

# GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MICHIGAN

State News for February 2026

Web Site: [www.michigantemplar.org](http://www.michigantemplar.org)

SK Adam W. Wygant, REGC



***“As He  
Died***



***Let Us Live”***

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## **Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies, Companions and Brothers All!**

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan update and Knights Templar Magazine Supplement.

### **Grand Commander Message**

Last month, after completing and sending the January supplement and talking of excitement around 2026, our Grand Captain General passed to the Celestial Lodge above that afternoon of January 2nd. Sir Knight Don will be remembered as a wonderful husband, dad, and Masonic Brother. I have advanced the Grand Junior and Senior Wardens and placed Sir Knight Emil as our Junior Warden to fill the holes vacated due to the tragic loss. The 2025-2026 line has worked closely over the past year to move this Grand Commandery forward, and it was important to us to come together, and finish the year strong. While the hole in our hearts and the big hole left in Michigan Masonry can't be filled, we honor Don by pressing forward with our craft.

This month, I was able to show up and help out in Central Battalion for an Order of the Temple in Grand Blanc. Central Battalion has at least 3 months straight of these Orders in the cue. There is much to emulate in the Central Battalion. Not only do they have the thriving Pontiac Commandery (with recent regular conclave attendance near 30 sir knights), but they SHOW UP everywhere to help each other and observe major dates TOGETHER. Showing up and together, are the powerful operative words here. The recipe for success. Pontiac is focusing on the pride of doing a 12-Man Full Form

Opening again and working towards a drill team, and they are really enjoying doing it. Pontiac, Durand, and Genessee Valley have these Orders scheduled monthly, each month the candidate is from a different Commandery but they are doing the work TOGETHER. As Grand Commander it is wonderful to see this success and to know some other battalions are trying to get this momentum going as well.

Knights are strong TOGETHER and it is the most fun when we are TOGETHER, therefore I encourage you to take seriously your attendance at upcoming events. Your attendance is earnestly solicited at the Grand Captain General Workshop and Ritual Competition in Lansing on March 28<sup>th</sup>, the York Rite Leadership Training and East Central Department Meeting on March 13-15, Easter Observances on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and the 171<sup>st</sup> Grand Conclave on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Continue to create knights in your own asylum, make it special, the world needs more Knights Templar! Battalions and the Grand Commandery officers can help, just ask.

Courteously – Adam W. Wygant, Grand Commander

### **Michigan Templar Notable Shots**



Speaking of TOGETHER, I know many Michigan Sir Knights know this story but I thought that I would share it again. Sir Knights of Durand and Jackson may know this because of the historic markers present in their communities of a sad day

in Templary that went from enjoying time together to loss. On June 5, 1923 many Michigan Templars were going home after the sixty-seventh annual conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan that had been held in Flint, Michigan. A special train had been contracted by Demolai Commandery No. 5 in Grand Rapids to carry sir knights to the conclave from Muskegon and Grand Rapids, and picking up additional members in Ionia and St. John's. Many of the train's crew were also Knights Templar, and it must have been really awesome to be together going to the conclave on the Knights Templar "Special Train" No. 5030. It was specified that only members of the Order be chosen to make up the crew. The ultimate car pooling, or "train pooling" (just made that up) if you will.

Unfortunately on that fateful day on the return trip, the train encountered a split in the rail and a section of track/ballast that had not had much maintenance in nearly 25 years.



Travelling at about 50 miles per hour, the Templar “Special Train” jumped the track about one mile west of Durand, killing 5 men and injuring 32 others. Among the dead were four Knights Templar: engineer SK Fank Persall and fireman SK Joseph Parker who were members of Corunna Commandery at Durand; SK John Erickson and SK Herbert Waldron from Ionia Commandery No 11. A.J. Fanning of Grand Rapids also died.

Engine No 5030 can be seen in Jackson, Michigan where it was donated to the City of Jackson in 1957 when retired from service. The locomotive was recently sold in 2021 to a tourist line in 2021 for eventual restoration.

As a final interesting note, during the derailment, one of the coaches lay directly across the tracks at right angles forming the cross bar of a Knight Templar Cross.

### **Templar Duty**

*The sanctifying grace of God shaped the souls of early Templars as they learned in community. One cannot learn patience, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, grace, and love by oneself. As the Holy Spirit deepens our interior lives, we learn to see the world through God’s eyes. We discover that God also invites us to see the world through the eyes of those who suffer and who are in need, “as though you yourself were suffering adversity” (Hebrews 13:3). The complete Templar life involves organizing our lives for service that is meaningful and pleasing to God.*

**Sir Knight Darrell Brockway, EC - Pontiac Commandery No. 2**

### **Meritorious Service Award**

Speaking of Templar Duty, it was the honor of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Warder to attend Monroe Commandery’s annual inspection on January 8<sup>th</sup> and presented their Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Charles Woodrum Jr., with the Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Award. SK “Woody” was recognized for his outstanding service to the Commandery, Masonic organizations, and the community.



Eminent Commander Sir Knight Charles Woodrum of Monroe Commandery No 19 receives the MSA, presented by Grand Commander.

### **The Prelates Pen**

Greetings Sir Knight's All,

Recently I was watching a Pastor's Conference when Pastor Rob McCoy said: "I feel like a mule at the Kentucky Derby. I know I'm not going to win, but I'm in great company!"

I feel the same way whenever my "Grand Prelate's Pen" begins to write. This month's Grand Prelates Pen is a difficult one for me to write because of how personal it is. Hopefully it will show why we all should believe that GOD is LOVE and HIS MIRACLES are ever present. As long as we come to the Father, in Jesus' Name, with humble hearts and an understanding that He can do immeasurable things, we may see His miracles happen. (see 1 John 4:7-21)

In 2021 I sent our son Jacob a picture of an eagle, wings raised, in a corn field near our home. His reply was "thanks dad, I really needed that today." When we got home I called him, that's when he told me he had Stage 4 Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. It's important to note that all the Covid protocols were still in place so Neely and I were not allowed to see him in the hospital. The University of Michigan doctors told Jacob the cancer was throughout his lymphatic system. Something that started out as a rash on his leg and initially ignored by his regular doctor, turned into cancer determined to take his life. Jacob wasn't responding to any of the treatments required before being eligible for STEM cell therapy, what they consider the ONLY thing that might save him. After months of tests and treatment the doctor told him it's time to make out a will as every option has failed. They would test him again in a few weeks to see if his count increased which would allow

for the much needed STEM cell therapy. Naturally, we were praying for God to heal Jacob and asked our church for prayers as well.

After so many months of chemotherapy and radiation, his levels finally came to a satisfactory level to enter him into the program. Prayers have been answered, but not completely. Now was the time to start looking for a match in the National database. Although I was a 5 out of 8 marker match my doctor said because of my heart condition I might not survive the donation process which disqualified me. This devastated me, as any parent would be. The results of the Nationwide Database search yielded zero matches, not one person in America could help. Jacob was healed just enough to be eligible for a program unable to help him.

That night I prayed the most difficult prayer I have ever prayed. "Dear Lord, You are the Great Healer and Physician. You can heal by a single word or raise up doctors to work through. If You need my son in Heaven I pray you take him quickly and painlessly. But, Lord, I pray that you deliver my son from cancer, wholly and completely. Let his victory over cancer be his testimony of Your Great works and Lovingkindness." I was not ready for my son to die. Ten days later I received a call from Jacob. He said they widened the database search worldwide and found a single donor in Germany. Because of the pending outcome of the donor and recipient their identities were not known to each other. Only that the donor was a soldier in the German Army. As we found out those who volunteer to serve in the German military are required to be placed on, and donate to multiple donor lists worldwide, providing their donation won't forfeit their own life. Then it would be of their own choosing to donate or not. Jacob's donor was a 7 out of 8 marker match! Within 24 hours the STEM cell transplant, not the donor, flew from Germany to the U of M Ann Arbor and was received by my son.

**Matthew 7:7** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

**Philippians 4:6** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

**Matthew 6:34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Psalms 37:25** I was young and now I'm old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken.

On February 20th Jacob will celebrate his 32nd birthday, cancer free, married, living in their first home, and thanking **God for His Love and Miracles**.

