

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

Tennessee Knight Templar News

Sir Knight Robert B. Beam, KCT, Right Eminent Grand Commander
October A.D. 2023 / A.O. 905



Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KYCH



Pictured Above
Collier Hopson,
Eminent
Commander of
Murfreesboro #10
and Henry Bain
#10/40, recipient
of the 2022-23
Knights Templar
Cross of Honor

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Pictured Above:
Seven Past Grand
Commanders,
including current
Right Eminent Grand
Commander Robert
B. Beam, attending
the Commandery
inspection of
Baldwin #7.

From the Grand Generalissimo

John L. Palmer, GCT

Christian Chivalric Values

Part 1

Earlier this summer, I was reading my copy of the Masonic Services Association's *Short Talk Bulletin* and came across a two part article about the legend of St. George and the dragon written by my dear friend, Richard Van Doren. It is an interesting article about the allegory, and I recommend it to all Sir Knights if you can get a copy from your Lodge or find it on line. At the end of the article, he set forth a list of "Christian Chivalric Values" which, with his permission, I would like to share with you and elaborate on over the next few months in this newsletter.

I have already shared with you the four characteristics of a true Knight Templar; character, selflessness, excellence, and engagement; and now I would like to share with you the things that the same Templar values the most. The first of these is, "***A firm belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and his church.***"

I became a Freemason in 1970 at the age of twenty-one after having been an active DeMolay since about 1963. My wife, who married me shortly after I was initiated, will tell you that I have been active and engaged in Freemasonry ever since.

I became a Christian in the small Baptist church in which I was essentially raised several years before I became a DeMolay, so joining the Commandery in 1972 was a no-brainer for me and was delayed only long enough for me to raise the necessary fees. My first office in the Masonic fraternity was as Sword Bearer of Cumberland Commandery, and I remember thinking at the time that Commandery ritual and tactics were so much more complicated than the ritual of the Blue Lodge and that maybe I should just focus on Craft Lodge Masonry.

As fate would have it, I moved to another city to work and came under the tutelage of two older Templars who immediately also engaged me in the work of the Commandery. Looking back, it seems that my destiny must have been Templar involvement, because in 1978, the Grand Commander appointed me Grand Sentinel of the Grand Commandery, in which office, I served for twelve years, during which time, one of my mentors became Grand Commander. Shortly after I retired from the workforce, another Templar friend offered me the opportunity to edit the Grand Encampment *Knight Templar* magazine, which I did for the next thirteen years.

I share all this so that I can relate how modern Templary and the chivalric lifestyle has become a passion for me and a major focal point for my entire life.

To many of our Masonic Brethren, the Commandery is simply a continuation of the Masonic experience, just another set of degrees to be enjoyed, dues cards to be carried, and another set of titles behind their names; but to me, the idea of actually being a Christian Knight is much more.

Many of our Masonic Templar Brethren see the Commandery as Masonic first and Christian second. I hold the opposite view that, as a Templar, I am first a Christian and then also a Freemason. So this value of ***a firm belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and his church*** is, I believe, of paramount importance to the true Templar.

I know Masonic Brethren who have decided that Freemasonry is their religion and that the Lodge is their church, in spite of the fact that the Lodge and its teachings repeatedly emphasize that Freemasonry is neither a religion nor a substitute therefor. This is sad, but I know not how to correct it.

When you enter the York Rite, you enter a world that expands on the symbolism contained in the

Masonic initiatory experience, and your horizons are expanded beyond the third degree into a study of the relationship of man to his creator, but when you receive the Order of Malta in the Commandery you move from that world into a world that is focused on Jesus Christ as Jehovah's instrument to reach out to his creation and bring them into his fold. At this point, you re-enter the world of religion, not Masonic religion, but rather Christian religion as manifested in his church, not the Lodge. As a Templar, you are placed in a special position in support of the Christian religion, His holy church, and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth,

This is an awesome responsibility, and if we are to live up to it, we are committed to a continuous struggle to live up to the standards of a Christian Knight. The demands on us as Christian Knights are far more strenuous than those made on a Christian who is not a Knight and much more demanding than those made on a Knight who is not a Christian. If you think that you can be a Templar without being a dedicated, active Christian, you are mistaken. This value must remain paramount in the list of Templar values.

I am convinced that we have members, perhaps many members, who are Christian in name only. They do not contribute to the wellbeing of the Church in any way. They are simply observers. Most of these are also not engaged in Templary beyond the paying of dues and perhaps contributing to our charities. While these may be members, they are not really Templars, and they are a liability rather than an asset to our institution. I would also hasten to add that there are probably among our members those who are true Templars at heart, but who have seen that our Commanderies are doing little or nothing in support of Christianity or the development of the Christian Chivalric lifestyle. If you are among these, I plead with you to assist us in revitalizing our Commanderies by engaging with your Commandery during this time of transformation.

We are in the process of making some fundamental changes in the way Templary is conducted in Tennessee. Christianity is relevant in today's world. Templary is relevant in the Christian world. We want to ensure that Tennessee Templary is relevant in the world of Christianity, in the world of Freemasonry, in our communities, in our families, and in our personal lives. Don't you want to be a part of that?

Next month we will chat about the Christian Chivalric value of "courage to confront evil." Stay tuned.

As always, if I can assist you in any way, I can be contacted at:

john.pgm97@gmail.com or (615) 504-3355 Cell

If I do not answer, leave a voice mail, I am sometimes slow on the draw.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Palmer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

Excerpt from the Grand Commandery Knights Templar Tennessee Constitution

Malta Jewel

Section 86. A Malta Pin of current design, available from the Grand Encampment Office, shall be worn centered over the wearer's left pocket. (Option instead of 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 1-inch wide. On the left panel shall be a miniature Red Cross Jewel, on the center panel shall be centered a miniature Malta Jewel, and on the right panel, shall be a Templar Cross with a Cross and crown in the center.)



This ribbon and cross design is the most common version of the jewel you will see worn all across the country. It has been the standard for many years. As you can see, the jewel pictured here has two bars added to it to depict the state and Commandery name with its number.

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Encampment, this jewel was designed and released in 2016. The detail and intricacies of this jewel are exemplary and this version of the jewel is a great addition to any Sir Knight's uniform.

The metal ribbon bar looks great on the Class "A" uniform but is also a great item to utilize outside the Asylum. Wearing this ribbon bar to your Blue Lodge or out in your day to day life could be a great conversation starter and assist you in bringing new Sir Knights into your Commandery.

Commandery Inspections

Date	Time	Commandery	Location
Friday, October 13	7pm EST	Kingsport 33 St. Omer 19 Watauga 25	Kingsport
Saturday, October 14	10am EST	Carter 37 Greeneville 43	Elizabethton
Friday, October 27	7pm EST	Cyprus 23	Maryville
Saturday, October 28	10am EST	Chevalier 21 Campbell County 44	Oak Ridge
	3pm EST	Coeur de Lion 9 (Homecoming)	Knoxville

** All Saturday Inspections will be at 10am and 3pm, breakfast/lunch at 9am/2pm local time

INSPECTIONS 2023



MANCHESTER #40



MURFREESBORO #10



CUMBERLAND #26



NASHVILLE #1



BALDWIN #7

#	Commandery	City	Stated
1	Nashville	Nashville	3rd Monday @ 8pm
7	Baldwin	Lebanon	2nd Monday @ 7pm
8	Clarksville	Clarksville	3rd Monday @ 7:30pm
9	Coeur de Lion	Knoxville	2nd Monday @ 7pm
10	Murfreesboro	Murfreesboro	2nd Monday @ 7pm
			Even Months and Nov
11	De Payens	Franklin	2nd Monday @ 7pm
13	Jackson	Jackson	1st Thursday @ 7pm
14	Lookout	Chattanooga	3rd Thursday @ 7pm
16	Paris	Paris	3rd Monday @ 7pm
			Jan, Feb, May, June, Aug, Sept, Nov, Dec
19	St. Omer	Bristol	4th Monday @ 7pm
21	Chevalier	Oak Ridge	4th Monday @ 7pm
			Except Mar, May, and Dec
23	Cyprus	Maryville	3rd Tuesday @ 7pm
			After RA or CM
25	Watauga	Johnson City	3rd Tuesday @ 7:30pm
26	Cumberland	Cookeville	1st Thursday @ 6:30pm
29	Union City	Union City	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm
31	Park Avenue	Memphis	2nd Thursday @ 7pm
			Even Months
33	Kingsport	Kingsport	4th Tuesday @ 7pm
34	Athens	Athens	2nd Thursday @ 6:30pm
36	Lexington	Lexington	2nd Tuesday @ 6pm
37	Carter	Elizabethton	3rd Thursday @ 7pm
38	Plateau	Crossville	4th Thursday @ 7pm
			4th Friday in Nov
39	Rosemark	Millington	1st Saturday @ 9am
			After CM #131
40	Manchester	Manchester	3rd Thursday @ 7pm
			Even Months and Nov
41	Dickson	Dickson	4th Tuesday @ 6:30pm
			After CM #107
42	Cyrene	Dayton	4th Tuesday @ 8:30pm
			After CM #140
43	Greeneville	Greeneville	4th Monday @ 7pm
44	Campbell County	LaFollette	2nd Monday @ 7pm
			Even Months

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Submissions - KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com

MISSION

The mission of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee is to provide every Christian Freemason in Tennessee the opportunity and resources to develop, be engaged in, and exemplify a Christian chivalric lifestyle.

THE VISION OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

The Knights of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee are a group of men who share the Christian faith, exemplary character, a dedication to excellence and the service of others, and a desire to share the chivalric experience with other Christian Freemasons. Our Knights are actively engaged with one another in accomplishing this goal and in maintaining this standard of lifestyle and behavior.

Request for Submissions!

Sir Knights - We need submissions for the Tennessee Knight Templar News. Is your Commandery going to confer any of the orders soon? Did you have some sort of unusual or fun event? Send us an article to share with the other Tennessee Knights and include photos if you have them.

We would also like to have your thoughts and ideas about how we can make Tennessee Templary more fun and exciting. Send us an article!

Please send news and events going on in your Commandery to:

KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com