



Washington Supplement
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Greetings, Sir Knights--We are now progressing through the new year of 2020. Sometimes when we try to progress to advance and grow our Commanderies we do so with too much haste and too little caution. In that haste, we sometimes overlook the details of our Grand Encampment Constitution & Statutes and our Grand Commandery Constitution, causing possible errors in judgement. To refresh our knowledge regarding the issue of Petitions for the Orders of Knighthood, I have chosen to review the qualifications for Petitioners for the Orders of Knighthood, within this article. As a reminder to all Sir Knights, of and within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington, the following excerpt from the Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and Approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America (2016 Edition), Chapter XI, Commanderies-Election of Candidates and Members (Qualifications of Petitioners) is provided for information and strict conformance to:

“Section 177. Anyone,

(a) Who is a Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason affiliated in both Lodge and Chapter; or who is an affiliated Master Mason, and who has petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Capitular Degrees, (provided, however, that none of the Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred upon said Petitioner until he shall have received the Royal Arch Degree; and in Grand Commanderies requiring the Cryptic Degrees as prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, who is a Royal and Select Master Mason, or has petitioned a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the Cryptic Degrees, (provided, however, that none of the Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred upon said Petitioner until he shall

have received the Select Master Degree); and (1958, p. 5)
(b) Who is a firm believer in the Christian religion; and
(c) Who is physically able to conform to the ceremonies of the Order or whose physical inability to so conform shall have been waived by Dispensation of the Grand Commander in the case of a Constituent Commandery or of the Grand Master in the case of a Subordinate Commandery; and (1949, p. 389-394)
(d) Who, immediately prior to the date of his Petition, has resided for at least one year within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery within which is located the Constituent Commandery petitioned, and for at least six months within the Jurisdiction of such Commandery; or for at least one year within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment and for at least six months within the Jurisdiction of the Subordinate Commandery petitioned; or who is a Sojourner on whom the Commandery having Jurisdiction has waived such Jurisdiction; or who is a member of the Active Army, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the National Aeronautical Space Agency of the United States and has resided within the Jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned for at least six months immediately prior to the date of his Petition is eligible to Petition for the Orders of Knighthood (1940, p. 255) (1955, p. 547-548) (1964, p. 321-322).”

May the Blessing of GOD, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost be upon you and your families.

“Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam”

Sir Knight *W. Gary Norton*

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington