

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

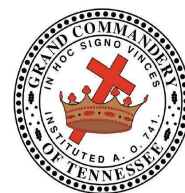
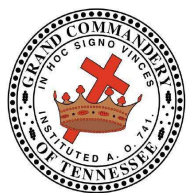
Tennessee Knight Templar News

SIR KNIGHT JOHN W. SIMMONS II, RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

December AD 2024 / AO 906

Managing Editor: Jesse J. Harper, KYCH

Assistant Editor: Justin Childress



Sir Knights preparing to form a graveside Arch of Steel for recently deceased Right Eminent Past Grand Commander William Eugene Trivett, who passed away on Monday November 11th. There were representatives of every East Tennessee Commandery in attendance for this high honor. Also in attendance was every Past Grand Commander from East Tennessee, with the exception of one whose health issues prevented his attendance.

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If you are aware of any members who are not currently receiving this monthly newsletter, then please have them send an email to Steve Guendert with their name, email address, and Commandery number: sguendert@ieee.org

Only about half of our membership is receiving this newsletter on a monthly basis. Assist us in getting this newsletter distributed to every Sir Knight on our rolls.



JOHN WISEMAN SIMMONS II
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee



December Message from the Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

The Grand Commandery is saddened by the passing of Right Eminent Past Grand Commander William Eugene Trivett on November 11th. Sir Knight Trivett was Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery in 1983. I want to thank our Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Tim Sutton, for representing me at the funeral and also all of the Sir Knights who attended and participated. While I did not know Sir Knight Trivett personally, I am sure he served with distinction. Please keep his family in your prayers in this time of loss.

The inspection season wrapped up on November 2nd with the joint inspection of the northeast Tennessee Commanderies. I, again, commend the Sir Knights and Brethren of this area for the great work they are doing in assisting those impacted by Hurricane Helene.

This month is, of course, the month of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we enter the season of Advent, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate His coming aright. The celebration of Christmas has developed into a modern commercial holiday of gift giving. Its standard-bearer, Santa Claus, developed from an early Christian bishop, Saint Nicholas of Myra. His feast day is December 6th. His reputation for charity and mercy is an inspiration to us today.

We do not know for sure on which date Christ was born. Christians have traditionally celebrated his birth in December, probably to represent the light coming at the darkest time of year. His coming to earth is one of the most important and astounding events in history. The Incarnation, God becoming man, is the basis of our salvation. Each Commandery should hold a Christmas observance, publicly, if at all possible. Bring in your families and friends. Have a minister speak, one who we have sent to the Holy Land would be ideal. Attend Christmas services at your church. It would be great if your Commandery could attend as a group. Let people know our commitment to Our Savior, the great Emanuel.

Christ is Born! Glorify him! This changes everything!

Courteously,
John Simmons REGC TN
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, Tennessee

215 Garland Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38104-7133
DRJWSIMMONS@YAHOO.COM

From the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander John L. Palmer, KGC

In Pursuit of a Common Language

As Templars, our roots are in the military tradition. We are said to be "The Army of Christ." If you look at numbers, all the Masonic Templars in the world add up to about the size of a United States "Field Army." Our Grand Encampment is about the size of a United States Army "Corps," and our Grand Commandery of Tennessee is about the size of a small United States Army Brigade. Our Grand Commandery is now divided into seven "Battalions," each of which is composed of from three to five company size units called "Commanderies." An army at any level functions on teamwork, and communication is essential to teamwork. That is the reason you are receiving the monthly *Tennessee Knight Templar News*, and the reason I write these articles – to enhance our ability to work together to accomplish our mission. Our mission is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope that you are familiar with it, because if you do not know what the mission is, there is little chance that you will be able to help the team accomplish it.

An essential part of the ability to communicate is that we speak a common language. In the Grand Encampment, pretty much all of us speak English, but English is an ambiguous language. The same words sometimes have more than one meaning and are interpreted in different ways, resulting in a "failure to communicate." In my next few articles, I plan to offer some definitions to words we regularly use in Templary so that we can establish a common understanding of what is meant when we communicate using these words. We will start with the basics, words which we probably all understand in much the same way, and then work our way into words that are more often interpreted differently.

