

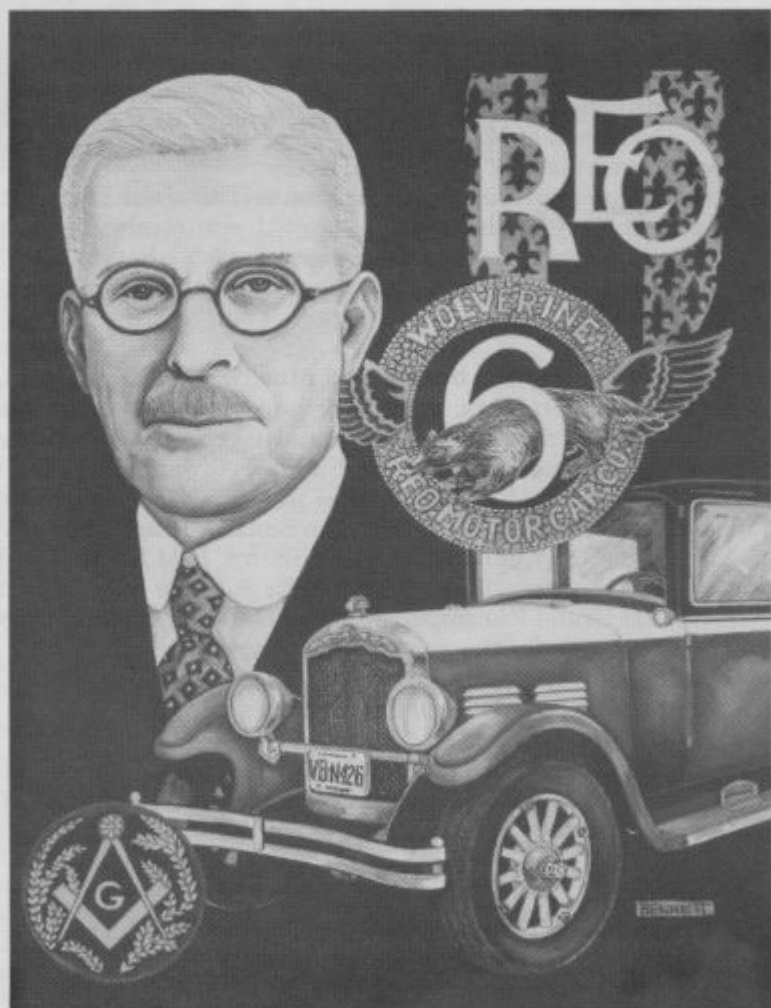


Knight Templar

VOLUME XLVII

NOVEMBER 2001

NUMBER 11



Brother R. E. Olds with the REO and Wolverine marques, plus the 1927 model of the short-lived Wolverine are shown here. The story starts on page 24.

Grand Master's Message - November 2001

If you don't yet belong to the Scottish Rite and Shrine, now is the best time to join! During these trying times for our country, Masonry needs to draw together and show the world our solidarity and support for democracy. This summer and fall I have had the privilege of attending the assembly of the Imperial Shrine of North America, the annual meeting of the A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and the 200th anniversary of the A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction. At all three of these assemblies, thousands of Masons met to celebrate the past and plan for the future. Every leader is striving to improve his organization and all of our Fraternity. As the head of Templary in the United States, I was received with great friendship and brotherly love by all present. I

wish I had counted how many men sought me out to say they are members of Commanderies of Knights Templar and are proud to be a part of our York Rite.



The month of November is a busy time for the Grand Encampment officers. The Southwestern York Rite Conference will be held in Sparks, Nevada, on the 9th and 10th. The annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology begins on Sunday, November 11, and ends Wednesday, November 14. I will be there in New Orleans representing the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The Scottish Rite Bodies of Texas will be hosting a dinner in honor of Sam Hilburn, H.M.E.P.G.M., who is retiring as the Treasurer of the A. & A.S.R., S.J. (He will continue as Treasurer of the Grand Encampment.) We have been experiencing real Masonic togetherness for the past several years with Sam taking care of the finances of these two large organizations as well as several others. The dinner will be held in Dallas on November 16.

Our family will have Thanksgiving dinner in Peoria, Illinois, at the home of Lois' younger sister, Lana Jayne Horsman. We wish all of you the best on that happy occasion!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Jackson Jones".

Dr. William Jackson Jones
Grand Master, KCT, GCT

P.S. All train fans see page 15!

Knight Templar

"The Magazine for York Rite Masons - and Others, too"

NOVEMBER: We have lots of information to ease you into Templar events and facilitate your fall through spring activities. The Grand Commanders of the Grand Commanderies are pictured on pages 5-7, their addresses appear on page 8, and the State Chairmen of the 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign for KTEF are listed on page 9. In the General Chairman's message on page 10, there is more information on the 34th Campaign, which starts on December 1, 2001 and ends April 30, 2002. For information on the Easter Sunrise Memorial Service, see pages 12-13, and for information concerning the Christmas Observances, see pages 20 and 21. We also have much newsy material for your enjoyment and an article and pictures concerning the Sir Knight responsible for Oldsmobile cars.

Contents

Grand Master's Message - November 2001
Grand Master William J. Jones - 2

Saluting Our Grand Commanders - 5

Addresses of Grand Commanders - 8

Grand Commandery Chairmen
of the 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign - 9

Message from the General Chairman of the 34th Annual
Voluntary Campaign
Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt - 10

Easter-2002
Sir Knight Robert V. Hines - 12

Remarks from 2001 Pilgrim Ministers - 18

Thanksgiving
Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr - 19

Christmas Observance - A Templar Imperative
Sir Knight Robert J. Cave - 20

Part I: The Lansing Years: Sir Knight Ransom Eli Olds
Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett - 24

Grand Commander's, Grand Master's Clubs – 11

Contributors to the 33° Club - 11

November Issue – 3
Editors Journal – 4
In Memoriam – 11
Public Relations – 16
On the Masonic Newsfront – 22
Knight Voices - 30

November 2001

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the United States of America.

William Jackson Jones

Grand Master
and Publisher

1 South Main St
PO Box 46
Villa Grove, IL 61956-0048

CHARLES R. NEUMANN

Grand Recorder
and Editor

JOAN B. MORTON

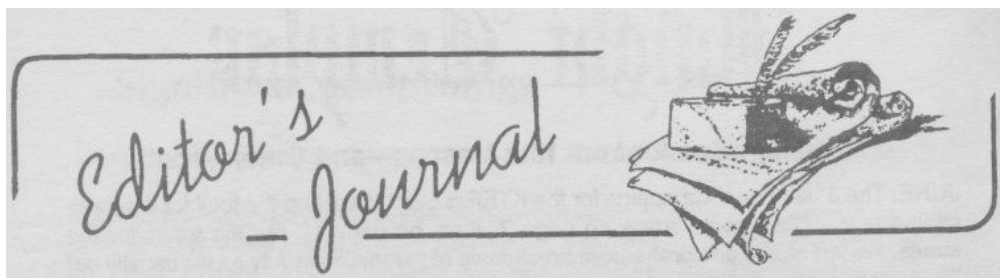
Assistant Editor

Grand Recorder
5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101
Chicago, Illinois 60630-2460
(773) 777-3300
Fax: (773) 777-8836

Mail magazine materials and
correspondence to Editor, 5097 N.
Elston Avenue, Suite 101, Chicago,
IL 60630-2460.

Material for the Grand
Commanderies' two-page
supplement is to be directed to the
respective Supplement editors.

Address corrections from
members are to be sent to the local
Recorders



Contacts for all Masonic organizations listed in our January 2001 issue should have the form for our next listing in January 2002. Please respond immediately as the magazine goes to the printer about December 15, 2001. If your organization has a new contact, please inform him/her of this. We would rather not leave any organization out!

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

A Knight Templar magazine Index, including all previous indexes and covering the years, 1969-1999, is now available at a price of \$5.00, plus \$2.00 postage total, \$7.00. 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 the jewels of the officers 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 and 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/GGCOUNCIL/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

Saluting Our Grand Commanders

Congratulations are extended from our Most Eminent Grand Master, William Jackson Jones, and the grand officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., to the fifty newly elected Grand Commanders of the Grand Commanderies under their jurisdiction. As part of this salute to their dedication and tireless service to Templary, *Knight Templar* magazine is printing the names and pictures of the Sir Knights who will serve as Grand Commanders for the current Templar year.

These Grand Commanders, whose pictures appear on these pages, will be the guiding hands on the tiller of the ship of Templary, navigating their vessel faithfully through the uncharted waters ahead.



**Wayne D. Jordan
ALABAMA**



**James W. Sebastian
ARIZONA**



**James T. Bell
ARKANSAS**



**Marshall F. Parker
CALIFORNIA**



**James A. Henley
COLORADO**



**Vincent A. Cowie
CONNECTICUT**



**Sheldon L. Edwards, Sr.
DELAWARE**



**W. Frederick Gore
DIST. OF COL.**



**Fred L. Piasecki
FLORIDA**



**James C. Bentley, Jr.
GEORGIA**



**James C. Herndon
IDAHO**



**Stanley P. Boyd
ILLINOIS**



Duane L. Vaught
INDIANA



Clyde E. Reasland
IOWA



Donald B. Kelley
KANSAS



H. Howell Brady, Jr.
KENTUCKY



Thomas J. Pitman, Jr.
LOUISIANA



Ernest W. Smallidge
MAINE



William B. Colburn
MARYLAND



Ronald E. Wolf
MASS./R.I.



Richard E. Hansen
MICHIGAN



Daniel P. Grambush
MINNESOTA



Jack A. Saucier
MISSISSIPPI



Robert L. Hudson
MISSOURI



Dean M. Lindahl
MONTANA



Gordon B. Pinney
NEBRASKA



David K. Baba
NEVADA



Melvin L. Covey
NEW HAMPSHIRE



Stephen Lutz
NEW JERSEY



Jesse O. Martindale
NEW MEXICO



Kenneth Perry
NEW YORK



Ralph P. Presley
NORTH CAROLINA



Dr. Virgil W. Carmichael
NORTH DAKOTA



Richard L. Weaver
OHIO



John A. Schrawger, Jr.
OKLAHOMA



John H. Smith
OREGON



F. Robert Witmyer
PENNSYLVANIA



John T. Davis, Sr.
SOUTH CAROLINA



Donald R. Salmon
SOUTH DAKOTA



Donald G. Clayman
TENNESSEE



Thomas N. Turner
TEXAS



Norman A. Smith
UTAH



Thomas E. Grace
VERMONT



Edwin R. Carpenter, Jr.
VIRGINIA



Garth E. Short
WASHINGTON



Donald L. Showalter
WEST VIRGINIA



Richard J. Reilly
WISCONSIN



Stanley N. McIlvin
WYOMING

picture
not
available

No Report
PHILIPPINES



Vincenzo Pulvirenti
ITALY

ADDRESSES OF GRAND COMMANDERS

Wayne D. Jordan	929 Tascosa Drive, S.E.; Huntsville; Alabama 35802
James W. Sebastian	3502 E. 27th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85713-2416
James T. Bell	P.O. Box 302, Prairie Grove, Arkansas 72753-0302
Marshall F. Parker	13655 McDonnel Street, Moreno Valley, California 92553
James A. Henley	9480 Garrison Court, Westminster, Colorado 80021
Vincent A. Cowie	1 Inverness Square, Middletown, Connecticut 06457
Sheldon L. Edwards, Sr.	4 Westmeadow Lane, Newark, Delaware 19711-2961
W. Frederick Gore (DC)	4311 Clearbrook Lane, Kensington, Maryland 20895-4139
Frederick L. Piasecki	140 Santa Rosa Street, Florahome, Florida 32140
James C. Bentley, Jr.	P.O. Box 121, Quitman, Georgia 31643-0121
James C. Herndon	1055 Riverton, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Stanley P. Boyd	2106 Hallmark Court, Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Duane L. Vaught	7850 Thames N. Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47408-9337
Clyde E. Reasland	122 Lawrence, Evansdale, Iowa 50707-1228
Donald B. Kelley	16 N.W. Sugar Lake Drive E., Mound City, Kansas 66056
H. Howell Brady, Jr.	200 Wanda Lee Trail, Georgetown, Kentucky 40324-1150
Thomas J. Pitman, Jr.	6012 Milmar Boulevard, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302-2539
Ernest W. Smallidge	P.O. Box 131, Seal Harbor, Maine 04675
William B. Colburn, Sr.	6501 Ridge Road, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771
Ronald E. Wolf (MA/RI)	Box 2, Cummington, Massachusetts 01026-0002
Richard E. Hansen	7020 N. 35th Street, Richland, Michigan 49083
Daniel P. Grambush	15 W. Owatonna Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55803-1740
Jack A. Saucier	8365 Klondyke Road, Long Beach, Mississippi 39560
Robert L. Hudson	720 Kevin Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri 65109-9751
Dean M. Lindahl	1010 E. State Street, Helena, Montana 59601
Gordon B. Pinney	60 Pinney Road, Whitney, Nebraska 69367-2587
David K. Baba	1675 Viewcrest Drive, Reno, Nevada 89511
Melvin L. Covey	158 Morrill Street, Gilford, New Hampshire 03246-2219
Stephen Lutz	1228 Kline Place, Rahway, New Jersey 07065
Jesse O. Martindale	1300 Camino Sol, Farmington, New Mexico 87401
Kenneth Perry	91 Eiseman Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217-1619
Ralph P. Presley	1119 Burnside Drive, Asheville, North Carolina 28803-3234
Dr. Virgil W. Carmichael	1013 N. Anderson Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-3446
Richard L. Weaver	111 South Basil Street, Baltimore, Ohio 43105-1057
John A. Schrawger, Jr.	3838 S. 93rd East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145-3448
John H. Smith	2076 17th Street, North Bend, Oregon 97459
F. Robert Witmyer	1463 Cherry Lane, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464
John T. Davis, Sr.	2425 Peach Orchard Road, Sumter, South Carolina 29154
Donald R. Salmon	201 E. Liberty, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701-7670
Donald G. Clayman	2508 Bloomingdale Pike, Kingsport, Tennessee 37660-1817
Thomas N. Turner, Sr.	2521 Pinehurst, West Columbia, Texas 77486
Norman A. Smith	751 N. 2nd E., Price, Utah 84501
Thomas E. Grace	238 Old City Falls Road, Strafford, Vermont 05072-9781
Edwin R. Carpenter, Jr.	4030 Walters Court, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-3539
Garth E. Short	1010 9th Avenue South, Edmonds, Washington 98020-3909
Donald L. Showalter	45 Mozart Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003
Richard J. Reilly	1810 Blueberry Drive, Plover, Wisconsin 54467
Stanley N. McIrvin	291 Indian Paintbrush, Unit H, Casper, Wyoming 82604-3896
Vincenzo Pulvirenti	Via Del Canalicchio 7, 95030 Tremestieri Etnea (CT), Italy

GRAND COMMANDERY CHAIRMEN OF THE 34TH ANNUAL VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN

ALABAMA	Charles H. Hampton, Jr.	358 Riverside Drive, East Gadsden, AL 35903
ARIZONA	David H. Luebke	P.O. Box 10338, Prescott, AZ 86304-0338
ARKANSAS	Robert B. Mitchell	124 Orchard, Hot Springs, AR 71913
CALIFORNIA	Donald J. Spencer	8350 Rathburn Avenue, Northridge, CA 91325
COLORADO	Donald C. Phillips	112 Trout Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
CONNECTICUT	Edward R. Ham	43 Crescent Road, Fairfield, CT 06430
DELAWARE	Warren F. Schueler, Sr.	16 Marta Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808-4854
DIST. of COL.	John C. Werner II	8907 Southwick Street, Fairfax, VA 22031
FLORIDA	Richard J. Carr	210 S. Embrey Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707-3314
GEORGIA	Bobby J. Townsend	6630 Starling Place, S.W., Marbleton, GA 30059
IDAHO	Ernest I. Teter	1604 W. Orchard, No. 520, Nampa, ID 83651
ILLINOIS	Daryl W. Selock	851 N. Fairway Drive, Palatine, IL 60067
INDIANA	James W. Prairie	P.O. Box 562, Morgantown, IN 46160-0562
IOWA	Glenn N. Marshall	4617 Pineview Drive, N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1717
KANSAS	Leonard G. Scheurich	1219 Kimball, Parsons, KS 67357
KENTUCKY	James O. Atwood	105 Lynn Avenue, Munfordville, KY 42765
LOUISIANA	J. P. Mabry	129 Fulerton Road, Leesville, LA 71446
MAINE	Walter L. Hayes	223 Forest Street, Westbrook, ME 04092
MARYLAND	Philip A. Tilson	13 Franklin Street, Stafford, VA 22554-6211
MASS./R.I.	Duncan C. Watson	34 Breeze Avenue, Riverside, RI 02915
MICHIGAN	Roy M. Geer	22451 Bayview Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
MINNESOTA	Anthony W. Lecakis	801 S. Main Street, Austin, MN 55912
MISSISSIPPI	Frank E. Hankinson III	815 Spruce Street, Columbus, MS 39702-5427
MISSOURI	Louis L. Monken	430 Fairwick Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129
MONTANA	Deane V. Whitehead	503 E. Raymond, Glendive, MT 59330
NEBRASKA	Marlin D. Palasek	4859 S. 96th Plaza, No. 5, Omaha, NE 68127
NEVADA	Gerry Cunningham	1731 Charnut Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89115
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Melvin L. Covey	158 Morrill Street, Gilford, NH 03246-2219
NEW JERSEY	Edward Seabon	416 Morris Place, Roselle, NJ 07203
NEW MEXICO	Robert E. Noble	1422 N. Country Club Circle, Carlsbad, NM 88220
NEW YORK	Edwin F. Rothfuss	30700 County Route 69, Copenhagen, NY 13626-3145
NORTH CAROLINA	C. James Weisel	128 Overbrook Drive, Concord, NC 28025
NORTH DAKOTA	Donald J. Laschkewitsch	1810 N. 7th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-1816
OHIO	Robert R. Neff	3615 Stockholm Road, Westerville, OH 43081-4243
OKLAHOMA	Gary A. Davis	620 W. Cherry Street, Drumright, OK 74030
OREGON	Charles R. Svensen	24207 Old Peak Road, Philomath, OR 97370-9570
PENNSYLVANIA	George A. Hulsinger	8142 Bell Road, Harborscreek, PA 16421
SOUTH CAROLINA	Carl R. Truesdale	2125 Airline, Camden, SC 29020
SOUTH DAKOTA	John W. Schwieter	216 E. St. Charles Street, Rapid City, SD 57701-3836
TENNESSEE	Phillip G. Elam	1853 Forest View Drive, Kingsport, TN 37660
TEXAS	Kenneth B. Fischer, Sr.	5138 Shady Oaks, Friendswood, TX 77546
UTAH	Patrick Bailey	P.O. Box 567, Green River, UT 84525-0567
VERMONT	Howard H. Hatt	1B Church Street, North Springfield, VT 05150-9757
VIRGINIA	John R. Wigglesworth, Jr.	1930 Leonard Road, Falls Church, VA 22043-1322
WASHINGTON	Edward D. White, Jr.	5 Ponce de Leon Terrace, S.W., Tacoma, WA 98499
WEST VIRGINIA	Harry G. Canfield	Rt. 1, Box 122, Montrose, WV 26283
WISCONSIN	Lyle Farrell	S. 36 W. 26 670 Genesee Road, Waukesha, WI 53188
WYOMING	Edward C. Brown	1927 E. Garfield, Laramie, WY 82070