May Grace and Peace be multiplied to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gratefully - **Matthew G. Kent, PC, Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery KT of MI**



## ON THE RADAR

There are 7 months left in the Templar Year before August 22, 2026 and there is much to accomplish:

- Education Scholarship Deadline is February 15, 2026, please download applications at [michigantemplar.org](http://michigantemplar.org)
- Recognition, please nominate Sir Knights for their hard work and service. The website has forms for various recognition awards, including the Knights Templar Cross of Honor (KTCH). Please submit KTCH nominations to the Grand Commander by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Meritorious Service Awards and Companion of the Temple Award no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> please.
- George Washinton Birthday Celebration, Port Huron Masonic Center, Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact the editor for further details or Sir Knight William “Bill” Herlihy for reservations to this fun evening in honor of Brother George.
- March 13-15, York Rite Leadership Training (Friday March 13) and East Central Department Meeting, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The leadership training is free, only cost of travel and lunch. Leadership training and the East Central Department meeting are not only for Grand Commandery leadership, any Sir Knight is encouraged to attend this Grand Encampment event and enjoy time with companions and sir knights from other jurisdictions. **Information and registration at the following website** <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/ecdc2026>.
- Muskegon Commandery No. 22 Inspection. Several Grand Officers are traveling to support this inspection on St. Patrick’s Day and will be staying in Grand Haven for the evening then traveling to a Veterans Hospital the next day to bring greetings to our veterans.
- March 28, Grand Captain General’s Workshop and 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ritual Competition, Lansing, Michigan. The Captain General’s Workshop will feature training in basics for not just commandery leadership but all sir knights. The ritual competition will be a fun event following lunch that will allow participants to compete by giving the Junior Warden’s chamber address, the Ode to the Skull, or the Prelate’s address. You can compete in one, two or all. Those not participating will enjoy watching the competition. Winners will be revealed and presented an award at the Grand Session in Bay City on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

- Easter Observance April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. More details will come out regarding observances held around the state but generally the Central Battalion hosts a popular observance at the Great Lakes Cemetery in Holly. The Grand Commander and Lady Holli will be traveling to Alexandria, Virginia April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> and invite you to explore our national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery (including a wreath laying on April 4<sup>th</sup>), and the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Easter morning. Please contact the Grand Commander if you would like more information. The registration and hotel information is on the Grand Encampment website at [usagekt.org](http://usagekt.org).
- April 24-26, Indiana Grand Commandery Annual Conclave, Muncie, Indiana.
- May – June Instruction Season, our Instructor General, SK Ron Hessman and the Instruction Board instructors will be reaching out to schedule a time for school of instruction with each commandery. Please be proactive and discuss at an upcoming conclave to identify a date to ensure one is scheduled in 2026.

**SIR KNIGHTS THIS SUPPLEMENT IS YOUR PLATFORM TOO, PLEASE SEND THE EDITOR CONTENT, PHOTOS, AND EVENTS TO SHARE WITH OUR GRAND COMMANDERY COMMUNITY. I KNOW SOME OF YOU HAVE INTERESTING CURRENT EVENTS AND TEMPLAR HISTORY TO SHARE. WE HAVE A PROUD HERITAGE SINCE 1850 AND GREAT THINGS HAPPENING TODAY – LETS TALK ABOUT IT.**

**SEND CONTENT TO [miktskadam@gmail.com](mailto:miktskadam@gmail.com)**

## Grand Captain General's Workshop



**To: The Grand Officers, Commanders, Recorders, and all Sir Knights**  
**Greetings Sir Knights,**

The 2026 Captain General's Workshop will take place on **March 28th, 2026.**

**Location:** Lansing Masonic Temple, 1125 Weber Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48912

### **Schedule:**

**9:00AM Coffee and Donuts**

**10:00AM Opening and Instruction**

Review of Inspections by SK Ronnie Hesseman, PC, Instructor General

Hermit Scene by SK Bill Herlihy, REPGC

Forming of the Triangle for the 10 Man Opening and Cuts

Questions from the Sir Knights

Closing Comments by SK Adam Wygant, REGC

**11:45AM Lunch**

**1:00PM Ritual Competition**

THIRD EDITION of the Knights Templar of Michigan

**Junior Warden's Address** in the Chamber of Reflection

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**Ode to the Skull**

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**Prelate's Address** at the Triangle

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Winners in each category will be given an award during the Grand Session in August 2026.

**All are welcome to compete or observe.** Please contact SK David Heise @ [djheise@comcast.net](mailto:djheise@comcast.net) to register in advance. You may also register the day of the event.