

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

Tennessee Knight Templar News

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

February AD 2025 / AO 907

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On January 15th, Knights from five different Commanderies came together for a night of fellowship and to witness Murfreesboro Commandery No. 10 confer the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta.

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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@ieeee.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



February Message from the Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

This month, again, we focus on a saint, one associated with this season.

St. Valentine's Day on February 14th is associated with romantic love. Ironically, the day originally commemorated the martyrdom of St. Valentine, an early Roman priest, on February 14, 269 AD. There were many early Christians named Valentine, and three early saints named Valentine whose days of martyrdom fell on February 14: Valentine of Rome, Valentine of Terni, and a Valentine said to have been martyred in Africa, about whom nothing else is known. Whether Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni are the same person is debated.

According to the earliest story about him, Valentine of Rome was arrested for evangelizing. A judge named Asterius brought his blind adopted daughter Julia to Valentine, and Valentine prayed for her and restored her sight. The judge released Valentine, and he and his family became Christians. Subsequently, Valentine was again arrested and martyred. Later stories said that he wrote a letter to Julia before his martyrdom, signing it, "Your Valentine." He was also said to have performed secret weddings for Roman soldiers whom the emperor had forbidden to marry. This probably led to the association of his day with romantic love.

The original Knights Templar flourished in the days when courtly love and stories of romance became popular. As modern Knights, we should continue the chivalrous conduct that they exemplified. Caring for our ladies and families should be one of our top priorities.

In February, we also celebrate Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation. It falls on February 2nd, commemorating the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple, 40 days after his birth. The actions of Simeon and Anna, who told others of their encounter with the Christ Child, encourage us to share the good news of his coming, and of our encounter with him.

This Templar year is rapidly drawing to a close. Please plan to be at the Grand Conclave in Nashville on March 25th. In fact, come for all the Grand York Rite and Grand Lodge session. All Commanderies should bring your Beauseant (and a stand), and designate someone to carry it. We will march in with them and display them in the west. I am looking forward to a great time!

Courteously,
John Simmons REGC TN

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

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

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about some of the changes that are occurring in Tennessee Templary and to invite you to take an active part in this exciting new epoch in our Order's history. I suppose that any organization, which manages to grow as old as ours, eventually becomes complacent and loses some of its original enthusiasm and passion for its mission. Over fifty years ago, I came into the Commandery with great excitement because of my experience as a DeMolay. Prior to DeMolay, my heroes had always been cowboys, the champions of the silver screen. DeMolay introduced me to a whole new world of honor, courage, and nobility that had originated hundreds of years before the American West and had exerted a much greater positive influence on western civilization. More importantly, I discovered that as a Freemason, I could actually become a Knight and be a part of the great work of civilizing the world one man at a time.

As I grew older, it became apparent to me that the civilization we live in has been deteriorating during my lifetime. Civility has taken a nose dive, greed and selfishness seem to be multiplying every day. Respect for other people seems to be eroding. In retrospect, it seems just like the beginning of a good western movie when the bad guys start out with the upper hand.

Yet in real life, just as in the movies, I am assured by my faith in Christ Jesus that the truth will come to light, the right will prevail, and righteousness will overcome the forces of evil. It is tempting to take the attitude that the stupidity, greed, and hatefulness around us are simply overpowering, and that there is nothing that I can do as an individual to turn the tide. That maybe I should just give up and let nature take its course. But, then I am reminded that only twelve men following the Savior of mankind started a movement that has become the largest and the greatest influence for good that our world has ever seen. Only nine men in 1118 AD started the Templar Order, which developed into a mighty force that aided in the civilization of the western world.

Who am I to say that, with God's help, modern Templary might not become the single force that leads our civilization back to righteousness, truth, and harmony? Many of you, like me, have joined this new crusade as Templars. Our Grand officers have spent the last four years planning and devising plans to offer you as Templars the opportunity to join in this new crusade. A crusade designed to make our civilization better, one man at a time, beginning with ourselves. We are committed to work together to aid each other to victory, and we want you to join us and experience the thrill of success.

This spring, we will be conducting Battalion meetings in your area to explain to you our strategy, the various program opportunities we will be offering, and how you can become an active part in this great endeavor. The choice is yours whether to become a part of the solution or simply a helpless bystander. I invite you to join us at these meetings and put in your lot with us in this great new crusade!

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

1113 Oak Creek Dr., Nolensville, TN 37135
(615) 504-3355 or John.PGM97@gmail.com

Take Care of Yourself

Jesse Harper, KYCH

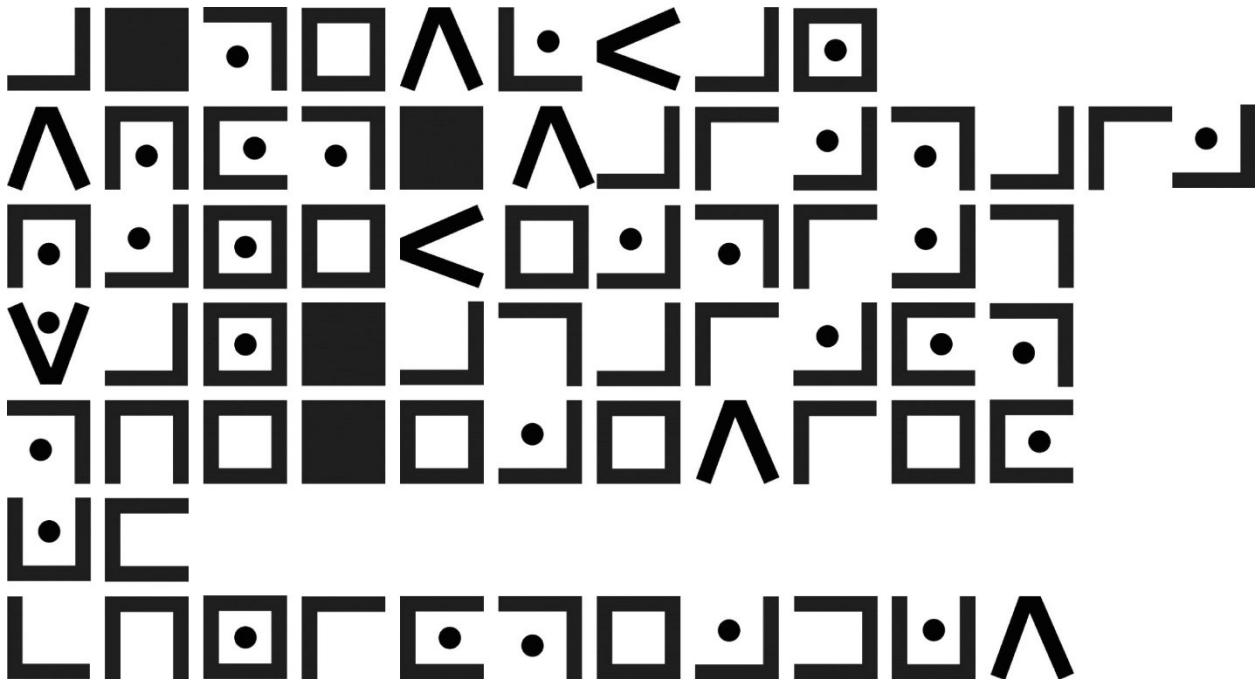
Editor, *Tennessee Knight Templar News*

As some of you may or may not know, I experienced a great loss in my family in the middle of January. My sister-in-law, who was in her early forties, passed away from cancer and pneumonia. It had been a year and a half long battle with many peaks and valleys. What initially started out as breast cancer, eventually spread to other parts of her body and weakened her entire immune system.

My plea to each of you is that you take care of yourselves and do not put off seeking treatment when it is necessary. I will be the first to admit that it can be awkward and uncomfortable to go to the doctor, but very small issues can get exponentially worse without proper and timely treatment. I would also beg of you that if you have someone who is important to you in your life, then make sure they are taking care of themselves too.

Please, do not let pride and stubbornness allow you to be taken from this world prematurely.

Something to Decipher



From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight James O. Weir II

Prelates Devotion for February

I will admit to being the last person on earth who does not use social media. I have dipped my toe into the pool a time or two, only to realize it is not for me and my 1950s lifestyle. My wife however is an active Facebook user. I was recently caught off guard by the unforgiving reality, spoken from a "tagged" picture. The picture in question was from Thanksgiving 2023 after I had a huge meal and was forced into a family picture. I was not told to smile or wait till the count of three. Needless to say, it was not my best moment. A wave of depression covered me, and the spiraling feeling of discouragement filled me to the brim. I immediately started scrolling through past pictures in a vain attempt to feel good about myself.

Thank you, Facebook memories, for reminding me that things can go from bad to worse. I found a picture of the day my first daughter was born. The pictures, I thought at the time, were for her. Little did I know that one day, fourteen years later, I would be looking at my wife's phone with my jaw scraping the floor. What happened to the guy in the picture?! I put the phone down and got on the treadmill.

Romans 12:1 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

The term "living sacrifice" stands out in a big way. Most of the time, when a sacrifice is made in the *Bible*, the result is death. Here, though, we are called to be living sacrifices. I thought this scripture was very appropriate for February as we celebrate Valentine's Day, love, and pink heart shaped candy.

There is no act of love that does not first require some form of sacrifice. The holiness of marriage is not found in what it gains, but in what it sacrifices. Each person gives themselves to the other, and then the two give themselves to God. In life, there may not always be something to gain, but there is always something that can be sacrificed for the betterment of others.

In the online world of filters and carefully curated highlight reels, it did not take long before I begin comparing myself, my experiences, and my accomplishments with others. That day of the "tagged" photo, the temptation to sacrifice my body and make it a slave to the world grew with every passing thought, "I want to be thinner, younger, and more energetic. I want more money, more time, and more contacts."

There is a vast difference in, "I want," and "living sacrifice." Like me, are you ever tempted to sacrifice your money, time, and efforts to please the world or yourself? Sacrificing my life to please God is an act of worship, not to obtain mercy but because of God's mercy on an undeserving sinner like me. Our world is merciless unless we meet its demands. Yet, when Jesus fulfilled God's demands on our behalf, we were given unlimited access to His mercy.

What a privilege to sacrificially yield my body to the Lord instead of the whims of the world. You will never gain lasting acceptance and mercy from the world, no matter how young, rich, and good-looking you may be. Someone will always be younger, smarter, faster, or stronger, and the goal posts are constantly changing. Therefore, may Christ's love and sacrifice compel us, His Word guide us, and His grace enable us to turn away from living for the world, and our selfish whims and live a life pleasing to Him.



GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF TENNESSEE

100 Seventh Avenue South, Suite 3
Nashville, Tennessee 37203-3726
(615) 339-2176 / gyrbtn@gmail.com

York Rite Bodies Activities

March 23 - 25, 2025

The 195th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Tennessee, the 174th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, Cryptic Mason of Tennessee, and the 163rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on March 23 - 25, 2025.

Grand Session Week Meeting Schedule

Divine Service	Sunday, March 23 rd , 2025, 5:00 PM
York Rite Banquet	Sunday, March 23 rd , 2025, 6:00 PM
Grand Chapter Session	Monday, March 24 th , 2025, 8:00 AM
Grand Council Session	Monday, March 24 th , 2025, 1:00 PM
Grand Commandery Session	Tuesday, March 25 th , 2025, 8:00 AM
Grand Lodge Sessions	Wednesday/Thursday, March 26 th and 27 th , 2025

Registration

The Credential Committee will open registration in the Grand Lodge Lobby on:

Saturday, March 22 nd	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sunday, March 23 rd	12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Monday, March 24 th	7:00 AM – 9:00 AM for Grand Chapter 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM for Grand Council 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM for Grand Commandery
Tuesday, March 25 th	7:00 AM – 9:00 AM for Grand Commandery

Out-of-State registration will be in the Grand Lodge Lobby.

The following are required to register with the Credentials Committee

Grand Chapter

Grand Officers	High Priests
Past Grand High Priests	Kings
District Deputy Grand High Priests	Scribes
Committeemen	Secretaries
Past High Priests	

Grand Council

Grand Officers	Illustrious Masters
Past Grand Masters	Deputy Masters
Grand Master's Personal Representatives	Principal Conductors of the Work
Committeemen	Recorders
Past Illustrious Masters	

Grand Commandery

Grand Officers	Commanders
Past Grand Commanders	Generalissimos
Grand Encampment Officers	Captain Generals
Committeemen	Recorders
Past Commanders	

Hotel

The Headquarters Hotel will be the Music City Sheraton Hotel, 777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214. Reservations should be made with the Music City Sheraton Hotel at (615) 885-2200 to insure your having the desired accommodations.

The Ladies Luncheon will be in the small dining room at the Grand Lodge Building, the Hospitality Room will be at the Music City Sheraton Hotel.

All scheduled meals will require the individual to have **a TICKET. TICKETS WILL BE COLLECTED AT EACH MEAL.** A meal order form is attached for your use.

Hospitality Room Hours of Operation

The Hospitality room is located at the Music City Sheraton Hotel. Check with the front desk for the room number.

Sunday, March 23 rd	8:00 AM – 11:59 PM
Monday, March 24 th	8:00 AM – 11:59 PM
Tuesday, March 25 th	8:00 AM – 11:59 PM

The Hospitality Room may be closed after Tuesday.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Grand York Rite Schedule

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025

- 5:00 PM Divine Memorial Service – (Small Lodge Room) 2nd Floor
- 6:00 PM **Grand York Rite** Banquet – Dining Room – Grand Lodge Building.
Out-of-state guests invited. **Tickets \$30.00** per Individual.

Monday, March 24th, 2025

- 7:00 AM **Allied Masonic Degrees** Breakfast, Dining Room – Grand Lodge Building. Out-of-state guests invited. **Tickets are \$20.00.**
- 8:00 AM **Grand Chapter** opens. Grand Auditorium, Distinguished guest received, concludes all business, Election, and Installation of Officers.
- 11:30 AM Ladies Luncheon, small dining room at the Grand Lodge Building.
Tickets are \$30.00 per person and ticket is required to be purchased in advance.
- 12:00 PM (NOON) **Grand York Rite** Luncheon Dining Room – Grand Lodge Building. Out of state guests invited. **Tickets \$25.00**
- 1:00 PM **Grand Council** opens. Grand Auditorium, Distinguished guest received, concludes all business, Election, and Installation of officers.
- 5:00 PM **Order of the High Priesthood** and **Order of the Silver Trowel** Dinner, Dining Room, Grand Lodge Building, Out-of-state guests invited. **Tickets \$25.00**
- 6:00 PM **Grand Convention, Order of High Priesthood** convenes in the Grand Auditorium, 2nd Floor, Order conferred on current High Priest and Past High Priest who have submitted petitions. The fee for this degree is **\$60.00**. The Chapter Secretaries has a copy of this form. The petition and degree fee are to be sent to **Darryl Lynn Chapman, Secretary, 107 Pine Knoll Lane, LaFollette, TN 37766**
- 8:00 PM** **Grand Council of Anointed Kings (Order of Silver Trowel)** opens in Grand Auditorium on the 2nd floor. Order Conferred, concludes all business, election, and installation of officers. Current Illustrious Masters, and Past Illustrious Masters who have submitted petitions. The fee for this degree is **\$15.00**. The Council Recorders have a copy of this form. The petition and Degree fee is to be sent to **Darryl Lynn Chapman, Recorder, 107 Pine Knoll Lane, LaFollette, TN 3766.**

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

- 7:00 AM Red Cross of Constantine Breakfast, Dining Room, Grand Lodge Building, Out of state guests invited, **Tickets \$20.00, MEMBERS ONLY**.
- 8:00 AM Grand Commandery opens. Grand Auditorium, 2nd floor, Distinguished guest received, concludes all business, Election, and Installation of Officers.
- 12:00 PM (NOON) Knights of York Cross of Honor Luncheon. Dining Room, Grand Lodge Building. Out of state guests invited. **Tickets \$20.00, Ladies are welcome**.
- 2:00 PM Annual Conclave, Tennessee Priory No. 15, Knights of York Cross of Honor, Grand Auditorium, 2nd Floor, Reception of new Members.
- 4:00 PM **Knight Crusaders of the Cross** convenes in the small Lodge Room; 2nd floor Order conferred on current Commanders and Past Commanders who have submitted petitions. The fee for this degree is **\$25.00**. The Commandery Recorders has a copy of this form. The petition and degree fee are to be sent to **Darryl Lynn Chapman, Secretary, 107 Pine Knoll Lane, LaFollette, TN 37766**
- 6:00 PM **York Rite College** Dinner, Dining Room – Grand Lodge Building. Out of state guests invited. **Tickets \$25.00**. Dress informal. All members of the York Rite College are welcome.



**GRAND YORK RITE
TENNESSEE
MEAL ORDER FORM
2025**

The following meal tickets can be purchased from the Grand York Rite Office up to March 14th, 2025.

SUNDAY

Grand York Rite Banquet – Sunday, March 23rd, 6:00 PM: _____ x \$30.00/person = \$ _____

MONDAY

Allied Masonic Degrees Breakfast – Monday, March 24th, 7:00 AM: _____ x \$20.00 /person = \$ _____

Grand York Rite Luncheon – Monday, March 24th, 12 Noon: _____ x \$20.00 /person = \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon – Monday, March 24th, 11:30 PM: _____ x \$30.00 /person = \$ _____

(Ladies Luncheon in the small dining room Grand Lodge Building)

OHP/OST Dinner – Monday, March 24th, 5:00 PM: _____ x \$25.00 /person = \$ _____

TUESDAY

Red Cross of Constantine Breakfast – Tuesday, March 25th, 7:00 AM: _____ x \$20.00 /person = \$ _____

(Red Cross Meal is for Members only)

K.Y.C.H. Luncheon – Tuesday, March 25th, 12:00 Noon: _____ x \$20.00 /person = \$ _____

York Rite College Dinner – Tuesday, March 25th, 6:00 PM: _____ x \$25.00 /person = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

NOTES:

- If you order meal (s), with the intent to pay at registration/pick up, then do not show, you are still responsible for the costs/payment of those meals you ordered.
- If you order meals and send in the payment, then do not attend, after the meal order has been placed with caterer, we cannot return your funds.

Name: _____

Title (to be introduced by): _____

Spouse/Friend/Guest's name: _____

Address (Out of State Only): _____

PAY BY CHECK ONLY – WE DO NOT ACCEPT CASH

Please make checks payable to: **Grand York Bodies of Tennessee**
Send Payment to: **Grand York Rite Office**
100 7th Avenue, North, Suite #3, Nashville, TN 37203-3726

Note: If you wish your tickets mailed to you send a self-stamped return envelope. Otherwise the tickets can be picked up at the York Rite Office. (PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY TICKET ORDER)

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

Forthcoming will be information concerning meals.



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