Grand Masters Message for May 2002

As I write this, we have just returned from the events surrounding the annual Knights Templar Easter Sunrise Service in Washington, DC, and Alexandria, Virginia. We had a wonderful, inspiring time. The weather was warm and sunny for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Sunday was cloudy, but the rain held off until our worship service was concluded and everyone was on the buses. The Service was AWESOME (to put it in the modern vernacular)! The music was well done, and the Sir Knights who read scripture and those who lead the readings did an excellent job. Of course, the Grand Prelates were outstanding with Thomas Martin Jones bringing the message, "I Go Before You, Follow Me." John Davis Jones gave the Beginning Prayer and the Benediction.

Our Saturday luncheon honoring those Grand Commanders present was the largest since its inception. The Portland, Maine Commandery Band played a short concert at the conclusion of the program. Everyone then went to Arlington National Cemetery where the Grand Commandery of Indiana had reserved a time for a wreath to be placed at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The large number of Sir Knights in uniform lining the steps and observation area made all our hearts swell with pride. Four of us were allowed to march down the steps and assist the US Army guards with the placement of the wreath. Wow! What a feeling!

Here is my schedule for the month of May: The Grand Commandery of Italy will meet in Rome, May 3, 4, and 5. Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18, I will be in Jefferson City, Missouri, for their York Rite sessions, and from there I travel to Washington State for their Conclave to be held on May 19-22.

May 24 and 25 we will be attending the Forty-fifth Reunion of the Villa Grove High School Class of 1957. We are expecting a very good turnout of my classmates.

PS: Next month we hope to have Easter pictures, more details, and a special surprise. See you soon!

Dr. William Jackson Jones
Grand Master, KCT, GCT

May 2002
MAY The 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign ended April 30, so there will be results on state contributions in the June issue and the usual comprehensive coverage in the July issue. In the meantime, note the names of many of our wonderful supporters starting on page 9. Campaign Chairman W. Bruce Pruitt sums up what the Campaign is all about starting on page 8! This month Grand Prelate Thomas M. Jones' inspirational Easter Message is found on page 5. The three Nobles (two were Knights Templar) featured on our cover were memorable for who they were and for their presence at the 49th Imperial Council of the AAONMS, 1923. Read all about the occasion and the personalities starting on page 12. Ifs a wonderful story! Brother William Rufus Shafter's story continues on page 21 and will be concluded in the June issue. Enjoy the news from across the nation!

May 2002

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

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Announcing The Widow’s Pin - to commemorate those who were active Templars: The Grand Encampment continues a program to honor widows of Knights Templar. A green pin is for widows of those below the rank of Commander, and a red Templar Cross pin is for widows of Sir Knights who held office below the rank of Past Grand Commander (this includes Commanders, Past Commanders and grand officers). Honor your widows at regular or special programs of your Commandery. Pins are $5.00 apiece, payable to the Grand Encampment. 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.

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Easter Message 2002
I Go Before You, Follow Me

by Sir Knight Thomas M. Jones, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment

Sir Knight Thomas Martin Jones, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America, presented the message below at the 72nd Annual Easter Sunrise Memorial Service at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on March 31, 2002.

A general invitation was extended by Most Eminent Grand Master, Dr. William J. Jones, to the Sir Knights and their families and friends to join the grand officers and their Brother Christian Masons at the traditional Easter Service. For those who were unable to attend the Easter ceremony in Alexandria or who wish to read the message in addition to being there, here we share it with you. Sir Knight Thomas M. Jones has served as a pastor in several Illinois communities, including recently at the Thawville Congregational Church in Thawville, Illinois, and is a teacher in Paxton, Illinois. Among other accomplishments he has served as Commander of Melita Commandery No. 37, Tuscola, Illinois. He was appointed R.E. Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. by Sir Knight William Jackson Jones, Most Eminent Grand Master, in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 16, 2000.

Thank you, Sir Knights and Ladies, for coming here on this day. Thank you not only on behalf of the Grand Master and not only on behalf of the Grand Encampment but on behalf of your families and your churches for you have rendered a witness by where you have chosen to spend your Easter morning. It is hoped that your pew or place will be empty, and you will be missed, and someone will say, "Well, where are they this morning?" and someone else will answer, "Well, they are in Washington, D.C." "Well, what are they doing there?" "Well, they went to celebrate the Easter Sunrise." "Well, why did they go all the way out there? We can celebrate it right here." "They went to join with men and women of conscience in an organization which takes the cross and the crown for its symbol."

By coming to this service, you will be making a witness not only to your faith but to the principles and precepts for which this organization stands. I thank you for taking the cross as your symbol because these are dangerous times to have the cross as your symbol. There are those who say the cross belongs to them and their interpretation. Therefore, we must be some kind of subversive organization that would try to hide behind the cross. There are those who would say, "The cross is too limiting. It means you can't be open minded and cannot accept us in our ways." So I thank you for taking the cross as your symbol.

Will you pray with me a moment?: "Not my words, O Lord, but Thy spirit." Amen.

Because the weather is uncertain, let me begin where I intend to end, with Job's words: "I know that my Redeemer liveth and on the earth again shall stand and in those latter days I shall see God." Let us be reminded of those people on that first Easter morn who gathered together
away from the scene of the tomb, who were so afraid for their lives that they sent representatives there. They sent the women ahead of them to find out. They were persuaded that because of their witness, because of testimony, Jesus Christ was dead. Oh, they had faith all right; they had the faith that John talks about when he said: "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God and the word became flesh and dwelled upon us full of grace and truth." They had faith in incarnation in the word that was made flesh. Incarnation faith had brought them that far. They had transformation faith as well.

There is Mary; for example, who had seven wonderful reasons to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. She was afflicted by seven devils. We have no idea what those devils were, but they were enough to make her life a living hell. And when she was released from them, she discovered something and someone wonderful, Jesus, whom they called the Christ, the Messiah, and the Chosen One. They had a transformation faith, but they needed a resurrection faith. They were persuaded that morning that Jesus of Nazareth was dead. Pilot was persuaded because he gave the orders that His body be taken down. The Roman soldiers whose duty it was to kill Him were persuaded because they allowed that act to occur. The temple people were persuaded; they hired guards to guard the tomb for fear the body would be stolen. Joseph of Arimathea was persuaded because he provided a tomb. Nicodemus helped him place the body in the shroud. They were persuaded that He is dead. Here we find convincing evidence that the women who were witnesses at the cross, the women who were witnesses at the tomb, the women who came that morning to finish the embalming process were persuaded that He is dead.

Now comes this wondrous news. The scarcely believable evidence of the empty tomb. The negative proof He is not here. "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" Mary we are told remains behind, still unable to accept the fact until a stranger to her addresses her asking her why she is weeping. She said, "They have taken my Lord away." And only those who have found Him and encountered Him in their lives can know the devastating effect of having their Lord taken away. Only those who come from some place of loss and destruction and devastation can know what it is like to have their Lord taken away. Only those who have given up every hope of life and every hope of eternal life can know what it is like to have their Lord taken away.

Taking Him to be the gardener, she said: "If you will tell me where they have laid Him, I will go and bring Him back to where He belongs." How could she carry this burden? How can we carry this burden when our Lord is taken away? And then it is resurrection faith when He calls her by name, "Mary" and she sees who it really is. And He gives her the message to go to the disciples, tell them that He is going before them, and they should come and meet Him. And the gospels offer us a diversity of locations. They are going to Galilee to meet Him on a mountain there. They hide in Jerusalem and He meets them there. They walk to Emmaus and He meets them there. We have the opportunity
wherever we go and whatever roads we travel to know that He will meet us there because He has gone before us and is waiting for us and will come to us and will call to us.

Our order is not a sacred society; it is a secular society with sacred purposes to prepare men to carry out their responsibilities of life in a manner that reflects their commitment and their caring and their devotion to God. Jesus in His resurrection appearances is really training His disciples to carry out His message. What kind of people did he choose? Looking over the cast of characters, there is not a Moses among them. There are fishermen and tax collectors. There are people from various walks of life but none who anybody is concerned about being a marvelous leader and a revolutionary. The resurrection faith is going to have to do the job. And so by teaching them how to spread that wondrous word, for the joy of the encounter with the living Lord, the joy is in what we can do next for the living Lord. The joy is in the identification that we have in the kind of responsibilities and opportunities that He gives us - the joy of being able to influence the lives of others and release them from their prisons - the joy we experience from being able to work together to provide opportunities for sight for the blind. We feel the joy of being able to work together to express our confidence in the hope of freedom and our nation. We have the opportunity to work together to share this wondrous word.

Someone must have told the secret. In the earliest version of Mark, it ends with the story that the women were afraid and told no one. The secret got out, the word was spread, and the world was changed. From out of those few came the many, the thousands, the hundreds of millions across the ages around the world. Today, we are gathered as but a sample of them. What opportunities we have, what joy, what a privilege we can respond to Christ's invitation in the words of that wondrous hymn by Shurtleff: "Lead on O King eternal, we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears. Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light; the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might."

"I know that my Redeemer liveth and on the earth again shall stand. And in those latter days I shall see God." Amen.
Greetings to all of you. I have a very interesting thing to share with you this month. It is a story that comes from one of our dedicated Sir Knights who has, indeed, been "laboring in the vineyards." I received an e-mail message recently from Sir Knight Fred Kaylor, the Eminent Commander of Cyrene Commandery No. 34 in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Fred has taken the initiative to personally get the word out about the services available from the Eye Foundation, as well as from other sources. With his indulgence and my appreciation, I think the best way to communicate the story is to quote from his e-mail:

Dear Sir Knight Bruce Pruitt, Chairman of the 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign:

I am writing to you this day to share a success story from a lady that received care from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the EyeCare America Project. I reported this to the Grand Commandery officers in Pennsylvania, but I thought you might find this of interest, too. I presented the program to the senior center in my hometown; I was also able to have the local television station, WGAL-TV8, of Lancaster, PA, do a segment. The WGAL-TV8 segment can be reached at: http://www.thewgalchannel.com/drwarlandal Then scroll down to the Senior Eye Care selection to view the segment on your computer.

Here is the section I sent to the Grand Commandery officers:

This morning, March 28, 2002, I received a telephone call from a Joan Gusler of Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. She was at the meeting of the Elizabethtown Senior Citizens when I presented the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and EyeCare America information to the group. She called me to thank the Knights Templar for the outstanding work they do because through this program her sight has been restored and she can see better than ever. She applied through the EyeCare America application process, which I had explained to the group, and she has received laser surgery and cataract removal. Her eyes were always bad since the age of 7, but she claims that now she can see even better than when she was 7. She is forever thankful for this program.

I wanted to share this with each of you. The program I presented only took about 20 minutes, but it saved the sight of at least one person. It was well worth the effort.

Yours in Templary,
Fred Kaylor, E.C.
I think you will all agree that this is a wonderful story. It points out a couple of very important lessons that I have mentioned before. First of all, there are many ways to tell our story. Going out to a senior center is an outstanding approach because, by and large, the folks you will meet there are ones who very likely will need our help. All too often we spend too much time talking to each other and not reaching out to the community. Getting the message on local TV is also a spectacular approach. It takes a bit of effort, but it pays off dividends. Second, we can discuss not only the Knights Templar Eye Foundation itself but the various programs of the Academy of Ophthalmology, some of which we co-sponsor.

In case you are not too familiar with those programs, let me summarize: The term mentioned in Fred's message, EyeCare America, is an umbrella name for 4 programs sponsored by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. They include: 1) the National Eye Care Project, 2) the Children's Eye Care Project, 3) the Glaucoma Project, and 4) the Diabetes Project. (I am told that a Macular Degeneration Project is in the works.) As you are aware, we co-sponsor numbers 1 and 2 above. The Children's project is still being developed, and it is working only in Indiana and Pennsylvania. It is intended to educate parents of children less than 5 years of age about how to look for eye problems.

In conclusion, let me thank Sir Knight Fred once again, first for providing that outstanding service to the seniors in his area and second, for telling me about it and giving me the opportunity to share the story with you. My final message to you all is: Go thou and do likewise!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Bruce

Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt; Chairman of the 34th Annual Voluntary Campaign, 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 wbpruitt@aol.com. For information on the ETEF, send e-mail to ktef@knightstemplar.org or call (773) 205-3838
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May 2002

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<td>$42,605.43</td>
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Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Thirty-fourth Voluntary Campaign

Campaign report by Grand Commanderies for KTEF Officers and Trustees for the week ending April 12, 2002. The total amount contributed to date is $654,630.88.
The Three Nobles
by Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson, Jr.
P.G.C. (Arizona)

The Convention

The 49th Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, held on June 4-8, 1923, in Washington, D.C., was indeed one to remember. Fifty thousand Shriners from all across the nation gathered for general meetings, pageantry, and good times. This convention was a particularly auspicious event because Noble Warren G. Harding of Ohio was the President of the United States and was expected to participate in the Grand Review. Stirring performances by 124 Shrine bands and the presence of Noble Henry Fillmore and Noble John Philip Sousa would also make this convention a musical event without peer in the annals of band music.

On the day of the Grand Review, Henry Fillmore's Syrian Shrine Temple Band of Cincinnati was primed for an unabashed tribute to their Brother from Ohio, who was now serving in the Oval Office. In fact, the Syrian Temple Band and sixty other bands were planning to play Fillmore's great march, "Men of Ohio," as they marched down Pennsylvania Avenue. The march had been composed in 1921, and the dedication read, "To the President, Warren G. Harding, and his staunch loyalists."

As the Syrian Temple Band approached the President's review stand, the band began the opening bars of "Men of Ohio." The unique chemistry of the day contributed to a truly inspired performance. The President was deeply moved and sent word to the band through an aide that they were invited to the White House for a private performance.

Harding was especially fond of band music. As a young man he was drum major of the Caledonian Brass Band and had also played the French horn in the Aladdin Shrine Band in Columbus.

A Command Performance

After the Grand Review, Henry Fillmore and his famous band formed a horseshoe formation on the White House lawn. The band looked sharp in their Shrine regalia including the traditional fez and a flowing tunic. At the President's request the band struck up "Men of Ohio" with the composer conducting. Fillmore was known for his unconventional vaudeville style of conducting, which once again inspired a breathtaking performance of the stirring march. The band then changed pace and played the ballad, "A Perfect Day," for Mrs. Harding. As the crowd melted into silence, President Harding walked over to Henry Fillmore and expressed his gratitude: "Henry, that is a great march. It is one of the snappiest pieces I have ever heard, and bands will be playing it long after you and I are gone." The President then proceeded to shake every musician's hand and signed autographs. It had been an incredible day for the Syrian Temple Band, but there was more to come.

On Thursday morning, June 7, the massed Shrine bands were slated to perform at Griffith Stadium.
Noble John Philip Sousa was to conduct the entire aggregation in a newly composed, original march. Sousa had been a Mason since 1881 and a Knight Templar since 1886 but had only recently crossed the "burning sands." At the urging of his nephew, A. R. Varela, Sousa had joined St. Almas Shrine in Washington, D.C., the previous year. Varela also persuaded his famous uncle to compose an appropriate march for St. Almas Shrine and the Imperial Council. The result was one of the "March King's" most singular efforts, "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine."

As the massed bands assembled, over 6,000 musicians assumed their positions on the field. At Sousa's request, Henry Fillmore's Syrian Temple Band had the honor of being placed in front of the conductor's podium. As Sousa approached the podium, the entire stadium quaked with applause. The world's most famous musician gave the downbeat, and 6,200 bandsmen broke fourth in the opening strain of "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine." The somewhat exotic sounding march seemed to capture the essence of Shrinedom in a three minute statement. After a thunderous ovation, the march was repeated. As an encore, Sousa played another of his Masonic marches, "The Thunderer." Sousa had composed the march in 1889 and dedicated it to his home Commandery, Columbia Command-cry No. 2, Knights Templar in Washington, D.C. This, too, was repeated to the delight of the audience. This massed Shrine band would be the largest group that Sousa ever conducted.

**Epilogue**

What became of the "Three Nobles" after the 1923 Shrine Convention? Their stories serve as poignant examples of character and destiny. President Harding's words to Henry Fillmore, "...after you and I are gone," were partially prophetic. In an attempt to improve his tarnished image, Harding embarked on a hectic speaking tour around the nation. Some seven weeks after the convention while in Alaska, he received a coded message regarding the unfolding "Teapot Dome" scandal. He immediately fell ill but continued on to San Francisco where he was supposed to address Hollywood Commandery No. 56, Knights Templar, on August 2. The speech was already written and was delivered by Harding's Secretary, Sir Knight George B. Christian. Harding did in fact die on August 2, succumbing to a fatal heart attack. On August 8 six Commanderies of Knights Templar accompanied his body from the White House to the Capitol as part of the funeral cortege. Rumors flew that Harding had actually been poisoned by his wife as revenge for his scandals and intemperate personal life. She added to the controversy by not allowing an autopsy of the body or the making of a death mask as was frequently done during the era. Harding was a marvelous orator and had the personae of a leader but is considered by many historians to be our most inept president.

John Philip Sousa fulfilled his vow that only death would curtail his musical endeavors. He continued to tour with his band through
1931 and composed many more exceptional marches. He became interested in the school band movement and donated a great deal of his time to public school and college musical events. On Washington's birthday, February 22, 1932, twelve days before his death, Sousa conducted the combined bands of the Army, Navy, and Marines in front of the Capitol, appropriately in a performance of his march, "George Washington Bicentennial." Sousa died on the morning of March 6, 1932, in Reading, Pennsylvania, after rehearsing the Ringgold Band. As if fulfilling a covenant with God, the last piece that he conducted was "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Henry Fillmore continued to conduct the Syrian Temple Band until 1926 raising large sums of money for the various Shrine charities. The band became known as the finest fraternal band in the world. After a falling out with Shrine officers, Fillmore resigned as director, and he was soon followed by the mass resignation of the entire band. All the old band members presented their beloved former director with a beautiful grandfather's clock as a token of their admiration and affection. Fillmore would also go on to compose the greatest school band march of all time, "Military Escort," under the name of Herald Bennett and perhaps his greatest professional march, "Americans We." In 1938 the flamboyant conductor was given six months to live, and "retired" in Miami, Florida. Soon revitalized, he assumed the identity of "Uncle Henry" and began to work with school music programs for the next 18 years. He helped start over 30 high school band programs and frequently guest conducted in public schools and colleges around the nation without fee or remuneration of any sort. Fillmore composed until 1954 and wrote so much band music that he used numerous pseudonyms including the names: Ray Hall, Gus Beans, Harold Bennett, Harry Hartley, Al Hayes, Will Huff, and Henrietta Moore. Henry Fillmore passed away on December 7, 1956, leaving most of his estate including royalties from his music to the University of Miami Band.

The marches, "Men of Ohio" and "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine," have since become standard repertoire of the world's great bands. Listening to these marches evokes pleasant thoughts of a less sophisticated time when the tassels of 50,000 fezzes danced in the breeze on a warm June day in 1923.

**Masonic Record**

Warren G. Harding (1865-1923): Harding's Masonic record is extremely interesting. He was actually a Master Mason for slightly less than three years. He was initiated in Marion Lodge No. 70 in Marion, Ohio, on June 28, 1901, and was not passed until August 3, 1920, nineteen years later. He was raised a Master Mason on August 27, 1920. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason on January 13, 1921, in Marion Chapter No. 62, RAM., and was created a Knight Templar in Marion Commandery No. 36 on March 1, 1921, shortly before being inaugurated as President of the United States. He also became a member of the Scottish Rite and received his 32° in Columbus, Ohio, on January 5, 1921, and joined Aladdin Shrine Temple, also in Columbus, on January 7, 1921.
Harding also had numerous honorary Masonic memberships. Less than a month before his death, he laid the cornerstone of Ketchikan Lodge No. 159 in Ketchikan, Alaska. At his death Harding had been elected but did not live to receive either his 33° or his Council degrees. The asphalt container that contained his remains was a gift from Boumi Shrine Temple in Baltimore, Maryland.

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932): Sousa was initiated in Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, D.C., on July 15, 1881, and was raised a Master Mason on November 18, 1881. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Eureka Chapter No. 8 and was created a Knight Templar in Columbia Commandery No. 2 on December 10, 1886, also in Washington, D.C. Sousa joined St. Almas Shrine on April 21, 1922, and was sponsored by his nephew, A. R. Varela. Old photographs indicate that a large portion of Sousa's musicians were members of some Masonic order during the 1920s. Sousa also conducted the massed bands at the 1924 Shrine convention in Kansas City. The 330 was conferred on John Philip Sousa posthumously by the Supreme Council in October of 1997.

Henry Fillmore (1881-1956): Fillmore took his first three degrees in Enoch T. Carson Lodge, Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 22, April 19, and May 31, 1912. He became a charter member in High Noon Lodge on November 23, 1916. He received his 32° in the Scottish Rite in Cincinnati on May 22, 1919. Fillmore was initiated in Syrian Temple Shrine in Cincinnati on May 24, 1919. His resignation as the director of the Syrian Temple Band was effective June 4, 1926. Fillmore demitted from the Syrian Temple on November 20, 1939, and affiliated with Mahi Temple Shrine in Miami, Florida, in December of 1939. In 1950 Fillmore became a life member of the Scottish Rite in Cincinnati and an honorary life member of Mahi Temple. Henry Fillmore also belonged to the Grotto and the Royal Order of Jesters.

Sources: Most of the information concerning the 1923 Shrine convention was found in Brother Paul E. Bierley's Hallelujah Trombone, The Story of Henry Fillmore as well as his John Philip Sousa, American Phenomenon and The Works of John Philip Sousa. Other biographical information about Henry Fillmore came from Norman Smith's March Music Notes. Masonic histories were found in Denslow's 10,000 Famous Freemasons, Hallelujah Trombone! and The Scottish Rite Journal (May 1998). Information on Warren G. Harding came from several internet articles and 10,000 Famous Freemasons. Bierley credits Harding as being a former Shrine musician. It is possible that he played in the Aladdin Temple Band as a "ringer," although not a member of the Shrine at the time.

Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson, Jr., a Past Grand Commander of Arizona (2000-2001), is a member of Calvary Commandery No. 8, Winslow, Arizona. He is a fine arts coordinator of the Holbrook Public Schools in Holbrook, Arizona, and has composed several marches for band. He is a member of the Northland Pioneer College Symphonic Band and the Windjammers Unlimited Circus Concert Band. He resides at 1524 Smith Drive, Holbrook, AZ 86025.
The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America

...presents a new publication that can be given to prospective members and the general public. If your Commandery does not have a public relations item for distribution, you need to consider this publication.

This brochure may be considered an informational item for our members as well as for membership promotion. This is a 4-fold brochure in color. (The front is shown on page 17.)

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5097 N. Elston Avenue, Suite 101
Chicago, Illinois 60630-2460

These brochures are available in lots of 100 at a cost of 8 cents each. Every Commandery should have copies of this brochure to promote membership.

The information on pages 16 and 17 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.
Knights Templar  
"Defenders of the Faith" 
Serving others as we reach into the 21st Century
On the Masonic Newsfront…

**Third Generation Commander At Long Beach Commandery**

Sir Knight Harry Stiller III was installed as Commander of Long Beach Commandery No. 40, Long Beach, California. He is a third generation Commander. Harry Stiller, Jr., his father, was Commander of Long Beach No. 40 in 1975, and his grandfather, Harry Stiller, Sr., was Commander of Columbia Commandery No. 2, Columbia, South Carolina, in 1929. From left to right are Sir Knights: Rob Reynolds, P.C., installing Prelate; David B. Slayton, P.D.C., KCT, installing officer; Harry Stiller III, 2002 Commander of Long Beach No. 40; and O. Reed Bollin, P.G.C., KCT, installing Marshal. Sir Knight Slayton also installed Harry Stiller, Jr., in 1975.

(submitted by Sir Knight David B. Slayton)

**New Mexico Commandery Sponsors Eye Screening Program**

Almost 60 children, 12 years of age and under, recently took part in a free eye screening program at Rio West Mall in Gallup, New Mexico. The program was jointly sponsored by Baldwyn Commandery No. 12, Gallup, and several local optical professionals as a part of Save Your Vision Week. Brother and Dr. Charles Henry and Dr. Robert D'Orazio, assisted by local Knights Templar and their families, conducted the screenings. Many of the children were referred for vision correction or further examination for possible diseases of the eye. Information was provided on the KTEF, various other Masonic groups and their charities. Above Dr. Robert D'Orazio conducts an eye screening on Ryan Livingston as his sister Brittany and his mother watch. (submitted by Sir Knight Robert Keene, See/Rec., Gallup York Rite Masons)

**News From La Crosse, Wisconsin**

Eminent Commander Richard Gray and Past Commander Martin Callaway of La Crosse Commandery No. 9, La Crosse, Wisconsin, were pleased to demonstrate the folding of the American flag for Bethel No. 27, Job's Daughters of La Crosse, and their many
guests at the Bethel's Masonic Day in February 2002. Associate Bethel Guardian, Dad Scott user, gave a narration explaining the meaning of each fold. E.C. Richard is the promoter of fraternal relations for the Bethel, and P.C. Martin is a Past Associate Bethel Guardian as well as Past Associate Grand Guardian of Wisconsin. Shown with Sir Knights Martin (left) and Richard is Christine Jones, Honored Queen of Bethel No. 27.

La Crosse Assembly No. 215, Social Order of the Beauceant, was honored to have Commander Richard Gray of La Crosse Commandery No. 9 and the R.E. Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Wisconsin, Sir Knight Richard Reilly, present for their installation of officers for 2002. La Crosse Assembly, S.O.O.B., is very active and very supportive of La Crosse Commandery. The Grand Commander's wife, Mrs. Mary Lou (Richard) Reilly is one of their members. In the picture are the members with G.C. Richard Reilly (left) and E.C. Richard Gray (right). (articles submitted by Mrs. Mary (Martin) Callaway, Worthy President of La Crosse No. 215 and Bethel Guardian of Bethel No. 27, Job's Daughters)

Florida's Beauceant Assemblies March In Masonic Home Parade

The ladies of Florida's 4 Assemblies of the Social Order of the Beauceant turned out in force for the 8th Annual Grand Master's Masonic Home Parade. A beautiful day saw 16 ladies from across the state lead the Florida York Rite Bodies past the residents of the home. A great barbecue followed. Above are the ladies of Florida Assemblies, S.O.O.B., followed by York Rite Masons. (submitted by Mrs. Sandra [Keith] Dean, P.S.WP., S.O.O.B.)
Pennsylvania's 200-Year Anniversary Stein
Benefits The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania is celebrating its 200th anniversary, and to commemorate this event a beautiful Chapter stein was manufactured. It is 7 inches high, has a white ceramic body that holds 20-oz. liquid measure, and has a pewter lid with a special insert on the lid. The stein has 8 different colors and is outlined in 22c gold. This is a limited edition of 3,000 pieces. The price for the stein is $25.00, which includes shipping and handling. For out of USA please add $15.00 additional shipping costs. If you are ordering stems, please state that you saw this ad in the Knight Templar magazine, and $1.00 will be donated to the KTEF for each stein purchased. Delivery is in about 4 weeks from the time you mail your order. Please send check or money order payable to: Stanley C. Buz, and mail to: P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052. Phone: (610) 837-9429

Membership Certificate To Benefit KTEF

Purchase of this beautiful membership certificate will benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. It was designed to keep a record of all 3 degrees of a person who reaches Master Mason. It is 11 inches by 14 inches and is 100-pound, antique white, parchment paper. Colorful certificate has 8 different colors and 3 blended colors to give it a beautiful effect. The price is $3.00 each, and the shipping is $3.50. For every certificate sold through Knight Templar, $1.00 will be donated to the KTEF. Please send check or money order to: Sandra D. Knotts, PO Box 158, Trexiertown, PA 18087
Back at Fort Duncan in the spring of 1876, Shafter turned his attention to widespread cattle rustling along the Rio Grande. Mexican bandits, under the leadership of Juan Nepomuceno Cortina, were conducting organized rustling raids against border ranches. Regarded as a "Robinhood" by many Mexicans, Cortina terrorized the border for several years before the situation was defused by the army and the Texas rangers. At the same time, Shafter's pursuit of the Lipan and Kickapoo Indians was relentless. He did not hesitate to cross the international border, a policy sanctioned by General Edward O. C. Ord, the district commander. It was a sensitive political issue, however, and Shafter eventually became a target for a congressional committee.

During the same time frame, charges were lodged by 23 enlisted malcontents in the 24th Infantry and the 10th Cavalry, and a Second Lieutenant Edward Turner. They accused Shafter of cowardice and criticized his personal morals. There was also a charge that Shafter was trying to provoke war with Mexico. Shafter left for Washington, DC, on January 6, 1878, where Lt. Turner repeated the charges. During the testimony, Turner was totally discredited when it was proven that he was spreading malicious gossip and had no basis for his wild charges. Soon afterward, Turner was forced to resign. His regimental commander, Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson of the 10th Cavalry, found him to be an unreliable officer. Shafter habitually made enemies because of his severe discipline and harsh speech. Turner was one of them. His resignation was dated June 25, 1878.

Shafter was promoted to full colonel on March 4, 1879. He enjoyed the full and enthusiastic support of his superiors, as always. Events demanded that he remain at Fort Duncan for a time. A mixed band of forty Kickapoo and Lipan Indians, plus a few bandits, made a bloody raid into the Nueces River country on April 14, 1879. They killed 18 men, women, and children on a very destructive 6-day sweep, burning and looting along the way. Colonel MacKenzie ordered Shafter and a force of 700 soldiers, complete with Gatling guns, to launch a punitive pursuit into Mexico. Following two confrontations with Mexican army officials during the operation, Shafter turned back on June 19. His relentless pursuit convinced the Mexican government to curtail the raiding activity from south of the Rio Grande.

Orders arrived on October 13, 1879, for Colonel Shafter to take command of the First U.S. Infantry at Fort Randall in Dakota Territory. The fort was located near present-day Pickstown, South Dakota, on the east bank of the Missouri River. His responsibility was to protect settlers in the area from Sioux raiding parties from the Rosebud Agency and to maintain order at both reservations in his area. During his time in the Dakota Territory, Shafter was obliged to renovate Fort Randall's buildings. He brought the post up to
standard with his usual prompt and efficient action.

Colonel Shafter received orders in May 1880 to transport the First Infantry back to Texas to assist in suppressing an Apache uprising led by the war chief, Victorio. Arriving at San Antonio, Shafter ordered three of his companies to Ringgold barracks. He retained the balance of the regiment and assumed temporary command of the post at San Antonio. Shafter departed for the trans-Pecos River country on July 28. He arrived to learn that Grierson and his Tenth Cavalry had already forced Victorio back into Mexico, where he was killed by Mexican army troops on October 19, 1880.

By 1880 Shafter's weight had ballooned to 230-plus pounds. He was suffering from gout, varicose veins, and complications from his old hip wound. Constant physical discomfort intensified his usual truculent disposition, but he refused to be deterred from his normal duties. During that period, an investment in a silver mine yielded substantial profits for Shafter and his partner, Captain John Bullis of his command. They disagreed over distribution of profits, and Bullis sued Shafter. The controversy was considered the reason that Shafter's promotion to brigadier general was delayed.

In the summer of 1881, the court martial of Second Lieutenant Henry Ossian Flipper took place at Fort Davis, while Colonel Shafter was in temporary command. Flipper was the first black graduate of the West Point Academy. He was stationed at Fort Concho, near San Angelo, Texas, assigned to the Tenth Cavalry. His friendship with a white woman on the post, a Miss Mollie Dwyer, appeared to have been the reason he was transferred to Fort Davis.

Flipper was assigned to duty as commissary officer and was billeted with a former West Point classmate, First Lieutenant Louis Wilhelm. According to the record, Wilhelm had not graduated from the military academy because of health problems. The ex-classmates were not on friendly terms at Fort Davis, according to reports.

As commissary officer, Lt. Flipper was in possession of funds to purchase supplies. When a shortage was discovered, Colonel Shafter became involved. An investigation indicated that Flipper had kept the commissary money in his quarters. A civilian cleaning woman was aware of the money in Flipper's foot locker. There are conflicting opinions about how Flipper made up the shortfall.
($1,400) of funds. The findings of the court martial board generated a verdict of not guilty of the embezzlement charges. However, Flipper was found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and was dismissed from the U.S. Army. Every account this author has read disagrees to some extent on the details surrounding the evidence leading to conviction for "conduct unbecoming an officer."

In the mid-1970s, nearly a century after the events occurred, descendants of Henry Flipper launched a campaign to expunge his court martial conviction. Late in 1976 the War Department altered his record to reflect an honorable discharge. In light of the great rush to political correctness, it is not surprising that "experts" were able to determine, even after a century, that the affair was racially motivated. Of course, Shafter has been labeled a "racist," and the records of the trial are no longer considered accurate. Sometime after World War II, the Article of War in the Manual for Courts Martial, setting forth the basis for Flipper's conviction for "conduct unbecoming an officer," was revised. Colonel Shafter departed Texas in April 1882 for a brief stay at Fort Grant in Arizona. The army was occupied with Apache difficulties in the territory. On July 13, 1882, before Shafter became extensively involved with Apache problems at the San Carlos Reservation, he was assigned the post of superintendent of the army's General Recruiting Service in New York City. It was a two-year assignment, which ended on October 1, 1884. At the end of his recruiting tour, Shafter and his family went on leave to Galesburg, Michigan. He returned to duty as the commanding officer at Fort Grant in Arizona on November 9. Once more it was destined to be a brief assignment. On June 1, 1886, Colonel Shafter and the First Infantry Division were transferred to California. He was post commander on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, his permanent military home for the following twelve years. Shafter's tour of duty at Angel Island was marked with continuous training activity with much emphasis on physical conditioning. As the post commander, he amazed everyone by joining in the demanding physical regimen, including participation in a 12-mile marathon race in 1889. Shafter completed the run. As an experienced Indian fighter and an officer of great accomplishment, Shafter was in constant demand as a civic speaker. His public relations efforts were of considerable benefit to the army, inasmuch as Shafter projected a positive image of a successful army officer. The First Infantry was dispatched to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, on December 4, 1890. Shafter and the regiment were called to assist in the last great Sioux uprising, the result of totally inept government administration of Indian policy. They had abrogated treaties by taking reservation land from the Sioux tribes and allowing a gold rush to take place in the Black Hills. The Indian Bureau caused great resentment and unrest among the Sioux by insisting that they farm reservation land to provide their own food. It was insufferable humiliation for nomadic Indian hunters who detested
a sedentary life style. When Shafter and his regiment went to South Dakota, General Nelson Miles was massing 3,500 troops for an all-out campaign to drive all the Sioux and Cheyennes to government reservations. Shafter nor any of the First Infantry were present on December 29, 1890 during the most tragically event of the campaign. Colonel James A. Forsyth of the Seventh Cavalry led a force of 470 men against Minneconjou Sioux Chief Big Foot's temporary camp at Wounded Knee Creek. The unprovoked massacre resulted in the death of 146 men, women, and children. Big Foot, terminally ill, was among the dead. The Minneconjou set the death figure at nearer 300, claiming many wounded crawled away to die and were not included in the count.

After peace was restored in the Dakota Indian uprising, Shafter and his command returned to San Francisco, arriving on March 4, 1891. On June 26, 1894, the American Railway Union declared a national strike against all railroads utilizing Pullman sleeping cars. Westward rail travel from Chicago was paralyzed. President Grover Cleveland authorized the use of army troops to assure the delivery of mail throughout the western United States. Shafter was tagged with the job of implementing the presidential order. Taking five companies from his First Infantry Regiment, Shafter went to Los Angeles, restored order, and took over mail transportation. Within three days railroad mail service was in full operation. Colonel Shafter was lionized by a grateful California population for the speedy resolution of the problem.

The completion of the Pullman strike ushered in a period of tranquil service for Shafter and the First Infantry. In 1895 the U.S. Government finally got around to awarding Shafter the Medal of Honor for his outstanding valor during the battle of Fair Oaks Station in the Civil War. Early in 1897 Harriet Shafter passed away shortly before William was promoted to the permanent rank of brigadier general on May 3. He also purchased a retirement home in 1897, a 60-acre ranch 15 miles south of Bakersfield, California. It adjoined the 1,500-acre ranch belonging to William McKittrick, daughter Mary's husband.

Shortly after receiving his promotion to brigadier general, Shafter was placed in command of the Department of California, comprised of a dozen military installations, some of which were in the state of Nevada. The command carried a military strength of 2,000 enlisted men and officers and was headquartered at the Presidio in San Francisco.

In mid-February 1898 the battleship USS Maine exploded in the harbor at Havana, Cuba. The incident provided the spark that ignited the Spanish-American War. For a number of years, hawkish individuals in
the U.S. Government, along with the U.S. press, had urged military action to "liberate the oppressed natives in Cuba." President William McKinley was not among them, nor was Mark Hanna, the powerful advisor who had guided his political career. Congress declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898, and McKinley reluctantly approved. No military planning was in place prior to the declaration, except in the Department of the Navy. Under Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, had been one of the most prominent drum-beaters for naval expansion, and now that war was declared, the U.S. Navy was equipped to take part.

The decision to select a commander for an invading force to enter Cuba was strictly political. The officer who actively sought the post was General Nelson Miles. He was totally unacceptable to President McKinley because Miles had presidential ambitions of his own and was regarded as a Democrat. The only officer who carried no political stain was Brigadier General William R. Shafter. He was, also, a friend of the Secretary of War, Russell A. Alger, so his selection was assured. The choice was widely criticized for many regarded Shafter as an officer with little experience in commanding a large body of troops.

Shafter was 63 years old and in precarious health. He weighed over three hundred pounds and suffered continuously from chronic gout and varicose veins. Walking was difficult, and he was unable to mount a horse without the help of two men. The choice was confirmed, nevertheless, for Shafter was universally respected among his peers in the military. Best of all, he did not pose a political threat to anybody. It was a post he did not seek nor even desire. It was a command position doomed to constant interference from the Washington nit-pickers, including Secretary Alger.

Before the War Department was the task of invading Puerto Rico and the Philippine Islands, as well as Cuba. An American fleet in the far east was anchored at Hong Kong and was commanded by Commodore George Dewey. They were prepared for action. The immediate problem was Cuba with a Spanish military presence of 36,500 men commanded by Lt. General Arsenio Linares. Shafter was summoned to Washington, D.C., on April 27, 1898, to confer with President William McKinley.

A port of embarkation for the invasion of Cuba was selected without input from General Shafter. It
was a poor choice: The launching point would be Tampa, Florida, a logistical nightmare. The port was shallow, and docking facilities were woefully inadequate. In addition, the city had only one rail line, so shipping war supplies to Tampa would create total gridlock.

Continuous orders streamed in from the War Department, adding another element of chaos to the task of assembling invasion troops. Shafter arrived at Tampa expecting to lead a relatively small initial expedition to Cuba in the fall after the summer rainy season ended. Commodore Dewey's spectacular victory over the Spanish fleet at Manila on May 1, 1898, sparked a patriotic rush to join the service. Dewey had destroyed the Spanish fleet of seven ships without losing any of the U.S. Asiatic flotilla or suffering a single American sailor killed. All previous plans for the invasion of Cuba were scrapped. It was decided to assemble a major force and launch a full-scale invasion immediately.

When war was declared, the total army strength stood at 25,000. After the USS Maine disaster, it swelled to 28,000 immediately and then to 61,000 a few weeks later. McKinley appealed for 175,000 volunteers, and then made a second call for 75,000. The volunteers, augmented by a large contingent of national guard troops, overwhelmed the staging area in Tampa. There were no facilities to process recruits, so it was little more than a huge disorganized mob, cooking over open camp fires. Most of the bulk rations could not be used because there were no military kitchens set up.

The men arrived in dark blue woolen winter uniforms without knowledge or equipment to campaign in the hot tropical climate of Cuba. The yellow fever season arrived with the summer rain and was in full swing by June 1898. The army was still using black powder in most of their ammunition, including that of the field artillery. The vast majority of soldiers were armed with obsolete caliper .45 Springfield rifles, which kicked like a mule. The newly-approved Krag-Jorgensen bolt-action rifles were in short supply. Every bitter lesson from earlier wars was ignored or forgotten. The experienced regular army troops were not dispersed among the green volunteers to form a trained nucleus for each new unit. Therefore, training was little more than elementary instruction sessions. Riding around in a Maine buggy with his gouty foot encased in a burlap bag, Shafter was totally overwhelmed with logistical problems.

In that atmosphere of confusion and chaos, the preparations staggered toward embarkation. Shafter had shipping space for 17,000 troops, designated as the Fifth Corps. They were ordered to be aboard ship, ready to sail, on June 8, 1898. The order was accomplished, but departure was delayed for eight days by a false report that a Spanish fleet was waiting to attack the convoy. Finally, the invasion force of 32 ships departed Tampa on June 14.

On May 19, 1898, Admiral Pascual Cervera had slipped into Santiago harbor for badly-needed coal to refuel his Spanish fleet. He was bottled up immediately by Rear Admiral
William Sampson and the U.S. Navy fleet of four battleships, two cruisers, and several smaller craft.

Shafter's invasion fleet reached Santiago harbor five and one half days after departing Tampa. He conferred aboard ship with Admiral Sampson, who urged him to attack the fortifications in the harbor. The Morro Castle was the most formidable because it was perched atop a 230-foot cliff. The entire attack would have to be made up steep approaches, against entrenched troops and artillery. Shafter refused, deeming such a plan disastrous. Informed that there would be virtually no resistance at Daquiri Beach, 15 miles east of Santiago, Shafter decided to land there.

The Fifth Corps arrived off Daquiri Beach, and landing began on June 22, 1898. There was no resistance whatsoever for the Spanish were slowly retreating toward Santiago, leaving 2,000 men at the village of Las Guasimas, five miles inland, to guard the main road westward.

Complete off-loading of the Fifth Corps and their equipment took five days. No harbor existed, so troops and equipment were ferried ashore by small lighters. Cavalry horses were merely pushed overboard and forced to swim ashore. A horde of 89 news correspondents and 12 foreign observers traveled with Shafter's convoy, constantly dispatching wires back to the United States. Many were greatly exaggerated releases, representing skirmishes as battles.

Shafter was a poor public relations figure. He was miserable with his various physical problems and naturally short-tempered. His most severe critic was Richard Harding Davis, a New York correspondent. Shafter had delivered a blistering refusal to Davis' demand that he be allowed to go ashore with the first troops, concluding with a threat to throw him overboard.

Soon after the initial landing at Daquiri Beach, General Shafter contracted malaria. Yellow fever, typhoid, and dysentery extracted a far greater toll than combat fatalities. Deaths from disease during the brief Cuban incursion were 5,083 with combat fatalities only 379. The jungle and its perils were far more effective than bullets.

The battle strategy was simple: march westward and take Santiago. There was one road, and that was five miles inland. The village of Las Guasimas was astride the road having thick, steamy underbrush to be overcome before the village could be taken. Shafter had not intended to attack Las Guasimas until they had unloaded all the supplies necessary to attack Santiago; but Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, "Fighting Joe" of Civil War fame, impulsively moved the timetable forward.

Don't miss Part III of "The Galsburg Man" in the June 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. He resides at: 802 Laura Belle Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028
Summer Uniform Sale Aids Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Milford Commandery No. ii, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for $125.00. (G.C. and PG.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, rank, Commandery name and number, choice of engraving on the tie clasp (plain/Knight Templar/your state/Commandery name) to the address below. Make checks payable to Milford Commandery No. U. 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, U.S.A. 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.

Robert L Dluge, 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 2 1/2-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 lathes.

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.

May 2002
Saluting the Principles and Leadership Skills Taught Through DeMolay

Brother Walt Disney

The December 7, 1998 issue of Time Magazine "Builder and Titans", The 100 most influential business geniuses of the century, include one our most beloved DeMolay, Brother Walt Disney.

Walt created Mickey Mouse and gave life to countless other animated friends for our world. He produced the first full-length animated musical feature film, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", regarded as one of the great feats, and a imperishable monument of the motion picture industry. Walt combined live action with the cartoon medium in the pioneering work "The Three Caballeros". This process evolved to create another endearing favorite, "Song of the South", culminating with the most highly acclaimed and beloved "Mary Poppins". Through such films as "The Living Dessert, "The Vanishing Prairie", "The African Lion", and "White Wilderness" he brought us insights into the world of wild animals, and taught the world the importance of conserving our planet's outdoor heritage. Walt invented the theme park, which the design of, anticipated many of the best features of modern urban planning. He originated the modern multimedia corporation and became the first Hollywood mogul to embrace television. Toward the end of his life, Walt took a deep interest in the establishment of the California Institute of the Arts, where performing and creative arts are taught in a "community of the arts", A completely new approach to professional arts training at the time.

Richard Schickel stated in his Time article, "the most significant thing Walt made was a good name for himself", that's so true. Brother Walt Disney, Senior DeMolay, is a legend, a hero of the 20th century. His enduring worldwide popularity is based upon the ideals which his name represents; imagination, optimism, and self-made success in the American tradition. Our brother Walt, did more to touch the hearts, minds and emotions of billions of people globally, than any other man in this century. He brought joy, happiness, and a universal means of communication to people of every nation, subtly but profoundly affecting the ways we all live, think and dream!

Walt said, "I feel a great sense of obligation and gratitude toward the Order of DeMolay for the important part it played in my life. Its precepts have been invaluable in making decisions, facing dilemmas and crises. DeMolay stands for all that is good for the family and our country. I feel privileged to have enjoyed membership in DeMolay.

DeMolay is the premier youth organization dedicated to teaching young men to be better persons and leaders. DeMolay builds confidence; teaches responsibility, cooperation and community service; and fosters trust, respect, fellowship, patriotism, reverence, and sharing. 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 64153-1367
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.

Washington Commandery No. 1, Washington, DC, is searching for video tapes and photographs of the Easter Sunrise Service held at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for the years 1997-2001. Also searching for the "old style" frock coats to equip several Sir Knights. Washington Commandery No. 1 will pay for shipping. Contact Rodrigo A. Phillips, Recorder; 11781 Cotton Mill Dr; Woodbridge; VA 22192; e-mail rapwcl@aol.com - phone (703) 491-4068

Knight Templar dress ties: the perfect Templar gift: cross and crown on square and compass ($25.00 each); fundraiser 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 reoccuring pattern of emblem with crown, square and compass in gold with red cross diagonally across body. Uniquely beautiful ties can be viewed. Check payable to San Antonio Commandery No. 7 and mail to James N. Higdon, 10122 N. Manton, San Antonio, TX 78213. 'lies will be sent day following receipt. H: (210) 341 1309; O: 349-9933; e-mail: jnh.kt@hzhlaw.com

For sale: Knights Templar triangular aprons, black with silver and silver bullion thread for embroidered crossed swords on flap, skull and crossbones on the apron. These are identical to those worn by all Sir Knights in the last century and still worn in some jurisdictions: brand new: $75.00 plus $5.00 U.P.S. A percentage to York Rite charities. Sal Caradonna, PC., 23 Gail Court, Staten Island, NY 10306-2234, (718) 987-4532

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

Active Chapter looking for costumes to enhance our Royal Arch degree work. We are unable to afford the tremendous cost of new costumes. If any Chapter has decent costumes that they would donate or sell at a reasonable price, we would be most pleased to hear from you. Gerald Myers, 1326 Looking Glass Loop, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-4564, (360) 679-5184.

For sale: Symbolic Lodge flags. The Second Arch Officers Assoc. of the Royal & Select Masons of Ohio is selling as a fundraiser Symbolic Lodge flags, the perfect flagpole companion for our Stars and Stripes. They are 2 x3 feet, medium blue with gold square and compass, and have no lettering so can be flown by anyone. They have metal grommets and are made of the finest nylon glow material. Check or M.O. for $23.00 to Howard L. Lambert, 6036 St., Rt. 185, Piqua, OH 45356-9313

For sale: In Memoriam booklet, 5 ½ x 8 ½ 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 2½ 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, P.O. Box 743, Houlton, ME 04730

For sale: peel-off vinyl, royal blue square and compass decals designed to fit on your license plate or window: 2 inches high, 1 inch wide. 6 vinyl decals for $5.00, postpaid. Joe Allen, PM., Sec.; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F & A.M.; P0. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014

Piedmont Lodge No. 447, F. & A.M., Atlanta, Georgia, has had a coin struck to celebrate our 100th anniversary. The coin is available in either antique bronze, $6.00, or antique silver, $15.00, including shipping and handling. One face of the coin has the All-seeing Eye, the square and compass, and the working tools of a Mason. The reverse side has 'Piedmont Lodge No. 447, F. & AM., Atlanta, GA, 100 years" and '1902-2002." Send check or MO to Edward A. Radatz, Sr., PM; 2921 Birchwood Way, S.W.; Marietta; GA 30060-5133

Canton Lodge No. 98, A.F. & AM., Arp, Texas, has its sesquicentennial anniversary celebration coins for sale: silver, shining bronze, and bronze. They are $21.00, $9.00, and $6.00 respectively, including postage. Face has 'Canton Masonic
Lodge No. 98, A.F. & AM. " with the letter G, square and compass on the representation of the state of Texas. Reverse side has the columns, taper, All-seeing Eye, altar, and square and compass. Send check or MO to Canton Masonic Lodge No. 98, PO Box 238, Arp, TX 75750. We appreciate your support!

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. Also available: the four immortal chaplains lapel pin, a beautiful pin honoring the chaplains who sacrificed their lives by giving up their lifejackets in order to save the lives of others. The price per pin is $8.00 ea., including S & H. 10% of proceeds will benefit the KTEF. New item. Sept. 11 Memorial Masonic lapel pin, $10.00 each, including S & H - to commemorate members who lost their lives in terrorist attack - proceeds to New York Grand Lodge WIC Disaster Fund and KTEF.

S. Kenneth Rant, 6922 Royal Green Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244, (513) 232-6989

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 29 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 &ac4 No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705; (520) 888-7585

For sale: hardbound book on Masonry, A Survey of the History and Mysteries of Freemasonry. The book is 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. Written, published, and financed by Robert L. Breeding; it can be obtained from him only. Price is $20.00 plus $3.00 postage and handling. % 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; prepayment required.

Check or MO to Robert L. Breeding at 405 Ascot Court, Knoxville, TN 37923-5807. E-mail rbreed4217@aol.com, (865) 539-9932

Now available: new book about Royal Arch Masonry, The History And Symbolism of Royal Arch Masonry by Edward R. Graham, Grand Historian of the Grand Chapter, R.A.M., of Indiana. 177-page, illustrated, hardbound book has a 31-page glossary. Order from www/lstbooks.com or from all online booksellers, or order from local bookseller. It is a print-on-demand book and normally 5-7 days for delivery. Also available from author for $18.00 including shipping, $2.00 will be donated to R.A.R.A. Edward R. Graham, 2881 Grandma Barnes Road, Nashville, IN 47448, phone and fax (812) 988-1699, and e-mail egraham@kiva.net

Does anyone know where I can purchase a stick-on tab (not the round metal one) for the 2-ball cane? It is approximately 2 and 118 by 3 and 1116. The background is blue and the ball and cane are white with blue running through them. I purchased some a number of years ago, but now I cannot find them even listed in the catalogs that I have. I prefer to use these as a means of identification rather than the square and compass. I have these on my car, truck, and suit cases. Jennings O. Elbon, PM.; 1220 N. E. 17th; Suite 6f Portland; OR 97232-1457

New novelty book available: Pythagoras, This Cross Is For You, by Past Master and Past Commander Jack N. Barricki - $6.00 each, pp. "For the serious Craftsman with short history, illustrations, and instruction by the 'Master' himself." % of profits will go to KTEF. (Please write "KTEF" in memo.) Checks payable to Ourland Enterprises, and send to Ourland Enterprises, 8631 McDade, Houston, TX 77080-4321

Looking for vintage and antique collectibles in Masonic, Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Commandery; and ROJ representative badges. Will buy complete collections. Keep your collectibles in the hands of Masonic collectors who will preserve our Masonic history. Brother Bill; 200 Three Oaks Drive, S. E.; Calhoun; GA 30701; (706) 625-1786.

For sale: custom-made die cast coins and lapel pins. Also, other specialty items are available that can be custom-imprinted for any purpose. Call Frank Looser for cash quotes, catalogs, and details. 3% of profit goes to KTEF. Frank Looser, 1-800 765-1728, e-mail frank@cnfinteractive.com or www.cnfinteractive.com

Semi-retired Mason and Sir Knight wants to add to his collection: WWII American, German, and Japanese military items; also pre-war, WWII; old U.S. stamps (pre-1940); train sets - American Flyer, Lionel, and Marx, all gauges; Aurora 'model motoring' race car sets. Call collect (734) 854-3021 or e-mail timothy.rickheim@verizon.net

Wanted. old fishing lures and any related items like catalogs, bamboo rods, reels, etc. 72-year-old Past Commander building a unique collection that will be donated to the Fishing Hall of Fame. I personally have over 9,000 lures which are mostly wooden ones. I'd save postage pot each lure in a zip sandwich bag and mail in a free priority mail box you can get at your post office. Enclose your phone number, and I will call as soon as I receive them to give you my offer. If not acceptable, I will mail them right back and include the postage you paid. To date all my offers have been accepted because they are fair. Phone (727)345-4323 or (863) 467-9540

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

For sale: four Masonic grave plots in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Lima, Ohio, worth $2,340.00 ($585.00 each). I will sell for $500.00 each or best offer. Plots can be traded for non-Masonic plots elsewhere in the cemetery. Call Randy Clark, (513) 732-0052, or write 395 Woodside Drive, Batavia, OH 45103 or e-mail randy.clark@fuse.net
Mother’s Day is May 12

Memorial Day is May 30 (observed May 27)