

The Hoosier Templar

A publication of the Grand Commandery, KT, of Indiana



December, 2022

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Phillip Whisner, GC

Grand Prelate's Toast

Christmas Toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Phillip Whisner

By SK Archie Smallwood, PGC, KCT
Grand Prelate

“A Toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar, State of Indiana. May God Bless you and your officers, as well as their families during this time of Christmas for the year of 2022.”

This special time of year is set aside for the time we recognize the birth of Christ and the Love He had for His children of faith. In this order of Knights Templar, you have risen to the highest of all offices in the state of Indiana and that is of the Grand Commander. Your ascent to the office was not an easy path, but with many hardships you have survived and grew stronger as time went by. You have had the support of not only your officers but even more important that of your family. Through the years you have been fortunate to have your faith to depend upon and to show others just what kind of person you are, and you are a Christian who believes in God and His beloved Son Jesus Christ. With your dedication and belief, we in the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars in Indiana have benefited with a Commander with his officers have shown not only to Indiana, but to the world as well that we are Christian Knights.

It is with a grateful heart we give you this Toast of Love for Christmas and with it we recall just what Christmas is truly about and that is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One who has lived and died for us that we may be saved by His grace and mercy. Our Savior and the Captain of Our Salvation left behind for all of us a comforter that we may depend upon to get us through the struggles of life and the outstanding belief that we may have eternal life with Him.

HIS NAME IS THE BRANCH

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1

No wonder He was a Carpenter. Cradled in a manger made of wood, He brought Christmas joy to the world at His birth. He is Jesus.

Nailed to an old rugged cross and lifted up to die for sin. He brought Easter glory to the world by His resurrection. He is the Savior.

Coming again at the Branch of righteousness, He will bring an everlasting kingdom and will reign in power. Behold! His name is the Branch.

Why Branch? At the time of Jesus' birth, the royal line of David—from which He came—had dried up in Israel. But He would still be King, for Branch is a title for Messiah and speaks of fruitfulness.

It is hard to grasp that a King would serve, but this was no ordinary king. This is Jesus, whose Father proclaimed, "I am bringing forth My Servant the Branch." He will be gloriously crowned. He will sit on His righteous throne and "from His place He shall branch out" (Zechariah 6:12)—to serve.

How will He serve? He will harvest His bounty—souls to fill Heaven.

With these things on our minds, hearts, and soul as you have brought us thus far this year, we all shall complete our year with the Captain of our Salvation to be with us. Now as a leader of this Grand Commandery we know that with your dedication to Christian religion and God as your Commander we will shine like the morning light from His beloved Son Jesus Christ.

Grand Commander's Christmas Message

Four Short Words

By Phil Whisner

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Blessings to you at Christmas,

At the beginning of each Advent season, our church places four large lighted signs in the lawn facing Southport Road in Indianapolis. They are four short words: Joy, Peace, Hope, Love. This year I assisted with putting these signs up and making some minor repairs, which has helped me reflect on these words and their meaning in a different way than I have before.

Joy: As Christians, we should always feel joy, and especially as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. But just because we "should" feel joy, doesn't mean we always "do". It's too easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and feel more stress than joy. We all need to remember to step back, breathe, and feel the joy of Christmas.

Peace: Lately it does not feel like there is much "peace" in the world. War is still raging in Ukraine, mass shootings are still occurring across our country, and hateful words and divisiveness permeate social media daily. But I wonder if what the angels meant when they said "and on earth, peace, good will toward men" was more of an inner peace – the kind of inner peace that Jesus brings to each of us who accept him as our Lord and Savior.

Hope: This is another word that is easy to lose sight of in today's world. We probably all have days when things feel a bit hopeless: we're overwhelmed with work, commitments, bills, family issues, and just day-to-day life. Focusing on the hope that the world was given by the birth of a baby can help us to not only feel hope for ourselves but spread that hope to all around us as well.

Love: While not part of the Christmas story, this season is a great time to remember Paul's words in I Corinthians 13:13: "and the greatest of these is love." Our love for Jesus always shows in our actions and our words, but right now we have an even greater opportunity to show this love to others. Helping others at Christmas is the greatest expression of love we can give, and I encourage all of us to find a way to help those who may be struggling right now. Help can come in the form of financial assistance, giving of your time to a food pantry or shelter, or even just giving words of kindness and encouragement to someone who may be struggling with finding joy, peace, and hope during the holidays.

