

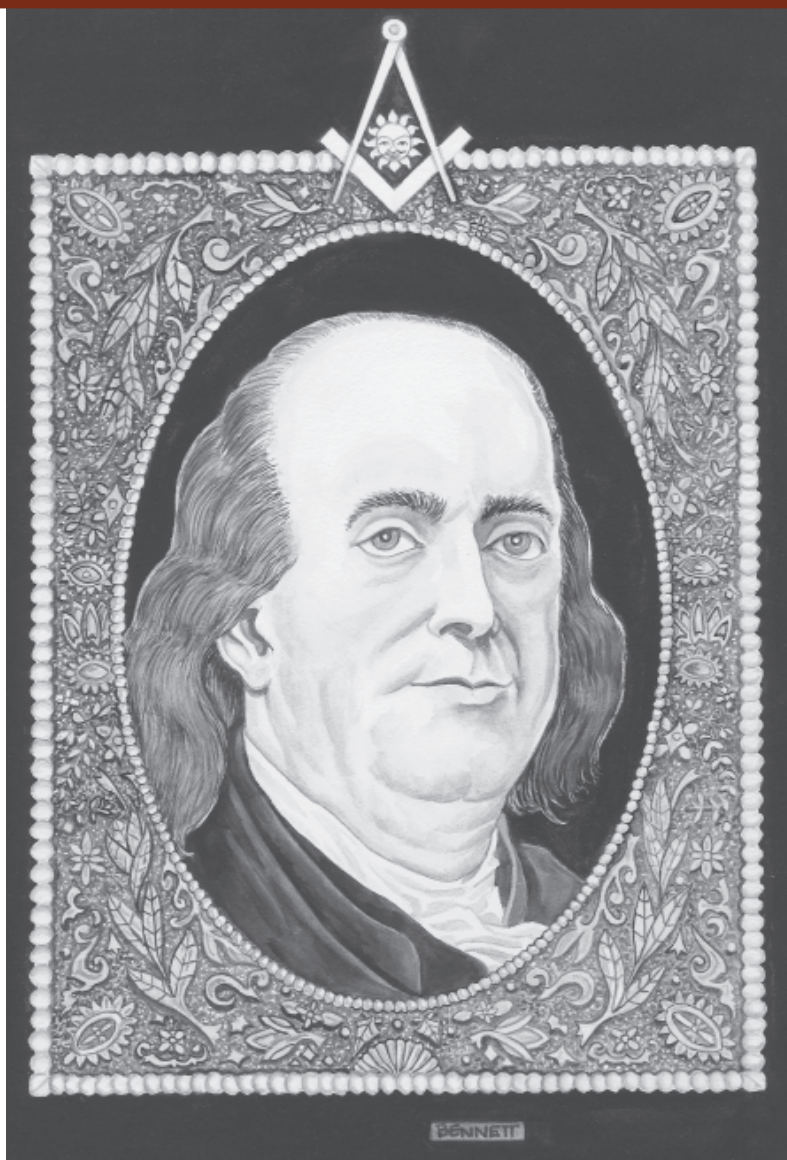


Knight Templar

VOLUME LII

OCTOBER 2006

NUMBER 10



The story of Brother Benjamin Franklin starts on page 21.

Grand Master's Message for October 2006

When most folks think about October, Halloween immediately comes to mind. Certainly it's a holiday that little children love, more for the candy and clever disguises, and the opportunity to frighten their younger siblings than for any other reason.

For us Templars, October invokes memories of the seizing of our Ancient Brethren all over Europe on Friday, October 13, 1307, 699 years ago. We will be commemorating that anniversary in one short year. Many today are apprehensive of "Friday the 13th," but most know little of the origin of the superstition. The ancient Templars have had a profound effect on our modern world that few realize. It further reminds us that Jerusalem and the lands known today as the Middle East have been entwined in turmoil for over 7 centuries.



Templars of today face new and different challenges. Under the category of "Binding up the wounds of the afflicted," our Knights Templar Eye Foundation spent over \$3,500,000 last year doing just that! We spent \$250,000 in prevention and \$600,000 in research. That's certainly an admirable way to seek our best destiny and a record of which we can all be proud!

The 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign under the able direction of Sir Knight Kenneth Bernard Fischer, GCT and our most recent Past Grand Master, has just gotten underway. On behalf of all of your Grand Encampment Officers, I ask that you please give generously that "Others might See." Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. Before the hustle and bustle of the holidays envelop us, take time to make a donation to your Knights Templar Eye Foundation. You'll be glad you did.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard B. Baldwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Richard B. Baldwin
Grand Master, GCT

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Due to current conditions, the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage tours will be discontinued until further notice.

Richard B. Baldwin
Grand Master

Knight Templar

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

OCTOBER: Meet your officers of the Grand Encampment. The biographies of grand line officers continue this month with: Deputy Grand Master, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General; they're on pages 5–8. The 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign starts the first of this month, and we announce it on page 11. Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, junior Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, welcomes us all to the Campaign with an inspiring message on page 12. There's news galore from Commanderies and S.O.O.B. Assemblies, including a biography of the latter's new Supreme Worthy President on page 18. And we're happy to present part 1 of a 2-part story of Brother Benjamin Franklin with original artwork, all by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett.

Contents

Grand Master's Message for October 2006	
Grand Master Richard Burditt Baldwin	2
Sir Knight William Howard Koon II of Ohio	
Elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master .5–6	
David Dixon Goodwin of New York	
Elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo .6–7	
Sid Cornelius Dorris III of Tennessee	
Elected to Grand Line	8
Letters to the Editor	10
Announcing the 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign . .11	
The 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign—	
Message from Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer . .12	
Part I—Ben Franklin: Vetting A Renaissance Man	
Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett	21
<hr/>	
Grand Master's and Grand Commander's Clubs	13
Contributors to 33° and OPC Clubs	13
<hr/>	
October Issue	3
Editor's Journal	4
Recipients of the Grand Encampment Membership Jewel	9
In Memoriam	9
State Supplement or Public Relations (general)	16
On the Masonic Newsfront	18
Knight Voices	30
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Editor's Journal



When you order any of the items below, make check or money order payable to: the Grand Encampment, and send to: Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2402.

● **Contacts for all Masonic organizations** listed in our January 2006 issue should have the form for our next listing in January 2007. Please respond immediately as the magazine goes to the printer about December 12, 2006. If your organization has a new contact, please inform him/her of this. We would rather not leave any organization out!

● **The Order of Malta** is now available on DVDs. Each informative DVD is only \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H (\$18.50). Also, **the Order of Red Cross DVD** is now available at \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H. (\$18.50). Send in your order today!

● **PLACE MATS & NAPKINS:** The place mats have pictures of the Masonic Presidents of the USA, and the napkins have the Cross and Crown emblem. The cost of either one is \$15.00 per 250 in intervals of 250 (ie. 250, 500, etc.—NO exceptions) PLUS S & H — UPS charges vary by location.

● **GREAT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR GIFTS:** Available is the 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. As a set, the two books are \$25.00 plus \$4.00 S & H (\$29.00). Separately, each book is \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S & H (\$18.00).

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 \$2.50 postage—total, \$7.50. 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.

A ***Pilgrim's Path: Freemasonry and the Religious Right:*** This is John J. Robinson's last book, and it is available as a hardbound copy. The book is available for \$15.00 each, plus \$2.50 S & H. ***Born in Blood:*** The exciting book by John J. Robinson is available at the price of \$17.00, including S & H. ***Dungeon, Fire, and Sword:*** This history of the Knights Templar by the late John J. Robinson is available for \$20.00 each, plus \$3.50 S & H (\$23.50).

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 is no limit on orders: \$1.50 each under 100 copies, plus S & H; \$1.00 each over 100 copies, plus S & H.

● **PINS:** Malta pins and red or green widow's pins are \$5.00 each. You may order ANY quantity—even just one.

● **Complimentary for Widows:** Widows of Knights Templar are eligible to continue receiving our magazine as long as they desire. To retain or reinstate the mailing, simply instruct your local Recorder or the Grand Encampment of your wishes.

Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America:

Web Site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>
Office E-mail: letucker@sbcglobal.net

Sir Knight William Howard Koon II of Ohio Elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master

Sir Knight William H. Koon II, Past Grand Commander of Ohio, 1996, and Right Eminent Past Department Commander of the East Central Department of the Grand Encampment, 1997–2000, was elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master at the 63rd Triennial Conclave in Houston, Texas, in August 2006. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo at the 62nd Triennial Conclave August 2003 in St. Louis, Missouri, and elected to the Grand Line of the Grand Encampment as Right Eminent Grand Captain General at the 61st Triennial Conclave in August of 2000 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sir Knight Koon was born in Lima, Ohio, on March 12, 1949 to William H. and Vivian A. Koon. He is a graduate of Bath High School and attended Ohio State University for 3 years in Lima. He and his wife Elizabeth reside less than a mile from the family farm, where he grew up, near Columbus Grove, Ohio. They have a son, William Steven Winebrenner; a daughter, Andrea Leigh Gillespie; a son-in-law, Adam J. Gillespie; and two grandsons, Kade and Silas. Sir Knight Koon is the President of Lord's Enterprises Inc. and Republic Mills Inc., both family agribusinesses involved in farming, grain, and manufacturing. He is involved in many professional and civic organizations, both locally and statewide.

Masonically, Sir Knight Koon is a Senior DeMolay of Fidelity Chapter in Lima and holds the Chevalier, Cross of Honor, Active Legion of Honor, and is a Deputy Member of the Supreme Council of DeMolay International. He was Raised a Master Mason in 1970 in Ada Lodge No. 344 and later demitted to Rufus Putnam Lodge No. 364 in Columbus Grove, where he served 3 years as Worshipful Master. Bill is a plural member of Ft. Amanda Lodge No. 706 in Lima. He is a Past High Priest of Lima Chapter No. 49, R.A.M., and Past Illustrious Master of Lima Council No. 20, R. & S.M. He was Knighted in Shawnee Commandery No. 14 by his father on March 13, 1971, and was elected Eminent Commander in 1980. He has served as their Drill Captain since 1985 and has competed in 7 Triennial Drill Competitions, twice as a Captain. In addition, he is a member and Charter Commander of St. George Commandery No. 76 (Ohio's holding Commandery), Ivanhoe Commandery No. 54, Van Wert, OH; St. Bernard Commandery No. 41, Denver, CO; Blaney Commandery No. 5, Tremont, IL; and Frankfort Commandery No. 4, Frankfort, KY.

Sir Knight Koon was appointed Grand



Sentinel by Sir Knight Frank W. Crane, R.E.G.C., in 1987. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio on September 13, 1996.

Sir Knight Koon has served the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, as co-Chairman of the Committee on Drill Regulations during the 1994–1997 triennium and was a member of the Easter Sunrise Breakfast Committee from 1991–1994. He served 8 years as the personal Aide to Sir Knight Ned E. Dull, M.E.P.G.M. of the Grand Encampment, and has been the Affinity Coordinator for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Mastercard program from 1991–1999. Sir Knight Koon was invested with the rank and dignity of Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment in 1992 and is currently the co-Deputy for the Ohio KCT Program. He was appointed Department Commander of the East Central Department of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA at the 60th Triennial in St. Louis on August 13, 1997. He was elected Right Eminent

Grand Captain General at the 61st Triennial in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 15, 2000, and invested with the Knight Grand Cross of the Temple upon his installation into that office.

Illustrious Brother Koon is a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valleys of Toledo and Dayton, and received the 33° from the Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., in Grand Rapids on September 23, 1997. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Valley of Toledo.

He is a member of numerous appendant organizations, including Zenobia Temple, AAONMS, their Crusader Unit, and Lima Shrine Club; Grove Chapter No. 527, O.E.S.; Lima Shrine No. 20, White Shrine of Jerusalem; Past Sovereign of Buckeye Council No. 92, A.M.D., Charter Member Shawnee Council No. 355, A.M.D., awarded Red Branch of Eri by the Grand Council, A.M.D.; Charter Sovereign and current Recorder of Charlemagne Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine in Lima, OH, dual Member of Holy Grail Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine in Dayton, OH, Honorary Member of St. Leonard Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine in Jackson, MS; Preceptor of Prince of Peace Tabernacle X; Royal Order of Scotland; Charter Chief Adept,

IX° Grade, Ohio College MSRICF, Honorary Member of Illinois College, Wisconsin College, Indiana College and New Jersey College, MSRICF; Centennial College of Denver, CO, and Blackstone College of Findlay, OH, Sovereign York Rite College of North America, Order of the Purple Cross of York; Irish Council, Knight Masons of the USA, Kincora Council, Knight Masons of the USA; Past Grand Tall Cedar of Ohio, Northern Forest No. 188, Tall Cedars of Lebanon; High Twelve International Club No. 590; Pilgrim Priory of St. Thomas of Acon; and Daniel Boone Chapter of National Sojourners.

Sir Knight Koon has served and is in service on a national basis to numerous appendant orders. He is the Grand Tyler of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA; Grand Herald, 1999–2000, and Intendant General at Large, 2002–2003, of the UGIC, Red Cross of Constantine; Grand Seventh Pillar of the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Senior Deputy Supreme Magus of the High Council, MSRICF, and KGC; Grand Chancellor of the Grand College of Rites, and KGC; and Most Eminent Supreme Grand Master of the Royal Society of Knights Occidental, Grand Commander Occidental.

David Dixon Goodwin of New York Elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knight David Dixon Goodwin, Past Grand Commander of New York, 1999, and R.E. Past Department Commander of the Northeastern Department of the Grand Encampment (2000–2003), was elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo at the 63rd Triennial Conclave in Houston, Texas, in August 2006. He was elected to the grand line of the Grand Encampment as Right Eminent Grand Captain General at the 62nd Triennial Conclave, August 2003, in St. Louis Missouri.

Sir Knight David Dixon Goodwin was born on August 15, 1949, in Johnson City, New York, to the late Mary Isabel and John Walter Goodwin. He was raised in Binghamton, New York, and confirmed in Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church. He attended the Binghamton Public Schools and graduated from Binghamton Central High School in 1967. He attended Broome Community College and graduated from Union University, Albany (NY) College of Pharmacy in 1972 with a B.S. in Pharmacy.



He was employed by CVS Pharmacy in several locations and was the owner of four retail pharmacies in the Binghamton area from 1977–1988. He has been employed as a pharmacist at Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, NY, since 1988. His memberships have included local, state, and national pharmaceutical societies as well as health related community organizations and the Endicott Rotary Club.

Sir Knight Goodwin married Marci Lynn Sternberg on July 15, 1979. They have two daughters; Jennifer and Samantha. They currently reside in Vestal, New York.

Sir Knight Goodwin was Raised a Master Mason in Binghamton Lodge No. 177, F. & A.M., Binghamton, NY, in September of 1977. He served through the line and was elected Master in 1982. The following year he was elected Secretary, a position he held until 1999. He was named Mason of the Year by his Lodge in 1988. He has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Broome-Chenango District Masters Council, District Masonic Brotherhood Fund Chairman, and as a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Related Organizations. He has served as a director of the Masonic Youth Foundation of New York and was commissioned as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Austria near the Grand Lodge of New York in September of 2000 by the Most Worshipful Carl J. Smith, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

He is a member of Binghamton Chapter No. 139, Royal Arch Masons, having served as High Priest and as Secretary for several years. He served the Grand Chapter of New York as an Assistant Grand Lecturer, District Deputy Grand High Priest, and Custodian of the Work. He is a member of Binghamton Council No. 24, Cryptic Masons, where he served as Illustrious Master and as Treasurer. He is a member of St. George Council, Order of Anointed Kings of New York, where he

served as Thrice Illustrious Master. He holds a commission from the Grand Council of Delaware as their Grand Representative near the Grand Council of New York.

He was Knighted in Malta Commandery No. 21, Knights Templar, stationed at Binghamton, where he served as Commander in 1988 and served as Recorder. He was Captain of the Zone Drill Team for ten years. He is a member of the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor.

He served the Grand Commandery of New York as a Zone Commander, Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky near New York, and was elected Grand Warder in 1991. He served through the line and was elected and installed as the 149th Grand Commander at the 186th Annual Conclave at Suffern, New York, on September 18, 1999. Sir Knight James Morris Ward, then Most Eminent Grand Master, awarded him the rank and dignity of Knight Commander of the Temple in 1998 for his service to Templary.

Sir Knight Goodwin was a Charter Member of the Southern Tier York Rite College No. 126 and served as Governor. He was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross in 1993. He holds memberships in the Otseningo Bodies, Valley of Binghamton, A.A.S.R., N.M.J.; Christian Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, elected Sovereign; Crusade Priory No. 57, KYCH, holds KYGCH, 1 quadrant; Gen. Henry Knox Council No. 139, A.M.D., Master, Red Branch of Eri; Charles Smith Council No. 324, A.M.D.; Royal Order of Scotland; Star of Bethlehem Tabernacle, HRAKTP; Long Island College, SRICF; Kalurah Temple, AAONMS; Aahmes Grotto, MOVPER; Lafayette Chapter No. 340, O.E.S. He is also been a Daddy of Endicott Triangle No. 43, Organization of Triangles, Inc., a Masonic youth group for girls in New York. He holds honorary memberships in several Commanderies, Grand Commanderies, and York Rite grand bodies.

Sid Cornelius Dorris III of Tennessee Elected to Grand Line

Sir Knight Sid Cornelius Dorris III, Past Grand Commander of Tennessee, 1994, and R.E. Past Department Commander of the Southeastern Department of the Grand Encampment (2003–2006), was elected to the grand line of the Grand Encampment as Right Eminent Grand Captain General at the 63rd Triennial Conclave, August 2006, in Houston, Texas.

Sid Cornelius Dorris III was born November 3, 1947, in Nashville, Tennessee. He was educated in the public schools of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, and graduated from the School of Modern Photography in 1968.

He served in the United States Army Reserves from 1966–1973 as a PIO Photographer. He has been employed by the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee, since 1965 and has been the Photography Manager for the past twenty-six years.

Sir Knight Dorris is a member of the Hermitage United Methodist Church.

He married Sherry L. Damron in 1970, and they have one child, Chad Brandon Dorris (Tia).

His Masonic affiliations are: Raised in McWhirtersville Lodge No. 375, 1974, serving as Worshipful Master in 1985 and presently serving as a Trustee; served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., of Tennessee on the Appeals and Grievances Committee and as the Grand Photographer from 1976–2002. He presently serving as Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., of Tennessee. He is a member of the East, Middle, and West Tennessee Past Masters Associations, Past President of the Middle Tennessee Association. Exalted in Donelson Chapter No. 234, 1975, he served as High Priest, 1985, 2001, and received the Order of High Priesthood, 1986; Greeted in Nashville Council No. 1, 1975, served as Illustrious Master, 1986, and received the Order of the Silver Trowel, 1987. He was Knighted in Nashville Commandery No. 1, 1975, served as Commander in 1986, present Trustee, and received the Knights Crusader of the Cross, 1988. He is a Past Knights Crusader of the East, and Past Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Tennessee, 1994; Aide De Camp, 1997–2000, for the Grand Master, Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA; and Public Relations Committee, Co-chairman of the 61st Triennial Conclave held in Nashville, Tennessee, during August 2000.



He served on the Public Relations Committee, 2000–2003, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar USA.

He was Knighted KYCH in 1987, Tennessee Priory No. 15, KYGCH, 1994, and served as Orator. He is a member of Tralee Council No. 41, Knight Masons; Old Hickory Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Puissant Sovereign, 1997; TN College Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis, Past Celebrant and Secretary; Middle Tennessee York Rite College No. 143, Governor, 1992, holder of the Order of the Purple Cross; Arch E. McClanahan Council 358, Allied Masonic Degrees, Sovereign Master; member of Holy Tabernacle No. XLVIII, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; member of the Valley of Nashville, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, received KCCH in 1991, and was coronated as Inspector General Honorary of the 33° in 2003; member of the Royal Order of Scotland; member of Buchanan Chapter No. 286, Order of the Eastern Star; member of Al Menah Shrine Temple.

He was appointed Right Eminent Southeastern Department Commander—2003–2006, Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA, by Most Eminent Grand Master, Kenneth B. Fischer, at the 62nd Triennial Conclave, August 15–20, 2003, in St. Louis, Missouri.

RECIPIENTS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT MEMBERSHIP JEWEL

537. Calvin Rex Woodard, Crusader Commandery No. 21, Minden, LA. 1-13-2003.
538. Richard D. Hall, Cincinnati Commandery No. 3, Cincinnati, OH. 5-31-2004.
539. Thomas W. Harper, Trinity Commandery No. 62, Indianapolis, IN. 7-31-2005.
540. Gerald F. Baker, Coronal-Ascalon Commandery No. 31, Denver, CO. 8-11-2005.
541. Malin Gene Terrell, McKinney Commandery No. 34, McKinney, TX. 10-20-2005.
542. Leland Aubrey Haynes, Chester Commandery No. 7, Chester, SC. 12-15-2005.
543. Thomas James Allen, St. Omer Commandery No. 15, Burlington, IA. 12-21-2005.
544. Robert B. Maynard, Trinity Commandery No. 17, Westfield, NJ. 1-16-2006.
545. Richard A. Hammill, Trinity Commandery No. 17, Westfield, NJ. 1-16-2006.
546. John J. Corrigan, Trinity Commandery No. 17, Westfield, NJ. 1-16-2006.
547. John E. Rosique, Payen Commandery No. 16, Lafayette, LA. 2-6-2006.
548. Royce H. Taylor, Damascus Commandery No. 8, Pine Bluff, AR. 2-20-2006.
549. Ronnie Skipper, Jefferson Commandery No. 52, Louisville, KY. 2-22-2006.
550. Michael R. Pursey, Malta Commandery No. 18, Bremerton, WA. 3-14-2006.
551. Raymond Taylor, Hamilton Commandery No. 41, Hamilton, OH. 3-27-2006.
552. Joel Canterbury, Columbia Commandery No. 14, Wenatchee, WA. 3-1-2006.
553. Melvin E. Sickels, Zerubbabel Commandery No. 68, Albion, IA. 3-30-2006.
554. Kevin E. Weaver, Ascalon Commandery No. 16, St. Louis, MO. 4-21-2006. (bronze cluster)
555. Louis F. Bandell, Jr., Crusade Commandery No. 5, Upper Falls, MD. 4-21-2006.
556. Emmett West Mills, Jr., Detroit Commandery No. 1, Detroit, MI. 5-1-2006. (jewel and 1 bronze cluster)
557. John R. Hartsock, Willis Commandery No. 82, London, OH. 5-31-2006.
558. Paul E. Wunsche, Melrose Commandery No. 109, Houston, TX. 6-9-2006. (2 bronze clusters)
559. Joseph Weldon Clampitt, Jr., Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Houston, TX. 6-12-2006.
560. Johnathan E. Barnes, St. Bernard Commandery No. 35, Chicago, IL. 6-21-2006. (jewel and 1 bronze cluster)
561. Travis Marcelle Holley, Monroe Commandery No. 7, Monroe, LA. 7-24-2006.



IN MEMORIAM



George Benge Yeates
Virginia
Grand Commander—1983
Born: August 22, 1918
Died: August 5, 2006

Guy Robbins Greene
District of Columbia
Grand Commander—1985
Born: September 28, 1921
Died: August 12, 2006

Letters to the Editor...

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation—A Success! (August 2006, page 12)

In my article on the KTEF, the editor erred in inserting the name of the small city of Rhinebeck, New York, as the site of a convention of some few thousand attendees. The correct site of the XLVI Conclave in 1955 was New York City, New York.

Sir Knight Willard M. Avery
M.E. Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment

The Holy Grail and the Shroud of Turin—Part I (May 2006, page 24)

In a recent issue of the *Knight Templar*, an article appeared in which the Shroud of Turin was extolled as a significant Christian icon. The Shroud of Turin has been totally discredited by extensive scientific studies and investigation by eminent Christian theologians. I fail to understand why such misinformation should be spread throughout our great organization and why this organization would support the promulgation of such mythology. The so-called Shroud was not even manufactured until over 1,000 years after the death of Christ.

I wrote to an eminent theologian, who happens to be a longtime friend and who also was on one of the committees investigating this so-called relic, and I am enclosing a copy of Dr. Wright's personal communication to me. Several years ago I heard him speak about the Shroud at which time he believed it might possibly be authentic. Later research has convinced, not only Dr. Wright, but most theologians that it is spurious. I hope that you will publish, in a prominent place in a forthcoming issue, a correction. Our Noble Organization should not support beliefs, based on faith alone, which have been thoroughly discredited by meticulous scientific investigation. Such beliefs are illogical, unreasonable, untenable, and destructive, in that they will cause dissension, argument, and divisiveness in any organization in which they are promulgated.

Daniel H. Cannon, M.D.
1103 East Elm Street
New Albany, Indiana 47150-3057

Letter to Daniel H. Cannon, M.D., from The Reverend Canon J. Robert Wright, D.Phil. (Oxon.), D.D., Dr. Theol., D.Cn.L., F.R.Hist.S.

***St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery Professor of Ecclesiastical History
The General Theological Seminary, New York, New York***

To your question about the Shroud of Turin. No, I put aside my enthusiasm and optimism for the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin many years ago when the carbon-14 dating tests indicated that the probability of authenticity is very low to non-existent. The following is my own summary of those results, taken from my current illustrated lecture notes on the "Face of Jesus in Early Christian Art," in which, ever since that time, I now devote only one slide to Turin. My own view is that no matter how wishful might be one's thoughts, theology must always bow to scientific history in a matter like this. "The face, seen as a positive impression on negative. It is 95% certain that the shroud originated sometime between 1260-1390, and 99.9% certain that it dates from c. 1000-1500 A.D."

For Sale: Memorabilia from the 63rd Triennial Conclave

We have extra belt buckles and lamps from the 63rd Triennial Conclave. The buckles are western style; they were sold during the past three years. We will mail them to you for \$30 each, postage paid.

The lamps are the Lone Star style lamp and were the gift at the banquet. They are \$25 each, postage paid.

Send your orders to: Attn: K. B. Fischer, 63rd Triennial, P.O. Box 263430, Houston, TX 77207-3430.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1000 East State Parkway, Suite I
Schaumburg, IL 60173-2460
Phone: (847) 490-3838
Fax: (847) 490-3777

Announcing the 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign October 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN
ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED AT:**

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION, INC.
1000 E. STATE PARKWAY, SUITE I
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-2460

The 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign— It's Still the Golden Anniversary of the KTEF!

A Message from Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer, GCT

**Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Past President of the
Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and Trustee of the Board of the KTEF**

This officially kicks off the 39th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. We are still in the Golden Anniversary year of the KTEF!

As President of the KTEF until August 16 of this year, I had many opportunities to witness firsthand the great work which we accomplish in the Eye Foundation. The surgery, the research grant program, the EyeCare America program with the American Academy of Ophthalmology—all should make us very proud of what we have accomplished in the past 50 years.



It is good to reflect upon the past and be proud of our accomplishments, but there is much more to be accomplished. During the 63rd Triennial a per capita dues increase was passed, which was long overdue. That is never easy, but the good side of that coin is that the fund-raising which had previously been done to support the Grand Encampment's programs can now be directed to help raise funds for the Eye Foundation. During the meeting of the KTEF, Inc., I reported that the Board of Trustees had made several changes in the way we worked as a board and that several new initiatives were in the works and these should help to "grow" the Eye Foundation.

What do we mean by that? For the past 10 to 12 years, because of stock market fluctuations and because we were funding a very large number of cases, we were not gaining as much in value for the Eye Foundation as the Board of Trustees would have liked. We now know what it will take to keep expenditures in line and have several new ideas about "growing" the charity. Your assistance in raising funds and telling our story to outside sources of funds is needed now more than ever before. A declining membership base requires that we depend more and more on outside sources of money to assist us in the great work.

One story, which I intended to tell the Sir Knights in August and did not because of the press of time, concerned a long time supporter of the KTEF, Howard Newton. Howard was around at the time of the founding of the Eye Foundation and became a good friend of General DeLamater. He recalled many stories about their conversations with much pride and was inspired to give and to get others to give to the Eye Foundation. Most notably, an uncle who was a very successful oil man from Louisiana was

persuaded by Howard to create a trust fund, which has produced a nice sum of money for the KTEF each year for as long as I can remember.

Howard also had a prized possession, which he later gave to me. It was his KTEF Life Sponsor's card—just a small piece of paper, but he prized that more than any award which we, the Eye Foundation, ever gave to him. It bears the signatures of every Grand Master who has presided during the past 50 years, including that of Walter DeLamater.

I was truly touched when he gave the card to me a few years ago, just before his death. If we had 145,000 Howard Newtons around, we might even rival the Shrine Hospitals in net worth.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Kenneth B. Fischer

Past Grand Master and Past President

Sir Knight Kenneth B. Fischer resides at 5138 Shady Oaks, Friendswood, TX 77546.

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

No. 4,871—William G. Ellis (FL)

No. 4,872—H. F. Gilbertson (NV)

No. 4,873—Carl E. Starkey (TX)

No. 4,874—Daniel E. Shepardson (MA/RI)

No. 4,875—Richard T. Smith (MA/RI)

No. 4,876—Robert A. Lindquist (MA/RI)

No. 4,877—John W. Rosenberg (CA)

Grand Commander's Club

No. 102,422—Charles E. Campbell (TX)

No. 102,423—David E. Christian (OH)

No. 102,424—Dale L. Pieart (IA)

No. 102,425—Ernest Castillo (CA)

Contributor to the 33° Club

Dean F. Smith, Jr. (AZ), 33°

in honor of Noel W. Willis, 33°

Contributors to the OPC Club

William J. Giles, Jr. (TX)

William J. Giles, Jr. (TX)

Richard A. Lochner (AR)

Carl E. Starkey (TX)

one each in honor of the following:

David Anderson

Kenneth B. Fischer

John Elkinton

Tom Snedecor

Alfred Bell

Ramond Brietzke

Sonny Caldwell

Bob Campbell

Rufus Conner

Gerald Cook

Harry Cunningham

Dock Dixon, Jr.

Robert Foreman, Jr.

William J. Giles, Jr.

Dozier Gossett

Floyd Harrison, Jr.

George Melot

Charles Modesitt

John Oglesby

Ronald Price

Richard Sandford

Clarence Trent

Charles Wolfe

Johnny Young

Michael Shipler

Dean F. Smith, Jr. (AZ)

in honor of Noel W. Willis

KTEF AWARDS \$90,000 IN RESEARCH GRANTS TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO



Above, left to right: Dan R. McDaniel, P.G.C.; Charles Waterman, G.C. of CA; Dr. Juliette Johnson; and W. Bruce Pruitt, KTEF Trustee, P.G.C., and P.D.C.

year was no exception. On July 26, Sir Knight Charles Waterman, Grand Commander of California, accompanied by Past Grand Commanders Dan R. McDaniel and W. Bruce Pruitt, (P.D.C. and a Trustee of the Eye Foundation) traveled to that location to present two \$30,000 awards to post-doctoral researchers. The recipients were Dr. Clifton L. Dalgard, Ph.D, and Dr. Juliette Johnson, Ph.D. The Sir Knights were greeted in their small conference room with refreshments and soft drinks. After the past several years, those visits have become a matter of habit and are greatly enjoyed by all parties. The recipients were accompanied by their full research teams and some senior advisors. The Department Manager also came in to thank the Knights Templar for their continued and significant support.



Above, left to right: Dan R. McDaniel, P.G.C.; Charles Waterman, G.C. of CA; Dr. Clifton L. Dalgard; and W. Bruce Pruitt, KTEF Trustee, P.G.C., and P.D.C.



Above, left to right: Dan R. McDaniel, P.G.C.; Dr. Sarah L. Tao; Charles Waterman, G.C. of CA; and W. Bruce Pruitt, Trustee of KTEF, P.D.C., and P.G.C.

is in the process of establishing one of the most precise clean rooms in the country. It may well be that this second campus will be the site of many other grants in the future.

It goes without saying that the support provided by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is greatly appreciated by all of the scientists involved at the University of California. (submitted by Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, KTEF Trustee and P.D.C., Southwestern)

The University of California has two campuses in the city of San Francisco. One of them includes a clinic and research facility fully dedicated to ophthalmology and research on diseases of the eyes. The scientists at that facility very often submit award-winning proposals to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This

There is a second campus of U.C. San Francisco in that city, and this year a \$30,000 award was presented at that location for the first time to Dr. Sarah L. Tao, Ph.D. Dr. Tao's field is Engineering, and she is conducting research in nano-engineering, related to stem cells and their influence on the development of the eyes. The facility in which she works is only one year old, with the most modern equipment, and



\$6,688 Check to Knights Templar Eye Foundation from Manchester Commandery No. 40 of Hillsboro, Tennessee

Once again Manchester Commandery No. 40, Hillsboro, Tennessee, presented a monumental check at the 145th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar

of Tennessee. For the third year in a row Manchester Commandery No. 40 presented a check for \$6,000 or more. This Commandery presented a check of \$6,000 as their donation to the 36th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in 2004. The Commandery exceeded this donation with a \$6,500 donation to the 37th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the KTEF. This year at the 145th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, Manchester Commandery No. 40 presented a donation of \$6,688 for the 38th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the KTEF. Perhaps the Knights Templar Eye Foundation should establish a \$6,000 Club.

The photo was taken at the 145th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, on May 7, 2006. The Sir Knights in the picture are: (left to right) Dale E. Loudemilk, P.C., KYCH; then R.E. Grand Commander Everett Eugene Young, KYGCH; Thomas Dale Bowne, P.C., K.T. Eye Foundation Chairman for Tennessee; and E. Recorder Harold Scott, KYGCH (in background).

Once again, the primary source of this year's donation was from the sale of a late 1800s Knight Templar Apron lapel pin. In addition to the late 1800s Knight Templar Apron lapel pin, they have for sale the Mediterranean Pass, Knight Crusader of the Cross, Knight Commander, Malta, and Knights Templar/Blue Lodge lapel pins. All profits from the lapel pins go to the KTEF. Through the efforts of Sir Knights Dale E. Loudemilk, KYCH; Garry L. Carter, P.C., Recorder; and several other Sir Knights, the sales of the lapel pins have propelled this small Commandery to be one of the top contributors to the KTEF. Sales of the lapel pins have been to Sir Knights in all of the 50 states and the Virgin Islands. The Commandery is quite proud of the fact that the donation to the 38th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation exceeded the donation in 2005 and wishes to extend a debt of gratitude to the *Knight Templar* magazine staff for their help and continuous support in advertising these pins.

The Commandery wishes to let everyone know that the (left to right) late 1800s Knight Templar Apron, Mediterranean Pass, Knight Crusader of the Cross, Knight Commander, Malta, and Knights Templar/Blue Lodge lapel pins are still available for \$6.00 each, postage included. Send check or money order payable to Manchester Commandery No. 40, c/o Garry L. Carter, P.C., Recorder; 424 Winchester Highway, Hillsboro, TN 37342. All six lapel pins can be viewed on the website: www.YorkriteUSA.org.



(submitted by Sir Knight Joseph Warshawsky, P.C., Chairman Public Relations Committee, Grand Commandery of Tennessee)

WORTHY TO BE FREE

by

Dr. Harold Blake Walker

Evanston Commandery No. 58, Chicago, Illinois

The authors of the Constitution of the United States were realistic and practical men who viewed human nature with healthy skepticism as they labored on their historic document. James Bryce noted that the Constitution “is the work of men who believed in original sin and were resolved to leave open for transgressors no door which they could possibly shut.”

John Calvin would have approved the Constitution. He had no illusions concerning the nature of man, the fallen creature who needed to be saved from himself. As Bryce suggested, “The aim of the Constitution seems to be not so much to attain great common ends by securing good government as to avert the evils which will flow not merely from a bad government but from any government strong enough to threaten existing communities and individual citizens.”

The idea of centralized power disturbed Madison and his colleagues, even though they understood the necessity for a government strong enough to govern. Essentially, they mistrusted men who might be elected to positions of power or who, by virtue of wealth or influence, might be able to subvert the government.

Thomas Paine, unjustly described by Theodore Roosevelt as “a dirty little atheist,” was a thoroughgoing Calvinist when he wrote, “Society is the fruit of our virtues, but government is the product of our wickedness.” He understood that a government strong enough to deal with the wickedness of men was necessary.

History has justified the fears of the authors of the Constitution that corruptible human nature corrupts government. The checks and balances they wrote into their document were designed to guard the nation against the ambitions of the unscrupulous. They balanced their idealism with honest realism about human nature.

The checks and balances prescribed by the Constitution frequently make government difficult. When Congress and the President are at odds and the Supreme Court disposed at one time to be liberal and at other times conservative, the government appears devoid of power to act. Nevertheless, as Winston Churchill noted, “Democracy is the worst form of government ever invented—except for every other.”

What stands clear now as in the early days of the nation’s history is the need for incorruptible men and women in every area of our common

life. Democracy always is threatened by the corrupt and dishonest. It is saved by men and women who cannot be bought or coerced. Its strength is in a consensus of worthy ideals and values in the body politic.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was haunted by a lack of commitment to ideals and values and a "hollowness of heart" in those who shared the nation he knew and loved. "Genuine belief has left us," he lamented. "The underlying principles of the states are not honestly believed in. The depravity of the business classes of our country is not less than has been supposed but infinitely greater."

The question posed by Arnold Toynbee is worth pondering: "Suppose that in the next generation the ablest minds and most perceptive spirits were to come to the conclusion of Socrates that the most urgent business on mankind's agenda is to close the morality gap?" Closing that gap is certainly the most urgent business on our agenda.

Emerson was aware, as was Reinhold Niebuhr, that "only religion can create the unpurchasable man." Both insisted that only a firm faith in God can enable men and women to manage their freedom with dignity and integrity. Nothing less than high faith can nourish honesty and integrity, justice and righteousness. Essentially, we are what we believe.

Although the authors of the Constitution provided safeguards to protect us against the unscrupulous, they could not make us fit to bear the burdens of our own freedom. Nothing less than reverent faith in God can do that.

"I have heard it asserted by some, that as America has flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, the same connection is necessary towards her future happiness...I answer roundly that America would have flourished as much, and probably much more, had no European power taken any notice of her. The commerce by which she hath enriched herself are the necessities of life and will always have a market while eating is the custom of Europe.

"Britain is the parent country, say some...Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new world hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from *every part of Europe*. Hither have they fled, not from the tender embraces of the mother, but from the cruelty of the monster; and it is so far true of England, that the same tyranny which drove the first emigrants from home pursues their descendants still...

"O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose not only the tyranny but the tyrant, stand forth! Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been hunted round the globe. Asia and Africa have long expelled her. Europe regards her like a stranger, and England hath given her warning to depart. O receive the fugitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind!"

from Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*

On the Masonic Newsfront

Sir Knight Philip A. Tilson Installed as National President of the National Sojourners, Inc.

Sir Knight and Worshipful Brother Philip A Tilson was installed in June 2006 as the National President at the 86th Annual Convention of National Sojourners, Inc., which was held in Austin, Texas.

Sir Knight Tilson joined National Sojourners in Carlisle Chapter No. 130 in 1965. He served as Chapter President of Dayton Chapter No. 67. He is serving as a Director of Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism.

He was Raised a Master Mason in 1960 in Anchor Lodge No. 149, New Jersey. He is a member of Frank P. Moncure Lodge No. 279, Virginia. He is a Past Master, Past District Deputy Grand Master, Past High Priest, Regional Deputy Grand Monarch of the Grotto, Past Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Maryland, and Most Illustrious Past Grand Master, R. & S. Masons of Maryland. He is a member of the Scottish Rite, Knight Masons of Ireland, Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, Knights York Cross of Honour, HRAKTP, Gordian Knot, and Kena Shrine Temple. He served as President of the Temple Corporation, Director of the Shepherds, and President of the Kena Kampers. He is a 4° of the Knights of Columbus and a recipient of the Purple Cross, York Rite College.

Sir Knight Tilson is a retired Colonel from the United States Air Force, having flown over 150 combat missions. His military awards include GCM, BS, JSCM, MSM, DFC (201), AM (301), VCG (withPalm), and LofM (201). He holds two BS degrees, two Master degrees, and has a Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology.



S.O.O.B. Installs (Mrs. David E.) Sonja L. Alcon Supreme Worthy President

The Eighty-Sixth Annual Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant ended Friday, September 29, 2006, with the installation of officers. (Mrs. David E.) Sonja L. Alcon is now the Supreme Worthy President. Supreme Assembly this year was in Columbus, Ohio, at The Columbus, a Renaissance Hotel.

Mrs. Alcon, a member of Westminster Assembly No. 245, Maryland, since 1994, is the wife of Sir Knight David E. Alcon, R.E. Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who is a member of Bethel Commandery No. 98, Hanover, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Alcon was active in helping to organize Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265, PA, and was the Charter President of this, her dual Assembly, which was constituted in 2000.



The Alcon's children; "Rusty" Ryan, Cheryl Dherit, and LTC Kurt Ryan; live with their spouses and children in PA, SC, and NC respectively. There are three granddaughters and three grandsons.

