



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee – Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

March 2023, A.O. 905



Reminder of Annual Conclave

Grand Commandery Conclave will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023, and will be called to order at 8:00 am CST. Information regarding proposals for consideration as well as hotel and registration can be found on the Grand York Rite Website, [THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF TENNESSEE | \(tngandyorkrite.org\)](http://THEGRANDYORKRITEBODIESOFTENNESSEE|tngandyorkrite.org).

Tennessee Visits Alabama Grand York Rite

Tennessee was well represented at the Alabama Grand York Rite Sessions in February. The Session opened Friday morning with the public introduction of guests, with the banquet that evening. Sir Knight Robert Waldron, Right Eminent Dept Commander, was the winner of a football signed by University of Alabama coach Nick Saban that was auctioned for the York Rite charities that evening. Our thanks to the Grand Bodies of Alabama for their hospitality.



News from the Upper East Battalion

Kingsport Commandery No. 33 used its regular business meeting night in February to have a Ladies Social Night at a local restaurant instead. There were nine Knights with seven ladies in attendance, and it was a great night of fellowship for all. The ladies enjoyed the night so much, they are looking forward to doing this again in the near future.

Submitted by Sir Knight Tim Sutton, EGCG



The First Fundamental Characteristic of a Templar – Character

Last month, I mentioned that the four indispensable and basic characteristics of a Templar are Character, Selflessness, Excellence, and Engagement. This month, we are going to discuss the concept of **Character**.

Character consists of two components, **Integrity** and **Morality**. Integrity is the degree to which our actions match our espoused beliefs. Sometimes it is described as “walking the talk.” Even in the craft Lodge we are prepared for this by hearing our ancient Grand Master affirm that “My life you may take, but my integrity, never.” This is a true statement. Others can take our possessions, our family, our health, and even our lives, but to lose our integrity, we must voluntarily give it away.

This is associated with Stephen Covey’s concept of developing the habit of “proactivity.” Being proactive is the opposite of being a victim. Our society is filled to the brim with victims, those who allow others to control their lives. You see, being a victim is something people choose to do.

One example of this is being offended. It seems that in our society today, we have a lot of folks who are offended by one thing or another. Being offended is bad for us, both psychologically and physically. It causes anger, raises our blood pressure, and generally harms us in the long run. So, if we let others offend us, we are turning our wellbeing over to the person who is offending us. In fact, we can choose not to be offended. This is fundamental to controlling our passions, and choosing not to let others offend us is an unbelievably liberating experience.

What this means is that we choose to have integrity. No one else can make that choice for us. Integrity is a hallmark of the Templar. What he says, he does, every time, no exceptions. We as Templars are bound by his honor as a Knight to keep this constantly on our minds never to let our integrity slip for any reason.

Integrity alone does not constitute character. You see, many of the terrorists we see in our world have very high integrity. They proclaim loudly that “infidels” must convert or die, and then they plot to kill those who disagree with them. That’s high integrity, but it is not character. It lacks morality. Many would have us believe that morality in today’s world is relative, that what is right and wrong depends on the circumstances and your own mood.

In Templary, there should be no confusion about morality. We base our morality squarely and exclusively on the *Holy Bible*, especially the *New Testament*. As American Templars, our two most important documents are the *Holy Bible* and the *Constitution of the United States of America*. We affirm this at every tiled meeting.

Our lives are based as Christians on faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, remember that He never advocated “relative” morality and that He lived an exemplar life of morality upon which we, as Templars, must base our lifestyle. In order to have morality as part of our lifestyle, we must know without question upon what it is based. We must have the internal resolve to “control our passions” and the courage as Templars to resist the forces of evil which constantly assail us in an effort to convince us that it is “okay” to deviate from Divine law, “just this once.”

Next month, we will explore the second fundamental trait of a Knight, Templar, Selflessness.

John L. Palmer, KGT, Grand Generallissimo

Knight named as Assistant Editor

Sir Knight Cody Stiner has been named Assistant Editor of the Tennessee KT News. Sir Knight Stiner is a member of Coeur de Lion No. 9 in Knoxville as well as a member of the East Tennessee Knights Templar Degree Team. In addition, he is active in Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite. We are confident that he will do a fine job as Assistant.