand Encampment and British Heritage Tours for a Visit to Scotland and England and some of the Knights Templars' most historic sites

August 2–15, 2001

This wonderful tour, designed especially for you and your fellow Templar members, will give you an opportunity to make new friends, renew old friendships, and mutually enjoy the magic of the United Kingdom.

Every effort has been made to make this tour as comfortable and leisurely as possible and yet to show you as many of the beautiful and historic sites you are making the trip to experience.

Hotels will be charming English style, 3- and 4-star properties. The coaches are first class. The guides are hand-picked for their historical knowledge and recommended by former tour guests.

The tour begins with a two-night stay in Scotland’s capital of Edinburgh, and from there we will wend our way south, ending near London.

We will visit the 15th century Rosslyn Chapel, the ancient home of the Knights Templar, and the important center at Temple Balsall near Warwick, and Denny Abbey near Cambridge, important locations on the pilgrim’s route to Canterbury; and we will attend a worship service at the Temple Church in London.

For those with literary interests, we will see the areas which inspired Sir Walter Scott, William Wordsworth, and of course, William Shakespeare.

Camera buffs will love the spectacular lake district, the rolling green countryside, the picturesque little towns, and the beautiful English gardens you will visit.

The land tour price is $2,595.00 per person (27 participants or more). A single supplement is $500.00 additional.

For more information and to reserve a place on this spectacular trip, call Donna at Travel Bound, Inc.: (703) 237-8606 or (800) 874-7898. Leave your number where you can be reached. Or e-mail Donna at donna.travel@erols.com.

If you wish to have help with air arrangements for the trip, Travel Bound, Inc. is holding some group space out of both Chicago and Washington, DC.

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**RECEPTION FOR SIR KNIGHT WILLIAM H. KOON II**

Right Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment

Where and when: Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, Ohio, on June 23, 2001
Time: social hour from 6:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.; dinner at 6:45 P.M.
Meal: choice of chicken Limon caper or prime rib at $30.00 per meal.
Reservations: For dinners call Dennis L. Wilhelm at (419) 698-9483.
For rooms at the Lodge, call Cherry Valley Lodge, 2299 Cherry Valley Road, Newark, OH 43055-9393, phone: (740) 788-1200; toll free: (800) 788-8008.
Grant Teaff, a giant among American college football coaches, recently joined the ranks of Knights Templar at a York Rite festival hosted by Waco Commandery No. 10 in Texas on February 17, 2001. Since 1994 he has been executive director of the American Football Coaches Association, a position which he accepted after an outstandingly successful coaching career.

Grant Garland Teaff was the first child born to William Garland Teaff and his wife, the former Ruby Inez Grant. Bill Teaff was trying to make a living as a tenant farmer when Grant was born November 12, 1933, in their little house near Hermleigh, ten miles outside Snyder in northwest Texas.

The Teaffs soon moved to Snyder, where Bill worked in a cotton gin for a while and also spent some time with the WPA, the Federal government’s program to create work for jobless men during the Depression. He worked on road crews for ten cents an hour and later became a foreman at $1.00 per day. None of these jobs offered any hope of steady work, however, and in 1937 he hitchhiked across the South Plains in search of something more solid.

He found nothing and late one night caught a ride back into Snyder and stopped at the Stinson Motor Company’s all-night gas station. He heard some heartening news: A man had quit there that day. At six the next morning, he showed up and just started waiting on cars, fixing flats, servicing the bus, and doing whatever needed to be done. He worked all day and the next morning showed up again. Finally Mr. Stinson walked up to him and asked, "What are you doing here? I'm not paying you." Grant's father replied, "I know that, but I thought if I could show you I'm a good worker if you ever had an opening you'd put me on." So Mr. Stinson told him: "Anybody with that kind of drive I'm going to give a job." Bill Teaff started at $18.00 a week, and he worked ten straight years, sixteen hours one day and twelve hours the next, without a day off. He wound up part owner of the business.

Grant states that his dad's attitude has become part of his own philosophy: "I never worry about salary or anything like that as long as my family's taken care of, because I believe if you do the job, things will take care of themselves."

"Teaff" is an unusual name, and Grant declares that any time you see one in this country you can be sure he is a relative. "We're all descendants from a clan of gunsmiths who came from Germany with General Von Steuben, a soldier of fortune and a mercenary who..."
fought for America in the Revolution. My ancestors settled in what became known as Steubenville, Ohio. There still are some Teaffs in Steubenville."

In 1951 Grant Teaff graduated from Snyder High School and then attended San Angelo Junior College for two years. He earned his undergraduate degree in physical education at McMurry College in 1956, and one year later he earned his Master's degree in Administrative Education. A team captain at all levels, Teaff lettered every year he was at San Angelo and McMurry and was All-Conference linebacker at McMurry.

Teaff began his coaching career in 1956 as an assistant at Lubbock High School. It was in Lubbock that he met Donell Phillips, a pretty cheerleader for Texas Tech University, who became his wife on November 1, 1956. Grant has recorded his first sight of Donell:

"I went to Texas Tech's first home game and sat in the stands, my binoculars fixed to my eyes. When I entered the stadium I was very interested in watching the game, but later I couldn't have given you any details of it. I couldn't even tell you whom Tech was playing. What I vividly remembered was a good-looking blonde girl I saw on the sideline. She was leading yells for Tech at a very fast clip and with tremendous energy. I watched her throughout the game, and I thought she was as beautiful as she was active. It was obvious to me that she liked something I liked: football."

Grant was soon introduced to Donell by a friend from Snyder who was a student at Tech. Grant describes their first date: "We went to a picture show, but don't ask me the title or what it was about. It was like that first Tech football game. I was thrilled to be there, but I didn't know what I was watching. I do remember that I very boldly held her hand. And that was the beginning of one of the most beautiful parts of my life: a continuing, growing relationship with Donell."

Grant and Donell are a couple with a great deal in common. They were children of the 30s, born during hard times and raised in modest circumstances, but both were possessed with unusual ambition.

Donell was born in Munday, "a sandy little place near Wichita Falls," and lived there until she was in the eighth grade. Then her father, weary of the meager living they made from their cotton farm, sold everything they owned and moved the family to Plainview, fifty miles north of Lubbock. They had irrigation there, and farming was very successful until he became ill her
May 2001

They sold their farm and some years later invested in a women's clothing store in Plainview. Donell gained valuable experience helping her mother at seasonal markets. A woman of varied talents and interests, she received a degree in business administration from Texas Tech, although she first wanted to study medicine when she entered college.

She always loved sports. Donell said, "I had been a cheerleader as long as I could remember. This was conducive to being a coach's wife. I was interested in many of the same things he was. We had a common ground. Grant struck me as someone who really knew what he wanted to do in life. I liked this about him."

Teaff moved to McMurry College as assistant football coach and head track coach in 1957, and he became head football coach in 1960 while continuing to coach track. In 1966 he assumed the duties as assistant football coach for Texas Tech University, and in 1969 he became head football coach at Angelo State University.

In 1972 Teaff was hired as head football coach at Baylor University, Texas' oldest university in continuous existence and the largest Baptist university in the world. He coached at Baylor for twenty-one years, and at the time of his retirement in 1993, his tenure at one school ranked No. 2 among active Division I-A coaches, behind Joe Paterno at Penn State.

At the time of the move to Baylor, the reactions from his three daughters were mixed. Tammy, the oldest, did not want to leave San Angelo; she was a cheerleader in junior high school and had all the involvements of a typical teenager. Tracy, the adventuresome one, said "Let's go and teach them to be winners!" Layne, the fierce competitor and sorriest loser in the world, said, "Daddy, I want to ask one question: How many football games did Baylor win last season?" "They won one game," was her father's reply. She was indignant. "I don't see how you could even consider going to a place that won only one game," she said. "Honey," Grant told her, "that's one of the reasons we need to go."

