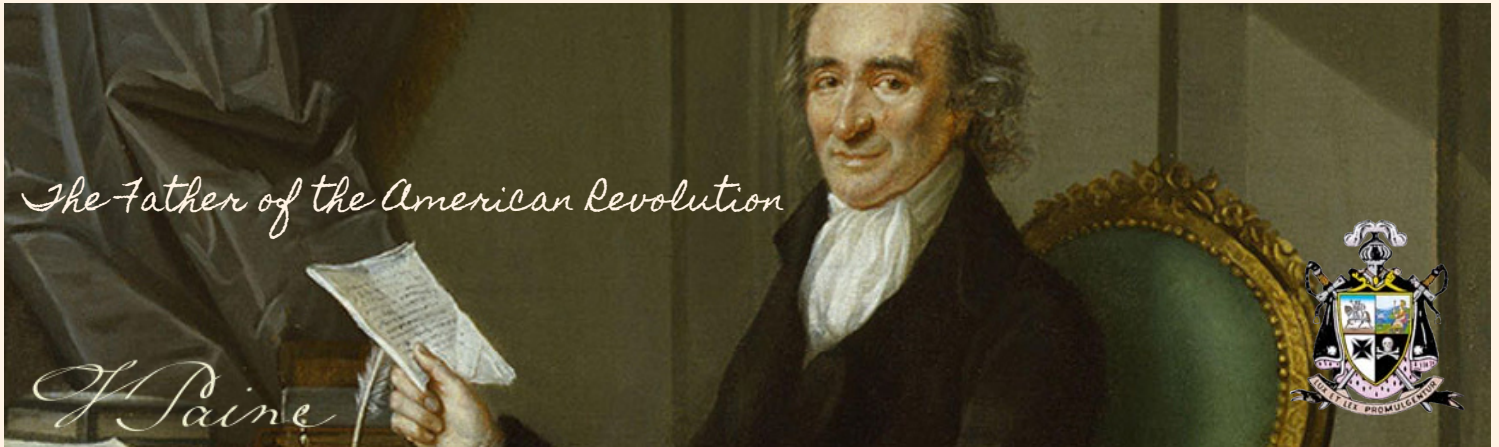


CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication supplement of the California Cross & Crown Bulletin



Sir Knight

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by SK David W. Studley

The Englishman Thomas Paine, called by many The Father of the American Revolution, famously wrote:

"These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

(Paine, The American Crisis, Styner and Cist, Philadelphia December 19, 1776.)

While it may be a literary contortion to compare the current Grand Encampment controversy with the struggles of American Independence, the cause of both is strikingly similar: are we Knights of the Order, like our Revolutionary ancestors, destined to suffer the indignities of tyrannical behavior or shall we stand against the autocratic acts of our leaders?

The decisions of the Grand Master taken since the last Triennial created this crisis. Our members voted overwhelmingly in August 2021 to recognize the *Great Priory of America* as a templar body not infringing on the Orders conferred by the Grand Encampment. Grand Master Johnson subsequently reaffirmed a 2012 Decision declaring the Great Priory to be "unrecognized." We are thus confronted with a dilemma: how does one determine what the delegates intended when enacting the 2021 Resolution and how does the approval of that Resolution limit or circumscribe the authority of the Grand Master regarding matters presumptively within the meaning of the legislation?

Following the Triennial, Grand Master Johnson summarily removed Deputy Grand Master David Kussman from his elected station. His reasons remain unclear. While our Templar constitution and statutes deal with succession of elected officers when a vacancy exists, they fail to define

what constitutes “unknightly conduct” sufficient to remove and officer or to set standards for how such purported misconduct should be identified, noticed, heard, decided or enforced.

These actions cannot be reviewed until the 2024 Triennial unless nine or more Grand or Subordinate Commanderies join in an identical Call for a Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment. It is to consider the wisdom of this dramatic action that I have noticed a Special Conclave of the California Grand Commandery of Knights Templar to commence at:

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
1:00 P.M.
Grand Recorder’s Office
1123 J. Street, Sacramento, California

A copy of the *Special Call to Conclave* is published in the *Cross & Crown Bulletin*. Your choice will be only whether to join in or reject the Call. We will not debate the individual provisions; that discussion will occur, if at all, at the Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment.

I do not pretend that this will be an easy decision for our Sir Knights. We are a conservative group, estab-



lished by our predecessors. In the past, we have, for the most part, trusted the wisdom of those selected to lead our organization. We believe that they act reasonably, with an appreciation for the will of our members and in the best interests of Templary. Under such conditions, it is painful to challenge their decisions. But like the Patriots during that harsh winter of 1776, when so many wished

only to return home to the warm hearth of their families, should we not gather to decide whether to tolerate this seeming injustice? A good turnout of our members will assure that our voice, whether for or against, is heard. I urge you to attend the California meeting, listen to the voices of your fellow Sir Knights and vote your conscience.



Courteously,

David W. Studley
Grand Commander



Call to Conclave

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www.call2conclave.org

A Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America is hereby called to be convened no later than Sept. 1, 2022, or as reasonably soon after at least nine Grand Commanderies have assented to this Call, at a location convenient for the majority of the membership, for the purposes of:

1. Considering all Edicts and Decisions issued by Sir Knight Michael B. Johnson, Grand Master, in the 69th Triennium for immediate adoption or repeal.
2. Considering mootness of Koon Decision No. 2, 24 May 2010, in light of the passage of Resolution 2021-23 on 17 Aug 2021 and, in the alternative, affirming or repealing Koon Decision No. 2.
3. Considering adoption of Section ___ to the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States providing for the removal of any elected officer of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.
4. Considering removal of the Grand Master from office.
5. Considering breach of duty of care and breach of the fiduciary duties of honesty and plain dealing that govern appointed committee members.
6. Holding a special election for the Officers of the Grand Encampment.
7. Opening a special meeting of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation for the purposes of a special election for the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

SECTION ____ Removal of an Elected Officer of the Grand Encampment

An elected officer of the Grand Encampment may be removed from Office by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a Conclave of the Grand Encampment. This section is enforceable upon adoption.

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