



# Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee - John Calvin Spencer, Grand Commander



## General Order No. 1

March 22, 2022

*To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee and to the Officers and Sir Knights of the subordinate Commanderies:*

First and foremost, I want you to know the great honor I feel having been elected to serve as Grand Commander. I am humbled by the trust and confidence you've placed in me. Thank you.

Next, congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers, it is an honor to serve with you and I look forward to a very productive year together. Also, a heartfelt thank you to the many committee members who have agreed to serve this Grand Commandery. Thank you for serving, you have my full support.

Once again this year we ask that our Commanderies continue to work toward the goal of \$10 per member average donation to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. We also ask for your continued support of the Holy Land Pilgrimage program and its permanent endowment fund. The amount of money raised for this program this past year by a group of Sir Knights and their ladies was absolutely legendary. What an incredible accomplishment.

Last year Grand Commander Young lifted the covid restrictions upon our Commanderies allowing them to meet and confer the Orders. This year we will continue that effort as we return to annual inspections.

In an effort to assist the Commanderies who have understandably struggled with attendance, combined inspections will be allowed this year. Additionally, all penalties for members participating in inspections but belonging to other Tennessee Commanderies have been removed.

Working with our Instructor/Inspector, Sir Knight Robert Peay, PC, we have sought to find the most equitable way to grade this year's inspections. Each Commandery will be graded on the opening/closing, the conferral of The Order of the Temple, and the percentage of officers present the day of inspection. These changes are in effect this year only.

Commanderies who wish to compete for the Sid Dorris Award and who meet the criteria are encouraged to do so. These Commanderies will be graded in a full inspection making use of the Recorder's records dating from October 1, 2021, as described in General Order #5 issued September 30, 2021.

I eagerly look forward to visiting our Commanderies across the state again. I would have never imagined that I would miss hearing the Order conferred 20+ times each summer, but I do. In fact, very little compares to the good will perpetuated among the Sir Knights each time I witness it.

Finally, Sir Knights if I could only make one request of you this year, it would be something that I hope you agree would be the most beneficial to your Commandery and to Templary as a whole. A pair of simple words that contain the power to not only halt our declining membership but reverse it. Those words would be: Fall In.

My resolve to see our Commanderies prosper will be sure. Therefore, please never hesitate in bringing to my attention anything you believe to be for the good of our Order.

In His service,  
John C. Spencer, REGC

## Grand Commandery Officers 2022

### Elected

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2383 South Allen Road, Baxter, 38544-5309	John Calvin Spencer (26)
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander 200 Tower Drive, Knoxville, 37912-2175	Robert Burnette Beam (9/21)
Eminent Grand Generalissimo 215 Garland Street, Memphis, 38104-7133	John Wiseman Simmons II (31)
Eminent Grand Captain General 113 Oak Creek Drive, Nolensville, 37135	John Lawrence Palmer PGM (7)
Eminent Grand Treasurer 4521 Turkey Creek Road, Williamsport, 38487-2123	George Caleb Ladd III (11)
Eminent Grand Recorder 1016 Nuway Drive, Pleasant View, 37146-7115	Ralph Burks Taylor (1/41)

### Appointed

Eminent Grand Senior Warden	Keith A. Taylor (26)
Eminent Grand Junior Warden	Henry W. Bain (10/40)
Eminent Grand Prelate	James H. Purser (42/40)
Eminent Grand Standard Bearer	Gary A. Thomas (14/42)
Eminent Grand Sword Bearer	Donny K. Hasselbein (40/10)
Eminent Grand Warder	James F. Cartwright (40/10)
Eminent Grand Sentinel	Kenneth W. Matheney (26/14)

### Sid Dorris Luncheon Earns in excess of \$16,000

We would like to say Thank You to the Knights of Tennessee for helping secure approximately \$16,000 in donations to the Permanent Fund at this past Grand Conclave. The ME Grand Master David Kussmann, along with RE Grand Recorder and RE Grand Treasurer, were present to receive donations and distribute the Sid Dorris Medals. Your support of this event is most appreciated.

Fraternally,

Tennessee Sid Dorris Award Committee