



Tennessee Knight Templar News

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



Pictured Above Left (l-r):
Lucas McAfee, Order of the Spur recipient,
Derek Adamson, Coeur de Lion #9 Commander,
Jim Yoder, Order of the Spur recipient,
Right Eminent Grand Commander Robert B. Beam.

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Pictured Above Right:
Right Eminent Grand Commander Robert B. Beam with Ms. Tara B. Shulas, Supreme Worthy President of Supreme Assembly, Social Order of the Beauceant.

Pictured Above Center:
Members of Kingsport Assembly No. 244 were pleased to initiate Mrs. (Jake) Audrey Conn at the official visit of Ms. Tara B. Shulas on Oct. 23, 2023.



ROBERT B. BEAM
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

December Message from the Grand Commander



November 30, 2023
Knoxville, TN

Sir Knights,

The Christmas season is upon us, and soon we will begin observing Advent within the Christian calendar. The celebration of Advent reminds us of hope, faith, joy, peace, and the victory through Christ over sin and death. It reminds us to celebrate the entire season of Christmas.

In our Commanderies, we will hold our Christmas observances as well as our annual election of officers. These are opportunities to invite our families and friends to let them see what our order is about. Also, as we enter a new Templar year, it is a time to set goals for our Commanderies and implement new ideas that will enhance the Templar experience.

On behalf of the grand officers, I wish each of you a merry Christmas. May the peace of our Lord and the light of his presence be with you always.

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam
RE Grand Commander



**ROBERT B. BEAM
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE**

General Order No. 4

November 30, 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,

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying... The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. (Matthew 4:13-14,17)

The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of a prophecy that the light of hope and eternal life had come to overcome the darkness of death and despair. All around us, daily, we are reminded of this darkness. In the days of Isaiah, it was the darkness of war, oppression, poverty, and fear. In the days when Christ was born, it was Roman oppression and fear of the loss of national identity. Today, it is the darkness of "wars and rumors of wars," of poverty and injustice. It is a darkness for neighbors who live without hope.

As Christians, we have hope. We have the light of God's love and the promise of redemption from sin and of eternal life. The Apostle John wrote, "And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not" (John 1:5). We have the opportunity to share this light with those around us, by word and by deed, to those who live in the shadow of death and despair.

I call upon each Commandery to assemble together at some convenient hour and engage in appropriate activities during this holy season, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and to remember that the light has overcome the darkness.

I, along with the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery, wish each of you a joyous and blessed Christmas season, one filled with light, hope, and peace.

Courteously,
Robert B. Beam
RE Grand Commander

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From the Grand Generalissimo

John L. Palmer, GCT
Christian Chivalric Values
Part 3

In the October issue, we began a series of articles on the "**Christian Chivalric Values**" as set forth by Sir Knight Richard Van Dorn, the first of which is, "*A firm belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and his church.*" Last month we discussed the second of these values, "*The courage to confront evil despite the odds of success.*" The third value is "*A commitment to those less fortunate.*"

This is an area where our order exceeds expectations and provides a shining example for our society. As an organization, the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the U.S.A. has three "official" charitable programs; the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, and the Knights Templar Educational Foundation.

The best known of these is probably the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. When I first became a Knight, this foundation almost exclusively paid for surgery to correct crossed eyes in children who could not afford the surgery. Local Sir Knights administered the program, helped the family with the paperwork, and coordinated with the surgeon. It was a very labor intensive process, but very rewarding for the Knights who participated directly.

Research funded by the Foundation eventually resulted in a treatment which almost entirely eliminated the need for these surgeries, and the focus shifted to providing funding for seniors who needed cataract surgery and could not afford it. After some time, it became evident that this assistance had evolved to helping recipients in only a few states. Also, federal and state healthcare laws significantly reduced the need. In 2010, the board of directors, observing the success they had previously had in funding the research which eliminated the need for surgery in children, decided to take a bold step and change the focus to funding research with the hope of eliminating eye diseases of all kinds. This new focus has been wildly successful. The foundation funds starter grants for young researchers who have not yet established themselves enough to be able to obtain grants from other sources. It also has established endowed professorship programs and research endowments at leading research universities and teaching hospitals. The Foundation also participates in direct patient care through the Seniors Eye Care Program in partnership with EyeCare America and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Since its inception, the foundation has provided \$170,000,000 in assistance including \$36,000,000 in research funding and \$6,000,000 in endowments.

Our Knights become sponsors of the foundation by contributing \$30 to the endowments, but there are many levels of giving, up to the Grand Master's Sword of Merit which is awarded for a donation of \$25,000 or more. We are proud that

every single Sir Knight in our volunteer state is an eye sponsor. Our Tennessee chairman for the Eye Foundation is Sir Knight Tim Sutton who can be contacted at rtsutton3@gmail.com or (423) 384-5011.

My personal favorite Templar program is the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. The purpose is to strengthen Christian ministry in our own neighborhoods by providing an intensive travel and study program for credentialed ministers who would not have the opportunity otherwise in the form of a study pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This Biblical study and historical and cultural immersion experience is provided to local Christian ministers in our area at the expense of the Sir Knights. It is administered and funded locally by our Knights, but the actual travel is taken care of by our national committee. There is a state-wide endowment for this purpose, and some of our commanderies fund their own pilgrim minister each year. The chairman for this program in Tennessee is Sir Knight Bobby Blankenship who can be contacted at yrblex@gmail.com or (731) 571-1104.

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation provides financial assistance to students. These scholarships are open to all students regardless of their financial circumstances. In 1922, the Grand Encampment launched the Knights Templar Educational Foundation which was sustained and perpetuated by each Sir Knight paying annually the sum of \$1.00 for a period of nine years beginning July 1, 1924. Through the years the fund has grown, and Scholarships are available in several states, including Tennessee. The Knights Templar Educational Foundation has assisted more than 80,000 students for an aggregate monetary value of over \$38,000,000 through Loans and Scholarships to deserving youth. This program in Tennessee is administered by Past Grand Commander Jack Akard who can be contacted at repgc@yahoo.com or (865) 475-4357.

As you can see, as Tennessee Templars we have much to be proud of. Every Commandery and every Sir Knight in Tennessee should be actively involved in these charities. Are you?

Next month we will chat about the Christian Chivalric value of “**A desire to do what is right and modestly disclaim personal aggrandizement.**” 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

From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Charles M. Thames, REPGC

We as Knights Templar are so blessed to be in possession of the greatest story ever told, and Chapter 2 in the gospel of Luke is where the story begins:

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (vs 1-14).

This is where we as Christians go for the story of Christmas, the true story of our Lord and Savior Jesus, which was prophesied throughout the Old Testament. In the book of Isaiah, Chapter 9:6: *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”*

Knights Templar refer to Him as Blessed Emmanuel, the Great Captain of our Salvation. May every Sir Knight and their family have a blessed and merry Christmas, and may the God of love and peace continue to bless our Fraternity.

In His Service,
Charles M. Thames, PGC
Eminent Grand Prelate

News and Notes

Appalachia Commandery UD

On November 15th, 2023, a dispensation was granted by Right Eminent Grand Commander, Robert B. Beam, to establish a new Commandery in the Knoxville area. Its first meeting was held inside Bright Hope Lodge #557 in the Fountain City community of Knoxville. There was a great turn out with seventeen Sir Knights present, including eight Past Commanders. Among the Past Commanders present were Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Michael Weems and the Right Eminent Grand Commander Robert Beam.

The Charter Officers will be:

Eminent Commander: Kevin Boles

Generalissimo: Jesse Harper

Captain General: Lucas McAfee

Treasurer: Michael Tesoro

Secretary: Robert Beam



DePayens Commandery Reviews Recruiting Options

In lieu of its November stated business meeting, DePayens sponsored a meeting to review the various recruiting presentations and videos available so it could decide what would work best in the Lodges near it. Sir Knights Hayden Bilyeu and Scott Medsker were the presenters, and petitioners and prospective Knights were invited so that they could provide their input. The meeting was preceded by a meal, and attendance and participation was encouraging.

Murfreesboro Honors Veterans:

On Saturday, November 11th, Sir Knights from Murfreesboro Commandery #10 in uniform and led by Right Eminent Sir Knight Robert Waldron, Department Commander, presented colors at Thurman Francis Salute to Veterans. The event was held at Thurman Francis Arts Academy and Magnet School in Smyrna, Tennessee. There were over one thousand in attendance, and the Knights were very well received.



Templar Fellowship in the Southwest Battalion!

On November 4th, Rosemark and Park Avenue Commanderies hosted a bonfire and hayride for Knights, Brothers, and their families interested in joining the York Rite. DeMolay groups and their families were also invited. Petitions were passed out and questions answered. Everyone had really good fellowship, food, and fun. It was such a success that they are planning one for next year around the same time!



****Save the Date****

March 2024: Grand York Rite - Nashville, TN

March 24th- Divine Service

March 25th- Grand Chapter and Grand Council sessions

March 26th- Grand Commandery Conclave

If you have never had the opportunity to attend the Grand York Rite sessions that take place every March in Nashville, then I highly encourage you to make plans now to attend next year. There are great things on the horizon for our fraternity, and attending the grand sessions will give you a front row seat to witness our magnanimous order in action.

June 2024: Southeastern Department Conference - Alcoa(Knoxville), TN

June 14th- General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council Meetings

June 15th- Grand Encampment Meeting

I had the opportunity to attend the Southeastern Department Conference this past June in Alabama, and it was an outstanding and unforgettable experience. Admittedly, I was under the impression that these types of conferences were only for past or current grand officers, but I assure you that there is something for everyone there. In all honesty, these types of conferences could potentially have more impact on newer members than they do for our more seasoned Sir Knights. The topics are both educational and informative. One of the most crucial things that can be attained is learning which ideas work and which ones do not for the other states in our region. It is also a great opportunity to network with other Companions and Sir Knights from across the country.

Another event that coincides with the Grand Encampment session is the opportunity to attend one of the York Rite leadership courses. These courses are free of charge and are open to anyone affiliated with the Masonic fraternity in any way, including the organizations for women and children. These courses were started in 2008 by Tennessee's own John Palmer and have expanded greatly over last fifteen years. To attend one of the classes, you must register ahead of time on the York Rite Leadership website: yorkriteleadership.org

August 2024: 69th Triennial Conclave- Salt Lake City, UT

August 17th- Drill Competition

August 18th- Church Service

August 19th- Triennial Conclave

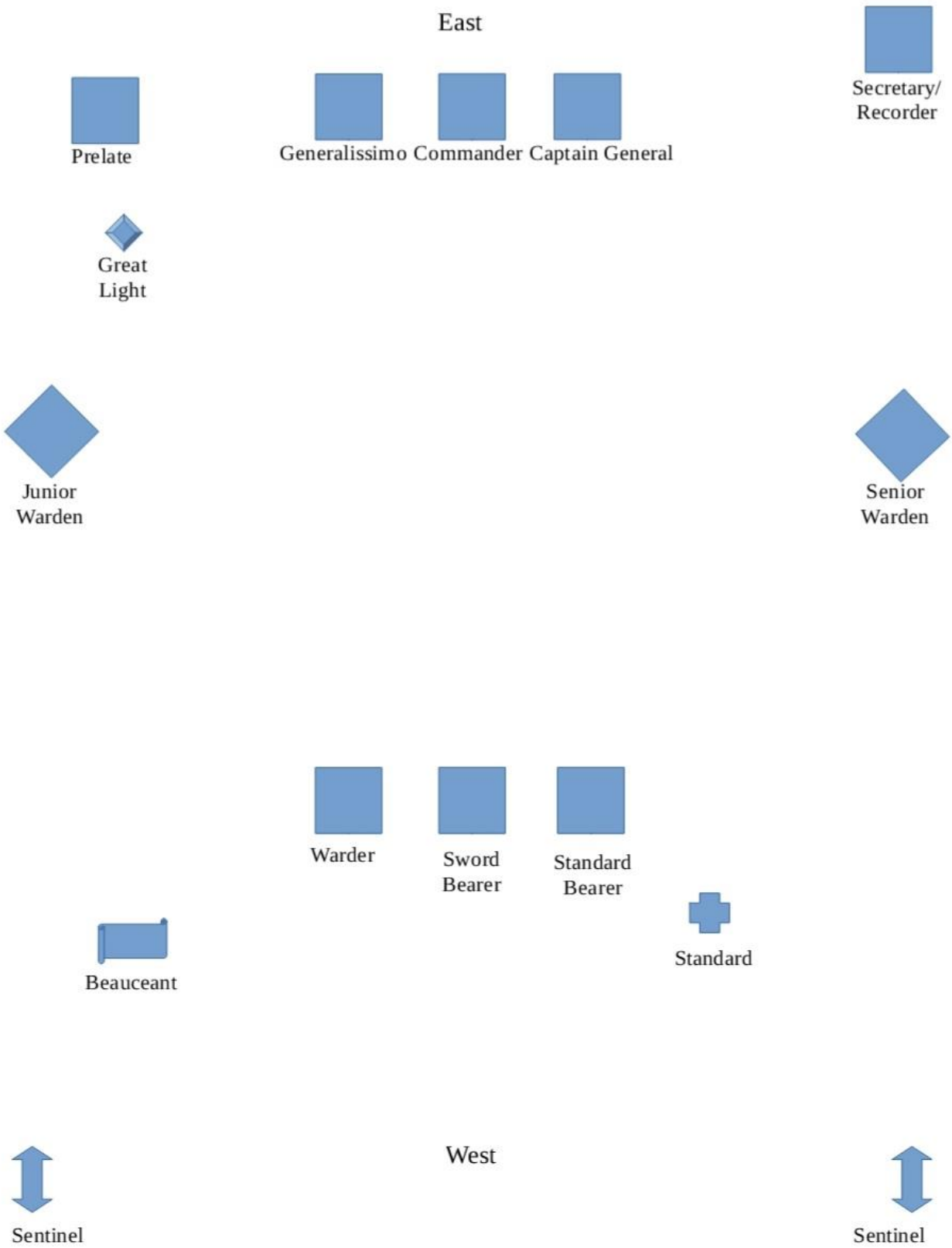
August 20th- Triennial Conclave

The Grand Encampment Triennial will take place next summer in Utah. While I have never had the opportunity to attend one of these events, I am anxiously awaiting being able to travel there next year. As you can see, the events of the Triennial are spread out over a number of days. The plan, as of now, is for there to be a group of Sir Knights from Tennessee who compete in the drill competition. There will be more details released about that at a later date.

Keep an eye out on the Grand Encampment website and this newsletter for details to be released as they become available. The Grand Encampment website is: knightstemplar.org

Stated Conclaves

| First Thursday: | | Second Monday | |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Jackson #13 | 07:00 PM | Baldwin #7 | 07:00 PM |
| Cumberland #26 | 06:30 PM | Eat @ 6:00 | |
| Eat @ 5:30 | | Coeur de Lion #9 | 07:00 PM |
| | | Murfreesboro #10 | 07:00 PM |
| | | **Even Months and Nov** | |
| | | DePayens #11 | 07:00 PM |
| | | Campbell County #44 | 07:00 PM |
| | | **Even Months** | |
| | | | |
| First Saturday: | | Second Tuesday: | |
| Rosemark #39 | 09:00 AM | Union City #29 | 07:00 PM |
| **After CM #131** | | Lexington #36 | 06:00 PM |
| | | | |
| | | Second Thursday: | |
| | | Athens #34 | 06:30 PM |
| | | | |
| Third Monday: | | Fourth Monday: | |
| Nashville #1 | 08:00 PM | St Omer #19 | 07:00 PM |
| Eat @ 6:00. After Council @ 6:30 | | Eat @ 6:00 | |
| Clarksville #8 | 07:30 PM | Chevalier #21 | 07:00 PM |
| Paris #16 | 07:00 PM | **Except Mar, May, and Dec** | |
| **Jan, Feb, May, June** | | Park Ave #31 | 07:00 PM |
| **Aug, Sept, Nov, Dec** | | After Chapter or Council. Eat @ 6:00 | |
| Appalachia U.D | 07:00 PM | | |
| | | Greeneville #43 | 07:00 PM |
| Third Tuesday: | | Fourth Tuesday: | |
| Cyprus #23 | 07:00 PM | Kingsport #33 | 07:00 PM |
| **After RA or CM** | | Dickson #41 | 06:30 PM |
| Watauga #25 | 07:30 PM | **After CM #107** | |
| Eat @ 6:00 | | Cyrene #42 | 08:30 PM |
| Third Thursday: | | **After CM #140** | |
| Lookout #14 | 07:00 PM | | |
| Carter #37 | 07:00 PM | Fourth Thursday: | |
| Manchester #40 | 07:00 PM | Plateau #38 | 07:00 PM |
| **Even Months and Nov** | | **4th Fri in Nov** | |



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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