



Knights  
in  
Kentucky



### STATE NEWS - January 2025

SK Jon Dawson, KTC, Grand Commander

Randall Partin, PGC, Editor (r\_partin@att.net)

Web Site: [www.yorkriteky.org/grandcommandery](http://www.yorkriteky.org/grandcommandery)



**SK Jon Steven Dawson**

**June 5, 1956– January 5, 2025**

Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky  
2024-2025



**Sir Knight Jon Steven Dawson** was born June 5, 1956, to Ronald and Virginia Dawson in Ireland Hospital, Fort Knox, KY, he was the oldest of 5 children. He attended Indian Trail Elementary School, Jeffersontown High School, and Western Kentucky University. He worked many years for the George Marr Company and Modern Industries, and was co-owner for over 20 years of Zen Reprographics.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ronald L. Dawson, and is survived by his wife, Brenda (Niehaus) Dawson; sons, Ron Dawson (Kim) and Nick Dawson, daughter, Shannon Heacox (Kyle); step-daughters, Sara Elmore (Thomas) and Renee Davis (Micah); mother,

Lois Virginia (Stevenson) Dawson; brothers, Zack and Clay Dawson; sisters, Val Vertrees and Kelly Setser; and grandchildren, Alex Stigger, Emmie Elmore, Landon Davis, Logan Davis, and Audrey Davis.

Jon officiated baseball for 10 years with the KY Baseball Umpires Association and officiated softball for 20 years with the United States Slow Pitch Softball Association and the American Softball Association. He also officiated football for 36 years, for the Kentuckiana Football Officials Association and worked college football for 13 years in the NAIA Mid-South Conference. John also worked for U of L Football as a member of the Chain Crew for 15 years. At the time of his death, he was working with the ACC as the Media Liaison (Red Hat) between the producer and on-field game officials. He joined the Boy Scouts as an adult leader in 1987 and has continued to serve since then. Leadership positions include Den Leader, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, District Commissioner, Committee Chairman, Venture Crew Advisor, and Camp Master. He was selected to facilitate a Key Three Conference held at Philmont Scout Reservation in Cimarron, NM. He returned to Philmont several years later to lead a ten-day backpacking trek. He was still serving as Camp Master. **Jon's Masonic career** began in January of 2010 when he was initiated an Entered Apprentice in St. George Lodge No. 239. He served there as Master in 2015 and again in 2018. He was a member of the Jeffersontown Lodge #744 at the time of his death. He was a member of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Louisville, and was very active in the Shrine, serving as Potentate of Kosair Shrine Temple in 2022.

He became a member of the York Rite in February of 2011 at a one-day festival. Membership at the time of his death was in Bullitt Chapter and Council in Shepherdsville, and Louisville-DeMolay Commandery in Louisville, where he served as Commander in 2016. He was nominated by DeMolay Commandery to the position of Grand Captain General in the Grand Commandery elected line in September of 2021. Sir Knight John progressed through the elected line and was elected and installed to the office of Grand Commander at the one hundred seventy-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, held in Lexington, Kentucky on September 16, 2024.

Visitation will be from 3—7 p.m. Monday, January 13 at Owen Funeral Home, Jeffersontown, Kentucky. A Rose Croix Service will be conferred by the Valley of Louisville Scottish Rite at 7:00 p.m.; Jeffersontown Lodge No. 774 will confer Masonic Services, and Brother Jason Wilson will deliver the Christian Service.

*Requiescat in pace*

# THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF KENTUCKY



**SK Rick Sears**  
Deputy Grand Commander and  
Grand Commander Designate

## NOTICE OF INSTALLATION

The remaining elected line of Grand Commandery officers, per Grand Encampment Regulations, will advance to the next office and assume those responsibilities, but they must be installed in the new offices. SK Rick Sears, above, current Deputy Grand Commander, will be installed as Grand Commander; SK Bruce Von Dwingelo, Grand Generalissimo, will be installed as Deputy Grand Commander, and SK David Jones, Grand Captain General, will be installed as Grand Generalissimo. A new Captain General will be appointed by the Grand Commander upon his installation.

Sir Knight Jon will be entered on the rolls of the Grand Commandery as a Past Grand Commander, and upon completion of the Templar Year, SK Rick will also be entered as such. Please give these Sir Knights your support, encouragement and prayers as they step into these new offices and responsibilities.

Tentative plans are that installations will take place on January 21, 2025 at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Morehead York Rite Bodies in Morehead Kentucky.



**SK Bruce Von Dwingelo**  
Grand Generalissimo



**SK David Jones**  
Grand Captain General

