

The Hoosier Templar

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Phillip Whisner, GC



PGC, PDC Larry Brown has died

MUNCIE — Sir Knight Larry W. Brown of Muncie died June 30.

Visitation with a Knight Templar Guard of Honor, a Masonic Memorial Service, and an AASR 33rd Degree White Rose Ceremony, will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, at Meeks Mortuary, 415 E. Washington St., Muncie. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Friday, July 8, at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie.

Brown, a Knight Commander of the Temple, was installed as Indiana's Grand Commander on April 24, 2009. A few years later he was appointed by the Grand Encampment as East Central Department Commander.

Brown was born June 23, 1947, to Donald E. Brown and Waneta M. (Kean) Brown. He was born in Bluffton, and graduated from Bluffton High School. He was in the US Naval Reserve and in 1966 joined the US Air Force as a military police officer. After leaving the Air Force, he moved to Muncie, became a Muncie Police Officer, and met his wife, Suanna. He retired from the Muncie Police Force after 30 years of service, having held the position of Deputy Police Chief. Larry and Suanna have 5 children: Larry II, Tonya, Jason, Aaron, and Amy. They also have 6 grandchildren.

Larry graduated from Indiana Vocational Technical College with a degree in Building Construction. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1993. He attended Northwestern University for Budgeting and Administration. In pursuit of a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, he attended Ball State University for 2 years and also took classes at Northwestern University, University of Louisville and the University of Virginia.

Larry was elected to two 4-year terms as township Trustee Assessor and 2 terms as Precinct Committeeman. He was a past board member of Big Brothers & Big Sisters and a past board member with the Mental Health Association. He also was an Explorer Scout Advisor earning the Commissioner Award for East Central United States.

Larry and Suanna were members of DeSoto United Methodist Church where he was on several boards and together he and Suanna taught Junior High Sunday School. They subsequently joined New Burlington United Methodist Church.

Sir Knight Brown was raised a Master Mason in Whitney Lodge No. 229 F&AM, New Burlington, on December 2, 1986. He served as Worshipful Master in 1995. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Muncie Chapter No. 30, R.A.M. and served as Excellent High Priest in 2000. He was greeted a Cryptic Mason in Muncie Council No. 16 and served as Illustrious Master in 1998. He was created a Knight Templar at Muncie's Commandery No. 18 and served as Eminent Commander in 1998 and 1999. He received the Commandery's Distinguished Service Award in 2000. Larry then affiliated with the Anderson York Rite, where he served as Eminent Commander in 2005. He began his Grand Commandery career 2002-03 as a Deputy Battalion Commander for Battalion IV. He was appointed Grand Warder in the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in 2003 and was elected Grand Junior Warden in 2004.

Larry also received the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Indianapolis in 1987 and was a dual member with the Valley of Fort Wayne. He subsequently was coroneted a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and honorary member of the AASR Supreme Council, NMJ.



BROWN

Larry was elected to receive the Degrees of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in 1988 in Fort Wayne College No. 55. He served that college as Governor in 2005 and received the Order of the Purple Cross in Spokane, Wash., in 2005. He was appointed Indiana Deputy Grand Governor in 2006.

Other Masonic Affiliations Include:

- Indiana Past Commanders Association (1998)
- Knight of the York Cross of Honour, Fort Wayne Priory No.8 (1)
- Yeoman of York, Indianapolis Preceptory No. 4 (2003)
- Allied Masonic Degrees of United States of America, Willard M. Avery Council No. 409 (2005)
- Red Cross of Constantine, Saint Basil Conclave (2007)
- Royal Order of Scotland (2008)
- International Order of DeMolay, Wells County Chapter, Senior DeMolay; Received the Active DeMolay Legion of Honor in 2007.

Grand Officers' Monthly Column

Who Were the Knights Templar?

By SK Randy Darling
Grand Generalissimo

After Jerusalem was taken back by the Christian armies from the Muslims in 1099, many pilgrims were making their way to the Holy Land. They were robbed and killed along their journey through Muslim-controlled territories.

In 1118, a knight named Hughes de Payens, along with eight other men, created an order to protect the travelers on their way to Jerusalem. They were called the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, later known as Knights Templar. Their pledge was to protect the Christian travelers on their way to the Holy City. The newly formed knights were housed on the city's sacred Temple Mount with the support of King Baldwin II.

At first the knights did not receive the support of some religious leaders. Then in 1129 the knights received an endorsement from Bernard of Clairvaux and the Catholic Church. After the announcement of praise by Bernard the order began to grow. About ten years later, Pope Innocent II issued a Papal Bull that allowed the Knights special rights. They were exempt from paying any kind of taxes and allowed to build their own chapel and temples.

As the order grew and their status became established, The Knights Templar grew in great wealth throughout the lands they protected. People donated them large sums of money and even land to support their growth. King Alfonso I of Portugal, for instance, left the Templars one-third of his land in his will. Thus, the order began to start new chapters throughout Europe.

All the members swore an oath of poverty, chastity, and obedience. By honing their skills to be fierce warriors and protecting the traveling pilgrims, they began to expand their duties as defenders of the Crusader states. Their fierce reputation as warriors, driven by religious fervor and never retreating unless no battle flag remained standing, brought them great honor and respect to everyone, even their enemies.

Muslim forces retook Jerusalem in 1187, and in the century that followed, the Crusader forces were driven out of the Middle East. The Templars set up a new central base in Paris. King Philip IV of France was not too eager to host them. King Philip IV was deeply in debt to them, and the Templars refused to give him any more funds. Accordingly, King Philip IV decided to take the order down.

On Friday, October 13, 1307, King Philip IV had the order's grand master, Jacques de Molay, and a multitude of French Templars arrested and tortured into making false confessions. Their charges included heresy, financial corruption, devil-worshipping, fraud and even spitting on the cross.

On March 22, 1312, at the Council of Vienne, The Order of the Knights Templar was formally abolished by Papal decree.

Dozens of Templars were burned at the stake in Paris for their so-called confessions. Grand Master Jacques de Molay was himself executed in March, 1314.

CELEBRATE

By SK Archie R Smallwood KCT, PGC

Grand Prelate

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Indiana. We call this letter celebration, and you may ask why?

Do you think it is about the 4th of July and all the picnics that are going on or might you think of all the family events that may be going on? Not for me and I hope not for you as a Knight Templar.

All around the state there will be many patriotic events taking place, and what a fine opportunity to show our knightly virtues with what we stand for. To be a patriot in this time of trouble would be a virtue you could stand up for and let the world see in you.

Around the state there will be parades going on with flags flying also it gives us the opportunity show as Masons and Knight Templar that our respect for the flag and all the meaning behind it runs deep. We as Knight Templar marching in uniforms, walking in parades, or taking part in loyal American events, we let the world know we are soldiers of the cross, that truth and honor are about us. We are not only Masons but Christian Knights of the Cross and by our vows we will help, aid, and assist those in need.

THE SUPREME CONSTITUTION

The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

America has a great document that is valued and respected. It was written more than 200 years ago by a number of men who labored long and debated even longer over its many provisions. The framers of the Constitution knew they were writing the basic document granting its citizens freedom. It described their rights, their privileges, and their limitations.

Just as America has grown and prospered within the framework of our Constitution, so Christianity has flourished and spread according to the laws set forth in Scripture.

As the Constitution is the highest law of the land, so the Bible is the highest law of God, in which He makes His enduring promises and reveals His plan of redemption for humanity.