



Indiana Supplement

Edward L. Sebring KCT, KTCH, GPE
editor

2131 Franklin St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47803
812-890-2992



Michael Robbins KCT, GC

Newby-Avery-Vaught Dinner Was Great Success

By SK Michael Robbins KCT
Grand Commander

NASHVILLE, Ind. — The State of Indiana has had the honor of having three Most Eminent Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, U.S.A., in its storied past. They are: Sir Knight Leonidas P. Newby, who served as the 26th Grand Master from 1922 to 1925, Sir Knight Willard Avery who served as Grand Master from 1976 to 1979, and Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, who served as Grand Master from 2015 to 2018.

Dinners, working dinners, and banquets of various forms were hosted by these Sir Knights and others to recognize their achievements. Beginning in 1993, the Newby-Avery event changed from a working dinner, or meeting, to a fund-raising function for the Permanent Fund of the Grand Commandery of Indiana. People who donate \$250 to the fund are designated as Fellows and receive a yearly invitation to the event, and Commanderies who donate \$250 to the fund are designated as a Chair and their Eminent Commanders are invited each year to the event for the next five years.

Last year, 2019, the name of the event was changed once again, this time to the Newby-Avery-Vaught banquet to also recognize Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught GCT, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment 2015-2018.

This year the banquet was held at the Seasons Lodge in Nashville, in conjunction with the Grand Commandery Winter Meeting held at the same location. This year the banquet was opened up

to any Sir Knight and his Lady who wanted to attend, not requiring the \$250 donation to be invited.

The purpose for this was to let every Sir Knight see what the event was all about and to enjoy the evening with a fine meal and friends.

I am happy to report that the banquet turned out to be extremely successful. More money was raised for the Permanent Fund than had been raised since 2011.

Seventy-two Sir Knights and their Ladies attended the banquet. Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder George Ingles served as Master of Ceremonies, and speakers included the Most Eminent Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Duane L. Vaught, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Indiana, Sir Knight Kenneth Roy, Jr.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Raji Shyam, PhD. Dr. Shyam is a post-doctoral Fellow at the Joseph Bonanno Laboratory located at the Indiana University School of Optometry, and is researching the causes and possible treatment of Congenital Hereditary Endothelia Dystrophy. In May, Dr. Shyam received a Career Starter Grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to be used to further her research. We believe this is the first Knight Templar Eye Foundation Grant to be received in Indiana for the past 6 year. Dr. Shyam spoke to the audience about her current research and findings and how the grant has assisted in furthering her research.

Thank you, Sir Knights, for continuing to support our philanthropies.



NASHVILLE, Ind. — Dr. Raji Shyam, PhD., a post-doctoral fellow researching an eye disorder at the Indiana University School of Optometry, tells of her research and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation “career starter grant” which has helped make it possible.