



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LOUISIANA



Knight Templar State News
September 2022



Commander: REGC Charles Bertrand
Website: <https://www.yorkritela.org>

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

To: The Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Louisiana

We have a new Commandery opening in Houma, LA. Disciples Commandry #31. Any Knight Templar who would like to affiliate please contact Freddie Touchet PC
fj2chet@comcast.net

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights for helping to achieve the goals that the Grand Commandery is trying to achieve. I know that some of you are and have been saying that I am repeating the same things every month in my newsletter.

I hope that lets you understand that I feel these things are very important.

We need to continue to work on:

1. Membership – Recruit, Restore, Retain
2. MMS Roster – Communication for Retention (emails, phone numbers, and addresses)
3. Building an excel spreadsheet that has a list of all Knight Templars listed with contact information - next is a list of all those who were Sir Knights we might Restore
4. 100% Knight Templar Eye Foundation \$3300 dollars to go 200% \$31,560 participation goals
5. Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund to underwrite annual ordained minister pilgrimages so any commandery may be successful with their nomination
6. Educational Programs every month – Again, Retention
7. Festivals – Fun and Recruitment

PGC Keith Gates established the Holy land Pilgrimage medal endowment fund as an integral part of our completely new Constitution approved in 2019. We need to promote that endowment fund so that we can build our foundation that helps send an ordained minister to the holy land every year. We have established a method to make small recurring credit card payments with Sir Knight Scotty Adams S2HScotty@gmail.com , Sir Knight Wilson Cook wilsoncook@icloud.com, and the Monroe Valley to make monthly credit card payments until you reach \$1,000. We also have other ways that a Sir Knight can achieve the medal with monthly payments. If interested please contact the Grand Recorder or your Local Recorder. Our goal is for at least 10% of all Sir Knights wearing this medal at the Grand Conclave next year.

South Central will be held in Sam's Town, Shreveport, LA. September 16-17, 2022. the information is on the web site. We need to attend and represent Louisiana with the most Sir Knights.

Houma will have a two-day Festival on November 12th and 19th. The Chapter and Council Degrees on November 12th with the Commandery orders on November 19th. Unity Lodge – Freddie Touchet PC fj2chet@comcast.net

If you are a Facebook member or you have friends that are, please have them like our page. We are now at 1960. I would like to reach 5000 this year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lagrandyorkritebodies/>

The Monthly New Letter will be adding a Bio of the elected Line Officers August will profile our Grand Generalissimo, Kenneth K. Bell, Jr.

Sir Knights.

One of the things that the Grand Commander requested of us was to do a bio of who we are so you would get an idea of your Grand Line Officers. I was born in Alexandria, Louisiana in 1948. My parents later moved to New Orleans where I spent my youth. I enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1967 and was still in boot camp when my Senior year of High School started. After graduation I went on active duty and became a Hospital Corpsman. I didn't go overseas due to some High School injuries to my knees and was told that the terrain would be too rough where I was going. After discharge from the Navy, I entered the computer field as a computer operator. Once settled, I married my wife Kathy and started Jr. College at Delgado while working at night. I graduated from Delgado in 18 months with a Degree in Communications with a Major in computers and English. I entered Loyola City College the next semester and in two years received a Bachelor of Arts with majors in Accounting and Management.

While still working a night shift in the computer fields I was able to become a Programmer, System Analyst, and Department Manager while working for several companies and moving up the ladder. I was chosen to be the Computer Center Manager for the Housing Authority of New Orleans and developed several systems that linked all the developments into the main office. I remained there for 12 years until I went to work for the Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service where I started as a Computer Specialist. While there I developed several programs that were used throughout MMS for their accounting and data entry. In 2010 I retired as the Support Services Supervisor in charge of

Telecommunications and several other departments for a three-state area. I developed computer systems for the Support Services Section, and several other departments.

My wife Kathy and I have been married for 52 years and have two children, Shawn and Kristen. Shawn is an Attorney in Tennessee and works on contracts for an international company and has one son. My daughter Kristen is a Program Assistant for the Department of Energy here in New Orleans and has two sons.

My masonic career started in 2010 when I was raised in Germania Lodge #46. Later I pluralized into Perfect Union Lodge # 1, Union Lodge #172, and became a Charter Member of the Louisiana Motorcycle Lodge # 13. While in these lodges I held the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Worshipful Master and DDGM of the 16th District. In the York Rite lodges I entered St. John Chapter #98, St. John Council # 41, and Indivisible Friends Commandry # 1. While in these lodges I became the Past High Priest, Past Illustrious Master and Emanant Commander. This is a lot for 12 years but wait there is still more. I entered the Scottish Rite lodges and worked all of the Sub-bodies as Master culminating as the Venerable Master of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection and was later honored with the 33rd degree (White Hat). Not to be left out, the Grand Lodge appointed me to the Board of the Masonic Cemeteries where I have served for the last 5 years. Hold on, we are almost at the end. I later was elected to the bottom chair of the Knights Templar of Louisiana where I currently serve as your Grand Generalissimo. Whew, we are finished.

I would like to thank REGC Charles Bertrand for giving me this time to give you a brief history of my accomplishments and look forward serving you in the future.

Yours in All Knightly Courtesy,

Kenneth K. Bell, Jr.
Grand Generalissimo

Always remember to put on the Armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Onward Christian Soldiers
Charles Bertrand
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
Of the State of Louisiana

“Chivalry, Christianity, Templary – A Way of Life”







I am sending this out to each Knight Templar in the state of Louisiana. I hope to encourage you to attend your next Commandery meeting. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. My phone # is 985-860-9308.