

# CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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## Greetings Sir Knights of the Great State of California.

*by Sir Knight Craig L. Flagtwet*

Thank you for electing me to serve as Grand Commander of our Grand Commandery. It is indeed the highest honor I have been afforded in my Masonic career.



Allow me to introduce myself to those I have not had the pleasure to meet. I was born in Riverside, CA. August 20th 1960, I attended school in Riverside County and graduated from Rubidoux High in 1978. My college education is from Riverside City College and Loma Linda University with a major in Biology. I have always been fascinated by Nature's systems and processes and very much enjoyed studying Micro and Cellular Biology.

My employment has been in and around the coatings industry, where I served as Corporate Vice President, and managed the Southern division of a manufactures representative firm for 20 years. I am now employed as a *Field Specialist* with a company that was my largest customer.

It was at the end of my contracting years and during the transition to Sales I meet and married my Lady Tammy. We will celebrate our 33rd anniversary in November of 2022. We have two adult daughters, and two, and very soon to be three, Grand Children.

While employed in selling automotive refinish material to body shops in San Bernardino County CA., I made a sales call on a body shop whose owner at that time was a man named Kurt Meyer. I saw the *Square and Compass* displayed on his desk and inquired if the town of Highland, CA. had a Masonic lodge. It did at that time, and I was entered on July 13th 1992.

Kurt coached me through my proficiencies, I still hear them with a German accent. I would not trade that experience for anything in the world. I served as Master of Highland 748 F. & A.M. in 1995 and again in 2000. In 2001, Highland merged with Redlands lodge 300 F. & A.M. in Redlands CA., where I am now a life member.

I started my York Rite adventure when I joined Redlands Royal Arch Chapter # 77 and was exalted on October 14th 1995. In addition, I belong to Keystone Royal Arch Chapter #56, Valley Cryptic Council #27 and Saint Bernard Commandery #23.

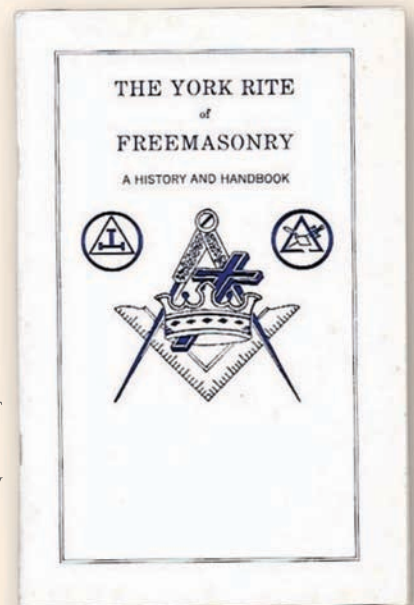
I was appointed to the progressive Grand Commandery line of Knights Templar in California by Sir Knight Steven E. Aldrete, REPGC in 2016. If you would like to read more of my Masonic career, it is available in my Bio on the Grand York Rite website.

(<https://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/gcbio.html>)

We have many things to be thankful for here in California, one of which is we as a Grand Commandery have two Grand Encampment officers: M.E. Grand Master David Kussman and R.E. Grand Captain General David Studley. Please join with me in receiving them and celebrating with them on July 16th at the Pasadena Scottish Rite.

My focus this year will be on building awareness and membership in The York Rite of Freemasonry. We will be doing this by making presentations at local Masonic lodges in California. At every presentation we make available a copy of ***The YORK RITE of FREEMASONRY – A History and Handbook*** authored by Sir Knight Frederick G. Speidel, REPGC, North Carolina. A copy of book will be available at no charge to any brother who desires one. (This book is printed by and available from The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA.)

In this book, REPGC Speidel covers the 1st degree to the Order of the Temple, as well as many valuable pieces of information to help a brother understand why it's in his best interest to become a York Rite Mason.



Please help me build and prosper our beloved fraternity, what better way than to assist 4 or 5 of your brothers in finding the pleasure and friendship we already enjoy in the York Rite.



Best Regards,

*Craig L. Hagtvet*  
Grand Commander

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