

# Knight Templar



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July 2022

NUMBER 7





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# Knight Templar

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Grand Master

**David Studley**  
Grand Captain General and Publisher

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# Grand Master's Message

During my absence from my duties in the Grand Encampment, I had the opportunity to read and meditate on the writing of some of our past leaders. The following is from an article penned by Sir Knight Perry Winslow Weidner, Most Eminent Past Grand Master, Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U.S.A. I believe its content had meaning during his tenure as well as for us serving our Order today.



“Knight Templary is a great and noble tradition. It is inextricably woven into the history of chivalry, and carries us back to days when knight-hood was in flower, when knightliness was a vital ideal for everyday living.....the cross of the hospitaller was an emblem of mercy and deliverance.....from London through France, Italy and Asia Minor the knights of the Rosy Cross were the guardians of the distressed, terrible to the wrongdoers, of infinite compassion to those in need.”

We, the modern templars still practice these same traits today. We are spiritual beings and can find our highest satisfaction only as we give ourselves to our aspirations, remembering that in our ideals we find the finest expression of our souls.

This is the genius of the Order of the Temple---unyielding loyalty to truth, unswerving allegiance to righteousness, unflagging zeal in loving service to humanity, unremitting devotion to God and His Christ.

In cultivating chivalry, altruism and aspiration modern Knights Templar have a magnificent work to do. I believe that we men, officers, and members, should stand as a distinct challenge against that insidious force which would endeavor to wreck, among the people of this great nation, the faith of our fathers and the proper devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, we have a job to do as Templars; we have a job as citizens, not just as masons. It has been said that no man is entitled to rank and distinction as a Master Mason, or any other degree in masonry, without first being a true, good, loyal, God-fearing citizen of the United States. If we can only impress upon those who have assumed the obligations in our Order their full responsibility to our country, our Order and themselves, we will be accomplishing something.

In His Service...

David J. Kussman, GCT  
Grand Master

# IN MEMORIAM



William Lee "Bill" Blanks  
Texas

Grand Commander 1983  
Born: August 6, 1925  
Died: April 12, 2022

Richard Stanley Sleeper  
Massachusetts/Rhode Island  
Grand Commander 1980  
Born: December 21, 1938  
Died: April 15, 2022

Perry Bernel Anderson  
South Dakota  
Grand Commander 1991  
Born: August 30, 1929  
Died: April 17, 2022

Robert "Bob" J. Johnston  
Washington  
Grand Commander 1986  
Born: June 9, 1919  
Died: April 15, 2022

Peter Leslie Dawson  
Washington  
Grand Commander 2012  
Born: May 3, 1942  
Died: October 16, 2021

James "Jim" Thomas Stephens  
Washington  
Grand Commander 1986  
Born: March 25, 1921  
Died: November 12, 2021

John H. Dougan, Jr.  
Kansas  
Grand Commander 2010  
Born: November 17, 1938  
Died: May 7, 2022

# *Prelate's Apartment*

by

Paul Erickson, KCT,

Associate Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment

<sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. – **2 Corinthians 3:17 ESV**

**A**s you read this, you might be planning what to BBQ with your friends and family while celebrating Independence Day. When I think about Independence Day, I think about the founding of our nation. Our founding fathers wanted our country to be in control of its own destiny, not ruled by another country. Something else I think about is the one thing we should never desire independence from, our relationship with God.

When thinking about your own independence, you might think of a saying sometimes quoted as if it were scripture but is not. It is believed to have originated in ancient Greece: "God helps those who help themselves." Even Benjamin Franklin quoted this phrase in Poor Richard's Press. I think a more accurate statement would be "God helps those who realize they can't help themselves, and then seeks Him out in prayer." So, does God want us to be independent from Him? No, He doesn't.

The Apostle Paul believed in total submission when he said:

<sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. – **2 Cor 12:9 ESV**

God loves us like we love our own children. He would never have us be independent from Him, but rather, He wants us to rely upon Him. In fact, He told us to give Him our burdens, and He will take them from us.

<sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." – **Matt 11:28-30 ESV**



# A Templar Town and Cate (?) in England

By

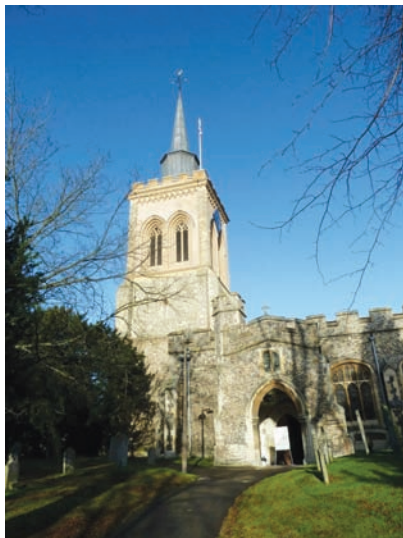
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

It is well-known that the Knights Templar, in the regions adjacent to their castles in the Holy Land, gave protection to the native population community, both Christian and Muslim, who were farmers, herdsman and craftsmen and who supplied the Knights with farm products, meat, and utensils needed to carry on life in the castle. In western continental Europe the order played a key role in establishing and supporting the municipalities of Miravet in Catalonia, Tomar in Portugal, and La Rochelle and Arville in France.<sup>9</sup> The Internet furnishes much information on the Templar castles and towns, both those in the Holy land and those in western Europe. However, the presence of towns established by the Templars in England is not so well-known. The article will present the story of one of the more prominent, named Baldock.

The market town of Baldock was established by the Templars in Hertfordshire between 1138 and 1148, on land granted to the Order by Gilbert de Clare, the Earl of Pembroke. It is located about thirty-three miles north of London. At first, one might suppose that the name is a corruption of the name baldric, a belt worn over one shoulder that is typically used to carry a weapon, usually a sword. But, surprisingly, the main theory of the origin of the name Baldock is as a derivation from the old French name for Baghdad: Baldac or later Baudac, which the Templars had been thwarted from conquering during the Crusades. Although the Templars' connections to Baghdad were essentially non-existent, it was widely regarded as the most prosperous market in the world and the Templars perhaps hoped that the name would confer a similar prosperity on their own market town in England. Founding contemporaneous documents use the spelling Baudac. This place is first recorded as Baldac in the *Pipe Rolls* of Hertfordshire in 1168. Other etymologies have been suggested, including Middle English "balled" meaning bald together with Old English "ac" meaning oak; and a conjectured Old English personal name "Bealdoc" meaning bold (with diminutive -oc suffix).<sup>1</sup> A few medieval buildings remain in Baldock though most are hidden away behind more modern buildings or facades and there are no visible remains of any Templar structures. The modern layout of the town and many buildings in the center date from the sixteenth century, with the earliest dating from the fourteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

It is likely that they actively encouraged merchants to settle here but left a bailiff in charge to collect rents and enforce law and order as the Knights were concerned with the town mainly as a money-making enterprise to fi-

nance their operations and crusades in the Holy Land. In the Middle Ages, few people travelled further than the nearest market and the road network around Baldock was probably very much a local one, bringing trade to the weekly market which was established by 1199 and to the various annual fairs.<sup>3</sup> In the fourteenth century, the Knights Templar were disbanded, and control of the town passed to the Knights Hospitaller. A notable building in the town, shown at left, is the thirteenth



century Baldock Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin at the center of the town. The original church was built in about 1150 by the Knights Templar before being largely rebuilt about 1330 by the Knights Hospitaller. It is also of interest that within the town is the Knights Templar School, which is a co-educational secondary school with academy status that was founded in 1939, and whose motto is "Courage and Courtesy."

About nine miles from Baldock lies Royston Cave, a man-made underground chamber in the village of Royston. The cave is roughly conical in shape and its chalky sides are covered with carvings. The cave and its carvings lay buried and forgotten for centuries and were rediscovered in 1742. The passage's sealed entrance was discovered by workmen clearing space for a bench and whose tools struck a stone cover. The villagers eagerly cleared away the rubble hoping

to find treasure, but were greatly disappointed upon finding only pottery shards, a piece of brass, bones, and a seal bearing a fleur-de-lis.<sup>8</sup>

Some of the symbolism in the wall carvings has been supposed to be of Templar origin, due to the Cave's proximity to former Templar lands. Also, carvings similar to those in Royston Cave have been found at Templar sites across Europe. Although claims have been made that this military monastic Order of the Catholic Church held a weekly

market at Royston as well as in Baldock between 1199 and 1254, the market charter was in fact granted to the Augustinian Canons of the town. It has been speculated that the cave was divided into two floors by a wooden floor, the evidence consisting of a single posthole and what may be beam slots to secure the platform to the walls.<sup>8</sup> Two figures close together near the damaged section may be all that remains of a known Templar symbol, two knights riding the same horse. However, as the image has been repaired in modern times, this cannot be confirmed. In 1953, the architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner, wrote that the date of the carvings "is hard to guess. They have been called Anglo-Saxon, but are more probably (the work of unskilled men)." This would place the carvings after the time of the Templars; certainly the figures in armor are wearing full plate, which would date them to



a century after the Templars' demise.<sup>6</sup>

Historic England said the “mystical carvings” have been added to its Heritage at Risk register because they have “steadily deteriorated due to water penetration and worm activity.”<sup>7</sup>

Some photos of the carvings found in the cave are shown below.

Sir Knight Marshall, KGT is a past grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Alabama. He is chairman of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar History Committee and is a frequent contributor to this magazine. He can be reached at [geomارش@yahoo.com](mailto:geomارش@yahoo.com).



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# Meet Our Department Commanders

**Robert M. Loflin**

**Right Eminent Department Commander  
South Central Department**

**S**ir Knight Robert Milton Loflin was born on January 28, 1969, in Lancaster, California. Robert began his Masonic journey in 1997. He is a member of the Sam Houston Hall of Fame and serves as a director of the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum Broad. He currently serves as the right excellent grand king of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.

Sir Knight Loflin served as the grand commander of Knights Templar in Texas during 2014-2015. He is a member of the York Rite College and recipient of the Gold Honor Award and the Order of the Purple Cross. Further, he is a member of the Red

Cross of Constantine, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, Operatives, Allied Masonic Degrees, Knight Masons, and Eastern Star.

Sir Knight Robert was appointed and installed as the department commander for the South Central Department at the 68<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America on August 18, 2021.



# The Tithe and the Widow's Trunk

By

Sir Knight Luis E. Meneses, II

The term "tithe" in the Hebrew is the word "*Maaser*" (*Mem, Ayin, Sin* and *Resh*), which of course comes from the word "*ten*", which in Hebrew exists in its feminine form as *Asarah* (*Ayin, Sin, Res* and *Jei*), and in its masculine form *Eser* (*Ayin, Sin* and *Resh*).

In Greek there are at least three words that refer to tithe, the main one is the verb *Apodekato*, which is the act of precisely giving ten percent, the adjective *Dekate* and the verb *Dekató*, hence if we want to study what Scripture thinks about the "Tithe" or in Hebrew "*Maaser*," it is important to check verbatim all the times where all these words appear both in the *Tanakh* (misnamed the *Old Testament*), and in the *Brit Hadasha* (renewed pact).

The *Torah* orders us that after the farmer harvests the products of the field or gathers the produce of the trees (in the latter case from the fifth year of the tree's life), the farmer must separate what is called the *terumot* and the *maaserot* (offerings and tithes).

First the *terumá gedolá* (great offering) is separated. This is equivalent to two percent of the total production and is given to a *cohen* (priest). Then the *maaser rishon* (first tithe) is set aside to be given to the *leviim* (Levites). And finally, he must separate another *maaser* (tithe) from the leftover, but the quality of this tithe depends on the year in which we are, as we will explain below:

The *Torah* commanded us that one in seven years the land must rest and it is forbidden to work on it. This cycle knight templar

of seven years - six of work and one of rest - is called "the cycle of the *shemitah* (the sabbatical year of the earth)." Regarding the *mitzvah* of tithes, in the first, second, fourth and fifth years of the *shemitah* cycle, this second tithe that we must separate is called the *maaser sheni* and its owner must eat it in the city of Jerusalem.

In the third and sixth years of this cycle, this second *maaser* must be given to the poor, and that is why it is called *maaser ani* (the tithe of the poor).

At this point is where *Tu B'Shvat* plays a fundamental role, since the *Torah* asked that the production of one year not be mixed with that of the following year, and that is why it was necessary to determine a date that is considered the limit between the year previous year and the year after regarding the *mitzvah* of offerings. Also, as we explained earlier, in the first and second years of the *shemitah* cycle the "second tithe" must be separated, but the third year the "tithe of the poor" must be separated, and we needed to know when the third year begins.

It is known that in the distribution of the land of Israel among all the tribes that make up our people, unlike the rest of the tribes, the tribe of Levi did not receive any part of the land, but the other eleven tribes took the part that it would have belonged to the tribe of Levi.

From this it follows that the tithes that the rest of the tribes must give to the Levites are not considered as a gift or a present, but as an obligation for the



“rent” of their lands.

The Scriptures teach us that the “Tithe” or “*Maaser*” could well be from what was produced on earth, as well as from the reproduction of livestock that one had.

There are authors who consider the tithe as a tenth part of the earnings, an amount designated to support the clergy or for other religious use. While the tithe is offered to God, it is delivered to his priests or ministers.

Tithing is not a custom or a good deed of the good Jew, but is a religious obligation to be strictly observed. There is some relationship between the tithe and the widow’s trunk, but their differences are also great.

In the Jewish people there are numerous obligations with respect to the less economically fortunate, these rules or obligations are:

- 1) *Maaser* - the tithe;
- 2) *Shejejá* and *Leket* - the stubble and forgetfulness in the crops;
- 3) *Peá* - the tips of the fields;
- 4) *Peret* - the forgetfulness in the vine harvest;
- 5) *Olelut* - gifts to the poor;
- 6) *Shemitah* - the moratorium on debts in the sabbatical year;
- 8) *lobel* - the restitution of properties in the jubilee;
- 9) *Tzedaka* - giving according to the needs of the recipient.

Tzedaká is commonly translated as charity, it is the contribution that we can make in pursuit of social justice, that is, that society finds a balance (health) in the distribution of its wealth. Everyone, poor and rich, old and young, women and men, are bound by it; on every possible occa-

sion.

### **Eight levels of charity**

- 1) Before you need to ask for charity, it is best to give what you need as a gift, loan you money, take you as a partner or find you work.
- 2) Give charity while both, the one who gives and the one who receives, do not know the identity of the other.
- 3) The giver knows the identity of the recipient, but the recipient does not know the identity of the giver.
- 4) The one who receives knows the identity of the one who gives, but the one who gives does not know who receives.
- 5) Give charity even before being asked.
- 6) Donate to the poor person, after they have asked for charity.
- 7) Donate less than you should, but do so with a friendly demeanor.
- 8) He who donates gives charity by complaining.

Let us remember these levels when we treat the trunk of the widow.

### **Widow’s trunk**

Before the closing of the Works, in many lodges the Venerable Master orders that the so-called “Trunk of the Widow” be circulated to collect the contributions of the Brothers with beneficiary purposes. The expression “Trunk” is French.

*Tronc*, meaning Trunk (like that of the tree). Also used to define the “alms box” found at the entrance of the Churches for the faithful to introduce their mite. It

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is claimed that this usage was adopted at the Lateran Council, in 1215, during the papacy (1198-1216) of Innocent, III. However, its distant origin is in the Jewish tithe (which is spoken of in the *Bible*).

When we say today, "Widow's Trunk," we are honoring the memory of Hiram Abiv, the builder of the Temple of King Solomon, "son of a widow from the tribe of Naftali." According to Masonic mythology, Hiram Abiv was the first Master Mason.

It is important to remember that Masonry is not a charitable institution, it is an Order that seeks the Truth, a School of Initiation into the Mysteries. If he also does charity work in certain cases, this is in addition. If this bag or trunk circulates it is because, like each and every one of the objects that are used and that decorate the Lodge, it has a triple meaning: a practical one, a psychological one and an internal or spiritual one.

The practical sense of the Trunk is that with its material help a need is solved: that when a Mason is in difficulties, he can count on the brothers to reach out to him.

Its psychological effect, which instills charity, solidarity and fraternity among the members of the workshop who consciously perform these rites; and that it teaches not to show off, since the mite is given spontaneously and secretly, so "that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing."

And its spiritual meaning consists in teaching detachment from material goods; It shows how to share, not only the coins, but, above all, the spiritual experiences and the knowledge that Masons transmit to each other with the absence of selfishness, trying, as far as possible, to radiate them towards humanity. And to share a high Ideal, which is what moves to build the temple of universal harmony, with the Love that is born among those who know that all, in essence, are one.

Sir Knight Luis E. Meneses, II is a member of Ivanhoe Commandery 5 in Utah. He can be contacted at [kikemeneses@gmail.com](mailto:kikemeneses@gmail.com).

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# Meet Our Department Commanders

## Sir Knight Sidney J. Leluan

### Right Eminent Department Commander

#### Latin America Department

**S**ir Knight Sid Leluan, III was born to Sidney, Jr. and Patricia Leluan on July 5, 1959 at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada. He is a graduate of Salpointe Catholic High School and attended the University of Arizona. He is married to Debbie, and they collectively have four sons and two granddaughters. Sid travelled the world, not only as a dependent child in the Air Force to foreign lands but also for his deep love and passion for Masonic Rites.

He began his journey in Masonry in Marion McDaniel Lodge 56 "The Duke's Lodge" in 1981 when he was initiated, passed, and raised alongside his father, Sid Jr. He became its 26<sup>th</sup> Master in 1986. He joined Adobe Lodge 41 in 1988 and became Master there in 1992. He joined the Scottish Rite and Shrine in 1981 and the York Rite in 1982. He has served his constituent Tucson York Rite bodies as well as being grand high priest in 2009, illustrious grand master in 2013 and grand commander of Arizona in 2014. He is a past patron of his Eastern Star Chapter, past international president of the Association of High Twelve Clubs, past grand governor of Arizona York Rite Sovereign College of North America, past prior of Arizona Priory Knights of the York Cross of Honour, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade of the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis SRICF, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade of the Operatives, past president of the Southern Arizona Chapter of National Sojourners, past sovereign of Kachina Council of the AMD, excellent chief of Great Chief's Council O Knight Masons, past monarch of Altan Kol Grotto. He belongs also to the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; St. Thomas of Acon; Yeoman of York; Order of the Scarlett Cord; the Order DeMolay where he holds the Honorary Legion of Honor, past chapter dad, -- and chairman of the Advisory Council; Rainbow where he is past advisor and member of the State Board; Royal Order of Scotland (1993); Royal Order of Jesters; Order of Athelstan; Sword of Bunker Hill; Masonic Order of the Bath; and the Philalethes Society. Companion Sid served on the National Boards of the Royal Arch Research Assistance Philanthropy and the Cryptic Masons Medical Research.

Sir Knight Sidney was appointed and installed as the department commander for the Latin America Department at the 68<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America on August 18, 2021.



## A Covenant with the Social Order of the Beauceant



To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America, greetings in the name of our Supreme Grand Master, Jesus Christ.