Teaff was named the Southwest Conference Coach of the Year six times and earned National Coach of the Year national honors in 1974 when he produced "the Miracle on the Brazos." That year he took Baylor to its first Southwest Conference title in fifty years and its first appearance in the Cotton Bowl. Teaff-coached Baylor teams appeared in eight Bowl games. He did more than tutor his players well. He saw ten of his former assistant coaches go on to head coaching positions at the college level. He assumed the duty of athletics director at Baylor during his last season of coaching and would have remained in that position had he not accepted his present duties as executive director of the American Football Coaches Association.

In 1993 as he was moving into his present position, Teaff received awards from five different organizations: the Baylor University Athletics Hall of Honor; the Blue-Gray All-Star Football Classic Hall of Fame; the Gen. Robert R. Heyland Memorial Award; the Football Writers
Association of America Achievement Award; and the Morris Frank "Touchdown of the Year" award.

Honors received during his career include the Texas High School Coaches Association's Distinguished Service Award and induction into both the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and the Southwest Conference Hall of Honor. In 1998 Baylor University renamed its football and track facilities the Grant Teaff Athletic Complex.

In 1996 College Sports Magazine ranked Teaff as one of the ten most influential administrators in college athletics. His willingness to step up and address controversial issues affecting the game has resulted in increased respect and a higher profile for the Football Coaches Association. Teaff played an important role in a successful attempt by college coaches and administrators to eliminate a rash of fighting incidents and to enforce rules that banned showboating, taunting, and other unsportsmanlike acts.

Teaff has always been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has served two terms as a member of the FCA Board of Trustees, including a two-year term as chairman of the board of that organization. He has a reputation as one of the finest motivational speakers in the country and is in demand as a speaker at coaching clinics.

Grant and Donell Teaff are active, faithful members of First Baptist Church of Waco. They have accepted numerous roles of leadership and are deeply loved and respected by the church membership. Grant has served as chairman of the Board of Deacons, as stewardship chairman and as teacher in the college and single adults’ Sunday school classes. Together he and Donell are currently co-teachers of a couples’ class in the median adult Sunday School department. Through his personal testimony and example, he led many football players to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Only God knows the full extent of his influence and its impact on the lives of countless young men. He has said, "I don't care how many championships you win or how successful you are in your endeavors or how much money you make; you're the biggest loser who ever came down the pike if God is not in the center of your life." Also: "I don't believe God really cares too much about football games. Football games are won on the line of scrimmage by athletes. But God really cares about the individuals who play football games."

Raised a Master Mason in 1978, Grant Teaff is a member of James H. Lockwood Lodge No. 1343 in Waco and also a member of the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies. He was one of twenty-four candidates at the York Rite festival in Waco on February 17, 2001.

Participants in the degrees included the Grand High Priest and all the line officers of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas; the Grand Master and all line officers of the Grand Council of Texas, Royal and Select Masters; and the Grand Commander and two other line officers of the Grand Commandery of Texas. Total attendance for the day exceeded one hundred York Rite members. The highlight of the day
was conferral of the Order of the Temple in which Grant Teaff was the exemplary candidate. His reading aloud of Scripture from the fifth chapter of Matthew was a moving experience for all within hearing.

Grant Teaff is a man who radiates warm human qualities: loving concern for people, quiet confidence in others as well as himself, and the ardent desire to do his best in whatever he undertakes. His fervent belief is that God has a plan, a purpose, and a will for every life. He states, "I believe with all my heart that one of the greatest qualities of human life is loyalty. If you don't have a capacity for loyalty, you're a loser and you'll always be a loser. You find me a person who has loyalty and dedication, and I'll show you a winner."

When Grant Teaff was elected Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association at their convention in Washington, he had an opportunity to meet the President of the United States at a reception preceding the awards banquet. Grant asked if he would autograph his banquet program, and Brother Gerald Ford gladly obliged.

When Grant and Donell returned home, she proudly showed the autographed program to their oldest daughter, who was impressed but not overwhelmed. "Did he ask Daddy for his autograph?" she inquired.

This is typical of the devotion accorded the man of the house at 8265 Forest Ridge Drive in Waco. Despite the tremendous demands on his time, Grant always has remained close to his family, which has now increased to include three grandchildren. Donell has observed: "There is a parallel between the discipline with his team and with his three daughters. Through the years his discipline did not come as a result of harsh, unkind, and screaming words. It's been a matter of motivating them so they want to do these things. A great part of his discipline has to be love. They want to do the job in order to please him. The players responded to him because of this, and that was the case with our girls, because they know he loves them and they respond. He cares and he expects the very best effort, the very best person that they can possibly be in every area of their life. Grant's not perfect. Nobody is. But he is for real."

Thus Grant Teaff has lived happily as a member of God's family while also becoming a successful father of two families of his own - the one at home and the one on the football field. We are glad to welcome him into our great Fraternity of Knights Templar.

Reference material:
AFCA, a publication of the American Football Coaches Association.
I Believe, Grant Teaff with Sam Blair; WORD Books Publisher; Waco, Texas, 1975.

Sir Knight William E. (Bill) Matyastik is a member and the Treasurer of Waco Commandery No. 10, Waco, Texas, and the Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of Texas. He resides at 2115 Washington Avenue, Waco, TX 76701
Brother Dave Thomas: 
An Old-fashioned, Modern-day Success 
by Dr. Ivan M. Tribe, KYCH, 33°

The contemporary, conventional wisdom is that Horatio Alger type rags-to-riches success stories just don’t happen anymore. According to historians they did not happen very often in Alger’s time either. However, "rags-to-riches" did become reality for a few in the 19th century, and this continued through the 20th for a small number of folks.

One of the best current examples of a poor boy who worked hard and gained wealth and fame is R. David Thomas of Wendy’s Old Fashioned Hamburgers. He has also become a familiar face to Americans via his appearances in the company's television commercials.

Thomas, who was adopted as an infant, experienced a difficult childhood, dropped out of school at sixteen, and still became a millionaire before reaching forty.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on July 2, 1932, Rex David Thomas took the name of the Michigan couple, Rex and Auleva Sinclair Thomas, who adopted him when he was six weeks old. When Auleva died when Dave was five, he was reared largely by Rex Thomas who lived the life of an itinerant construction worker. It could hardly be described as a happy or stable childhood. Some constancy derived from summers spent on the Michigan farm of his grandmother, Minnie Sinclair, who provided Dave with some sense of security and the virtues of hard work.

As the virtual poster person for adoption in recent years, Thomas concedes that while his own experience as an adoptee fell short of the ideal, he still believes it was much better than life in an orphanage.

Since the Thomas family often struggled to make ends meet, the youth began holding part-time jobs from the age of twelve. He did everything from delivering groceries to being a soda fountain jerk and a restaurant busboy.

In 1947 the Thomas family moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where Dave worked as a busboy in a Hobby House restaurant quitting high school in his sophomore year to work there full time. It was later surmised that since David and Rex Thomas frequently ate in cheap eateries, the youth developed a fascination for food service and a desire to own his own place.

When Rex Thomas prepared to move again in 1949, Dave chose to remain in Fort Wayne. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, young Thomas enlisted in the army, where he went to cooking school at Fort Benning, Georgia. As a staff sergeant and cook at a military base in Germany, he supervised the feeding of some 2,000 soldiers and learned
"important skills about the big picture of feeding a lot of people." Back in Fort Wayne as a civilian in 1953, Thomas went back to Hobby House as a $35.00 a week short-order cook.

On May 21, 1954, R. David Thomas married Lorraine Buskirk, another Hobby House worker. The couple subsequently had five children: Pam, Ken, Molly, Melinda (nicknamed Wendy), and Lori. David remained with Hobby House becoming assistant manager at the Hobby Ranch House with Barbecue in the mid-fifties.

In 1959 Rex David Thomas joined Sol D. Bayliss Lodge No. 359 in Fort Wayne. He received his Entered Apprentice degree on April 13, 1959; was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft a week later on April 20, 1959; and was Raised a Master Mason on May 25, 1959. Two years later in mid-November 1961, Thomas took the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Fort Wayne. At that time his occupation was listed as "Vice President, Hobby House."

The following year Dave Thomas received his "opportunity." (Note: In Alger novels the rags-to-riches hero always found true success because he capitalized on his opportunity when it came). Phil Clauss, his boss and mentor at Hobby House, had acquired four failing Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises in Columbus, Ohio. If Thomas could turn these restaurants around - with business sense - Clauss would transfer 45% of the ownership to him. Dave accepted the challenge, moved to Columbus, and succeeded, making a strong, positive impression on Colonel (and Brother) Harland Sanders in the process.

After expanding the business, in 1968 Thomas sold his shares of ownership in the K.F.C. franchises back to the parent corporation for more than a million dollars. He then joined Kentucky Fried Chicken in a management position but soon resigned after a disagreement with new owner, John Y. Brown.

No doubt another reason for Thomas' departure from the fried chicken business was his plans to launch his own company. Dave's idea was to open a hamburger business that would be sufficiently different from other competitors by using fresh ground beef (cut in squares) instead of frozen meat.

He named Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers for his then eight-year-old daughter. The first Wendy's restaurant opened on East Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio, on November 15, 1969. According to a recent article in the Columbus Dispatch, Brother Thomas did not initially intend to start a major chain, but he planned only two or three restaurants in Columbus that would enable him and his family to live in relative comfort.

However, as sometimes happens, success builds upon success, and in 1972 a Wendy's opened in Marion, Ohio, and in 1973, Indianapolis became the site of the first out-of-state franchise. After that Wendy's grew by leaps and bounds, and in a 100-month period, 1,000 new restaurants opened for business.

By 1984 the phrase "Where's the beef?" had become so famous from TV commercials that Walter Mondale adopted it as a slogan in his 1984 primary campaign for the Presidency. It worked better in his quest for the nomination than in the fall 1984 contest, in which he suffered a record electoral defeat.

By the end of the 20th century, there were some 5,600 Wendy's outlets worldwide, many of them in foreign countries.

In 1982 R. David Thomas resigned as CEO at Wendy's to assume a less active role as senior chairman. Initially this move seemed successful, but when business began to slump later in the decade, a new CEO, James Near, accepted the job in 1989, only on the condition that Thomas resume a "guiding role" in the firm.
His appearances in the corporation's television commercials seem to have been especially effective in creating a positive image for Wendy's, and they have also made the name and face of Dave Thomas among the most recognizable on the American scene.

Meanwhile, the congenial business executive became a Noble of Aladdin Shrine Temple in Columbus, Ohio, on September 21, 1990.

In recent years Thomas has moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He moved his Scottish Rite membership to Miami on December 18, 1991. Soon after, he received in succession the KCCH on November 13, 1993; the 33° on November 25, 1995; and the Grand Cross on October 3, 1997. Since 1995, he has held a dual membership in both Miami and Fort Wayne.

Brother Thomas has also distinguished himself in the field of philanthropy. In 1992 he started the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption "to help raise awareness about these [ orphaned ] children, to educate the public about the benefits of adoption, to make adoption more affordable by helping the public and private sectors initiate innovative programs, and to cut the red tape from the process." He has urged other corporate officials to start adoption programs and crusaded for Congress to enact tax credit laws for adoptive parents. Outside his foundation efforts, Thomas has served on the boards of St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis and Children's Hospital in Columbus. As a high school dropout, Thomas has also expended considerable effort to urge youth to remain in school. Practicing what he preached, the senior executive obtained his GED from Coconut Creek High School in 1993, where his amazed classmates voted him most likely to succeed.

Dave Thomas has also become an author of some note. He started with Dave's Way: A New Approach to Old Fashioned Success in 1991. Three years later, he came up with Well Done: Dave's Secret Recipe for Everyday Success. His most recent effort a "how-to" type book, Franchising for Dummies, appeared late in the Summer of 2000.

Now in his late sixties, Brother Dave Thomas can look back over a life of triumph over numerous challenges. As a dedicated Mason for more than forty years, he has never been backward about expressing his thoughts on the fraternity: "I'm proud to be a Mason. I believe Freemasonry is the cornerstone of America today. It brings good people together for a common cause - helping others."

