

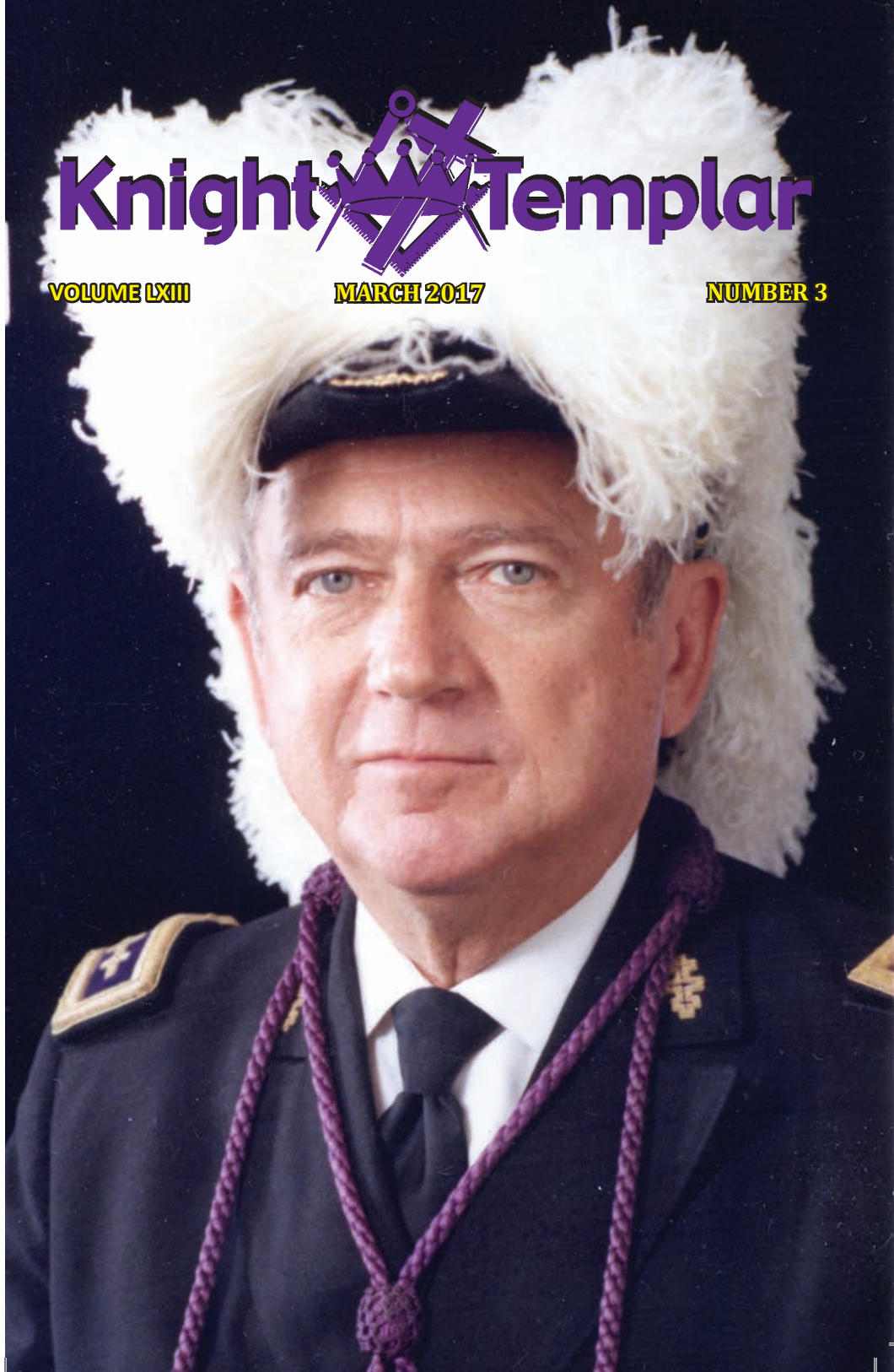
# Knight Templar



VOLUME LXIII

MARCH 2017

NUMBER 3



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*In case we have questions with your order*

\*United States Marine Corps patch provided by Sgt Grit Marine Specialties.

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# Grand Master's Message

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

**I**n 1922 we created a student loan charity. Considering how few people went to college and the costs involved back then, this shows us how innovative and ambitious we were. We can be proud of the past, but time moves on and so must we. A few years ago, the program was modified to allow scholarships. The time has come for the next generation of the foundation.

The loan program, little used in recent years, is now retired. Scholarships continue.

Currently the funds of many Grand Commanderies are too small to invest well. Now Grand Commanderies may pool their funds with others and, managed by the Grand Encampment, produce greater investment income and greater opportunities for scholarships. Grand Encampment is presenting this option, and a number of Grand Commanderies have already expressed enthusiasm. Alternatively, some Grand Commanderies are now operating this program very effectively, and they may continue to make their own investment decisions.

State control of granting decisions will not change. Grand Commandery committees will make those decisions, because they are the people best placed to do so.

Grand Commanderies would receive reports on their share of the pool and their share of the income. The states will select the recipients, request the disbursements, and arrange the presentation of the funds.

This isn't our biggest charity, but it can still be a relevant one. Anytime we have the opportunity to help others, it is relevant to our knightly oaths.



⌘ *Orville Lee Vangilder*

# Knight Templar

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# Prelate's Chapel

by  
Rev. William D. Hartman, right eminent  
grand prelate of the Grand Encampment



**T**he month of March is one of promise. We get more minutes a day of light. The days are lengthening into summer. We are in the devotional season of Lent, a reminder of the time when Jesus set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem. For Him, it was not a time of lengthening but a time of “shortening.” He was going to Jerusalem, where He told his disciples that he would be given over into the hands of sinful men and would die. Peter tried to stop Him from going to Jerusalem, but Jesus said, “get thee behind me, Satan.” Not that Peter was Satan, but that Satan was trying to prevent Jesus from offering up Himself for our sins by using Jesus’ beloved disciple. Satan knew the mission of Christ when none of us knew. He was born to die so that all who believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Yes, Lent is the springtime of our lives, while for our Lord and Savior, his days were shortening to a stone-cold tomb. Frightened disciples would hide for fear of arrest and execution. The priests of the temple would be satisfied that this religious upstart from Nazareth was silenced and could not interfere with their control over the Jewish religion as well as their source of wealth. The governance of Rome would not be upset; Caesar would still control the world of his day. Satan would have the “upper hand” to fulfill his mission to bring us all to Hell. All would be well.

Let us give thanks that God is greater than all the little schemes of man and the greater scheme of Satan. Let us walk with our Lord in this season of Lent, knowing that the stone-cold tomb is not the end but the promise of victory over sin and death. Let us commend our spirits into the hands of God, for He has promised never to leave nor forsake us. For “when we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way; While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.”

# The Rise and Fall of the Krak des Chevaliers

## Part II of II

By

Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

*Sit tibi copia, sit sapientia, formaque detur ; Inquinat omnia sola superbia, si comitetur.*  
Grace, wisdom, and beauty you may enjoy, but beware of pride, which alone can tarnish all the rest.

In Part I of this article, we discussed the early history and structure of the Crusader castle known as the *Krak des Chevaliers*. In this part, we will look at the battles in which it played a role and its subsequent history down to modern times.

Drought conditions between 1175 and 1180 impelled the Crusaders to sign a two-year truce with the Muslims, but Tripoli was not included in the terms. During the 1180s raids by Christians and Muslims into each other's territory became more frequent, with Saladin invading the county of Tripoli in 1180 and ravaging the area. In May of 1188, Saladin marched with his army to attack the Krak but gave up plans to capture or besiege it when he saw its strong defenses and instead attempted to capture the Hospitaller castle of Margat, in which attempt he also failed.

The first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century has been called the "golden age" of the *Krak des Chevaliers*. During this period, threats were posed to other Crusader strongholds in the Levant, but the Krak and its garrison of about 2,000 soldiers remained relatively undisturbed and dominated its environs. In fact, it was the only chief inland area to continuously remain under Crusader control during this period. This situation lasted

as long as Saladin's successors warred among themselves. In 1260 Baibars became sultan of Egypt and proceeded to unite Egypt and Syria. As a result, Muslim settlements that had previously paid tribute to the Hospitallers at the Krak no longer felt compelled to do so. In 1268 the Hospitaller grand master, Hugh Revel, noted that now there were only 300 of the order's brethren remaining in the east.



Baibars finally came north into the area around the Krak in 1270 and even allowed his men to graze their animals on the fields around the castle, thus taunting the Knights about their inability to muster enough

troops to do battle. In that year, King Louis IX of France led the Eighth Crusade, and Baibars had to return to Cairo. When Louis died in 1271, Baibars returned to resume plans to conquer the Krak. By this time, the knightly defenders of the Krak numbered perhaps 300. Before marching on the formidable castle, he first captured the smaller castles in the area.

It should be noted at this point that the main contemporary reports involving the Krak are of Muslim origin and tend to emphasize Muslim success while overlooking setbacks against the Crusaders. On March 3, 1271, Baibars' army arrived at *Krak des Chevaliers* to commence a siege.



Of the three Arabic accounts of the siege only one was contemporary, that of Ibn Shaddad, but he was not actually present at the siege. As soon as Baibars arrived, he erected mangonels, powerful siege weapons which he would later turn on the castle. Referring to a walled area outside the castle's entrance, Ibn Shaddad records that two days later the first line of defenses fell to Baibars' troops. Rain interrupted the siege, but on March 21, immediately south of the Krak, Baibars' forces captured a triangular out-



work. On 29 March, sappers successfully undermined a tower in the southwest corner, causing it to collapse, as a result of which Baibars' army attacked through the resulting breach. In the outer ward, a handful of the garrison, along with some civilians who had sought cover there, were killed, and the Crusaders retreated to the more daunting inner ward. After a pause of ten days, the besiegers sent a letter to the garrison, supposedly from the grand master of the Knights Hospitaller in Tripoli, stating that there was no

hope of raising reinforcements and granting permission for them to surrender. Although the letter proved to be a forgery, on April 8, 1271, the Hospitaller garrison surrendered, and the Sultan spared their lives, granting them safe passage to Tripoli. Trickery had breached the stones which force had failed to topple in 160 years. The castle remained largely intact. After this conquest, Baibars was said to have declared proudly that "these troops of mine are incapable of besieging any fort and leaving it unconquered."





The Muslims immediately undertook repairs, focused mainly on the outward. The Hospitaller chapel was converted to a mosque, and two mihrabs (a niche in the wall of a mosque, at the point nearest to Mecca, toward which the congregation faces to pray) were added to the interior. Minarets were also erected.

After the Franks were driven from the Holy Land in 1291, it was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century that interest in these buildings was renewed, so no detailed plans exist prior to 1837. Guillaume Rey was the first European researcher to scientifically study Crusader castles knight templar

in the Holy Land. In 1871 he published the work *Etudes sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des Croisés en Syrie et dans l'île de Chypre* (Studies of Buildings of Military Architecture of the Crusades in Syria and on the Island of Cyprus); it included plans and drawings of the major Crusader castles in Syria, including the *Krak des Chevaliers*. In some cases, his drawings were imprecise; however, for the Krak, they indicate features which have since been lost. Paul Deschamps visited the castle in February of 1927. The conclusion of Deschamps' work at the castle was the publication of the masterful *Les Châteaux des Croisés*

*en Terre Sainte I: le Crac des Chevaliers* (The Castles of the Crusades in the Holy Land I: The Krak des Chevaliers) in 1934, with detailed plans included.