Mrs. Alcon has been active Masonically for 25 years. She served as Worthy Matron in her Eastern Star Chapter in 1985–1986. She is due to receive her 25-year pin in December. She is a Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary of her husband's Commandery. She was Royal Matron twice and Royal Patron twice in the Order of the Amaranth. She continued to hold offices every year through this past spring. She has had several Grand Court appointments, and her husband is a Past Supreme Royal Patron. They have traveled all over the world, individually and with Masonic groups.

In the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Mrs. Alcon has been both a Worthy High Priestess and a Watchman of Shepherds, and she was Supreme Worthy Herald in 1999–2000. She has served Supreme Shrine in many capacities/appointments over the years. Mrs. Alcon is also a member of the Daughters of the Nile.

In 1959 Mrs. Alcon graduated from Western Maryland College with a BA in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. She received her Master of Social Work in 1973 from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and Community Planning and passed the Certification exams of the Academy of Certified Social Workers in 1975. In 1996 Mrs. Alcon retired after 30 and 1/4 years as the founder and director of the Social Work Department at Hanover Hospital. She was also a consultant at several area health care facilities. She worked for two years at a state hospital in Maryland before her children were born. She was on the boards of directors of several Hanover community agencies, and in addition to being the founder of the department for which she was director, she also initiated or founded a Compassionate Friends Chapter, a Make Today Count Chapter, a Children's Cardiac Surgery Fund, and several support groups.

As a member of All Saint's Episcopal Church for the past 44 years, Mrs. Alcon has served in many capacities including Vestry person, delegate to Dioscean Convention, soloist, lay reader, Altar Guild member, ECW Secretary, Search Committee, etc.

Although she has received several honors in her lifetime, Mrs. Alcon is proud to have been an honoree in several anthologies such as *Who's Who in American Women*, *Who's Who in the East*, and *Who's Who Among Human Service Professionals*. Most valued by her, however, is being a holder of the Companion of the Temple award bestowed on her in 1999 by the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Mrs. Alcon's itinerary, which will take her across the entire width and breadth of the United States as she visits 103 Assemblies in thirty-two states, began with her first official visit to Columbus Assembly No. 79 on Saturday, September 30. Many members stayed over for this event and gave Mrs. Alcon a wonderful and memorable send off for her term.

"IMPORTANT NOTICE

"The Social Order of the Beauceant does not solicit donations from Knights Templar or any other Masonic body for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Any member or person claiming to represent the S.O.O.B. is not authorized to request donations. Families and friends are invited and encouraged to attend our fund-raisers (a portion or all of the profit may go to the KTEF); however, our efforts are a complement to the Knights Templar charitable contributions, and it is not our intention to take the place of their generosity."

News from the Social Order of the Beauceant

Official Visit of S.W.P. Mrs. Edwards to St. Louis Assembly No. 29



The Supreme Worthy President, Mrs. Jack L. Edwards, visited St. Louis Assembly No. 29 at Farmington Masonic Center in Farmington, Missouri. The official visit was preceded by a carry-in dinner and included all Sir Knights of DeSoto Commandery No. 56. Pictured left to right, front: Ms. Mary LaTragna, Asst. Marshal; Mrs. W. Ivan McCutcheon, Chaplain; Mrs. Lee Francis, Director of Music; S.W.P. Mrs. Jack L. Edwards; Mrs. Frank

LaTragna, Worthy President of No. 29; Mrs. E. Ed Brown, Supreme Inner Guard; Mrs. Gary Sutterfield, 2nd V.P.; Mrs. Stanley Dugan, Preceptress; and Ms. Marisa Richardson, Asst. Marshal; back row: Mrs. LeRoy Unruh, Recorder; Mrs. James Woodfin, Color Bearer; Mrs. James E. Snively, Oracle; Mrs. Roy A. Welshon, Sr., 1st V.P. and Mrs. Harold J. Richardson, Treasurer.

Installation of St. Louis No. 29

Installation of officers took place at Farmington Masonic Center, Farmington, Missouri. Left to right: Mrs. Lee Francis, Director of Music; Mrs. W. Ivan McCutcheon, Chaplain; Mrs. Harry C. Reed, Jr., Mistress of Wardrobe; Mrs. James Woodfin, Color Bearer; Mrs. James E. Snively, Oracle; Mrs. Frank LaTragna, W.P.; Mrs. Roy A. Welchon, Sr., 1st V.P.; Mrs. Stanley Dugan, Preceptress; Mrs. LeRoy Unruh, Recorder; Mrs. Gary Sutterfield, 2nd



V.P.; Ms. Marisa Richardson, Asst. Marshal; Mrs. Harold Richardson, Treasurer. Not pictured: Mrs. Lyle Bryant, Inner Guard, and Ms. Mary LaTragna, Marshal.

Santa Ana Assembly No. 61, CA Reciprocity and Reception for Mrs. James Burkett, area 2 KTEF



1st row: Mrs. W. Chant, P.S.W.P.; Mrs. C. Maier, Mrs. J. Burkett, Mrs. R. Ross, President; Mrs. H. Ryder, Mrs. M. Baker, P.S.W.P.; Mrs. R. Bollin, Mrs. M. Barker; 2nd row: Mrs. T. Matis, Mrs. M. Severson, Mrs. T. Derby; Mrs. R. Gannaway; Mrs. J. Jansen; Mrs. C. Kelley; Mrs. R. Haber; Mrs. R. Coemrs; J. Sunseri; Mrs. M. Kaplanian; Mrs. R. Beck; Mrs. A. Cowan.

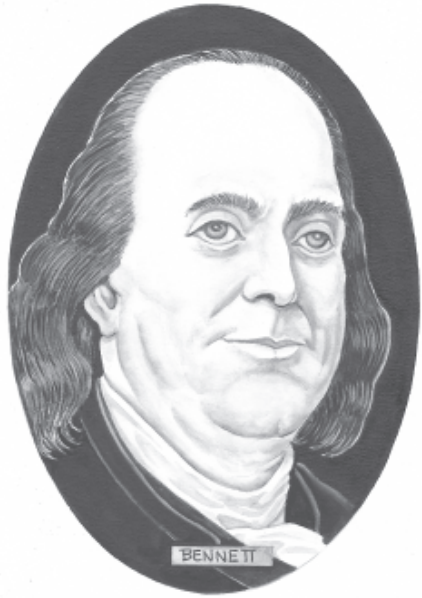
Part I—Ben Franklin: Vetting A Renaissance Man

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

One of the most popular spectator sports in America is the process the media refers to as “vetting” a candidate for a high political appointment. It is a carnival of crucifixion, usually conducted on television, during which the victim is subjected to a scurrilous barrage of questions from a committee of senatorial interrogators. It is a vicious inquisition in which every facet of his life is questioned, exposed, and condemned; whether relevant or not to his qualifications for the position for which he has been proposed.

It is a humiliating and degrading experience for the person being “investigated” and a process which often denies this nation the services of some of its most brilliant and able citizens. Legions of truly qualified men and women simply refuse to be subjected to the procedure. Many more are hounded into withdrawing from consideration to escape the abusive satraps who sit in judgment of the appointee. Virtually none of the interrogators could survive the vetting indignity they impose on a candidate. It is a most disgraceful form of judgmental abuse, and it poses a titillating question: Could all of our revered Founding Fathers have survived this devastating procedure? The names of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin come to mind. Today, would they survive a congressional investigation for a cabinet-level appointment?

Ben Franklin, for example, might not have survived the process of senatorial confirmation, if his private life became a factor. We are all aware of the highlights of his historic accomplishments, but his personal history is less familiar. It may be worthwhile to recount some of the



Benjamin Franklin

Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett

events of his Bohemian lifestyle and decide if those might disqualify him from high public office. He was one of the most exalted of our “Founding Fathers,” and without his gigantic contribution, the United States of America might not have become a reality. You decide if his personal life should have barred Franklin from high office.

Benjamin Franklin was the 15th of 17 children sired by Josiah Franklin, an English textile dyer who immigrated to the Massachusetts colony from England in 1683. Josiah established a candle and soap making venture on Milk Street, opposite Boston’s Old South Church, where Ben was born on January 17, 1706.

Josiah Franklin was a Puritan who imposed the most stringent interpretation of his religious philosophy upon his family. By the time young Ben reached the age of eight years, he was enrolled in the Boston Latin School, to prepare for a career in the clergy. The youngster quickly established himself as a gifted student, but it was a short-lived experi-

ment. Josiah withdrew Ben from the school at the end of the first year, convinced that the boy was insufficiently pious for the pulpit.

His father enrolled Ben in the George Brownell School for the following term, so he might master writing skills and mathematics. Ben was an insatiable reader, devouring every book he could lay his hands upon, including every item in Josiah's modest but eclectic library. After two years at Brownell, Ben's formal education ended, and he was pressed into service at his father's candle shop. His youthful ambition was not the tedious and monotonous work of making candles. Ben yearned to follow the sea, like one of his older brothers. Josiah forbade it.

Ben spent all his idle hours on the docks, where he became an expert swimmer and the involuntary leader of the neighborhood youngsters. As a boy, he also began to exhibit the talents of an inventor by developing paddles for his hands and feet, an early version of scuba diving gear. In another spurt of creative zeal, Ben learned to propel himself in the water while floating on his back, holding a kite. By 1718 Josiah was convinced Ben would never embrace the candle and soap making trade. He bound the 12-year-old as an apprentice printer to James Franklin, an older son. James operated his own print shop in Boston, and Ben was committed to the apprenticeship until age 21.

The young apprentice found his niche in the world when he joined his brother in the print shop. Ben quickly mastered the printing trade in spite of his tender age, simultaneously developing his natural writing skills in both poetry and prose. He acquired his literary prowess by studying the works of the masters, devoting all his free time to reading and writing. His first professional writing was poetic verse published anonymously under the pseudonym, "Mrs. Silence Dogwood," with his brother James

unaware of the author's identity. Ben's unique and humorous style of reporting news was widely popular, and the Franklin printing establishment prospered as a result.

By 1723 Ben was well established in the printing trade, and he was skilled in composing editorial prose, in addition to poetic verse. He chafed under the tyrannical management of his brother James, who was now aware of his literary efforts and happy to publish Ben's commentaries. James was a defiant activist, who promoted his political opinions in his newspaper. When he criticized the great Boston minister, Cotton Mather, in a series of articles, James was jailed briefly. Forbidden to publish by the General Court, James circumvented the order by appointing Ben publisher and editor of his newspaper, *The Courant*.

James was obliged to certify Ben as a journeyman printer. The new role made Ben the youngest editor in the colonies at age 17. His great skills in the literary and publication business were equaled by his excellent business ability. *The Courant* thrived under his management. However, he and James quarreled constantly.

Ben's troubled relationship with his brother prompted him to leave Boston and travel to New York City to seek a job in the printing trade. Although he was unsuccessful, he learned of an opening in Philadelphia and spent the last of his meager funds for passage on a coastal packet boat. Fortunately, he found a position in a print shop operated by one Samuel Keimer. Ben loved Philadelphia and the personal freedom it offered. He realized the city held a genuine opportunity for an industrious man. Young Franklin's first career opportunity materialized when he met the governor of the Pennsylvania Province. The governor took a liking to the personable youngster and offered Ben the government printing business, if he would set up his own printing shop. That meant that Ben must raise some capital.

He was unable to persuade his father in Boston to lend him the money to purchase a printing press. Learning of his financial dilemma, Governor Keith offered to back Ben personally. He instructed Franklin to sail to London to obtain a printing press, assuring him a letter of credit would be awaiting his arrival. Ben sailed for England on November 5, 1724, after bidding a fond farewell to his fiancée.

Early in 1724, Ben had begun courting young Deborah Read. In a short time, he proposed marriage, only to meet the objections of Deborah's mother. She considered Deborah too young for marriage at 18 years of age. The courtship was Ben's first romantic adventure, the beginning of a long list of encounters with the opposite sex. Ben was fascinated with young women, a character trait which led to numerous liaisons. London was a city offering an active social agenda for any unattached young gentleman in 1724. The unhappy news that Governor Keith had not arranged for a letter of credit left Ben penniless and stranded in London.

As a qualified printer, he soon found employment with a reputable firm. With a good income, Ben spent 18 happy months enjoying the social activities in London. Reluctantly, he agreed to return to Philadelphia with Thomas Denham, a new acquaintance. Denham, a Quaker merchant, planned to open a business in Philadelphia and offered Ben a fine position.

After a three-month voyage, Ben arrived back in Philadelphia on October 11, 1726. His benefactor died within three months of their arrival. Serendipitously, Ben was able to return to Samuel Keimer's firm as foreman with an excellent salary. Keimer's business was in difficulty, and Franklin was hired to salvage the firm. It took Ben a mere six months to turn the business around, transforming it again into a very profitable printing operation.

When Keimer proposed a wage cut, now that the emergency was resolved, Ben resigned. He left with the reputation of being an excellent printer and business man and one with established credit. He was able to borrow funds to set up his own printing venture in partnership with Hugh Meredith, a printer formerly employed with Samuel Keimer. Ben also began composing news letters for publication in *The Mercury*, a local newspaper. He used the pseudonym, "Busy Body." The news items were very popular, and *Mercury* sales skyrocketed.

In 1729 Ben and Hugh Meredith parted company. Franklin paid off Meredith's personal debts and assumed sole ownership of their printing shop and newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. He expanded the business, offering a variety of printed legal material, a newspaper, and a line of sundries. Ben had adopted a frugal lifestyle and liquidated all financial obligations. His reputation for honesty, intelligence, and high ethical standards became universally established. He was a business owner of stature at age 23 years.

Ben also resumed his romance with Deborah Read. She had married a John Rogers while Franklin was in London, but the marriage was a failure. Rogers had disappeared without a trace. Deborah became Franklin's common-law wife, assuming the title, "Mrs. Franklin." Ignoring the illegitimate nature of their relationship, Deborah performed the duties of a fine wife, helping in the business and maintaining Ben's home. She gave birth to a child in late August 1730. Although the parentage was uncertain, he was christened William Franklin. A daughter, christened Sally, would be born to Ben and Deborah in 1743.

Ben embraced Freemasonry in 1731, beginning a long and illustrious career in the Fraternity. He received the degrees in February 1731 in St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia. Additional



Deborah Read

Artwork by Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett

details of Franklin's record will be recounted later.

Franklin's reputation grew rapidly in publishing circles, thanks in great part to his excellent literary articles and his popularity as a talented speaker. Although he numbered many of the gentry among his friends, Ben was regarded as a tradesman by the privileged class. Nevertheless, his prominence opened the doors of the rich and famous, and he moved easily in their social circle. A well-informed and persuasive conversationalist with a pleasing personality, Ben was an asset to any social gathering.

By 1732 Ben was the official printer for the Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey colonies, including printing their paper currency. His *Pennsylvania Gazette* was established as the most reliable source of well-presented political news and events. Franklin was the largest book merchant in Philadelphia, second only to the Isaiah Thomas firm in Worcester, Massachusetts. Ben offered 800 book titles, which included

antislavery pamphlets even though he was a slave owner himself. His most famous literary effort was published in 1732 as *Poor Richard's Almanac*. The publication carried astrological charts, weather predictions, recipes, jokes, songs, religious information, and numerous other features. It became the most popular book in the colonies, achieving sales of 10,000 copies annually. *Poor Richard* became a household standard and enjoyed unwavering popularity worldwide for 25 years. The last issue was published in 1758. Although the most famous author in America, Franklin never published a conventional book. His forte was composing essays, editorials, commentaries, and poetry. Ben did not consider himself an author.

Still in his twenties in 1732, Ben was firmly established as one of the colonies' true "Renaissance Men." His brilliant intellect was dedicated to a wide variety of scientific and intellectual interests. He was gaining distinction in many areas of accomplishment, the most visible being the political scene. Ben never sought public office, but many were thrust upon him by popular demand.

He conceived and promoted the formation of a fire department and police force in Philadelphia. His efforts were the primary element in bringing those pioneering community services to fruition. Ben was a tireless advocate for public education for women. He encouraged the involvement of women in business and was a successful advocate for Philadelphia's first hospital. By the mid-1730s, Benjamin Franklin was Philadelphia's most prominent citizen. He was appointed their deputy postmaster in 1737. Before the decade was over, his efforts resulted in the founding of the city's first public library.

In 1748 at age 42, Franklin retired from active business with enough financial strength to support his family in comfort. He turned his business over to David Hall, his foreman, and made him

a partner, in return for an annual fee of 1,000 pounds sterling.

It was an 18-year contract which would end with Hall owning the business. Ben intended to devote his time to public service and scientific research, free to indulge all his creative ambitions.

Released from business burdens, Ben was able to spend more time in activities associated with the American Philosophical Society, a group he founded in 1743 to promote useful scientific knowledge. Ben was the first president, and his contributions attracted many distinguished members, among them Thomas Jefferson.

During 1740 Ben introduced his Franklin stove, a dramatic improvement in home heating. It fitted into a conventional fireplace and was so constructed that circulated air was radiated outward. It was a very efficient heating device, and it eliminated smoking chimneys. Another invention was a candle made of whale oil, which created a softer light and burned much longer than a wax candle. Among Ben's well-known interests was his fascination with electricity. He created a vocabulary of new electrical terms to describe that work. For example, "armature," "battery," "positive and negative elements," "charge," and "discharge." In Europe he became known as the "Newton electrician." His most dramatic success was achieved with his kite-flying experiment.

In June 1752 Ben transmitted an electrical charge through water, via an insulated wire. The device was called a "Leyden jar." During a thunderstorm, Ben flew a kite transmitting a lightning charge down the wet line to the Leyden jar. Although the experiment had been conducted successfully in France during May 1752, nobody in the colonies was aware of the scientific development. Out of the experiment, Ben created the lightning rod, which was universally adopted to avert electrical strikes on a building during a storm. As a matter of record,

Franklin never patented any of his devices. He intended them for the benefit of the public, not for profit.

In 1753 both Harvard and Yale universities conferred honorary degrees on Ben. The next year the Royal Society awarded him the prestigious Copley Gold Medal. During his lifetime he held membership in 38 societies and institutions dedicated to education and science. Prominent among Franklin's endless inventions were bifocal eye glasses, a flexible catheter, a clothes-pressing machine, and a musical instrument called the "glass harmonica." Although the instrument failed to become widely popular, both Mozart and Beethoven composed music for it. Even though Ben was devoted to his scientific ventures and literary activities, the public continuously called him into service in a variety of duties. He served willingly.

Ben had been appointed to his first political office in 1736, when he was selected as clerk for the Pennsylvania Assembly. When he retired from business in 1748, he was immediately elected a member of the Philadelphia Common Council. After serving in that capacity for three years, he was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly, all offices which Ben never sought.

He was uncomfortable as a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly because of the influence the William Penn family exerted over that body. As original owners of the huge colonial tract which became Pennsylvania, the Penn family held hereditary feudal privilege over the land. Owners of acreage originally Penn property were required by the British crown to pay an annual quit rent fee to Penn's sons, Richard and Thomas. Franklin bitterly opposed the old feudal system because original Penn land was exempt from taxation by the colonial Pennsylvania Assembly.

While in the Assembly, Franklin was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia and in 1753 became Postmaster General

over all the colonies. He journeyed throughout the colonies in his new position. During those travels in 1755, Ben met Catharine Ray, a 21-year-old native of Rhode Island. The meeting segued into a 30-year relationship between the young lady and 49-year-old Ben Franklin, much of it through correspondence. One Franklin biographer described him as “a racy and roguish figure who never lost interest in women.” Regardless of the demands of public office, Ben found time for social life.

King George’s war with France spilled over into the British colonies by 1755. The Americans called the struggle the French and Indian War. At the head of a British army, Major General Edward Braddock landed at Alexandria, Virginia, in 1755, tasked to defend the colonies and drive the French out of Canada. The various English colonial governors were notified to have supplies and transport awaiting Braddock’s arrival. They did not arrive.

A frustrated General Braddock turned to Ben Franklin for help. It required two weeks for Ben to acquire 150 wagons with four horses each, plus 259 saddle and pack horses, and sundry supplies. Franklin provided payment for the supplies and equipment, to be reimbursed later by the crown. Although Braddock was later killed in action, the French and Indian War ended with an English victory at Quebec and possession of Canada. During the war, the Pennsylvania Assembly voted to create a volunteer militia in the province. The chore was assigned to Franklin to raise troops and prepare necessary defenses against Indian or French attack. A militia colonel without military training, Ben proved equal to the task. After seven weeks of feverish activity, the military defenses of Philadelphia and the provincial borders were manned by the militia. Ben observed his 50th birthday in the field with the new troops. At the war’s

end in 1758, the legislature struggled with a huge tax burden imposed on the colonies by the British crown, to reimburse the cost of the war in America.

