



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee – Billy Barnett Young, Grand Commander



Grand Commander's Message

To the Officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee and Constituent Commanderies: Sir Knights,

I am writing this message to all of you on February 21st, 2022. In the coming weeks I will attend the Middle Tennessee York Rite Spring Festival, the Called Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and our Grand Session. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to commend all our Sir Knights for hanging in and working hard to bring a state of normalcy back to Tennessee Templary. To this end we have had an increase in interest and activity among our constituent commanderies. We have also integrated young blood into our leadership statewide. This means a bright future for our Christian Order.

Ideally, we would have had a full inspection schedule and knighted some worthy Sir Knights throughout the state in their home commandery. Because of COVID I had to make a personally painful decision and cancel our inspections. However, this did enable me to spend time with many of our Sir Knights socially, throughout the year. I view this as positive. Many of you shared time with me that I will never forget and always cherish.

As I wrap up my term of office, I want to tell each of you how proud I am of you. I will enjoy following your individual and group progress and successes in the coming years with pride and satisfaction as I transition into the role of a Past Grand Commander. I look forward to meeting you in the future in whatever capacity we meet. I will end this message by simply saying good luck and God Bless each of you.

In His Name,

Billy B. Young

Grand Commander

The **Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery** will be Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at the Grand Lodge Building and will open at 8:00 am CST. Attire is Uniform minus Sword.

Sid C. Dorris Award Luncheon Tickets Still Available

We encourage all Knights who will be at Grand Commandery Conclave to attend the Sid C. Dorris Award Luncheon which will be held Tuesday during the time slot usually reserved for the KYCH Luncheon. This award will be the inaugural for the Award and we will host members of the Grand Encampment. This is also how we can show our appreciation for our Past Grand Commander and Past Grand Master, SK Sid C. Dorris III, in whose memory this award is established. Remember also that this luncheon is open to everyone. Any Knight desiring to do so may make a contribution (\$1,000.00) and receive his medal at the banquet. Contributions are welcome from Commanderies or other Masonic bodies.

Fraternally,

Tennessee Sid Dorris Award Committee



Past Grand Commander Plemmons Elected Grand Preceptor

Congratulations to REPGC Terry L. Plemons who was elected Grand Preceptor of the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests at its annual meeting this past month. SK Plemons is the third Past Grand Commander of Tennessee to serve in this position, following E. Leslie Webb (PGC 1967) who served in 1985, and L. Alvin Hill (PGC 1988) who served in 2017.



hraktp.org, used by permission

Knight Templar Priests is an invitational body for Knights who have served as Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar and continue in good standing; the number of members of any given Tabernacle is limited, as is the number of Tabernacles that can be established in any jurisdiction. The Grand College of America was established in 1933 and since that time, ninety Knights have held the office of Grand Preceptor. As Tennessee Knights, we are very proud of our long tradition of service in this body.

Knoxville Festival Knights Twenty-four

The Knoxville Area Association held their first Festival in two years recently, on January 29 and February 5. The last Festival to be held before this was in January and February of 2020, just before the suspension of meetings and degree work due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. At this Festival, 24 were knighted from the Commanderies of the Knoxville Area.

Pictured lower left and right with the class is SK Justin Huggins, Eminent Grand Sword Bearer and Ill. Grand Captain of the Guard for the Grand Council; and SK Robert Beam, Eminent Grand Generalissimo. We congratulate the new Knights of this class, and look forward to their becoming active York Rite Masons in their local bodies.



Knife and Fork Dinner Raises Funds for Royal Arch AAA

The Fountain City York Rite Bodies in Knoxville held their first annual Knife and Fork Dinner to raise funds for the Grand Chapter of Tennessee's Autism Aid and Assistance program. Eighteen Companions received the "degree" and were presented with a pin to commemorate their participation, and nearly \$700 was raised for our philanthropy. AAA provides financial support to families who have been affected by autism, and was established by MEPGHP Richard Petty. For more information on how to support AAA, contact the Grand Recorder's Office.