The French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon, which had been established in 1920 after World War I, ended in 1946 with the declaration of Syrian independence. The castle was made a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2006 and is owned by the Syrian government. During the Syrian Civil War which began in 2011, UNESCO voiced concerns that the war might lead to the damage of important cultural sites such as *Krak des Chevaliers*. Sadly, it has been reported that the castle was shelled in August of 2012 by the Syrian Arab Army, and the Crusader chapel

was damaged. The castle was reported to have been damaged in July of 2013 by an airstrike during the Siege of Homs, and once more on August 18, 2013, it was clearly damaged, yet the amount of this destruction is unknown. The Syrian Arab Army recaptured the castle from rebel forces on March 20, 2014, although the extent of damage from earlier mortar hits has remained unclear.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Marshall, KYGCH(3), KCT, 33°, is a past grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama. He is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Knight Templar* magazine and has published several articles in that magazine as well as in the *Royal Arch Mason* magazine. He can be reached at geomarsh@yahoo.com.

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## 87<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EAST COAST EASTER OBSERVANCE – 2017

The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, will again be held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on Sunday, April 16, 2017.

### HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

The headquarters hotel will be the Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia. Our special Knight Templar rate will be \$99.00 per room, based on double occupancy. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by calling 703-418-6800 (mention Knights Templar). A hotel reservation link is available on our website at: [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org).

### MEALS

A meal package is available for \$75.00 per person and includes Saturday evening dinner and Sunday morning breakfast buffet. Order your meal tickets from the Grand Encampment office. Registration forms are available online at [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org) for credit card processing, or mail your check, payable to the Grand Encampment, to 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2497. Additional tickets may be ordered separately; Saturday dinner, \$60.00; Sunday breakfast buffet, \$20.00. Reserved seating at the Saturday night dinner will be assigned on a first come first served basis. If you would like to be seated together please send in your payment as a group.

**Note: The hotel and meal ticket cutoff date is March 20, 2017.** No tickets will be sold at the door.

Grand Commanders and their ladies are invited to attend the Saturday evening dinner, courtesy of the Grand Encampment. Prior reservations are required with the Grand Encampment office.

### EASTER MORNING SCHEDULE

Breakfast buffet – 6:00 a.m.

Buses begin to leave hotel – 6:30 a.m.

Parade will step off at 7:40 a.m.

Easter Memorial Service – 8:00 a.m.

Buses return to the hotel after the service at approximately 9:30 a.m.

### OTHER DETAILS

Grand Commanders are requested to appoint a delegation chairman and notify Sir Knight Lawrence E. Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder, 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495, Bellaire, TX 77401-2497, Phone: 713-349-8700, Fax: 713-349-8710, E-mail: [john@gektusa.org](mailto:john@gektusa.org).



# 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MID-AMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE

The Grand Encampment will sponsor the  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-America Easter Service**

*Hosted by the Grand Commanderies of  
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, & Nebraska*

**Banquet, Saturday, April 15, 2017  
Westin Crown Center at 7:00 P.M.**

**Sunday, April 16, 2017 at 8:00 A.M.  
Liberty Memorial**  
100 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri

**Easter Buffet Brunch  
Westin Crown Center at 9:30 A.M.**

Host Hotel – Westin Crown Center  
1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri  
816-474-4400

Knight Templar Easter Service Special rate of \$113.00 plus taxes

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/GrandEncampmentEasterSunriseService>

Look for details at [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org).



# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



## MID AMERICA EASTER OBSERVANCE APRIL 15-16, 2017 INFORMATION & RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commandery Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Lady/Escort: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beauceant Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_ Beauceant Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### RESERVATION DEADLINE April 7, 2017

No Refunds after April 10, 2017

Registration: Westin Crown Center Hotel Lobby, Kansas City, Mo.  
Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.  
Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M. - Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.  
\$ 30.00 / person Number Attending \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00  
(Registration for gentlemen only, includes memento for member and for lady if attending)  
Saturday, April 15, 2017 Westin Crown Center Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.  
Social Hour: 6:00 P.M. Formal Banquet: 7:00 P. M. Liberty Room  
\$57.00 / person Number attending \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00  
(Sir Knights in dress uniform, ladies, and guests in evening attire)  
Sunday, April 16, 2017 8:00 A. M. Sunrise Service Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Mo.  
Easter Buffett Brunch 9:30 A.M. Westin Crown Center Hotel Benton's Prime  
\$35.00 / person Number attending \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00

**Money to accompany reservation**

**Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00**

Please make your own Room reservations:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/GrandEncampmentEasterSunriseService>

Indicate any special Dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Men: Class A uniform for Banquet and Easter Service (Cap and Mantel optional)  
Ladies: Formal or evening attire for Banquet and comfortable for Easter Service

Make checks payable to: **Mid America Easter Service**

Mail check and reservation form to: Wayne H. Rollf, Grand Recorder  
30460 W 154<sup>th</sup> St  
Gardner, Kansas 66030  
785-865-6737 [grand.sec.rec@ksyorkrite.net](mailto:grand.sec.rec@ksyorkrite.net)

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**Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230**  
**Phone (214) 888-0220**  
**Fax (214) 888-0230.**



**S**ir Knights of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, I bid you a fraternal and respectful salute. This is March of 2017.

On March 18, 1314 (703 years ago), Jacques DeMolay was executed in Paris, France. King Philip IV of France, deeply in debt to the Templars, had Jacques DeMolay arrested on trumped up charges and burned at the stake. This iconic Masonic figure was the 23<sup>rd</sup> and last grand master of the ancient order of Knights Templar. I suspect that March 18<sup>th</sup> is significant to many of you who are reading this article. Those of you who have been decorated with the Legion of Honor from the Supreme Council of DeMolay will no doubt be meeting with other Legionnaires to break bread in remembrance of this martyr.

