



# Tennessee Knight Templar News

Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

March 2023 | A.O. 905



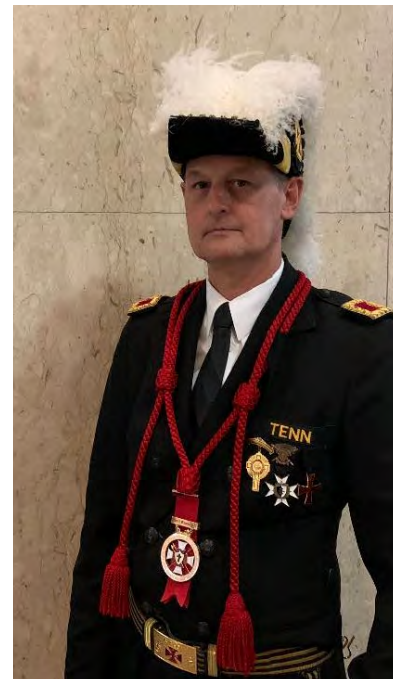
## Honor Guard Represents Tennessee Knights Templar at Grand Lodge Session

Pictured Above - Sir Knights from various commanderies participated as representatives in an honor guard for the reception of honored guests and dignitaries at the 2023 Tennessee Grand Lodge session.

## In This Issue

- General Orders .... 1
- 2023 Officers .... 3
- Upcoming Events .... 4

Pictured Right - Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander



---

# General Orders

---



**Robert B. Beam**  
**Right Eminent Grand Commander**  
**Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee**

## **General Order No. 1**

March 26, 2023

Knoxville, Tennessee

*To the officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, and to the officers and Knights of the Constituent Commanderies thereof:*

Sir Knights,

I am deeply honored for the confidence you have placed in me in electing me to serve as Grand Commander for the coming year. I promise that I will do my best to fulfill the duties of my office and to represent the Knights of Tennessee with honor and dignity. I would also like to thank my Grand officers for agreeing to serve. You have an outstanding group of officers and they are dedicated to serving the order. I ask that you remember us in your prayers this year.

I, along with the other Dias officers, intend to continue the Templar Revitalization Effort begun last year. Some of our Commanderies have begun to implement these ideas, and the result is promising. I encourage each of you to lay aside any doubts you might have. Having endured the trials of the past three years, we are now in a position to move Templary forward in a strong and energetic way.

We will continue our efforts to involve families at our events, and to support our youth organizations of Rainbow and DeMolay. We also will continue to support the covenant made by Grand Master Kussmann to support the Social Order of the Beauceant.

I ask that you look for opportunities to engage in public events of a civic, patriotic, or religious nature; to promote a positive image of our order; and to bring Templary into the public eye. Let your communities know what we, as Christian Masonic Knights, stand for and what our order is about.

We should also look for ways to recognize those Knights who contribute in ordinary ways to help our order. We have so many Knights who do simple things to help our Commanderies run, with no thought of recognition or reward. They do this because they love Templary, and we owe them our thanks.

Finally, we need to continue to support our charities of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and Holy Land Pilgrimage. Each Commandery should hold at least one fundraiser this year for one of these. If you are able to sponsor a minister to the Holy Land, please do so. Our two chairmen, Sir Knight Tim Sutton (Knights Templar Eye Foundation) and Sir Knight Bobby Blankenship (Holy Land Pilgrimage) are always ready to answer questions. Feel free to contact them or one of the grand dias officers at any time.

Knights, again I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Grand Commander.

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam  
RE Grand Commander



Robert B. Beam  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

**General Order No. 2**

March 26, 2023  
Knoxville, Tennessee

*To the officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee,  
and to the officers and Knights of the Constituent Commanderies thereof*

Sir Knights,

"For I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (I Thess. 4:13-18)

As we approach Holy Week and remember the sacrifice of our Lord, we know that the story did not end at the grave. We know that after three days he burst the bands of death and ascended with triumphant majesty to sit at the right hand of the Father. This truth gives us hope. Hope for our own salvation, and hope for the resurrection of the dead. As Christians, we miss those we lose to death, but we do not sorrow in the sense of hopelessness. We are taught that, as Christ rose, so will we rise. Death is not the end.

The ancient Christians greeted each other with the phrase, "the Lord is risen," which was answered by "He is risen indeed!" Let us gather together at some convenient time and engage in appropriate activities, to remember not only the sacrifice of our Savior from sin and death, but the truth of the resurrection and eternal Life. As we celebrate this most holy time of year, let us share that truth with a world living in sorrow and darkness and longing for hope and light.

Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Beam".

Robert B. Beam

RE Grand Commander

# Upcoming Events and Recognitions

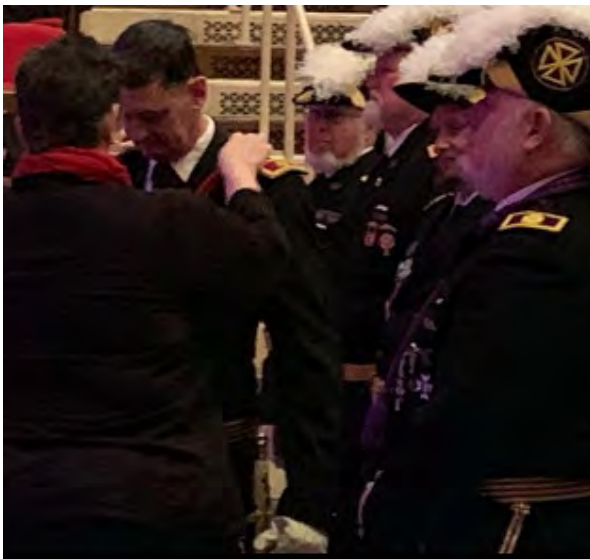
**Sunday April 2** - Baldwin Commandery No. 7 Easter Observance. Shoney's at 814 S Cumberland St, Lebanon, TN 37087. Program to begin at 8am.

**Friday April 7** - Upper East TN Battalion Easter Observance, Watauga Commandery 304 W Watauga Ave. Johnson City, TN. \$15 per person public event. Dinner at 6pm with Easter program to follow.

**Saturday April 8** - Cyprus Commandery Easter Observance. 318 Ellis Ave, Maryville, TN 37804. Meal from 12-3pm with program to follow. Proceeds benefit the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

**Monday April 10** - Coeur de Lion Commandery Easter Observance. Meal at 6pm with program to follow. 505 Locust St, Knoxville, TN 37902.

**Saturday May 20** - Carter Commandery will host a Spaghetti Dinner for the Holy Land Pilgrimage from 4pm to 7pm. Tickets \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Dashiell Masonic Lodge 302 Hwy 67 W, Elizabethton, TN 37643 .



Pictured bottom left - Grand Officers observing as REGC Robert Beam is invested with his insignia by his wife Sharon Beam.

Pictured Top Right - Sir Knight Brian Song (Past Commander Clarksville No. 8) with Eminent Grand Sentinel Steven Young (Past Commander Lookout No. 14) at the 2023 Grand Commandery Conclave on March 21st.

# The Second Fundamental Characteristic of a Templar, Selflessness

Last month we discussed the concept of **Character**, the first of the four indispensable characteristics of a Templar; Character, Selflessness, Excellence, and Engagement. This month we will take a look at the vital Templar trait of **Selflessness**.

This behavior is the consistent and unrelenting behavior of always putting the welfare, happiness, and interests of others above our own. In the Craft Lodge, we affirm that we desire to “learn to subdue our passions.” If you think about it, unsubdued passions are almost always an expression of our own selfishness. Selfishness is a trait that we are all subject to because we are human. As cute, loveable, and adorable as babies are, we must admit that they are totally selfish. With them, it is “all about me.” They are either hungry, wet, sick, uncomfortable, or just unhappy much of the time, especially if things don’t go to suit them. As humans, this is where we all start, and we have to work to learn how to get along with our fellowman.

Many never learn to subdue their passions. For this reason, even some members of our Lodges never really achieve the true character of a Master Mason. A man who is master of himself. This should never be the case with a Templar. The standards of selflessness for a Templar are on a much higher plane, and each of us must constantly strive to focus on this trait, whether we are driving, in a business meeting, waiting on an elevator, or dealing with our irritating relatives and fraternal brethren. This is a constant struggle which never ends.

He who has learned selfless behavior is perceived by others as being a strong individual who should be respected and even admired. Selflessness is always a characteristic of a hero. If we constantly practice the trait of selflessness, there will be no dissension or hard feelings among us which cannot be immediately resolved to every brother’s satisfaction; so, the next time you perceive a conflict among the brethren, ask yourself which one(s) involved have forgotten their responsibilities as a Templar to behave in a selfless manner. Righteous indignation is incompatible with the trait of selflessness. If we seek justice, it should usually be for others who have been wronged, not ourselves.

Also we should always remember never to base our self esteem on the opinions of others. Our self esteem should be based on the degree to which we are able to exhibit the true characteristics of a Templar. Other’s opinions are really not our concern and are usually not worth arguing with them about. This makes for a much more pleasant and satisfying lifestyle.



Next month, we will explore the third fundamental characteristic of a Templar, **Excellence**.

John L. Palmer, KGT, Grand Generallissimo

---

# 2023 Grand Officers

---



**Right Eminent Grand Commander**  
Robert B Beam (9,21) (Sharon)  
200 Tower Dr., Knoxville 37912, 865-898-6409  
robertbeamGCTN@gmail.com



**Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander**  
John Wiseman Simmons, II (31) (Linda)  
215 Garland Street, Memphis, TN 38104  
901-487-7673 drjwsimmons@yahoo.com



**Eminent Grand Generalissimo**  
John Lawrence Palmer (11) (Glenda)  
1113 Oak Creek Drive, Noveltsville, TN 37135  
615-504-3355 john.pgm97@gmail.com



**Eminent Grand Captain General**  
Roy Tillman Sutton, III (19/25/33/37) (Lindsey)  
6110 Temple Star Rd, Kingsport, TN 37660  
423-384-5011 rtsutton3@gmail.com



**Eminent Grand Senior Warden**  
George Webster (9)



**Eminent Grand Junior Warden**  
Ron L. McVey (1) (Christy)



**Eminent Grand Prelate**  
Charles M. "Chuck" Thames PGC (33) (Lindsay)



**Eminent Grand Treasurer**  
George C. Ladd, III (11) (Sherry)  
4521 Turkey Creek Road, Williamsport, TN 38487  
931-682-2263 jrpurs61@outlook.com



**Eminent Grand Recorder**  
Ralph Burks Taylor (1/7/41) (Kathi)  
1016 Nuway Dr., Pleasant View, TN 37146  
615-254-6601 gyrbtn@gmail.com



**Eminent Grand Standard Bearer**  
Jordan Howell



**Eminent Grand Sword Bearer**  
Sean Hamilton (Melanie)



**Eminent Grand Warder**  
Kevin J. Boles (9) (Missy)



**Eminent Grand Sentinel**  
Steven Young (14) (Karina)



**Grand Instructor/Inspector**  
Robert Levoy Peay (11) (Deborah)

---

## Congratulations to our 2023 Grand Officers!

---



[Grand Commandery of Tennessee, @tn\\_commandery](#)



[Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee | Facebook](#)



Submissions - [KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com](mailto:KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com)