Note: The best source of information on R. David Thomas are his own aforementioned books. For his Masonic record, I am indebted to Max Carpenter of the Grand Lodge of Indiana and Hans Sheridan of the Valley of Fort Wayne. Thanks also to the staff of Aladdin Shrine Temple in Columbus, Ohio.

Sir Knight Ivan M. Tribe, KYCH, 33° a professor of history at the University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio, is Past Commander of Athens Commandery No. 15, Athens, Ohio. He resides at 111 East High Street, McArthur, OH 45651-1111
Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for $12500. (G.C. and P.G.C. add $35.00 for gold on cap visor.) This includes cap and insignia, short sleeve shirt, shoulder rank insignia, collar insignia, metal ribbon bar, name plate, black tie, tie clasp with cross and crown, and shipping and handling. Send cap size, shirt size, rank, Commandery name and number, choice of engraving on the tie clasp (plain/Knights Templar/Your State/Commandery name) to the address below. Make checks payable to Milford Commandery No. 11. This is a fundraising project. All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

This summer uniform was approved by Sir Knight James M. Ward, Past Grand Master of Knights Templar, USA. See the May 1999 issue of Knight Templar magazine. For further information write to: Milford Commandery No. 11, c/o Robert P. Winterhalter, PO Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This is for our charity.

KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2'12-inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. The emblem is to be centered on the Cross that adorns the left side of the mantle or ceremonial robe or on the left side (on pocket) of a dress blazer. The same use is required for the GCT emblem which is bordered with a wreath. The cost of the KCT emblem is $8.50 plus $3.00 shipping and handling, and the cost of the GCT emblem is $10.00 plus $3.00 shipping and handling. Contact: Jon Patrick Sweet, 7474 Benton Street, Westminster, CO 80003-7001, or phone (303) 430-8483.

How Will You Pay for Expenses That Medicare Doesn't Cover?

You owe it to yourself to find out about the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance designed for Sir Knights and their ladies.

With the high cost of health care today, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance Program is becoming a necessity for more and more of us. That's why it is good to know that you now have a choice of Medicare Supplement coverage under our plan at very affordable rates.

Under the Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Plan, you will benefit in many ways: You have the freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals, there are no health questions or medical exams to qualify, there is no waiting period for pre-existing conditions if you switch plans or are about to turn 65, and there is hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days!

To make sure you can pay for the expenses Medicare doesn't cover, call (800) 749-6983 for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan information and enrollment kit.

Pennsylvania 200-Year Anniversary Stein To Benefit The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

This stein was manufactured in Germany by the fourth cousin of the Mettloch family. It is white ceramic, 8 1/2 inches tall, has a pewter insert lid, and has eight different colors and six blended colors. On one side of the stein are two crusader knights from the early 1100s, and on the center of the stein is the national symbol, the American bald eagle, with the Pennsylvania keystone. On the other side are three Sir Knights; one of the Sir Knights is being installed into his office. The stein has two American flags from the periods 1797 and 1997. On the bottom of the stein are the nine beautiful battle shields for the nine crusaders who founded the Knights Templar. The price is $58.00. Order by making check or money order payable to: Elizabeth Buz. Send to Stanley Buz, P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052.
To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to "Knight Voices," The Grand Recorder, 5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chicago, IL 60630-2460. Items submitted to Knight Templar that refer to Templar or Masonic subjects will continue to be printed free of charge. All other items should be accompanied by a $5.00 remittance made payable to the Grand Encampment. Any submission may be subject to editing. You must submit a written request and check, if applicable, for each time you want your ad to run. Each request must be separate and at monthly intervals, not several at the same time. All other requests for repeat ads will either run just once or will be returned to sender.

