

**REGULATIONS
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
AND
THE APPENDANT ORDERS
OF
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND**

As adopted October 19, 1927 with subsequent amendments of:

October 29, 1930

October 21, 1936

October 9, 1962

October 12, 1965

October 15, 1983

March 26, 2010



**ARTICLE I
UNIFORM**

The following regulation for the Class A (black) Knight Templar Uniform shall take effect July 1, 2010.

COAT

It shall be a three button, double breasted sack coat, to close with three buttons, and to be of black clothing material (ten ounce tropical weight, 45% wool and 55% Dacron or 100% tropical weight worsted is recommended) It shall have three pockets, two lower with straight flaps and an open pocket on the left breast. A sword slit with zipper shall be cut in the left lower pocket to allow a sword sling or fastener to be used. Coat to be not less than 3/8 lined with plain black lining material, sleeve lining to be of either plain black or white lining material. Length of the coat shall be one inch below the wearer's crotch line. The coat shall have roll collar with peak lapels, three inches wide at the peak. The sleeves shall be finished with stitching to represent cuffs, three and one half inches deep, with three buttons on each cuff.

NOTE: Neither the baldric nor outside belt is to be worn with this uniform. Existing belts formerly worn with the long coat may be worn under the coat with the long chain removed and the scabbard to be suspended on the two short chains extending through the slit in the coat; or from two short slings of black leather with hook snaps at the bottom and a loop at the top may be worn over the trouser belt; or from a white or black cord material one inch wide worn under the coat and over the right shoulder.

TROUSERS

Trousers to be of the same black material as the coat, of standard military cut, without ornamentation.

CHAPEAU

This uniform shall include a chapeau with plume, substantially conforming to the military type of chapeau with black or white plume, as heretofore and now in general use by Commanderies, as described in Section 250 of the statutes of Grand Encampment EXCEPT that the rosette shall be affixed to the right side of the chapeau (so that when the knight is at "uncover" the rosette shall be next to the head). Commanderies which have used the uniform of a mounted Commandery may wear a chapeau as authorized by Section 227 of the Statues of Grand Encampment.

SHIRT

Plain white with turned down collar.

NECKTIE

Plain black cloth military style fore-in-hand necktie without any ornamentation.

HOSE

Black.

GLOVES

White or buff colored leather for Grand Commandery officers. White or buff colored cloth for all other knights. Gloves with a rubber dotted palm are recommended to assist in controlling the sword in maneuvers.

SHOULDER STRAPS

Grand Commandery officers and certain constituent Commandery officers are authorized to wear shoulder straps as described in Sections 243 and 244 of Grand Encampment regulations.

SLEEVE INSIGNIA

For Past Grand Commanders the Purple Templar Cross, for Past and Current Grand Commandery Officers the Red Templar Cross, For Eminent and Past Commanders the Passion Cross surrounded by rays, for all other officers the Passion Cross without rays to be worn 3 inches from the cuff and 4 inches from the seam of the sleeve.

CAP

In lieu of the chapeau the use of a Military Style Naval Dress Cap as described in Section 41(i) of Grand Encampment regulations (the same cap as prescribed or wear with the summer uniform). Provided, however, that nothing hereinbefore contained shall be construed in any way curtailing the right of those Sir Knights who have purchased their uniforms with a cap instead of a chapeau, to continue to wear the same EXCEPT when conferring the Order of the Temple.

TEMPLAR CAP AND MANTLE

In lieu of the regulation uniform, a constituent Commandery may adopt the use of the Cap and Mantle as their official uniform. These may be worn for all Templar occasions, provided that the entire Commandery MUST be dressed in like manner – either all in uniform or all in Cap and Mantle. The Cap and Mantle shall conform to the description as it appears in the Grand Encampment regulations Section 41(i).

FATIGUE UNIFORM

COAT

It shall be a three button, single breasted sack coat, to close with three buttons, and to be of black clothing material (ten ounce tropical 45% wool and 55% Dacron or 100% tropical worsted is recommended) It shall have three pockets, two lower with straight flaps and an open pocket on the left breast. A sword slit with zipper shall be cut in the left lower pocket to allow a sword sling or fastener to be used. Coat to be not less than 3/8 lined with plain black lining material, sleeve lining to be of either plain black or white lining material. Length of the coat shall be one inch below the wearer's crotch line. The coat shall have roll collar with peak lapels, three inches wide at the peak. The sleeves shall be finished with stitching to represent cuffs, three and one half inches deep, with three buttons on each cuff. Shoulder loops (epaulets) of the same material as the coat, sewed down flat up to the button. Each shoulder loop may contain the appropriate rank insignia of the wearer.

The remainder of the fatigue uniform shall substantially follow the regulations of Grand Encampment in Section 248.

SUMMER UNIFORM

The wearing of the summer uniform, with its optional necktie, shall be the prerogative of the officer in charge of any Grand Commandery or constituent Commandery event; ie. the Grand Commander shall decide that the summer uniform, with or without the necktie, may be worn at any particular Grand Commandery event such as a parade sponsored by or supported by the Grand Commandery. Similarly, the Commander of a constituent Commandery shall have jurisdiction over the wearing of the summer uniform, with or without the optional necktie, at any Commandery event, including a stated Conclave, EXCEPT that summer uniform shall not be worn when conferring the Order of the Temple.

SHIRT

White shirt, shirt sleeve, of military style with shoulder epaulets and two flap pockets, one on each breast

PANTS

Plain black pants as prescribed above.

NECKTIE

Plain black military style fore-in-hand without ornamentation. The wearing of the necktie shall be at the option of the senior officer present, in case of extremely hot weather. If worn. The necktie shall be fastened with a gold tie clasp bearing the appropriate insignia of the rank of the wearer and may be further engraved with black engraving stating "KNIGHT TEMPLAR" or "MASS & RI" or the name of the Commandery.

SWORD AND SWORD BELT

As previously prescribed. No slings to be used

SHOES

As previously prescribed

NAME BADGE

The name badge or plate shall be of metal, gold color, ½" wide by 3" long, with the full name of the wearer in black letters. The name plate should contain an emblem suitable to the rank of the wearer. It is to be worn centered above the wearer's right pocket.

MALTA JEWEL

A miniature MALTA pin of current design, available from the Grand Encampment office, shall be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket. Optional instead of the pin; a metal ribbon bar, representing Commandery jewels, to be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket. The metal bar shall contain three black panels, each surrounded with

A silver line, each panel ½" high by 1" wide. On the left panel shall be centered a miniature Red Cross Jewel, on the center panel shall be centered a miniature Malta Jewel, and on the right panel, shall be centered a Templar Cross with a Cross and Crown in the center

SHOULDER INSIGNIA

For Grand Commandery Officers: A Red Templar Cross surrounded by gold line, 1" square, to be worn in the center of each epaulet. For Past Grand Commanders: The same except the color shall be purple. For Past Commanders, Commanders, Generalissimos and Captains General: A metal bar ¾" by 1 ½" of red or green color surrounded by a gold or silver line, as appropriate to the office, with the appropriate emblems of their rank as currently prescribed to be worn centered on each epaulet, the long axis of the insignia parallel to the long edge of the epaulet. Essentially these are miniatures of currently prescribed shoulder straps in metal, and of similar configuration.

COLLAR INSIGNIA

For Grand or Past Grand Commandery Officers: on the right collar, gold, ½" cut out letters "KT" on the left collar, gold ¼" cut out letters "MA RI

For Past Commanders, Commanders and all other Sir Knights: ¼" gold cut out letters with the name of the Commandery (not more than 10 letters) or "MA RI" on the right collar.

And "NO. XX" (XX= the Commandery number) in ¼" gold cutout letters on the left collar. These insignia are to be worn centered on the collar and parallel with the top edge and set ¾" back from the leading edge of the collar.

CAP

For Past Grand Commanders: Military style Naval Garrison cap with a white top, black band, and black visor with one row of oak leaves and acorns, metal purple Templar Cross 2 ¼" square, fixed to the front

of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons. For Grand Commanders: same as above except a Red Templar Cross. For Grand Commandery officers: same as Grand Commanders except with a plain black visor. For Past Commanders and Commanders: same as Grand Commandery Officers except with a 1 3/8" by 2" red metal passion cross trimmed with gold rays. For all other Sir Knights: same as Commanders except using a red metal passion cross trimmed in silver.

Any uniform approved by regulations issued prior to March 26, 2010 may continue to be worn in accordance with those regulations until the year 2020, at which time this sentence becomes invalid and the regulations then in effect shall specify uniforms which must be worn by all Sir Knights.

COSTUME FOR A PRELATE

The Costume of the Grand Prelate or of the Prelate of a Constituent Commandery shall be in accordance with the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

GRAND STANDARD

The Grand Standard is of a material approved by state and local fire codes, six feet in height *by* four feet in width, the upper half black, the lower half white. On the center of the black field is displayed in colors a Templar Cross, supporting in its center a facsimile of the seal of the Grand Commandery. (Saint George and the Dragon).

On the dexter side of the cross is the Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and on the sinister side that of the State of Rhode Island. Over the above in letters of gold are the words "Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island," and under the Cross, "Organized May 6th, 1805".

On the center of the white field is a large Passion Cross of a red material approved by state and local fire codes bordered with gold, and surrounded by rays. Upon the center of the Cross is embroidered in gold the initials "I. N. R. I.". Over it is the motto, "In Hoc Signo Vinces," and on a blue ribbon artistically displayed across the lower arm, is the motto, "Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini tuo da Gloriam".

The back of the standard is of a green material approved by state and local fire codes, in the center of which is a star of seven points bearing a Greek Cross surrounded by the motto, "Magna est Veritas et Praevalebit"; while above and below the star is displayed the name of the Grand Commandery. The bottom of each field is cut tripartite, and the borders trimmed with gold lace and deep bullion fringe.

The standard is suspended by nine rings from the cross-bar, upon which is mounted a Malta Cross surrounded by the motto, "Rex regum et Dominus minorum"; and above all is a gilded globe or ball supporting a Patriarchal Cross, crimson, edged with gold.

BEAUSEANT

The Beauseant shall be designed in accordance with Section 239 of the Chapter XVI of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

AMERICAN FLAG

The National Colors shall be displayed in the Asylum at all times. They shall be not less than five feet nor more than seven feet fly, and not less than four feet nor more than six feet on the pike, which is nine feet long including spear head and ferrule; the edges to be trimmed with knotted

yellow fringe, two and one-half inches wide; the cord eight feet six inches long having two tassels.

STATE FLAG

The State Flag(s) may be displayed in the Asylum or when on public parade.

ARTICLE II

NOTICE TO DELINQUENT

Section 1. A sample form to be used for notice to delinquent members is in Appendix 1 of these Regulations. A similar form may be used as long as it contains similar information, and as long as it is approved by the Grand Recorder.

SERVICE

Section 2. The notice shall be served upon the delinquent Sir Knight at least two months before action shall be taken, either by giving such notice to him in hand, or by leaving the same at his last and usual place of abode, or by mailing the same to his last known place of residence, postage pre-paid.

RECORD

Section 3. The Recorder shall keep a record showing the time, place and manner of service and report his doings to the Commandery. After due notice and the delinquent has been given an opportunity to be heard in his defense, he shall be suspended by a majority vote of the Sir Knights present and voting.

RESTORED

Section 4. A Knight Templar who has been suspended for non-payment of dues or assessments may be restored to good standing on petition by a majority ballot of the Sir Knights present and voting.

VOTE NECESSARY

Section 5. Loss of membership in a Commandery can only be inflicted by vote of the Commandery. Before action is taken, the Sir Knight must be notified (a sample form appears in Appendix 2 of the Regulations) and given an opportunity for a hearing.

Section 6. Notice of delinquency for non-payment of dues shall be given by the Recorder of each Commandery, at least once each calendar year, to any Sir Knight in arrears for two consecutive years, and after such notice shall have been served upon a delinquent Sir Knight in accordance with ARTICLE II these Regulations shall suspend said member unless, within said period of two months, his delinquency shall have been reduced to arrears of less than three years.

ARTICLE III

DIPLOMA

Section 1. Constituent Commanderies shall issue no diplomas except those authorized by the Grand Commandery.

BY-LAWS PRESENTED

Section 2. Every candidate upon becoming a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction shall be presented with a copy of the By Laws of said Commandery.

ARTICLE IV

IDENTIFICATION CARD - MEMBERS

Section 1. Every member of a Constituent Commandery, except Life Members, shall pay his dues in accordance with the provisions of the By Laws of his Commandery, upon the payment of which, the Recorder thereof shall issue to him, provided all assessments due have been fully paid, an Identification Card which shall be a receipt for his said dues and/or assessments.

IDENTIFICATION CARD – LIFE MEMBERS

Section 2. The Recorder of each Constituent Commandery shall also issue the said Card to every Life Member provided all assessments due have been fully paid. Said Card shall state such facts, shall be issued on the first day of the fiscal year of every said Commandery and thereafter annually on said day and shall be valid for the purpose of visitation as hereinafter provided.

FORM

Section 3. Said Card shall bear upon its face an impress or facsimile of the Seal of the Constituent Commandery and the written or facsimile signature of the Recorder thereof, together with the member's signature.

It shall certify the member is a Knight Templar in good standing and designate the date to which his dues are paid, also the fact that all assessments due at the date of issue have been paid.

It shall bear upon it a certificate that the said Commandery is a legally constituted Commandery under this jurisdiction, which certificate shall be authenticated by a facsimile of the signature of the Grand Recorder together with a facsimile of the Seal of the Grand Commandery. The (universal) dues card approved and furnished by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America may be substituted.

FURNISHED BY

Section 4. Said Cards for the members of every Constituent Commandery shall be prepared and printed by the Grand Commandery under the direction of the Grand Recorder, the cost thereof to be borne by the individual Constituent Commandery. It shall be the duty of the Recorder of each Constituent Commandery to inform the Grand Recorder of the number of blank Cards to be needed by his Commandery. Any Card not so prepared and printed is hereby declared to be an illegal Card and its use prohibited. Possession or presentation of an illegal Card shall not entitle the person possessing or presenting it to any of the rights or privileges of Templar Masonry which are dependent upon possession or presentation of a valid Identification Card.

PREREQUISITE FOR ADMISSION

Section 5. Every visitor who is a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction shall present his said Card to the Sentinel before being admitted to the Commandery.

Section 6. The Sentinel shall not admit as a visitor any member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction unless the Card of such member shows that his dues have been paid in full to within one year from date of presentation and that all assessments due were paid at the date of issue.

VISITOR FROM FOREIGN JURISDICTION

Section 7. Every visitor who is a member of a Commandery in a foreign jurisdiction requiring a similar identification Card as a prerequisite to admission shall present his Card to the Sentinel before being admitted to the Commandery.

Section 8. Every visitor who is a member of a Commandery in a foreign jurisdiction not requiring a similar Identification Card as a prerequisite to admission, shall present to the Sentinel a receipt showing that his dues have been paid to within one year from date of presentation, or if his Commandery does not require the payment of dues, a certificate or diploma showing him to be in good standing in his Commandery before being admitted to the Commandery.

VISIT OWN COMMANDERY

Section 9. Every member of a Commandery shall present to the Sentinel his said Card showing the payment of dues to within one year from date of presentation, also the payment of all assessments due at the date of issue before being admitted to his Commandery, unless specifically excused by the Eminent Commander.

This discretion shall apply to members of his own Commandery only: *Provided, however,* that the Eminent Commander of any Constituent Commandery may authorize the Sentinel to admit as a visitor a Companion of the Red Cross who has not completed his membership in any Commandery upon presentation of a certificate from the Recorder in his Commandery to the effect that such person has taken the aforesaid Order.

UNAFFILIATED VISITOR

Section 10. An unaffiliated Knight Templar holding a demit which is dated within one year from date of visitation, or who has not resided within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Commandery for one year, shall present to the Sentinel before being admitted, his demit in lieu of an Identification Card.

UNAFFILIATED VISITOR

Section 11. An unaffiliated Knight Templar, who, having been suspended or expelled, has been restored to the benefits and privileges of the Commandery but not to membership in the Commandery from which he was suspended or expelled, and who has not resided within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Commandery for one year from the date of said restoration, shall present to the Sentinel before being admitted, a certificate of the Grand Commandery certifying the fact and date of said restoration in lieu of an Identification Card.

UNAFFILIATED VISITOR

Section 12. An unaffiliated Knight Templar who having resided within the jurisdiction of a Constituent Commandery for one year, having applied for membership during that period but whose application has been rejected, shall present to the Sentinel before being admitted, a certificate of the Recorder of said Constituent Commandery certifying the fact and date of said application.

NOT APPLICABLE

Section 14. This Identification Card shall not apply to Officers of Grand Commandery and their suite when in the official discharge of their duties in uniform.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT

Section 15. This Identification Card shall be required in addition to any and all requirements for visitation now in force and effect.

ARTICLE V

AWARDS

Section 1. The Grand Commandery may from time to time authorize the presentation of certain awards. The conditions under which these awards may be presented and a description of the awards are in Appendix 3.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Regulations may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any Conclave of this Grand Commandery.

REPEALING CLAUSE

Section 2. All laws heretofore enacted, adopted or approved, inconsistent with these regulations, are hereby repealed and are declared null and void.

AT MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND, MARCH 26, 2010



APPENDIX I
SAMPLE NOTICE TO DELINQUENT MEMBERS

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS

..... 20. . .

..... Commandery K. T.
Sir Knight A B.....

You are hereby notified that you are in arrears to this Commandery in the sum of \$... for dues for....years ending on 20. . . , and also in the sum of \$ for an assessment voted on the.....day of A. D. 20.... You are further notified that at the regular conclave of this Commandery to be held on the day of A. D. 20...., action will be taken on the matter of suspending you for the same, unless they shall have been previously paid. You are hereby notified to appear at said conclave to show cause, if any you have, why you should not be suspended from membership for the non-payment thereof.

ATTEST:
..... Recorder

APPENDIX 2
SAMPLE NOTICES FOR LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP
(FORM A)

To.....Commandery No.....

It is hereby charged that Sir Knight is not in good standing in this Commandery, by reason of having been (for six months prior to the date hereof) (a non-affiliate in) (here insert the word Lodge, Chapter and Council, as case may be) and it is hereby demanded that his membership in said Commandery be declared terminated.

Date.....Signed

NOTICE FOR CHARGES (FORM B)

..... Commandery No

To Sir

Charge has been filed, a copy whereof accompanies this notice, that you are not a member in good standing in this Commandery by reason of your alleged non-affiliation for more than six months in any (here insert the word Lodge, Chapter and Council, as the case may be) and you are hereby cited to appear at the Asylum of said Commandery on the day of 20.... to make answer to said charge and show cause, if any you have, why you should not be deprived of membership in said Commandery.

ATTEST:

Date

APPENDIX 3

AWARDS

KNIGHT TEMPLAR MILITARY VETERANS MEDAL

Eligibility – Wearer must be a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or must have been such at some previous time and have received other than a Dishonorable Discharge.

Description - A Veteran’s Medal may be worn on the left breast of the uniform coat approximately one half inch above the medals displayed and in the center of the display line; by current or former members of any of the recognized branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This medal shall be of silver colored metal approximately 1 3/8 inches long by 3/8 inches wide having alternate vertical stripes, from left to right, of red, white, blue, white, blue, white, blue, white and red, each separated by a narrow silver line. The blue stripe in the center shall be approximately ¼ inch wide, the white stripes on either side of the center blue stripe shall be approximately 3/16 inch wide, the remainder of the stripes shall be approximately 1/8 inch wide. The medal shall be attached to the uniform by two pins fastened with clutch back holders. This medal may also be worn in a similar position on the fatigue coat or centered over the metal ribbon bar of the summer uniform shirt. A similar appearing medal made of cloth material may be substituted.

YORK RITE LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION BAR

Eligibility – Wearer must be a member of a Priory of Knights of the York Cross of Honor which is recognized by the Convent General of Knights of the York Cross of Honor.

Description - A Knight Templar York Rite Leadership Recognition Bar may be worn on the left breast of the uniform coat approximately one half inch above the medals displayed and in the center of the display line; by any Knight Templar who has been officially recognized as having served as Master of a Blue Lodge, High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter, Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal and Select Master Masons (Cryptic Rite) and Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar.

This bar shall be of silver colored metal approximately 1 3/8 inches long be 3/8 inches wide having alternate vertical stripes of equal width, approximately 5/16 wide, of white, purple, red and blue color, each color separated by a very narrow silver stripe. The bar shall be attached to the uniform by two pins fastened with clutch back holders.

This bar may also be worn on the fatigue coat or centered above the Metal Ribbon Bar on the summer uniform shirt. In locating the bar the white color shall be toward the center of the garment. If worn in conjunction with the Knight Templar Veteran’s Medal, The Veterans Medal shall be worn to the right (superior) of the York Rite Leadership Recognition Bar.

ORDER OF MERIT

The Order of Merit is the Distinguished Service Award of this Grand Commandery, and will be awarded by the Grand Commander to individuals whom he decides are deserving recipients. This medal is intended to be similar in use to the awards issued in like manner by the Grand Lodge and Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Council of Massachusetts. This medal is not to be awarded upon personal application or request of any Sir Knight individually.

THOMAS SMITH WEBB MEDAL

A medal, to be known as the Thomas Smith Webb Medal, may be conferred upon any affiliated Sir Knight of this

jurisdiction, on or about the fortieth anniversary of his Knighting who, in the opinion of the Grand Commander, is worthy of such recognition. A bar may be attached to the ribbon of the Thomas Smith Webb Medal, when the recipient has reached fifty years of continuous membership. There will be no charge assessed for these awards.