Message from the General Chairman The 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign

by Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, P.D.C. and P.G.C. (California)
Chairman of the Annual Voluntary Campaign

Dear Sir Knights and ladies:

This will be a short message for this month. I just want to give you all a "heads up" on the theme for this year's Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The 34th Campaign will emphasize bringing an increase over the fund-raising of the 33rd Campaign.

The theme will be: "I'm upping my contribution! How about you?"

In order to put a real emphasize on improving the fund-raising of last year, there will be awards presented to the Grand Commanders whose Grand Commanderies show the greatest increases. There will be four awards given:

First: for the greatest dollar increase over last year

Second: for the highest percentage of increase

Third: for the greatest increase in the per-capita dollar figure

Fourth: for the highest percentage increase in per-capita giving

You may ask: What is the prize? Stay tuned! That announcement will be made in next month's message.

In addition to giving a prize to the Grand Commander, there will also be an award for the troops. A special lapel pin is being struck that will be given to every Sir Knight who contributes \$10.00 or more. That lapel pin will be a physical testimony that you have supported the Eye Foundation. By special dispensation from the Grand Master, the pin may be worn on the lapel of the uniform. Whether worn on a suit, blazer, or uniform;



it will say to all around: "I gave!"

By the way, several folks have asked if it is still possible to join the 33° Club with a \$33.00 contribution. The answer is "yes." We still have a few of those lapel pins available, so we will continue that program into the 34th Campaign as long as they last. The Grand Master has approved this continuation. Be sure to send these contributions directly to the office in Chicago, and be clear about whether it is a personal membership or in honor of a friend.

The 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign begins the first of December. Let's get ready!

"I'm upping my contribution. How about you?"

Fraternally, Bruce

Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt; Chairman of the 33rd and 34th Annual Voluntary Campaigns, Past Department Commander, Southwestern, and Past Grand Commander of California; is a member of Palo Alto Commandery No. 47, Palo Alto, California. He resides at 14101 Manuella Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. His personal e-mail address: is wbrpuitt@aol.com. For information on the KTEF, send e-mail to ktef@knightstemplar.org or call (773) 205-3838.

Report of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Grand Master's Club

No. 3,777—Mrs. Johan Reynolds (VA) in
memory of J. Paul Reynolds
No. 3,778—Michael T. Calfee (TN)
No. 3,779—Wilbur H. Stevens (CA)
No. 3,780—Jack L. Locandro (IL)

Grand Commander's Club

No. 101,551—Michael T. Calfee (TN)
No. 101,552—Lincoln Hamilton (IN)

Contributors to the 33° Club

Collinsville Chapter No. 666, O.E.S. (IL) in
honor of B. Lee Reeves, 33° Gary A.
Stoess (NJ)
William Curtis Rogers (GA)

Tennessee Doctor Receives Eye Foundation Grant

Dr. Veera Rajaratnam, a doctor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, received a \$30,000 grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Dr. Rajaratnam was presented the grant at the Tennessee state dinner during the Grand Encampment Triennial.

Rajaratnam will use the grant on her study, "Analyze the Role of Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Gene Family in the Developing Retina and the Effect of PPAR Activators on Oxygen-Induced Neovascularization in Rat Model of Reti."

Shown at the presentation are from left to right: Sir Knight Terry Plemons, then Grand Captain General of Tennessee; Sir Knight Ford Bonds, then Grand Generalissimo; Dr. Rajaratnam; Sir Knight Don Clayman, then Deputy Grand Commander; and Sir Knight Roy C. Etherton, then Grand Commander.



IN MEMORIAM



Russel Earl Strawn
Florida
Grand Commander—1957
Born: May 27, 1903
Died: February 10, 2001

C. Glenn Hoff
Wyoming

Grand Commander—1992
Born: February 19, 1927
Died: July 24, 2001

James C. Wheeler
Kentucky
Grand Commander—1982
Born: October 20, 1921
Died: August 14, 2001

Norman Rodman Byers
North Dakota
Grand Commander—1997
Born: March 4, 1922
Died: September 5, 2001

Easter - 2002

by Sir Knight Robert V. Hines, KCT, KTCH, P.G.C. (DC)
General Chairman of the Committee on the Easter Sunrise Memorial Service

The 72nd Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, will again be held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, March 31, 2002, and it will begin at 9:00 A.M. As in previous years, this service and the breakfast prior to it will complete a memorable weekend of events in our nation's Capital, Washington, D.C., including delegation dinners, tours, and Masonic fellowship. For one event, it is to be noted that the cherry blossoms should be in full bloom - a sure sign of spring!

THE HOTEL WASHINGTON PACKAGE

The main hotel will again be the Hotel Washington in downtown Washington, D.C. This year the Hotel Washington is again offering a package arrangement as follows: double occupancy, \$280.00, Friday and Saturday nights; Saturday luncheon for two; and Sunday breakfast for two, including taxes and luggage fees; extra day, \$125.00 plus 14.5% tax. For single occupancy, package is \$240.00, and an extra day is \$115.00 plus tax. (\$47.00 extra for each person more than two per room).

This arrangement is good only for the Friday and Saturday preceding Easter. Write the hotel to make your reservations: Hotel Washington, ATFN: Knights Templar Easter Program, 515 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004; include your check or credit card number.

You may also call the Hotel Washington at (800) 424-9540 and speak with Sandy Warner to make reservations for rooms and any of the activities, giving your credit card number for billing.

Check with the hotel upon your arrival to insure all your reservations are complete.

OTHER THAN THE PACKAGE

For those not taking the package, the separate charges are \$27.00 each for the Saturday luncheon and \$16.50 each for the breakfast on Sunday. If you are not staying at the Hotel Washington, please make arrangements to attend the breakfast, since it is a great event. Make your reservations with the Grand Encampment Office: (773) 777-3300.

GRAND COMMANDERS AND THEIR LADIES

Grand Commanders and their ladies may attend the Saturday luncheon, courtesy of the Grand Encampment. Be sure to identify yourself when dealing with the hotel.

OUR GRAND MASTER

The Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America, Sir Knight and Dr. William Jackson Jones, and his officers will greet everyone at the Saturday luncheon.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS

On Saturday, March 30, the Grand Commandery of Indiana will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery honoring their members who fell in combat as members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. They have again asked that everyone be invited to attend. Remember that the bus for the trip to Arlington will leave the Hotel Washington at 08:30 hours.

EASTER MORNING PROGRAM

The Hotel Washington will be serving breakfast at 07:00 A.M. Easter morning, and this is a change from the previous years to provide for leaving directly from the George Washington National Masonic Memorial to your destinations. The buses will be available to leave at 08:00 A.M. to take members and their ladies to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for the Sunrise Services and will return to the hotel after the Service which will begin at 09:00 A.M.

PARADE FORMATION

The parade will form on the lane leading up the hill. Delegations will form according to their entry into the Grand Encampment, senior to junior, and markers for each will be in place. The Maryland delegation, as in the services for the last four years, will appear in their black plumes before the formal parade with drummers and form a passion cross in the stands. The Grand Commandery of Maryland would also like to invite any of the other Commanderies, which wear the black plume, to get in touch and participate in the formation of the Cross. The parade will step off at 08:45 A.M., proceed up the hill, render "Eyes Right" on passing the Grand Master and his staff; and then proceed into seats as directed. A formation of three squads each is suggested in order to avoid bunching up on top of the hill. Colors will Right Wheel at the podium and post the colors as directed. Parking for cars and buses is available at the top of the hill next to the Memorial. However, no vehicles will be permitted up the roadway after 08:30 A.M.

This year the GOLD BAND from PORTLAND COMMANDERY No. 2, PORTLAND, MAINE, will join KENA SHRINE BAND in providing the music.

OTHER DETAILS

Delegations desiring to make any special group arrangements should call Sandy

Warren at the hotel number. Delegations staying at other hotels or motels must provide their own transportation or meet at the Hotel Washington. Recognition is made to the Grand Commandery having the most Sir Knights in uniform in the parade and to the Grand Commandery having the highest percentage of its members in uniform in the parade. Prior to the service, beginning at 08:30 A.M. carillon music will be played over the public address system. Easter selections will be played as the parade moves out following the Assembly bugle call. Our Right Eminent Grand Prelates, John D. Jones and Thomas M. Jones, will conduct the Service.

The breakfast will begin at 07:00 A.M. at the Hotel Washington.

Reservations should be made for rooms and any other activities by March 08, 2002.

GRAND COMMANDERS ARE REQUESTED TO APPOINT A DELEGATION CHAIRMAN AND NOTIFY THIS COMMITTEE'S GENERAL CHAIRMAN, SIR KNIGHT ROBERT V. HINES, 124 HARRISON CIRCLE, LOCUST GROVE, VA 22508-9579, TELEPHONE NO.: (540) 972-8066, FAX NO.: (540) 972-8699, e-mail: ROBERTH333@aol.com, in order to receive all mailings concerning this event and to facilitate adequate planning! Forms will be sent in January 2002. Please return these forms so that we can adequately plan for this event.

Sir Knight Robert V. Hines, General Chairman Of The Committee On The Easter Sunrise Memorial Service, and P.G.C. of the District of Columbia, is a member of Potomac Commandery No. 3 of the District of Columbia and York Commandery No. 16 of Maryland.

2001 Knights Templar Afghan To Benefit The KTEF

Available November 1, 2001, is this beautiful afghan that is being sold to benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The afghan is a tapestry throw made of 100% cotton with 360 picks per square inch. It is very unusual because it has two American flags, one from 1776 and one from the present day. This afghan has our national bird, the bald eagle, on it, and there are nine battle shields for the nine Knights of Malta, who founded the Christian Crusaders and led to the Knights Templar period. These battle shields are from the original design that was taken from historical artwork of the Grand Lodge of England. It has a beautiful poem, 'A Knight Templar,' and four pictures from the past to the present of knighthood. On the bottom of the afghan are five Sir Knights - early to present with the far right showing a Knighting.

These afghans will make great Christmas gifts or other gifts including: gifts for outgoing Grand Commanders at Annual Conclaves, merit awards for individuals who bring in many new Knights to the Commandery, or a gift for yourself. An afghan would also look great mounted on a furring strip and hung on the Commandery wall.

If interested, please send check or money order for \$49.00 to: Stanley C. Buz, PO Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052. \$5.00 from each afghan will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.



Sale Of Blue Lodge Tapestry Throw To Benefit The KTEF

Made of 100% cotton and with 360 picks per square inch, this new afghan tapestry throw has advantages like enhanced color. There are new items to this design, which is the three steps of Freemasonry. There is a black and white checked floor leading to center column, and the compass and square are larger and enhanced with a cluster of leaves symbolizing the Acacia of Freemasonry. The afghan measures 48x60 inches and is lightweight but weaved very tight to give it definition. There are additional features, as for example, a written verse, Matthew 7:7, on 3 steps.

Order yours now at \$48.00 including shipping for there are only 1,000 made. Each comes with a beautiful degree certificate so you may write your important dates on it. \$5.00 will be donated to the KTEF for each afghan sold. Send check or MO to: Sandra D. Knotta, P.O. Box 158, Trexlertown, PA 18087

Addition to the Charles A. Sawyer story in the September 2001 issue, starting on page 19: Brother Charles Sawyer was a member of the Valley of Cincinnati, Ohio, Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction, finishing his work on February 23, 1917. He received the 33° on September 28, 1966. This information was provided by Brother Jack P. deVise, Valley Historian of the Valley of Cincinnati, A.A.S.R., N.M.J.



Robert L. Diuge, Jr., R. W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, has a great love for model train collecting, so it is only fitting that he would have created a Pennsylvania Masonic train. The train, manufactured by Weaver Models of Northumberland, PA, is an "O" gauge, three-rail set consisting of an Atlantic C-1 engine with a tender, five cars, and a caboose. Each piece is marked with Masonic symbols representing a majority of the organizations that comprise the Family of Freemasonry. Masonic charities including the Knights Templar Eye Foundation will benefit from profits generated by the sale of these sets.

The engine and cars are available for \$375.00 from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520. A special limited run Pennsylvania M-1 engine may be available. There is also an option for track and a transformer. Telephone 1 800 462-0430, or contact: www.pagrandlodge.org for more information. I intend to get one, and I hope you will, too

Grand Master William J. Jones



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2¹/₂-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.

The First Crusade

by Francine Renee Hall

(Knight Templar, page 28-29, March 1981)

As agreed upon at Clermont, the Crusading forces under the leadership of the Papal Legate, Bishop Adhemar, were to meet at Constantinople, where Emperor Alexius was awaiting them. However, knowing that a large Crusading force might undermine his own interests in Asia Minor, the Emperor demanded that each of the leaders of the five major Crusading groups take an oath of allegiance. The oath entailed: 1) not threatening Byzantine interests, 2) restoring to Byzantine control any Byzantine cities the Crusaders may conquer, 3) accepting the Byzantine Emperor as official overlord of territory the Crusaders might win for themselves.

The leaders of the five major divisions of the Crusading army were: Hugh of Vermandois; Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lower Lorraine, who was accompanied by his two brothers, Count Eustace III of Boulogne and Baldwin of Boulogne; Bohemond, Prince of Tranto, and his nephew Tancred; Raymond of St-Gilles, Count of Toulouse; and three princes, Duke Robert of Normandy, Stephen of Blois, and Count Robert of Flanders.

All the leaders took the oath except Raymond; he felt his oath of fealty was to the Pope, not Alexius. However, Raymond also desired the lay leadership of the Crusade, as Bohemond did, and since his rival was actually the latter, and not Alexius, he took a modified oath. Godfrey at first refused the oath since he believed that such a show of fealty to Alexius instead of the Pope would undermine his position as Duke of Lower Lorraine. Alexius then cut off food supplies to his army, resulting in Godfrey's attack on Constantinople which, however, was soon routed by Alexius' forces. Defeated, Godfrey finally took the oath.

Alexius was not unaware that the

oaths might be broken. However, Alexius' diplomacy in this matter reflected the belief that the stability of Christendom in general depended on a strong Byzantine Empire. The Western knights failed to understand this. Thus, as the Crusading forces left Constantinople, relations between East and West were strained.

In order to clear the roads across Asia Minor, the Seldjuk capital of Nicaea was the Crusaders' first objective. The Crusaders were victorious. The Sultan Kilij Arslan I was not prepared for such a large army, numbering anywhere from 60-100,000 men, and on June 20, 1097, the city of Nicaea fell.

More victories followed. The Battle of Dorylaeum was won, despite the Turks' favorite military tactic of running archers whose showers of endless arrows at first surprised the charging knights. Iconium and Heraclea were also captured, and on September 10 a comet brightened the sky, serving as an omen of their victory.

Deliberations followed, and it was decided that Tancred and Baldwin should traverse the narrow, difficult passes of the Cilician Gates into Cilicia; the rest of the forces were to travel a longer but easier route through Caesara. Tancred and Baldwin, taking advantage of the separation, captured the Greek and Armenian cities of Tarsus, Cilicia, and Edessa from the Turks and established feudal states. Baldwin broke his oath to Alexius and made himself ruler of Tarsus and heir and coregent of Edessa. Baldwin's policy in Edessa made him a powerful and astute ruler. Tolerant to the Armenians and Moslems there, he gave them ruling powers as well as freedom of worship. Making himself many friends, Baldwin was thus able to create the county of Edessa, the first of the Latin States in the Middle East.

In October 1097, Bohemond, Raymond, and Godfrey camped outside the walls of Antioch. At such a crucial moment, Bohemond's ambitions came to the fore. He created the rumor that Alexius' representative, Taticius, fled from cowardice. By spreading the rumor, Bohemond could break his obligations to Alexius and establish himself more easily as ruler of Antioch.

In order to capture Antioch, it was necessary to blockade it, starve its inhabitants, and attack it quickly before Kerbogha of Mosul arrived with reinforcements to aid the Turks. In June 1098, Bohemond hastened the moment of attack by negotiating with a captain inside Antioch by the name of Firouz, a former Armenian converted to Islam. Since Firouz's sympathies leaned toward his former co-religionists, it was not difficult for him to betray the city and open its towers to the Crusaders. Taken unawares, the Turks were captured and a massacre of the entire city, including the Christian inhabitants, ensued. Corpses were strewn everywhere and, rotting in the summer heat, they became, not a blessing, but a curse to the new victors.

On June 3, Antioch was taken but difficulties came upon them. Food was in short supply, Kerbogha's troops were busy attacking the city, an epidemic broke out, and Adhemar died. Then on June 10, 1098, a peasant, Peter Bartholomew, relayed a vision in which Saint Andrew told him where the Holy Lance was - the Holy Lance being the most sacred of relics and the one which was used to pierce the side of Christ. When it was supposedly "discovered" in the Cathedral of St. Peter, the Crusaders' spirits were buoyed and the Turks found it difficult to rally their forces. However, when Kerbogha and the Turks were finally routed, the question remained: Who was to rule Antioch? After much dispute, an agreement was reached, though adding to future schism between the Western knights and Constantinople: Bohemond became ruler of Antioch and Raymond of Toulouse set out for Jerusalem as the lay leader of the Crusade.

Fifteen months passed before the Crusaders marched to the Holy City. Among the towns restored to Christianity were Maarat an-Numan, Ramleh, and Bethlehem. On June 7, 1099, the Crusaders finally reached Jerusalem.

Jerusalem had to be captured quickly. The Egyptian Fatimid governor of Jerusalem, Iftikhar ad-Daula, had poisoned the water supply in the city's vicinity as a precaution, and there was little food to be had in the immediate countryside. Siege machines were built and preparation made. The Crusaders' spirits were ebbing, however. An initial attack on June 13 had failed, and the Crusaders were tired and hungry. Then on July 6 a priest reported that he saw a vision of Bishop Adhemar who promised that Jerusalem would be captured in 9 days if the Christian knights repented of their sins, fasted, and marched in solemn procession along the walls of the Holy City. The Moslems jeered as they watched the Crusaders carry out the commands of the holy vision, but the Crusading spirit was successfully rekindled.

On July 14 the Crusaders climbed the city walls and Jerusalem was restored to Christianity. Although Iftikhar was safely escorted outside the city, no one else was spared. Jews and Moslems were massacred and the Christian inhabitants were horrified. Any tolerance the Moslems had felt towards the Christians was now destroyed.

Meanwhile, much work had to be done. Latin Jerusalem needed to be preserved and a new ruler established.

Next: The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem

The above information 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: cagarnes@aol.com

Remarks from 2001 Pilgrim Ministers...

The trip was an experience that was so positive that words cannot adequately describe it. People have asked what my favorite part of the Pilgrimage was, and I answer that I have a hard time deciding what my favorite part of each day was! It seems that I met and experienced the Lord at every turn..., often in a place I didn't expect and always in a way more beautiful and powerful than I could have hoped for or imagined.

Thank you to all the Knights Templar who made this opportunity available to me. It was truly an experience of a lifetime, and I will cherish its memories forever! God's richest blessings upon your organization for this priceless gift to me that will reap benefits for Christ's kingdom for years to come!

Reverend Brian K. Blair
Newmarket Community Church
Newmarket, New Hampshire

Thanks to the graciousness of the Knights Templar, I was able to spend eleven days in a mind-stretching and refreshing continuation of my education. My trip to the Holy Land exposed me to information that I never dreamed of acquiring. This information will be invaluable to me in my ministry.

I believe the benefit I have derived from this trip and from the experiences that I incurred in Israel will show up in many ways in my ministry with my congregation in the coming years. Meanwhile, please accept my warmest thanks again for providing this opportunity for me.

Bill Teegarden, Evangelist
Freetown Church of Christ
Freetown, Indiana

This note of thanks is filled with joy and rich blessings. I cannot begin to express my profound gratitude to you for sponsoring the pastoral trip to the Holy Land. My spirit was lifted, my soul delighted, and my mind nurtured. I know that my personal and professional life will be greatly enhanced because of the wonderful experience that you afforded me. God bless each member of the Knights Templar!

Roger Templeton
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

To Ezra, our fearless and all-wise leader, we cannot repay you for what you have given us. We love you!

To my co-pilgrims on this trip, you are always in my thoughts and prayers. I already miss you all. What great times we have to remember. I pray our paths will cross again and that we will keep in touch.

I have 26 hours plus of video and some stills. I hope to edit these over the next months. I believe Ezra's instruction and the pictures will be great tools for teaching.

Ralph Hillenburg



Thanksgiving

by Reverend Donald C. Kerr

For Americans the season of Thanksgiving is a special time, different from what it is in other countries. It is an occasion for us to celebrate some patriotism - and this year more than ever! Implied also in Thanksgiving is a heritage of religious feeling.

George Washington, for example, in the darkest days of the Revolutionary War, it was reported, was often on his knees in prayer.

Our money carries the inscription: "In God We Trust," and in the famous document, *The Declaration of Independence*, we read: "All men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."

In 1777 the Second Continental Congress declared: "It is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God." A year earlier Benjamin Franklin addressed the Continental Convention, saying: "Gentlemen, I have lived a long time and am convinced God governs the affairs of men."

Thomas Jefferson would confess his conviction that God had given freedom to the human mind.

In 1861 before leaving Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln spoke to say: "Without the assistance of the Divine Being, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail."

When Dwight D. Eisenhower was President, he said: "Our founding fathers said it was a religious concept they were trying to translate into the political world. Our form of government has no sense unless it is founded in a deeply religious faith."

So did John F. Kennedy echo this thought by saying: "God's work must truly be our own."

Such is the religious and patriotic heritage we have inherited. Much of the spirit goes back 3,500 or more years ago, when Moses, the great emancipator, led his people out of slavery, saying: 'e Lord your God has brought you out of the time of bondage."

**Therefore, let us be ever grateful!
Happy Thanksgiving and
God Bless America!**

Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr, Th.D., 32°, is a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, Maryland. He resides at 830 W. 40th Street, No. 409; Baltimore, MD 21211

Christmas Observance - A Templar Imperative

by Reverend Robert J. Cave, P.G.C. (NY), member of
the Committee on Religious Activities of the Grand Encampment

*"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but
unto thy name give glory."*

A service for Christmas Observance published in the late eighteen hundreds by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States of America was not significantly different from the excellent service available today through the Grand Encampment in the "Manual of Public Ceremonies."

The one item that was outstandingly different was the instruction that the Sir Knights were to assemble on **Christmas Morning** in the asylum for the worship service. That the Sir Knights were willing to leave their families and their homes on one of the holiest days of the Christian year suggests a level of dedication and commitment that we can only look back on with envy in most cases. But surely the act of Knights Templar at worship, observing Christmas sometime during the Advent season whether in the asylum or in a church, is all important, and there can be no excuse not to, given the wonderful worship service available to us.

There are several reasons why it is essential for Knights Templar to engage in a Christmas Observance. First, Knights Templar, as well as all of Christendom, are to glorify God. At worship we carry out that imperative.

You will recall the line from the explanation of the "Banners" in the Order of the Temple stating that as we receive the crown of victory, having passed from death to life, we will exclaim, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory." At the very heart of our Christian Order we are to glorify God, and our Christian Observance enables us to do that. By keeping that tradition we will be making a positive statement in opposition to the prevailing tendency to commercialize Christmas and at the same time carry out the biblical mandate to glorify God.

Secondly, the Observance is a powerful way for us to renew our faith, oftentimes wearied and strained by the incessant activities associated with the season. As we think of the tradition in which we stand and the glorious history of our forefathers in defending the Christian faith, we cannot help but be inspired. Also, as we recall in worship the first of the five aspects of our Blessed Redeemer's life, His birth, and as we give thanks for the salvation He has wrought; we are better equipped for life and service in His name. And as we gather as Christian Masons in a fraternity in which we all take pride with the uplifting sight of Knights Templar in uniform wearing the symbol of our faith, the Cross of Christ, a surge of heightened spirituality will race through our being which will lift us to a new high.

Finally and equally important, as we engage in a Christmas Observance, whether it is in our asylum or in a church with Masonic Brothers present who are not Knights Templar and with guests who may not be Masons, we are witnessing to all that we are Christians. There cannot be anything more impressive than for the public to see Knights Templar in their uniforms, "with all their banners flying" and at worship. It would be comparable to the impressive experience of the Pilgrim Penitent entering the asylum and observing the Knights kneeling and at worship in the Order of the Temple. It states unequivocally who we are and in whom we place our trust. In an increasingly pluralistic religious climate as we have in the United States, it is all-important that we make known where our allegiance lies.

A Knights Templar Christmas Observance is about glorifying God, renewing and increasing our faith, and witnessing to the world the Good News of Jesus Christ. The members of the Committee on Religious Activities sincerely hope that all Commanderies throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment will make every effort to have a Christmas Observance this year. It is a tradition anchored in our history and essential to our future.

Reverend and Sir Knight Robert J. Cave is a Past Grand Commander of New York and a member of the Grand Encampment's Committee on Religious Activities. He resides at 12 Heywood Street, New Hyde Park, New York 11040

Appeal For New York - Virginia

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, will be etched in our memories for all time. Less visible but of tragic consequence and importance is the human need that resulted from these tragedies. Rebuilding is going to take a very long time and will need a great deal of support. We urge all Masons to respond to this appeal.

The Grand Lodges of New York and Virginia are facing an enormous job, but are already at work. Assistance to these two Grand Lodges will be divided 75% NY and 25% VA for undesignated gifts. Designated gifts will be sent in their entirety to the Grand Lodge named.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel will be appropriate to help our devastated Brethren in New York and Virginia. Please make checks payable to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund, and send to 8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

The need for blood is also urgent. We urge all Masons to continue giving blood as frequently as possible because the needs are going to continue at a very high level well into the future. Thank you very much for your help!

Brother Richard E. Fletcher, P.G.M.
Ex. Sec. The Masonic Service Association

News From The Grand Commandery Of Connecticut The Torch Is Passed From Generation To Generation

How often does it happen that a Past Grand Commander is able to install his son as a Grand Commander? This summer 2001 was a proud time for Sir Knight James A. Grace, Past Grand Commander of Connecticut, when he had the honor of installing his son, Thomas Edward Grace, as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Vermont.