Found and for sale: a box of bronze coins celebrating the 100th anniversary of Duluth Commandery No. 18, Duluth, Minnesota, in 1986. The back of the coin shows a picture of the famous lift bridge. They are $7.00 each, including S & H. Check or money order to Kevin V. Jones, 912 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2547

Wanting to buy: C.P.O. coat, size 54; Chapeau, size 7 3/4; plus R.A.M. red blazer; and Council purple blazer, size 54 - all, I hope, at a reasonable price. Call collect, Ed Marion, (369) 374-6777 or write, Ed Marion, PO Box 364, Forks, WA 98331-0346

For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; sizes: 44 short and 46 short. $23.00 includes shipping and handling. 10% of all sales will be donated to KTEF. General Merchandise Company; 13690 Broad Street, S.W.; Pataskala; OH 43062, (740) 927-7073

For sale: Royal Arch collector coffee cups with original two-color design showing Triple Thum emblems in red and working tools and emblems of the four Capitular degrees in black. They are a must for all Masonic cup collectors! Fundraiser for Union Chapter No. 2, R.A.M. $1.00 per cup will be donated to RARA.

Wanted: bound copies of volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4 of The Royal Arch magazine. Please state condition and price. Will answer all correspondence. Allen L. Formby, PO Box 275, Spring Hill, FL 34608

Chapter penny collectors: Granite Chapter No. 26, Barre, Vermont, has Chapter pennies for sale. Front has keystone symbol; reverse has "Granite Chapter #26, Barre Vermont chartered 1892." Send $5.00 to Granite Chapter, Attn. James Daniels, Masonic Temple, 2 Academy Street, Barre, VT 05641

Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, F. & A.M., Tampa, Florida, is celebrating its 150th anniversary and has available a 1 1/2-inch bronze coin enclosed in hard plastic featuring the square and compass on one side and an engraved picture of the first and present Temple on the reverse side. Each is $5.00. Also available is the 150-page history of the Lodge for $15.00. Text of the history is 100 pages plus 50 pages of historical pictures of the Lodge. S & H included in price. Mail checks to Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, F & AM.; 508 E. Kennedy Blvd.; Tampa; FL 33602

Ennis Lodge No. 369, Ennis, Texas, is seeking information on the whereabouts of a traveling gavel. Its journey started approx. seven years ago in Ennis, and it was last reported on from Edinburgh, Scotland. Anyone with knowledge of its present location, please contact Ennis Lodge No. 369, P0. Box 8335, Ennis, TX 75120, or e-mail me at ccurry_98@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Star Lodge No. 187, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, with the purchase of a commemorative coin. They are beautiful, cast in bronze and 1 1/2 inches in diameter. The front has symbols of Masonry, and the back contains a star and "Star Lodge" and the anniversary dates. These coins can be purchased by sending $6.00 each in check or money order payable to Star Lodge No. 187. Mail to: Tim A. Gottschalk, 2629 Northampton Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

For sale: In Memoriam booklet, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, from Blue Lodge to family of deceased Brother. Card stock cover with 5 parchment-like pages including personal history page. The "Lodge's Memorial", presents Masonic sympathies and convictions in 2 1/2 pages, and there is a signature page for Brethren. Quality presentation for family, especially if no Masonic service or Brother lived away.
3.75 each including postage, or ten (10) for $23.50. Satisfaction or refund. Check to Monument Lodge, PO Bar 743, Houlton, ME 04730

For sale: Royal Order of Scotland jewelry, both ladies’ and men’s. Marvin and Roberta Fowler, 1904 White Oaks Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306, (703) 768-6404

Tyler Masonic Lodge No. 1233, A.F. & A.M., Tyler, Texas, is having a fund-raiser for our Diamond Jubilee Celebration. We have for sale our 75th anniversary bronze and shining bronze coin. They are $6.00 and $9.00 respectively including postage. Face has “Tyler Masonic Lodge #1233, A.F. & A.M.” with letter “G”, and square and compass on the face of a star. Reverse side has the columns, seeing eye, altar, and square and compass. Check or M.O. to Tyler Masonic Lodge No. 1233 and mail to 1329 East Fifth Street, Tyler, TX 75701

Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & A. M., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project. We are selling Masonic jewelry boxes, 6 x 5 x 2.5 inches in size and the shape of the square and compass. They are constructed of exotic woods from Central America and are handcrafted with an interlocking design. All profits from these Masonic jewelry boxes will be going to Masonic charities, a portion directly to the Georgia Masonic Children’s Home Endowment Fund. The price is $20.00 each with $5.00 shipping in the U.S. and Canada.

