



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee – John Calvin Spencer, Grand Commander



Social Order of the Beauceant at Grand Commandery Installation

The Grand Commandery of Tennessee was pleased to have with us at our Grand Installation, Susan (Mrs. Charles) Thames, Supreme Worthy President, Social Order of the Beauceant. The Social Order of the Beauceant is an organization founded in 1892 during the 25th Triennial as a way for the wives of the Knights of the Commandery in Denver, Colorado, to support the Commandery in hosting the Triennial. It has not only maintained, but has expanded that purpose over the past 130 years. Today the Social Order of the Beauceant (S.O.O.B) has as their main charitable activity, support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The Order is open to the female relatives of Templar Knights or relatives of the members of the Order.



At the 2021 Supreme Assembly held in Kingsport, Susan Thames, wife of our own SK Chuck Thames PGC, was elected Supreme Worthy President. This is the first time the office has been held by a Tennessean. Mrs. Thames has traveled extensively along with SK Thames, and we were honored to have her present at the Installation of Officers for our Grand Commandery Conclave in March.

Also present was our newly-elected Most Eminent Grand Master, SK David Kussmann, as well as our RE Grand Recorder and RE Grand Treasurer. We are pleased that they were able to be with us for the entire Conclave.



For more information about the Social Order of the Beauceant, visit the website [The Social Order of the Beauceant | SOOB by Dan Pushee \(orderofbeauceant.org\)](http://TheSocialOrderoftheBeauceant.com) and contact the Grand Recorder.

Thank you to the members of the Order for their support of Templary!

Holy Land Pilgrimage Socks Still Available

Socks are still available for purchase to support the Holy Land Pilgrimage. There are three styles, although not all styles may have the same availability. Purchase of these socks supports our efforts to send ministers to the Holy Land, where they are able to walk where our Savior walked and gain a better understanding of the places and events depicted in Scripture. For purchase information, contact SK Bobby Blankenship or contact the Grand Recorder's Office.

Thank you for your continued support of our Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund.

The Month of May – Americanism, Law, and our Armed Forces

Memorial Day, as we know, is when we honor remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. In addition to Memorial Day, however, there are other observances related to law and order in May. These are Loyalty Day, Law Day, Public Service Recognition Day, and Armed Forces Day.

Loyalty Day, observed May 1st, originated as Americanization Day in the 1921, and was a response against the Communist Red Scare of that period; the date was specifically chosen to counter International Workers’ Day which was identified with Communist Revolutions aimed at overthrowing our capitalist system. Loyalty Day was codified in 1958 “in appreciation of their liberties and the reaffirmation of their loyalty to the United States and for recognition of the heritage of American Freedom.” On this day, we as citizens should rededicate ourselves to the principles of Americanism.

Coincident with Loyalty Day is Law Day, also May 1st. This observance recognizes the importance of our legal and judicial system and “the ideals of equality and justice under law.” Law Day was established at the same time as Loyalty Day and “has been a visible part of American legal culture since President Dwight D. Eisenhower established it in 1958 to celebrate the rule of law in a free society.” While Loyalty Day draws our attention to the broader aspects of Americanism, in the context of Law Day we focus specifically on the role of our legal system and the role of the judiciary in protecting American liberty.

Public Service Recognition Week the first week of May, is for those who are federal, state, or local government employees. According to a Presidential Proclamation issued 29 April of this year, “(d)uring Public Service Recognition Week, we honor the dedicated Federal, State, Tribal, and local public servants who embody the spirit of service and endless possibilities that define America.” This has been observed since 1985.

Moving forward, we find observances specifically directed to our military. Armed Forces Day, May 20th, replaces the individual days of the branches of the Armed Forces (excepting the Marine Corps) and is a single day for citizens to thank all members of the military for their service. Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which occurs earlier, reminds us of the sacrifices shared by the families of our servicemembers. Armed Forces Day originated in 1950 following the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947.

Memorial Day (last Monday in May), as is well known, is a day to remember those who have fallen in service. However, it is also intended to call on the American people to “unite in prayer for permanent peace,” and “to encourage citizens to dedicate themselves to the values and principles” for which they died. Memorial Day is perhaps the most solemn civil day in our national calendar. Originating out of literally the ashes of the Civil War, it has expanded to include all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

As Masons we are taught to respect law and order; also, many in our Fraternity are in legal, governmental, law enforcement, or military professions. As we observe these several days, we should rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice, liberty, and respect for law. By promoting these ideals we help make our nation stronger and make our society better for everyone.

References:

- “A Proclamation on Law Day, U.S.A., 2022.” *The White House*, 28 Apr. 2022, www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/04/28/a-proclamation-on-law-day-u-s-a-2022/. Accessed 9 May 2022.
- “A Proclamation on Public Service Recognition Week, 2022.” *The White House*, 29 Apr. 2022, www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/04/29/a-proclamation-on-public-service-recognition-week-2022/. Accessed 9 May 2022.
- “History of Law Day.” *Americanbar.org*, 2022, www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/law-day/history-of-law-day/. Accessed 9 May 2022.
- “History of Memorial Day | All about Memorial Day History.” *Www.usmemorialday.org*, www.usmemorialday.org/history-of-memorial-day.
- “Law Day.” *United States Courts*, www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/law-day.
- “Public Service Recognition Week - Honoring Our Public Servants.” *U.S. Office of Personnel Management*, www.opm.gov/about-us/our-mission-role-history/public-service-recognition-week/. Accessed 9 May 2022.