



Grand Commandery of Michigan August 2022

"Together, for a Better Tomorrow"

Gary L. Paquet, Right Eminent Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies:

It's hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since you elected and installed me as your Grand Commander. So much has happened and yet there is still much to do. The Grand Conclave is now just around the corner. It's time to put the last-minute touches on the allocution, get the programs and agenda finalized, and begin the handoff to my successor.

Enclosed is the first article from the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander. It is anticipated he will take over as the new Grand Commander and guide our craft for the ensuing twelve months. I wish him and Lady Holly all the best.

I'd also like to thank all the officers, committee men, and ladies who made this experience a memorable one. You all mean so much. I couldn't have done this without you. Together, we made some changes. Changes that were needed. However, they need to be monitored. Keep refining the programming. Continue to encourage events that foster a sense of family of community. As society changes, let's change with the times and not be afraid to think outside of the box, listen to the next generation and embrace their ideas and needs. We are the leaders that are building the bridge to their future. Let's make it a strong one that lasts for years to come.

In reflection, masonry is a unique gift that speaks to each of us differently. We all heard the same ritual, or at least close to it when we became members, yet our individual experiences provide a different context for bringing the meaning of the ritual to life and what it means to be a Mason. One passage of scripture may have a completely different interpretation for you than it does me. The words in our ritual which provide me strength or guidance may only be a passing thought for you. That is why masonry is a unique journey; one that no one can truly impart to another individual. We may be able to describe masonry in general terms, share the guiding principles and ideals, but one truly does not understand its impact in another man's heart. That's the beauty of our craft. I wish more individuals would ask to join so they could experience and understand the deeper meaning of our organization. But until that happens, let's make it special for those who already have.

I always close with "Until our paths cross again, safe travels to wherever the journey takes you." The journey of life is truly a unique one. It takes twists and turns and contains highs and lows. Sometimes it leads you to places that you never thought possible or dreamed of. When we add masonry to the mix, it provides a guiding principle for which to grow as an individual. It allows a platform from which to model our ideals and values. My friends, continue your journey. Embrace wherever it leads and take a moment to pass the knowledge of today onto the next individual that knocks on that oh so special door.

Sir Knights, thank you for electing and installing me as your Grand Commander. You allowed me the opportunity to take some of my aspirations and share them with you. You welcomed me in my travels and shared your experiences. Through all of this, you have become one in my heart. I tried my best to represent you in all my endeavors. I hope that I modeled the ideals of what it means to be a Mason, a Christian Knight, a Knight Templar. As this chapter of my life slowly draws to a close, know that you made this one, special.

God Bless, and safe travels to wherever the journey takes you.

Gary L. Paquet, Grand Commander





*Grand Commandery  
Knights Templar  
Of Michigan*

**Daniel E Stewart**

Deputy Grand Commander  
1375 Palmer Ave.  
Muskegon, Mi. 49441  
(231) 343-1918  
mallets4hire@yahoo.com

AUGUST 2022

Sir Knights,

If everything goes to plan over the next month, I will be greeting you as the newly installed Grand Commander of Michigan. It has not been an easy task over the last few years, but I am excited for the coming year as we continue to update our inspection process and battalion structure.

For those that do not know much about me, I will keep things brief. I was born in 1978, have been a Sir Knight since 2006, and have been very active on the local and Grand level ever since. I have been the Recorder of Muskegon Commandery 22 since 2011, and plan on doing so as long as I am able. Lady Holly and I will be celebrating 15 years of marriage this year and my daughter Madison will be turning 5. I work night shift as a Registered Respiratory Therapist at Mercy Hospital - Intensive Care Unit in Muskegon for the last 7 years. Prior to that, I worked in retail since I was 17.

My main theme for the 2022-23 Chivalric Year is "Mentors and Father Figures". As we move forward, we cannot forget those that have helped mold us into the men we are today. I plan on paying homage throughout the year and will explain more as the year goes on.

My two major projects for the year are education and music. I have formed a new Special Committee on Templar Research & Education Promotion, and this will be a way for those that want to submit articles for publication to have a sounding board or an extra hand in researching topics. This committee will also promote the Templar Scholar program from the Grand Encampment.

Musically, we will have the formation of a Knight Templar Brass Band that will have the opportunity to record pieces that will be used during Commandery Orders, public ceremonies, and other possible events. If you play a brass instrument, and would like to be involved, please contact me so that I can arrange proper orchestration.

I look forward to working side by side with all of the Sir Knights of Michigan and will do my best to represent the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

Yours in Templary,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel E. Stewart".

SK Daniel E. Stewart PC KCT OPC

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Michigan, Knights Templar  
Mallets4hire@yahoo.com  
231-343-1918