

# NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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February 2024

*Some person in authority, I don't know who, very likely the Astronomer Royal,  
Has decided that, although for such a beastly month as February,  
twenty-eight days as a rule are plenty,  
One year in every four his days shall be reckoned as nine and twenty.*  
**Sir William S. Gilbert**

Sir Knights,

**I greet you from my office in our new house on Manchester's West Side.** Lady Virginia and I, empty nesters now, are working feverishly to downsize and declutter after a quarter century spent in our old home in the North End and will need every minute of the extra February day.

Last February I wrote about our own Sir Knight Paul Clifford Smith, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and Clerk of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. It is only proper that this month I make note of the distinguished personage to whom he is chiefly responsible, another Frater, Sir Knight Sherman Adam Packard, Eminent Past Commander of Trinity Commandery No. 1, and current Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

A native of the Queen City who now resides in Londonderry, Sir Knight Packard is the scion of a distinguished political family. His father, Sir Knight Norman A. Packard, was a Past Eminent Commander of Trinity Commandery No. 1 and a former President of the New Hampshire Senate. The younger Packard was named after Llewelyn Sherman Adams, former Governor of New Hampshire and Chief of Staff for President Dwight David Eisenhower. A member of the Republican Party, he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1990 and has served there continuously since. He was elected Minority Leader in the 2008-2010 legislative session and in subsequent sessions served as Speaker pro tempore, Deputy Minority Leader, Deputy Speaker and, on the death of Representative Dick Hinch, newly elected Speaker, in December 2020, he was elected Speaker of the House. Speaker Hinch had succumbed to Covid 19. It fell to Speaker Packard to guide the House through the pandemic. He returned the House to in-person sessions in venues away from the confines of the 400-seat House Chamber, until the contagion had subsided sufficiently as to permit safely meeting there again. He has demonstrated exceptional skill, presiding over the closely divided House where as few as one or two members separated the majority and minority parties.



S.K. Sherman A. Packard, Speaker Of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.



Speaker Packard presides over a remote House session at the Bedford Sports Complex, assisted by S.K. Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House.

Photos courtesy of the *Manchester Union Leader* and *New Hampshire Sunday News*

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 2010, Sir Knight Packard is a Past Master of Rockingham Lodge No. 76 and General Court Lodge No. 1784, Past Master of Adoniram Council No. 11, and Past Commander of Trinity Commandery No. 1. In recognition of his over three decades of selfless service to the citizens of New Hampshire, he was honored with the Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in May of last year.

The Right Emnent Grand Commander will initiate his Annual Inspections Saturday, February 3, 2024, in Portsmouth, as De Witt Clinton Commandery No. 2 and Palestine Commandery No. 11 confer the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. The Conclave will convene at 1:00 p.m. and be preceded by lunch at Noon. Candidates should plan to arrive no later than 11:30 a.m. for check-in. Reservations for lunch must be made with S.K. Joseph J. Rella, Recorder, [Joerellasa56@gmail.com](mailto:Joerellasa56@gmail.com)

Sunday afternoon, February 18, next, at 3:00 p.m., the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire will host a banquet in Manchester to honor our Masonic Brethren who serve in, or are veterans of, the Armed Forces. All members of the Masonic family are welcome to join in honoring those who serve or have served. The cost for the banquet is \$50.00 per person, except for service members and veterans for whom it is complimentary. Kindly make reservations with the Right Eminent Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Dennis A. Sheridan, P.O. Box 621, Littleton, New Hampshire 03561-0621, [dasheridan49a@gmail.com](mailto:dasheridan49a@gmail.com).

Courteously,

*Thomas X. Tsirimokos*

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Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars>