



Knight Templar

VOLUME LX

December 2014

NUMBER 12

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Knight Templar

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Bismarck, ND 58503-0192

**Address changes or corrections
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Grand Master's Message

As this year draws to a close, we are pleased to report on the progress of our New Year's resolutions for 2014.

1. We will live by our theme; Chivalry, Christianity, Templary...a way of life!
2. We will be of greater assistance to our Grand Commanderies.
3. We will continue to improve and expand The York Rite Information System.
4. We will strive to continue the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. as a significant resource in the ophthalmic community.



Through our Department Conferences and visits to Annual Conclaves of our Grand Commanderies, we have spread the message of living by our theme. We have continued our educational programs and the Emerging Leaders Program to assist our Grand Commanderies in their development of our Commanderies. We have added new features to the York Rite Information System and made it available to other Masonic bodies as we promised. We have expanded the services of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and at the same time, built our permanent funds to over one hundred ten million dollars. We believe that we have met our goals for the year and hope that you are in agreement.

Please read the message of Sir Knight William D. Hartman, Right Eminent Grand Prelate, as well as the *Toast to the Grand Master* from the Committee on Religious Activities and my response, which are included in this issue with thoughts for this Christmas season.

We trust that each Commandery will have a Christmas observance that is shared with fellow Sir Knights, families, Masons, and the community. What better way to share the love of the season than by worshipping together?

The officers and ladies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar join with my Lady Marci and me in wishing you a very blessed and merry Christmas!

David Dixon Goodwin, GCT

A stylized signature of David Dixon Goodwin, GCT, written in black ink.

Grand Master

The future is ours! We must seize the moment!

Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar. december 2014



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District of Columbia
Grand Commander 2006
Born: June 27, 1945
Died: September 24, 2014

Howard R. Caldwell
Colorado
Grand Commander 1987
Born: August 23, 1926
Died: September 16, 2014

Robert Earl Martin, Jr.
Illinois
Grand Commander 2000
Born: February 20, 1956
Died: October 6, 2014

W. Andrew Emmert
Iowa
Grand Commander 1995
Born: August 12, 1914
Died: October 10, 2014


Richard Decker
South Dakota
Grand Commander 2008
Born: March 30, 1948
Died: August 12, 2014

Prelate's Chapel

by

Rev. William D. Hartman, Right
Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand
Encampment

“Hark, the Herald Angels sing, Glory to the new-born King”

 ne winter night, composer
and organist, J. S. Bach,
was scheduled to debut
a new composition. He arrived
at the church expecting it to be

filled with people. Instead no one had come. Without missing a beat, Bach told the orchestra that they were going to perform anyhow. They all took their places, Bach raised his baton, and soon the whole church was full, not with people, but with wonderful music. Bach composed his music, not just for the delight of people, but more importantly, for the glory of God.

The celebration of the real meaning of Christmas often gets lost in the glitter and commercialization of the holiday. Rather, we need to remember the greatest gift of all - God's gift of His Son for the redemption of the world. Shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks at night in the fields outside of Bethlehem, saw and heard an angel announce to them: “Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For onto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:10-11) While they looked on in amazement, the angel was joined by a multitude of angels, “praising God and singing, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all peoples.’” (Luke 2:13-14)

Like J. S. Bach, let us fill our Christmas this year with “Glory to God in the highest,” and let us show peace and good will to all those with whom we come in contact, especially our families and friends.

Give the gift of love as God has given to us in our Lord Jesus Christ.



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A Penny on the Sidewalk

Published by

Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT

Taken from the Alabama state supplement of the *Knight Templar* magazine.

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. It gives you something to think about.

"Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway and cars costing more than her house. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again and was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see.

'Look at it.' He said. 'Read what it says.' She read the words, 'United States of America.' 'No, not that; read further.' 'One cent?' 'No, keep reading.' 'In God We Trust?' 'Yes!' 'And?' 'And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God, that I do trust in Him. For a short time at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient, and pennies are plentiful!' When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient...

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given. That's the whole gospel message simply stated.

A Chat With The Managing Editor

I just returned from the Triennial session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay for the General Grand Council business session so I don't know yet what happened there. The reason I mention this is that the delegates to the General Grand Chapter session exhibited admirable courage and leadership by setting their dues to an amount that will sustain the organization adequately in accomplishing its mission. They are to be congratulated and hopefully emulated. I suspect that some Grand Chapters will withdraw their membership because of this action. If so, that's sad.

I have heard the question posed more than once, "What do they do for us?" That is a nonsensical question to me and exhibits the ignorance of the questioner. There are two things wrong with that question. First, "they" are us. The General Grand Chapter is a voluntary association of Chapter Masons who pool their resources through their Grand Chapters for the promotion of Royal Arch Masonry and its purposes. Second, the General Grand Chapter is not supposed to do anything for us. We are supposed to work together through the General Grand Chapter to promote York Rite Masonry.

The last two or three generations of members of the Masonic fraternity, including mine, I call the "moocher" generations. They inherited marvelous stately buildings and a considerable amount of cash from their predecessors and were expected to maintain the facilities, invest the assets to promote the order, to accomplish the great mission of promoting harmony and morality within our society, and to pass the assets on to today's generation with interest. Instead, we spent the money on ourselves, let the marvelous buildings decay, bankrupted the fraternity, and left virtually no resources for subsequent generations of Freemasons.

The current generation of Freemasons is in the process of taking the fraternity back from the moochers and rebuilding, almost from scratch, what the previous generations destroyed or squandered. I believe the decision made by the delegates to the General Grand Chapter is evidence of this, as is the construction of the new Scottish Rite building in Chicago and thousands of other "points of light" which I see developing almost daily.

I am proud to see the General Grand Chapter showing this courage and leadership and can only hope that one day I can rejoin them in this effort. Meanwhile, all you young guys, keep the faith, don't be discouraged by the moochers, and above all, keep your focus on our mission of making the world a better place to live in, one man at a time.

*We are not human beings
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John L. Palmer
Managing Editor

Knights Templar Cross of Honor Templary's Highest Award

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor for the year 2014. These distinguished Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service and have been rewarded for it. The *Constitution and Statutes* of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

ALABAMA

Michael F. Feld
Huntsville No. 7

ARIZONA

Reza Farrokh
Scottsdale No. 12

ARKANSAS

Ronald Shinall Tucker
Damascus No. 8

CALIFORNIA

Leland G. Routt
Stockton No. 8

Randy R. Downey
San Jose No. 10

CONNECTICUT

John Mellor
Hamilton No. 5

FLORIDA

Anthony L. Griffon
Bartow No. 15

GEORGIA

Mark Anthony Bradley
Arnold De Troye No. 31

HAWAII

Scott Michael Waracka
Kalakaua No. 2

IDAHO

George J. White, Jr.
Twin Falls No. 10

ILLINOIS

Gary Wayne Sheets
Palestine No. 27

INDIANA

Phillip D. Whisner
Raper No. 1

Matthew E. Lowe
Terre Haute No. 16

IOWA

Forrest C. Peck
Ivanhoe No. 17

ITALY

Giacomo Lentini
Alessandro Amarelli No. 23

Gaspare Rizzo
Il Vespro No. 9

KANSAS

Allan D. Jackson
Esdraelon No. 49

KENTUCKY

William Joseph Brown
Shelby No. 32

LOUISIANA

Salvador Frank Lomonaco, Jr.
Indivisible Friends No. 1

MAINE

Paul Alan Rollins
Portland-St. Albans No. 2

MARYLAND

James J. Morgan, Jr.
Maryland No. 1

MASSACHUSETTS/RHODE ISLAND

Raymond Eric Hassell
Calvary No. 13

Albert Timothy Ames
Saint Bernard No. 12



MICHIGAN

Ardys D. Bennett
Detroit No. 1

MINNESOTA

Peter P. Kloskowski
Nazarene No. 24

MISSISSIPPI

Terry Gilbert Morgan
Yalobusha No. 28

MISSOURI

Harry L. Tripp, Jr.
Desoto No. 56

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Allenby No. 20

NEBRASKA

Hugh B. Nehls
Mt. Nebo No. 11

NEVADA

Kevin P. McCans
Melita No. 9

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alan Marston Robinson
DeWitt Clinton No. 2

NEW JERSEY

Alfred Andrew Chiappa
St. Johns No. 9

NEW MEXICO

Christopher Allan Larsen, II
Pilgrim No. 3

NEW YORK

David John Passalugo
Lake Erie No. 20

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Raleigh No. 4

NORTH DAKOTA

Ronald Alphonsa Cooper
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OHIO

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OKLAHOMA

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Capitol No. 13

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Ralph Burks Taylor
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Fort Bend No. 74

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You might not be a Templar if the ladies and children with whom you are only casually acquainted don't think to call on you before anyone else for your advice and assistance.



SALUTING OUR GRAND COMMANDERS

Congratulations are extended from our Most Eminent Grand Master, David Dixon Goodwin, and the grand officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A. to the newly elected Grand Commanders of the Grand Commanderies within their jurisdiction. As a part of this salute to their dedication and tireless service to Templary, *Knight Templar* magazine is printing the available photographs of the Sir Knights who will serve as Grand Commanders for the current Templar year.

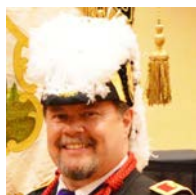
The Grand Commanders, whose photos appear on these pages, are the guiding hands on the tiller of the ship of Templary, navigating their vessel faithfully through the uncharted waters ahead.



Paul R. Drinkard, Sr.
ALABAMA



David Worel
ALASKA



Sidney J. Leluan, III
ARIZONA



Ronnie Hedge
ARKANSAS



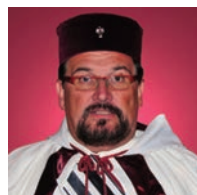
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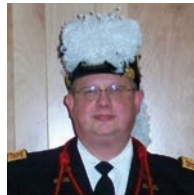
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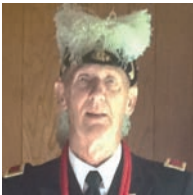
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Model of the Templar Com-
mandery at La Couvetoirade,
France. Photo by the editor.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230
Phone (214) 888-0220
Fax (214) 888-0230.



I hope your homes, like mine, are alive and filled with the sounds and joys of Christmas. Joy is in the air, on the faces of those we meet, in the embrace of friends and loved ones. There is something profoundly different that seems to be rekindled in our hearts; the world becomes, if only for a short period, a kinder and better place. We prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child; some two thousand years ago, hope was given to man.

Hope sustains us; it is measured in our faith and manifested in how we live our lives. Have you considered that you and I can be the source of hope for others less fortunate than us? Each of us, according to our own ability, has it within us to impact the lives of others. We should never underestimate the power of a simple act of kindness.

This is the perfect time of year for us to remember a program which I have named "Twenty-four for Twelve." As a reminder, I am asking you to send a twenty-four dollar donation, representing one dollar a month for you, and one dollar a month for a fellow Sir Knight. If we are successful with this program, we can make this one of the most successful voluntary campaigns yet. Remember the power of "we;" remember that we have made, are making, and will continue to make a difference.

God, our Father in heaven, gave hope to man through his Son in a small manger in Bethlehem. Now it falls to us to be his faithful stewards and to provide hope to others through the blessings he has given each of us.

It is my hope that you and your families will have the most joyous Christmas ever, that your homes are filled with love, and that the mercy of God is showered upon you in all His abundance. This Christmas morning, as I am sitting in my chair with my dog, Bear, lying at my feet, writing my check for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, I pray that you will join me in this simple act of kindness and provide hope to others.

In His Service,
Terry L. Plemons , GCT

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5

Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230

Phone (214) 888-0220

Fax (214) 888-0230

Words of Appreciation

We offer thanks to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for their grant in support of the initiative, "Cell-based Therapeutic Strategy for Retinosis Pigmentosa," under the direction of Yuchun Tsai, Ph.D. at Cedars-Sinai. Your generous donation will have a lasting impact on the patient-focused care that we provide each and every day.

Since its founding in 1902, Cedars-Sinai has evolved into a world-class healthcare facility. However, we know that none of our vital work in patient care, biomedical research, medical education, and community services would be possible without the financial support and caring involvement of a philanthropic partner like the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Together we will continue to improve the health of our communities and to steward the resources entrusted to us. Thank you again for making Cedars-Sinai a priority in your philanthropic endeavors.

Sincerely,

John Coleman, Chair, Resource Development Committee

Arthur J. Ochoa, JD, Senior Vice President, Chief Development Officer

Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, California

knight templar

It is a pleasure to thank the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for your grant to support Dr. Mary Whitman's research entitled "Oculomotor axon growth and guidance in normal development and in congenital fibrosis of the extraocular muscles (CFEOM)."

The causes of most forms of strabismus (misalignment of the eyes), including severe forms like CFEOM, are unknown. With the foundation's support, Dr. Whitman and her team will study the genetic mutations that are known to cause a deficit in the cranial nerves that control eye movement leading to CFEOM. This work may provide valuable insights into the development of this limiting condition as well as of more common forms of strabismus.

On behalf of Boston Children's Hospital, I extend my deepest thanks to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for its commitment to our critical research efforts.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Fenwick, President and Chief Executive Officer, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.

Photos of the fortified city of Avila, Spain taken by the editor.





A Christmas Story

By

The late Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr

Moss Hart, the playwright who died in 1961, wrote his autobiography called "Act One." In it he tells a story about his father and the poverty that encircled his life and the desperate times through which Moss Hart and his parents had to suffer.

It was Christmas Eve. Father and son had walked along 145th Street in New York. The big stores were brilliant with lights. Windows were aglow with colors and ornaments. Push carts were laden with toys. The young boy's eyes were full of anticipation, but Moss Hart knew there was little money for extras. He heard his father's hand jingle a few coins in his pocket, but always the price was too much. His father's face showed the disappointment.

"It's all right, Dad," the son said. "It doesn't matter. I love you." On and on they shivered homeward. "I wanted just to put my hand in his," Moss Hart later recalled, "but we were not on that basis, and we walked home in silence."

Years later, when Moss Hart visited his father at age ninety-one in Florida, it was Christmas Eve again. The two of them sat together on a sofa and looked through the family album of youthful years. Quietly and gently the father's hand fell on his son's. It was the first time their lives had met. Two hands touched each other. It was enough. The wall between them had been broken down.

Christmas is one of those times when walls can be broken. It is a time to celebrate and touch each other with love, warmth, and understanding. That's what it was when God opened the curtains of heaven to let the birth of the Christ-Child shine through so that His hand may be in our hand, joining together in hope, confidence, and reassurance.

Merry Christmas to all, and for others a cheerful Hanukkah!



The late Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr, a member of Beauseant Commandery No. 8, Baltimore, MD, was Pastorem of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. He submitted many seasonal articles to the *Knight Templar* magazine over the years, and this is one that was not previously published. We publish it here in his memory.

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than 10 can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of 10. Some past issues are archived on our web site. <http://www.knightstemplar.org>.

We publish letters and articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.

Knightly News

The 69th Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International and the 45th Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International held at Buffalo, New York September 25-30, 2014.

The General Grand Chapter and the General Grand Council met in Buffalo, New York this September, electing Companion and Sir Knight Most Excellent Louis E. Bartrand as General Grand High Priest, Companion and Sir Knight Steven G. Tiner as General Grand Scribe, and Companion and Sir Knight Lawrence O. Weaver as Illustrious General Grand Master. One of the highlights of the week was the reenactment of the “Wedding of the Waters.”

In 1825, General Grand High Priest, Most Excellent DeWitt Clinton, who was also New York’s governor, stood on the deck of a packet boat and poured a barrel of water from Lake Erie into the Atlantic Ocean. This “Wedding of the Waters,” as

it came to be known, was the symbolic completion of the Erie Canal, the most important waterway of its day and the engineering project that once and for all sealed New York City’s future as the most important commercial city in America.

