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**California Supplement**  
**May 2021**

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”  
*Genesis 1:1-2.*

**My fellow Sir Knights:** There is a beginning to all earthly endeavor, this being mine as your newly-elected Grand Commander. It is customary in the first issue to introduce oneself so that all may know something more about the person you have elected this esteemed office. This is not easy for me as I have never been comfortable with self-promotion. That is not to say that I’m particularly humble – I am, after all, a lawyer. It’s just that I’m uncertain how to go about this task.

So diving right in: I am a lawyer, a Marine, a Mason and a Christian. I was born in Longview, WA in 1948 (yes, I’m 73), the older of two brothers. I graduated from Pomona College in 1970 with a B.A. in Economics, where I played football and was selected an All-Conference tight end in my Junior and Senior seasons. It was the Vietnam era, my draft number was low, so I enlisted in the U.S.M.C. Reserve, where I served for 6 years, honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant; one of the truly significant and impactful decisions in my life. Of note, I was assigned in the summer 1975 to the Presidential Clemency Committee staff of Lt. Gen. Lewis Walt, Ass’t. Commandant of the Marine Corps and a true American hero. I attended Santa Clara Law School, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1974 and began my professional career that year as a rookie litigator in a mid-sized San Francisco law firm. Five years later, I responded to an ad in the *Wall Street Journal* for a litigation attorney at Dean Witter & Co. (now Morgan Stanley) in San Francisco. One of my career highlights was being elected to serve as a member and later Chair of the NASD Business Conduct Committee, overseeing stockbrokers and firm regulatory compliance throughout California and Hawaii.

I was raised in Calaveras Lodge #78 in 2005 and served as Master from 2010 through 2012. I’ve served as Inspector for 8 years. I joined the Scottish Rite and York Rite shortly after being raised. I have been High Priest, Illustrious Master and Commander of my local bodies, served as Inspector of my Capitular District, Assistant Director of Ritual in Council, where I was named Capitular Companion of the Year for the State in 2012, and received the Distinguished Service Medal in my Commandery. I am a member and currently Chaplain of my KYCH Conclave, a line officer in New Covenant Tabernacle, HRAKTP, Past Sovereign of Cross & Crown Conclave, RCC, a member of Golden State College, SRICF, and several other Masonic affiliated bodies. I serve on the Board of the DeMolay Foundation of Northern California. To my great honor, I was elected a Trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation at the last Triennial.

I was married to my lovely wife Hallie for 31 years. She passed away last December, at too young an age, from metastatic brain cancer. My heartfelt sympathies to any of you suffering from that pernicious disease. I have two sons, Brian and Bob, from my marriage to my first wife. Brian lives in a group setting for disabled adults in Sunnyvale; Bob, also a lawyer, lives with his wife Sarah and my two grandchildren Eliana and Teddy, in San Francisco.

My Bible passage is II Peter 1:5-8: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The current penchant for secular pluralism seeks to promote a vision of America devoid of Christian ideology. We owe it to future generations to keep our Country’s founding commitment to free exercise of religion to include our heritage. My motto is, “Fear not: Proclaim and Celebrate our Faith.”

Courteously,  
*David Studley*

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Grand Commander

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