

Connecticut

S.K. Michael E. Seamon
Grand Commander



Knighly News

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Greetings my Fellow Soldiers in Christ;

As you recall before the holidays, I had been discussing "The 12 Most famous Medieval Knights" The last knight we spoke of was EL Cid! The next most famous Sir Knight is Sir William Marshal. Some have said "He was the greatest Knight that ever lived". Sir William Marshal was born in 1146 and lived 73 years and died in 1219, that to me is impressive! The fact he lived so many years! In those days, I am sure very few would attain that age! What may explain his longevity may be the fact he was born to some privilege. Although after King Stephen besieged his family's castle, his father was forced to give William up as a hostage, at the tender age of 6 years old. But as it turns out he was made a Royal Ward! Sir William proved himself Proficient at tactics and was Knighted in 1166. Sir William earned his fortune in Medieval tournaments with over 500 victories in 16 undefeated years. In 1168 Sir William began his political career when Eleanor of Aquitaine employed him as a tutor to a young Henry. William served Henry II from 1180 to 1223. From 1188 to 1189 William distinguished himself in battle against Phillip II of France. In a twist, the Kings two rebellious sons had aligned themselves for a period of time with Phillip, and at one point, Sir William Marshal came across the young Sir Richard I in battle! When Sir William had subdued the young Richard I! He did what a good Knight would do! And extended mercy to Richard I! And instead of killing him, killed his horse! Good for Richard I but not the horse!

In 1189 Sir William Marshal married well, and through this marriage became the Earl of Pembroke, as a perk he was granted castles in Wales. Sir William served on the Council of Regency and was made Marshal of England. In 1215 Sir William was a creator and signatory on the "Magna Carta"

Now what was the "Magna Carta"? The Magna Carta was an important part of English history as it helped to establish rights for individuals and offered some protection from the King! or Queen! This document was a significant document in the evolution of "Civil Rights" and is considered as the first freedom document! This document placed England on the road to being a democratic state and introduced the concept of "Human Rights" as we know it today!

Sir Knight Marshal was regent for the young King Henry III. At the age of 70 Marshall was still fit for battle and won a battle against the rebellious English Barons and the future King Louis VIII of France! After his death in 1219 Sir William was invested as a Knight Templar and was interred in the Temple Church of England! The Arch Bishop of Canterbury referred to Sir Knight William Marshal as "The Greatest Knight who ever Lived"!

The next Knight of the 12 best is "Richard I" Richard The Lionhearted or Couer de Lion, Lived from 1157-1199. Richard the Lionhearted was King of England from 1189-1199.

Richards first test came in the 1880's when he crushed a rebellious baron in Aquitaine, and captured the seemingly impregnable castle of Taillebourg in the west of France. After Garnering the support of two French kings and encouraged by his mother Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard twice rebelled against his father King Henry II of England. It appears that most of the troubles were caused by a complex arrangement of Royal Inter-marriages during this time. The trouble between father and son subsided when Richard was officially nominated to succeed his father as King! Richard became King in 1189.

As one of the leaders of the third Crusade from 1189-1192 Richard captured Messina in 1190 and Cyprus in 1191. Acre in the Kingdom of Jerusalem had been under siege for five months, but was captured by Richard just 5 weeks after his arrival. Ill with scurvy Richard had men carry him about on a stretcher, from which he fired his crossbow. In September of that same year the King won yet another battle against the Arab army of Saladin at Arsuf. Eventually the Crusade lost momentum and Jerusalem remained in Arab hands, but Richard negotiated a safe passage for the Christian Pilgrims to the Holy Lands. The King was the epitome of a fighting Monarch! Yet he only spent 5 months of his rule in England. He was captured by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI in 1192 He was Ransomed after 2-Years, which drained the States funds near exhaustion! Richard then took on King Phillip II of France and the two countries fought over control of the Northern and Central parts of France. Richard was killed by an arrow during a siege at the castle of Chalus. Ever since, Richards 3- Lions have been part of the British Royal Seal!

In closing, Sir Knights I wish to thank all our Commanders and Officers of all the constituent Commandries of Connecticut for their hard work in getting our Inspections done in a timely manner. This was no small feat and required some Sir Knights to go above and beyond the call!! I was most pleased to see this! We have further work to do Sir Knights! But I have faith that you have the "Right Stuff" to make our Commanderies survive and thrive! Continue the hard work!

"Live Templary, Be of Service"

Michael E. Seamon, KTCH, Grand Commander

EPISCOPAL RECTOR TO VISIT HOLY LAND

Rector Timothy J. Squier of Old Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in Bloomfield, CT, has been selected to join 2020's pilgrimage of Christian ministers to the Holy Land under the auspices of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA and Connecticut sponsorship of Washington Commandery No. 1 in East Hartford, reports PGC William Miller, Chm. Rector Tim's is scheduled to travel with the first group departing February 4th for 10 days.

As a send-off prior to his departure, Sir Knights and their Ladies have been invited to attend the 10:00 am worship services on Sunday January 12th, at which Rev. Tim will be presented with his trip by the Grand Commandery. A reception by the parish will follow. Proper attire for Sir Knights is uniform (chapeaus, gloves, less swords) and Sir Knights are asked to foregather at 9:30 am.

In order for the church to plan for our visit, if you wish to join us, please let Chm Bill or REGC Mike know as soon as you can by year's end. The church's country setting is 59 Tariffville Rd in Bloomfield behind the confluence of Rts. 189 and 187 and use of your GPS is advised.