

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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**The Arizona Knights Templar
Holy Land Pilgrimage Program**

Robert C. Richards, PGC



Masonry has many wonderful charitable and helping programs. One of our most exciting programs is the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage program which has been in existence since 1977. It is sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A. and state Holy Land Pilgrimage committees.

The mission of this program is to send Ministers on an educational trip to Israel to see and study the sites and events that took place as Christ traveled through Israel. Ministers travel "In the Footsteps of Jesus". The sites include the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jerusalem.

Reverend Donald Monson, PGC, brought Arizona up to speed with the Pilgrimage by establishing the Annual Banquet. SK Joe Cortez PGC continued the program. SK Bob Richards PGC began chairing the committee in 2014, sending 9 Ministers so far. SK John and Leilani Forrest sponsor the AZ to JFK flights. The SK Gary Carnicle family has also sponsored flights.

Arizona Grand Commandery has a very successful program sending Ministers every year. This year we sent two ministers: Rev. Andrew Ross from Tucson and Rev. Brian Van Dyke from Kingman. Rev. Van Dyke said "I am very grateful for the opportunity given by the Knights Templar to visit the Holy Land and to see and experience for myself where the stories of our faith took place and where our Lord and Savior Jesus walked, taught, did miracles and served mankind. Thank you!"

My daughter, Siobhan Warren, was selected from the state of Illinois to go on this year's trip. As she and other ministers congregated at a rendezvous spot at JFK, conversations broke out about how wonderful the Knights Templar/Masons are to sponsor such a program. This is a great thing that we do!

We fund this program almost entirely from donations given at the Holy Land Banquet held during the Arizona Grand Sessions. We have not been fortunate, like other states, to have a benefactor bequest a large fund to insure the future of our program. Please consider making a legacy gift through estate planning to ensure the longevity of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. Regular donations to the AZ HLP are to a 501c3 tax deductible organization. Contact Bob Richards for information at 520-529-2465 or rc-richards@mn.com. There are also trips for Sir Knights and family and a Senior Trip (including limited mobility). See at: http://www.kemerly.com/Freemasonry/KT/HLP/Holy_Land_Pilgrimage_INTRO.htm.

The 2020 Arizona Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee consists of the following Sir Knights: Bob Richards REPGC – Chairman, George Weil, EGR, David Stankow, HPGC and Andrew Sanders PC. SK Darrell D. Mandrell RE Grand Commander oversees the committee.



Ezra Eini, our professional tour guide, speaking to a Pilgrimage group at Chorazin: "You have been reading the Bible in black and white. After this tour, you will be reading it in color."