

# The Asylum

From the Editor

Sir Knight Daniel A. Rivers, PC

I hope this issue finds each and every one of you in a happy, positive state of mind. Like most living, breathing people, I have had some adversity in my life. I decided at an early age that adversity would not define me. That I would start each day with the express goal of being happy! Call that a “warrior’s attitude”, the illusion of youth or unbridled enthusiasm. I have also seen it called grit, guts, intestinal fortitude and resolve. We, every day of our lives, choose to set the stage of our own success, or failure. A positive and happy outlook sets the stage for success! I ALWAYS choose this path.

I remember while serving in the Marines, we were often in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, in the dirt and the muck where Marines often set up camp, undersupplied and overworked. Conditions I am quite sure the crusaders often encountered. One Marine would start singing, and soon the entire Company was singing at the top of their lungs. Or somebody would break out a ratty, nasty looking football, and the men and women of the unit were suddenly ten years old again, laughing and playing. Those are joyous memories I will carry with me ‘til the end of my days. Having a happy, positive attitude is contagious in the extreme! This is the reason I choose, each and every day, to be happy. And it is a conscious decision.

I have lost family, and people dear to me over the years, and I celebrate the wonderful individuals they were, and the positive impact they had on my life. I will not lose a single day to sadness or remorse, misgivings or second guessing. And the future always looks bright! Since happiness and a positive attitude are contagious, when faced with challenges, it is amazing how quickly you find solutions, and friends willing to help overcome those challenges.

I have spoken to members of my lodge extensively on the value of having a personal philosophy to help govern their lives. The personal philosophy I have adopted is “Be Happy! Celebrate Life! Walk with God.” These three tenets break out into individual philosophies on finances, relationships, conduct and aspirations. In other words, these philosophies help me be true to myself and therefore successful in life. The root three remain unchanged, so far. They have held strong for many decades.

If you don’t have a personal philosophy yet, I recommend you create one. Make “Be Happy” part of it, and choose to be so each and every day. It’s amazing how, when you think it first thing in the morning, it becomes a solid part of your everyday reality.





GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF COLORADO

Sir Knight Ron Birely, Right Eminent Grand Commander  
303-748-4547, ronbir@msn.com

February 3, 2023

To: All Sir Knights, and Commanderies of Colorado

Subject: Easter Sunrise Service

Dear Sir Knights,

I hope that this note finds you in the warmth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am excited to remind you that we will be having an Easter Sunrise Service, at the Denver Consistory, on Easter Morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>. You may have seen the flyer by now. As a reminder, the service will be at the Denver Consistory, 1370 Grant Street. We would remind all Sir Knights, that wish to be part of the processional, to wear their Class A Uniforms (Black A, or Cap and Mantle).

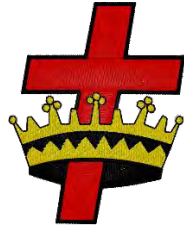
We would also like to see as many Commandery Banners on the stage, this year, as possible. The Consistory will be open on April 7<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00 am and noon, to set up for the service. Please bring your banner during this time of set up. You may also bring the banner on the Sunday morning before the service. The doors will open at 5:30 am, and the service will begin promptly at 6:30 am.

I would also remind you that tickets for the breakfast after the service are available on the KTA web site at [www.coloradokta.org](http://www.coloradokta.org).

Courteously,

*Ron Birely*

Ron Birely  
R.E. Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Colorado



## *BEAUCEANT*

The decision in 1889 to hold the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar at Denver in 1892 placed a real challenge on the 200 plus Sir Knights residing in this western cow and mining town. Their loving wives rose to the occasion and responded through the S.O.O.B Society (Social Order Of the Beauceant) to make this Society an attractive center from which shall radiate bright, joyous, and happy influence, that life be made purer, better, and sweeter for others.

This native Colorado Member of our Masonic Family limits Membership to the wives and widows of Knights Templar.

Their purpose is to aid the Commanderies when requested. This includes the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to which many of the Members contribute.

On January 13, 2023 (Mrs. Mark) Lauren Ralston was installed as Worthy President of Denver Assembly #1. In a beautiful ceremony, annual installation of all the Officers was accomplished with grace and elegance. Congratulation Ladies of Denver Assembly #1.

Many Sir Knights were in attendance, and at the completion of installations, an Arch of Steel was formed to honor the Ladies. We wish them a joyous and productive year, and appreciate all of the support they provide to our Commanderies.

# Knights Templar Association of Colorado



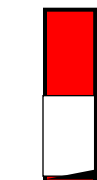
## PURPOSE

The Knights Templar Association (KTA) of Colorado is a non-profit, fraternal organization, under the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Colorado. Its purpose is to organize participation in Christian observances, conduct philanthropic awareness events, and uplift the Sir Knights of Colorado through education and award programs.

