

A MOMENT IN TIME

by Sir Knight Sid C. Dorris III, GCT, R.E. Grand Generalissimo

The festivities of this year's Masonic Week, held in February, contained many "Firsts."

The Order of Knights Templar has a close relative known as Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, made up exclusively of Past Commanders of a Commandery. The membership is limited to 33 Knight Priests per Tabernacle, and only one Tabernacle may exist for every 20 Commanderies of Knights Templar or major portion thereof, or one per Grand Commandery.

The Grand College of America of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests was first organized in 1935 with warrants and Patents from the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests situate in York, England.

Over the years, the association between the Grand College of America and the Grand College of York, England, the only two Knight Templar Priest orders in the world, was sporadic. Occasional trips were made by leadership of these two orders through the years, but nothing was done on a regular basis. Neglect caused miscommunication and misunderstanding, and over time relations became distant and strained. Communication was lacking, which never is good for strong relationships.

This year; as a result of many phone calls and e-mail exchanges initiated by M.E. Knight Priest William H. Koon II, Grand Preceptor, with the Grand College situate in York, England; an historic Agreement was reached. The agreement calls for a commitment to maintain strong communications between these prestigious orders and defines a procedure whereby the orders may be expanded. As a sign of unanimity, both Grand Colleges, after signing the Agreement, together Chartered a new Grand College for France.

The signing of the Agreement is celebrated on the April cover, and other pictures of these events are on page 11.

Truly, a new day has dawned for the Order of Knight Templar Priests, and the leadership of all three Grand Colleges have committed themselves to building a strong relationship for the future.

Central to the achievement of anything is a lot of hard work by many on both sides of the Atlantic. Sir Knight F. Douglas Draker, Past Sovereign Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada and an Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, acted in a capacity of intermediary to get discussions started. Right Illustrious Ian Fithian-Franks, Grand Recorder of the Grand College in York, and M.E. William H. Koon II, Grand Preceptor of the Grand College of America, were in almost daily communications via e-mail and telephone until a rough draft of the Agreement was reached. After all the officers of both orders were informed and it was approved, the final draft was printed and signed on February 8, 2008, in Alexandria, Virginia, during the Annual Meeting of the Grand College of America.

Sir Knight Sid C. Dorris III, GCT and Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, resides at 2007 Brenthaven Drive, Mount Juliet, TN 37112-8244.



Joint presentation of the Patent to the Grand College of France, HRAKTP: left to right: R.E. Lawrence E. Tucker, Grand Recorder, GCA; M.E. William H. Koon II, Grand Preceptor, GCA; M.E. Patrick J. Jaillet, Grand Preceptor, GCF; M.I. E. Peter Donnison, Grand High Priest, GCY; and R.I. Ian Fithian-Franks, Grand Recorder, GCY.



Presentation of Memorial Cubes by the M.E. Patrick J. Jaillet, Grand Preceptor of GCF, HRAKTP: left to right: Ian Fithian-Franks, E. Peter Donnison, Patrick J. Jaillet, William H. Koon II, and Lawrence E. Tucker.