



## Grand Commander



Michael M. Hoff

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Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✘ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✘ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

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## Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

This month's article was contributed by Sir Knight Jason R. Harrison Sr., District 2 Instructor-Inspector.

Fraternally yours,

Michael M. Hoff,  
Grand Commander

## Sir Knight Jacques de Molay: A Templar's Crown of Fire and Glory

When we don the mantle of the Knight Templar within our Masonic journey, we do not simply wear symbols—we take on a sacred responsibility. We vow to uphold the Christian virtues of honor, courage, and unwavering faith in God. Few in history have personified those vows as powerfully as Sir Knight Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the medieval Order of the Temple.

Though the original Order was extinguished by force in the 14th century, its light was not lost. It endures in the spiritual and moral legacy carried by Masonic Templars today. And at the heart of that legacy burns the memory of de Molay himself.

## **The Final Grand Master**

Jacques de Molay assumed command of the Knights Templar in 1292, during a time of immense pressure on the Crusading orders. The Holy Land had fallen, the Christian strongholds were gone, and the political tides of Europe had turned. The Templars—once revered as warrior monks and defenders of Christendom—had become wealthy, independent, and feared by both Church and crown.

On October 13, 1307, King Philip IV of France, driven by greed and debt, ordered the arrest of every Templar in the realm. De Molay and his knights were charged with blasphemy and heresy, tried in secret, and tortured to confess to crimes they did not commit.

After years of imprisonment and interrogation, de Molay was brought before the people. And in a moment that defines true Knighthood, he retracted his false confession, choosing Truth over his own survival. For that, he was condemned to the flames.

## **A Knight's Death**

On March 18, 1314, Jacques de Molay was burned alive on an island in the Seine River, within sight of Notre-Dame Cathedral. Bound but unbroken, he faced the flames with the calm dignity of a man who knew his soul was clean before God.

It is said he cried out from the pyre, calling Pope Clement V and King Philip IV to divine judgment. Both men died within a year.

But more than a curse, de Molay's final act was a profession of faith. He died upholding his oath to the Order. He died defending his brothers. He died wearing the spiritual armor of a true Templar.

## **Why His Legacy Lives in Our Commandery**

As Masonic Knights Templar, we do not simply remember de Molay as a tragic figure. We venerate him as a model for Christian knighthood in its highest form—faithful unto death, righteous in conscience, and steadfast in the face of tyranny.

Though our Order is symbolic and moral rather than militant, our charge remains no less real. We are called to defend the weak, to live by the Cross, and to uphold truth no matter the cost. These are not empty concepts. They are the very principles de Molay sealed with his life.

His memory is not kept alive by monuments, but by action—when we stand for Christ, when we serve our neighbor, and when we hold fast to our Templar vows in a world that tempts us to forget them.

*(continued on page 2)*

**A Crown of Glory** (continued from page 1)

Scripture tells us in the Book of Revelation: “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10)

Jacques de Molay received such a crown—not of gold, but of fire; not from man, but from God.

As Sir Knights, may we be found worthy to walk in his footsteps—not by dying for our faith, but by living for it boldly, humbly, and unwaveringly.

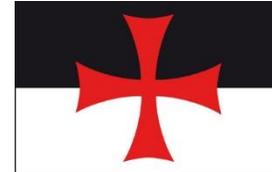
Let us ride under the banner of the Cross, with the spirit of de Molay in our hearts, and our eyes fixed on that eternal reward which no king of this world can grant—or take away.

*Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.*

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Thy name give glory.

Fraternally,

Jason R. Harrison Sr.  
 Instructor-Inspector, District 2  
 Grand Commandery of North Carolina



**The Journey through Masonry: A Discussion on Patience**

Patience is a subject I would say most of us have dealt with at many points in our lives. At the Christmas Holiday we try to be patient, waiting for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to come. At other times we may need to exercise patience in awaiting a decision; or we may have come to a point in our lives where we must make a choice, and find our patience to be strained, since we feel pressed to make a decision ourselves. In Masonry I have seen some Brothers work through this topic related to several issues, such as waiting on a vote on a candidate; or on some business-related question; or when waiting to complete a given degree so they can move on to the next (which is a slower process within certain bodies, or in other countries.) Still others might experience a trial of their patience in waiting to achieve a title or honor they feel they might receive, or one they might think they should have received, through all the work they have done.

However, there is one final example of the need for patience, that I really want to focus on. In my journey through the different lodges and bodies of Masonry, I can honestly say I have seen this issue of patience come up a number of times - and that I have dealt with it myself. I can admit this because I am human, and in my youth attending a military academy I as well as others sought awards, medals, ribbons, ranks, and titles. After speaking with some that serve in the military, I have found that many still seek these, while others simply acknowledge them as part of their jobs. Still others will try and dismiss them, even some of the highest awards or titles received, by stating honestly that others were more worthy or deserved. These individuals possess a modesty that I genuinely appreciate, and one that restores my faith in humanity, since it shows the highest form of devotion we should strive towards as Knights Templar: devotion to serving others.

*This article was submitted by SK S. Alex Wilson of Ivanhoe Commandery #8*



**Christmas Observance at the MHC0 York Rite Chapel**  
 (Photo by P. Mark Alexander)

**Education Corner**

In the Order of Malta, the candidate is invested with the Maltese Cross, and told that its eight points symbolize the eight Beatitudes recorded in the Scriptures. The Chaplain then reads the Beatitudes, from Matthew 5:3-11 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” and the other seven. These Beatitudes are also called *Macarisms*, from the Greek word translated here as “Blessed”: *Makaríoi*.

In the Order of the Temple, the candidate begins his journey in the Chamber of Reflection. There, the Holy Bible is open at Matthew chapter 5 - i.e., open to those same Beatitudes. Thus the virtues (poverty, meekness, purity, mercy, etc.) that are inculcated in the Beatitudes, or Macarisms, provide a perfect link of continuity between the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple.