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VOLUME LXVIII

DECEMBER 2022

NUMBER 12



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# KNIGHT TEMPLAR

VOLUME LXVIII DECEMBER 2022 NUMBER 12

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar  
of the United States of America.



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**Grand Master**

**David Studley**  
**Grand Captain General and Publisher**

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Photo by Ben Williams

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

On the Cover: Knights Templar following the star. Photo by Dustin Delano.

# Grand Master's Message

Sir Knight David J. Kussman, GCT

Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

**To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, USA.  
Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!**



**M**y beloved Knights,  
I love the celebration of Christmas, especially when it turns my focus to the incarnation of the Divine Warrior who would come and rescue us from the kingdom of darkness.

Though we may sing, “Silent Night, Holy Night, All is Calm, All is Bright,” our theology suggests more than that was going on that night. Hell was raging. Satan was fuming. The demons were preparing for the greatest confrontation between the powers of evil and the power of God.

Way back in the Garden, God had ordained that hostility would exist between Satan and those whom God had created, in His image, to worship and serve Him. The Old Testament narrative portrays that hostility in the frequent attempts of various enemies to destroy the people of God. Repeatedly, Yahweh fights for His people and delivers them. He chooses warriors like Gideon and David who fight the enemies of God and His people.

As we read these narratives and study

the New Testament, we realize that a great spiritual hostility lay behind these physical battles between nations. The attempts to eliminate the people of God were designed by Satan to thwart the coming of the One whom God promised would come and “crush the head” of Satan. The Lord’s sovereign and powerful interventions on behalf of His people renewed hope that the ultimate Divine Warrior would come and defeat the great foe of humankind.

Christmas is the birth of a King, a Warrior King, a Divine King.

Though He is the Prince of Peace he comes, not to appease or accommodate evil, but to destroy evil and to crush the evil one. He is born to defeat sin, Satan, and death. The life and ministry of Jesus vividly portray the confrontations He had with Satan and the demonic world. Unlike the first Adam, Jesus comes through every time as one who triumphs over evil.

Satan was relentless in His attacks against this One called “the Son of God,” and within the eternal plan of God Satan  
december 2022



is allowed to incite the mob to kill Jesus. Death would be Satan's final vanquishing of the Divine Warrior. Death was Satan's last and most powerful weapon to bring against Jesus. However, little did Satan know that God would use this powerful weapon of death to be the very means by which Satan himself would be defeated. Satan unleashed his great fury in the death of Jesus only to have it recoil and crush the great enemy of humankind.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

– Heb 2:14-15 (ESV)

As members of our beautiful Christian fraternal order, it is important for us to remember our purpose and our beautiful heritage. This season I implore you to share publicly with your family, friends, and brothers in Christ the importance of our purpose in our Savior's legacy and celebrate the birth of the King of Kings.

Up from the grave He arose with a mighty conquest of His foes. He knight templar

arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose. He arose. Hallelujah Christ arose!

Lady Kim and I wish for and your families this Christmas Season that peace the world discovered at that first Christmas. May our Lord and Savior continue to bless each of you in His own incredibly special way. Merry Christmas!  
Our journey continues...

*David J. Kussman*

David J. Kussman, GCT  
Grand Master



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# Prelate's Apartment

Rev. Terry L. Plemons

Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment

Merry Christmas!

Glory to God in the Highest, peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Christ the Savior is born. He is Wonderful, Councilor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father, our Redeemer, our Savior, our King who is returning to reign on Earth with the redeemed of all ages. To Him be all glory and honor and power.

John tells us, "the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth."

This Christmas season, as we sing carols about shepherds keeping watch in the field; angels appearing, declaring the glory of God; wise men bearing gifts; our trees will be decorated, gifts exchanged, for a brief moment the world will seem a little brighter. Keep the Christ child at the center; the purpose of His coming foremost.

Philippians is generally not one of the Christmas passages we read, but for me it expresses the fullness of the birth of Christ. It reminds me of the importance of a servant's heart – the importance of humility, our obedience in Christ, exalting His name above all creation, giving all glory to God.

Philippians 2: 5-11:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human



form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, I and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In Christ's Love,

Terry Plemons  
Grand Prelate

# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



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

Year of Our Lord 2022 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, where-soever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

### A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER CHRISTMAS 2022

Most Eminent Grand Master, greetings in the name of the Blessed Child of Bethlehem.

On behalf of the Sir Knights of our Grand Encampment, we raise a Toast in your honor in this your first Christmas as our Grand Master. Your First Christmas as our Grand Master echoes the words sung by the Angels to Shepherds who “abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night,” “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

Across our great nation and all places where the banner of our our Grand Encampment reaches around the globe, Sir Knights along with their families join together to celebrate this holy season.

Like the Angels, we bid to you “good tidings of great joy,” joining our hearts with yours, we celebrate those tidings. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

With you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in celebration. We commend to your prayers all the Sir Knights of our great Order, especially those who are homebound and unable to enjoy Knightly Fellowship due to health. We remember in our meditations those who God has summoned home. We pray God’s richest blessings upon our great Order, our great charities, you, Grand Master, and all who labor for the cause of Christ.

*A Toast to you Grand Master!*

In Christ’s Service,

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC, Chairman  
The Committee on Religious Activities  
The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner  
The Reverend Paul D. Erickson



# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



## GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE CHRISTMAS 2022

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

Knightly greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

A most sincere and heartfelt thank you from Lady Kim and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, and the members of the Committee on Religious Activities for their warm and gracious toast this Christmas Season in the year of our Lord, 2022.

The toast offered is, I believe, a testament to the heart of all true believers and members of our beloved Order. The sentiment is such that I am not only deeply impressed by the noble appeal it makes but also by its urge for Christian Knights to renew with vigor their efforts to affect the ideals of the Order of Knights Templar.

At no time within the memory of our Sir Knights has our world and our Order swayed as much as now and lamentably there appears to be a letting down in matters spiritual. This is the season when we are inspired by the birth of the New Light, the New Life, the New Law from which comes the New Commandment – that you love one another.

Our hearts quickened by that command should spur every Templar to stand as a challenge against any force that would undermine the faith of our fathers. Let us not weaken, nor be discouraged; let us not forget that calm succeeds the storm and peace, comfort, and happiness will come to him who adheres to the right.

The Officers of the Grand Encampment and their ladies join with Lady Kim and me in wishing each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Courteously,

David J. Kussman, GCT  
Grand Master

*The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2022.*





# Some Of Our Business!

The S.O.O.B. presents a large check in support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

It has often been said that “behind every great man is a great woman.” For Knights Templar, this must mean the Social Order of the Beauceant.

Formed in 1890 in Denver, Colo., “some of our business,” as the group was initially known, comprised wives of Knights Templar who wanted to assist in organizing the 25<sup>th</sup> Triennial of the Grand Encampment, to be hosted in Denver in 1892.

They’ve been dedicated servants to Templary ever since. They changed the name in 1913 (at the next Triennial to be hosted in Denver) to something more serious, while retaining the initials: S.O.O.B.

Today, the Beauceant remains active promoting our charity, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The ladies adopted it as their official charity in 1957, just two years after Grand Master DeLamater founded it. Their efforts are exemplary. At the Annual Assembly of the Order, held in Atlanta, Ga., this past September, the ladies surprised Sir Knight David Kussman, Grand Master and President of the Foundation, when the Supreme Worthy President, Susan Thames, presented a check for a whopping \$78,219.26. With just over 2,000 members of the S.O.O.B., that’s more than \$35 per member. A worthy total, indeed.

knight templar

“These wonderful ladies of beauty and grace have once again shared what each assembly has contributed to our shared philanthropy, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation,” Sir Knight Kussman said. “Every Sir Knight within the ranks of the Grand Encampment should be proud of the dedication and service of these fine examples of our Lord’s directions for giving and sharing.”

Earlier this year, Sir Knight Kussman issued a Covenant fostering renewed collaboration between the Grand Encampment and the S.O.O.B. Sir Knight Kussman has a long-standing connection with the S.O.O.B. His grandmother, great aunt, mother, and late wife were all members. His Lady, Kimberly, is a Past Supreme Worthy President.

Sir Knight Kussman foresees renewed mutual support as restorative for both Orders. “This is a necessary and worthwhile endeavor for all of us,” he wrote in the Covenant, printed in the *Knights Templar* in July this year. “We cannot and will not fail in this mission.”

Together, anything is possible. “Behind every great man is a great woman.” Perhaps. But side by side there’s nothing we can’t accomplish.



# Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year  
From the Knights Templar  
Eye Foundation Office



# Introducing The Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program

by Robert Elsner

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." – Matt. 10: 8



In our efforts to improve the fraternity, the Grand Prelates and the elected line have developed a training program for Prelates and Chaplains. Long thought of as simply officers who read a prayer, or pray for the sick, Chaplains and Prelates should be leading officers in all Masonic bodies, but more especially in Commandery.

What is the foundation of our institution? For Templary, it is the Holy Bible. Ask yourself, who should be holding us all accountable in our Lodges or Asylums?

Our Chaplains and Prelates.

To help us all develop and actuate our faith in the world, Chaplains need to be

secure in their own. After taking this training program, we hope that Sir Knights (and any other member of the fraternity, including our ladies and youth organizations who opt to take the course), will emerge as leaders who exemplify servant leadership and service.

Chaplaincy is a ministry of presence, and simply being there for people in real and meaningful ways at the difficult times in their lives is the core of what a Chaplain is supposed to do. This program is designed to help members dedicated enough to serve the Craft and God to be more effective in their positions.

Before presenting more about the

program and what it is, we need to be sure to say what it is not. This is a commissioning, not an ordination. This does not make a person a trained evangelist nor qualify one to be a Board-Certified Chaplain: pretty much only Seminary and CPE courses can do that. This program will not shove a trinitarian view of Christianity down people’s throats, but there is certainly grounding in what trinitarian Christianity really is.

The structure of the course is twelve units on the Grand Encampment’s official Learning Management System, templared.org. Each self-paced unit requires readings, watching short videos made by our team of Chaplains, quizzes on the materials in the readings and lectures, and then short projects devised to immediately impact the lives of members of the organization. These projects are going to be archived and made available for other Lodges and Commanderies to use to help them as well. The units assume no prior training and even provide help with the mechanics of speech that so few of us are taught nowadays.

The textbook, *On Being a Masonic Chaplain*, was written for this course and edited by more than twenty experienced Chaplains from the Grand Encampment. The proceeds of this book are going to help the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

The cost of the program is \$75 plus the cost of the textbook (purchased separately). We feel that this is a small price to pay to invest in bettering the fraternity – all to the glory of God.

Upon completion of the program, participants will be awarded a distinctive jewel and certificate of commissioning at a beautiful ceremony.

If you are interested, please visit [TemplarEd.org](http://TemplarEd.org), browse the catalog, and register.

Unit	Topic
1	Course Welcome and Orientation
2	Introduction to Chaplaincy
3	Introduction to Trinitarian Christianity
4	Mechanics of speaking and praying in public
5	Composing prayers
6	Extemporaneous and Situational prayers
7	Practicing the art of listening
8	Leading the flock
9	Ministering in and beyond the Asylum
10	Religious training for the new Sir Knight
11	Chaplain conversations to heal in a broken world
12	Tying it all together







# The Nine Worthies

by George Marshall

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Imagine yourself as a courtier or knight in a medieval court in western Europe in the early fourteenth century. You have just partaken of a sumptuous feast, and are now relaxing with other nobles and ladies in anticipation of hearing a new *chanson de geste*, or “song of deeds.”

These ballads, sung by troubadours in the French language, provide a romanticized narrative presenting their subjects as heroic warriors. The code and essence of chivalry are in full bloom, and the *chansons* reflect this ubiquitous noble spirit.

The chivalrous element is also exemplified in the cult of the Nine Worthies (*les neuf preux*), the subject of tonight’s *chanson*. The Nine Worthies is a grouping of three pagans, three Jews, and three Christians in a sort of gallery of heroism thought to epitomize the ideals of chivalry. It is found for the first time in a work at the beginning of the fourteenth century, *Les Voeux du Paon*, (The Peacock’s Wishes [or Vows]), by Jacques de Longuyon.<sup>4</sup>

This courtly poem of the *chanson de*

*geste* genre was written at the request of Bishop Theobald of Bar. It was extremely popular in Western Europe up to the end of the Middle Ages and its artistic motif of the “Nine Heroes” left a lasting mark on chivalric imagination. Anyone who aspired to be a truly chivalrous person needed to study and emulate their lives. A manuscript copy can be found online, dating to c.1345-50.<sup>6</sup>

The oldest known depiction of the Nine Worthies is a carving, “Nine Good Heroes” (known as *Neun Gute Helden* in the original German), at city hall in Cologne, Germany. It dates to the thirteenth century and is shown over.<sup>4</sup>

This grouping of three sets of three consists of Hector, Julius Caesar, and Alexander the Great as the trio of “pagan” heroes; then Joshua, David, and Judas Maccabeus, as a triad of Jewish warriors; and lastly King Arthur, Charlemagne, and Godfrey de Bouillon as the three Christian protagonists.

The troubadour is singing now and recites in his narrative the attributes of each



hero. These are summarized as follows:<sup>7</sup>

### **I. The Pagans:**

a) Hector – The greatest fighter in the Trojan War. He was courageous and “peace-loving, thoughtful and bold, and a good son, husband and father.” A truly noble figure. He died at the hands of Achilles.

b) Alexander the Great – a prince of Macedonia in ancient times who was tutored by Aristotle then became the ruler of one of the largest empires of the time, spanning from Greece to India. Known for having cut the Gordian Knot and for defeating the Persian Emperor.

c) Julius Caesar – the first Roman Emperor (or more like “dictator in perpetuity”) who defeated Gaul and expanded the power of Rome to Germany and Great Britain. He was assassinated by a cabal of conspirators at the tender age of fifty-five.

### **II. The Jews:**

a) Joshua – Became the leader of the Israelites after Moses’s death, for whom he spied in Canaan. Once Moses was dead, he led his people in the conquest of that land which he later apportioned into tribes.

b) David – Second King of Israel and an ancestor of Jesus according to the Christian

Bible, considered to be a (mostly) righteous king, a warrior, poet, and musician, among other things.

c) Judas Maccabeus – One of the greatest warriors in Jewish history. The son of a priest, he and his brothers started a revolt against the Seleucid ruler who had forbidden the practice of the Jewish religion, using guerrilla warfare to defeat the superior Seleucid army. His death inspired the Jews to not give up and, after a few more years of battle, they were able to achieve their independence.

### **III. The Christians:**

a) King Arthur – According to legend, Arthur defended the Britons against the invading Saxons. Myths depict him as having been guided early on by a wily Merlin, leading his people to victory in many battles with the help of the Knights of the Round Table, with his trustworthy sword Excalibur (gifted to him by the Lady of the Lake). At his death, his body was buried in the mysterious Isle of Avalon.

b) Charlemagne – King of the Franks and later first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire after the collapse of Rome. He defended Christianity and spread its teachings with victorious battles throughout Europe. He also encouraged art, religion, and



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culture (he was known notably for creating schools).

c) Godfrey de Bouillon – A medieval Frankish knight who led the First Crusade in capturing Jerusalem in 1099 and became its first Christian ruler (he refused to be called a King).

The *chanson* has ended. As we leave the great hall, we realize that the Nine Worthies symbolize the significance of a story that is emphatically unconcluded, reminding us at once of the example of past deeds of valor, and that the history of chivalry is still in the making.

But, not to be outdone, the ladies maintain that there are also women noted for their deeds of heroism and benevolence. And so is created in the late fourteenth century Nine Women Worthies.<sup>10, 11</sup>

But that is another song, for another day.

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Sir Knight Marshall, PGC, KGC, is a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Alabama. He currently serves as Chairman of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar History Committee and on the Editorial Review Board for the *Knight Templar* magazine. He is a frequent contributor to this magazine as well as to the *Royal Arch* magazine. he can be reached at [geomarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:geomarsh@yahoo.com)



# Right Eminent **Grand**

The Year of Our



**Alabama**  
Ronald Andress



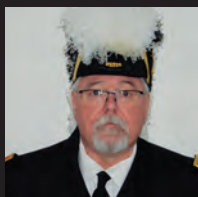
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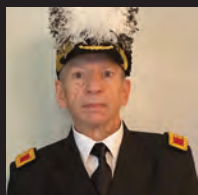
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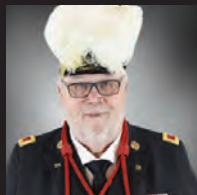
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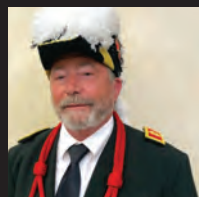
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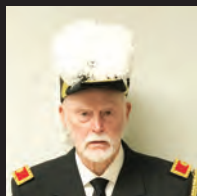
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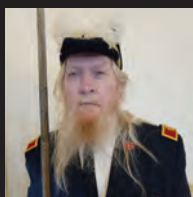
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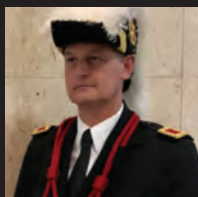
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**South Carolina**  
Victor Phillips



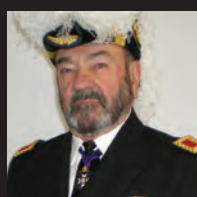
**South Dakota**  
Ervin Alspaw



**Tennessee**  
Robbie Beam



**Texas**  
Richard Jernigan



**Utah**  
Charles Warren, Sr.



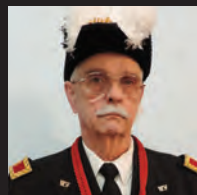
**Wisconsin**  
Kristoffer Pillar



**Wyoming**  
Preston Goulette



**Washington**  
Alan T. Spreen



**West Virginia**  
Richard Roy



**Vermont**  
Roland Woodard



**Virginia**  
Romulo Capuno

# Christmas Hymn

by Ben Williams

Cross the divide  
This Christmastide  
And bring the Spirit hence

Let angels stand  
Upon your hand  
To shine in recompense

Open up your heart  
Let love upstart!  
That Christ may dwell within

For in His Name  
The Holy Flame  
Washes out the stains of Sin

Do unto others  
Ye sisters and brothers  
As you would be done by

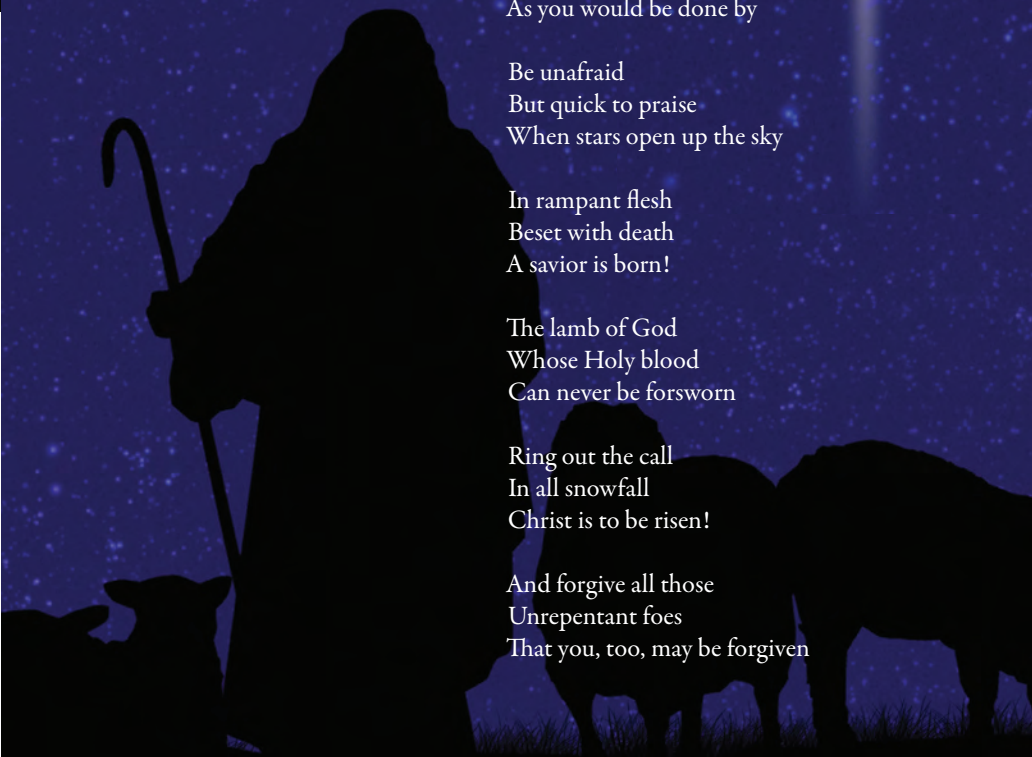
Be unafraid  
But quick to praise  
When stars open up the sky

In rampant flesh  
Beset with death  
A savior is born!

The lamb of God  
Whose Holy blood  
Can never be forsworn

Ring out the call  
In all snowfall  
Christ is to be risen!

And forgive all those  
Unrepentant foes  
That you, too, may be forgiven







## CELEBRATING THE CENT

It is often said that architecture is the noblest of the arts. After all, it uses all of them. Like the gothic cathedrals, whose spandrels and fan-vaults, flying buttresses and clerestories, seem to approximate heaven, a building should enliven its inhabitants with a sense of its purpose. *Form follows function*, as Louis Sullivan famously quipped, indeed, but a building's function must be more than mere integrity. It should elevate man. Raise him up, inspire him with the shape of the cosmos.

All the arts and sciences should converge there.

The operative masons knew this. Without this unifying principle, Freemasonry devolves to frivolity.

Thus, in its heyday, the speculative Craft built remarkable edifices, purposed to inspire all who entered (pun intended). The Philadelphia Masonic Temple (1868-73), the House of the Temple (1911-15), or the George Washington National Memorial (1922-32) are salient examples of this period when, remarkably, the fraternity had approximately the same number of members as today.

Think about that. We talk about the great membership decline: We fret and wring



# TENARY OF THE DETROIT MASONIC TEMPLE

by Ben Williams



Library of Congress

our hands. But in the *fin-de-siècle* nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, the same number of Brethren were on the rolls as today. And they were prolific: among their contributions to society at large, they built vast monuments to Masonry. What changed?

In 1926, when the Detroit Masonic Temple was completed, it was one of the largest and most versatile Masonic buildings in the world. It included the largest stage east of the Mississippi (and second largest in the United States). Constructed to the tune of \$6.5 million (or approximately \$88 million

in today's currency), no expense was spared. When it was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day in 1926, fifty-thousand people strode the streets in celebration.

The building, cased in Indiana limestone, includes 1,037 rooms, two massive concert theaters, two ballrooms, a single-spanned drill room with sprung floor (said to be the largest of its kind in the world), seven Craft lodges, a Templar asylum in full gothic style, sixteen bowling lanes, a barber shop, among other wings, rooms, mezzanines, and nooks and crannies, that fill out this world class venue. It's like five buildings in one. Between



Photos by Ben Williams

its sixteen floors, swimming pool, and towers, it houses more than ten acres of land. They used to winch cars up through a third-floor window for car shows.

Today, not only do top notch bands fill out the billboard (like the Rolling Stones, AC/DC, or Bob Dylan): the Temple is on the set list for film. Just last week (in September), Matt Damon was shooting an interior where a small portion of the building was dressed as a lobby in some fancy hotel.

I've always been a fan of Masonic buildings. I've taken the sometimes-unpopular position that we should try to hold on to them – all of them. So when I received word that there was going to be a hundredth anniversary celebration of the Detroit Masonic Temple's cornerstone, I leapt at the chance to attend. And not just because of the prospect of exploring a fine Masonic edifice. Michigan has a special place in Colorado Masonry, my home jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge of Colorado was formed in 1861 from Lodges chartered by Kansas and Nebraska. Ask most Colorado Masons about the origin of our ritual, and the presumption will be Kansas

or Nebraska work. But Colorado uses *Michigan work*. Allyn Weston, the first Grand Lecturer (and second Grand Master) of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, was a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 91, in Detroit. (He also helped organize the Grand Commandery of Michigan in 1857.) Weston worked to standardize Colorado's ritual, which had been a mishmash of material due to the diverse interests attracted by the allure of gold in the Rockies. Weston brought what he knew: the post-Baltimore Convention, Webb-Barney work from Michigan.

It was an interesting coincidence that Weston Lodge No. 22 in Colorado, named after M.W. Bro. Weston, was celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the same day. The Fraternal embrace is large: It spans space and time. M.W. Bro. Weston would have been pleased.

Back in 1922, after raising \$2.5 million to break ground, the Brethren of Detroit laid the cornerstone using George Washington's trowel, the one he gave to Alexandria Lodge No. 22 after using it on the cornerstone of the Capitol on Sept. 18, 1798. It's a virtuous implement, one that's touched the





MASONIC  
TEMPLE DETROIT

ALC 5922  
AD 1922



four corners of the world.... It was used on cornerstones for the Smithsonian (1847), the Washington Monument (1848), the Library of Congress (1890), the National Cathedral (1907), our own House of the Temple (1911), the George Washington National Memorial (1923), and the United States Supreme Court (1932), among others no doubt. Diverse buildings, perhaps, but each is united in elevating mankind toward knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and justice.

By the time my wife and I arrived, a group had assembled on the corner of Temple Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. A gray sky had wrung clouds and patches of blue broke in the heavens. A podium had been set up by the cornerstone. A table held the trowel for view. A cadre of Brethren from Alexandria Lodge No. 22 were at hand, ever watchful. The ceremony began at 5 p.m. The Grand Commandery of Michigan furnished an honor guard and traffic was stopped on

Temple and 2<sup>nd</sup> by obliging police officers. The reconsecration began. Todd Bettison, Deputy Mayor of Detroit, shared a few words. Then the Grand Lodge took over. End with the jovial baptism of corn, wine, and oil, and you get the picture.

Inside, the newly renovated, 16,640 square-foot Fountain Ballroom was well appointed for the banquet. Tables lined up, immaculate between the twin art deco pillars that dominate the space (they're probably responsible for the name: light spills from their capitals like fountains). Girls dressed as flappers greeted the guests as they streamed in, assisted us find our name plates on the mezzanine where a large ice sculpture slowly melted, and directed us to our tables. Waiters made the rounds with Manhattans. The Ralphie Armstrong trio – bassist, pianist, and drummer – lent jazz to the air. It was lively. As the food came out, other band members joined on stage, and the trio became a septet. Motown shifted into gear: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Genera-







Photos by Ben Williams

tion Funk Brothers. All the great numbers, My Girl, Get Ready, Dancing in the Street, 'Aint No Mountain High Enough. My wife was impressed – perhaps Masonry was more than jaundiced cafeterias with Folgers and paper plates? (I owe a debt to the Detroit Brethren on this account: Thank you, Brethren!)

When George Mason, the architect, designed the building, he must have beamed. He got to ply the full extent of his genius, designing five, maybe six buildings in one. He chose neogothic, rising sharp forms like lasers shot into the sky. Perspective poised along a knife's edge. Inside, fixtures and sculptures by Carrado Parducci gild the space with delicate strength, cast and chiseled in the art deco style. I'm told the order, when placed for the fixtures, was the largest ever placed in New York. Marble is everywhere. Walking around through this space is inspiring. One cannot help but reach out, to contemplate the extraordinary.

It's heartbreaking to think that, in 2013, with over \$150,000 in back taxes outstanding, the whole thing almost vanished. Slowly derelict – like so many of our Masonic edifices – the Detroit Temple was on the precipice. The Brethren managed to foot \$10,000. But it was not sufficient. Foreclosure was imminent, threatening a black hole across the Detroit skyline. But then someone stepped in, without prompting or request, and paid the remaining \$142,000 outright.

knight templar

It turned out to be rock-n-roller Jack White, former front man of the White Stripes. A Detroit native, he has some affection for the building. When his own family were on hard times, the Temple employed White's mother as an usher. She was treated well – White remembers. He was pleased to return the honor. And, of course, he's played at the venue, too. In fact, in April this year, during a show in the large Masonic Theater, he proposed to his girlfriend, Olivia Jean, right on stage. When she said yes, they decided to get married then and there – in the Temple. And why not?

Of course, that wouldn't work in a place unsuited for such a memory. You probably wouldn't get married in a pizza hut, a pub, or a post office. But in the Masonic Theater in the Detroit Temple? *Sure.*

Now the Temple is resurging. What does it take to resurrect a building? A strong grip. Fortunately, we Masons are imbued with that capacity.



# BEAUCEANT

## A Brief History of the Order

The Social Order of the Beauceant was originally started at the request of the Sir Knights of Denver Commandery No. 1 in Denver, Colo. The Sir Knights asked their wives to assist in the hosting of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 in their city and a membership of just over three-hundred they needed help. Their wives agreed to assist their Sir Knights.

The wives held their first official meeting in February of 1890. That meeting put into motion the begins of the order, the ladies adopted the name "Some of Our Business Society," or the S.O.O.B.

The S.O.O.B. was organized solely for the purpose of providing aid and sociability for the Sir Knights and ladies who would attend the Triennial.

In order to meet this lofty undertaking (the ladies knew they needed to raise funds) they created a budget and planned events to meet their goal. They held garden parties, card parties, tea parties, and, oh yes, even wine tasting parties. It was a labor of love and appreciation for their Sir Knights. The ladies so enjoyed their work that they never disbanded, but instead continued operating for the purpose of "making life purer, better and sweeter for others."

The Society remained a small, loyal, local band of wives and widows of Sir Knights of Denver Commandery No. 1, doing good, and assisting their Sir Knights when requested.

At the 1913 Triennial, the ladies decided it was time to change their name to something more appropriate to Templary while retaining the initials S.O.O.B. After great thought and deliberation they settled on the "Social Order of the Beauceant of the World." The word *Beauceant* was derived from a banner used by the ancient Templars.

It was then that the ladies decided to expand and invite wives and widows from other Commanderies in Colorado to join.



*Merry Christmas Sir Knights!*

from the Ladies of the Beauceant







# Recipient Knight Templar A.D.

## Alabama

Joel Isaac Bryant  
Cyrene 10

## Alaska

Bruce William Kling  
Anchorage 2

## Arkansas

Gary Michael Winningham  
Baldwin 4

## Arizona

Richard George Young  
Calvary 8

## California

John Edward Bickerstaff  
High Desert 79

## Connecticut

Steven John Chiappalone  
St Elmo 9

## District of Columbia

Raymon W. Bacchus  
Columbia 2

## Delaware

Robert W. Noble  
Saint John 1

## Florida

Paul James Mast  
St Augustine 10

## Georgia

Gary Arnell Palmer  
Coeur De Lion 4

## Hawaii

James Ramon Houk  
Hawai'i Ali'i 5

## Iowa

Teddy Dewayne Spaur  
Zerubbabel 68

## Illinois

Jerald H. Starks  
Demolay 24

## Italy

Claudio Camilloni  
San Rabano 36

## Kansas

Jimmie L. Grassi, Sr.  
Ivanhoe 21

## Kentucky

Donald Lee Powell, Sr.  
Winchester 30

## Louisiana

Allan K. Bean  
Monroe 4

## Massachusetts/Rhode Island

Richard Clifford Leung  
Gethsemane-DeMolay 7

## Maine

Robert Francis O'Brien  
Portland-St Alban 2

## Maryland

Franklin H. Williams, Jr.  
Thomas J. Shyrook 11

## Michigan

John Howard "Jack" Mengel  
Detroit 1

## Minnesota

Clinton Jon Christensen  
Faribault 8

## Missouri

Ashley William Young  
Ely 22

## Mississippi

William Terry McLeod  
Mississippi 1

## Montana

William Hyatt Rogers  
Black Eagle 8

## North Carolina

Douglas Trent Carter  
Ivanhoe 8

## North Dakota

Leo Anthony Rognlin  
Auvergne 2



# Cross of Honor

2022

## Nebraska

Daniel J. Marr  
Mt. Calvary 1

## New Hampshire

Dennis Allen Tuttle, Sr.,  
Mt. Horeb 3

## New Mexico

Steven Robert Gough  
Pilgrim 3

## Nevada

Charles Barone  
Malta 3

## New York

Louis D. Denato, Sr.,  
Utica 3

## Ohio

Thomas R. Johnson  
Eagle 29  
&  
William "Tex" Ritter  
Cuyahoga Falls 83

## Oklahoma

Michael Charles Zura  
Lawton 18

## Pennsylvania

Robert J. Murdoch Jr.,  
Mt. Calvary 67  
&  
Earl C. Skiles  
Centennial 55

## Philippines

Mckentyre Valdez Cabrera  
Capitol 13

## South Carolina

William Spencer Ghent  
Lancaster 19

## South Dakota

Ronald L. Knott Jr.,  
Cyrene 2

## Tennessee

Matthew John Liotta  
Paris 16  
&  
Justin McCoy Huggins  
Lookout 14

## Texas

James David McMillan  
Southeast Texas 112  
&  
Jimmy Louis Allison  
Piney Woods 88