To commemorate this important event, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, with New York’s own Most Excellent Edmund D. Harrison officiating, marched to the Erie Canal from the Adam’s Mark Hotel and performed a symbolic “Wedding of the Waters” ceremony at the recently rediscovered and beautifully restored Commercial Slip of the Erie Canal.

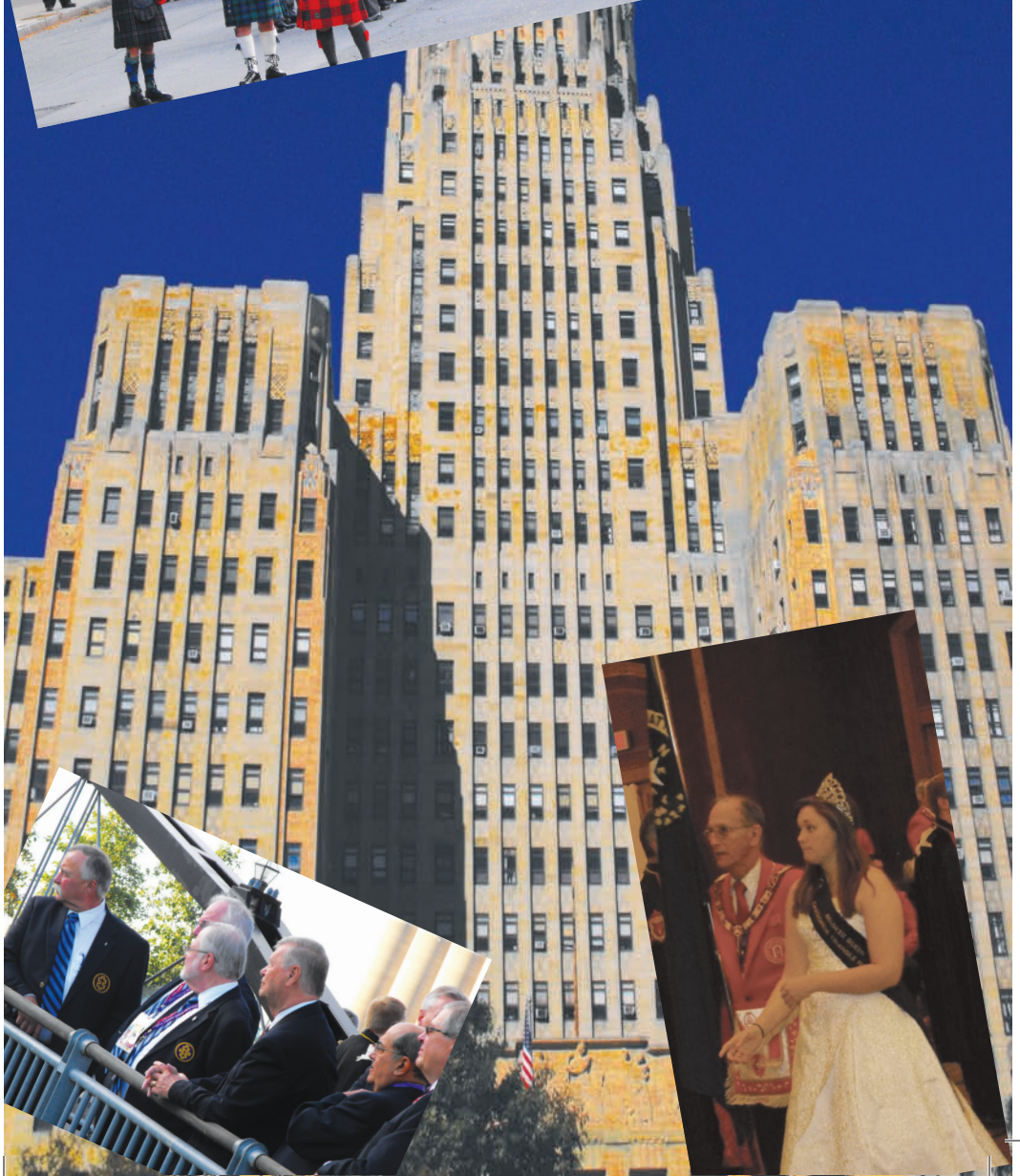
We offer the following pictorial report of the week’s events.

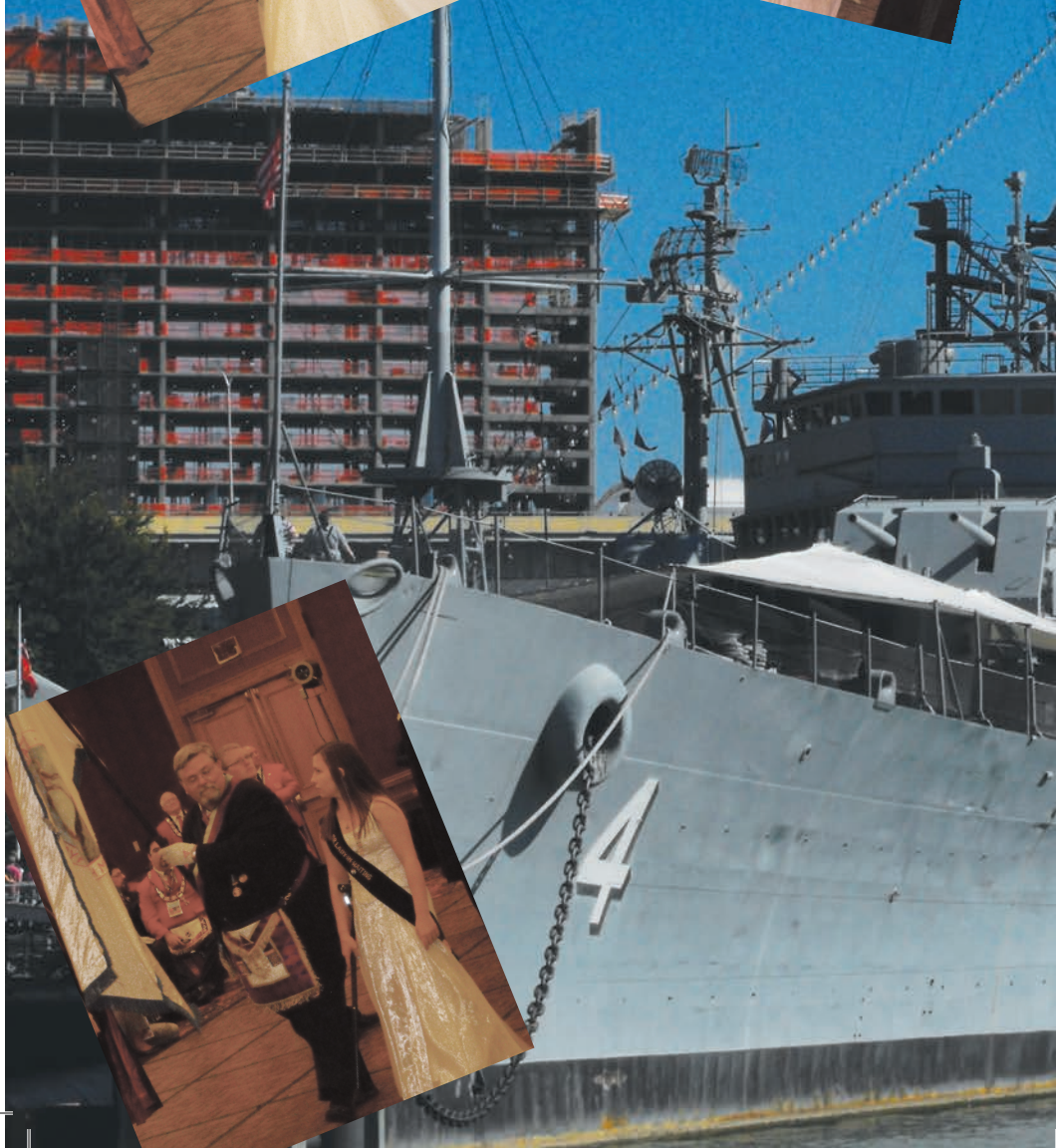


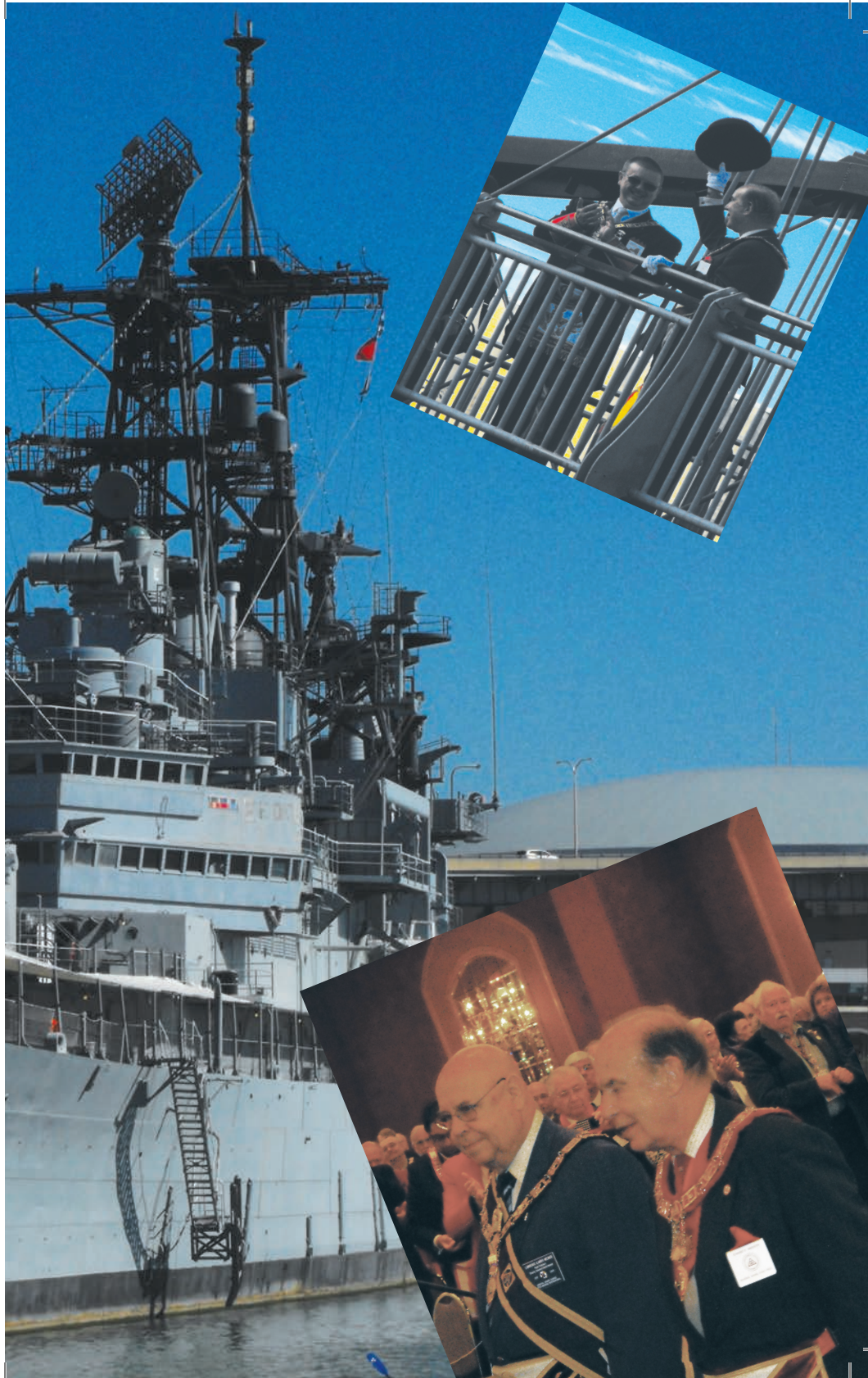


Adam's Mark

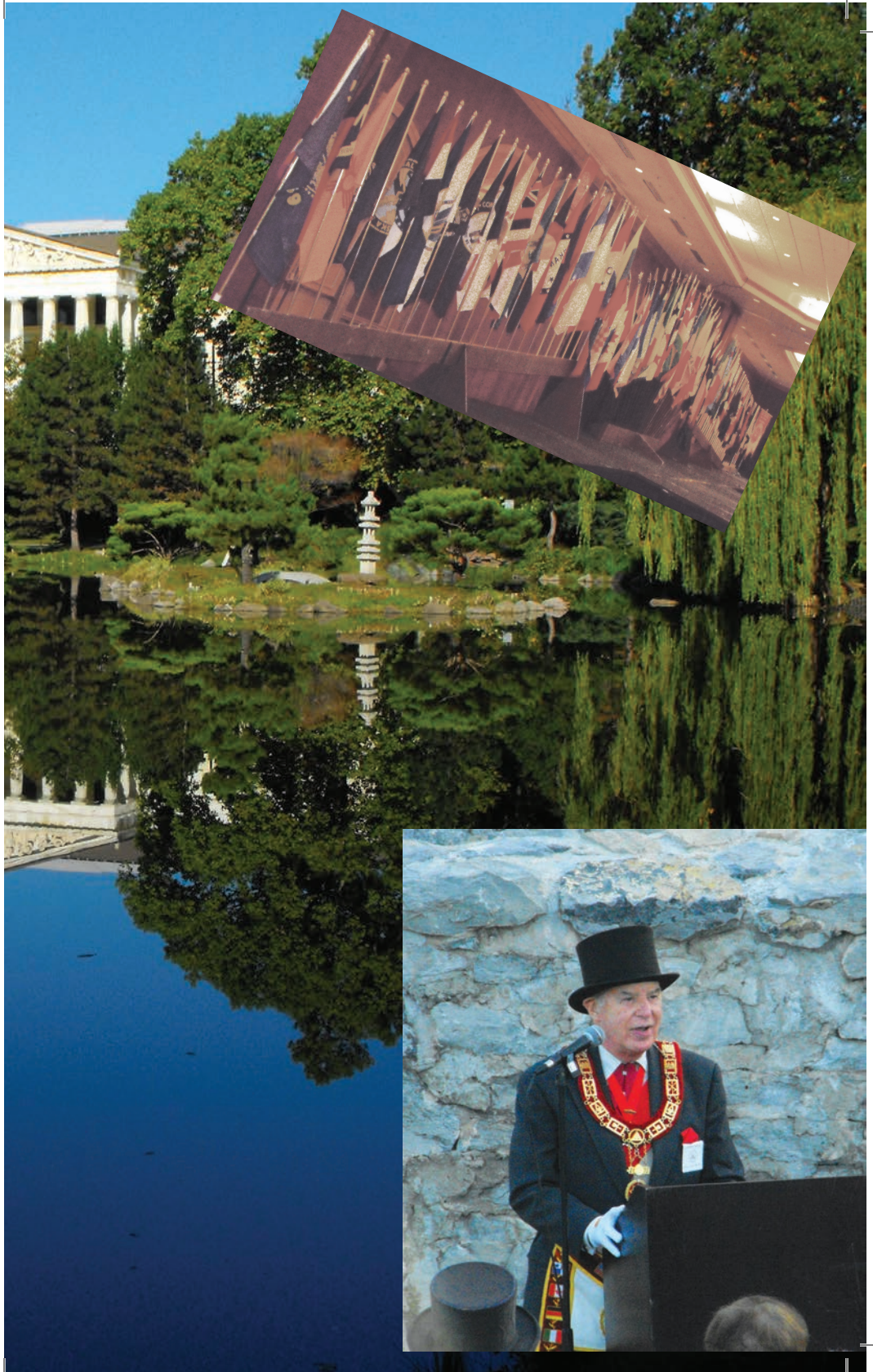


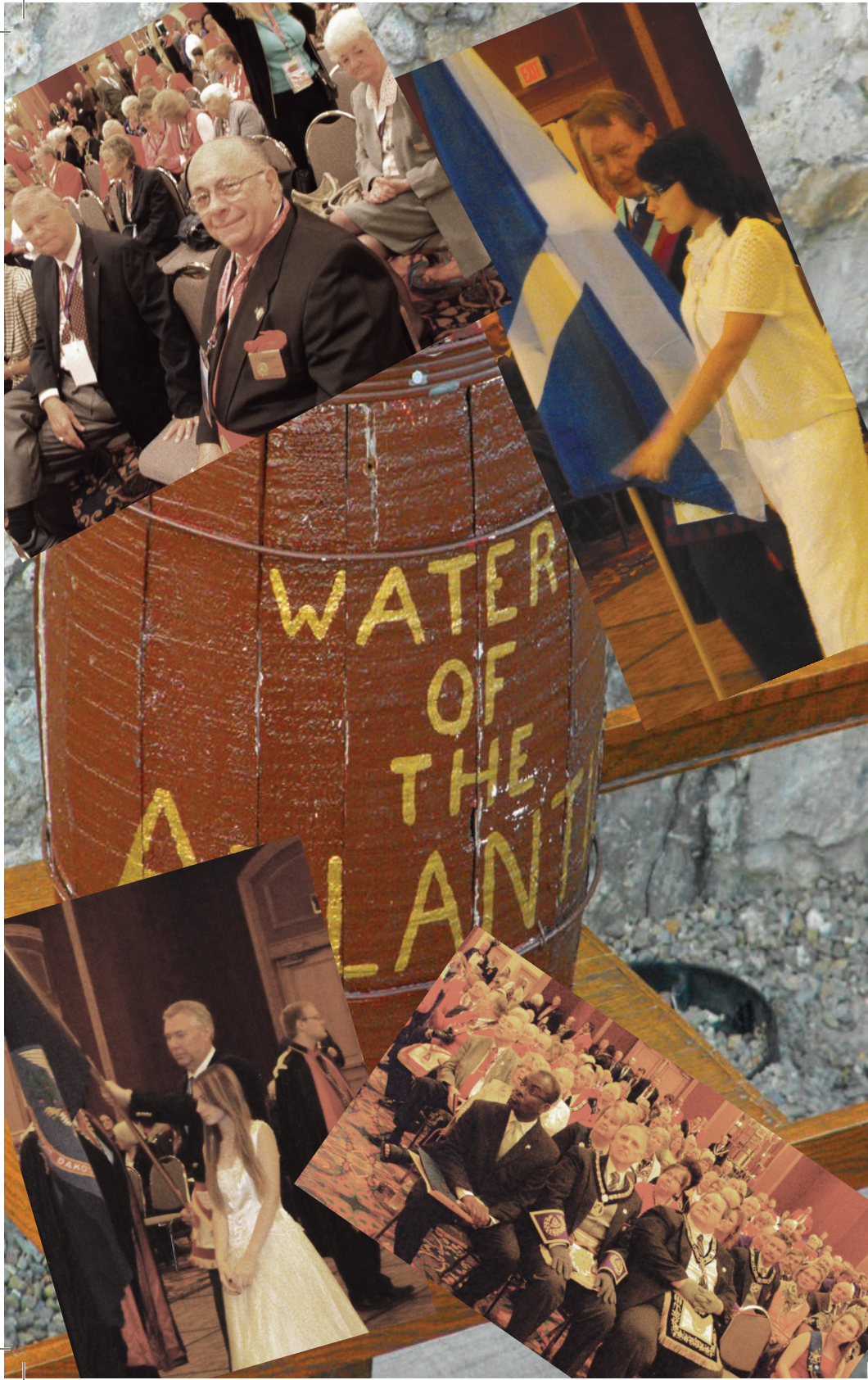














Creating Engaged New Members One Sir Knight At A Time

By

Sir Knight Russell L. Schlosser, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Illinois
Originally published in the Illinois state supplement of the *Knight Templar* magazine.

It is no secret that some experiences in life are better suited to groups while others are intended more for the individual. Although surrounded by friends, the experience of being raised or knighted alone conveys a powerful sense of individualization that is inevitably compromised to some extent when conferred in a group of candidates, even though each candidate may be raised or knighted individually in sequence.

For the sake of expediency and practicality, Masonry has resorted to conferring degrees upon candidates in small groups, and on certain occasions, upon larger gatherings during so-called festivals. In today's busy world, these events are deemed essential to the timely conferral of degrees for those candidates who might not otherwise find it practical to join our ranks. While such candidates are no less "Masonic" than others, at the very least, they are deprived of solely individualized experiences.

With some notable exceptions, observation suggests that "festival" candidates remain less bonded and less engaged with their Masonic bodies, as is reflected in higher absenteeism and suspension rates.

This is simply human nature. We tend to bond better with those who make us feel special, who pay attention to us as what we are, unique individuals. Statistics may differ over time, but it often seems that the more candidates a Ma-

sonic body may process in mass events, the lower their relative attendance at stated meetings and social occasions, both in sheer numbers and as a percentage of their membership base.

Having said that, group degrees do have their place, such as full-form Red Cross and Malta conferrals (and of course the degree of Royal Arch Mason mandates three candidates at one and the same time), but we should endeavor to respect the intrinsic value of devoting our attention to the knighting of each individual candidate. Whenever we do so, Commanderies should make it clear to candidates that this effort was made to convey the value of an individualized experience.

In instances when lone knightings are not possible, it is the duty of the Commandery to explain to each candidate prior to receiving the Order of the Temple that although he may be knighted on the same day with others, a singular honor is being bestowed upon him. He is bound personally as a man and a Christian Mason in a sacred oath with our Lord and Saviour—irrespective of the presence of other candidates.

Throughout York Rite Freemasonry, every candidate is ritualistically reminded that although each man is born into a world of countless others of which he is but one member, his soul shall someday stand alone before his Creator and Supreme Judge. Thus, each Commandery has a responsibility to knight

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every member as “individually” as possible, sincerely and proficiently. Several Commanderies around our state have a reputation for doing an outstanding job at this.

This approach may so deeply affect the candidate that we might discover we have added not just another member to

our ranks, but an engaged Sir Knight. As such, he may be motivated to assist in re-creating more individualized experiences for successive new members in the same manner that his knighting made an indelible impression upon him.

Sir Knight Schlosser can be contacted at russ_schlosser@hotmail.com.

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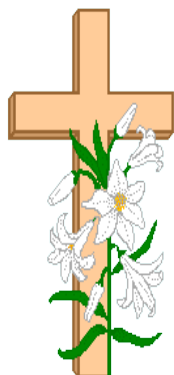
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All Profits go to Knights Templar Eye Foundation



GRAND ENCAMPMENT EASTER OBSERVANCES FOR 2015



**Sir Knight David Dixon Goodwin,
Most Eminent Grand Master,
and the Grand Encampment officers
cordially invite you to attend
one of our 2015 Easter services.**

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015

85th Annual East Coast Easter Sunrise Service

George Washington National Masonic Memorial
Alexandria, Virginia

5th Annual Western States Easter Service

Mission Tempe Palms Hotel and Convention Center
Tempe, Arizona

3rd Annual Mid-America Easter Service

Liberty Memorial
Kansas City, Missouri

Full information and registration forms will be available on our
Website at: www.knightstemplar.org.

Further information will be published in the January issue of the
Knight Templar magazine.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5

Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230

Phone (214) 888-0220

Fax (214) 888-0230

Words of Appreciation

I was chosen to receive the "Training Mentors in Developing Countries" (TMDC) fellowship grant of \$60,000 for the year 2013, and I am writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for providing this scholarship.

I am in my final month of fellowship training in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus under the mentorship of Dr. Joseph Demer at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and the grant has enabled me to concentrate on my clinical and research work without having to worry about finances. This one-year experience has allowed me to grow tremendously in my knowledge and surgical skills in the field of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. Your scholarship has helped me realize my dream of becoming a competent pediatric and strabismus eye doctor. When I go back to the Philippines, please be assured that I will uplift the mission of Knights Templar Eye Foundation in preventing blindness in children. As you may know, there is scarcity of pediatric ophthalmology expertise in many developing countries, including my home country. I will go back to Veterans Memorial Medical Centre and Phil-

ippine Children's Medical Center to start my practice in these government-based hospitals. I will also be involved in certain ophthalmology residency training programs. Your generosity has made a profound impact in my life.

Thank you once again for this opportunity of being a recipient of this award.

Yours truly,

Bhambi Gesite-de Leon, MD, International Fellow, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, Jules Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA.



*Merry
Christmas
and best
wishes for
a happy
new year!*

*John,
Glenda,
and
Precious*

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE *and* THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2014

To all Valiant and Magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~
Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER

CHRISTMAS 2014

We offer a toast to you, our Most Eminent Grand Master, during your third and final year of leading the Chivalric Masons of this Grand Encampment.

In previous toasts we have celebrated your faith, your leadership, and your integrity, all which are so important to whoever wears our Grand Master's Jewel. We also celebrate your life at home and with your family; your considerable energy expended in the performance of your duties, we doubt would be possible without Marci and her support. You present to the collected Knights a great example of a loving, supportive family.

As we come to this Christmas season, we remember the great gift of His Son that God gave us, and we rejoice. The stories of His birth, selfless love, sacrifice, and victory for us we tell and re-tell in our churches as well as in our Commanderies and as we recommit ourselves to Him. You, as our Grand Master, embody the commitment we feel as Templar Knights, and once again we affirm and toast your leadership.

A toast to you, Most Eminent Grand Master !

In His name,

Reverend Sir Knight William D. Hartman, Grand Prelate

The Committee on Religious Activities

Reverend Sir Knight James R. Herrington, P.G.C., Chairman

Reverend Sir Knight Timothy M. Taylor, Sr., P.G.C.

Reverend Sir Knight Bruce Bellmore, P.G.C.



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

Christmas 2014

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, the Committee on Religious Activities, and all Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly Greetings!

My most sincere thanks go to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate and the Committee on Religious Activities for their meaningful and humbling toast this Christmas Season.

I am particularly humbled by the reference to the personal qualities of faith, leadership, and integrity that are incumbent upon all who have worn or will wear the jewel of this office. I appreciate the references to a loving and supportive family, as Marci, Jenn, and Sam have been by my side throughout my Templar journey.

As flattering as this toast is to my family and me, the important message contained is that Christmas is about giving. The fact that God gave us His Son so that we may be saved is the reason for the season. His love for us must make us extend our love to others. This year, as we exchange gifts with our loved ones and those less fortunate than we are, let us remember that we are emulating the giving of gifts by the Magi of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and in fact, honoring and celebrating the arrival of our Savior.

During these troubled times of disease, war, terror, and fear, we pray that each of our Templar families and the world at large may find peace, happiness, joy, hope, and love during this Christmas Season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and their ladies join with my Lady Marci and me in wishing each of you and your families a most blessed and merry Christmas!

Courteously,



David Dixon Goodwin, GCT
Grand Master



The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2014.

knight templar

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