The Pennsylvania Legislature was particularly hard-pressed to provide their share of the military expense, because of the tax-exempt status of the Penn land owners. The Assembly voted to send Franklin to London, taking their problem directly to the English Parliament. It was an unpopular move among the large landowners, but heartily approved by ordinary citizens. Ben sailed for London in June 1757, taking his son William along as secretary, plus two slaves as servants. Ben took lodgings at 37 Craven Street in a three-story house and plunged into the task of convincing Parliament to change the proprietary laws in the Pennsylvania Colony, well aware that it would disenfranchise the Penn family. For a while, it was an exhausting and fruitless effort, in spite of Franklin’s best efforts. However, his evening social activities more than compensated for his frustration. Within a short time, his landlady’s daughter, Margaret Stevenson, was serving as Ben’s surrogate wife. In diplomatic circles Ben was feted by English society, regarded as the most prominent citizen of the colonies. One important event, affirming Ben’s lofty reputation, was that of being created an Honorary Doctor of Laws by Oxford University.

*Don’t Miss Part II—Ben Franklin:
Vetting a Renaissance Man
in the November 2006 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: 1001 South Diamond, Nampa, ID 83686.

Long Beach Assembly No. 39, California, S.O.O.B. Spring Luncheon and Reciprocity



Left to right: 1st row: Mrs. L. Erlich, President, Mrs. J. Jansen, Mrs. G. Houpt, Mrs. D. Spencer, Mrs. R. Faulk; 2nd row: Sir Knight J. Kearney, Mrs. T. Matis, Mrs. R. Boardman, Mrs. A. Johnson, Mrs. M. Kaplanian, Mrs. J. Kearney, Mrs. R. Cooper, Mrs. T. Roa, Sir Knight T. Roa; 3rd row: Sir Knight R. Bollin, Mrs. C. Mann, Mrs. W. Chant, P.S.W.P., Mrs. B. McDonald, Mrs. F. Buxton, P.S.W.P., Mrs. W. Spradlin, Mrs. R. Coe, Mrs. R. Bollin; back row: Sir Knights J. Jansen, W. Chant, D. Spencer.

Sale of Blue Lodge Afghan-Throw to Benefit the KTEF

This Blue Lodge throw is made of 100% cotton and has many advantages over the old triple-weave design because it has 360 picks per square inch, which enhances the color immensely. There are new items in the design, including the 3 steps to Freemasonry. It has a black and white checkered floor leading up to the center column, and the square and compass are larger and enhanced with a cluster of leaves symbolizing Acacia of Freemasonry. The afghan measures 48-in. by 60-in. and is light-weight but weaved very tight for definition.

There are only 1,000 of these made, and each one comes with a beautiful certificate so that you may write your important dates of Freemasonry on it. The price is \$48.00 each, including shipping in the US. A donation of \$5.00 for each one sold will go to the KTEF. Send check or money order to: Sandra Knotts, P.O. Box 158, Trexlertown, PA 18087-0158.



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2½ 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.

Sale of True Masonic Stein to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The stein body, 7 and 1/2 inches tall, is white ceramic. It contains a pewter lid with the Holy Bible on top. It has a fancy thumb lift. On the body is a Masonic altar with the verse of Matthew 7:7 between the pillars, and on one side there is a poem, "A True Mason," and on the other side is a very colorful Masonic picture of the early days of Masonic heritage. Also, there are two gold bands. The price of the stein, including shipping and insurance, is \$55.00. **A \$10.00 donation from the sale of each stein will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** There is a limited supply of the steins, so if interested, please send check or money order to: Stanley C. Buz, P.O. Box 702, Whitehall, PA 18052.



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 coverages 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.

How Long-Term Care Insurance Can Help Protect Your Financial Independence

Chances are that you or someone you love will need nursing home or in-home care someday. With costs on the rise, this kind of care can diminish a lifetime of savings.

Long-term care insurance helps protect your financial independence and your dignity by giving you the freedom of choice to receive care in your own

home, if medically appropriate, or at a facility you select. Plan today, so that you can be better prepared to spend tomorrow on your own terms.

For more information about the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar endorsed Long-Term Care Insurance Program, call toll free of charge: (800) 336-3316.

SALE OF CALIFORNIA COOKBOOK TO BENEFIT THE KTEF

The Grand Commandery of California is selling cookbooks, shown right, to benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Entitled "California Gold," the book is a compilation of recipes submitted by Sir Knights and ladies of the Commanderies of California. It is bound in a 3-ring loose-leaf format and contains 750 recipes. The books sell for \$20.00 each, and **the entire amount goes to the KTEF**. They are able to do this because the publication cost of the books was covered by private donations. Make out checks to: Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Send to: Dan McDaniel, Attn: Cookbooks, 1250 Peterson Court, Los Altos, CA 94024.



A COLLECTION OF
FAVORITE RECIPES FROM
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR COMMANDERIES
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

SUMMER UNIFORM SALE AIDS KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Milford Commandery No. 11, Milford, Massachusetts, is offering a complete summer uniform and accessories (no pants or shoes) for \$150.00. (G.C. and P.G.C. add \$35.00 for gold decoration on cap visor.) The uniform includes white military style cap with insignia, short sleeve shirt, shoulder rank insignia, collar insignia, metal ribbon bar, name plate, plain black tie, tie clasp with cross and crown, and shipping and handling. Send us your cap size, shirt size, rank, Commandery name and number, choice of engraving on the tie clasp (plain/Knight Templar/your state/Commandery name and number) to the address below. For further information or to request an order form for your state (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope), send to Milford as indicated below or e-mail: ccwinterhalter@aol.com. Make checks payable to: Milford Commandery No. 11. Mail to: Milford Commandery No. 11, C/O Robert P. Winterhalter, P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**

MILFORD COMMANDERY POLO SHIRTS BENEFIT KTEF

Milford Commandery also offers top quality white polo shirts with pocket. These shirts have your choice of embroidered insignia in full color (nonfading). Select from: Templar Cross, Cross and Crown, Royal Arch Mason, Royal and Select Master Mason, Cryptic Mason, York Rite, KYCH, York Rite College, and Masonic Square and Compass. We also offer a lady's shirt with Social Order of the Beauceant or any of the above emblems. Each shirt is \$30.00, plus \$5.00 S & H. You may add your name or nickname to the right side for \$5.00 additional. Royal Arch Mason shirts are also stocked in red, and Masonic Square and Compass may be had on white or royal blue shirts. There are eleven other colors available on special order. We also offer great 3-season jackets and a light weight flannel-lined jacket. Make checks payable to: Milford Commandery No. 11. Send to: P.O. Box 321, Ashland, MA 01721-0321. For further information, write us at this address or e-mail: Ccwinterhalter@aol.com. **All profits go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.**



Knight Voices

To place your "Knight Voices" item on the waiting list for publication, type or print it and send to Editor, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, Post Office Box 478448, Chicago, IL 60647-8448. 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: lapel pins. The 64th Triennial Conclave Committee is offering a lapel pin (2 knights on horseback) for \$6.00 each, including S & H. Checks payable to 64th Triennial Conclave Committee, C/O E. K. Longworth, 502 Wentworth Avenue, N.E., Roanoke, VA 24012-3545. This is a fund-raiser for the 64th Triennial Conclave.

■ The Grand Commandery of Illinois is planning its 150th anniversary to be held in 2007. Part of the program is the issuance of a commemorative pin, available at \$5.00. Send to William H. Brown, V.E.D.G.C., 4100 North LeClaire, Chicago, IL 60641.

■ For sale: red, white, and blue "EYE GAVE" pin, a fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, sponsored by the Grand Commandery of Minnesota: \$5.00 each including S & H. All proceeds to KTEF. Checks payable to Minnesota Grand Commandery, and send to Allan Kauppi, 10508 Redwood Street, N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

■ For sale: a unique jewel just minted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Damascus Commandery No. 1 in Minnesota. The front has colored cross and crown symbol. The reverse has the two knights on horse and commemorates Damascus Commandery's Allan Kauppi, who was elected Grand Commander during our 150th year. This jewel was struck by Roulette Company in Ohio. Proceeds support the Commandery. See photos at mnyorkrite1.org Jewel is \$35; first class postage is \$2 for first jewel; add \$1 for each additional. Orders to Bob Edwards, Recorder, 2107 Stark Road, Harris, MN 55032.

■ Wanted: Commandery gold sword with scabbard—prefer Texas sword. Don Park, 121 Quail Creek Drive, Crowley, TX 76036, (817) 297-1382.

■ Does any Sir Knight in the area of Birmingham, Alabama, or elsewhere have in his possession a sword with the name "Lee O. Denton" engraved thereon or know where it is? It was last seen in Woodlawn about 50 years ago by me. I would very much like to know its whereabouts and if possible to obtain it, as the original owner was my uncle and Past Master of the Lodge in Fort Payne. J. D. Denton, No. 31 Stonegate Drive, Longview, TX 75601.

■ For sale: C.P.O. coats, poly-wool, summer weight; call for available sizes: (740) 927-3586. \$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.

■ For sale: Knights Templar shoulder straps, pairs, finest quality available, all ranks, embroidered in extra fancy real gold and silver bullion on velvet with velcro backs: Due to the high price of gold and silver, the manufacturer has raised his prices: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo (specify either traditional or just lamb and square), Captain General, Prelate (green): all \$45; Emeritus ranks: Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate (red): \$50; Honorary Past Commander with silver H.C. at foot of cross, Grand Commandery, Grand Rep., \$55; Past Grand Commander

(purple): \$65; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$75. Also: chapeaux crosses in extra fancy gold/silver bullion w/velcro back: Sir Knight, \$40; Past Commander, \$45; Grand Commandery and Grand Rep.; (red), \$60; Past Grand Commander (purple), \$65; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$80. Embroidered extra fancy gold/silver sleeve crosses (pair), velcro back: Sir Knight, \$40; P.C., \$40; Grand Commandery, \$45; P.G.C. (purple), \$65; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$80. Embroidered gold/silver fatigue hat bullion crosses: Sir Knight, \$40; Past Commander, \$45. Metal cap crosses: silver, \$32; gold, \$38; Past Commander's jewel, \$50. All plus shipping, handling, and insurance: 1st item, \$5.00; each additional item, \$1.00. Percentage to Knights Templar and Masonic charities. Checks to and mail to Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., P.C.; 3 Oceans West Blvd., Suite 444; Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

■ For sale: gold-finish sword lapel pins: men's pin: 1 and 1/4 inches long, with red stone in the center of the hilt, \$7.00 each, and ladies pin: 2 and 1/2 inches long, with clear stone at the top of the hilt and a red stone in the center of the hilt, \$12.00 each; prices include S & H. Check or MO to Melrose Commandery 159th Grand Conclave, 17120 Theiss Mail Road, Spring, TX 77379. E-mail pewunsche@bcglobal.net 10% to KTEF. The pins are a special project for the 159th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Texas.

■ For sale: Knights Templar triangular aprons, black with silver trim 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, P.C., D.Z.O., 23 Gail Court, Staten Island, NY 10306-2234; (718) 987-4532.

■ I invite each of you to a free website dedicated to Templary. It is also an excellent source to find other areas of Templary and Masonry. It has forms to request FREE Templar information, better degree work, sustaining membership, free NIV Bible, free CD ROM with Bible (along with free cross of olive wood from Jerusalem)—all sent to you at NO cost at all. Please review the site yourself and leave me feedback that would make the site better and more beneficial for Christianity and Templary. Find my web site at <http://1tiptopwebsite.com/knightsofgod>

■ For sale: Lloyd L. Gibson Chapter No. 481, R.A.M., Channelview, Texas, is selling their newly minted, 50-year commemorative mark/penny for \$10.00 each, postpaid, with a certificate of authentication. Penny is made of antique bronze (looks like gold). This is a fund-raiser for our 50th anniversary, and a portion of proceeds will go to KTEF. Checks or MOs to Lloyd L. Gibson Chapter No. 481, R.A.M., and send to Lloyd L. Gibson Chapter No. 481, R.A.M., P.O. Box 972, Channelview, TX 77530.

■ For Sale: Middle Georgia Chapter No. 165, R.A.M., the first R.A.M. Chapter to be chartered in Georgia in 25 years, is selling its newly minted shekels for \$10.00 each or 2 for \$15.00, postpaid.

Each is mounted in a 2x2 coin folder and comes with a sealed certificate of authenticity. Orders to A. Neal Mimbs, 708 Jeanette Street, Cochran, GA 31014; e-mail anealmimbs@bellsouth.net

■ The state of Tennessee has a challenge coin for sale for the price of \$12.00 which includes shipping. The proceeds go to Royal Arch Research Assistance. Check or money order can be sent to RARA of Tennessee. Send to Robert Officer, State Chairman; 216 S. Oak Street; Sparta; TN 38583.

■ This year is the Bicentennial Anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, and the lodge has coined two different sets of coins: One has three of the Bicentennial coins in antiqued gold, silver, and bronze finish. The second set has the coin struck by the GL for the Centennial of the lodge, the coin struck for the US Bicentennial, and the third for the Bicentennial of the GL. The two sets are each numbered 1-300 and sell for \$49.00 each, plus \$7.95 shipping. If you purchase one of each set, the price is \$89.90 plus \$7.95 shipping, a savings of \$17.90. There is an order blank with pictures on the Grand Lodge web site: masonsindelaware.org Inquiries to: wdmower@verizon.net or Wayne D. Mower, 19 Ruby Drive, Claymont, DE 19703-1420, (302) 798-3828.

■ 2008—200th anniversary of Masonry in Ohio: Now, you can help insure that this celebration will be a great success by purchasing a beautiful, 200-piece jigsaw puzzle depicting Brother George Washington opening his lodge in 1788. This 16 x22-inch art reproduction is an exact copy of the painting that hangs in many Ohio lodges. Help us get ready for the 2008 bicentennial, and own a real piece of Masonic history: price \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S & H. Each puzzle is packaged in a round, airtight can. To order call (614) 855-1401, or send payment and request to P. Pat Davis, 8359 Morse Road, New Albany, OH 43054; online at www.ppdavis@earthlink.net Proceeds to benefit the 2008 Bicentennial Fund.

■ Fund-raiser: Lodge auto tags with blue vinyl letters on white, 6 x12-inch aluminum, include lodge name and number, square and compass, F & AM (AF & AM, AAFM, etc.), city and state: \$8.00 each—minimum order of 5. One free tag with every 10 ordered. Shipping for 5 is \$5.00, 10 is \$7.00, 20 is \$10.00 to same address in US. 25% of proceeds to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. Send info, check or money order to Ernest P. Gentry, 893 Brookside Drive, Winder, GA 30680-2848, e-mail tagmaker@att.net

■ Cochran Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M., Cochran, Georgia, is continuing its long-term charity project: In addition to the Masonic and Shrine jewelry boxes, we are now offering O.E.S. jewelry boxes: all are approx. 5.5 x5.5 x2.5 inches in size, constructed of exotic woods from Central America, and hand-crafted with an interlocking design. All profits go to Masonic charity with a portion going directly to the Georgia Masonic Children's Home Endowment Fund. The price for each box is \$20.00, plus \$6.00 S & H. Postage is pro-rated on bulk orders; please contact e-mail below or call (478) 934-7236 for pro-rated S & H rates. Check or MO to Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217 and mail to Harry A. Bruno, Chairman; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014; or e-mail harry217@bigfoot.com

■ 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. Also, approx. 4-inch reflective-chrome, vinyl square and compass, Past Master or Shrine decals to fit on your taillights, only \$5.00 per set of 2, postpaid. Also, black vinyl, square and compass decals, 3/4 by 3/4-inch, designed to place on the photo or list of your Past Masters who have gone on to that Celestial Lodge Above. 10 decals for only \$5.00, postpaid. All profits go to our Masonic Widows' Fund. Joe Allen, P.M., Sec.; Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217, F. & A.M.; P.O. Box 732; Cochran; GA 31014.

■ Wanted: Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 35 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. Especially needed are Iowa, Michigan, and Alaska pennies. Maurice Storck, Sr.; 775 W. Roger Road, No. 214; Tucson; AZ 85705, (520) 888-7585.

■ Planning a Rusty Nail Degree? We have pins and certificates available at \$35.00 per unit. (A unit consists of 5 pins and 5 certificates, S & H included.) Please include your lodge name and number with your order if you wish to have them printed on your certificates. Make check out to Tom A. Stevens, 5 Old Duxbury Court, Fairfield, OH 45014. Phone (513) 942-2490; fax (513) 272-2830. Proceeds go to the John Hayes Gerard Masonic Scholarship Fund and 10% to KTEF.

■ Sprig of Acacia pin: each handcrafted pin is 24 karat gold vermeil finished; it will make a nice gift for the newly raised Brother; price is \$10.00 each, including S & H. Also available is 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% to KTEF. New item: Sept. 11 Memorial Masonic lapel pin, \$8.00 each, including S & H—to commemorate members who lost their lives in terrorist attack—proceeds to KTEF. S. Kenneth Baril, 6809 Main Street, Apt. 2 West, Cincinnati, OH 45244-3470, (513) 272-2815, fax (513) 272-2830.

■ 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. Books may be obtained by contacting Maccy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., P.O. Box 9759, 3011 Old Dumbarton Rd., Richmond, VA 23228-0759, (804) 262-6551. The price is \$16.95 plus S & H. Author's portion of profits donated to KTEF.

■ New novelty book available: *Pythagoras, This Cross Is for You*, by P. Master and P. Commander, Jack N. Barricklo, priced at \$7.00 each, postpaid. It's for the serious craftsman with short history, illustrations, and instruction by the "Master" himself. % of profit to KTEF. (Please write "KTEF" in memo.) Checks payable to Ourland Enterprise, and send to Ourland Enterprise, 8631 McDade, Houston, TX 77080-4321.

■ MASONIC DISCOUNT: Celebrate Masonry with custom-designed coins and lapel pins. Call today to find out how you can design a one-of-a-kind pin or coin for your Masonic organization. Prices include FREE graphic, FREE design, FREE shipping, FREE die, plus a Masonic discount. 1-800-765-1728, Frank Looser, 809 Cobble Cove, Nashville, TN 37211; e-mail mason@cnfinteract.ive.com, web site www.cnfinteractive.com % to KTEF.

■ For a free listing of VHS videos, DVDs, and radio program CDs related to Sir Knight Tom Mix and the Tom Mix of radio, please send a postcard or note with your name and complete mailing address to Paul E. Mix, 13116 Billiem Drive, Austin, TX 78727.

■ Wanted: Oklahoma Sir Knight is collecting Lionel trains. Please look in your attic or your storage closet and call or write John Alexander, 7617 E. 66th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1802, phone: (918) 252-4981.

■ Wanting to buy: US and international FDC and cachet covers and related postal ephemera. James D. Parmiter, 242 Brock Road, Springfield, PA 19064-3116, (610) 544-6386, nanjim@rcn.com

■ Buying all US and foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, silver, proof sets. Also selling 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.

■ Retired W.M. and school teacher would appreciate some older Wheat pennies to complete a hobby collection and/or other older coins for his collection. I would be happy to exchange, trade, or whatever to engage Masons so I can complete my folders. Dealers need not participate as this is a hobby. Warren A. Williams, 258 The Ledges, Craftsbury, VT 05826-9502, (802) 586-2825, awau@kingcom.com.

■ For sale: cemetery plots at Laurel Land (Dallas, Texas): six spaces, Sec. 12 (Masonic). List for \$2,500 each, asking \$2,100 each. Call Dennis Warrington, (432) 267-7884.

■ For sale: cemetery lots, Parklawn Cemetery, 2 burial rights, custom crypt with memorial, granite base/valve unit: valued at \$6,000; price negotiable. (843) 272-4750, William and Clara McGrath, 610 Loblolly Circle, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582-3451.

Knight Templar
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
Bellaire, TX 77401-2402

Roll Call

When the roll is called up yonder and the bugler has played "retreat," will you, my brother, be a shuffling or marching to the beat?

Onward, Christian soldier; see the morning star, day break has just begun. Where will you be, my brother, at the setting of the sun?

Time is very precious this you cannot chide. Christ the Royal Master took time for you and me and died.

He rose upon the third day, scripture does proclaim. This we call the Resurrection in his Holy Name.

For this he promised you the same if you will follow in his teaching and call upon his name.

Night is drawing nigh, day is closing fast; the Master, he is calling and in the distance the bugler is playing "retreat." Pick up your cross, my brother, and place your burden at the Master's feet.

So mote it be.

Sir Knight Victor I. Frantz II
1736 Ravenwood Avenue
Dayton, OH 45406

Sir Knight Victor I. Frantz II, 32°
Coleman Commandery No. 17
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