## Utah

Daniel Lawrence Hamilton  
Charles Fred Jennings 6

## Virginia

Major Green Stephenson  
Portsmouth 3

## Vermont

Jon W. Hosford  
St. Aldemar 11

## Washington

Geoffrey S. Joosten  
Rainier 25

## Wisconsin

Kenneth A. Bales  
Oshkosh 11

## West Virginia

Gregory Alan Amlin  
Potomac 5

## Wyoming

Ralph Handy Levi  
DeMolay 6

NON NOBIS DOMINE NON NOBIS SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM!

# KTEF 55<sup>th</sup> Voluntary Campaign

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;  
not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)

**M**erry Christmas Sir Knights! Christmas is a special time of year when families come together to celebrate and naturally the children of all ages look forward to it with Joy and anticipation. It is a time for remembering and giving and receiving, along with good fellowship with our loved ones. Sir Knights, as we observe this Christmas season and the birth of our Lord and Savior, let us remember that Jesus is the real reason for the season. Let each of us give thanks for the sacrifice He made for us.

December is also the time of year for year-end tax planning, and you may be able to reduce the amount of taxes you owe for this year. There are many options and ways of giving. One way is to donate from your retirement plans such as IRA, SEP, Simple IRA, 401K, or other qualified retirement plans. When an individual reaches the age of 72, he must take a required minimum distribution known as (RMD) each year. The IRS will allow individuals to donate your RMD each year to a 501c-3 charity and that's where the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., comes into the picture. Keep in mind there are many other ways to contribute to our Foundation. In addition to cash and securities, gifts of life insurance, as well as bequests by will and trust. Individual situations vary greatly, so please be sure to check with your



attorney, financial advisor, and tax advisor for specific advice. So, you may determine which option may be the most advantageous for you and your family.

On a personal note, I will never forget the day I stopped by the nursing home to see one of the Sir Knights of my Commandery. The first words out of his mouth after he recognized my voice: *please encourage the Sir Knights to give to the KTEF.*

You see the problem was that Sir Knight George could no longer see. He understood then how important eyesight is to an individual.

He said no child should ever have to go without their eyesight. Sir Knights, please think about donating.

May God Bless you and your family and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily,  
as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Colossians 3:23 KJV

In Christ Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul W. Friend". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Paul W. Friend, PGC, KTCH**  
Chairman, 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

december 2022

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

July 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022

## **GRAND MASTER'S CLUBS**

AL Johnny W. Strickland  
AL Wayne S. Wadsworth  
CA Harlan L. Gurney  
CO Daniel A. Rivers  
FL Richard C. Brooks  
FL Eric G. Cole  
FL Stephen G. Paulsen  
IN Joe F. Gust  
LA Martin J. Reinschmidt  
MD Stephen O. Adekoya  
MA/RI Donald G. Hicks Jr.  
MI Paul M. Tarr Jr.  
MN Eric J. Thiem  
NH Dennis A. Tuttle Sr.  
NJ Robert C. Pittman  
NJ Robert Thornborough  
NY Gill R. Calderon  
NC Gary H. Littleton  
OH Burrell K. Pettet II  
OH Paul C. Peters III

OK David C. Bracher  
OK Robert L. Bradway  
PA David DiPietro  
PA John K. March  
PA Howard L. Smith  
SC Garland R. Harman  
TN Jesse J. Harper  
TN Justin M. Huggins  
TN Robert D. Hummel  
TN Harold E. Jackson  
TN Jay J. Young  
TX Corbett D. Legg III  
TX Scott E. Prevost  
VA Douglas R. Collins  
VA Craig A. Cox  
WA Charles R. Davis  
WI Michael L. Bessette  
WY Lewis E. Shepherd  
WY James L. Sturdevant

## **GRAND COMMANDER'S CLUBS**

AL Amos G. Welborn  
FL Richard C. Brooks  
FL Robert H. Eisenhardt  
FL Charles R. Jordan  
FL Stephen G. Paulsen  
IL Charles R. Alcaraz  
IN James L. Mahan  
IN Kevin L. Waldroup  
LA Bryan P. Zeringue  
MI Jeffrey M. Lewis

MN Eric J. Thiem  
MO James E. Ashby  
NJ Robert Thornborough  
NY David A. Hardy  
SC Garland R. Harman  
SC Michael E. Howard  
TN Michael L. Lawler  
TX Lloyd F. Howerton  
UT Paul D. Erickson  
VA Craig A. Cox



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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