



Indiana Supplement

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Ed Fodrea KTC, GC

Patterson is multi-generational Grand Prelate and Sir Knight

By SK Edward L. Sebring KCT, KTCH, GPE
Editor

FORT WAYNE -- Putting together a corps of appointed grand officers can require time and the keeping one's eyes open by an incoming grand commander, said SK Ed Fodrea, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana.

"As I was traveling around Battalion 2, I noticed Dan Patterson doing degree work," Fodrea said. "He has a voice that would make a good prelate and he never looked at the book. Yes, he would make a good prelate."

SK Patterson remembers their encounter with a little more detail, including another Sir Knight acting almost like Patterson's employment agent.

"I take my Masonic stuff very seriously" Patterson said. "I work very hard at it. I pick up my book once a day."

Patterson said he met Fodrea when he was their battalion commander and spending a lot of time with newer Sir Knights, teaching them how to do the work properly. In the process, they became good friends, Patterson said.

The offer was made when both were attending a Most Excellent Master degree in Auburn, where Apollo Commandery No. 19 meets. Patterson was filling one of the roles from memory. When it was over, SK Jim Davis told Fodrea that Patterson's grandfather had been Grand Prelate, as well as a great ritualist. "He's not bad himself," Patterson proudly quoted Fodrea as saying, adding that Fodrea soon asked him if he wanted to follow in his grandfather's footsteps.

"He was very touched when I asked him, saying he was honored," Fodrea said.



PATTERSON



Three generations of Patterson sir knights: Archibold, Frank, and Jim

Patterson lives in Fort Wayne, but is a member of both Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4, and of Apollo Commandery No. 19 in Auburn. He was raised in 1997 and served as Worshipful Master in 2003 and 2006.

His father, Dan Lamar Patterson, is a Senior DeMolay, but never petitioned a Masonic Lodge.

His grandfather, SK Jim Lamar Patterson, was appointed Grand Prelate by SK Harold Houlihan, PGC, in 1966.

Jim Patterson's father, Patterson's great-grandfather, SK Frank Rankin Patterson, was born in Tennessee, married a woman with connections to Angola, and the couple moved there. Frank's father was SK Archibold Patterson of Murfreesboro, Tenn., was Patterson's great-grandfather. Patterson has photos of the three knights in uniform, and the swords of his grandfather and great-grandfather.

Patterson joined Fort Wayne Commandery No. 4, because that's where he lived. But his dream was to be knighted in his grandfather's Temple, with his grandfather's sword. To make that happen, he opted to receive his York Rite work in the annual Tri-State Festival, in which the degrees and orders are given in rotation in Jackson, Mich., Bryan, Ohio, and Angola – exactly where he wanted to be knighted. And, as he wished, it was done with his grandfather's gold sword.

And after Patterson was knighted, his father gave him his grandfather's and great-grandfather's swords.

"My grandfather and I spent a lot of time together. I spent a lot of time as a boy on his farm, and I own it now. I wear his Commandery ring," Patterson said. "I went through the Tri-State Festival so I could be knighted in Angola, and I was knighted with his gold sword. It was really special to me to get knighted at his altar with his sword. That really meant a lot to me.

"I really look forward to doing the Order of the Temple in my grandfather's Commandery, with my Grandfather's sword."