

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Jeffrey N. Nelson, *Most Eminent Grand Master*
3112 Tyler Parkway
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Lawrence Eugene Tucker, *Right Eminent Grand Recorder*
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
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GENERAL ORDER NO. 4

March 25, 2019

To all Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding Allegiance to, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

GREETINGS:

For the reasons set forth below, I, as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, hereby **SUSPEND** recognition of and fraternal relations with the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of Greece and Cyprus.

WHEREAS, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America (hereinafter GEKT) reviewed a request from the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of Greece and Cyprus (hereinafter GEKTG) prior to the 61st Triennial Conclave that a petition of Mutual Recognition be adopted between it and the GEKT; and

WHEREAS, at the 61st Triennial Conclave, the Committee on Foreign Relations recommended that the petition for Mutual Recognition be issued; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2000, the GEKT, by action at the 61st Triennial Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee, adopted a petition for Mutual Recognition between the GEKT and the GEKTG; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the TREATY OF AMITY or CONCORDAT of 1910 between and among the Templar bodies of the world viz, the Great Priory of England and Wales, the Great Priory of Ireland, the Great Priory of Scotland, the GEKT, and the Great Priory of Canada, the signatories did agree and confirm that each is the Governing Body in its own country and that each of these Governing Bodies is Supreme in its own Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the contracting parties mutually agreed that they would not issue any Dispensation or Warrant authorizing the establishment of any Preceptory, Priory, or Commandery within the exclusive jurisdiction of the others; and

WHEREAS, that each of the contracting parties agreed not to recognize any other Templar organization or authority within the jurisdiction then embraced by the contracting parties, each recognizing the absolute and exclusive control of the other over all matters pertaining to the Order within its exclusive jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Grand Encampments and Great Pories formed after the Treaty of Amity or Concordat of 1910 have agreed to abide by the terms of the Concordat as a prerequisite and condition of mutual recognition; and

WHEREAS, the GEKT enjoys mutual recognition with the Great Priory of France (hereinafter GPCTF); and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018, the Grand Master of a Grand Commandery Knights Templar of France (GCKTF) received a charter from the GEKTG purportedly creating the GCKTF and assertedly authorizing it to work the Degrees of Knights Templar York as well as purporting to charter the first three commanderies of the GCKTF; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Circular 03/2018 issued by the GEKTG, French-speaking commanderies and a Grand Commandery were allowed to be established in Greece under the condition that these commanderies and Grand Commandery meet only within Greece, in the town of Eleusis, twice a year, and in the French language; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2019, contrary to the provisions of Circular 03/2018, Commandery Sainte Eulalie de Cernon n°3 UD at Eleusis, chartered November 30, 2018, by the GEKTG, met in NARBONNE, a city on the Occitanie Region of Southern FRANCE; and

WHEREAS, these actions constitute an invasion of the territory of the GPCTF and are in violation of the TREATY OF AMITY or CONCORDAT 1910;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America, hereby **SUSPEND** recognition of and fraternal relations with the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of Greece and Cyprus.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America at Bismarck, North Dakota, this twenty-fifth day of March 2019, A.O. 901.



Courteously,

Grand Master

Attest:

Grand Recorder