

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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At the core, the American citizen soldiers knew the difference between right and wrong and they didn't want to live in a world in which wrong prevailed. So they fought, and won, and all of us, living and yet to be born, must be forever profoundly grateful.

—Stephen Edward Ambrose

Sir Knights,

This month marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army. On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Army to provide for the common defense, adopting the colonial militias outside Boston and New York and raising ten companies of additional troops, all under the command of General George Washington. We salute our Sir Knights and other brave men and women who serve, or have served, as “guardian[s] of freedom and the American way of life.”

In May, our Grand Commandery convened its One Hundred Seventy-fifth Annual Grand Conclave in Concord, highlighted by the installation of our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Arthur William Stauff, K.T.C.H., and his officers.



S.K. Arthur W. Stauff, R.E. Grand Commander, and the newly installed officers of the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire.

At the Grand York Rite Banquet, Friday evening, May 9, at the Bektash Shrine Center, several Sir Knights were honored, chief among them, Sir Knight David R. Walters, K.C.T., who was elected Honorary Past Grand Commander, in recognition for his almost two decades of service as Eminent Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery. Sir Knight Dennis A. Tuttle, Sr., Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, was created a Knight Commander of the Temple. Sir Knight Tuttle was also elected Most Excellent Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of New Hampshire and Most Illustrious Honorary Past Grand Master of the Cryptic Council of New Hampshire.



S.K. David R. Walters, R.E.H.P.G.C., and Lady Christine with S.K. Arthur W. Stauff, R.E. Grand Commander, and your editor, R.E. Past Department Commander.



S.K. Dennis A. Tuttle, K.C.T., with S.K. Stauff, S.K. Kenneth A. Caldwell, K.C.T., R.E. Department Commander, and S.K. Lawrence E. Tucker, G.C.T., R.E. Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment.

Sir Knight Daniel R. Perry, Eminent Commander of DeWitt Clinton Commandery No. 2, received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor “for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member.”



S.K. R. Daniel Perry, K.T.C.H., with Lady Shelly and S.K.s Stauff, Caldwell, and Tucker.

Your editor was pleasantly surprised to receive the Reverend Jonathan Nye Distinguished Service Medal, named in honor of Sir Knight Jonathan Nye of Claremont, New Hampshire, the second Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. He became Grand Master upon the death of Governor and Sir Knight DeWitt Clinton in 1828 and the following year was elected in his own right. He served two terms as Grand Master, during the tumult of the Morgan Affair, “and through his wise and prudent leadership the Order came safely through the Crisis.”¹

Your editor was also honored to receive the Sword of Merit of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., in recognition of his generous support of our beloved charity instituted by General and Past Most Eminent Grand Master Walter A. DeLamater, who said of it,

Sir Knights, when once our Foundation is in operation you are going to be amazed at the opportunity and the great humanitarian effort that will be ours, and the demands for treatment, hospitalization, and the great need for research of diseases and injuries of the eye. It is going to be a tremendous work, and your Grand Master is convinced that when once we have started in operation and the results of those who have been aided made known, everyone . . . will be very proud of being a Knight Templar and having had a part in this great work, surely in keeping with the teachings of Christ and our great Christians Order of Knighthood.

The Sword of Merit is awarded to persons who have contributed \$25,000.00 or more to the Foundation. The contributions are cumulative and need not be made in a single sum. During the 57th Annual Campaign which ended May 15, New Hampshire Sir Knights donated \$18,922.00 to the cause. Our Grand Commandery ranked thirtieth in *per capita* contributions and tenth in total donations. The Eye Foundation Campaign was led in New Hampshire by Sir Knight Perter J. Noddin, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander. It is customary to collect funds from the Sir Knights at our Inspectons. To encourage competition between the Commanderies, an Annual Eye Foundation Offering Plate Campaign is conducted. Sir Knight Noddin created, at his own expense, the State Chairman’s Traveling Award to be given annually to the Commandery whose Sir Knights contributed the most during the Inspections. Your editor is pleased to report that the first winner of the award was his own Trinity Commandery No. 1, Manchester. Sir Knights David L. Bruce, Eminent Past Commander, and David R. Walters, Right Eminent Honorary Past Grand Commander,

¹ Scully, Francis J., M.D., *History of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America*, Copyright 1952, page 92

accepted the award on behalf of Trinity Commandery. They challenge the other Commanderies to capture it from them. It is also the custom that each Commandery donate a basket to be auctioned at the Grand York Rite Banquet. This year, among baskets of excellent whiskeys and cigars, there were two baskets of wine, olives, and other treats from Greece. This was a happy coincidence, as neither contributor knew of the other. In any event, the results of the auction were excellent, \$1,705.00 being raised for the Eye Foundation. Since its inception almost seven decades ago, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation has donated over \$178 Million for research, patient care, education.



S.K.s Arthur W. Stauff, David L. Bruce, David R. Walters, and Peter J. Noddin, Eye Foundation Campaign Chairman.



The State Chairman's Traveling Award.

This year, through the efforts of Sir Knight Kenneth A. Colpaert, Sr., Eminent Grand Captain General, Chairman of the New Hampshire Division of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, and his Committee, ten students received scholarships for post secondary studies. Among those Ms. Grace Desrosiers, Ms. Emma Perry, and Ms. Lillian Perry were present to receive their awards at the Grand York Rite Banquet. Ms. Natalie Geissler could not attend due to illness, but was represented by her parents.



S.K.s Stauff and Colpaert with the scholars and their parents.



Your editor receives the Sword of Merit with the assistance of S.K.s Stauff, Tucker, and Caldwell. It is now mounted on the wall by his office.

This past Memorial Day several of our Sir Knights marched in parades in Ringe, Penacook, and Rochester to honor our fallen servicemen and women. Below are pictures which your editor received.



Sir Knights marching in Ringe.



The Knightly contingent in Penacook Village.

The Grand Commander requests volunteers for an Honor Guard to aid in the introduction of dignitaries at the Council of Deliberation, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, in Portsmouth, Saturday, June 7,

next. Those available to serve should be there no later than 9:00 a.m. to prepare for the Opening Ceremony. Please advise the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, S.K. Peter J. Noddin, if you can attend.

Sunday, June 22, the Grand Commandery will escort the Grand Lodge for the the Saint Johns Sunday service at the Cathedral of the Pines. Sir Knights are requested to be present by 9:30 a.m. at the Cathedral in Rindge.

Sunday, June 29, at 2:00 p.m., there will be a ceremony to mark the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the Cornerstone of the Manchester Masonic Community Center where our Grand Lodge has its offices and holds its Annual and Semi-annual Communications. No other Masonic edifice in the State can accommodate the latter. It is the center of Masonry in New Hampshire. The Grand Master, his officers, and dignitaries from the City of Manchester and the State will attend this historic occasion. It is hoped that a large turnout of Sir Knights will be on hand to serve as an honor guard and lead the procession to the to the event. Additional details will be forthcoming.

This month the Grand Commander's Officers Call will be held online Sunday, June 1, at 8:00 p.m. The monthly Commandery drill session will be Friday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m., in Concord.

I and Lady Virginia wish you and yours a most enjoyable Summer.

Courteously,



Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., P.G.C., P.D.C.
Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

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