

Tennessee Knight Templar News

SIR KNIGHT RONALD J. COATES, RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

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Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KCT



Sir Knight Dan Ricketts, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Georgia, honored Clarksville Commandery #8 by attending and participating in the conferral of their Order of the Temple on May 19, 2025. This is a perfect depiction to show how the Grand Commanderies in the Southeastern Department support each other.

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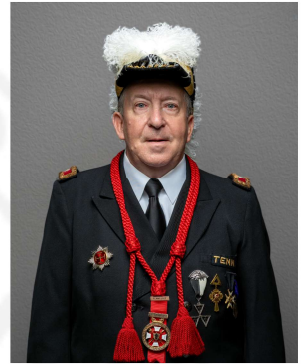
If you are aware of any members who are not currently receiving this monthly newsletter, then please have them send an email to Jesse Harper with their name, email address, and Commandery number: jesssharp@comcast.net

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.



From the Right Eminent Grand Commander
RONALD JASPER COATES
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

June Message from the Grand Commander



To Be A Mason

Freemasonry has been embraced over the ages by kings, princes, nobles, and presidents who did not hesitate to replace the scepter of authority with the trowel and the mantle of royalty with the apron. Freemasonry survives and thrives because of unwavering precepts that form the foundation and strength of this fraternity.

Freemasonry embraces, without prejudice, all good men who believe in the one Great Architect of the Universe. Freemasonry values no man for his worldly wealth or honors. We were all introduced to and became Masons in the same time-honored traditions of Freemasonry. We each knocked on the door to gain admission, were prepared and received in the same manner, knelt at the same altar, and took upon ourselves the same obligations.

The forefathers of our country and other great Masons through the years have knelt at the altar of Freemasonry in the same way that each of us did to become a Mason. We share a common bond because we all share a common experience. The true significance of Freemasonry may not rest in this similar experience at all. Its real strength is derived from the individual and the experiences each of us has as a Mason. Masonry provides each of us with a trestleboard for discovering our own meanings and purposes. Masonry holds for each of us a different purpose and meaning. We should consider our Masonic participation as a privilege and an opportunity to accomplish great deeds that will affect people for years to come.

Freemasonry is the largest fraternal organization in the world and has survived for centuries, but what about its future? We find ourselves at a very precarious time in our existence. The environment in which Freemasonry once flourished has become an ever-changing place, where social morals and values are constantly being eroded and redefined.

Freemasonry can have an incredible and positive impact on the world and in our society. It takes only one Mason with the conviction, courage, and strength to make a difference in our fraternity. We have the privilege of belonging to the greatest fraternity in the world, and with it comes great

responsibility. We have assumed a tremendous obligation, but we have done so willingly and without hesitation because we are Masons. It is up to every one of us to continue to promote the principles and ideals of Freemasonry and to introduce others to the Light of its teachings. Freemasonry is alive and well in Tennessee because it lives within each of us. The future of our great fraternity rests in our capable hands. Show the world that we have become better men through the lessons we have learned and the brotherhood and friendships we share.

The lives we live as Masons are seen by future candidates who desire to discover the wonderful wisdom of Freemasonry. The modern world has witnessed many changes, but Masons can say proudly that since time immemorial, the changes we make are made in the man who seeks more Light. The footprints left behind by worthy Masons will always remain and will continue to be followed, leading mankind to a better way of life. As we pass the torch of Freemasonry to the Brethren who follow, we can be assured that Freemasonry will always be desired by those who seek enlightenment. The lives we live as Masons will guide future men who desire to discover what Freemasonry offers so generously.

Let our actions and good deeds demonstrate our dedication and preservation to the higher purpose of the betterment of humanity and mankind. Share the Masonic spirit that resides in our hearts with everyone we meet. We are Freemasonry because we demonstrate in our daily walks of life the principles and high standards of our fraternity. Let our light so shine that the world will know what it is to be a Mason.

Respectfully in your service,

Ronald J. Coates
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight Dickie W. Johnson, PGC

Prelates Devotion for June

THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

During long ages, Israel was God's flock. Her system of life and worship, fenced with laws and ordinances, was His fold. Israel's prophets and righteous rulers were His shepherds, "a people who dwelt alone and was not reckoned among nations." But Israel was always with the hope of a Messiah, a shepherd to guide and take care of its people. To see, and in some measure to grasp, this hope was essential to every true Israelite.

Jesus became the shepherd of Israel. In John 10:11, Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Just as the good shepherd cares for his sheep, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for His flock, those who follow Him. Some twenty-five years ago, I had the opportunity to witness a Bedouin moving his flock to greener pastures in Israel. It was amazing to see the formation of the sheep following him as he led the way. The sheep knew his voice and followed him wherever he led them.

We must know and listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd, Jesus the Christ! We must recognize the voice of Jesus over that of the world. Unless we are willing to listen, the din of the world's babble will easily drown out the voice that speaks to us of support and salvation.

Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd; He is also the gate to God's salvation for us. In John 10:7, Jesus says, "I tell you the truth; I am the gate for the sheep." No other has ever had the right or claim to be such, not even John the Baptist, the Prophets, Abraham, or Moses. In their day, they made no such profession. Jesus is the only way to God. In John 14:6, He says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Those left outside the gate are exposed to death. Those who come through the gate are given life, and life more abundantly. This means life to the fullest. Abundance means green pastures, still waters, and paths of righteousness. It means freedom from the guilt of sin! May we all strive to follow the Good Shepherd!

In His Service

Dickie W. Johnson, PGC
Eminent Grand Prelate

Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund

Bobby Blankenship, Chairman

It is the mission of the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage to send, at no cost of their own, full-time ordained Christian ministers to the Holy Land who would not otherwise have the opportunity to go. This state's Grand Commandery and sponsoring local Commanderies of Knights Templar cover the expenses of the pilgrim's travel at an estimated cost of \$4,800 per minister. It is our hope that the Pilgrim Ministers are immersed in the lands, the sights, the sounds, the history, and the past and present cultures of the Holy Land and that they benefit from the generosity of these several Commanderies. This is an opportunity to demonstrate to the profane how Christian Masonry can positively impact these ministers by providing them the chance to "walk where Jesus walked" to absolutely affect the preaching, teaching, and spirituality of Christian ministers. It is also an opportunity to show that Templar Masonry is grounded in the firm belief of our risen Savior.

Annually, Pilgrim Ministers from Tennessee are slated for the opportunity to make this journey. Currently, these pilgrims are funded under the umbrella of our Grand Commandery's ongoing Pilgrimage donation program. Unfortunately, due to situations in the Holy Land beyond our control, the Pilgrimage has been canceled for the last two years. Therefore, those ministers previously selected will be traveling with those selected during next year's campaign.

With that being said, we will soon begin our next selection campaign and encourage each individual Sir Knight and Commandery to be as diligent as possible in supporting both our ongoing fund as well as our Endowment Fund. Please be proactive in finding ways to support these funding activities. In 2019, we were successful in obtaining a 501(c)(3) charitable status and are classified as a public charity. We are now exempt from federal income tax. This fund is also qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522.

We hope that you will remember this charitable fund this year. When making donations to either fund, complete the appropriate form and make the check(s) payable to: Holy Land Pilgrimage Funds of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee. There are multiple giving opportunities established, including our continued Knight Cross of the Holy Land jewel campaign, fundraising via social media, merchandise sales, as well as some very creative fundraising activities by our local Commanderies.

Finally, if you know of a qualified minister that has not been to the Holy Land and would benefit from this program, please put them in contact with me, and we will work with them through the process to make this a possibility.

In Our Savior's Service,

Bobby Blankenship, Eminent Grand Generalissimo
Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund Committee, Chairman

A Time For Rebuilding and Reconsecrating, Part Two

By Burt D. Pearson, PGC, Minnesota

Chairman, Committee on Religious Activities of the Grand Encampment

Originally printed: *Knight Templar Magazine*, April 1965

If we are in earnest in the belief that we must as an Order make rapport with established religion – the Christian Church – we shall have to move quickly. Time is of the essence. The sand runs low in the hour glass. We must begin at once in implementing plans to join and progress the church militant. If every Sir Knight will make it a habit to attend the worship service of his church regularly and becomes active in its ministry in living the creed of the Christian Mason, a start will have been made to rewin the United States.

Let lanterns be hung in the symbolic belfries of the Order's asylums, even to the outposts, these signaling the direction to the "strait gate" Knights Templar would take in revitalizing the finer attributes of their heritage, and we shall be on the way to the nation's appointment with destiny. Let the drum beats of the high call be sounded in every Commandery and may bonfires confirming the individual consecration be lighted in the hearts and minds of Sir Knights everywhere.

This is a climatic hour for Templary. Those who are authorized to lead in Templary's cause – Christ's mission – must be tall men, sun-crowned. Indeed, every Sir Knight proclaiming the dimensions of this Order's sublime charge must be sure he looks up to Christ in personal and public life. Such a Sir Knight will so exhort his fellow Fraters that his every utterance becomes precursor to ask for recruits.

It is no longer enough to spell out the particulars and set forth the tenets by which redemptive efforts for the Order and its mission shall be accomplished. Evangelists from time immemorial have not been content only to preach the Word. They enlisted recruits, sometimes but one at a time, by open invitations to come forward and be enrolled. When men and women respond, when they walk the sawdust trail, or when under the exhortation of a Billy Graham, they come forward to make identity with a cause, then the pledge becomes meaningful.

The Most Eminent Grand Master addressed the closing hour of the Philadelphia Triennial as an inspired and consecrated Templar. No seer of Holy Writ ever made a more forceful plea for heroic action, for complete commitment to the Great Captain of our Salvation, than did Sir Knight Wilber M. Brucker. He sounded a prophetic summons in using the opportunity to reflect upon the Order's past and present in projecting its role for the future, a dynamic and purposeful role. Had he asked his hearers to join him in Templary's crusade, confirming their intent by rising to their feet, not a Sir Knight, not a Lady, could have, or would have, remained seated.