Masonic tradition informs us that Jacques DeMolay is revered for magnificent heroism, unfaltering fidelity to the trust reposed in him, and loyalty unto death. We are informed that the king tendered unto him cruelty, avarice, treachery, and betrayal. We are warned not to draw from this the “dark side” instincts; rather to learn from such despicable conduct the Masonic virtues of kindness, generosity, toleration, and fidelity.

Perhaps you know someone who has tried to emulate that famous grand master’s guide. Many of our Sir Knights have faithfully and loyally contributed generously to the great work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Far too often, people look respectfully upon a leader, expecting him to perform great deeds and even near miracles, but do nothing themselves. Don’t just observe their actions — follow their lead — join with them. I want you to serve your Brothers and the order. I ask you to be generous in support of the great work of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

There are a number of ways to contribute. You can be a life sponsor for \$30.00. A contribution of \$50.00 makes you an associate patron; \$100.00 makes you a patron. If you would like to enroll in the Grand Commander’s Club, you may do so for as little as \$100 as an initial contribution with a pledge of \$100 for the next nine years, at which point you will then be elevated to the Grand Master’s Club. Also available for \$10,000 is the Golden Chalice or \$25,000.00 for the Sword of Merit. You can also give to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation through estates and planned giving.

Fraternally & Respectfully

David M. Dryer, KGC, chairman, 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

## **Sword of Merit Presentation**



New Haven Commandery 2, Connecticut, at the Annual Christmas Observance, made the event even more special by honoring Sir Knight A. Norman Johnson for his contribution to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by presenting to him his Sword of Merit. Many Sir Knights from his Commandery and around the state were in attendance, representing the Grand Commandery, Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Lodge.

### **Qualified Charitable Distributions Can Yield Big Tax Savings**

Congress has now made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) option permanent for those who wish to make direct contributions from their IRA to charity. The tax law allows individuals age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their IRA to a qualified charity. This distribution counts toward their required minimum distribution but isn't added to their adjusted gross income the way a normal IRA distribution is. This can provide a tax savings of up to 40% depending upon an individual's tax situation.

## NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

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Larry E. Sampson .....	GA	Malcolm Dixon .....	IL
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Leo M. Kenen .....	MA/RI	Douglas J. Macone .....	MA/RI
Paul M. Starratt .....	MA/RI	Michael K. Worrell .....	MA/RI
Jeffrey A. Bolstad .....	MT	Paul H. Broyhill .....	NC
Roger L. Clute, Sr. ....	NC	Stephen P. Quesenberry, II .....	NC
James N. Karnegis .....	NE	Donald D. Miller .....	NJ
David D. Goodwin .....	NY	Jeffery L. Fox .....	PA
Richard F. Muth .....	PA	Mahlon R. Pritchard .....	PA
Sean M. Tomasic .....	PA	Roland A. Lambert .....	SC
Donald H. Hinkle .....	TN	Keith A. Bates .....	TX
Howard E. Brandon .....	TX	Gerald S. Brown .....	TX
Darrel J. Dunn .....	TX	Clarence R. Ritchey .....	TX
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## *Knights Templar Eye Foundation*

### How to join the Grand Commander's or the 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 Commandery credit is given for participation. Information is available from: Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5, Flower Mound, TX 75022-4230, Phone (214) 888-0220, Fax (214) 888-0230.

**As of 2/1/2015 once 25 Grand Master's Clubs are reached, a Sword of Merit will be awarded.**



# 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 Templar site of Sarlat in France were taken by the editor.





Photo of the inside of an embrasure in the battlements of the Templar fortress of Le Viala du Pas de Jaux. An embrasure is the opening in a crenellation or battlement. This refers to the outward splay of a window or arrow slit on the inside. It passes through a solid wall and was originally for use by archers. The purpose of embrasures is to allow weapons to be fired out from the fortification while the firer remains under cover. The splay of the wall on the inside provides room for the soldier and his equipment and allows him to get as close to the wall face and arrow slit itself as possible. Photo by the editor.



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 ten 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 ten. 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.**

# A DEFENDER OF CHRISTENDOM

By

Sir Knight Richard W. Van Doren

**“I**f called upon to draw your sword in a religious cause, will you give preference to the Christian Religion?”

My Lodge Brother, a “non-York Rite” Freemason, looked me in the eye and said that he had some questions about Knights Templar. After agreeing to do my best with the answers, he then asked, “Don’t you Templars take an oath to defend the Christian religion, and do you take that seriously?”

“We do and I do,” was the reply.

“Well, aren’t we now in a religious war with ISIS and other Islamic Terrorist fanatics?” he followed up.

“In my opinion,” I answered, “we are at war with a group of thugs who really are seeking power and influence. They cloak themselves in elements of Islam, but their real agenda is nothing short of domination of others who do not subscribe to their message or their modality.”

He persisted. “So what do Masonic Knights Templar do to defend the Christian religion?”

An excellent question which got me thinking about the entire effort of modern Templars and their support of the Christian religion. There are some Knights Templar, to be sure, who serve in the military. For them, an active call to arms is a reality in today’s unstable world. For them, it might mean, indeed, grabbing their AR-15 and heading off to the combat zone.

For most of us, that is not the war that we have to fight on a daily, or even random, basis. Our “war in defense of knight templar

the Christian religion” is much more subtle but no less real. It occurs every day in our constant milieu of modern life. Those of us who are alert know exactly to what I refer: the sins of greed, corruption, self-centeredness, vulgar thought and speech, and the aggressive “evangelical atheism” that attacks our religion in secular America and which would banish it forever from the public square. So how do we support our declared religion as modern Knights Templar? “Actions speak louder than words,” and for this Templar, the actions can be grouped into three basic categories.

