



Knight Templar

VOLUME LIII

OCTOBER 2007

NUMBER 10



COVER PICTURE: For our support of youth, the Grand Encampment received the *Benefactor Award* at the DeMolay International Session in St. Louis, Missouri. The inscription reads: "DeMolay International hereby recognizes Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., as one who supports and champions the Order of DeMolay through financial contributions as well as fraternal support and cooperation. Keith K. Klein, Grand Master (2006-2007)." Receiving the award for Grand Encampment was Sir Knight William Howard Koon II, then Deputy Grand Master. Other officers in attendance were Sir Knights David Dixon Goodwin, then Grand Generalissimo, and Lawrence Eugene Tucker, Grand Recorder.

Grand Master's Message

August 21, 2007

Dear Sir Knights:

It is with a great deal of sadness that I must resign the office of Grand Master due to health reasons.

I thank each of you who have made my Templar journey worthwhile and enjoyable. I will miss being with you very much and will remember you always.



I wish for each of you all the best that life may bring: good health, happiness, and success!

May Almighty GOD continue to bless you, your families, our great Templar Fraternity, and the United States of America!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Richard Burditt Baldwin, GCT
Grand Master
2006-2007

Knight Templar

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

OCTOBER: There are some changes at the Grand Encampment. Be sure to inform yourselves by reading page 2 and page 5. Best wishes to Sir Knight Richard Burditt Baldwin and to all the officers, old and new, of the Grand Encampment. This month the 40th Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation begins. Your General Chairman, Sir Knight T. Jeffery Conquest, speaks for the first time on page 7; with his enthusiasm, we will look forward to his messages throughout the Campaign! Have you shopped the KTEF Shopping Mall yet? Get the information you need on page 9; it's a great way to support your philanthropy! Of course, as always, we have great stories, articles and news items for your enjoyment!

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knight templar

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

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 2007 issue should have the form for our next listing in January 2008. Please respond immediately as the magazine goes to the printer about December 10, 2007. 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 available at \$15.00 each plus \$3.50 for S & H. (\$18.50). Send in your order today!

• **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.

• **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.

• **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>
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Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

OF THE UNITED

STATES of AMERICA

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NOTICE

To the Sir Knights Under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America:

It is with deep regret that I inform you that effective Tuesday, August 28, 2007, Sir Knight Richard Burditt Baldwin resigned his office as Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. In his resignation, Sir Knight Baldwin stated reasons of health prompted his decision to take this course of action.

Effective on said date and in accordance with Sections 25 and 26 of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the following Officers were duly installed:

William Howard Koon, II, GCTMost Eminent Grand Master
7200 Slabtown Road, Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830-8410
David Dixon Goodwin, GCTRight Eminent Deputy Grand Master
1509 Campus Drive, Vestal, New York 13850-4036
Sid Cornelius Dorris, III, GCT Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo
2007 Brenthaven Drive, Mount Juliet, Tennessee 37122-8244
Duane Lee Vaught, GCT..... Right Eminent Grand Captain General
7850 North Thames Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47408-9337

The above named Officers were installed by Sir Knight Thurman Cleveland Pace, Jr., KGC, Most Eminent Honorary Past Grand Master. Assisting Sir Knight Pace were Sir Knights Robert John Cave, KGC, Right Eminent Grand Prelate and Lawrence Eugene Tucker, GCT, Right Eminent Grand Recorder.



Courteously,

William Howard Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

Date: August 29, 2007

ATTEST:

Lawrence Eugene Tucker, GCT
Grand Recorder

RECIPIENTS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT MEMBERSHIP JEWEL

607. Jean L. Davis, Hope Commandery No. 26, Bridgeport, OH. 6-27-2007.
608. Michael F. Snively, Hope Commandery No. 26, Bridgeport, OH. 6-27-2007.
609. Bobby Lee Laws, Elk City Commandery No. 22, Elk City, OK. 7-3-2007.
610. James C. Taylor, Elk City Commandery No. 22, Elk City, OK. 7-3-2007.
611. Ronald Keith Bess, Sr., Middletown Commandery No. 71, Middletown, OH. 7-12-2007.
612. Daniel A. Tutt, Middletown Commandery No. 71, Middletown, OH. 7-12-2007.
613. - 614. Randy M. Zaerr, Quincy Commandery No. 77, Quincy, IL. 7-16-2007. (jewel and 1 bronze cluster)
615. Charles Michael Mills, Aurora Commandery No. 22, Yorkville, IL. 7-16-2007. (bronze cluster)
616. - 617. Dannie L. Cogley, Beaver Valley Commandery No. 84, Beaver, PA. 7-23-2007. (jewel and 2 bronze clusters)
618. - 619. Ronnie Hedge, Ivanhoe Commandery No. 18, Jonesboro, AR. 8-2-2007. (jewel and 1 bronze cluster)



Apologies to Sir Knight Howard Taft Burgess, Jr., Recorder of Anderson Commandery No. 11, South Carolina, and to all the Sir Knights and friends who cherish the memory of Sir Knight Donnie Edsel Richey, Past Grand Commander of South Carolina, 2003. In the August 2007 issue, the third listing in the "In Memoriam" section on page 8 was in error. Recorder Burgess was listed instead of Sir Knight Richey. Below is the correct information for Sir Knight Richey. The James E. Mathieson listing is also corrected and completed. I deeply regret these errors!

Joan B. Morton, Editorial

IN MEMORIAM



Donnie Edsel Richey
South Carolina
Grand Commander—2003
Born: August 22, 1927
Died: May 8, 2007

State corrected and information completed:

James E. Mathieson
Nevada
Grand Generalissimo—2007
Born: March 4, 1929
Died: May 18, 2007

Welland S. Horn
Vermont
Grand Commander—1968
Born: February 6, 1915
Died: July 19, 2007

George Derrick Stevens
Virginia
Grand Commander—1992
Born: July 9, 1914
Died: July 21, 2007

Chester H. Hazen
Missouri
Grand Commander—1987
Born: June 30, 1923
Died: August 29, 2007



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

40th Annual Voluntary Campaign
October 1, 2007, to April 30, 2008

Contributions for the Voluntary Campaign
are now being accepted at:

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1000 East State Parkway, Suite I
Schaumburg, IL 60173-2460

A Message from Sir Knight T. Jeffery Conquest, KGC
General Chairman of the 40th Annual Campaign for the KTEF,
Trustee of the Board of the KTEF, and P.G.C. of Indiana

Greetings, Sir Knights:

I am honored to be your new Voluntary Campaign Chairman. Not only am I inexperienced with this position, but I am, also, relatively new as a Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, so please bear with me as I become better acquainted with the Foundation and the Campaign. Hopefully, through my enthusiasm and your benevolence, we will have a successful Campaign.



There are several ways in which you and your Commandery can help support our philanthropy including endowments, wills, and gifts. You can, also, contribute by shopping at our new on-line shopping mall at <http://ktef.fundlinkllc.com/>. Forms for your donations can be found at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/support.htm>. Or if you wish to become a Permanent Fund Donor, visit <http://www.knights>

templar.org/ktef/perm_donor.html. If you don't have a computer or internet access, please call the KTEF office at (847) 490-3838, and someone there will be happy to assist you.