Many of you know that I have had a “love affair” with the Social Order of the Beauceant for a long time. My grandmother and great aunt were members and past presidents in Texas. My mother was a member and past president, my late wife and my two daughters were also members in California. My Lady Ms. Kimberly Burnett is a past president in Ohio and Past Supreme Worthy President. My admiration for this beautiful Christian Order and the service they provide to their membership, as well as our Christian Order is deeply rooted and resolute.

Like many masonic related organizations, the Social Order of the Beauceant is suffering from a decline in membership and participation. Historically, the SOOB began solely with the wives or widows of knights templar. Adjustments were made to include additional family relationships; but something else began to occur which I believe needs our immediate attention.

For unknown reasons, the closeness of our two Orders began to subside. Local commanderies began to lessen their support of local assemblies, both financially, and in promoting their beautiful Order. The results are that without our support, the assemblies have dwindled or vanished from many states.

Sir Knights, these beautiful Christian ladies need our renewed vigor and vision if they are to have any chance of continuing to serve our Knightly Order and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Accordingly, at the 2022 Grand Conclave of Texas, I proclaimed to the sir knights, sisters of the SOOB and honored guests that a covenant now exists between our two Orders. It is my direction that all Grand, Subordinate and Constituent Commanderies strive to assist the Social Order of the Beauceant in the promotion of their Order. I will expect the leadership of the Grand Encampment to participate in this directive by reviewing what is being done in each commandery they visit or inspect.

I recommend that every sir knight view the short video clip located on the SOOB webpage attached to GEKT website. Further information on how a commandery may help in this project will be forthcoming in department conferences.

My beloved knights, this is a necessary and worthwhile endeavor for all of us. We cannot and will not fail in this mission.

Let me share some of the history of their beautiful Order with you:

The Social Order of the Beauceant originally started at the suggestion of the Commandery in Denver, Colorado. Asked to host the 25th Triennial Conclave for the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar which was to be held in their city in August 1892, the Sir Knights felt with only one Commandery and a membership of just over three hundred they needed help. Their wives agreed to supply the help.

The decision was made to expand when the ladies assisted their sir knights for the 1913 Triennial. It was then that the first members from other cities were initiated. From that small start, the order expanded to over 15,000 members.

Sadly, there are now less than 3,000 members within 46 Assemblies across the country.

Beautiful and impressive, the Beauceant ritual contains many lessons which are in direct line with Templary, telling the story of the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ. Exemplification is by a cadre of seventeen officers in the local Assemblies and nineteen officers in the Supreme Assembly.

Eligibility to Membership – wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters and granddaughters of Knights Templar of United States of America, or mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of a member, who are, or were at time of death in good standing in a Commandery or an Assembly are eligible to membership. A petitioner must be at least 18 years of age at the time of petitioning.

One of the most basic landmarks of the order is the admonition to “cultivate the spirit of love for and loyalty to each other, and the Order of Knights Templar, and the reciprocal consideration due the order.” With that in mind, the Beauceant in 1957 adopted the Commandery’s Knights Templar Eye Foundation as their official charity. Since that time, they have donated over three million dollars to the Eye Foundation.

Today’s Beauceant is an order with a long history of support to the Commandery, one that has proven to be a source of pleasure and benefit both to them and to the Sir Knights. It is a history they are proud of and one they wish to maintain. Therefore, they continue to cheerfully fulfill requests to assist with entertainment and hospitality at any level of their organization.

Courteously,

David J. Kussman, GCT  
Grand Master

April 25, 2022

**For Questions or Comments Regarding Membership:**

(Mrs. John) Jacqueline Ellermann  
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Elizabethtown Assembly No. 265, PA  
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**For Questions about Organizing a New Assembly:**

(Mrs. John C.) Lei Lani Forrest, PSWP  
Phoenix No. 213, AZ  
7930 E. Camelback Rd. STE 612  
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**Co-Organizer**

(Mrs. Keith W.) Sandy Dean, PSWP  
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# PRES. HARDING'S RIGHT-HAND-MAN SIR KNIGHT GEORGE B. CHRISTIAN, JR.

By

Sir Knight James A. Marples, KCT

**M**ost American Presidents have key advisors and in the modern era, most of any given president's pivotal advisors are their Chief-of-Staff. Back in the early 1920's, the president of the United States and his chief secretary was Sir Knight George Busby Christian, Jr. While Christian's name may be virtually unknown (except to scholars), that man played a huge role in the presidency of Sir Knight Warren Gamaliel Harding.

It was George Christian, Jr., who scoured-over key documents before they were even read by the president. Christian essentially did a priorities list of matters that ranked urgent, others regarded as necessary but non-urgent,

others were ceremonial (such as proclamations), and other stacks that were deemed mundane. Usually, George Christian had a keen eye for this type of paperwork triage.

On many occasions, President Harding and Secretary Christian were almost inseparable at every public function. This connection began in George Christian's childhood. His father, George B. Christian, Sr., was editor and publisher of the Marion Star Newspaper in Columbus (a newspaper that Warren Harding would eventually be editor of himself). Many neighbors of the Hardings recall George Christian, Jr. playing in the Harding's lawn as a boy. As he grew into manhood, George Christian, Jr. (born March



25, 1873) sort of adopted Warren Harding as a friend and mentor. The elder George B. Christian, Sr. was a Civil War veteran who died in 1930.

During Warren Harding's time in Washington DC, when the minister of Honduras, Senor Don J. Lopez Gutierrez, died, both Harding and Christian attended the Catholic Mass funeral held at St. Patrick's Cathedral. (see photo below)



Above photo: Courtesy of  
Library of Congress

George B. Christian, Jr. grew up in Marion, Ohio, and as mentioned previously, he was the next door neighbor to Mr. and Mrs. Harding. Young George Christian started delivering The Marion Star which the Hardings owned, and that boyhood experience gave him a wealth of inside knowledge of how crucial it was for politicians to communicate with voters. Newspapers were the social-media of the day back then.

George B. Christian, Jr., completed high school in three years and then went

off to Pennsylvania Military College. Years later, he became active in the senatorial campaign of his old friend, Warren Harding. Harding had a sharp eye for gifted individuals, and the first decision Harding made as U.S. Senator-elect was to hire Christian as his full-time personal secretary. When Harding was elected president, George Christian headed a Staff of thirty-one in the White House. It was Christian who was the buffer between the public and the President.

The night before the president died, Harding had been touring the Western United States and was in San Francisco at the time of his death. A number of wild theories have been conjectured about the cause of death. The official cause of death was listed as heart attack. In any event, George B. Christian was devastated by Harding's death. Christian worked unceasingly to review presidential papers which might have been of use to the Harding Memorial. He strained his eyes so badly that he developed glaucoma which made him lose his sight. Christian wasted away and died in 1951.

President Harding was a man of deep faith. The last official words written by Harding before died were that he implored the American people to have "more of the Christ spirit, and more of the Christ practice, and a new and abiding consecration to reverence for God." These words were prepared for a speech that Sir Knight Harding was to have given at the presentation of the Knights Templar Commandery International traveling beauceant.

President Harding was a member of the Marion, Ohio Commandery which was presenting the beauceant to California Templars. In his stead, because he was feeling unwell, Harding sent his



Sir Knight Geo B. Christian, Jr.

private Secretary and fellow Templar, Sir Knight George B. Christian, to deliver the beauceant and deliver the speech. Christian read the speech that Harding was to have delivered. In the speech, Harding's words continue, "I am sure the mission of this beauceant will be a failure if its travels are made simply a matter of symbolism and pageantry. It bears on it the supplication, 'Not unto us O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be the glory.' We should glorify the name, not by words alone but by praise not by displays of arms, but by deeds and service in behalf of human brotherhood."

Harding's speech extolled "Christ, the great exemplar of our order, repeatedly urged this truth among His hearers. There was nothing mythical or mystical in the code of living preached by Jesus Christ. The lessons He taught were so simple and plain, so fashioned so as to be understood by the humblest among men, that they appealed to the reason and emotions of all. His words to the fishermen bore conviction to the learned men of the Roman bench. All of his teachings were based upon the broad ground of fraternalism, justice, and understanding, from which flows always peace."

It is probable that Sir Knight George Christian even had a hand in helping Sir Knight Harding formulate that speech. We can posthumously thank Sir Knight George B. Christian, Jr., for aiding a friend, fellow Sir Knight, and his boss, Sir Knight and president Warren Harding, in national matters as well as literally carrying the Templar banner with eloquence and reverence on behalf of Harding.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at [rosehillks@yahoo.com](mailto:rosehillks@yahoo.com) or 1300 Greenbriar Drive, Longview, TX 75604.

Archived issues of the *Knight Templar* magazine can be accessed on the web at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/>. Then click on the button "Knight Templar" at the top of the page and select "Archives." The archives include an index.

## SOURCES

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webpage: <https://pennsylvaniamilitarycollege.org/george-b-christian-jr-1896-white-house-insider/>

*Parade To Glory: The Story of the Shriners and Their Caravan to Destiny* by Fred Van Deventer. 1967 Edition.

*Shenandoah Herald* newspaper -Volume 106, Number 32. 10 August 1923, (courtesy Library of Virginia): detailing Sir Knight Harding's final words and Sir Knight George Busby Christian, Jr., reading Harding's last speech at the Traveling Beauceant program in California in 1923, in Harding's place.

### ***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/>.

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>.



## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

# With Eyes Forward

While the Covid-19 pandemic has caused many adjustments and some cancellations, the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage program moves ahead **with eyes forward**.

Keep in mind this vital date: **September 20**. It is the date each year that all Pilgrim Ministers are to be registered with the registrar of the Grand Encampment Committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage. It is the same date every year. Grand recorders and your state committee chairman need to have sent in the:

1. Registration Form
2. Nomination Form
3. And full payment by that date.

The groups of Pilgrim Ministers travel in February. There are many arrangements, reservations, bookings, and details to be put in place from September through the end of January.

All other activities can happen year-round. These would include: recruitment of ministers to be nominated (see Guidelines for Selection), fundraising, and program promotion. Ministers can be nominated by a local commandery and those nominations forwarded to your state Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee or chairman at any time. Donations and fundraising can also be an ongoing enterprise.

Always check the web site listed below for the most current information and details.

### **In addition:**

**In the Footsteps of Jesus Holy Land Pilgrimage for Sir Knights, their Ladies, Friends, And Guests** is open to anyone. Each person is responsible for his own fees and expenses related to the pilgrimage. Each person is responsible for being able to manage his own luggage and follow the itinerary. This pilgrimage is an eleven-day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days. We average five to seven miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces.

Current plans are moving forward for the next **In the Footsteps Pilgrimage** for November 7 – 17, 2022. See the website listed below for more information.

Stay up to date at: **kthlp.com** (Remember the first letters of Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage.)



# Leadership Notes

## Leadership as a Royal Arch Mason

By  
Sir Knight Kevin Wheeler

Throughout your Masonic journey you have been taught many great lessons of Freemasonry, lessons taught by allegory devised to make you a better man. Additionally, these lessons make you a better team player and a more effective communicator.

If you've taken on a leadership role in the past, as a Royal Arch Mason you are expected to work as a leader amongst other leaders. Therefore, before being exalted to the degree of a Royal Arch Mason, you became a Past Master. This was to ensure you understood the importance of consulting deity when making difficult decisions. Although being a Past Master is

an essential requirement to becoming a Royal Arch Mason, it is not necessary for everyone to have become a Worshipful Master of a Craft Lodge. The requirement is satisfied in some jurisdictions virtually by way of the Past Master Degree.

Nevertheless, before you can become a leader amongst leaders, you need to first be effective at leading yourself as well as others. As a Royal Arch Mason you are finally in possession of the long lost, now found, Grand Omnific Word. In some jurisdictions, the Royal Arch Degree is the culmination of the Craft Lodge, as it is

the fourth step in Masonry. As described in the Regis Manuscript, "Ancient Ma-



sorry consists of four Degrees, the first three of which are those of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and the sublime Degree of Master Mason: and a brother, being well versed in these Degrees is eligible to be admitted to the fourth Degree, The Holy Royal Arch.” Even today, in some parts of the world, particularly in Eastern Europe, you are not considered a Master Mason until you have been exalted to the Holy Royal Arch Degree. A brother who lives in Eastern Europe informed me that, in most of Eastern Europe, you were not considered a Master Mason until you’ve obtained the Holy Royal Arch Degree, and only then is the requirement to have a warrant or letter of good standing from your Grand Master no longer needed.

Let us examine the working tools of the Royal Arch Mason in the context of leadership instruction. The working tools of a Royal Arch Mason are the square and compasses, with the addition of the crow, pick, and spade. The square teaches us as Royal Arch Masons that God made all things square, upright, and perfect. The compasses is an instrument made use of by Operative Masons to describe circles, every part of the circumference of which is equally near and equally distant from the center. The next three working tools are said to be the proper working tools for this degree: The crow is an instrument used to raise stones, the pick to loosen the soil and prepare it for digging, and the spade to remove rubbish; but we as Royal Arch Masons are taught to make use of them for more noble, glorious and exalted purposes. By the crow we are admonished to raise our thoughts above corrupt influences of worldly mindedness; by the pick, to loosen from our hearts

the hold of evil habits; and by the spade to remove from our minds the rubbish of prejudice and passion, the better to make ourselves more useful to the world.

Thus, for me, the square reminds us that God commands we treat everyone and everything with respect; doing so will enable people to feel respected and thus reciprocate respect. The compasses remind me that God is both omnipresent and omnipotent, to remain fair. The crow reminds us of clarity in our work. To become an effective leader, one must govern with clarity and be concise. The pick reminds us to break down our bad habits because in leadership you must first follow, then lead. The spade reminds us to focus on the task at hand. As the leader of the work must know the next step on the path towards completion.

So, what is the next step?

Join the York Rite Leadership Training Program, where you can learn more about leadership principles. These classes will be beneficial for anyone in the Masonic Family interested in developing their leadership skills. This series of executive training courses brings together concepts and practices from well-known leadership authors, coaches, and education theorists with a slant toward volunteer organizations and Freemasonry in particular. The lessons are designed to map with and explicate our Degrees and Orders. Visit the website at [yorkriteleadership.org](http://yorkriteleadership.org) for more information and/or to register for the program.



# Thank You Sir Knight John Palmer Service to the M

**T**ypically, an editor's job is to remain invisible. If I do my job, you shouldn't even know I'm here.

But some words are perhaps appropriate to introduce myself and, more so, to express our gratitude to Sir Knight John Palmer, who spearheaded this magazine for more than a decade.

