



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LOUISIANA



**Knight Templar State News
January 2023**



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

Sir Knights We have lost Three of our Past Grand Commanders this year:

Beverly Joseph "B.J." Guillot PGC 2007-2008, GM 2011-2012

Roy B. Tuck PGC 2003-2004, GMGCCM 2007-2008, GHP 1995-1996, GM 1997

W. A. Morris PGC 1989-1990, PGIM 1977

Please take a moment and remember them and all our Sir. Knights that have passed onto that land from whose borne no traveler returns.



W. A. MORRIS
Right Eminent Grand Commander
1989 - 1990
Presiding

W. A. Morris

Sir Knight W. A. Morris, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, passed over to that undiscovered country from whose borne no traveler returns on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Sir Knight Morris served with distinction as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana in 1989-1990 and as the Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Louisiana in 1977. As such, he was invested with the Knight York Grand Cross of Honour, Two Quadrants.

Born on the 2nd day of January, 1927, in Frost, Texas, the son of Oscar and Annie Prior Morris. Past Grand Commander Morris was 95.96 years old at the time of his passing in Monroe, Louisiana.

He served in the Army during World War II and after serving, he attended Sam Houston State College.

He married Jean Ervin of Mertens, Texas, on July 15, 1949 and they were the proud parents of Marcia Lynn and Brenda Gayle.

He worked for the State of Texas for seven years then worked for the Federal Social Security Administration from 1956 until his retirement in March 1985.

He was raised a Master Mason in Madisonville Lodge No. 740 of Madisonville, Texas, March 15, 1954 and was a Master Mason 68 years. He was Past Master of Abe Hinson Lodge No. 472 having served as Worshipful Master in 1979. He continued serving as Chaplain for many, many years. He also was a member of Fellowship Lodge No. 217.

He became a member of Keystone Chapter No. 44, R.A.M. on November 12, 1959, Summit Council No. 12, Cryptic Masons on November 30, 1959, and a Knight Templar in Trinity Commandery No. 8 on November 15, 1968. and served as Excellent High Priest, Illustrious Master, and Eminent Commander. In 1977-1978 he served as Most illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Louisiana.

He was a member of the Knight York Cross of Honour, the Order of High Priesthood, the Order of the Silver Trowel, the York Rite College, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, the Red Cross of Constantine, and was recognized as a Knight Commander of

the Temple.

He had long been active in Masonic Education and in ritual work. He was the first person to ever hold a certificate of proficiency in the degrees of the Council. He had also held certificates of proficiency in all the degrees of the Chapter as well as the symbolic lodge. At some time in his career, he had conferred sixteen different Masonic degrees – that is all the required degrees of the York Rite plus three honorary degrees. He served as Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons longer than any other person and had served as the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council since the inception of the office. He organized the annual York Rite Workshop for the state in 1978 and had conducted it since that time. The workshop has been named in his honor as the W. A. Morris Workshop and continues to this day.

He served as the Secretary/Recorder for nearly forty years for the Chapter, Council and Commandery in Alexandria beginning in 1979.

Grand Lodge activities included service as Grand Representative for 27 years, member and co-chairman of the Masonic Education committee for 29 years and wrote a monthly Masonic Quiz sent to every Masonic Lodge in Louisiana, Supervised Publication of the Louisiana Freemason Magazine for 13 years, served on the Special Lodge Secretary Training Committee, Special Grand Lodge Sessions Arrangements Committee, and the Information Technology Committee. He was a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Charities & Benevolence and was honored as an Emeritus Member.

In addition to his Masonic activity, he was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and taught Sunday School classes.

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 freddietouchet@gmail.com

Disciples Commandry #31, Houma, LA. will have a two-day Festival on Saturday February 11th and Sunday February 12th. The Chapter and Council Degrees on February 11th with the Commandery orders on February 12th. Unity Lodge 1029 Bayou Black Dr., Houma, LA. – Freddie Touchet PC freddietouchet@gmail.com

The W. A. Morris workshop and Grand York Rite Bodies 4th Quarterly meeting will be held at 1715 Horseshoe drive, Alexandria, La. On January 28, 2023. All York Rite Masons are encouraged to attend. In addition, the Super Excellent Master degree will be conferred, you can get applications from our Grand Recorder.

The 2023 Louisiana Grand York Rite Session kicks off on Thursday, March 2, 2023, with a jam-packed schedule full of Masonic education, business, and fellowship. The Grand Session will be held at the Bentley Hotel in Alexandria, La.

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights for helping to achieve the goals that the Grand Commandry 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 \$3,300 dollars: to go 200% \$31,560 participation goals
5. Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund of \$150,000 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 to be wearing this medal at the Grand Conclave next year.

If you are a Facebook member or have friends that are, please have them like our page. We are now at 1,986. I would like to reach 5000 this year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lagrandyorkritebodies/>

The Monthly News Letter will be adding a Bio of the elected Line Officers January profiles our Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Allan K. Bean

Allan K. Bean, Eminent Grand Recorder of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana.

Our Right Eminent Grand Commander asked me to introduce myself to Louisiana Sir Knights. Being around a long time means that I have had many opportunities to work with and learn from some great people and great organizations. Hopefully, I have also helped along the way.

I tried to keep this brief, but you know me...and it's hard to summarize 76 years of learning experiences. If you find any of my thoughts useful, please use them. And if not, thanks for reading anyway.

Starting in August of 1946, I was born across the Sabine River in Orange, Texas with half my ancestral family from Louisiana and half from Texas. Attended elementary and secondary school in Orange and Austin, Texas, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from The University of Texas (UT) at Austin and Master's Degree with Distinction in Facilities Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) in Dayton, Ohio, completed Air Command and Staff College and Air War College at Air University in Montgomery, Alabama, and Secondary Teaching certification through Louisiana College in Pineville, Louisiana.

In the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at UT I was invited into the select Arnold Air Society Squadron, was elected Commander, and learned to enjoy the friendships and camaraderie in the military like those I have found and continue to find in Masonry.

Worked my way through college full time as the night librarian for Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and helped men and women become learned ministers. They taught me about sacrifice as they gave up all they had to go to seminary. Also did construction work every summer as a Lineman Helper and learned to be prompt, diligent, meticulous, and very careful.

Upon graduation and while waiting for active-duty orders to West Germany, worked for Gulf States Utility Company Headquartered in Beaumont, Texas as System-wide Relay Protection Engineer. While there, I created the first program using digital computers to make design calculations with imaginary numbers, which the computer experts said could not be done and theretofore had been done by hand, to coordinate relay protection systems. Lesson: never believe the experts or that you cannot do something that has never been done before.

While in West Germany, met and married, "Charlie", my wife of over 52 years. We are blessed with three sons, three daughters-in-law, ten grandchildren and one great granddaughter. As it should be with all Masons, family is my second highest priority, right behind loving God.

Going from Jonesville, Louisiana onto active duty in West Germany as an Air Force base engineering officer, I wound up making a career in service to my country. Which, also, got me assigned and moved to 14 different locations all over the world in my 25-year military career. Learned to adapt and grow quickly, ultimately figuring out that I was trainable. We should all strive to be trainable and proactively train others to take our place. Put new Masons to work.

Although an electrical engineer, the Air Force never saw fit to use me as such in that quarter of a century on active duty, but the discipline of engineering served me well as an Industrial Engineer, Construction Manager, the first Chief of Logistics at any base in the USAF, Chief of Operations for all the building trades on base, Base Fire Marshall, Chief of Services and Mortuary Affairs, Senior Faculty Instructor at Air Command and Staff College, Facility Requirements Officer at HQ Strategic Air Command (SAC) for all weapon systems (aircraft & ICBM), Chief of Engineering War Planning at HQ SAC, the first Chief Airborne National Command Post Engineering Controllers, the Chief Engineering, Services, and Disaster Preparedness Inspector General HQ SAC, a commander of three civil engineering squadrons and a Base Commander. In Civilian world, shows couldn't keep a job. In Military world, showed promotable potential.

Along the way, helped my Fire Department in South Korea to be recognized as the Best Fire Department Pacific Air Force Command (PACAF) and my Civil Engineering Squadron in Loring, Maine to be recognized as the Best Civil Engineering Squadron, Large Base Category in SAC. Great people and great organizations deserve great recognition. Help everyone exceed expectations, achieve greatness, and get the recognition they deserve.

Retired as Colonel from the USAF, earning numerous awards and decorations, with highest being the Legion of Merit. Went back into the civilian world as the Town Manager and the Houlton International Airport Manager in Houlton, Maine, helping them win the Senator Margaret Chase Smith Excellence Award the first time ever earned by a municipality. Getting done there, arrived back in Jonesville, Louisiana where became head of the math department at Block High School winning Best Teacher of the Year recognition. I am convinced it was because I challenged my students to exceed their or anyone else's expectations just as we learn to do when becoming a Maser Mason. Give good and wholesome instruction and challenge our brothers to grow in Masonry by seeking more light in the York Rite and Scottish Rite.

Began my Masonic journey in West Germany becoming a Master Mason 24 June 1971 at Two Bridges Lodge No. 877, Zweibrücken, West Germany. Joined York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery over the next two years, each at a different city in West Germany. Also became a Shriner in Moslah Temple of Fort Worth when they conducted the Fall ceremonies in West Germany. Wonderful lessons learned in each.

Moving around so much limited opportunities to serve masonry in a wider capacity until finally returning back to Jonesville, Louisiana where I joined Key Stone Lodge No. 213 and found new friends and camaraderie in Masonry. Was elected Worshipful Master, District Master, and was appointed 4th District Deputy Grand Master, and then Grand Pursuivant. I also joined Michael Dempsey Lodge No. 327 and was invited into O.K. Allen Lodge No. 33. I currently serve on the Financial Oversight Committee for the Grand Lodge as well as serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors to Manage Perpetual Membership for the Grand Lodge. Also am Administrator of both the Grand Lodge and the York Rite Perpetual Membership programs.

As my journey continued, I was elected high priest, illustrious master, eminent commander in York Rite chapter/council/commandery in Columbia and Monroe, Louisiana, elected Treasurer and became Investments Manager for the Monroe York Rite. Elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, and Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana. Made a Knight Commander of the Temple (KCT) and Knight Templar Court of Honor (KTCH) by the Grand Encampment and an Honorable Companion of the Secret Vault by the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons.

Became a member of the Monroe Scottish Rite Valley as 32° degree with investiture as Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) and was elected as Commander of the Monroe KCCH. I was appointed as the Financial Investments Manager for the Monroe Valley and was also appointed to be a member of the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation Committee.

Invited into Louisiana York Rite College No. 99, the Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH), the Order of High Priesthood (OHP), Order of the Silver Trowel (OST), Knights Preceptor (KP), and Knight Crusaders of the Cross (KCC) serving currently as secretary/recorder of the OHP, OST, KP, and KCC. Additionally, invited into Ouachita Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine (RCC) where I served as Sovereign and continue as Recorder.

Have not learned long lost word: No.

However, I will always treasure being recognized with a Unity Award from the Grand Chapter, and from the Grand Council, and from the Grand Commandery. When we all help each other, it helps all of us.

It is an honor to work with all of you in masonry. I extend my deepest thanks to all Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights for your valued aid and advice. Your calls and emails were especially helpful. We are better when we ask for, learn from, and act on honest, critical feedback. And I could always count on interesting feedback from my friend of many, many years, Sir Knight John Knox, who also has not learned the long lost word.

Special thanks go to Commandery Recorders who worked so effectively to keep their members informed and MMS data up-to-date. We are now well into the process of updating by-laws and let's keep up the excellent work.

Yours In All Knightly Courtesy,

Allan K. Bean

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”



On this occasion, Christmas Eve 2022 Sir Knights from Indivisible Friends, and Jacques DeMolay Commanderies assembled to celebrate Christmas Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Westwego, LA.

We want to thank Father Buddy and the Knights of Columbus for welcoming us into their congregation on this holy day.



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.