I look forward to working with each of you in this great endeavor of ours, aiding those with sight deficiencies and providing funds for research. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact myself or the KTEF office.

T. Jeffery Conquest, P.G.C.
General Chairman of the Campaign
Trustee of the Board of KTEF

Sir Knight Conquest resides at 1903 Somersworth Drive, San Jose, CA 95124.

NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO KTEF CLUBS

Grand Master's Club

No. 5,128—Richard E. Mohs (NM)
No. 5,129—Dan L. Mayer (LA)
No. 5,130—Timothy C. Forche (MI)

No. 5,131—Bobby G. Watts (KY)
No. 5,132—Janice Palm (OH)
No. 5,133—David Neal Kelley (TX)

Grand Commander's Club

No. 102,632—Samuel Wayne Lipe (NC)

No. 102,633—Warren J. Lotz (OH)

How to join the Grand Commander's or Grand Master's clubs: Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or

more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and there is Commandery credit given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc; 1000 East State Parkway, Suite I; Schaumburg, IL 60173-2460. The phone number is: (847) 490-3838. The fax number is: (847) 490-3777.

Contributor to the 33° Club

KTEF Office Staff (IL)
in honor of Marvin L. Selock, 33°

Words of Gratitude from KTEF Recipients...

I would like to thank you for your financial assistance. Knowing that there are people like you who help people like me to keep from going blind because they don't have insurance is something I will never forget. Thank you, and God bless you all!

Arab, Alabama

→ → → →

This is to say to all of you who made it possible for my eye surgeries: I can't thank you enough! Thank God for people like you who care about others. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Cushing, Texas

I want to give an update on my vision since your organization helped me out. I'm seeing 20/20 for distance and just wear glasses with bifocals for reading. I couldn't have gotten this far without your help. Thank you!

Waymart, Pennsylvania

God is good, and I am thankful; He sent you to help me. I can see much better; I can read again, and I can see to drive. Thanks for caring about me.

Stillwater, Oklahoma

My recovery has been really good, and my vision has improved greatly. I would like to thank you for all your much needed help.

Princeton, Iowa



► KTEF SHOPPING MALL

DID YOU KNOW?

Every time you make a purchase on the KTEF Shopping Mall, the Eye Foundation receives about 3% of your charge purchase.

When you shop on the KTEF Shopping Mall, you access each individual store's own website.

There are about 1,800 stores that can be accessed from the Mall.

It takes but 2 clicks to access all these locations.

Now that you know, why not shop there? Simply go to: www.knightstemplar.org and click on "KTEF SHOPPING MALL" on the left side of the page, and you're there helping those less fortunate to see!

Now you can shop and at the same time provide sight! We could call it "Click & See"!

On the Masonic Newsfront

Sir Knight James McCorry Willson, Jr., R.E. Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment, Awarded Grand Cross of the Court of Honour by Supreme Council 33°, A. & A.S.R., S.J.



Sir Knight Willson, who is the R.E. Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A., was honored by the Supreme Council 33° of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction with its highest honor. The Grand Cross of the Court of Honour was awarded to Sir Knight Willson at the biennial session of the Scottish Rite held in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 2007. There are fewer than 60 living recipients of this decoration out of nearly 400,000 members in the Southern Jurisdiction. The recipient of the Grand Cross of Honour wears a white 33° cap that is surrounded by a band of dark blue velvet bordered in gold. The front of

the cap is adorned with the gold Teutonic cross of the Grand Cross. We congratulate Sir Knight Willson on this recognition of his many years of dedicated service to Freemasonry, Templary, and the Scottish Rite.

Connecticut Commandery Drill Team Recognized at Annual Conclave



Special recognition was given the Connecticut Drill Team by then Grand Commander William L. Miller II at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. The team has worked hard to bring the Grand Commandery into the limelight of national Templary with their participation in competitions at the Triennial in Houston and the Annual Conclave of New York State. After a decade of work, they are also officially organized under approved bylaws. → → → →

On page 10 receiving the team award are, left to right: Sir Knights William Mackey, Edward Schoenrock, Leonard Bucher, Drill Captain, Charles McCollum, Drill Master, Robert DiPasquale (center), P.G.C. Edward Ham, and Charles O'Neill. (submitted by Sir Knight Robert D. Sherrick, Connecticut Supplement editor)

Angel of Shavano Encampment Completed in Colorado



The Blanchard Ranch, located in the foothills of the Shavano Mountain range near Salida, Colorado, was the scene of a successfully completed Conclave on July 21, 2007, with all the Orders conferred in the great outdoors and with 125 in attendance. There were 14 men newly Knighted during the Order of the Temple presented by Denver-Colorado Commandery No. 1. The Sir Knights from Delta and Montrose/Ouray Commanderies conferred the Order of the Red Cross while members of Coronel-Ascalon Commandery No. 31 moved the candidates through the Mediterranean Pass and the Order of Malta. All work was done under bright sunny skies and with cordless mikes, so every word was heard by all. Colorado's members thank the "crew" from Salida Commandery who were host in providing the tents, costumes, cooking facilities, and other conveniences under the direction of Sir Knights Larry Blanchard, David Salberg, Joe Shirk, Jim Weeks, and other recruited volunteers. The new Knights (plus the Grand Commander) are: front row: Patrick Leete, Denver No. 1; Ted Garcia, Greeley; George Knox, Canon City; Eddie Ware, Gunnison; and Brad Wenma, Montrose; back row: Cullen Honeycutt, Ft. Collins; Charles Smith, Denver; Gerald Heagney, Grand Commander; Bert Shaffe, Denver; Bob Hatton, Montrose; Don French, Delta; Ed Shober, Leadville; Frank Ranieri, Denver; Jaymie Vaghn, Denver; and Oliver Gerbitz. (submitted by Sir Knight Leon Sonksen, Colorado Supplement editor)

Nevada York Rite Summer Festival in Las Vegas—June 23 and 30

The festival was the culmination of hard work by Melita Commandery No. 9 and Malta Commandery No. 3. On June 23 the Capitular degrees and Cryptic degrees were conferred by Keystone No. 6 and Zabud No. 10 for 16 Master Masons, and on knight templar

June 30 the Chivalric Orders were conferred by Malta No. 3 and Melita No. 9 on 15, creating 15 new Sir Knights.



Craig Phillips, Executive Officer for DeMolay in the state of Nevada, participated in all of the degrees for this group. These new members are unique in that the average age is 30 and they probably have the youngest Past Master Councilor, who at the age of 18 has his Master Mason, 32°, York Rite degrees and is a Noble of the Zelzah Mystic Shrine. Sir Knight Carl "Bud" Banks, Membership Committee, of the

Knights Templar of Nevada, writes that Phillips is "an inspiration for every DeMolay and every Master Mason seeking further light in Masonry." Sir Knight Banks also gives special recognition to: Zelzah Shrine for hosting a dinner on the evening of June 30 and to the ladies of the Social Order of the Beauceant for providing lunch on June 23.

In the picture above is the 2007 York Rite Class on June 30, 2007. The class was dedicated to the memory of Sir Knight James E. Mathieson, Past Generalissimo, and Sir Knight Mathieson's Lady Doris was present to speak to the class and present them with a memento lapel pin.



Above: Mrs. James E. Mathieson and Brother Mike Reinhardt, Secretary, who is credited with being principally responsible for reinstituting the Las Vegas Summer Festival. To right above are some of the new Sir Knights.

July 3, 2007—The Bullring: 23 Nevada Brothers attended "The Bullring" races at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. W.M. Beggs reported that the Lodge's concession booth yielded three times the amount of money it had produced in the past! At right are former Governor and Senator, Brother Richard Bryan, and Brother John Harney.



York Rite Ladies Help 250 Abused and Needy Children by Mrs. Sally Padron

The York Rite ladies of Florida worked all year sewing and purchasing new clothing for approximately 250 abused and needy children. What began with 12 kids and a few vans has grown into what will soon be a six-route Bus Ministry that heads out on



Saturday mornings to collect an estimated 250 Pre-K through 12th grade participants in the Central Florida area, and it's growing.

These children are in great need, both spiritually and materially. They are among the poorest of the poor. Many have suffered much mental abuse and are in great need of all aspects of care.

The Orlando Children's Church reaches out to these children daily and understands them—who they are and all that they need. Orlando Children's Church is a Central Florida nonprofit, 501c3, Christian outreach ministry, that was founded by Peter and Isabel O'driscoll in September 2002, and has the support of many faithful individuals who share their vision of what God wants for His children.

The new clothing and shoes that have been sewn and purchased is the project of the wives of the Florida York Rite Masons, headed up by Mrs. Sally Padron of Sebring, Florida. During the week, OCC leadership visit neighborhoods throughout Central Florida seeking out children in need. These children are invited to attend "Saturday Church."

Saturday Church is presently hosted by First Baptist Church Maitland. Loaded buses begin arriving at 9:30 A.M., and the children are separated by age group and greeted by enthusiastic volunteers who engage the kids in outdoor recreation activities while they wait for all of the buses to arrive. Around 9:50 A.M. each child joins his or her class at assigned picnic tables where they enjoy a breakfast donated by Maitland and Winter Park area McDonalds. Once bellies are full and attendance is taken, teachers and activity leaders present spiritual food to the hungry hearts that are eager to learn more about God, His love for them and His purpose and plan for their lives. Buses then load and depart at 11:30 A.M. returning the kids to their homes.

Parents are also welcome to attend OCC and participate in our adult Bible studies. OCC is supported by the generous donations of churches, community businesses, families, and individuals. Then he said to them: "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me." (Luke 9:48)

In the picture above, the ladies are shown in a room filled with items for the children. Peter O'driscoll is in the front row right with Sally Padron to his right. (photo by Heather Meador and article submitted by James D. Dickenson)

Celebration of Paradise Assembly No. 250, S.O.O.B. of California

Paradise Assembly No. 250, S.O.O.B., had many reasons to celebrate in July! This was their 29th anniversary and the 92nd birthday of Mrs. Allen O'Connell. It was also a time to congratulate and honor Mrs. Richard Kelly, Chairman of the Supreme Benevolent Committee, and to welcome a new dual member, Mrs. Robert Coe (P.P. of Santa Ana Assembly No. 61).

It was still another honor when Worthy President Mrs. Charles Trullinger presented Mrs. Richard Kelly with her 25-year membership card for her years of service to the Social Order of the Beauceant. There was a momentous celebration with a delicious luncheon enjoyed by all at the Red Bluff Masonic Hall.

Below left: far left: Mrs. Allen O'Connell (birthday lady) and members of Paradise Assembly in between with new dual, Mrs. Coe (3rd from left) and Mrs. Richard Kelly, Chairman of Supreme Benevolent Committee (far right). Below right: Mrs. Charles Trullinger, Worthy President, presenting Mrs. Richard Kelly, P.P. of Santa Ana, with her 25-year membership card.



Mrs. Jeanette Rife of Texas Installed Supreme Worthy President, S.O.O.B.



Mrs. Jeanette Rife was installed Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant on September 28, 2007, closing the 87th Annual Supreme Assembly held in Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Rife will preside at the 88th Annual Supreme Assembly, September 21–26, 2008, which will be held in Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. Jeanette Rife was born in Texarkana, Texas, was raised in Groves, Texas, and has resided in Nederland, Texas, since 1962. Her father, Ralph Edward Merchant, was a member of Port Neches Lodge No. 1163, Beaumont Commandery No. 38, DeQuincy Chapter No. 79, Louisiana, El Mina Shrine, Galveston, Texas, and Groves No. 953 O.E.S. Her grandfather, William T. Merchant, was Worshipful Master of Border Lodge No. 672 in 1932–1933, Thrice Illustrious Master of B. T. Estes Council No. 198 in 1925–1926, High Priest of B. T. Estes Chapter No. 263, R.A.M., in

1928–1929, *Eminent Commander* of Texarkana Commandery No. 64 in 1927. He was, also, a member of Border No. 211, O.E.S., and on the Advisory Board, Border Chapter, Order of the DeMolay, Tri-State Lodge No. 160, and Hella Shrine of Dallas, Texas.

A member of the Beauceant since 1983, Mrs. Rife was initiated in Port Arthur Assembly No. 160 during the official visit of S.W.P. Mrs. Charles D. Hobby. She served as President in 1991, held several offices and served on several committees, and was Recorder until December 2006. She served Supreme Assembly on Supreme Mileage 1994 and Supreme Jewelry Committee 2003.

Mrs. Rife is, also, an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Wesley United Methodist Church serving on the Administrative Board, and as Worship Chairman, Liturgist, and Choir member. She served as Worthy Matron of Groves Chapter No. 953 in 1987–1988 and Nederland Chapter No. 1079 in 2003–2004. She was Queen of Ramallah Temple No. 89, Daughters of the Nile, in Galveston, Texas, in 1989–1990. She served as Board Member for the Rainbow for Girls Assembly in Port Neches, Texas, in 1987–1988 and is a Past President of Casbin Grotto Auxiliary.

She was employed by Ameripol Synpol Employees Credit Union as a Loan Officer for 26 years. After retirement she purchased a Marine Construction Company which repairs oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, in which she operated for 6 years. She graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, as a Licensed Vocational Nurse and enjoys working as the nurse for the Southeast District at the Methodist Youth Camp in Lakeview, Texas, during the summer months.

Mrs. Rife has 3 children; daughter Renona Rae Rife (Steve) Williams, sons—Ronald Ray (Rhonda) Rife, Jr., and Rodney Reagan (Andrea) Rife. She has 5 grandchildren; Robert Morgan, Brittney Litchfield, Taylor Rife, Carter Rife, and Reagan Renee Rife. She, also, has 2 great grandchildren; Natalie Morgan and Baylor Litchfield.

Mrs. Rife is looking forward to her visits to the Assemblies and the hugs from her Beauceant Sisters. Mrs. Rife has requested continued support to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation from the Beauceant Assemblies across the country. Her motto is **“United We Stand With God.”**

Annual Bingo-Fun Day for Dallas No. 63, S.O.O.B.



Mrs. Edgar Stanley, third from right, Worthy President of Dallas Assembly No. 63, Dallas, Texas, Social Order of the Beauceant, is pictured with many officers and members of the Assembly behind gift tables. This summer Dallas Assembly No. 63 enjoyed preparing gift tables and refreshments for their yearly Bingo Social held for the residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center in Arlington, Texas. The Fun Day was enjoyed by all.

Brother Richard E. Byrd **by Warren H. Deck**

Many will recall hovering around their first radio loud speaker or listening on ear phones to hear the faint voice of Admiral Richard E. Byrd broadcasting from Little America. To that generation, his voice was as spectacular an accomplishment as the voices and pictures we have seen from the moon in more recent years.

Byrd, who became a Mason at the age of 32, has been called "the last explorer," but he was really a pioneer in a new breed using airplanes to cover vast areas of the earth which overland expeditions could never hope to reach.

The common denominator of his polar expeditions and his career in the United States Navy was aeronautics, which led Admiral Nimitz to say, at the end of World War II, that if Admiral Byrd had never gone near the Antarctic he would still be one of the greatest figures in American naval history for his contributions to the naval aeronautics program.

In all that he did he was identified as an officer of the United States Navy. He was, indeed, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, but after four years of active service, he was retired for disabilities sustained in accidents as an undergraduate and during his first tours of active duty. All of his later achievements came as a retired officer assigned to active duty, and each of his promotions to the flag rank of Rear Admiral came through a special Act of Congress passed to recognize his achievement.

During World War I Byrd received temporary promotions to the rank of Lieutenant Commander while on active duty assignments. By 1921 the

Navy had returned those in temporary ranks to their permanent ranks, and in the case of a retired officer, a permanent promotion in rank could come only by special Act of Congress.

In 1924 in speaking for the House of Representatives' bill to promote Richard E. Byrd, Jr., to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, retired, Congressman and Brother Fred Vinson pointed out his superior ratings and his seventeen citations for service to the Navy beyond the usual range of duties.

His advancement often irked many naval officers below the rank of Captain who were seldom seen or heard of outside naval circles.

By 1925 Byrd was capturing headlines with plans for a flight across the North Pole. In seeking Navy support for this expedition, Byrd predicted that in a few years an air route to Europe across the Polar seas would be in use during the daylight months.

On May 9, 1926, Lt. Commander Byrd, with Floyd Bennett as pilot, became the first ever to fly over the North Pole and the second to reach it. This flight also proved that there is no Arctic continent as Peary believed.

On their return, Congress promoted Byrd to Commander and awarded to Byrd and to Bennett the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 1926 plans for a flight from New York to Paris captured the imagination of the country, spurred by Raymond Orteig's offer of a \$25,000 prize for the first to complete the flight.

Commander Byrd, too, was planning a transatlantic flight, although his choice of destination was Rome. Byrd's

expressed purpose was not to be the first but rather to prove a flight could be made safely in a plane any competent pilot could fly and that it could be done any day in the week. Hence, of all the projected flights, Byrd's was the one to use a multi-engine plane with Byrd as navigator. Byrd was sworn in as a United States Mail Pilot, and the expedition's plane *America* was designated as the first official transatlantic mail plane. On June 29, 1927, the *America* took off carrying four men and its payload. Although the flight proved that the distance could be covered with flawless navigation, the Paris airfield and surrounding area was fog-bound and the plane could not land at its destination. Taking the plane off the coast of France, the flight was ditched in the surf. But the safety features which Byrd had insisted be built into the *America* kept it afloat, and using inflatable rafts the crew reached shore.

Brother Byrd's next great project was his Antarctic expedition, which reached the edge of the Antarctic ice in late December 1928. Although Byrd's expedition was not the first to use radio for communication, it was used to keep every phase of the Little America operation in constant touch with each other and proved invaluable in establishing the supply bases.

Between December 1928 and February 19, 1930, when the expedition set sail for home, the expedition had: (1) completed the successful flight over the South Pole, (2) made 1,600 mapping photographs, (3) had for nine months measured and studied Antarctic magnetism, the aurora, the temperature and constitution of the ice barrier, and (4) had made continual weather observations.

On his return, by Act of Congress, Commander Byrd was promoted to Rear Admiral.

Admiral Byrd almost immediately started planning and raising funds for his second Antarctic expedition with the objective of exploring the Pacific quadrant of Antarctica.

Part of the planning for this expedition called for the establishment of an advance base at which three men would make weather and temperature observations throughout the Antarctic winter months. When equipment breakdowns prevented supplying the advance base for three men, Byrd elected to man the base alone for seven months, including four months in winter darkness. The saga of this solitary exploit in which Admiral Byrd almost lost his life from carbon monoxide poisoning is recounted in his book, *Alone*.

In 1939 the third Byrd Antarctic expedition was undertaken under official United States Navy sponsorship with Admiral Byrd as an ex-officio member of the board through his appointment as chairman of the United States Antarctic Service. The purpose of this expedition was to map 1,000 miles of Antarctic coastline between Marie Byrd Land and Alexander Land. Although this was called the Byrd Expedition in the press, Admiral Byrd did not spend the winter in the Antarctic. After taking part in establishing the bases, he returned to the United States.

In 1940 with war clouds gathering on the horizon, Admiral Byrd was named consultant to the Secretary of War on cold-weather clothing and military equipment.

With the United States entry into World War II, Admiral Byrd was called back to active duty with the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics and with a board of eight members inspected bases and proposed bases for naval air operations in the Pacific theatre.

Continued in November 2007

Brother John Elway: Denver Bronco—Hall of Fame Quarterback

by Dr. Ivan M. Tribe, KCT, KYCH, 33°

During the first half of the twentieth century, the number of Masonry's famous figures from the world of athletics were many and numerous. With the passage of time and membership declines in recent decades, the number has declined. In the realm of football, such names as Red Grange, Don Hutson, and Glenn "Pop" Warner highlighted Brother Jerry Erikson's list of "Fraternal Footballers." In the immediate past generation, one gridiron name that stands out is Denver Bronco quarterback, Brother John Elway, who earned his way into the National Football League Hall of Fame during a professional career that extended from 1983 through 1998.

John Albert Elway, Jr., was born in Port Angeles, Washington, on June 28, 1960, the son of a football coach. One could almost say that the game was in his blood. A grandfather had once played on a team that had opposed the Carlisle Indians and Jim Thorpe. His father had been a quarterback at Washington State until injuries curtailed his playing career. In addition to the senior Elway known as "Jack," the family included mother Janet and two sisters, Lee Ann who was older and Jana who was John's twin (deceased in 2002). The family lived at various locales in Washington and Montana, as Jack Elway's coaching positions changed. About the time John entered high school, the father became head coach at Cal State Northridge (later at San Jose State), and the family settled in Granada Hills, California, which had become known for a stellar high school football program. As a quarterback at



Brother John Elway as a Bronco

Granada Hills High, the teenage John compiled a record that included 5,711 yards passing for some 49 touchdowns. In addition to being academically strong, John excelled in basketball and baseball and was drafted by the Kansas City Royals. Nonetheless, he opted for college, choosing Stanford over both Southern California and his father's San Jose State. Presumably, he chose Stanford because of their passing game, and he could also play baseball there.

Leland Stanford, Jr. University was hardly a super team during John Elway's college days, but he nonetheless proved himself to be an outstanding competitor and a great quarterback. He moved into the starting position as a sophomore and showed his mettle by completing 248 passes for 2,884 yards and 27 touch-

downs, leading among other things, to a Stanford upset over Oklahoma. Coaches of rival teams including those of U.C.L.A. and Southern Cal began comparing him to some of the game's all-time greats. His junior year came as something of a disappointment as the team had a 4-11 record. Still, Elway's individual statistics were such that most players would envy them: 214 completions for a total of 2,674 yards and 20 touchdowns.

John bounced back as a senior with 262 completions for 3,242 yards and 24 touchdowns. Stanford only won five games, but their quarterback managed to finish second in balloting for the Heisman Trophy behind Herschel Walker of Georgia. Stanford's mediocre 20-23 during Elway's college career may have kept him from winning the coveted award, but he still entered the NFL draft as a top prospect. As an economics major, he maintained a B average in the classroom and did well enough on the baseball diamond that he signed with the New York Yankee organization, having two good seasons with Oneonta in their minor league system.

Still, football had been John Elway's best sport and the game that attracted the most attention. The Baltimore Colts chose him as their number one draft choice. However, the Baltimore franchise had no appeal for either John or his advisor father, and he demanded to be traded or else he would simply opt for a baseball career. After a stand-off the Colts management agreed to trade his contract rights to the Denver Broncos. With all the media attention that accompanied his arrival in Colorado, the press considered his performance less than spectacular. The rookie quarterback spent much of the season as understudy to regular Steve DeBerg, starting on occasion. Playing

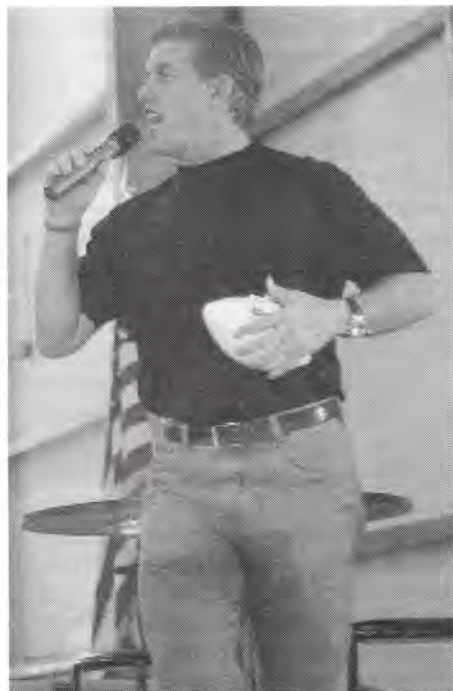


Brother John Elway as a Stanford player

roughly half the time, Elway completed 123 passes for 1,663 yards and 7 touchdowns and carrying the ball 28 times for 146 yards and scoring a single TD. The next year he got more playing time and improved his record.

The third year with the Broncos—1985—proved to be the one where the Elway charm on the field came of age. He led the league in attempted and completed passes, which gave his team 3,891 yards and 22 touchdowns. His rushing totals added 253 more yards. His team led the league in total passing and total offense. It would be the first of seven consecutive seasons in which the Stanford alumnus would pass for more than 3,000 yards and carry the ball for at least another 230.

During this remarkable streak, one achievement eluded the star quarterback, and that was leading the Broncos to a victory in the Super Bowl. Three times the Denver team reached the pinnacle, only to falter, losing to the New



York Giants, the Washington Redskins, and finally the San Francisco 49ers. The latter loss proved especially humiliating as the 49ers rolled over the hapless Broncos by a score of 55 to 10. Although John Elway scored the only Denver touchdown, it hardly came as a consolation prize in which to take much pride. Many years would pass before another opportunity came to the Broncos.

John Elway did have some career downswings. One came in the first part of the 1989 season when he was somewhat off his game. The press launched a series of tasteless attacks accusing him of being stingy with restaurant tips, and a Denver newspaper complained about the quality of Halloween candy passed out to trick-or-treaters. Later in the seasons, his records improved, and while his numbers were down somewhat, he still managed to surpass 3,000 yards in passing totals. The ungrateful critics simply turned their venom on others.

John Elway had one of his best seasons in 1993 with 348 completions, total yards passing of 4,030, and 25 touchdowns. A Super Bowl trip eluded the Broncos in this period. Former Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback, Terry Bradshaw, charged that John had been excessively coddled, first by his supporting family and second by the Denver organization. Although stung by this criticism, Elway conceded that it would be hard to be rated a truly great quarterback until his team had posted a Super Bowl victory.

By 1997 the Bronco rebuilding program began to show significant results. Their running game, led by Terrell Davis, began to compete with their always strong passing attack, and the Denver eleven was strong at every position. Finally, in Super Bowl XXXII, the time had come. In what was billed as a showdown between the John Elway led Broncos and the Brett Favre led Green Bay Packers, Denver finally

came home a winner by a 31–24 score. As the bio section on the Elway web site reads: “The dark cloud of doubt that had followed from his first Super Bowl defeat onward evaporated in an unbridled celebration of vindication!” Just to prove that their Super Bowl “jinx” had vanished, the Broncos also took XXXIII in January 1999 with a 34–19 victory over the Atlanta Falcons. John Elway was named the game’s “Most Valuable Player.”

A few weeks after that savored victory John Elway announced his retirement. At thirty-nine he was ready to hang up his shoes. His career totals now included 4,123 completions; 51,475 yards passing; and 300 TD passes in regular season play; plus 3,407 yards rushing and 33 touchdowns scored. His playoff and Super Bowl statistics would add some 355 more completions and 4,964 yards and 27 touchdown passes. He scored six TDs in such competition. He made a formal announcement of his retirement on May 2, 1999.

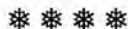
John Elway may have retired from the gridiron, but he continued in a variety of business endeavors. Some of those include two restaurants in the Denver area and principal ownership of the Arena League football franchise, the Colorado Crush. At one time he owned five auto dealerships in Colorado, but he subsequently sold them. He still owns one in Ontario, California. He has also partnered with Bassett Furniture in developing certain products. In 2006 when a Pennsylvania high school student was punished—somewhat foolishly—for wearing a John Elway Denver Bronco football jersey to class by a Steeler fan-teacher, Elway sent the youth a recliner chair. As a philanthropist, he started the John Elway Foundation, which raises money for two charities that help abused children. Some have speculated a possible run for the U.S. Senate in 2008.

John Elway’s Masonic membership dates from February 22 and 23, 2002, when he was part of a Grand Lodge of Colorado two-day class. He passed his proficiency on June 28, 2002. He is described as a “perpetual member” of South Denver Lodge No. 93, a status which is usually termed “a life member” in most grand jurisdictions. He has apparently not joined other Masonic bodies or otherwise been particularly active, but he does maintain a busy schedule.

In his personal life, John Elway was married to Janet Buchan, who had been a member of the girls’ swimming team at Stanford, until they divorced in 2003. The couple had two daughters, Jessica and Jordan, both of whom are in college, and a son, John Albert Elway III, scheduled to graduate from high school in 2008.

John Elway’s attainments on the football field speak for themselves. He ranks third among all NFL quarterbacks in passes attempted and completed, and fourth in touchdown passes. Elway entered the National Football League Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, in 2004. He is also a successful businessman and philanthropist. Masons should not only be proud of Brother Elway but be honored that he took the time to join our fraternity.

Bibliography: Most of the biographical data on John Elway comes from the entry in *Current Biography* (1990) and from his web site. His Masonic record came from the staff at the Grand Lodge of Colorado.



Sir Knight Ivan M. Tribe, KCT, KYCH, 33°, and a professor emeritus of history at the University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio, is a Past Commander of Athens Commandery No. 15, Athens, Ohio. He resides at 111 East High Street, McArthur, OH 45651-1111.

Part III—Brother Vincent Lopez: Anatomy of a Band Leader

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

On the west coast in 1939, Lopez added stamp collecting to his non-musical pursuits. He also had a brief career writing a news column for a San Francisco newspaper, in which he predicted future events with a numerology method he devised. In a burst of patriotic fervor, he wrote new lyrics for the "Star Spangled Banner." A little later he began dabbling in metaphysics. In February 1940, Lopez began to tour eastward, ending up in New York City. He opened in Billy Rose's Aquacade on May 11, 1940, at the New York World Fair. The Lopez band appeared for a time on the NBC broadcast, as a feature of their "Show of the Week."

Overall, though, he was losing ground rapidly in the musical mainstream. When he opened with the band in the summer of 1941 at the new Hurricane Club on Broadway, the venture failed in a week. Lopez had not been paid and was penniless once more.

With a personal indebtedness exceeding \$30,000, Lopez was desperate. Determined to establish a permanent arrangement, he signed a contract with the Hotel Taft to play in their grill room. Vincent was paid double the union wage for musicians, and his men earned the union hourly rate. He opened on June 29, 1941, in the somewhat austere, tiled grill room, which was to be his musical home for seven years. It had one redeeming virtue. The Taft Grill opened at noon and closed at nine in the evening. Many fine studio musicians were available during those hours, and Lopez hired them consistently to staff his band, even though they had regular night commitments. The Taft Grill became a popular stopping place for military personnel, as the draft began to

bring a great many young men into New York as transients. After Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, business boomed at the Taft Grill.

Lopez was so successful at the Taft that he was able to survive a world-class boner related to his astrological predictions. In a column written for the *American Astrological Magazine*, released on December 6, 1941, he predicted that the United States and Japan would enter World War II as allies! Lopez was obliged to endure a great deal of ridicule. His long-estranged wife, Mae Kenney Lopez, died during the year, freeing the erratic pianist from further marital obligations. In retrospect, however, World War II proved to be a lifesaver for Vincent, inasmuch as it offered an opportunity to revive his musical fortunes.

Never in robust health, Lopez' physical situation deteriorated steadily during the war years, and he was obliged to limit his non-business activity. It became a stable financial period as a result. Vincent was compelled to curtail his lavish social life. The band continued to receive extensive radio coverage during the Taft Grill years, enjoying a permanent radio wire and widespread popularity beyond the confines of their normal venue.

Another of Vincent's profitable ventures turned out to be the song, "Bell-Bottom Trousers," a musical hit of the war years. He collected substantial royalties during a period when "war" songs enjoyed great popularity. The Vincent Lopez Orchestra made numerous appearances at military installations during the war, playing for a generation of soldiers who had never enjoyed his music. The publicity paved the way for radio and television work coming in the near future. The war years became a



Johnny Messner, 1939

genesis for the band leader who many in the musical community had written off as a relic of the past.

Lopez' health declined steadily after WWII, frequently confining him to bed in his own apartment. Among his physical complaints were chronic gout and vision irregularities. Realizing he must hire an assistant band leader to assure stability in his musical obligation at the Taft Grill, Lopez began prospecting for a qualified man. It turned out to be a life-long New Yorker with a fine musical background. He was Johnny Messner, a successful New York band leader during the prewar years, just recently returned from military service.

Messner and his Music Box Band had been a fixture at the plush Marine Grill Room of the Hotel McAlpin for years. His elegant alto saxophone and clarinet performances qualified Johnny to fill the lead chair in any reed section. In addition, he was also an excellent singer with a fine formal musical education—the perfect choice for Vincent Lopez.

The new assistant leader relieved Vincent of a great many responsibilities. He called and conducted rehearsals, became the band's featured vocalist and instrumental soloist, and served as leader when Lopez was absent. Most important, he provided the freedom necessary for Vincent to prospect for opportunities in the newest entertainment medium—television.

Lopez was convinced there were great opportunities in pioneer TV programming, similar to those in radio two decades earlier. His public image had been sustained during the war years by virtue of the radio audience who listened to the band's continuous broadcasting from the Taft Grill. The strains of Lopez' piano theme "Nola" continued to be a familiar musical radio identification well into the decade of the 1950s. It was as much a part of the Lopez persona as the cryptic greeting, "Lopez speaking." A number of recorded live broadcasts survive to confirm the quality of Vincent's tasty musical offerings. Regardless of ill health and his eclectic business responsibilities, Vincent Lopez still provided the musical image necessary for his band. His presence at the keyboard, playing a musical specialty like Zez Confrey's venerable "Kitten On the Keys," never failed to delight the patrons. His strong piano lead continued to anchor the arrangements, as always.

By the late 1940s, Vincent's health had declined to an alarming level. He needed a full-time nurse to monitor his medical needs and provide necessary home care. The obvious candidate was Betty Long, a registered nurse and long-time Bible student. Her résumé included credits as a song composer and clothes designer, in addition to her qualifications as a nurse. Betty was the ideal medical attendant for Vincent. Almost immediately, she took over the management of the maestro's personal life, which included a generous dose of social discipline. Before long, they were married. Lopez settled into a structured domestic rou-

tine for the first time in his life. Within a brief period, his health improved dramatically, and he began to enjoy a level of contentment he had never achieved in his adult life. Healthy and mentally rejuvenated, Lopez made many early television appearances over the DuMont TV network. He was also an honored guest on Ed Sullivan's nationwide show.

Before long, DuMont signed Lopez to a 15-minute daily TV program. He played the piano, chatted with show-business guests, and interviewed audience visitors in an informal, personal style. The program grew into a national weekly television show, which included a guest list with more than 200 famous entertainment personalities. "A Dinner Date With Vincent Lopez" enjoyed two and a half years of national popularity.

Johnny Messner departed at the end of 1958. Lopez disbanded his orchestra to devote time to a scaled-down musical agenda. He played a number of engagements in Las Vegas with a small band and was very successful. However, his chronic eye problem plagued him after World War II. By 1960 it became acute and required a series of surgical procedures. In spite of his vision difficulties, Vincent was able to continue his musical appearances on a limited scale and to participate in a number of ancillary business ventures. Secure financially for the first time in his life, he was contemplating retirement as the decade of the sixties ended.

Vincent and Betty retired to a quiet life in Florida, where the little Portuguese maestro lived out his life in tranquil contentment. As his health eroded, he was eventually compelled to live in a private nursing home. Lopez died quietly in a north Miami hospital on September 20, 1975. He was 85 years old. His demise occurred two years after his 50-year recognition from the Grand Lodge of New York, on August 21, 1973. His symbolic membership was in the venerable St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in New York City, as was that of Paul Whiteman.

St. Cecile was founded after the Civil War as a daylight lodge catering to the working habits of the entertainment community. Its membership rolls over the years have reflected the names of countless distinguished musical and stage personalities. Among the most prominent names on its rolls are those of Vincent Lopez and Paul Whiteman.

Lopez received his E.A. Degree on June 5, 1923, his F.C. Degree on August 7, and the M.M. Degree on August 21, 1923. Author William Ray Denslow lists Lopez as being a member of "Cabellerus de America Lodge" in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That lodge, no longer listed on the international register, may have been one simply listed as "America Lodge No. 32" on the current record. However, the archives of the Grand Lodge of New York are silent in regard to Vincent's membership in Argentina.

When Lopez died in 1975, he left a record of half a century devoted to memorable musical entertainment. Over those five decades, he carved a niche in the pantheon of popular musical giants which will endure for all time. He earned and squandered vast sums of money, but in the end, he managed to close his career in financial security. Nevertheless, his legacy as a founding father of the Big Band Era is unblemished. We, as Freemasons, are obliged to revere his memory as a faithful and distinguished member of the Craft. Vincent Lopez alone suffered the consequences for his personality flaws during his long life, and we are not privileged to pass judgment on any of his actions. It behooves us, as Freemasons, to wrap his faults and foibles in the mantle of Masonic charity. Our own frailties demand it. (*THE END*)

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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 Street, Nampa, ID 83686.

**HOMECOMING OF SUPREME WORTHY PRESIDENT, S.O.O.B.—June 15-17
 GALA EVENT held in Westminster, Maryland**

The Homecoming of Mrs. David E. Alcon, Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant (2006–2007) was well attended in Westminster, Maryland. An indoor picnic and Cavalcade of Aprons (a fun symbol of Mrs. Alcon) was held Friday evening, and on Saturday a bus trip was taken to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and included a tour of the battle field, the Friend to Friend Masonic Monument, and a visit to Boyd's Bear Country. The Homecoming Banquet was Saturday eveing with a hundred present from as far away as Texas and Kansas, and the weekend concluded with a Sunday Worship Service and brunch by the Omelette Queen.



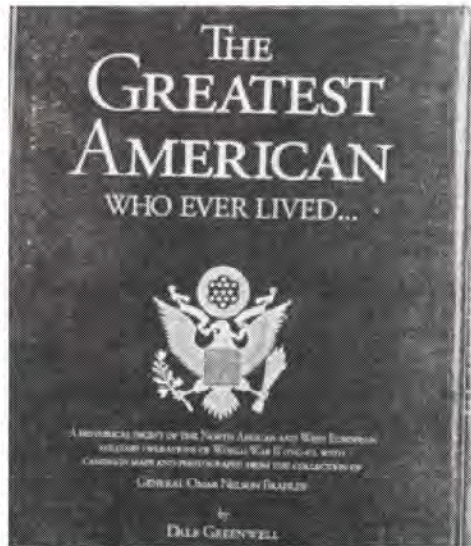
Directly above: Supreme officers in attendance, left to right, front: Mrs. Jack L. Edwards, S.W. Oracle; Mrs. David E. Alcon, S.W. President and P.P. of Westminster No. 245; Mrs. Jeanette Rife, S.W. 1st Vice President; second row: Mrs. Duncan C.



Watson, S.W. Preceptress; Mrs. John A. Kleinfelder, S.W. 2nd Vice President. Right above: members of Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265 with Mrs. Alcon (front with Sir Knight David) and their Sir Knights. To left are the members of Westminster Assembly No. 245. The pictures were taken by and the article submitted by Mrs. Leslie Loomis, P.P. of Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265 and the Omelette Queen.

Sale of Book to Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The Greatest American Who Ever Lived, by Sir Knight Dale Greenwell, is a historical digest of the North African and West European military campaigns of World War II, 1942–1945, with operation maps and 210 selected photos from General Omar N. Bradley's personal collection. It is best quality, army green and gold cover and jacket, 216 pages and 9.5 x 12.5 inches. You can view at: JJCo@amalpha.info but order directly from author: Dale Greenwell, P.O. Box 426, Biloxi, MS 39533 for a \$5.00 donation of each sale to KTEF, for a \$2.00 donation to the Commandery Katrina recovery fund, and for free S & H. For the latter, price is only \$39.95.



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 inches by 60 inches 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.

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 the 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 \$59.00. **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.



KCT and GCT Award Recipients: A 2 1/2 inch diameter, embroidered emblem has been produced for use on mantles and blazers of KCT recipients. The emblem is to be centered on the Cross that adorns the left side of the mantle or ceremonial robe or on the left side (on pocket) of a dress blazer. The same use is required for the GCT emblem which is bordered with a wreath. The cost of the KCT emblem is \$8.50 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, and the cost of the GCT emblem is \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Contact: Jon Patrick Sweet, 7474 Benton Street, Westminster, CO 80003-7001, or phone (303) 430-8483.



Sale of York Rite Plaque to Benefit York Rite Charities

The plaque is scrolled out of wood and framed, and it represents all the bodies of the York Rite: Master Mason to Commandery. All proceeds from the sale of these plaques will go to the York Rite philanthropies: RARA, Cryptic Mason, the Eye Foundation, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage. They are \$50.00 each, including shipping and handling anywhere in the United States. Check to Conway York Rite Bodies, and send to: Kenneth Brackens, 2742 Cultra Road, Conway, SC 29526-3702; e-mail, kbrackens@yahoo.com



Tennessee Commandery Sells Lapel Pins To Benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Manchester Commandery No. 40, Manchester, Tennessee, is pleased to announce that it is continuing a fund-raiser for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. They have added to their selection of unique **lapel pins**, especially for Sir Knights and Commandery appendant bodies. During the four years of pin sales, donations to the Voluntary Campaign have exceeded the \$22,000 mark! Again our thanks to those who have purchased these pins. We hope to make the 40th Annual Campaign donations even better! These pins can also be viewed in color at www.yorkriteusa.org These pins are available for **\$6.00 each or all nine for \$45.00**, postage paid. Make check or money order payable to: **Manchester Commandery No. 40**. Send to Garry L. Carter, Recorder; 424 Winchester Hwy., Hillsboro, TN 37342. Thanks



1800's Apron



KT/Blue Lodge



Knight Commander



Malta



Knight Crusader



Beauceant Shield



Beauceant Standard



Mediterranean Pass



KT Chapeau

again for your continued support.

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 \$165.00. (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: 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.

■ The Grand Commandery of Illinois has prepared a 2-volume set of its history to commemorate its 150th anniversary. Included in these books is the biographical sketch of all of the presiding officers of the York Rite bodies in Illinois from their formation; Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery. The 2-volume paperback set of 1,200 pages is available for \$35.00, plus shipping from *Robert Baker Fisher, 2151 Baker Street, Aurora, IL 60506-1707.*

■ 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: 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 again: Past Commander (red); serving Commander, Generalissimo (specify either traditional or just lamb and square), Captain General, Prelate (green): all \$50; Emeritus ranks: Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate (red): \$55; Honorary Past Commander with silver H.C. at foot of cross, \$90; Grand Commandery, Grand Rep., \$60; Past Grand Commander (purple): \$70; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$85. Also: chapeaux crosses in extra fancy gold/silver bullion w/velcro back: Sir Knight, \$45; Past Commander, \$50; Grand Commandery and Grand Rep. (red), \$65; Past Grand Commander (purple), \$70; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$80. Embroidered extra fancy gold/silver sleeve crosses (pair), velcro back: Sir Knight, \$45; P.C., \$45; Grand

Commandery, \$50; P.G.C. (purple), \$70; Grand Encampment and special orders, \$85. We can now have initials embroidered in silver on a pair of straps at \$15 for each initial (for the pair). Embroidered gold/silver fatigue hat bullion crosses: Sir Knight, \$45; Past Commander, \$50. Metal cap crosses: silver, \$32; gold, \$38; Past Commander's jewel, \$52. All items plus shipping, handling, and insurance: 1st item, \$5.00; each additional item, \$1.00. ALSO, we have a Sir Knight's sword, a Royal Arch Mason sword, 2 Sir Knight's silver colored fancy swords, and a 32" sword, all antique and of extremely fine quality, \$245 each plus \$25 shipping. Percentage to Knights Templar and Masonic charities. Checks to and mail to *Jacques N. Jacobsen, Jr., P.C.; 3 Oceans West Blvd., No. 4A4; Daytona Beach; FL 32118.* Phone (386) 304-6157.

■ 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 Chapter to be chartered in Georgia in 25 years, is selling its newly minted mark/penny for \$10.00 each or 2 for \$15.00, postpaid. Each coin accompanied with a certificate of authenticity. Checks or MOs to *Middle Georgia York Rite Bodies* and mail to *A. Neal Mimbs, Chairman; 121 Jeanette Street, Cochran, GA 31014; e-mail anealmimbs@bellsouth.net*

■ Northeastern Lodge No. 210, Fremont, Indiana, is planning its 150th anniversary to be held in 2007. Part of the program is the issuance of a commemorative coin with the likeness of General Lewis B. Hershey on one side. General Hershey supervised the selective service for over three decades. He was also a 50-year member of Northeastern Lodge No. 210. The coins are 1 and 9/16 inch, antique bronze, and sell for \$10.00, plus \$1.00 shipping. (Special finish, gold or silver plated available at \$50.00 each.) This is a fund-raiser for our new lodge. Check or MOs to *Northeastern Lodge No. 210*, and send to *John Myers, 20 South John Court, Angola, IN 46703.*

■ Elwood Lodge No. 919, Joliet, Illinois, will be selling a commemorative centennial coin and lapel pin set. The coin will have on front the Lodge name and number with the charter date and a square and compass

emblem in the middle. On the back the square and compass will be encircled by 8 3D images of the working tools of a Mason. The lapel pin will be the same as the front of the coin encircled in 24 karat gold. The set will sell for \$20.00 and will come in a decorative case. Send check or money order made payable to *Elwood Lodge No. 919, A.F. & A.M. to Dan Gaddis, Jr., Sec.; Elwood Lodge No. 919, A.F. & A.M.; 201 Robson Drive; Lockport; IL 60441*. Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for delivery.

■ **Help the children:** 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 and one free tag with every 10 ordered.** Shipping for 1 to 5 is \$6.00, 6 to 10 is \$8.00, 11 to 20 is \$10.00 to same address in US. **\$2.00 from each tag donated 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 *harrya217@estel.net*

■ **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 O.E.S. 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.*

■ **For sale:** book, *The Rationale of Freemasonry:* Includes the meaning of allegories, the influence of social changes and trends. 280 pages, \$20.00 postpaid. **% to KTEF.** Checks to *Bob Demott, 3501 Equestrian Way, Knoxville, TN 37921.*

■ **New novelty book available:** *Pythagoras, this Cross Is for You,* by P. Master and P. Commander, Jack N. Barrickol, 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 Enterprises,* and send to *Ourland Enterprises, 8631 McDade, Houston, TX 77080-4321.*

■ **Wanted:** Masonic Chapter pennies by avid collector. I have been building this collection for 36 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 Hawaiian and Alaskan 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 *Macey 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.**

■ **The entire collection of Masonic and Knights Templar memorabilia of Sir Knight John S. Keenan, Jr., Past Division Commander of Division 3, Pennsylvania,** is being sold at auction on Saturday, October 13, 2007, beginning at 9:00 A.M. There are over 100 individual items being sold. To see a complete list of items, visit the auctioneer's website at <http://www.kenreeduction.com/week2.htm> and scroll down to the link for the complete list of items.

■ **For sale:** customized Masonic gifts and incentive items: Represent Masonry with pride with beautifully crafted, custom imprinted fraternal items, all reasonably priced for your Masonic budget and specially customized to your specifications. Included are: lapel pins, coffee mugs, ink pens, die cast coins, and belt buckles. Simply hand sketch your design on a piece of paper and send to me. I will create the camera ready art to produce your imprinted items. For a free color brochure contact *Bro. Frank Looser, 809 Cobble Cove, Nashville, TN 37211; (800) 765-1728, e-mail fhlf@comcast.net, web site: www.cnfintracive.com % to KTEF.*

■ **For sale:** tooled leather items for Masons and their ladies, hand-made by a Master Mason. Items include: 6-ring notebooks, checkbook covers, wallets, and clutch purses. The square, compass, and letter G are tooled on the front or you can get any emblem from a concordant body that you wish. I have also designed a 16 x20-inch tooled leather picture entitled "A Master's Journey." This is a landscape that depicts events and symbolism on the way to becoming a Master Mason. Also, have a tooled leather belt with picture. *Karl Jepsen, P.O. Box 305, Cal-Nev-Ari, NV 89039; (702) 297-1754; KarlJ68@aol.com % to KTEF.*

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

A Day to Remember: Friday, October 13, 1307

This was the infamous day that King Philip IV of France ordered all Knights Templar arrested and charged with numerous heresies. The Templars confessed to various blasphemies after being submitted to examination by rigorous and ferocious torture.

Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, confessed under torture but later retracted his statement. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by being burned alive at the stake. He suffered that fate in Paris on March 18, 1314.

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