

# Tennessee Knight Templar News

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

October A.D. 2025 / A.O. 907

Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KCT



Order of the Temple conferred by West Tennessee Regional Commandery #13 on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Several Commanderies were represented, as well as, several past or current Grand York Rite officers.

Please be sure to share any photos from your conferrals or events so that they can be publicized.

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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](mailto: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**

**October Message from the Grand Commander**

**Some Basic Masonic Tenets  
Part 1**



I would like to call your attention to some basic tenets of Freemasonry: Fidelity and Brotherly Love.

Fidelity can be defined as faithfulness, adherence to right, and careful and exact observance of duty or discharge of obligations, all of which have a direct applicability to Masonry. In every degree of Masonry, there is either an overt or tacit lesson on fidelity. These lessons begin with the Entered Apprentice degree and continue on from there. In the Entered Apprentice degree, we are taught that the right hand was deemed by our ancient brethren as an emblem of fidelity, which was sometimes represented by two right hands joined or by two human figures holding each other by the right hand. The right hand has, therefore, become a token of our sincerity and a pledge of fidelity, not only in Masonic applications but in the outer world as well. In many circles a handshake between two parties over an agreement constitutes as strong a legal pact as is humanly possible.

We place our right hand over our heart during recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country and also use it as a method of saluting the flag. This is an ancient symbol of fidelity and can be traced back to the time when the right hand was placed over the heart so that another person could plainly observe that it did not grasp the handle of a sword.

The color blue has long been associated with fidelity and friendship, not only in the symbolic lodge but also in some other Masonic bodies. The basis for this can be found in II Chronicles 3:14, where it is said that Solomon "made the veils of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen (white)." White signifies purity of life, red signifies fervency or zeal, and blue conveys the meaning of universal friendship, benevolence, and fidelity. With this symbolism attached to the color blue, it is most appropriate that the Symbolic Lodge of Masonry be referred to as the "Blue Lodge" because these are characteristics and teachings of the foundation of Masonry. Fidelity is also synonymous with duty and allegiance, which are fundamental tenets of Freemasonry and should be revered by all who embrace or profess to believe in them. The color blue should then portray to us, in the Symbolic Lodge, a constant

reminder of our duty in Freemasonry. This consists of our duty to God, our duty to our country, our duty to our fellow man, but most especially our duty to our brethren.

Masonry teaches that the supreme goal of life is the attainment of brotherly love, the ability to work in harmony and peace with our brethren. This concept of brotherly love is one of the first lessons taught to us as Entered Apprentice Masons. Together with relief and truth, it is one of the three great tenets of a Mason's profession. By the exercise of brotherly love, we are taught to regard the entire human race as one family regardless of perceived social standing or economic position. We are taught that we were created by one Almighty Parent and that we need to aid and support one another. Through the teachings of Masonic principles, men of every country, sect, and opinion can be united and exist with one another in true friendship.

The working tools of a Master Mason are all the implements of Masonry indiscriminately, but more especially the trowel. By use of this instrument, we are taught to spread the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection, which is symbolically the cement that unites us into one sacred band of friends and brothers. How many times have we heard those words? How many times have we really listened to them?

Brotherly love is not found in beautiful words, it is not found in public works, and it is not done for glory, for these things can never be recorded as the real essence of Masonry. Brotherly love is the kind word spoken quietly; it is the little acts of kindness when the soul yearns for aid and comfort; it is in the little touch of love given when the heart is breaking, and it is when your life touches another life in accord. We should remember that the most enduring things in life are not what we have, but what we give away. If Masonry teaches us anything, it teaches that life is too short for its quarrels and its bickerings; that life is for friendship, fellowship, and brotherly love. Masonry is judged by the world, not by our increase in membership, but Masonry is judged by our conduct as individual Masons and by the contribution we make to the life and welfare of our community and our concern and caring for humanity's needs. Go forth into the world and practice brotherly love. Live your life so that it will echo and re-echo acts of kindness and forbearance one toward another as brothers in love and service, and spread the cement of brotherly love and affection.

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 October**

#### **The Lamb Without Blemish**

In the Old Testament book of Exodus, we find the stories about the people of Israel being brought out of slavery in Egypt. In the 12th chapter, God tells Moses how to prepare for the exit. God first tells Moses and Aaron to have the people slaughter lambs without blemish and take the blood and put it on the doorposts of the dwellings where they are to eat the meat. When God sent the final plague of Death on the Egyptians, the Angel of Death passed over those dwellings.

There had been several confrontations between Moses and the Pharaoh, with Moses saying to the Pharaoh each time, "God says, set my people free." Each time, Pharaoh refused. God sent nine plagues upon the Egyptians. The tenth and final plague was the plague of Death. The plague of Death took the firstborn of every family. Only those who put the blood of the lamb on their doorpost were spared.

The blood on the doorpost was a sign of God's grace. This event became known as the Passover, which is still celebrated by many families even today. The Passover established the pattern of redemption that we receive through Jesus Christ. In John 1:35 we hear the words about Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." Jesus became the lamb without blemish—the firstborn—who was sacrificed for the sins of the world! We are protected under the blood of Christ!