## Support Your Church

Membership in a local church and regular attendance is an important statement in and of itself. Jesus was a church goer and referred to the Temple as His “Father’s House.” It was in the Temple that communal prayer and teaching occurred. Part of regular church attendance reflects what is obvious: that the Kingdom of God is a social kingdom where expression of love of God is most effectively demonstrated by actions with and on behalf of others. A church congregation offers numerous opportunities to be an advocate for Christian values and commitment.

Service on any church committee is an “acceptable sacrifice” of your time and talent. Every committee, such as Church Council, Finance, Diaconate, Building and Grounds, Social and Mission Outreach, etc. plays an important



part in the life of the congregation and offers an opportunity for you to serve the Lord and His Church.

“Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me,” the Lord said. Service in the church nursery or teaching Sunday School is a meaningful commitment. Work in the administration of Christian education allows a volunteer to support the youth organizations and activities of the church. All of these actions rise to the level of welcoming the little children into Jesus’ Church and God’s Presence. Years later, a child may potentially become a member of the greater Church because of positive experiences in his or her Sunday School. Being an “elder model” and supporter of the youth of your church is always important. Have a ready word of encouragement for young people’s endeavors. It is not easy to be a young person in today’s world – if, indeed, it ever was. Praise their good works.

“Make a joyful noise.” Join the church choir or other musical group. Music is inspirational and has been a part of worship for the Christian Church since its very beginning. Instrumentalists add to the music of special occasions and sometimes, are the central modality of an entire worship experience. Music has been a special part of this Templar’s life since the age of four and that of his wife and family as well. The first vocal training received was in a church “cherub choir” and was a solid foundation for a professional career later on.

### **Public Acts**

While acting within the confines of a local congregation is a positive support, it is by no means the only support one

should be engaged in. Jesus never hid His ministry from the public – even and especially when His message was directed at the powerful political and religious elite of His time.

To the Templar, therefore, comes the duty to speak out against anti-Christian messages heard in the “public square” or heard privately. We are constantly hearing messages that say that Christians are on the wrong side of public issues; issues that range from support of the military to education of children to the constitutional right to freedom of religious practice and expression. Especially in America, Christians are guaranteed the right to practice our religion in every way that is not demonstrably harmful to others. Where others would seek to abridge that right, it is our responsibility to come to its defense. Even if the practice or free speech is opposed by clergy of any religion, including our own, we have the duty to defend our Christian brothers and sisters. Not to do so is to abrogate our Templar responsibilities.

Help others in any way that you can. This could take the form of any of the following actions: show kindness to someone who others ignore or exploit; be a good listener to the “poor in spirit,” the lonely, the depressed, the forgotten; be of assistance to your pastor and to your church staff. In that regard, note that often, the “Shepherd of the Flock” is frequently the last one to receive “care,” but pastors and church staff members are also human and need a listening ear and a thoughtful word of encouragement.

### **Prayer – The Inner Spiritual Life**

Leading a life of prayer is not something that has to be difficult. God listens

march 2017

to us when we speak from the heart and tell Him what is on our mind. Often, the heaviest of burdens becomes much lighter when you “take it to the Lord in prayer.” It is also the most ready source or mechanism of improving your character and soul. He will answer – in His own time and in His own way. Be persistent; be still (at least at times); listen for His voice. Most important is to express your gratitude for all God’s blessings and for the gift of life itself.

Remember, “love in action” is also a prayer to God. In keeping with sentiments often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, “Pray constantly, pray mightily, and if you must, use words.”

### Some Final Thoughts

To Knights Templar, it may seem obvious to make the statement, “join other Christian Masons.” By your membership, you have already done that, but there are many Christian Masons that do not take the step of becoming a Templar. Encourage them to do so, because in that unity, they will find like minds and hearts and an opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior.

Become aware of what is going on nationally and internationally. This is particularly important with current events and their impact on Christians world-wide. If you are able, connect with Brethren overseas. In certain geographical areas, it is no small thing to offer them words of encouragement and empathy.

Be prepared to make sacrifices for the Lord; sacrifice of your time, your money, your talents – your self. In sum, take the “form of a servant” and follow the Master.

knight templar

These are all ways to be a defender of Christendom. All of the above, and probably a great deal more, will support and defend Christianity and ultimately make our world a more fit abiding place for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### Notes

1. *Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America* - 1979; pg 116
2. Matthew 19:14 KJV
3. Psalm 98:4 and Psalm 100 KJV

Sir Knight Richard W. Van Doren is a past commander of Boston Commandery 2 and currently is serving as grand generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts/Rhode Island.

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# The *Real* Curse of Oak Island?

By

Sir Knight William F. Mann

**A**s grand historian/archivist and a grand council officer for the Sovereign Great Priory – Knights Templar of Canada, as well as having written three highly-controversial yet entertaining non-fiction books on the flight of the medieval Knights Templar to Nova Scotia and beyond, I often get asked by fellow Masonic Knights Templar and Rosicrucians: “Who do you think were the original architects of the cursed Money Pit that’s featured so prominently on the History Channel’s *The Curse of Oak Island*, and what exactly is this Templar Treasure that purportedly rests at the bottom of the nine-staged shaft?”

It simply amazes me as to the level of intrigue that such a contrived reality series can generate. On the other hand, I have to admit that I have watched the series in its entirety with mixed feelings of wishful thinking and incredulous, mouth-wide-open laughter. If nothing else, the stumbling about of the group of modern-day treasure-seekers from the Oak Island swamp to the money pit to the Atlantic Ocean is a good lesson in how not to go about recovering secreted treasure.

Going into its 4<sup>th</sup>, and I presume, final season, the two hosts – the Lagina brothers, along with their band of merry men, have been on the verge of the discovery of a life-time at least a hundred times over. Yet every time they hit a dead end, the circle comes around to the theory that it was the crafty medieval Templars who secreted away

the treasure from beneath the Temple Mount and created a cryptic depository on Oak Island for its concealment.

Whether this so-called treasure includes the Ark of the Covenant, the Golden Menorah, the Emerald Tablet, the bones of Christ and Mary Magdalene, the True Word of God, or even the Holy Grail, it really doesn’t seem to matter. Within the past four years, talk of priceless religious and historical artifacts has all been reduced to one common denominator: their value in silver and gold. Here lies the real curse of Oak Island. Unfortunately, not once have I heard the brothers speak of enlightenment and a spiritual quest in any meaningful way. The two brothers may not realize it, but the greatest prize that they will have gathered so far is the strengthening of the bond between the two of them. It’s too bad that they will have had to spend so much money to come to that realization.

Certainly, with the advent of the internet and the reality-series craze, there appears to be a swelling tide of interest relating to the question of whether or not the medieval Knights Templar in fact possessed the ultimate treasure and hid it under Oak Island. Present-day Hollywood movies such as *The Da Vinci Code*, *National Treasure*, and even *The Kingdom* have similarly romanticized the struggle of the medieval Knights Templar beyond their noble spiritual journey. Instead of emphasizing that there lies to this day somewhere in the world a fantastic treasure, beyond hu-



man comprehension, which when finally uncovered may change the course of world politics and religion, their plots have centered on the completion of their two-hour quest and the discovery of the fabled prize.

At this point, let me answer the question as to whether the Templar Treasure lies beneath Oak Island. Throughout my books, I do speculate that there is a final treasure cache, rivaling that described above, lying somewhere beneath a Templar sanctuary in North America, but I can tell you with certainty: The Templar treasure does not still rest at the bottom of the Money Pit! The beauty of it all is that Oak Island has prevented a great number of fools over the past 300 years or so to look beyond the island and across North America. Oak Island is the perfect ruse, and for any initiates with the eyes to see, they will realize that the ruse has most definitely been executed based on the two basic principles of Masonry, moral allegory and sacred geometry, and their practical application.

The inner circle of Knights Templar may have at one time or another hidden their cache on Oak Island temporarily and either constructed the series of water traps or added to them after they were first constructed by *prior* secret societies such as the ancient Pre-Christian mariners, the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Egyptians, Greeks, or Romans. Following this, it is more likely that in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, when Scottish Rite and York Rite Masonry first started to blend together, that high-ranking British Navy officers, Masons in their own right, assumed Oak Island for their own purpose. Having said this, the Lagina brothers may in fact stumble upon a cache of Spanish gold and silver

conveniently appropriated by the British, but it most certainly won't be the Templar treasure.

The explanation behind this answer, unfortunately, remains somewhat complicated and, to a degree, very speculative. One of the keys, as I have learned during the writing of my three books; *The Knights Templar in the New World*, *The Templar Meridians: The secret mapping of the New World*, and *Templar Sanctuaries in North America* ([www.innertraditions.com](http://www.innertraditions.com)) is to constantly "look beyond" what appears at first to be the true and purest answer. The simple reasoning is that why else would both the Roman church and French state pursue the Templars to the far ends of the earth and torture them beyond compassion. Obviously, the accusations of blasphemy and homosexuality were only an excuse to justify their actions. It really doesn't take any skill to recognize that the inner circle of the medieval Templars possessed something far more valuable than mere silver and gold – something that threatened the very being of the church and state.

What I believe that the Templars possessed beyond any mere physical treasure and became sworn guardians of was the unbroken line of "ancient knowledge," which among other things allowed the ancient mariner to circumnavigate the world. It is now coming to light that trade among the "Old World" and the "New World" had regularly occurred throughout the Egyptian/Greek to Roman eras by "societies who were in on the secret!" Hints of these visits and settlements now appear to be revealing themselves through a variety of sources including classic mythology, Indian legend, and maritime folklore,

as well as through recent archaeological discoveries.

This hidden knowledge was pure power. Secret ancient societies that not only possessed the ability to track the sun, moon, and the stars but possessed the inherent wisdom to maintain the “secret” of being able to fix longitudinal positions long before it became common practice were in constant danger of being infiltrated and exterminated. On the other hand, those societies who were able to exploit their advantage to the fullest, such as the earliest Templars, enjoyed a status rivaled by none.

In other words, the Templars and those who came before them were accorded the ability to “look beyond” standard church dogma to places of sanctuary yet to be “discovered” – the mythical otherworld – Arcadia America – a New Jerusalem!

Think about it for a moment. If you possessed an unlimited source of raw material, fertile land, and mineral wealth, would you reveal it to the world? No, I don’t think that you would, especially if you were in the business of “brokering” peace among nations. The Templars would surely have considered this hidden knowledge to be a “God-given gift.” Thereby, the Templars would have considered themselves to be the guardians of a direct “conduit” between God and man. The Templars would have also believed that this conduit of knowledge, straight from the heavens, exposed itself through the mysteries of Christ. To the Templars, this embodiment of heavenly knowledge was the Holy Grail.

You may ask how was it that longitudinal coordinates could be established in pre-Christian times prior to the de-

velopment of the chronometer. Again, the answer is the simplest, yet most complicated, of all possibilities. Since the concept of time began, man has turned his eyes to the sky and followed the paths of the heavenly bodies. Evolving from this activity was the establishment of strategic viewing positions, which allowed the “Antients” to establish “roselines” (meridians) around the world. These ancient stone circles and menhirs found around the world, such as Stonehenge, were used to track the known paths or circuits of the eclipses of the sun and the moon.

It was this recognition of “order” and “pattern” in all that made up the universe which resulted in the development of “sacred geometry.” As such, sacred geometry was derived through man’s ability to reason, which means that all men possessed the “Grail knowledge” through the “art of reasoning.” Come to think of it, there is nothing really “sacred” about it, other than the knowledge that certain Egyptian “royal lines” came to assume it as their God-given right.

Indeed, I would be bold to say that modern society should not be looking to certain royal houses to capture the “lost art,” but to its historical guardians including the Celtic Druids and Irish, and medieval Knights Templar. Hence, the seeker of the true Holy Grail must follow the path to the source of Celtic tradition and its Indo-European roots. Only when one understands his own roots will he better understand himself, and for the seeker who is able to arrive at the proper application of knowledge and understanding, wisdom and truth will be revealed.

I would like to think that this is what



modern-day Christian Masonry is assuming. The mantle that the modern-day Knights Templar receives during his consecration is not just a prop. It is a symbol of a man who has risen to another level of understanding and strives to maintain that level through honor, integrity, fairness, and compassion.

Coming full circle, these four simple “commodities” were the “Grail treasures” that the inner core of Knights Templar possessed. Unfortunately, even sailing half way around the world between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries to what was considered a New Jerusalem (modern-day Nova Scotia) could not prevent the Templars from being relentlessly pursued by both church and state. Therefore, it was in the wilderness of A(r)cadia that the 14<sup>th</sup>-century spiritual leader of the Scottish Knights Templar, Prince Henry Sinclair, “buried” the Holy Grail until such time that a more enlightened society could make better use of its virtues.

In this circumstance, one can only conclude that the Holy Grail was the recorded knowledge of the Antients, set down by those initiates who were willing to sacrifice their lives to perpetuate in words the one true connection between heaven and earth.

Remember that the Celtic soul lies in the head. Thus, the Templars did not allow their hearts to rule their actions. Similarly, the Holy Grail awaits those who practice the simple art of reasoning, enabling them to look beyond the trappings that await them on their journey. Here is the true Templar treasure! Here is the transformation and understanding that an individual can achieve if he sheds all thought of silver and gold.

Finally, for those who have been unable to move beyond Oak Island because of its *real* curse, I offer the following clues to truly discovering what lies under the island. For all intent and purposes, the underground works were based on Euclid’s “squaring of the

circle.” Euclid’s theory was that a geometric application using only ruler and compass could be developed proving exactly that the area of a circle could equal that of a square. If one was to

apply that theory to the physical shape of Oak Island, then since the front door and its nine arches have been appropriately veiled, then one should look to sneak through the back door.

## IN MEMORIAM

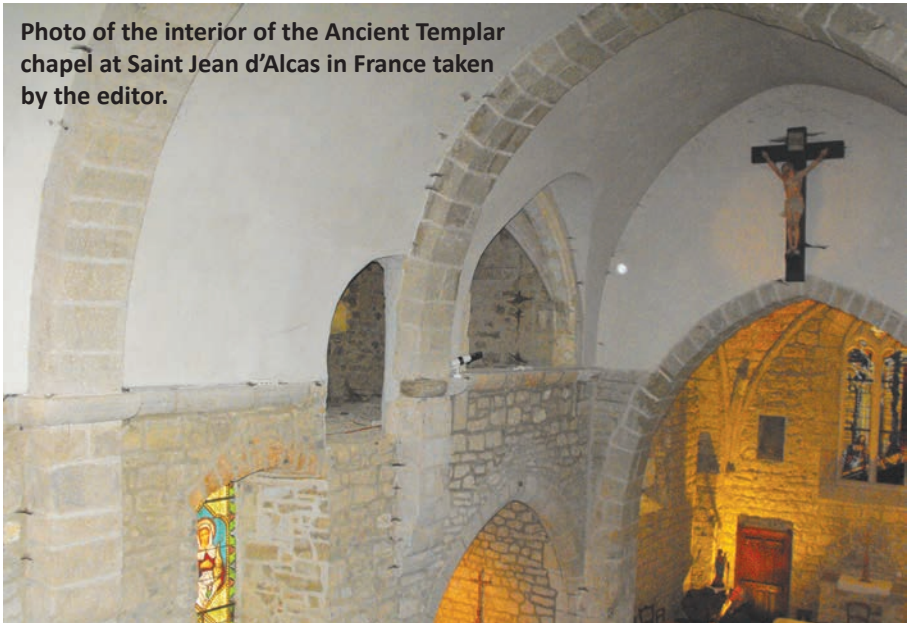


Jack Hourgettes, Sr.  
Mississippi  
Grand Commander 1991  
Born: September 10, 1925  
Died: December 11, 2016

Terry Lee Hudik  
Illinois  
Grand Commander 2013  
Born: October 6, 1942  
Died: December 11, 2016

R. Em. Knight William F. Mann is a past presiding preceptor of Godfrey de Bouillon Preceptory 3 of the Hamilton District of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, in which he serves as grand historian/archivist and a grand council officer. He has written three highly-controversial yet entertaining non-fiction books on the flight of the medieval Knights Templar to Nova Scotia and beyond: *The Knights Templar in the New World*; *The Templar Meridians: The secret mapping of the New World*; and *Templar Sanctuaries in North America* ([www.innertraditions.com](http://www.innertraditions.com)). He resides in Milton, Ontario, Canada, and can be contacted at: [william.mann@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.mann@sympatico.ca).

**Photo of the interior of the Ancient Templar chapel at Saint Jean d’Alcas in France taken by the editor.**





# NED EUGENE DULL

**M:E: Grand Master**

## **Grand Encampment of Knights Templar 1985-1988**

**S**ir Knight Ned E. Dull was born on October 18, 1923, in Ohio City, Ohio. He attended the public schools in Ohio City, Ohio State University, and The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He was a lumber dealer in Van Wert, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret. They had four daughters.

Civic activities included membership in the Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Corporation, Rotary Club, Elks, American Legion, V.F.W., and the Ohio and National Retail Lumber Dealers Association. He was a trustee and member of the First United Methodist Church of Van Wert.

