



# **Knight Templar**

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# Grand Master's Message

November is a special month for our precious country and the Knights Templar. In this month we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Veterans Day should be a solemn observance for the men and women who have served our country. Countless numbers of these brave soldiers, from the American Revolution to the present, have given the ultimate sacrifice. Those that came home spent the rest of their lives remembering and indeed still remember those who did not come home. We as Knights Templar should hold these "truths" and thank God every day for our flag, our country, and our veterans. One of the best explanations that I am aware of concerning our flag were words put to paper by Henry Ward Beecher, "A thoughtful mind,

when it sees a nations flag, sees not the flag but the nation itself, and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag, the government, the principles, the truths, the history that belongs to the nation that sets it forth. The American flag has been the symbol of liberty, and men have rejoiced in it."

Thanksgiving is the day we celebrate with our family and friends and thank Almighty God for the bountiful spread that is before us, just as our forefathers did nearly 400 years ago. As we pray before we indulge in our wonderful meal, prepared by loving hands, please remember those who are less fortunate, pray for the men and women of our armed forces, and pray to our Lord and Savior that he will hold our great country in his hands and keep us on the path of Christianity. You might consider praying for our fraternity and the Knights Templar and asking our Lord to keep assembling men who can best work and best agree.

As Templars we should be very proud of our Knights Templar Eye Foundation. We should give thanks to Robert Bigley and his staff, the trustees of the eye foundation, and the leadership of the Grand Encampment officers. This is our foundation that provides grants for research in the eradication of pediatric eye disease. We need to give thanks for the countless hours our Scientific Advisory Committee doctors spend to research and recommend what grants need to be funded.

Sir Knights, November is a special month for giving thanks for our country, our Christian fraternity, our families, our veterans, and the special doctors who will eradicate eye disease.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Michael B. Johnson, grand master



Photo by Sir Knight Daniel Hood

## ***Knight Templar Magazine Available on Your Smart Phone***

The *Knight Templar* magazine is now available on your smart phone including your state supplement. Just download the application from either the Apple App Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/knight-templar-magazine/id1422046085?ls=1&mt=8> if you have an I-Phone or the Google Play Store at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.axiosdigital.KnightTemplar> if you have an Android based phone. Then each month, you will be automatically notified when the new issue of the magazine is available. One tap and you are reading the magazine!

If at some point in the future, you want to discontinue the delivery of your paper copy and save the Grand Encampment some printing and postage expense, the recorder of your local Commandery can have it stopped by updating the membership database.

Of course, the current issue of the magazine and all previous issues are still available on-line at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/>.

### IN MEMORIAM



Donald Burnell Kelley  
Kansas

Grand Commander 2001  
Born: January 5, 1928  
Died: August 14, 2021

Edward Helton  
Georgia

Grand Commander 1987  
Born: February 1, 1928  
Died: August 22, 2021

Pierre-Denis Leger  
Vermont  
Grand Commander 2013  
Born: May 29, 1949  
Died: August 8, 2021

Clarence Randall Carrier  
Tennessee  
Grand Commander 1995  
Born: November 22, 1950  
Died: August 12, 2021

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# Prelate's Chapel

by

Reverend Terry L. Plemons  
right eminent grand prelate of the Grand Encampment

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**P**aul calls the church and each of us as believers to give thanks; in everything give thanks. This is a Divine expectation. The psalmist writes, it is good to give thanks to God. Paul writes in Romans that when we are not thankful, it is evil and has dire consequences. "they glorified Him not as God, neither were they thankful." As a result, the Scripture says that they, "became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." They acted as if they were their own source and sufficiency.

The Scripture talks about ten lepers in Luke. They called, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Jesus responded, "'Go show yourselves to the priests,' and so it was that as they went, they were cleansed." As they walked to the priest, all ten were healed, but one of them, a Samaritan, turned around "and with a loud voice, glorified God and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks."

Jesus asked him some very thought provoking questions, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

You see, the other nine were healed also; they were enjoying the blessing; and they were so excited about the blessing that they forgot the one who blessed them.

We have much to be thankful for, both material and spiritual. My prayer is for each of us to be like the Samaritan, having thankfulness in our hearts to the Lord Jesus, to be thankful for the grace and mercy He places in our lives, thankful for trials which strengthen our faith, thankful for redemption which gives us hope for eternity, and thankful for grace that we are his. Be thankful for your families, your friends, and your great order.

Who will you be this Thanksgiving, one of the nine or the one who returned to give thanks to God?

"Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

In Christ Love,  
Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, REPMC, KGT  
grand prelate



Photo by Sir Knight Daniel Hood

# Tracing the Footsteps of the Knights Templar

## Where Did They Go?

A comprehensive analysis of all the locations they may have gone after their 1307 arrests, and 1314 dissolution.

By

Sir Knight Kevin A. Wheeler

There have been many efforts that have analyzed various aspects of the Knights Templar. Some of these concern their origins and the mysterious discoveries found at the Temple of Solomon, which evidently lead to various other stories and books depicting them as the protectors of the Holy Grail or the Ark of the Covenant. Because of these facts or mysteries there have been many authors, researchers, scientists, Masons, and Knights Templar who have sought to discover if some of those tales of the Templar treasure were real and where and how to find it. This article is not that; it differs as it does not attempt to find any discoveries or hidden treasures of any sort but instead focuses on tracing the whereabouts of all Templars following their dissolution and subsequent disappearance.

From the time of their arrests on Friday, October 13, 1307, it was known that the raids conducted by order of King Phillip IV of France were unsuccessful at capturing all of the Knights Templar. Similarly, when Pope Clement V issued his Papal Bull in 1312, disbanding the Templar order and redistributing its wealth, it only covered those territories that fell under church rule. However, by that time, the Templar network had become worldwide, encompassing many different lands, often with people of dif-

ferent languages and religions. We know from historical records such as the papal records, that in some respects, the Templars were known to have remained in existence following the 1314 execution of their grand master, Jacques De Molay. In fact, in the book entitled *Orders of Knighthood, Awards and the Holy See* by Van Duren, we have proof that the papacy was aware of several locations where the Templars were known to remain. According to Van Duren, the Templars remained at one of their strong holds, Portugal. The king of Portugal, Denis I, organized a new order, called the Order of Christ or the Military Order of Christ, consisting of all former Templars in the region. Interestingly, by order of papal bull, the Order of Christ was assigned, all former Templar estates in Portugal, unknowingly revitalizing the so-called extinct Templars of Portugal in 1319.

Based on historical documents, we know that the Knights Templar, prior to their arrests in 1307, had castles or strongholds throughout the known world. Nevertheless, how many more of these strongholds remained under Templar control following their dissolution in 1314? The Templars were beloved by both friends and foes; thus, I think it is safe to conclude that there may have been other countries, like Portugal, where they were loved, and rather than

having them dissolved, may have simply changed their name and allowed them to continue to operate. Still there are further mysteries that remain regarding the Templars whereabouts. This is apparent in such archeological findings as Roslin Chapel in Scotland, Oak Island in Nova Scotia, or the Newport Tower in Rhode Island. The fact is, the Templars got away when they were persecuted, and the focus of this article will be to trace their whereabouts, wherever it may take us. However, I believe that they may currently exist in many forms.

In the past seven hundred thirteen years since the dissolution and subsequent disappearance of the Knights Templar in 1307, there has been a mystery or kind of aura around the true whereabouts of the Templar treasure. As stated in the introduction, the aim of this article is to find the various locations or organizations where they may have eventually settled or joined. However, as many of us may know, the order of Knights Templar is one of the most secretive and mysterious organizations ever known, as many things they left are veiled in secrecy, such as the "Money Pit" on Oak Island.

Some of the Templar mysteries include their being the protectors of the Holy Grail; the possessors of Solomon's Treasures, including their own riches; and possessors of hidden or secret knowledge. Other stories credit them with the start of Freemasonry, piracy, and being the true founders of the new world. Given the large amount of information regarding the Knights Templar, if we were to assume that even half of it is factual, is it reasonably possible to track them down, and what, if anything, will we discover?

To attempt to trace the whereabouts of the Knights Templar following their arrests, it is necessary to start where the arrests began, France 1307. It is said that in 1307 there were approximately 3000 Knights Templar in France and about 20,000 worldwide. (Wikipedia.org, 2020). In the article entitled "Lineage of Survival of the Templar Order: Survival Lineage of Templars Continuing into Modern Era" found on [knightstemplarorder.org](http://knightstemplarorder.org), the author suggests that "Only 620 Templar personnel are known to have been arrested in France" in 1307 AD, and "estimate that there were over 3,000 Templars" in France, such that "over 2,000 fully armed and equipped Templar[s], with their entire retinues of squires, servants, horses, baggage trains, and camp followers" in fact did escape and board the eighteen ships which left Port La Rochelle.

In another article, found on [maierfiles.com](http://maierfiles.com), entitled "The Knights Templar & The Knights of Malta: A Sovereign Military Order Wielding Unusual Power," we are told that Templars, fleeing France, went to England, Switzerland, and Scotland and that another group went to Portugal, while others joined the Knights Hospitaller. Wasserman (2001) stated that both the kings of England and Aragon issued letters to the pope in defense of the Templars. In Aragon, Spain, like Portugal, it turns out that the Templars were able to change their name. By order of James II, they became the Order of Montesa, and like in Portugal, the order was gifted the possessions of the Templars of Aragon. (Van Duren, 1983; [newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org), 2020). Wasserman (2001) also stated that in 1317 the German Templars were afforded the opportunity to remain a Knight by joining the Knights Hospitaller. This was the

same year that the Order of Montesa was adopted in Aragon. In all of Italy, with the exception of Naples, the authorities refused to arrest the Templars. (Wesserman, 2001) Frers (2005) stated that when some of the ships fleeing France arrived at Sicily, they would have received a warm welcome.

Frers, in his book entitled *The Templar Pirates: The Secret Alliance to Build the New Jerusalem* stated, "When the Vatican banned the Order of the Temple and confiscated all its possessions, holdings, and fortifications, the Templars, who were already excellent mariners, committed themselves permanently to the sea." (p. 1)

If we are to follow this information, then we can reasonably infer that we have to look at the following countries in search of evidence of further activity of the Knights Templar. These countries include France, England, Scotland, and Switzerland. Furthermore, we have to take a deeper look into what connection, if any, the Templars may have had to the medieval pirates. Additionally, due to this information, we can safely say that the Knights Templar did continue to operate in both Spain and Portugal under new names, The Order of Montesa and The Order of Christ respectively.

In our continued pursuit for evidence of the Knights Templar following 1307-1314, we will skip France, coming back to it later, and move on to England. King Edward of England was purported to be a staunch defender of the order, because the Templars had aided him during William Wallace's Scottish rebellion. (Wesserman, 2001) However, he was a good Christian and obeyed the pope's order to suppress the Templars and confiscate their possessions but only after

giving them a two month head start, for the initial order was issued in November of 1307 but was not enacted until January of 1308. (Wasserman, 2001) The English Templars declared that the order was so defamed by the charges against it that members were unable to purge themselves. Therefore, they requested absolution by the prelates of England and reconciled with the Church (p. 235). From this record, we can see that it appears that as of January of 1308, the Knights Templar in England no longer existed. However, there was an incident that occurred in 1381, a well-organized revolt that spanned several towns and villages throughout England simultaneously, known as the "peasant's revolt." With the evidence presented by Robinson (1989), we can infer that the revolt may have been initiated by the Freemasons or the Knights Templar. The revolt seemed to specifically target the Knights Hospitaller, as every single property owned by the Knights Hospitaller, including the ones given to them by the King of England, was destroyed except for the English Templar Church known as "The Temple" (Robinson, 1989). The last thing to mention regarding this revolt, and proof that it most definitely consisted of some Templars or at least their relatives, is the fact that many of those revolting wore a livery very similar in look to the Knights Templar garb, a white robe with a red lining.