In every Templary gathering, no matter where held, let there be a showing of hands, of willingness confirmed by solemn pledge, to accept responsibility in the name and for the Order. Let it be the Order of the Day that every prime speaker addressing a Knights Templar assembly put the first things of the Order first. More, let it also be the Order of the Day that such a speaker's peroration be a call to definite action, to spelled out duty, in seeking new recruits among Christian Masons. The link with the Church should be overlooked. Every Sir Knight should be called to his feet and then there given such an assignment in building the Order as will comport with his willingness to accept meaningful responsibility.

This is a fateful time in the annals of the human race. Only if right prevails is there a chance for this nation to keep its rendezvous with high destiny. Right can only prevail if the Creed of Templary and that of the Christian Church motivates a majority of America's population. Only if this creed prevails can the moral and spiritual fibre of the nation be shored up. Knights Templar who take their calling and duty seriously will disavow the indulgences of ill habits, of bad example. They will not be afraid to walk to sawdust trail.

Consecrated manhood is the great need of this time, if we are to rebuild and to reconsecrate Templary and the Church to challenge and opportunity.

From Henri Frederic Amiel, Swiss philosopher and poet (1821-1881), writing in his Amiel's Journal, comes this admonition to men and nations:

"Civilization is first and foremost a more thing. Without honesty, without respect for law, without the worship of duty, without the love of one's neighbor – in a word, without virtue – the whole is menaced and falls into decay, and neither letters nor art, neither luxury nor industry, nor rhetoric, nor policeman, nor the customhouse officer, can maintain erect and whole an edifice of which the foundations are unsound."

Upcoming Events

June

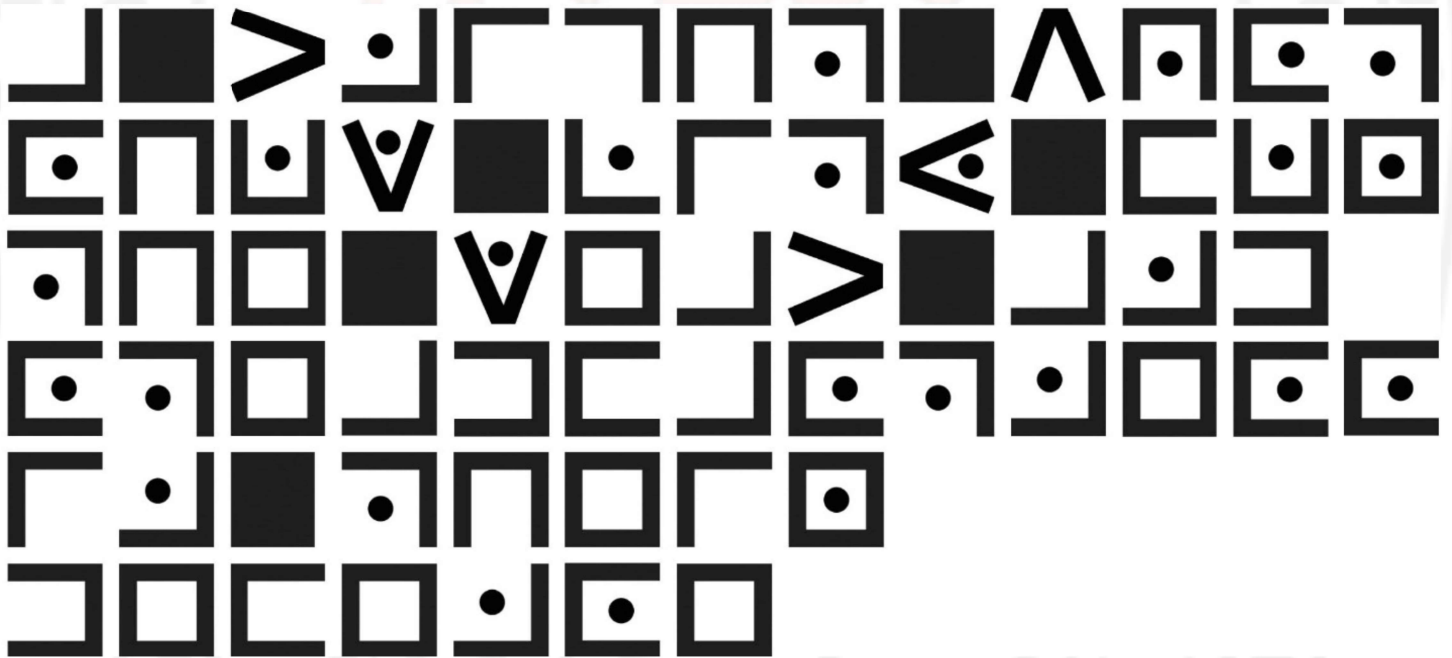
Monday, June 9th-
Baldwin Commandery #7
Order of the Temple
Eat at 6 PM
Conferral at 7 PM

Monday, June 9th-
Murfreesboro Commandery #10
Order of the Temple
Eat at 6 PM
Conferral at 7 PM

July

Tuesday, July 15th -
DePayens Commandery #11
Order of the Temple
Eat at 6 PM
Conferral at 7 PM

Something to Decipher



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.



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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