Check or money order to Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217 and mail to Harry A Bruno, Chairman, Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F&AM;PO Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail: hany217@bigfoot.com

Square and Compass Lodge No. 3, Kunitachi City, Ibkyo, Japan, is selling dollar-sized 50th anniversary coins featuring the four islands of Japan and Mt. Fuji - a real collector’s item. Price is $7.00 each, including S & H. Checks and money orders to John C. Fisher III, PO. Box 4288, Woodland Park, CO 80866-2488

Sprig of Acacia lapel pins: Each handcrafted pin is sterling silver with a 24 karat gold vermeil finish. Price per pin is $10.00 ea including S & H. New item available: the four immortal chaplains lapel pin, a pin honoring the chaplains who sacrificed their lives by giving up their lifejackets in order to save the lives of others. One of the chaplains, Reverend and Brother George Lansing Fox was a member of Moose River Lodge No. 82, F. & A.L, in Concord, Vermont Price per pin is $8.00 as, including S & H. S. Kenneth Ban4 3 74 7 Westgate Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208-1122, (513) 731-0737. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF.

For sale: The Medal of Honor The Letter Gin Valor, a 268-page digest with the names, congressional citations, and Lodge membership of all Masons who have received our nation’s highest military award for bravery. Check or money order for $21.95 (CT residents, $23.27) to Weidner Publishing Group, Dept. K, 490 Cornwall Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410, or credit card order by calling 1(800) 783-9654. Author's portion of profits donated to KTEF.

Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 27 years and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These one day will end up in a Masonic museum. Why not find a home for your mark? I will gladly send you a check for one piece or will buy your collection. If you collect, I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705; (520) 888-7585

FOR SALE: customized, promotional, imprint ad items, gifts, and incentives, such as die cast coins, medallions, lapel pins, wooden nickels, round tufts, pens, pencils, markers, yardsticks, mugs, cape, key tags, knives, belt buckles, bumper stickers, calendars, business cards, awards, plaques, magnetic items, license plates, and ornaments. Celebrate your next Masonic event with these very popular promotional items for the Blue Lodge, Royal Arch, Council, and Commandery. All items produced in bulk quantities to your specifications, using camera-ready art, or we can create art from scratch using your sketch 3% of profit goes to KTEF. Contact Frank Looser, 1-800 765-1728 or e-mail Masonicpromdnfinteractive.com or web page, www.cnfnemctive.com

Help! I would like any possible information about the red, carnival glass, paperweight with the Masonic emblem in the center. Dimensions are 2.5-in. wide and 3/4-in, deep. If anyone has any history or info regarding such item, please contact Robert L. Simmons, 1403 Autumn Leaf Road, Thwson, MD 21286

For sale: 1996 Ultra-Lite Harley Davidson, limited-edition, Shriner’s bike, 3,000 miles, chromed out: $20,000.00. Call for details (209) 481-6566

Important notice: Do not hesitate to invest a new Masonic book to learn how to read books for what you think is important. Send a new Masonic book, an extra bonus will be sent to you. Send to Elm Lodge in care of Bill Whelless, 809 Battle Bend Blvd., Austin, TX 78745-2349.

Wanting to buy: Masonic first day covers and cachets - also buying cover collections. G. B. Adkins; Rt. 1, Box 152A; Keyser; WV 26726, (304) 788-3783; gadkins@pennswoods.net

Half sister needs address of her only surviving relative, Brother Howard Gordan Rile Russel, Jr., who was in Kennebunkport, Maine, about 1980 and was area manager for Wise Potato Chips. Was alive in 1995. Contact Evan Fleming, 1520 South Street, Vicksburg, MS 39180, (601) 636-4260
Celebrate Mother's Day

and Remember those
who sacrificed all!