I remember an old song we used to sing, "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains." The Jewish people (and many Christians) still keep the Passover as a memory of God's promise fulfilled.

The Lord's Supper is our Passover remembrance. It reminds us of how God has acted in our lives. It reminds us of how God has delivered us from spiritual death and slavery to sin. Not only that, but it reminds us of how God has passed over (forgiven) our sins because of Jesus.

We have no bloodstains on our doorposts, but we have Jesus at the right hand of God! Finally, the Lord's Supper reminds us of God's grace that loves us even though we don't deserve it!

In His Service,

Dickie W. Johnson, PGC  
Eminent Grand Prelate  
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

## **"Lest We Forget"**

Originally printed: *Knight Templar Magazine*, October 1963

We must get back to God. We must regain our lost concept of freedom. We must be reinvested with the spirit of the ancient principles from which our Nation was born. We must be alerted to the price we know must be paid for liberty. We must, as men and Masons, in no way shirk the full responsibilities of our citizenship. God-given freedom must not be lost through apathy or fear-nor be jeopardized by expediency-nor compromised by unbalanced thinking.

It is a crime unspeakable to send our sons and daughters into recurrent wars to die for the ideal of freedom, only to destroy that same ideal, because we have not the stamina to protect and defend it, in time of peace.

Five million men with one ideal of freedom-with one voice to proclaim it-without fear in the Holy Cause they serve-can leaven the thought and strengthen the character of the whole world.

This is the hour-the sand runs low in the glass-we have little time. Let it not be wasted in useless bickering about religious sects-nor political extremism-nor social distinctions. Harmony is still the strength and support of all society. United we can prevail. We know the way. We must speak out.

And, if for the moment we see no danger, let us turn our eyes to the East whence comes the light-and, to the South, the better to observe the time. There stands the Spirit of Cuba, chained and shackled, with weeping eyes and upturned hands, crying out in misery, "Oh Lord, My God, is there no help, is there no hope!"

*Concluding excerpt from a dynamic and prophetic address by Sir Knight Stafford King, St. Paul, Minnesota, to the Grand Masters' Conference in Washington, D. C., in February of 1962.*

*Sir Knight King, State Auditor of Minnesota, was the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, A. F. & A. M., in the year 1961 and into a portion of 1962.*

# 2025 COMMANDERY INSPECTION SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule for Commandery Inspections. Meals begin one hour before Inspection time (12:00 PM and 6:00 PM) For more information, contact your Recorder.

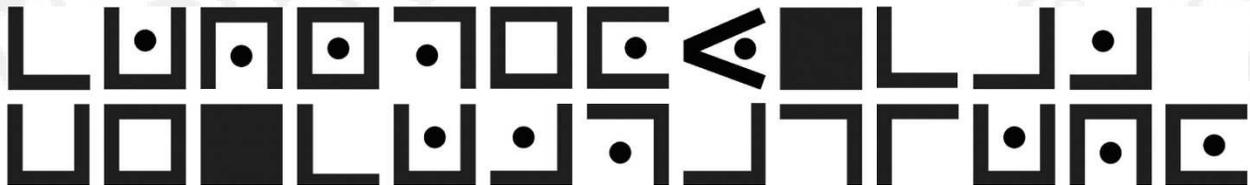
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Commandery</b>	<b>Location</b>
Fri., Oct. 3	7:00 PM	CT Cumberland No. 26	Cookeville
Sat., Oct. 4	1:00 PM	CT Baldwin No. 7	Lebanon
	7:00 PM	CT DePayens No. 11	Franklin
Fri., Oct. 10	7:00 PM	ET Watauga No. 25	Johnson City
Sat., Oct. 11	1:00 PM	ET St. Omer No. 19	Bristol
	7:00 PM	ET Kingsport No. 33	Kingsport
Fri., Oct. 17	7:00 PM	ET Carter No. 37	Elizabethton
Sat., Oct. 18	1:00 PM	ET Cyrene No. 34	Dayton
	7:00 PM	ET Lookout No. 14	Chattanooga
Sat., Oct. 25	1:00 PM	CT Manchester No. 40	Manchester
	7:00 PM	CT Murfreesboro No. 10	Murfreesboro
Sat., Nov. 1	1:00 PM	CT Nashville No. 1	Nashville
	7:00 PM	CT Dickson No. 41	Dickson

\*\*\*Please refer to the Grand York Rite Calendar for the most up-to-date information\*\*\*

\*\*\*The address for each Inspection is listed on the Grand York Rite Calendar\*\*\*

<http://www.tngrandyorkrite.org/calendar>

## Something to Decipher



# September Inspections



Southwest Commandery #31

Phillip Lacy Commandery #46



Greenville Commandery #43

West Tennessee Regional  
Commandery #13



Paris Commandery #16

## September Inspections Continued

Clarksville Commandery #8



Appalachia Commandery #45



Cyprus Commandery #23



Chevalier Commandery #21



Coeur de Lion Commandery #9





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## **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](mailto:TNKTNewsEditor@gmail.com)