It's not an easy task keeping a monthly magazine going, especially in the masonic fraternity where volunteerism controls content. Sir Knight John has left large shoes to fill – never missing a deadline, skillfully juggling a litany of behind-the-scenes tasks you should never know about. He took this magazine and turned it color, glossy, increased the quality of its content away from biographicals of dead baseball players into a blend of features and columns, all while controlling its expenses admirably.

Believe me, the production of this magazine has been engineered right down to the penny. If you know anything about printing, the way this magazine is produced is mind-blowing. I won't bamboozle you with the mathematics of setting the press, cutting the papers in the various increments of fours and eights, nor the size constraints to control weight and costs of mailing (mailing is approximately 50% of the cost of getting this magazine to you). But all this, through the years, has been refined to an absolute degree of tolerance. Frankly, it's remarkable. There's no way to produce this magazine as cost effectively.



Photo by Ben Williams

Even so, the Knight Templar remains the Grand Encampment's largest expense. But it's also our greatest reach. It's our brand, our showcase: Our tool for reinforcing Templary across the fraternity, binding us between the columns and under a common word. This magazine reflects our identity as Templars. It's our membership retention and recruitment force, our identity expressed to the world.

I'm honored and humbled to take on this role. It's a large responsibility. When

# mer and Lady Glenda for Your *Knight Templar!*

the idea was first broached back in 2018 for me to become the Assistant Editor, and work under Sir Knight John, a timeline was planned out, a timeline that, despite some upheavals in the Grand Encampment, has nonetheless been maintained. So here I am, staring down the avenues between the presses with a bead on the first deadline.

I would like to personally thank Sir Knight John and his lovely wife, Glenda, for their many years of service in upping the quality of this magazine and bringing you fresh content since 2008. Many hours they passed reading and rereading, printing and proofing, creating and coordinating, as the deadlines rose up and passed by like the shunt of the paper-feed stamping the issues into existence. The hourglass expands, and a mountain of letters pours through the hemispheres.

Thanks to John already doing a lot of the layout for this issue, the changes are minimal. Over the next few months, however, this magazine will necessarily change. Layout is a subjective aesthetic – we each have our own styles and approaches. Change is not bad. Change includes opportunity. And Sir Knight John knows that his work and contributions will always be honored. Change is not a correction, it's an inevitable result of growth. It's John's hard work and dedication that made change possible. The leaves of these pages will forever be unfurled on the tree he planted.



Photo by Ben Williams





# Beauceant News



Dallas Assembly #63, Social Order of Beauceant initiated two new members on Thursday, April 21, with (Mrs. Gene) Tammy Forester presiding. Our new sisters are (Mrs. Jeremy) Crissy Ketchersid, and (Mrs Cody) Callie Jones. We were honored to have (Mrs Jon) Melissa Spann, Supreme Worthy First Vice President, and (Mrs. William) Maggie Matyashk in attendance as well as other sisters from Waco Assembly No. 199 and Arlington Assembly No. 189.

(Mrs. Earl) Audrey Tweed has been very active throughout her life and just celebrated her 101st birthday. Organizations which she has been involved include: figure skating; tole painting; Painter Society; Blue Bird/Camp Fire Leader; Mother Advisor, Hillcrest Assembly International Order of the Rainbow for Girls; Worthy Matron of Highland Park Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; Queen Shalman Temple No. 90, Daughters of the Nile Drill Team



Captain; and Worthy President of Dallas Assembly No. 63. Mrs. Tweed was given the Diamond Service Award from Lyle L. Cross, York Rite College No. 147. Pictured here with Mrs. Tweed are: S.K. Gary E. Rock, Jr., Eminent Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, and S.K. Bud Forester, member of Dallas Commandery No. 6 and Lyle L. Cross, York Rite College No. 147.





Mid year York Rite Steak Fry Fundraiser catered by Phoenix Assembly No. 213, Phoenix, AZ. From left to right: Mrs. Peter Johnson, Mrs. Joseph Zito, Mrs. David Evans, SK John C. Forrest, Mrs. John C. Forrest, Mrs. James Hoover, Mrs. William Garrard. (Mrs. Dean) Edie Rein, Past Supreme Worthy President.



Phoenix Assembly No 213, Phoenix, AZ, served a thank you dinner to the Sir Knights who served dinner on the night of the Supreme Worthy President visit. From left to right: Mrs. Modena Watson, Mrs. David Evans, Mrs. Charles Thames, Mrs. John Forrest, Mrs. Michael Stegen, Mrs. James Hoover.

# *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)**

### **General Correspondence:**

3201 Cross Timbers Road | Bldg. 4, Suite 300 | Flower Mound, TX 75028

### **Donations:**

P. O. Box 271118 | Flower Mound, TX 75027-1118

**Phone:** 214-888-0220    **Fax:** 214-888-0231    **Email:** Manager@ktef.us



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# Sharpen your mind



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