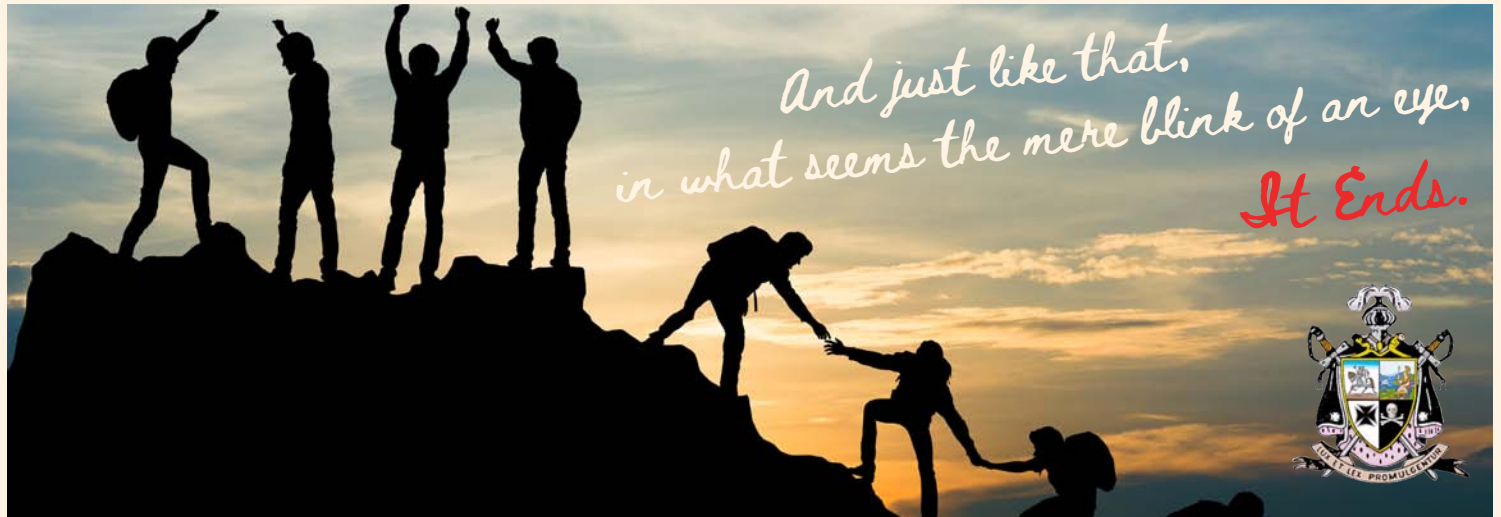


CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication supplement of the California Cross & Crown Bulletin



Sir Knight

DAVID W. STUDLEY, KGC

Right Eminent

Grand Commander

Knights Templar of California

Right Eminent

Grand Captain General

Grand Encampment

Knights Templar of U.S.A.

P.O. Box 298
Mountain Ranch, CA
95246

Studleylaw66@gmail.com

(209) 304-6950

**Good night, good night!
Parting is such sweet sorrow,**

**That I shall say good night
till it be morrow.**

Wm. Shakespeare, *Romeo & Juliet*
Act 2, Scene 2

**And just like that,
in what seems the mere blink of an eye, it ends**

by SK David W. Studley

With that pensive prologue, permit me to reminisce a bit. My Grand Templar journey began, as do so many, with a bon voyage dinner almost 10 years ago now, where Fenton Mereness and his Lady Emily joined Hallie and me to discuss becoming a part of the progressive grand line. I was honored, though somewhat bewildered; Hallie seemed unsettled, perhaps uncertain. Fenton and Emily were candid, emphasizing the time commitment and responsibility. What I probably heard was the fancy chapeau and the red cord; Hallie more likely the travel demands and the repeated trips to Bakersfield, now Visalia. In any event, after some discussion, we agreed to cast off, and here we are, 9-1/2 years later, nearing the end of that epic journey.

There are so many of you that made this trip easier. First of all, Fenton, for his confidence in me and for mentoring me along the way. To my Past Grand Commanders, who continue to serve our Grand Commandery and who gave me sound advice and thoughtful guidance throughout my years. To each of the officers in my progressive line, particularly Craig Flagtwet, Roger Ross and Jordan Yelinek, my executive team, who will soon step into the role I filled this year. I have tried to hand off the organization in as good shape as it was given to me; I wish you great success in your coming years as leaders of our Order.

I need to mention two Sir Knights who were particularly helpful this year, SK Phil Hardiman, our Grand Recorder, and SK Marty Cusing, who edited and formatted my California Supplement messages this year. One cannot handle the administrative duties of this job without strong support from the Recorder's office. This year, I received devoted help from SK Phil at every turn.

SK Marty made my generally toneless verbiage appear uplifting by his clever use of graphics and skilled formatting. More notably, SK Marty stood up when my thoughts were criticized by others, never using the excuse that he was merely the messenger. His strength of character in challenging times is a tribute to our Templar values.

The Ladies of the Grand Commandery stepped up for me in ways that I cannot adequately express.

After my wife Hallie passed away in December 2020, these wonderful women shouldered the responsibilities assigned to our Grand Ladies, organizing so much of the activities you will enjoy at the forthcoming Grand Sessions. To Lady Tammy Flagtwet, Lady Lynn Ross and Lady Leslie McBroome, my heartfelt thank you.

To my friends at the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Grand Encampment,

thank you for your support and confidence in my abilities. I hope to meet your high expectations in everything I am asked to do – the Grand Encampment and our wonderful charity deserve no less.

To Hallie, the love of my life. I wish you could have been here to see this journey come to its conclusion.

And last, to my God and Savior, for comforting me in difficult times, for giving me the strength to carry on and bestowing on me the many blessings that accompanied those challenges, even when I was too distraught to see. I pray that all of you who suffer will come to realize that God is there to bless and comfort you too.



Courteously,

David W. Studley
Grand Commander



Marty M. Cusing, KTCH | California Knights Templar Editor | martycusing@gmail.com

Philip A. Hardiman, KTCH, KCT, KYGCH, PGHP
Grand Recorder | Grand Commandery California Knights Templar
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org | (916) 712-4814

www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org