In Scotland, at the time of the Templar demise, the king, Robert Bruce, was under excommunication, thus he was not subject to the papal bull issued by Clement V. Consequently, the Templars in Scotland were received with open arms. "So many Templars fled to Scotland that they eventually formed the

bulk of the Scottish Calvary at the Battle of Bannockburn (A. D. 1314), in which Robert the Bruce defeated the English.” (p. xi) Following the Battle of Bannockburn, author Fred Silva suggested that “French Templars were given safe harbor by King Robert the Bruce, rebranding themselves Scottish Rite Freemasons.” (p. 339) This may be true, however, I believe that the Templars and Masons already had a working relationship. We also know that the Templars possessed a great many treasures and something of great importance. Among those treasures “the Templars also possessed the finest map library of their time, including a number of rare portolan maps of unknown origin — likely those found beneath the Temple of Solomon.” (Mann, p.10) Moreover, because, of what is known as the *Zeno Narrative*, we know of Prince Henry Sinclair of Scotland’s voyage, when he arrived in the new world in 1398. (Mann, 1999) His destination was Nova Scotia, Canada, and after settling there, he sent the majority of his Templars and all of his large ships back to Scotland. He named this place Acadia. Nova Scotia also happens to be the location of Oak Island, the supposed location of the Templar treasure that is mysteriously booby trapped. Although the order was to return to Scotland, Templars were free men, thus some decided to stick to the seas, essentially revolutionizing piracy.

Switzerland was an easy escape for the Templars fleeing France, as it is located just over the border to the east of France, and like in Scotland, its king at the time was also under excommunication from the church. Hundreds of Knights Templar could have easily slipped across the border with their

treasures into this newly formed country. In fact, “Some scholars believe that a number of Templars fled into the Swiss Alps. There are records of Swiss villagers around that time suddenly becoming very skilled military tacticians. An attack led by Leopold, I of Austria attempted to take control of the St. Gotthard Pass with a force of 5,000 Knights. His force was ambushed and destroyed by a group of about 1,500 Swiss peasants” (CrusaderPress, p. 3). During that battle, the Swiss were in possession of a new lightweight weapon, the Halberd, which could take down a horse and was capable of stabbing, slashing, axing, and bludgeoning. (CrusaderPress) The Swiss flag is also very similar to the Templar flag, and the Swiss Bank is the most powerful and secretive banking system in the world, just as the Templars banking system once was.

While most Templars in the West were dealing with persecution from France and most of Christendom by way of papal bull, Portugal remained a sanctuary for them. Remember that by the year 1312, the Templars in Portugal had changed their name and were now under the name of the Order of Christ. At some point during this time, the Order of Christ had developed an alliance with Ethiopia. (Silva, 2012) Ironically, Ethiopia is said to be the location of the Ark of the Covenant as well as the bloodline of the direct descendants of King Solomon, as King Menelik, I, the first king of Ethiopia, was his son. Later it was discovered that the Templars had built several churches, one of which being the “Bete Giyorgis” which is carved out of the bedrock and is the supposed location of the Ark. Additionally, the queen of Ethiopia in 1509 sent a letter to the king of Portugal re-

garding marriages between the Ethiopian court and members of the order.

Now back to those Templars on the ships who never returned to Scotland. There are varying stories of where they went, but one of the places they went was Sicily, and this is where they adopted the Jolly Rodger as their ensign. The Jolly Roger was a black and white or black and red standard, flown on the (Templar) pirate ships, depicting a skull above two crossed bones. (Frers, 2005) Robinson stated "The Templars who fled with those ships got double benefit: The ships provided a place to live and also the means to make a living. For pirates and corsairs in the Mediterranean, it was open season on almost everyone, with hundreds of separate countries, provinces, city-states, and island communities. Since many of the Templar ships were galleys, they were ideally suited for piracy, because becalmed ships were always easy prey for those that did not depend on wind" (p. 165). It is believed that the Templar pirates' main goal was to continue to collect wealth for the Templar cause and harass the Vatican by way of war through piracy. (Frers, 2005) Once pirates were on the scene, they eventually became the mercenaries of the various Kingdoms fighting to be the first ones to discover the new world and thus to be able to claim its riches. (Frers, 2005)

Reverting to the Templars in the new world, Prince Sinclair died, but the Acadians continued to thrive in Nova Scotia until Canada's British colonization. In 1755, there was a great exile of the French Acadians from Canada by the British because of the refusal to convert from Catholicism to Protestantism. This caused the (Knights Templar) Acadians, to migrate to the new world, where they

settled in Southern Louisiana. There are varieties of locations we can identify where the Templars may have erected churches or visited; however, there is no other place where they were able to create a sanctuary such as that in the French Louisianan Territory, affectionately known as Acadiana, and these are the Louisiana Cajuns.

When considering those Templars who were able to remain hidden in France and managed to survive, I believe they joined the ranks of Freemasonry in France which was then still deeply hidden within operative Masonry. You see, I believe that Masonry may have started with humanity, making Adam the first Mason, and then made its way through all those ancient cultures, including the Egyptians and later the Romans. The Romans had conquered Normandy and perhaps during this period is when the Romans shared the Mysteries, which later name became Freemasonry, with the Normans, who later became the Franks and formed France. (Wikipedia, 2020) The Normans conquered England in the year 1066, and ever since, the English Monarchy has spoken French. (ancient. eu, 2020) By the year 1130, Scotland was under Norman rule as well, however the relationship between the Normans and Scots was far better than that of the Normans and English. Just ten years later, the first Lodge in purported history was, erected in 1140, known to the world as Lodge Mother Kilwinning 0. "This old and ancient Lodge of Freemasons dates back to the building of Kilwinning Abbey around the year 1140, the ruins of which still stand to the rear of the Lodge and which has a unique history second to none in the Masonic world." (mk0.com, p.1, 2000) Thus is the story of

the revival of Scottish Masonry, which I believe to be French; however, what of English or York Masonry? York Masonry is said to have been revived in 926 by King Athelstan when he assembled the craftsmen and the Knights from every part of the kingdom in the city of York and established a code of regulations to be followed. (palodge482.com, p. 1, 2020) I only have one issue with the story of York Masonry. Why is it that we use French words? If the organization of Masonry was in 926, then why do we have words in our ritual that are of French origin? Normandy did not conquer England until 1066. In my opinion, the only likely explanation of why York Masonry would contain French words is because the *Franken Manuscript* is dated 1390, well after the Norman conquest. From that date, those who could read and write, did so in French, therefore when it was translated to English, perhaps those French words were kept because they wouldn't make sense otherwise. (universalfreemasonry.org, p. 1, 2020)

## Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the evidence depicted by the various sources evaluated throughout this article, it is safe to say that although the papal bull issued in 1312 effectively disbanded the Knights Templar as it was known at that time, they clearly survived and continued to thrive in various forms and continue to do so today. We learned how they possibly hid in France, were given advanced notice to aid in their escape in England, and were received with open arms in Scotland and Portugal. We learned that the Templars were first to the new world and contacted the descendants of King Solomon in

Ethiopia. Finally, we see several potential direct connections between the Knights Templar and Freemasonry.

In my opinion, today the Knights Templar operate in various fronts as they always did, protecting both their assets and those holy relics and sacred mysteries entrusted to their care. I believe that they currently exist in Switzerland, having remained in control of both the world's most secretive banking system and the exclusive protection of the Pope. I also believe that they are in Ethiopia, helping to protect the Ark of the Covenant, Portugal, and Louisiana protecting the secrets of the grail. Finally, I believe that they are among the highest orders of Freemasonry in which we see a direct connection between the Knights Templar and the Scottish Freemasons, the Royal Order of Scotland. On the website for the Royal Order of Scotland, we find the connection in its description of one of its two degrees. "The Rosy Cross Degree, tradition takes its origin on the field of Bannockburn, on Summer St. John's Day 1314, and was instituted by King Robert the Bruce, who having in the course of the battle for Scottish independence, received assistance from a body of sixty-three knights who may have been original Knights Templar and Freemasons. He conferred upon them, as a reward for their service, the civil rank of Knighthood. Each received a characteristic considered descriptive of his performance at Bannockburn. He granted them permission to confer the honor on such Scottish Freemasons who professed the Christian religion and who had shown themselves worthy of honor." (p.1)

Additionally, I believe that the original Knights Templar, although called the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and

of the Temple of Solomon, were in fact very wealthy and enlisted Freemasons to join their ranks as sergeants. This is assuming that they themselves were not Freemasons.

Sir Knight Kevin A. Wheeler is past commander of St. Elmo Commandery 64 in Riverside, Illinois, and can be contacted at Kaw1418@gmail.com.

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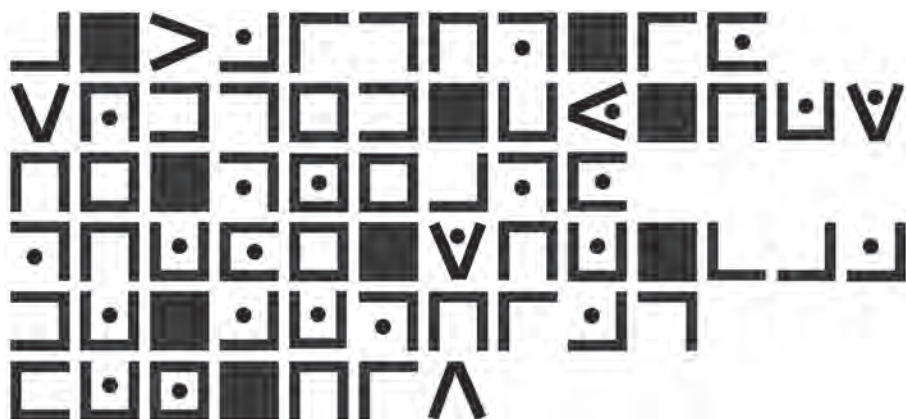


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# Meet Our Department Commanders

## Sir Knight James B. Steele

### Right Eminent Department Commander

### Mid-Atlantic Department

**S**ir Knight James B. Steele was born on September 22, 1960, in Hagerstown, Maryland, which is located on the Mason Dixon line. His mother always told him he could go either way. He is the son of the late Roy Sanford Steele and Lillian Katherine Biggs Steele. He moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1968, where he spent the majority of his life and attended New Hanover High School. James began his career in the electrical business in 1978 and became an electrical contractor in 1983. Currently, he is the president of Steele Electrical Contractors, LLC, located in Castle Hayne, North Carolina, and licensed in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. He also owns and operates an organic egg farm. James and his wife, Shirley, were married on December 21, 1996. They have four children and one grandson. The Steele Family has attended Wesleyan Chapel Methodist Church since 1989 where James serves as an usher and chairs various committees.



Photo by Sir Knight Daniel Hood

James began his Masonic career in 2000; he was initiated, passed, and raised in Wilmington Lodge 319. He served as commander of Plantagenet Commandery 1 in 2007, District 2 district commander in 2008, and as grand commander of North Carolina in 2016-2017. He was designated a knight commander of the temple in 2014 and currently is the scribe of SENCiand Council 42 Knight Masons. He is a member of several other Masonic bodies and a member of the Grand Masters Club. James was instrumental in establishing the North Carolina Drill Team in 2011. In 2012, the North Carolina Drill Team participated for the first time on record at the 65<sup>th</sup> Triennial in Alexandria, Virginia, and again in 2015 in Buffalo, New York. In 2009, James started the annual Wilmington York Rite Oyster Roast fund raiser and has served as chair for the last ten years.

James' hobbies and interests include raising wild waterfowl, antique cars, model trains, and collecting petroleum memorabilia. He is a life member of the International Wild Waterfowl Society and the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society. He is also a member of the Antique Automotive Club of America and the Model T Ford Club International, Inc. James enjoys collecting gemstones and rocks and photography in his spare time.

# Tracing Their Genealogy

By

Sir Knight Chance M. Robinson

*"In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts."<sup>1</sup> (Haggai 2:23, KJV)*

**I**n the Texas working of the Royal Arch Degree, the most excellent high priest, after consultation with the excellent king, determines that the true signet has been presented to the Grand Council. It is at this point, prior to admitting three weary sojourners from Babylon within the sanctuary of the fourth veil, that the High Priest announces "owing to the great confusion which has arisen by the introduction of strangers among the workmen, [the Grand Council] have also decided that none shall be admitted but the true descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel. They will therefore be very careful in tracing their genealogy."<sup>2</sup>

As a candidate representing one of those three weary sojourners from Babylon, I can recall asking myself, but how are we to trace our genealogy to the sons of Jacob if we are not of Jewish descent? Of course, this is an allegory presented to us at an important juncture in the passing of the veils, but what does it mean? Who are worthy "to assist in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the house of the Lord?" Must you truly be of the twelve tribes of Israel to be employed in the work of rebuilding the second Temple? Or is this a subtle hint at the overarching allegory of the Royal Arch Degree and the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross? Is the true word and the

work of rebuilding the second spiritual Temple only open to the Israelites (God's chosen people) or is God's grace available to all, regardless of their genealogy?

It might prove difficult or impossible to literally explore the question presented to the candidates, but what if we were to carefully trace the genealogy of the excellent king, representing Zerubbabel and seated on the right of the high priest in Council? Is there a deeper meaning in the genealogy of Zerubbabel? Is this subtle hint to genealogy pointing us on that path? In search of an answer to the genealogy of Zerubbabel, we will look to the *Holy Bible*. Zerubbabel is mentioned by name twenty-two times in the Jewish canon (Old Testament), twelve times in the Jewish apocryphal books (Sirach and 1 Esdras), and three times in the New Testament Gospels of Matthew and Luke.<sup>3</sup>

It is in the Gospels of the New Testament where Zerubbabel is identified as an important figure in the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah. In carefully tracing this genealogy to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, we see that the true descendants of the twelve tribes and the Davidic line of Solomon are in part also Gentiles. In the fourteen generations listed in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, we see that "God's purposes embrace the Gentiles and the Jews, the

famous and the nobodies, the firstborn and the non-firstborn, the upright and the immoral, the powerful and the powerless, males and females.”<sup>4</sup>

There are four women listed who are significant to the lineage of both Jesus and Zerubbabel. These women are either Gentiles or associated with Gentiles (and not of the lineage of Abraham), but just the same, these women are important to God’s purpose. Each of these women also represents a relationship that is unconventional or even in direct violation of God’s commandments, but even amid this sin and death, God’s purpose for their lives extends beyond these short comings. The offspring of these unconventional relationships include Perez, son of Tamar and Judah; Boaz, son of Rahab and Salmon (or Sala); Obed, son of Ruth and Boaz; and Solomon, son of Bathsheba and David.

In the thirty-eighth chapter of Genesis, we read of the exploits of Tamar and Judah. Tamar disguised as a prostitute receives Judah’s signet, cord, and staff as a pledge to ensure future payment for this act. Nine months later, this pledge is used to identify Judah as the father of her child. In the second chapter of Joshua, we read of the exploits of the prostitute Rahab assisting the spies sent by Joshua in conquering her city of Jericho. In the book of Ruth, we read of the pledge given by Ruth, a Moabite, to her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. In part Ruth states: “...Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16) Because she was not obligated to remain with Naomi, Ruth’s pledge must be regarded as an act of *khesed* (showing love and loyalty over and beyond what is consid-

ered normal or expected). In the eleventh and twelfth chapters of Samuel, we read of the lust, the adultery, and the murder committed by David against Uriah, the Hittite. Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba, became the mother of Solomon, king of Israel. David’s sin prevented him from constructing the first Temple during his reign, but David was commanded to purchase the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite upon which the Temple was erected by his son, Solomon. It was upon this threshing floor that David offered his repentance to God through burnt offerings and offerings of well-being. God acknowledged these acts of repentance with forgiveness and by averting a plague in the land of Israel (Samuel 24:18-25).

It is also fitting that the name Zerubbabel is either Hebrew, meaning “begotten of Babylon” or Assyro-Babylonian, meaning “seed or offspring of Babylon.”<sup>5</sup> This has even greater meaning in the context of the 14<sup>th</sup> century connotation of Babylon as “a city devoted to materialism and sensual pleasure.”<sup>6</sup> If we consider Zerubbabel as literally “begotten of sin” or “offspring of sin,” his role as a preparation or foundation for the Christian Order of the Temple begins to fall in place. We are all Zerubbabel. We are all weary sojourners from the sin of Babylon to the hope of a blessed immortality erected on the foundation of divine truth within the rubble of sin and death of the first Temple.

In this way, by carefully tracing our genealogy through the reading of God’s Word as revealed in scripture and by seeking God in prayer, we too can be a signet of truth with the love of Christ Jesus in our heart. It only takes a little faith, and the Father will pull back the

veil and awaken us to our belovedness amidst our utter brokenness. It is at that moment that we begin to realize that the darkness is light before us, that the crooked paths are straight, and that He will not forsake us. Even in the midst of the storm, the peace of Christ Jesus will be with us always, because everywhere we go, the Great Captain of our Salvation is already there, waiting with open arms saying, "I am the resurrection and

the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26, NIV)

Sir Knight Chance M. Robinson is commander of Stephenville Commandery 100, Stephenville, Texas and past commander of Ivanhoe Commandery 8, Bryan, Texas. He can be contacted at [chance@aggienetwork.com](mailto:chance@aggienetwork.com).

### Notes

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We publish 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.

# Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

## 54<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign

"Count your blessings"

I recently had an eye problem, losing sight in my left eye due to a detached retina. Horror rushed thru my mind about what could be done and who could help me. Surgery was the only option, and I am still recovering and healing. This experience has been a realization to me of how I had taken my sight for granted.

As children, my parents taught us to count our blessings. Most of us go about our daily business, not taking time to realize all the blessings we truly have. The gift of sight is one blessing I had taken for granted; even with the requirement of glasses each day, I still thought nothing about it. I felt it would always be there.

While growing up, we had a tradition in our family during Thanksgiving to go around the table, and in turn, each of us would list what we were thankful for. Remembering back, I do not recall stating I was thankful for being able to see, but I'll guarantee that it will be on the top of the list this year. There is nothing like a real life experience to get your attention.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation holds the opportunity for all Sir Knights to collectively make a difference in the world. It gives us the ability to assist in the research and mission with the donations we make, remembering that none are too small.

One way to make this Voluntary Campaign a success is to become a Life Sponsor. A life sponsorship is a onetime donation of \$30.00. All proceeds from life sponsorships go directly into the Foundation's permanent fund. Only the interest earned is used to fund the research projects.

If you currently do not hold a life sponsorship, contact your local recorder or go to the Foundation's web site: [www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/info/donations.pdf](http://www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/info/donations.pdf), complete the form, and send it to the Foundation along with your contribution. Or better yet, get your state to join and maintain the ever-growing number of jurisdictions with 100% Life Sponsorships.



Onward Christian Soldiers.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,  
Lon W. Kvasager, KCT  
chairman, 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

## Grand Master's Club

William A. Carter .....	AL	Billy W. Sparks .....	AL
Wayne S. Wadsworth .....	AL	Jerry W. Brooks .....	AR
Lei Lani S. Forrest.....	AZ	Simon A. McIlroy.....	CA
Fenton R. Mereness.....	CA	Charles I. Strohl.....	CA
Michael Leebove .....	FL	Edward J. Mayfield, Jr.....	FL
Timothy P. Kelley .....	GA	Bobby B. Simmons.....	GA
Jeremy C. Vaughn .....	ID	Joe F. Gust .....	NC
Michael L. Guiffre .....	MA/RI	Burrell K. Pettet, II.....	OH
Robert L. Bradway .....	OK	Clarence M. Hottenstein .....	PA
Charles W. McSwain .....	PA	Joshua J. Nay.....	PA
Joseph P. Tolen.....	PA	Roger L. McDaniel.....	TN
Ronald L. McVey, Jr. ....	TN	Roy T. Sutton, III .....	TN
Jon S. Spann.....	TX	Jason C. Trenary .....	VA
Charles M. Olson, Jr. ....	WI	James H. Dixon.....	WY

## Grand Commander's Club

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Levert E. Stringfellow .....	AR	Dannie G. Cantrell.....	GA
Timothy P. Kelley .....	GA	Tommy T. Marshall .....	GA
James P. Brown .....	LA	Harold R. Staley, Jr.....	MI
Joel R. Porter.....	MN	Stephen A. Balke .....	NM
Brian H. Blades.....	NJ	Robert E. Gresham, Jr.....	NC
Roger R. Fischer, II.....	PA	Clarence M. Hottenstein .....	PA
Ronny D. Powel .....	SC	Brent C. Caiglio .....	TX
James P. Arab .....	VA		



# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, PGC

*Evading Death* by Dr. Steven W. Long, (College Professor's Experience ; Two Paths to Eternity), Published: Trilogy Christian Publishing, Tustin, CA; copyright 2020, ISBN – 978-1-64773-564-7; 198 pages.

“In whom do you put your trust?” Masons are familiar with this question, because a belief in God, the creator of the Universe, is fundamental to Freemasonry as is an interest in some sort of life after leaving this physical existence. This book is not necessarily “Masonic,” but all Masons will still learn a lot about “what comes after” by reading *Evading Death*. It will be of interest and useful to any reader who has some concern with the prospect of death and what happens after death.

The author of this book is one of the few people who have experienced actually losing his life for a short time and remembering the “journey.” His remarkable story of reaching the gates of both Hell and Heaven stimulates the reader to dwell seriously on the valuable lessons found in the latter part of this book.

Dr. Steven Long, with his wife, Victoria, is the founder and international director of Global Champions, an educational program for youth, teaching necessary skills for life, established in Taiwan and expanded further. He is an ordained minister, preaching and lecturing in many locations. He is the assistant professor of leadership and finance at Taiwan University. Steve and Victoria also served for several years as co-directors for ISCO (International Student Christian Outreach) at Stanford University.

Dr. Long's NDE (near death experience) began in Taiwan in 2014. He suffered a massive heart attack, remaining alone for several hours. He had been scheduled for a lecture, so friends came when he did not meet them at the train station. His heart problems had begun in 2006, requiring several stints. This time Steve was rushed to the hospital to spend twenty-four days in various stages of intensive care. The story reported in this book includes the vivid memory of being “out of body” and hovering at the ceiling while watching the surgery. This was not imaginary since Steve tells later of seeing the surgeon waving his arms and flipping his hands. It turns out that is a habit of the doctor to keep his hands cool.

During his time in intensive care, Dr. Long had to be heavily restrained because he could not realize what was going on and also because he was being spiritually

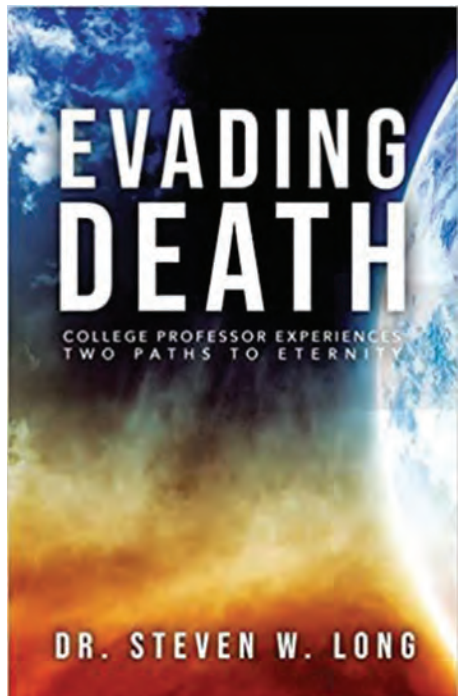
harassed, off and on, by two satanic beings. These characters, one tall and slim, one short and fat, told Steve that he was about to die, and they had come to take him to Hell. For that reason, he was continually agitated and tried to pull out all the tubes that were keeping him alive.

The dramatic part of his experience happened when he found himself arriving at a “Y” in the road. In one direction, the path was extremely dark; in the other direction, there was beautiful, bright light. As Steve looked in the latter direction he was surrounded with a feeling of warmth and peace. Steve realized that he had arrived at the beginning of both Hell and Heaven, two different directions. Maybe for curiosity, he took one small step on the dark path. Immediately he began to feel alarm, dismay, fright, and anxiety. He thought that he could hear sounds, like voices lamenting, shrieking, and yelling, making him step back and turn to the light. As he walked slowly down the bright path, Steve saw a figure in the far distance. He was made sure that the figure was Jesus, since his vision seemed to “zoom,” and everything began to become clear. The feeling surrounding Steve was then one of pleasure, joy, and delight. He then began to realize that he was not to stay there. Somehow Jesus was telling him that it was not his time yet. By his strong faith, he is guaranteed that there will be another time. The book has much more detail about this experience.

The last 126 pages of this book look at the two options for spending eternity. As you read through it, the author provides you with valuable information on how to make the right choice. He reports about other people with similar experiences and who are knowledgeable on the subject. Most importantly, the author refers to Scripture. There are *Bible* references, making it clear that there is a decision to make and how to make it.

The latter part of this book is a concentrated and focused “*Bible* study” about death and eternity. The last chapters are subjects like destination, darkness, and the end of the other path; the place of intense, stunning light; and dumb ways to die. The answers given involve such things as study the *Bible*, follow its teachings, tell others, personalize passages of scripture, search for understanding, and fellowship with others. In conclusion, everyone can benefit from reading *Evading Death*.

(Available through: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or the author at: [evadingdeathsgrip@gmail.com](mailto:evadingdeathsgrip@gmail.com))



# Leadership Notes

**C**ommunications skills are the most important skills in a leader's book of knowledge. They are what distinguish a leader and create goodwill (or not) in a team. However, many people lack the necessary training to improve their communications skills. This is why we added the YRL-401 *Influential Communications* class to the curriculum.

The ability to communicate effectively is a crucial skill for leadership, business success, personal success, and relationships. It is a skill that can be improved and even mastered with some education and practice. As a Masonic leader, learning to be not only effective but also influential is the secret to leading your organization to success. You see, you are leading a group of volunteers. They must decide to follow you. There is no paycheck or title that grants you the authority to lead. You must persuade them to follow.

## How to be an Effective Communicator

### ***1. Understand your audience and speak their language***

Understanding your audience is the most important concept in communication. If you are able to understand them, you can speak to them. You can make a connection with them. You will find the path that they are most comfortable with, and you don't have to worry about what is right or wrong.

There are a lot of different audiences that you need to consider when you want to be successful in communicating your ideas and plans. There is no one size fits all approach, but there are some general guidelines that many great communicators follow when it comes to speaking the language of their audience.

The most effective of these is to learn to tell stories to communicate ideas. Paint a picture in the mind of the listener so he can "see" or otherwise connect with your meaning.

### ***2. Adapt to new technologies for better engagement with your audience***

When offering complex ideas, plans, or knowledge, use things that are engaging and that activate the interest of the listener. Just writing out your idea on paper and sharing it may be effective for some. Now imagine adding graphs and pictures. Perhaps your communication of ideas requires the use of a powerpoint slideshow with embedded video and animations. Consider the use of team tools like Google Apps and websites or wikis for engagement over time.

### ***3. Be authentic, uplifting, and inspiring in your message***

A message that is authentic, uplifting, and inspiring is the best way to get a positive response from your audience. It's easy to create an authentic, uplifting, and inspiring message. Start with creating your message while you are in a positive and uplifting mindset. Create a message that stands out by focusing on what makes you unique and what makes your idea compelling to the audience. There will always be things in your life that make you and others feel proud or grateful, so why not make those the focal point of your message?

### ***4. Use a variety of communication channels to stay connected***

With so many communication channels available, it can be difficult to know how to choose the best one for your purposes. You should use an assortment of channels where you are most comfortable and you know where your members are, too.

There is no one-size-fits-all channel when it comes to communicating and inspiring you. The best way to gauge which social media platform or communication channel is best for you is by assessing which ones your members use and understanding the lifespan of these channels. For example, text messaging with applications like "GroupMe" are excellent for fast notification and reminders, but not as effective for longer projects.

Finally, register for the York Rite Leadership training, and make it a point to attend and complete the "Influential Communications" class. During our day together, you will learn how the human mind processes language to create meaning, how to communicate nonverbally, and how to structure your communication in a way that reaches and sticks.

If you want to learn more about leadership principles, join the York Rite Leadership Training Program. Visit the website at [YorkRiteLeadership.org](http://YorkRiteLeadership.org) for more information and to register for the program.

Sir Knight S. Lane Pierce  
York Rite Leadership Faculty  
program executive



# **Sir Knight Jack M. Harper, II** **Right Eminent Grand Captain General** **Grand Encampment of** **Knights Templar, U.S.A.** **69<sup>th</sup> Triennium**

**J**ack Magee Harper, II was born on November 19, 1971, in Austin, Texas. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Public Administration degrees, both from Texas Tech University, and from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program from Harvard University. He is serving as city manager of Fulshear, Texas, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

Jack began his Masonic journey in 2003 and has served four times each as worshipful master (including Texas Lodge of Research), high priest, thrice illustrious master, and five times as commander. Jack has held an Esoteric Class A Certificate

from the Grand Lodge of Texas since 2003 and an Esoteric Certificate from both the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Texas since 2004. He served as grand commander of Knights Templar in Texas from 2017-2018, as the South-Central Department commander for 2018-2021 for the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U.S.A., and as chairman of the Preserving Templary 2021 Committee. Sir Knight Jack was also appointed as the national Campaign chairman for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign. He is a Scottish Rite 33° and recipient of the Order of the Purple Cross in the York Rite Sovereign College of North America. Nationally, Jack serves in the advancing Grand Council of Knight Masons line; grand superintendent for the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees (Texas-Central); chief adept, IX° for Texas and Stella Sola Colleges SRICF, and as director of ceremonies for the High Council, SRICF. He also serves as grand assistant



