



## STATE NEWS - OCTOBER 2021

Editor: Randall Partin [r\\_partin@att.net](mailto:r_partin@att.net)

Web Site: [www.yorkriteky.org/grandcommandery](http://www.yorkriteky.org/grandcommandery)



*SK Joseph P. Giles,  
Grand Commander*

Sir Knights,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Templar Year! I wish to express my appreciation for allowing me to serve in the Grand Commandery line for the past several years and now to be your incoming Grand Commander. I am humbled by the craft I serve and proud to be associated with the caliber of men I know you all to be.

I intended to make this a year of educational opportunities as most of my visits across the state indicated a desire and need for such in talks with many Sir Knights. But as life marches to a different drum than our expectations I have seen a need for a few pressing tasks as well to enter upon our journey(s) as men and Masons. The year of SAR-Cov-19 has sent shockwaves into our Commanderies, our businesses, and our lives. To go along with those waves our craftsmen as beginning to show their age as a whole and I am no exception. I have been to many Masonic

funerals and several Knights Templar honor guards for our illustrious deceased brothers in the past three years. To that end I have received several calls from the deceased brother's widow(s) regarding what to do with their "Masonic treasures and stuff".

It may be that in the thrust and quick paced nature of our lives we neglected to prepare for this all to assured event of our passing. We surely took the time to make preparations for funerals, make wills, powers of medical and legal attorney under the understanding that we might fall to the ravages of an accident, poor health, or age. If we have not, then we are neglecting those we love and hold so dearly in this corporeal life. This communication is to ask you to take a moment and consider those Masonic items you and your spouse may have not covered before they have to ask for help from a brother Mason regarding their disposition. It has come to my doorstep several times and caused me to bring it to your thoughts as well.

On the next page are several items to talk to your spouse and family about. Every decision is predicated upon your family and not the Grand Commandery or other group you belong to. It is merely a reminder to clarify your final wishes and keep things as you wish them to occur when the door to immortality opens for you in focus with your loved ones. Please review the questions and talk to your family. Possibly use this as a way to broach the uncomfortable issue we all wish to avoid.



Thank you for your review and help us give the proper respect to your wishes for your Masonic materials at the time of your travel to the house not built with hands, eternal in the Heavens above.

Sir Knights I leave these items below as decision points and discussion items for you and your family. Thank you for your attention to your loved ones, their potential confusion and time of grief at your eventual loss.

- 1) Do you have a will and or trust already in place?
- 2) Have you discussed this with your family, and do they know where the documents are?
- 3) Is a copy filed with your attorney or in a safe and secure (non-burnable and or water safe) place?
- 4) Do you have a current Masonic resume that can be used at your funeral if you desire this type of service?
- 5) Have you discussed with your family the type of Masonic, York Rite, Templar, or other arrangements you desire? And have you made these wishes known to your Commandery or other York Rite bodies? Have you requested a specific brother to do that ceremony?
- 6) Do they know what you wanted to become of your Masonic educational papers, books, files, aprons, and other memorabilia?
- 7) Do you have any items that the Grand bodies have allowed you to borrow, Past Grand jewels, essentials, ritual books or other items such as minutes, financial statements for your organizations that need to be returned to the bodies?
- 8) What do you want to happen to those colorful jackets and other articles of clothing and appointments such as shoulder cords, belts, slings, swords, and chapeaux's that the family may want to remember you by or not know how or why they were important to you? Do you want them gifted to the Commandery you belonged to, placed on eBay, or kept as mementos by a favored child in your family? Several widows have asked me personally what to do with things so personal to a revered Sir Knight that I could only ask them what they wanted to do here. There were in a few cases closets full of materials they no longer needed but did not want to go to disuse.
- 9) Does your Commandery, or other fraternal body, have someone that can help with your items you may wish to donate for further Masonic use by a new or insufficiently clad brother?

These are but a few of the considerations I have had to respond to in the wake of the loss of brothers in the past three years. Please consider your family and their confusion at the great vacuum you may leave them when you find your way back to that eternal home to which we all must go.

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Giles  
Grand Commander 2021-2022  
Grand Commandery  
Knights Templar of Kentucky