During World War II, he served four years in the United States Army, including two years overseas in the European Theater with the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Masonically, Sir Knight Dull was raised in Van Wert Lodge 218 and was a past presiding officer of the York Rite Bodies of Van Wert. He served as drill captain of the drill team of Ivanhoe Commandery 54 when they won National Championships at the 1961, 1964, 1967, and 1976 Triennial Conclaves and was a member of the Grand Encampment Committee on Drill Regulations. He was a member of Ohio Priory 18, Knights of the York Cross of Honour; Zenobia Temple, AAONMS; and the Royal Order of Scotland. He was a past sovereign of Holy Grail Conclave and a past grand sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine, also past sovereign master of Buckeye Council 92, Allied Masonic Degrees; past preceptor of Prince of Peace Tabernacle X, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and past grand preceptor of the Grand College of America. He was a member of Buckeye Council 64 of the Knight Masons of Ireland, Dayton Chapter 67 of the National Sojourners, Holy Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City (CBCS), and the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis. Sir Knight Dull was an active member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay and was a recipient of the Honorary DeMolay Legion of Honor. He was coronated a sovereign grand inspector general, 33° of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in 1970.

Sir Knight Dull was elected grand captain general on September 2, 1976, in Kansas City, Missouri, and served in that capacity until November 30, 1977, when he was advanced to the office of right eminent grand generalissimo upon the death of Past Deputy Grand Master John B. Cottrell, Jr. He was elected deputy grand master on August 15, 1979, at Indianapolis, Indiana, and 47<sup>th</sup> grand master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. at the 55<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment on August 19, 1982, in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. He became a most eminent past grand master at the 56<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio, in August of 1985.

Sir Knight Dull laid down his sword and entered the supreme asylum above on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.



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The Star of Bethlehem

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**Spring 2017**

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**by August 1, 2017**

*\*Final cost will be determined by  
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**567.376.9741 Mobile & Text**

**Or see our information attached to the**

**Pilgrimage site, see Activities -**

**www.knightstemplar.org**





## Memorial for Mrs. Paul E. Case Past Supreme Worthy President

**M**rs. (Paul E.) Shirley E. Case, past supreme worthy president, passed away on October 31, 2016, in Venice, Florida, after a short illness. She was eighty-nine years old. A memorial service for family and friends was held on November 5, 2016, at the Farley Funeral Home in Venice, Florida. Shirley's brother-in-law, Nils Nordberg, performed the service. Shirley is survived by Janet Case, Paul Case, Jr., Fred Case, Eleanor, and Alan Case. She was predeceased by her husband Paul.

Mrs. Case was born on September 12, 1927, in Woburn, Massachusetts, and was initiated into Reading Assembly 117 on June 16, 1952. Shirley served as its president in 1959. Mrs. Case was installed as supreme worthy president in Denver, Colorado, on September 28, 1979, and presided in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from September 22 through September 26, 1980. The seagull was her emblem, her motto "live love," and her song "Everything is Beautiful."

She joined Tampa Assembly as a dual member in February of 1998, becoming a primary member with Reading's demise. She was also a dual member with Pawtucket 217.

Shirley worked tirelessly for her hospital volunteer group in Venice, amassing over 12,000 hours of service. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Daughters of the Nile. She served Supreme Assembly in many capacities over the years, primarily on the Finance and Jurisprudence Committees and will be greatly missed.



(Mrs. Dennis) Diane Osborne, worthy president of Everett Assembly 242 welcomed Mrs. Joseph Bongiovi, supreme worthy president on occasion of her official visit. Everett is also the home Assembly of (Mrs. Richard) Linda Roblee, supreme recorder.



knight templar





# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight John L. Palmer

*The Knights of the Holy Grail*, Tim Wallace-Murphy, 2007, Watkins Publishing, London, ISBN 978-1-905857-22-7.

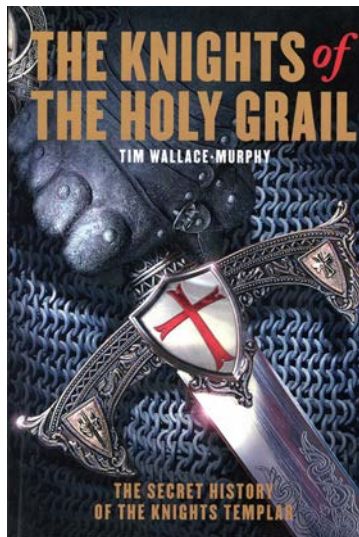
Tim Wallace-Murphy has published a number of books about the esoteric side of Templary. In this one, he explores the Ancient Templar's relation to Rex Deus and the gnostic beliefs of the Cathars. He makes a case for the origin of a form of what is now known as Christianity having originated in Egypt and having been passed down through Moses and Aaron, eventually taking root with the Essenes. He gives account of the origin of the Essenes and their relation to John the Baptist, Jesus, and James the Just.

The schism between St. Paul and the elders of the Church in Jerusalem is covered in some detail as well as the adaptation of Christianity by Constantine the Great. The relationships between the Templars, the Rex Deus families, Bernard of Clairvaux, and the Sinclairs of Scotland are also covered in some detail.

The author spends some effort in describing the evolution of Islam and the interaction between Saladin and the Crusaders. He includes chapters on Templar commercial activities as well as their military activities. His comment is very favorable toward the Templars as well as the Freemasons, of which he is a member. He believes that the Templars were indeed somehow linked to the evolution of the Freemasons.

A significant portion of the book is devoted to medieval architecture and the symbolism to be found in the carvings at locations such as Roslyn Chapel and Chartres Cathedral. He also traces the history of the Cathars, the invasion of Spain by the Moors, and the cult of the Black Madonna.

If you are interested in learning more about the various theories concerning the actual beliefs of the ancient Templars, I believe that you will find this book most interesting. It is certainly entertaining.





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*“The flowers appear on  
the earth: the time of  
the singing of birds is  
come...”*

*Song of Solomon 2:12*

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