

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication supplement of the California Cross & Crown Bulletin



Sir Knight
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"The land of the free because of the brave."

by Sir Knight Craig L. Flagtwet

We soon will be celebrating our nation's Independence Day. While you Bar-B-Que and enjoy time with your friends and family, please pause and reflect that we are the land of the free because of the brave. Thank you to the men and women of our great nation who have served or are serving to protect our great nation, both here and abroad. God Keep you and protect you. Lady Tammy and I wish for you and yours the happiest of Independence Day celebrations.

This month we will be gathering in Pasadena to receive and celebrate the accomplishments of The *Most Eminent Grand Master* of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, our very own Sir Knight David Kussman, REPGC of California, and Sir Knight David Studley, *Right Eminent Grand Captain General* of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA and REPGC of California. Sir Knights this is a monuments time in history for California Knights Templar to have 2 of our own in the Grand Encampment line at the same time. Please join with us on July 16th at the Pasadena Scottish Rite at 6:00PM to be a part of the history of California Knights Templars. Ticket sales will close at 5:00PM of July 14th and no tickets will be sold at the door. The attached flyer provides the details regarding the event and payment methods.

It is my pleasure to share with you a brief introduction to your newest member in the Grand Commandery progressive line: our *Grand Standard Bearer*, Sir Knight John Bickerstaff.

John is a California native and currently works as a nurse with Kaiser Permanente in the Victorville area for the last 13 years. John earned his A.S. Degree in Administration of Justice in 2006. He then enrolled and graduated from nursing school in 2008 with honors and Salutatorian. In 2019 John went back to school and in 2021 earned his Bachelor's in business administration with a focus on Healthcare Management graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.96, and is well on his way towards his MBA again with a focus on Healthcare Management and is on schedule to Graduate in November 2022.

John and his Lady Jennifer have been married for 10 years and they have been together for almost 13 years. Together they have raised 4 sons and a couple of extra boys, two of which serve in the United States Army. One of their sons Brett, is getting married at the Redlands Masonic Lodge this October. John's 22-year-old son Zach is an Entered Apprentice Mason, with hopes that his 26-year-old son will petition as well. John and Jennifer have also spent a lot of time with their local Jobs Daughter's Bethel, providing birthday gifts and special items for the girls on holidays.

John currently serves in the ministry at their church, Calvary Chapel of the High Desert, where he and Jennifer have attended together for the past 13 years.

Having started his Masonic Journey, John was raised a Master Mason in 2008 and was knighted in 2012 at the Inland Empire York Rite Festival. He served his commandery as Eminent Commander in 2016, and was elected and continues to serve High Desert Commandery #79 as Recorder after his year as Commander.

John has taken part in several events between the Grand Commandery of California and the Grand Commandery of Pacific Prince Hall, including attending their grand sessions and marching in

the Los Angeles Martin Luther King Day parade for multiple years. John has participated in the conferral's of the Orders at the York Rite Festivals in San Bernardino and San Diego since his knighting by filling in for vacancies in the teams as needed, assisting San Diego, Riverside and St. Bernard Commanderies, and continues to do so.

In 2018, He received the California Knight Templar Meritorious Service Medal from his commandery High Desert #79, presented by Sir Knight James



Baum, Grand Inspector General. John served as my Adjutant in Department 1 from January of 2019 until his appointment to the Grand Commandery progressive line in May of 2022. He received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, presented by M.E. Grand Master David Kussman at this year's Grand Banquet in Visalia.

John has already started supporting the membership efforts of the Grand Commandery of California to build the York Rite Bodies by attending lodges in Victorville and Barstow, and making York Rite presentations to

attract new members. He is a great addition to the Grand Commandery and will provide years of service and dedication. Please welcome him at your first opportunity.

Please enjoy a safe and festive Independence Day. I look forward to seeing many of you at the reception for our Grand Encampment officers on July 16th.

May God, heal, support, guide and bless our great country.



You will know them by their works,

Craig L. Ragtvet
Grand Commander

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California Grand Commandery Of Knights Templar

Cordially Inviting You For A Dinner Reception

Honoring

Grand Encampment Of Knights Templar, U.S.A.

SK David J Kussman,

M.E. Grand Master

&

SK David W Studley,

R.E. Grand Captain General

Saturday, July 16th, 2022

5:00pm Social - 6:00pm Dinner

Hors D'oeuvres, Four Course Meal and Cash Bar

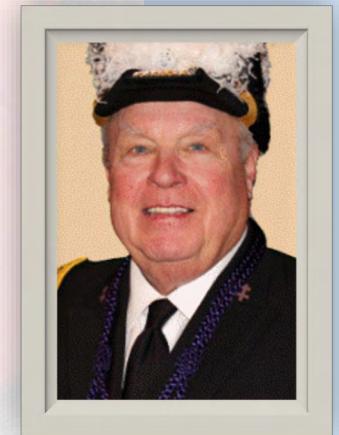
Pasadena Scottish Rite - 150 N. Madison Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

Please RSVP SK Anthony McLean, CA Grand Treasurer

Pay by Check: Grand Commandery of California

Mailing address: 1895 Camino Del Rio S., San Diego, CA 92108

Pay by Credit Card: <https://grand-treasurer-office.square.site/>



All SKs

**Attending With
Class A Uniform**

&

Ladies

Formal Dress

\$60

Per Person