

# The Hoosier Templar

A publication of the Grand Commandery, KT, of Indiana



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Phillip Whisner, GC

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## Introducing Grand Commander Whisner

By SK Phillip Whisner KTCH  
Grand Commander

It was a great honor to be installed as your Grand Commander at the 168<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Indiana. I am looking forward to a great year in 2022-2023 and to visiting your Commanderies. Remember, the Grand Commandery is here to serve you, the Sir Knights of Indiana, and we are here to help however we can. Don't be afraid to ask!

For those of you who don't know me, there is a short biography below. Even those of you who do know me may not know the story of how I came to be a Sir Knight, though. My wife Connie had several good friends who belonged to the Social Order of the Beauceant and they wanted her to join also. The criteria to be a member of Beauceant at that time was to be a wife or widow of a Sir Knight. Connie asked (told?) me to join Commandery so she could become a member of Beauceant, and I did so in 2001. I remind her once in awhile that she only has herself to blame for me being where I am now!

## Biography of Grand Commander Phillip Whisner:

Phillip (Phil) Whisner, also known as "Bear," is an Indianapolis native, where he attended both high school (Warren Central) and college (Butler University). He retired from Allison Transmission where he was a journeyman tinsmith. He is married, with three grown daughters and five grandchildren. He enjoys attending various activities with the grandkids, attending Colts games with his wife, and golfing whenever he gets the chance. Phil is an active member of Southport United Methodist Church, where he helps lead a ministry focused on growing and providing fresh produce to the local community.

Phil was raised as a Master Mason in Wayne Guthrie Lodge #753 in 1986. He is twice a past Worshipful Master and served as Secretary for almost ten years. Phil was initiated into York Rite in 2001. He was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award twice and the Knights Templar Cross of Honor. He has served in numerous York Rite offices, participated in two drill teams, and is now humbled and honored to serve as Right Eminent Grand Commander for the Grand Commandery of Indiana.

Phil is a member of several other great organizations, including Indiana College #55 and

Robert Wood Priory, KYCH. He is an active member of Isley York Rite College #129 and was honored to receive the Order of Purple Cross in 2018. Other Masonic and York Rite bodies that Phil is an active member in are High Twelve International (past president of chapter #122 and current president for state High Twelve association), St. Bernard de Clairvaux Council, Allied Masonic Degree, Holy Arch Knight Templar Priests, Red Cross of Constantine St. Basil Conclave, Tall Cedars of Lebanon (past Grand Tall Cedar, and recipient of the national Tall Cedar of the Year award), Royal Order of Scotland, and Sahara Grotto. Phil is also a member of Yeoman of York, Indianapolis Preceptory #4, where he is a past Director General and Grand Chaplain of Grand Yeoman of York.

## *Grand Prelate's Monthly Message*

# Springtime of Life

By SK Archie R Smallwood KCT, PGC, GPE

Grand Prelate

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana we wish to acknowledge our new Grand Commandery line of officers. We wish them the best on their endeavor for this term of office with knowledge and planning for our templar year. It was with a calm reassurance we placed them into elected offices knowing that they would perform their duties well. We congratulate our Grand Commander Right Eminent Philip D. Whisner and his core of officers that will be guiding us this year.

Sir Knights we first thank the Captain of our Salvation, our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ. We as Knight Templar should do what we can to help, aid, and assist those in need and truly at this time we have many who are in need, not only for the things to get by in this world but that which we need for the world to come.

After reading and understanding a book written by a Preacher most of us knew when he blazed the trail while here on earth, Rev. Billy Graham. This man who preached the bible taught us many things and one was that "God's Law Is Clear". Allow me to quote from this book he wrote yes "God's Law Is Clear". "Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 PETER 1:21)

In the wonders of nature, we see God's laws in operation. Who has not looked up at the stars on a cloudless night and marveled in silent awe at the glory of God's handiwork? Even our astronauts have lauded the Lord as Creator of the vastness of space. Who has not felt his heart lifted in the spring of the year as he sees all creation bursting with new life and vigor? In it we see the magnitude of God's power and the infinite detail of His planning, but nature tells us nothing of God's love or God's grace. We do not find the promise of our personal salvation in nature.

Conscience tells us in our innermost being of the presence of God and of the moral difference between good and evil, but this is a fragmentary message, in no way as distinct and comprehensive as the lessons of the Bible. It is only in its pages that we find the clear and unmistakable message upon which all true Christianity is based.

### **A New Post**

"By this we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments." (1 JOHN 2:3)

In Texas they tell a story about a man who used to hitch his horse every morning in front of the saloon. One Morning the saloonkeeper came out and found that the horse was hitched in front of the Methodist church. He saw the man walking down the street and called out, "Say why is your horse hitched in front of the Methodist church this morning?"

The man turned around and said, "Well, last night I was converted in the revival meeting, and I've changed hitching posts."

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## *Fodreas Decorate Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington*



ARLINGTON, VA — Although the bus trip to the Easter Sunrise Service was cancelled, SK Ed Fodrea KCT, GC, and some Sir Knights and ladies traveled on their own to the event. Fodrea thus maintained the annual tradition of Indiana's Grand Commander decorating the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Here, SK Ed and Lady Christine Fodrea, assisted by a Tomb Guard, place the wreath. Saluting in background is an Army musician who will blow "Taps."