Photo by Sir Knight Daniel Hood

director of ritual for the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests. Further, he is a past president of the Texas York Rite Esoteric Association, past governor of Texas York Rite College 12, past excellent chief of Frank G. McDonald Council 97 of Knight Masons, past sovereign master of Anson Jones 462 of Allied Masonic Degrees, past sovereign of DeMolay Conclave of Red Cross of Constantine, past patron of TMRC Daylight Chapter 1145, member of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Knight York Grand Cross of Honour (One Quadrant), National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, Masonic Order of the Bath, Grand College of Rites, Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Ye Antiente Order of Corks USA, The Royal Order of Scotland, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Operatives, Scarlet Cord, Shrine, Grotto, Universal Craftsman Council of Engineers, and the Grand Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill. Jack was elected to receive the Honorary Legion of Honor by DeMolay International in 2020 and is also a member of the Yeoman of York and Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

He has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America since 1979 and has served in many roles, including ranger at Philmont Scout Ranch, cubmaster, and scoutmaster. Jack is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member in the Order of the Arrow, and recipient of the Silver Beaver and Founders Awards. He has served on seven Wood Badge courses and on the national staff for the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree, the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, as well as for the 2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference.

Jack was recognized by the United States Navy as a Distinguished Visitor at Sea and completed an arrested landing and catapult assisted launch on-board the USS Ronald Reagan CVN 76. Jack is a Single Engine Land and Sea Plane private pilot, Extra Class licensee (WM5P), and an avid backpacker. He is attempting to hike the highest point in every state and has summited forty highpoints.

Jack is married to his lovely wife, Julie; and they have one son, Jake.





# Beauceant News



We would like to let you know a bit about our Social Order of the Beauceant.

Our order was originally started at the suggestion of the Commandery in Denver, Colorado, in August of 1892 to assist with the 25<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment. The ladies so loved their work that they voted to expand their order in 1913, when again they assisted in hosting the Triennial.

The Social Order of the Beauceant is a ritualistic order with the theme of Faith, Loyalty, Love for God, the Order of Knights Templar, and each other. Just as the order of Knights Templar is known to be a Christian arm of Masonry, so is Beauceant a Christian Masonic lady's group. Its ritual is beautiful, impressive, based on the New Testament, and allows us to have a deeper appreciation of Templarism. We tell the story of the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ who dedicated their lives to the protection of men, women, and children during their pilgrimages to and from the holy places sanctified by our Lord. That ancient brotherhood became known as the Knights of the Temple or Knights Templar.

Because Beauceant membership consists of the wives and widows of Knights Templar and the mothers, sisters, daughters and granddaughters of Knights Templar or a Beauceant member, it has received the encouragement, good will, and moral support of Sir Knights wherever established.

The Social Order of the Beauceant adopted the Knight Templar Eye Foundation as their official charity in 1957, and the order has raised millions of dollars for this cause. Each Assembly may also have other charitable causes of their choosing that they support.

Each local Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant is chartered under the Supreme Assembly which was established in 1920.

The Supreme Assembly convenes once a year in a different area of the country to conduct the business affecting Supreme Assembly and all Beauceant Assemblies. A school of Instruction, exemplification of all ritualistic work, and the installation of supreme officers happens at this time.

An Assembly may be constituted wherever there is an active Commandery of Knights Templar, a petition to constitute a new Assembly requires the signature of twenty-five to forty interested women. There are presently fifty Assemblies located in the United States: Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, California, Minnesota, Texas, Michigan, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Alabama, New Mexico, Washington, Tennessee, Maryland, Utah, Florida, Arkansas, Maine, Virginia, and Georgia.





After visiting the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) office this summer, I realized that we could not simply give, but we had to give BIG! The vision of today's children and future adults is at stake, and the research funded by the Foundation is making a huge difference in the lives of the seeing impaired.

So, this year we will be continuing our K, T, E, F dollar collection. However, it's not just one dollar bills we will collect, instead, we want any bills marked with these letters! Your recorder will collect those each month and send them to our KTEF chairman.

Each Assembly is being asked to have at least one fund raiser where all money collected goes to KTEF.

Our sisters are also encouraged to participate in the "Faith, Loyalty, and Love" certificate drive. This is done by individual sisters who give \$25, \$50, or \$100 donations to their recorders who will, in turn, report the donation and send the funds to the KTEF chairman, (Mrs. Michael) Sandy Stegan, Phoenix Assembly 213. Corresponding certificates will be returned to the Assembly where the giver will be presented with her certificate as a means of recognition and thanks.

For further information on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, please go to <https://www.ktef.org>

(Mrs. Charles M.) Susan Thames  
supreme worthy president

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

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## **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.

## **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 required to make minimum distributions due to age 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. Please discuss with your tax professional whether this option could benefit you in your charitable and retirement planning.

## **Planned Giving – Create a Charitable Legacy**

Your Foundation now has a full web site dedicated to Planned Giving which you can access from our web site, shown at the bottom of this page. So if you're thinking of ways to make a lasting legacy for yourself please check out the tab on the home page that says "Planned Giving". Leaving your mark on the future is so simple with a gift in your will. To leave a gift in your Will or Trust it is as easy as asking your attorney to include a sentence that says:

**I bequeath (lump sum) or ( % ) of my estate to:**

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (address shown below)**

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation  
3201 Cross Timbers Road  
Bldg. 4, Suite 300  
Flower Mound, TX 75028**

**Telephone: 214-888-0220**

**Fax: 214-888-0230**

**Email: [manager@ktef.us](mailto:manager@ktef.us)**



**[www.ktef.org](http://www.ktef.org)**

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