- Annual highlights of our observances include the Easter Observance, Christmas Observance and Ascension Day Service hosted by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Colorado.
- The Colorado KTA is proud to promote and organize fundraisers for the charities of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, to include The Holy Land Pilgrimage and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.
- Our education and awareness programs include the KTA Banner Program. Commanderies compete to earn specialized enamel KTA pins (sample shown here) to proudly display on their Commandery beauceant ribbons. The ribbons are supplied by the KTA and the colors include white, blue, purple, green, teal, and red/white. Pins are awarded annually for participation in the Christian observances, various parades, and performing exemplary achievements.
- In addition, Colorado KTA responsibilities include Memorial Services for fallen Colorado Knights, Grand Commanders' Traveling Sword Program, Holy Land Pilgrimage, Sir Knight Jess W. Gern Award, Flaming Sword Program, and performing Arches of Steel, just to name a few.
- The Association further exists to assist with any other lawful purposes arising under the auspices of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Colorado or by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.



The Sir Knights of Colorado are proud to be a part of the Knights Templar Association and are active in these programs throughout the great State of Colorado.



Christmas



Ascension



Parade



Easter



# Flag Salutes

J Randy Penn, Grand Senior Warden for the Patriotism Committee

Flag salutes come in many styles and flavors. One of my favorites was offered by Br Red Skelton Red Skelton Hour, January 14, 1969.

[AUTHENTICITY CERTIFIED: Text version below transcribed directly from audio.]

“When I was a small boy in Vincennes, Indiana, I heard, I think, one of the most outstanding speeches I ever heard in my life. I think it compares with the Sermon on the Mount, Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, and Socrates’ Speech to the Students.”



“We had just finished reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he [Mr. Lasswell, the Principal of Vincennes High School] called us all together, and he says, “Uh, boys and girls, I have been listening to you recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems that it has become monotonous to you. Or, could it be, you do not understand the meaning of each word? If I may, I would like to recite the pledge, and give you a definition for each word:”

**I** – Me; an individual; a committee of one.

**Pledge** – Dedicate all of my worldly good to give without self-pity.

**Allegiance** – My love and my devotion.

**To the Flag** – Our standard. “Old Glory”; a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts “Freedom is everybody's job.”

**of the United** – That means we have all come together.

**States** – Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that’s love of country  
**Of America.**

**And to the Republic** – A Republic: a sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

**For which it stands One Nation**

**Under God**<sup>1</sup> – Meaning "so blessed by God."

**Indivisible** – Incapable of being divided.

**With Liberty** – Which is freedom; the right of power for one to live his own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

**And Justice** – The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.

**For All** – For All. That means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Now let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

**I pledge allegiance  
to the Flag of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic, for which it stands;  
one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: Under God. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That is a prayer" -- and that be eliminated from our schools, too?



The phrase "Under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 – alluded to in the last paragraph above – at the request of President Eisenhower, among others. Mr. Skelton's story refers to events that took place prior to 1954.

Best Regards,  
J Randy Penn



THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PRESENTS

THE OLDEST CONSECUTIVE PRESENTATION OF  
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE IN COLORADO

SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

AT 6:30 A.M.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 A.M.

DENVER CONSISTORY

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

1370 GRANT STREET

DENVER, COLORADO

Free Parking available

The Consistory Garage

Credit Union lots

At 14<sup>th</sup> and Logan

Breakfast will be available for purchase online at [www.coloradokta.org](http://www.coloradokta.org)

Any questions may be directed to 303-748-4547 or [ronbir@msn.com](mailto:ronbir@msn.com)

## **R. E. Grand Commander's Schedule**

**February 15, 2023 Official Visit – Flatirons Commandery #7. Time: TBD**

**February 18, 2023 Official Visit – St. Bernard Commandery #41. Time 6:30 PM**

**February 28, 2023 Knight Templar Association Meeting. Time: 6:00 PM at Chopper's Sports Grill, 80 S. Madison St., Denver, CO. 80209**

**March 9, 2023 Official Visit – Jefferson-Highlands Commandery #30. Time: 6:30 PM**

**March 10, 2023 Official Visit – Coronal-Ascalon Commandery #31. Time: TBD**

**March 21, 2023 Official Visit – Pueblo Commandery #3. Time:TBD**

**March 28, 2023 Knight Templar Association Meeting. Time: 6:00 PM at Chopper's Sports Grill, 80 S. Madison St., Denver, CO. 80209**