Four short words. Sir Knights, these words may be short, but they are what I wish for you during this Christmas season: the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth, the peace of knowing that he was born because of God's love for us, the hope that we can enjoy only because of His promise of salvation, and the love that Jesus reminds us to show to God and to each other.

Indiana's Winter meeting and other upcoming events

By SK Phil Whisner
Grand Commander

Greetings to all Sir Knights in Indiana! This communication is to provide you with information regarding three upcoming events to which all Sir Knights are invited to attend.

WINTER MEETING

The annual Grand Commandery Winter Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at The Seasons Lodge, 560 SR 46, Nashville, Indiana 47448. The meeting starts at 1:00 PM EST and is scheduled to end around 4:00 PM EST. The Winter Meeting is meant to inform Commanderies of the activities of the Grand Commandery up to this point, how Commanderies within each Battalion are faring as compared to other Commanderies in their Battalion and the state, and provide overall general information to all Sir Knights. I encourage each of you to consider attending. There is no registration cost or fee to attend. Preferred attire for the meeting is slacks and shirt (business casual).

NEWBY-AVERY-VAUGHT DINNER

The Newby-Avery-Vaught dinner will also be Saturday, January 21st at The Seasons. Social hour starts at 5:00 PM EST, with dinner at 6:00 PM. Attire for this event is Commandery uniform (no chapeau or sword) or tuxedo, and cocktail dress or formal for ladies.

What is the Newby-Avery-Vaught (NAV) dinner, and why would you want to attend?

First and foremost, this dinner gives all Sir Knights an opportunity to honor three great men from Indiana who have served as Grand Master of the Grand Encampment: Willard Avery, Leonidas Newby, and Duane Vaught.

The Newby-Avery-Vaught (NAV) dinner raises funds for Indiana Grand Commandery. These funds allow us to operate **without having to increase the per capita that Commanderies pay to Indiana Grand Commandery.** The per capita paid to Grand Commandery has remained stable for many years due to this dinner, and we hope that the Sir Knights and Commanderies of Indiana will continue to support NAV.

The funds raised at this dinner allow us to not charge a registration fee for events such as Annual Conclave, the Winter Meeting, and the Indiana Templar Academies.

The Newby-Avery-Vaught dinner gives all Sir Knights and their ladies an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and camaraderie and exchange thoughts and ideas in a more relaxed manner than may occur at the Annual Conclave.

What is the cost of the Newby-Avery-Vaught dinner? Each Commandery can purchase a Chair for \$250 and will receive a plaque identifying the Commandery as a Newby-Avery-Vaught Chair. One member

(typically the current Eminent Commander) may attend the NAV dinner for five years at no additional charge after purchasing a Chair.

Any Sir Knight can become a Newby-Avery-Fellow for \$250. Fellows are given a Newby-Avery-Vaught pin with one jewel chip, and additional chips are added each year that another Fellow is purchased. NAV Fellows are invited to attend the dinner at no additional charge for themselves.

Any Sir Knight and their Lady can attend the Newby-Avery-Vaught dinner at a cost of \$45 each. If you are not sure what NAV is all about, I encourage you to come to the dinner to learn more and to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie.

Reservations for Chairs, Fellows, and dinners must be turned in by January 4, 2023. Checks should be made out to Phillip Whisner and mailed to 5528 Greenhill Pl, Apt D, Indianapolis, IN 46237. Hotel reservations are available at The Seasons Lodge for those who wish to spend the night for \$94.00 plus tax. You need to reserve rooms before December 20th and mention Indiana Grand Commandery when you call the hotel (800-365-7327) to receive the discounted rate.

COMMANDERY WORSHIP TOGETHER SUNDAY

I invite all Sir Knights and their families to come together in worship at 10:30 AM on Sunday, January 22nd, at Southport United Methodist Church, 1947 E. Southport Rd, Indianapolis, 46227. Attire for this event is uniform (preferred) or coat and slacks. Ladies may wear dresses or slacks. Please let me know before January 15th if you would like to attend so that we can arrange to reserve a block of seats together in the worship center.

I know this has been a lengthy communication, but I want all Sir Knights to not only know about these events, but why they are important. Please reach out to me with any questions you might have at p_whisner@aol.com or 317-431-3570.