Fifteen Sir Knights and ladies traveled from Connecticut to Vermont, and Sir Knight Vincent A. Cowie, R.E.G.C. of CT, served as installing Grand Prelate, and Sir Knight Arthur M. Pugh, V.E.D.G.C. of CT, served as installing Grand Marshal.

In addition, Lady Ruth Grace was able to observe the proceedings as the very proud mother of Thomas and wife of James. (CT news from Sir Knight Bob Sherrick)



Left above: L to R: Sir Knight Thomas E. Grace, Grand Commander of Vermont, and Sir Knight James A. Grace, P.G.C. of Connecticut.



Right above: L to R: Sir Knights Arthur M. Pugh, V.E.D.G.C., Vincent A. Cowie, R.E.G.C.; and James A. Grace, P.G.C., all of Connecticut.

KTEF Grant Check Awarded To Deserving Young Scientist



The Scientific Advisory Council of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation awarded a check for \$30,000 to Dr. Duanduan Ma, Ph.D., a deserving young doctor and scientist from Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology, at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Ma's project and application for the grant was entitled "Rb-Id-2 Interaction in Tumor Suppression by the Retinoblastoma Gene."

Making the presentation to Dr. Ma on September 25, 2001, was Sir Knight Blair Christy Mayford (left), Most Eminent Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, USA, and a trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. They are shown in front of the Veteran's Memorial in St. Peter's, Missouri.

Assembly No. 265, S.O.O.B., Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

The picture was taken July 11, 2001, when 5 members were initiated and affiliated with Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265, Social Order of the Beauceant,

Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. They are, left to right: front row: Mrs. George Runkle; Mrs. David Alcon, Worthy President; and Mrs. Robert Riggle, affiliate from Grand Rapids Assembly No. 68. Second row: Mrs. Robert Zettlemoyer, Mrs. Leslie Loomis, and Mrs. Joseph Hovatter. 4 prior members initiated are: Mrs. Patrick Connor, Mrs.

Thomas Howe, Mrs. Robert Long, and Mrs. Edward Weisser. Elizabethtown No. 265 was instituted and constituted by Mrs. Jay U. Ipsen, at that time the Supreme Worthy President. Mrs. Charles H. Lee, P.S.WP., was the Deputy Supreme Organizer. The Assembly observed its first anniversary with a dinner, August 19, at the Masonic Lodge on the campus of the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.



Northern California DeMolay

The Northern California DeMolay Alumni Association recently held its Fourth Annual Degrees Day at the Masonic Center in Davis. Both of the degrees of DeMolay were presented by the senior members of DeMolay. Following the 2 degrees for the 5 new members, the Majority Service was presented to six senior DeMolays who had reached the age of 21.



At left are the members and coaches of Oroville Chapter who took the first place trophy in the 2001 Northern California DeMolay basketball tournament held at East Union High School in Manteca, California. Winning the girls' tournament was the "Bomb Squad," a combination team of both Rainbow and Job's Daughters from the Castro Valley area.

Below in the front row at the Institution of Sequoia Gateway Chapter in Visalia are, L to R Edwin D. Clarke,



Executive Officer of Northern California DeMolay C. Ray Whitaker, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California; and Michael J. Errecia, the Master Councilor of the Northern California Association.

The Northern California DeMolay Association is proud to announce that its annual convention will be held at the Sacramento Double-Tree Hotel during the period of November 23-25, 2001. The officers have selected the theme of "The Roaring Twenties."

Part I: The Lansing Years: Sir Knight Ransom Eli Olds

by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett KYCH,
33°, FPS

One begins to appreciate his "golden years" as he contemplates the beginning of another millennium and reminisces over events which occurred during his own lifetime; particularly, if that life began in the first quarter of this 20th century. High on the list of my own vivid recollections are the primitive automobiles and muddy roads which constituted the cutting-edge method of conveying us from one place to another. In the event you can remember the automobile lap-robbers which warmed you on a sub-zero day, we are both on the same page.

In those halcyon days of youth, names such as William C. Durant, J. Dallas Dort, and Henry Leland were household words. Now, they are nothing but dusty memories which elicit blank expressions if mentioned in the company of a person born after World War II. Not so with those of my generation. In the early 20th century, they were among the giants of the automotive scene. In this account, we focus on another of that select group - Ransom Olds.

Almost every person who turned out to be an important figure in the development of the automobile had at least one motivation to improve the mode of travel. In the case of Ransom Olds, it was horses. He detested the smell of them and often remarked how the auto improved the environment and reduced the danger of having innocent pedestrians being injured by an out-of-control animal. Of course, that was only one of the reasons Olds turned to engines. He

loved all things mechanical.

The Olds clan traced their American roots to Robert Old (or Ould), who came to Connecticut from England in 1670, with a grant of a 50-acre parcel of land. A descendent, Jason Olds (the family added an "s"), settled in Ohio in the early 19th century. His Son, Pliny Fisk Olds, born in 1828, eventually married Sarah Whipple, a New York native. They settled near the shore of Lake Erie, in Geneva, Ohio, some 50 miles west of the Pennsylvania border. The 20-year-old bridegroom worked as a blacksmith and machinist for six years before opening his own shop in Geneva. Ten years later, on June 3, 1864, the last of five children was born to Pliny and Sarah. He was Ransom Eli Olds. The family called the youngster "Ranse" or "Ranny", nicknames he disliked. He always preferred to be addressed as "R. E."

In 1870 Pliny swapped his property and business in Geneva for a house and lot in Cleveland, where he took a job as superintendent of the Variety Iron Works. After four years Pliny left that employer, trading his Cleveland property for a small farm in the nearby rural community of Parma, southwest of Cleveland. Ransom attended a one-room school in Parma, where he found the rough-and-tumble schoolboy games too rowdy. He was happier playing with the girls. Something of a loner, he always disliked athletics. Ransom soon became a favorite of his female teacher because of his shy, polite, and studious nature.

Young Olds was required to work on the family farm, a task he heartily disliked. He had a strong aversion to the

odor of horses, a preference he often mentioned throughout his business life. Ransom's great delight was tinkering with machinery around the farm and making any necessary repairs.

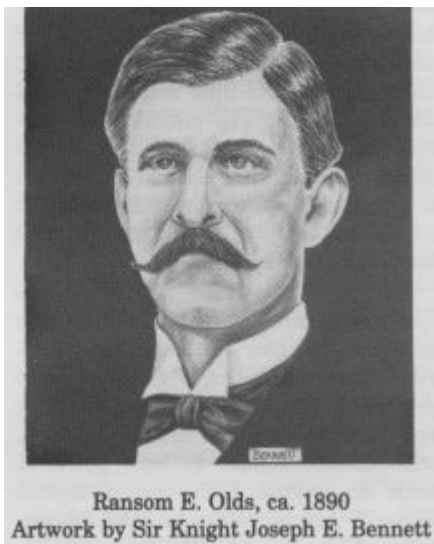
The farming venture proved unsuccessful for Pliny, and he was soon back in Cleveland, working as a pattern maker. The family remained on the Parma farm until Pliny was able to make another swap. He traded the farm for two lots and a house in Lansing, Michigan, in September 1880. Ransom's age was 16 at that time. During those peripatetic years, he attended school for a time in Cleveland, as well as in Parma. He finished his public education in Lansing, leaving after the tenth grade.

Pliny Olds finally found his niche in Lansing. He sold one of his two extra lots and opened a machine shop on the property with the proceeds. His son Wallace was Pliny's partner. Lansing was a rapidly-growing community in 1880, and there were many farm and small industrial machines to repair. The P. F. Olds & Son venture prospered from the beginning.

At first, Ransom worked at the shop without pay. By 1882 he was a full-fledged worker, eventually earning \$2.00 a day. The youngster thrived in the atmosphere of the machine shop and began experimenting with engine designs. They performed repairs on steam engines, used extensively in farm work, and before long began to build small engines for sale. Ransom became an essential member of the little business, overshadowing his brother Wallace. Pliny suggested he attend the Lansing Business College to master accounting skills. Olds attended the business school for a few months and by the end of 1883 was a full-time machinist and bookkeeper for P. F. Olds & Son.

Wallace Olds wanted to sell his share of the business by 1885, and Ransom was a willing buyer. He purchased Wallace's partnership for \$1,100, tendering \$300 in cash to Pliny, and signing a note for the balance, at eight per cent. They were a rapidly-growing enterprise, with seven employees and a serious financial shortfall. Pliny was obliged to mortgage his home and assets to keep the business afloat. Over a two-year period, Ransom took only \$50.00 annual salary from the business. Nevertheless, they weathered that critical period and emerged as a reputable, albeit modest-size, steam-engine manufacturer by 1887; with a gradual production increase to 2,000 engines per year by 1892. Ransom Olds was the dominant figure in the company after he became a partner. At 64 Pliny was in declining health and facing retirement by 1894.

Ransom continued to expand his technical interests to include building automobiles. He formulated plans to



manufacture a car of his own invention but realized the need for investment capital in order to begin. Before Ransom made that step, he decided to take a wife. Cautious and conservative always, he was convinced he could support a family. His bride was Metta Ursula Woodward, a native of Pinckney, Michigan. They were married on June 5, 1889, and moved into a new home Ransom and one of his employees built on East Kalamazoo Street.

Ransom applied for his first patent on March 6, 1890. It was a governor for steam engines, the first of 31 approved by the U.S. Patent Office through February 4, 1941-50 years later. In addition, he would have three design patents approved during his career. Olds had some remarkable abilities in addition to scrupulous honesty and total dedication to an established goal. He had a brilliant mechanical mind and was a prolific inventor. Equally important, he had the personality to attract and retain a fine and dedicated staff of assistants. Olds was a handsome fellow, standing five feet nine inches tall and weighing about 175 pounds. He nurtured a mustache to give himself a mature appearance. Most of all, he had a pleasing and unassuming manner which instantly attracted people, and he was a great salesman.

In preparation for producing his first automobile prototype, Olds arranged for one of the premier carriage manufacturers, Clark & Son, to provide the body. In reality, it had the appearance of a horse-drawn carriage, without the horse. It was powered with an engine Olds had designed himself. Always alert to take advantage of every publicity opportunity, Ransom demonstrated the prototype on August 11, 1896, with a reporter from the *Lansing State Republican*

riding with him. Announcing that the projected price for the vehicle to be sold by P. F. Olds & Son was \$1,000, Ransom pointed out that his new miracle of transportation would sell "for a dollar a pound." Orders were solicited for the new car, but it turned out to be a long wait after placing an order. P. F. Olds & Son were already swamped with orders for steam engines, and production wrinkles had to be worked out to handle any large increase. Olds moved into expanded facilities on March 30, 1897, but there were still inordinate delays. He simply needed more capital for expansion.

Banks had little interest in advancing loans to the infant auto industry. They were simply too risky. Ransom Olds found a Lansing investor who did not share the banks' reluctance to invest in what some regarded as the wave of the future. He assembled a small group who pledged a capital investment of \$50,000, with an advancement of \$30,000 immediately. Eager to begin production, Olds leaped at the contract,

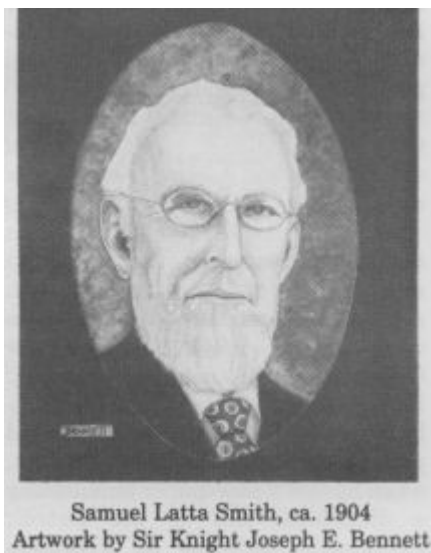


without realizing he gave away too much - control of his company.

Edward W. Sparrow was the primary investor and assumed the position of president. Another member of the consortium, Thomas M. Cooley, was vice president. A third member was a wily and very successful businessman from Detroit, Samuel Latta Smith. He had 500 shares of the stock. Olds retained exactly half the stock and managed the Olds Motor Vehicle Company. As it developed, Smith's arcane purpose was to provide a future position for his two sons. That time had not yet arrived in 1887. P. F. Olds & Son was not surrendered to the new company, but it was reorganized. Three months later Sparrow relinquished his president's chair to Olds, but nothing changed in the operation of the company.

Olds achieved the primary purpose of the new company, getting the new vehicle on the market. The company enjoyed a great deal of publicity in the Lansing area, and sales were brisk. They sold a single-seat model for \$1,200, and a two-seater for \$1,400. Ransom's goal to produce a single-seat vehicle for less than \$1,000 was not realized until he brought out a replica of his austere earlier runabout. Selling for \$600 - \$650, it proved to be a breadwinner which allowed the Olds Motor Vehicle Company to become a profitable volume manufacturer, serving the Lansing area.

In 1899 Samuel L. Smith invested \$200,000 more capital in the Olds company with the proviso that it be relocated to Detroit. It also demanded that the Olds Gasoline Engine Works (the renamed P. F. Olds & Son) be combined under one proprietorship. The expanded firm would provide jobs for Samuel Smith's sons, Fred and Angus. Smith held a total of 19,960 shares in the venture. Olds had 7,500



shares and was vice president. The new home of the company was on a five-acre site fronting on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit.

On November 9, 1899, Ransom and his family moved to Detroit during a difficult period. Their third daughter Mildred, born in September, had died 12 days later. Metta and the older girls, Gladys and Bernice, still depressed from the tragedy, were reluctant to leave their Lansing friends and local interests.

The four-building manufacturing site of the Olds Motor Works boasted a large sign, "The largest automobile factory in the world." With locations in both Lansing and Detroit, the sign was certainly right. During 1899 and 1900, the company was not profitable. In Ransom's opinion, they were producing too many different models, actually eleven of them, ranging in price from \$1,200 through \$2,700. The name "Oldsmobile" was adopted by the firm in 1900, and finally copyrighted in 1902. In 1900 the Olds Motor Works

added an electric automobile to their line as an alternative vehicle for in-town driving. Notwithstanding, total production at the end of the 1899-1900 model year was estimated at 400 units. Olds was dissatisfied with their lack of volume sales and decided to take a new direction.

In the fall of 1900, Olds began designing a prototype for a new small auto which would retail for \$650, with a \$300 manufacturing cost. While work was progressing on the new Oldsmobile, a calamity struck. Ransom was on a train with his family, returning from a visit to his retired parents in San Diego, California, when he saw a newspaper announcing a disastrous fire at the Detroit Oldsmobile facilities on Jefferson Avenue. Three of the four buildings in the Oldsmobile complex were totally destroyed by a natural gas explosion on March 9, 1901. Only the foundry building survived. Ransom was devastated by the news.

He had been seriously ill for many weeks and was not yet completely recovered. His below-par health did not deter him from rebuilding the plant in record time. By June 1901, Ransom had Oldsmobile facilities up and running. He had accomplished a monumental task.

By October 1901 the new economy model was ready for testing. The newcomer was the famous curved-dash Oldsmobile, a product which would put the company over the top. The curved-dash Olds provided inspiration for Gus Edward's song, "In My Merry Oldsmobile," released in 1905. It became Ransom Olds' all-time favorite. Ransom claimed the curved-dash feature

assisted in engine cooling, as well as adding a new touch of distinctive styling to the body. Oldsmobile took full advantage of the triumphal introduction of the curved-dash model, launching a national magazine advertising campaign aimed at broadening their market.

The curved-dash Oldsmobile met with great success in the eastern market. The Detroit builder began to sign dealers in all the major eastern cities. One of their most successful new distributorships was the "Automobile Emporium" belonging to Roy and William Rainey of Cleveland. They sold 750 new Oldsmobiles in 1902, a major segment of the estimated factory output of 5,000 units. Ransom Olds had one policy which generated criticism. He insisted on a strictly cash business. An auto was not delivered until it was paid for in full. Packard's Henry B. Joy echoed Olds' policy with a saltier statement, "When the money's in my pants, the automobile is yours." With the dramatic increase of automobile manufacturing, installment buying and credit became an accepted practice. Not so with Ransom Olds. He maintained that excessive installment credit was a major cause of the Great Depression in 1929.

See Part II of "The Lansing Years Sir Knight Ransom Eli Olds" in the December 2001 issue.

Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 33°, FPS, and P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, is a member of Holy Grail Commandery No. 70, Lakewood, Ohio. For correspondence: 802 Laura Belle Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028

Happy Thanksgiving To All!

DeMolay and Philanthropy



Of all the founding tenets of DeMolay that impacts the developmental growth of the young men of **DeMolay**, love of parents, respect for others and their beliefs, courtesy toward everyone and faithfulness; the most subtle but significant outcome may be **DeMolay** philanthropy.

Philanthropy is from the Greek philanthropia, meaning loving humankind. Goodwill to fellow men esp; active effort to promote human welfare.



The young men of **DeMolay** have been, for eighty-two years, involved in philanthropy. Though community service projects, **DeMolay** youth become involved in enterprises such as helping clean city parks and highways, collecting and

distributing food for the needy and raising money for seriously and/or chronically ill children. They help senior citizens and many national, state and local charity groups. The young men of **DeMolay** help gather and deliver toys to young people who are unfortunately without a home Christmas morning. They



visit Veterans Hospitals helping serve and escort patients to chapel for Sunday service. **DeMolay** youth hold many varieties of charity fundraisers that support everything from cancer research to fulfilling a wish for the Make-a Wish Foundation. They even help Public Broadcasting to survive.

Through these and other worthwhile activities, the youth of **DeMolay** have had a positive influence on many lives in the past eighty-two years, and continue to do so.

As the young of **DeMolay** grow into responsible adults, philanthropy plays a crucial role in creating *Tomorrow's Leaders Today!*

If you would like more information or would like to be part of creating *Tomorrow's Leaders Today!*, please contact:

DeMolay International
10200 N. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153
Or call 1-800-DeMolay

Email development@demolay.org
Or check out our web site at
www.demolay.org





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.

For sale: Knights Templar shoulder straps, finest quality available all ranks, embroidered in extra fancy gold and silver bullion on velvet with Velcro backs: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo, Captain Genera, Prelate (green): \$40.00 plus \$5.00 S & H; Emeritus ranks: Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate (red): \$45.00 pair plus \$5.00 S & H. Also: Honor Past Commander with H.C. in silver, \$50. Grand Commandery Grand Rep., \$50.00 and Past Grand Commander purple): \$60.00 (all plus \$5.00 S & H). Also: chapeaux crosses: Sir Knight, \$35.00 Commander and Past Commander, \$40.00; Grand Commander \$45.00; Past Grand Commander purple), \$50.00-all plus \$5.00 S & H. Percentage to York Rite charities. Checks to and mail to Jacques N Jacobsen, Jr., P.C.; 60 Manor Road; Staten Island; NY 10310-2698.

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.

Knight Templar dress ties: cross and crown on square and compass (\$25.00 each): fund-raiser for celebration of 150 years of Templary in Texas. The Grand Commandery of Texas was formed in 1855 in San Antonio, and the sesquicentennial will be commemorated in San Antonio in April 2005. Ties are navy blue with emblem. One large emblem tie (56 inches long) has one emblem of gold crown, red cross, blue square and compass outlined in gold on the body; small emblem tie (60 inches long) has reoccurring pattern of emblem with crown, square and compass in gold with red cross diagonally across body. View these ties at www.texasryorkrite.org/ties.htm. Check payable to San Antonio Commandery No. 7 and mail to James N Higdon, 10122 N Manton, San Antonio, 7X 78213. Ties will be sent same day of receipt. H: (210) 341 1309; O: (219) 349-9933

For sale: Past Commander's swords: personalized pearl-like handle in sheath with cloth cover in sheath and cloth cover, personalized in leather bag; in chamois bag, personalized, made b E. A. Armstrong Mf. Co. Chicago, IL, in sheath with chamois cover and leather bag, personalized; one belt with attachments Armstrong Uniform Co. Chicago; one very old shoulder sash with metal emblem, inscribed "In Hoc Signo Vincas," red cross in center of emblem. \$300 each sword or all 6 pieces, \$1 000. Will ship UPS. Karl W Yonts, Jr.; 5669 N 1400/z St.; Paris; IL 61944.

Handsome lapel pins are being offered to help support RAM Medical Research Foundation. The cost of each is \$10.00, postpaid. Check payable to RAM Medical Research Foundation and send to Walter J. Hilsenbeck Chairman Royal Arch Charities; 32 New York Avenue; Massapequa; NY 11758-4818.

For sale: Knight Templar lapel pins, \$6.00 each including S & H. Three from which to choose: Blue Lodge/Commandery, Knight Crusaders of the Cross, and Knight Commander. Manchester Commandery No. 40, Manchester, TN, Pricing on bulk orders are available at e-mail glicarter61@blomand.net. Checks/MO payable to Manchester Commandery No. 40. Send to Garry L. Carter, Rec.; 424 Winchester Way.; Hillsboro; TN 37342.

For sale: York Rite cap with six-color embroidery showing Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commander) emblems. Specify white or dark blue cap. \$11.00 each plus \$1.00 postage. Also: gold color Knights Templar lapel pin \$4.00. Part of each sale goes to the York 1&ite charities. Robert Hauptert, P.O. Box 433, Farmington, NM 87499

For sale: Royal Arch collector coffee cups with original two-color design showing Triple Thu emblems in red and working tools and emblems of the four Capitalar degrees in black They are a must for all Masonic cup collectors! Fund-raiser for Union Chapter No. 2, RAM., Little Rock, Arkansas. Send \$10.00 per cup, postage paid, to Steve Gregory, 3 Arcadia, Bryant, AR 72022, or call (501) 847-2251. Make check or money order payable to Union Chapter No. 2, RAM. \$1.00 per cup will be donated to RABA. 20% discount for orders of 10 or more.

Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project Masonic jewelry boxes, 6 x5 x2.5 inches in size and the shape of the square and compass, constructed of exotic woods from Central America and hand-crafted with an interlocking design. All profits from the Masonic jewelry boxes will be going to Masonic charities, a portion directly to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. They are \$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; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail harry217@bigfoot.com

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.M., in Concord, Vermont. Price per pin is \$8.00 ea. including S & H. S. Kenneth Bard, 6922 Royal Green Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 (513) 232-6989. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF.

For sale: The Medal of Honor The Letter G in 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 28 years and still need many pieces as I am collecting all varieties. These one day Vend 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 coiled, I will gladly exchange. I will answer all letters. Maurice Storck Sr.; 775 W. Reger Road, No. 214; Tucson, AZ 85705; (520) 888-7585

For sale: Commemorate your special Masonic event or occasion with custom-made die cast coins and lapel pins, custom made for your specific purpose. Minimum orders of one hundred plus are available. 3% of profit goes to KTEF. Call or e-mail Frank Looser for cash quotes and details 1-800 765-1728, cnfi@home.com or www.cnfinteractive.com

Wanted 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

For sale: new book on Masonry, A Survey of the History and Mysteries of Freemasonry. The book is hardbound, 322 pages, indexed contains a bibliography of 99 sources, and makes liberal use of footnotes. It also contains a 114-page glossary of Masonic words and terms that readers say "is the most comprehensive ever published in one source." Nine highly-placed Masons who read it gave it raving reviews. It is written, published, and financed by Robert L. Breeding and can be obtained from him only. Price is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling. Attention: Masonic organizations: 10% of proceeds goes to KTEF. Special attention: any Masonic organization that orders ten or more copies to be shipped in one package, to one address will pay only \$14.00 per copy, postage included. Check or MO to Robert L. Breed at 405 Ascot Court, Knoxville, 77V 37923-5807; (865)539-9932.

I have 2 Masonic ice cream molds made of pewter for sale. One is the Shrine symbol; the other is the square and compass. Both are about 5 inches wide. I would like \$50.00 for each. Steve Kapp, 704 West 5th Street, Grove, OK 74344.

Retired Mason and Sir Knight wants to buy, any condition train sets - American Flyer, Lionel, and Marx, all gauges Aurora "medal motoring" race car sets; U.S. and German military items; and old US. stamps (pre-1940). Tim

Rickheun, 14761 Tunnick Road, Petersburg, MI 49270-9716, collect (734) 854-3021, All inquiries answered.

New design! Blue Lodge, Past Master, and Scottish Rite rings; signet style with BL PM, or SR logo on top, trowel on one side plumb on other. Durable, yet elegant. Solid cast chrome/nickel alloy. Silver color only. \$110 plus West Virginia tax and \$4.00 S & H. Whole sizes only, 7-16. Also 10K gold for \$395. 10% of profits will go to KTEF. Check or MasterCard/Visa info to Auro-tech Designs; 2620 Fairmont Ave., Suite 215; Fairmont; WV26554-3494. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.

Send a new book for our library, and receive information on the title "Mouth to Ear." Hurry and send your request. Send book and request to Bill Wheless, 809 Battle Bend Boulevard, Austin, TX 78745-2349.

For sale: uncirculated 10 centimo Peruvian coins with square and compass stamped on one side. 10 coins for \$7.50, postpaid. Fundraiser for storm damaged lodge in the Andes, Leoncio Prado No. 51 Huanuco, Peru. M. G. Rengifo, 816 Cedar Lane, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

Buying all US and foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, silver, proof sets. Also selling \$20.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00 gold coins. Call for quotes. Buyer has 40 years experience. A percentage of profits to KTEF. Randy Mogren, 8 Gould Street, Millbury, MA 01527, (508) 865-4816

Individuals needed to serve the Eucharist in their areas to the elderly, sick, the forgotten, and others in need in rest homes, hospitals, shelters, prisons, and private homes in the Diocese of Virginia. Training and ordination with valid Apostolic Succession extended to those who qualify. Husband and wife teams encouraged. The Most Rev. Daniel Clay, Th.D.; Bishop of Virginia; PO Box 7512; Alexandria, VA 22307 or DAHP@aol.com.

For sale: the four gospels translated from a 400 A.D. Anglo-Saxon manuscript and All Most True Stories and Other Things, incidents from the life of the author which he has embellished to give a very humorous twist. Both are on CD-ROMs and are available for \$10.00 each, pp. Check or MO to Dr. Keating, 627 Acapulco Village Drive, Humble, TX 77338.

Violins and cellos wanted in any condition for students by violinist and teacher. I will put them in playing condition and let students play on the instruments or give them to needy students. H. Harry Kazarian, 91 Beaufort Street, Providence, RI 02908-4434.

For sale: 2 cemetery lots at Lane Memorial Gardens, Garden of Everlasting Life, lot 9B, spaces 3-4, in Eugene Oregon, valued at \$1,295.00 each. Will sell both lots at \$1,700.00. Joseph Feghali, 4126 Chesapeake Drive, No. 2B; Aurora; IL 60504; (630) 851-6009, am.; (630) 906-0292, p.m. and evenings.

For sale: 2 cemetery lots in Willow Lawn section (1 and 2 No. 14611) located at Rose Hills Park, 3888 South Workman Mill Road Whittier, California 90601-4050. They are valued at 2,975.00 each. Will sell for 2,000.00 each. Lewis B. McCleary, 5872 Oak Meadow Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886-5930, (714) 970-2135.

For sale: 15 spaces (11 adult size) in the old Masonic Cemetery on Mason Road, now known as Bellerive Forever Creve Coeur, (St. Louis) MO. Will sell to or separately. William Mauck, 3333 E. Battlefield, Springfield, MO 65804, (417) 883-7411 or e-mail mauckhaus@yahoo.com.