The first word we want to tackle is the word "**Morality**." Freemasonry is defined as "...a beautiful system of morality..." Morality is a set of values we use to define what is right and wrong. Different groups of people think different things are "moral." As human beings, we do not naturally share the view of what is right or wrong. Some people take the view that morality is "situational," that morality is whatever we want it to be at the moment. These folks believe that the concept of morality was invented by us humans, and that we can change what it means any way we want to. This view results in the breakdown of civilization and the abuse of one person by another.

Freemasonry takes a different view. As Freemasons, we believe in a single supreme being that most of us call "God," and that God, not us men, defines what is moral and what is not. In Tennessee Freemasonry, we teach that our morality is based on the *Holy Bible* and also refer to it as "... the rule

and guide of our faith and practice..." This is why the *Holy Bible* is one of the four essential articles that must be present to establish and open a Lodge, and also the reason that it is always displayed in the center of every Lodge. In essence, Freemasonry in Tennessee teaches that our morality is defined by the teachings of the *Holy Bible*. In Templary, since we are a Christian Knighthood, the definition of morality is further refined to be based on the teachings of Jesus the Christ as defined in the *Holy Bible*.

The next word we need to define is "**Integrity.**" Many of you may remember the quote, "My life you may take, but my integrity, never!" Integrity is clearly an essential trait of a Freemason. I suggest to you that Integrity is the degree to which your actions conform to what you say your beliefs are. If you say that your word is your bond but then break a promise you have made, then you have low integrity. If you say that you believe in marital fidelity and are true to your wife, then you have high integrity. High integrity is one of the essential traits of a Knight, but integrity alone is not sufficient.

As an example, Adolf Hitler sometimes demonstrated high integrity, but most of us would agree that he was not a good person. He espoused the belief that the Jewish race should be annihilated, and he murdered millions of Jewish people. That is high integrity but low morals, at least by our standards.

If you combine high integrity with high morality, you get the third word I want to emphasize, "**Character.**" Character is one of the essential traits of a Templar Knight.

Next month, I will introduce a few more words and try to establish a common understanding of them so that we might communicate more effectively to work together as a team to accomplish our mission.

John L. Palmer, KGC, VEDGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, Tennessee

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From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight James O. Weir II

Prelates Devotion for December

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

Fear is one of the greatest motivators, and it seems that during every election cycle, someone seems to manipulate others by stoking their fears. I have learned that when people are afraid, they still can find hope. They can also find hope when they are ignored, but when someone is in fear and they are ignored, that is when they break. Fear and being ignored are a dangerous couple. They have started wars, caused mutinies, and led to divorces.

Our beloved country had a historic election last month. This country has had elections since its birth in the 1700s. God has richly blessed us with years of freedom in a country where our voice can be heard and every vote counts. When Jesus was born there was no vote, Herod was in charge and the Roman Empire had power over the people. The people had no say in their government, their taxes were high, and their work was hard. Yet the ones with absolute power were rendered powerless, the one who they found worthless showed His true worth. The truth of God's glory in the incarnation, a baby, brought the world to a standstill. Herod's fear drove him to decree the killing of all children who were two and younger. Fear caused them to crucify Christ, but fear also drove people to Jesus for healing, hope, and salvation.

What did Jesus do? He cast out fear. His perfect love, directed by His Father's glory, gave birth to God's grace, by which we are saved. It is this love that we must cling to, both in this life and in the next. We must cling to Jesus when we fear for the future of our country or who is in charge, when we fear the doctor's report or for the crime in our cities, when we fear the wars that are raging in other countries or for our enemies plans. We must always cling to Jesus, because in Him whom and what shall we fear?

Fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. What do we deserve for our sins and commandment breaking? Our hearts are idol factories and our god is our comfort. No wonder anxiety in people is off the charts! When your god is you, and you think you have all the answers, what do you deserve? The answer to that question should strike a fear in you like nothing else can.

Jesus was born to die, He lived to serve, and He died to save. Whom have we to fear? We are loved with a perfect love, a pure love, a love that saves, a love that casts away all fears. I urge you to spend some time this month pondering Christ's love for you, thanking Him for His grace and the glory that it brings. I also urge you, the next time you find yourself afraid, step back and make sure you know which god you are worshiping. Worship the idol and live in fear, worship the King and live fearless.

A Message From the Grand Master... "Let's Take a Look At Templar Leadership"

By Wilber M. Brucker, Past Most Eminent Grand Master 1964-1967, GEKT
Originally printed: *Knight Templar Magazine*, February 1965

The local constituent Commandery is the place where our battle to build Templary will be won or lost.

All conferences of Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment Officers about problems of membership, demits, and suspensions depend for their solution upon the quality of leadership at the local level. The best plans are fruitless unless carried into execution by good leaders at the "grass roots" level. Until they are carried out by local leaders, the finest plans of top officers will fall flat. Therefore, we must improve the quality of local leadership and inspire Commanders to carry out plans which will strengthen the whole fabric of Templary.

Leadership is doubly important in Masonry, because members of the Craft are trained to look up to the Worshipful Master and wait for him to put his instructions on the Trestle Board – believing that Masonic discipline requires complete and unquestioning respect for the Master. If the Master falters, there is "confusion among the workmen." To an even greater degree is this true in the Commandery, a semi-military organization, where orders are expected to be given by the Commander and carried out with alacrity.

Here are just a few of the qualities of leadership we so badly need:

1. **Sense of Dedication.** A leader must be completely "sold" on his cause, he must be so thoroughly convinced himself that he can convince others, and he must not have even a wavering doubt as to the merits of his cause.
2. **Factual Equipment.** A leader must be an arsenal of information about his cause, he must get all the facts and know all there is to learn about it, and he must be able to justify his cause everywhere and before all men.
3. **Attitude.** A leader must have the extra quality of aggressiveness, he must remember that enthusiasm begets enthusiasm, and he must demonstrate an attitude of quiet assurance that instills confidence.
4. **Hard Work.** A leader must be willing to set the pace for all who follow his lead, he must be willing to work harder and longer than anyone else, and he must convince his followers that they can succeed by following him.

As we choose our Templar leaders for the fateful years ahead, let us try to select those who will be the **best for Templary – regardless of personalities.** Only then will we have a clear conscience. When line officers, after a reasonable time, fail to measure up, they should be privately encouraged to step aside or should be passed over. No man can afford to make a failure of Commander. Of course, this is delicate matter, but it is too important to "sweep under the rug." Let's face the bare truth – we need to improve Templary by selecting the best leaders we can find. Only then will we go forward "full steam."

Music City Sheraton Grand York Rite of Tennessee Headquarters for 2025

Companions and Sir Knights, we have a new host hotel for the 2025 Grand York Rite Session March 23rd through March 25th, the beautiful Music City Sheraton, located at 777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214. I have attached photos of the hotel and hope it meets your approval.

- The cost is \$179.00 plus tax a night. There is a cost for parking of \$15.00.
- Complimentary Hospitality Room
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Hotel Restaurant and Bar
- Outdoor area suitable for Cigar and Pipe Smoking
- Nine or more Restaurants located nearby
- Opry Mills and several other shopping locations

You can book your accommodations today, by simply clicking on this link

https://book.passkey.com/e/50908532?utm_source=874&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=295600677&trkid=588083084&linkid=3446720144

There will be additional information concerning banquet information will be forthcoming.



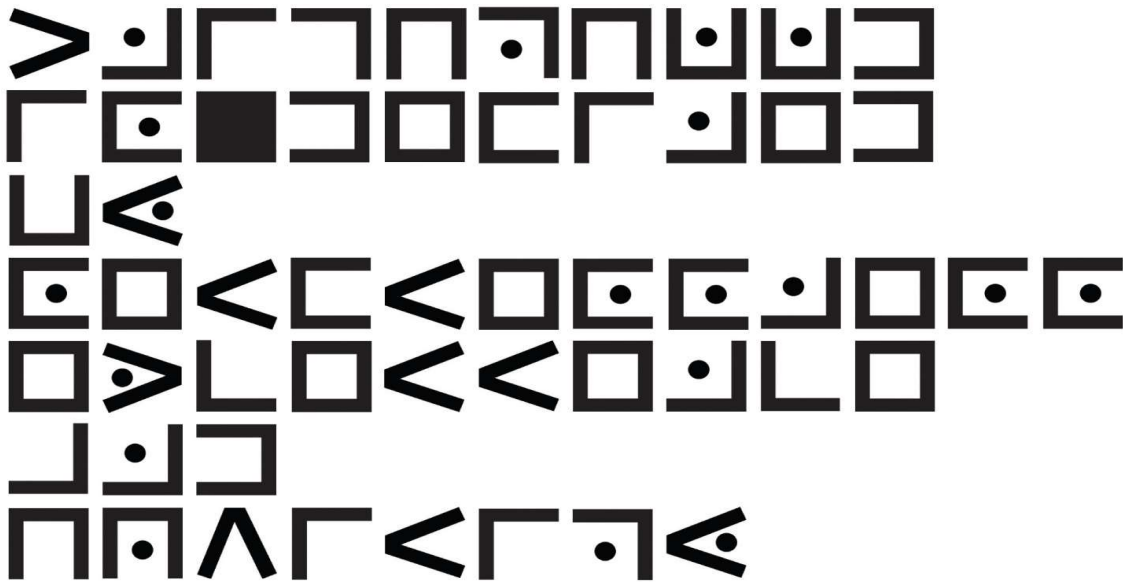
Upcoming Order Conferral

De Payens Commandery #11
125 2nd Ave S
Franklin, TN 37064

Order of Malta- Full Form
Wednesday, December 18th
Meal at 6:00 PM, Conferral at 7:00 PM

This will be a great opportunity for Sir Knights to get familiar with the full-form conferrals that will be taking place during the 2025 Inspections.
If you are interested in assisting with the conferral, then please reach out to De Payens Commandery.

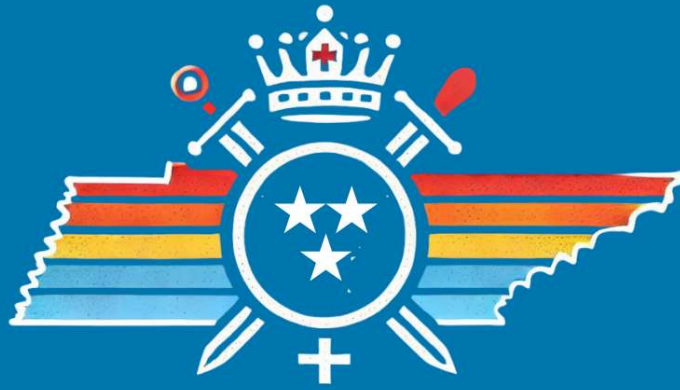
Something to Decipher



Prayer Requests

Sir Knights, there are several of our members across the state who are in need of your prayers. I would ask that each of us remember to keep our fellow Companions and Sir Knights in our daily prayers, especially during the holiday season and as the new year approaches. If you have a specific prayer request that you would like to share with me, then please feel free to email, call, or text me any time and I will gladly add you to my prayer list. All prayer requests will be kept confidential and will be on the level.

Jesse Harper, Editor *Tennessee Knight Templar News*
TNKTNewsEditor@gmail.com
865-621-8686



7+7=10



**JOIN US FOR FIRST EVER SEEN IN TENNESSEE
CEREMONY AND CHARITY FUNDRAISER
DINNER WITH ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING THE
KNIGHT TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION AND ST.
JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL**

**THIS CEREMONY EXPLAINS THE CORE
PRECEPTS OF BOTH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS
AND HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER FOR A
BETTER FUTURE!**

**JANUARY 4, 2025
2PM - 6PM**

**100 N. 7TH AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TN**

**DINNER AND CEREMONY
\$35
CEREMONY ONLY:
\$10**



MISSION

The mission of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee is to provide every Christian Freemason in Tennessee the opportunity and resources to develop, be engaged in, and exemplify a Christian chivalric lifestyle.

THE VISION OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

The Knights of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee are a group of men who share the Christian faith, exemplary character, a dedication to excellence and the service of others, and a desire to share the chivalric experience with other Christian Freemasons. Our Knights are actively engaged with one another in accomplishing this goal and in maintaining this standard of lifestyle and behavior.



Request for Submissions!

Sir Knights – We need submissions for the *Tennessee Knight Templar News*. Is your Commandery going to confer any of the orders soon? Did you have some sort of unusual or fun event? Send us an article to share with the other Tennessee Knights and include photos if you have them.

We would also like to have your thoughts and ideas about how we can make Tennessee Templary more fun and exciting. Send us an article!

Please send news and events going on in your Commandery to:

TNKTNewsEditor@gmail.com