

Tennessee Knight Templar News

SIR KNIGHT ROY T. SUTTON III, RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE

May A.D. 2026 / A.O. 908

Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KCT



Sir Knights representing every Commandery in the East and Upper East Tennessee Battalions came together to honor Past Grand Commander Jack Akard by forming an Arch of Steel for his family during his funeral on April 14th.

In This Issue

Grand Commander's Message.....	2
General Order No. 3.....	6
Eminent Grand Prelate's Message.....	7
Grand Commander's Golf Tournament....	8
2026 Commandery Inspection Schedule..	9
Mission and Vision.....	10
Social Media.....	10



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

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

**From the Right Eminent Grand Commander
ROY T. SUTTON III, KTCH
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee**



Sir Knights,

I hope everyone had a great Easter and hopefully all the Commanderies had an Observance for their members and families. I have a lot of information for the Sir Knights of Tennessee, including the Grand Commandery Easter trip and upcoming Inspections. Also, for all the golf players, we will be having a Golf Tournament on May 30th at Graysburg Hills Golf Course beginning at 2pm. All money raised from this Tournament will go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Grand Commandery Easter Trip



I was very blessed to have several Sir Knights, ladies of the Social Order of the Beauceant, DeMolay, and families of the Sir Knights attend the 96th Annual Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service. We had an early morning departure on our charter bus and arrived Friday afternoon in Arlington, VA. I was very honored to have laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for the Grand Commandery of Tennessee. This was a humbling moment to reflect on our Veterans who have served for our freedom to be able to meet in our Lodges and Commanderies and also to have a moment on Good Friday to remember Jesus' sacrifice to save us from our sins.

Our Saturday was spent touring the monuments in Washington, DC and we had a great dinner together as a group. The Easter service was held in the auditorium of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial and our own VEDGC Bobby Blankenship delivered the Easter message.



Inspections

Sir Knights,

With the inspections starting on May 15th, I wanted to get more information about how the Commanderies will be graded. I hope this will help each Commandery to improve its score, but I would like to remind all Commanderies that the focus of the Inspection should be on the Candidate receiving this beautiful Order.

The Dias Officers of the Grand Commandery met to try to improve our Commanderies and improve our Inspections. We talked about how to grade each Commandery fairly and take into consideration how some Commanderies will be inspected starting in May and they will end in October. So, to be fair, the Inspector will be calculating on the following categories:

Ritual – The grading of your conferral of the Order of the Temple at Inspection

Attendance – Calculated by officers of your Commandery in attendance at Inspection

Recorder – All books are in order, including financials, and presented to the Grand Recorder

Knight Templar Eye Foundation – Participation in this charity.

Holy Land Pilgrimage – Participation in this charity.

Patriotic/Religious – Participation in the required observances.

Each category is worth 100 points and the final grade will be determined by adding up the categories and dividing by 6.

Ritual – As we all strive to attain a perfect conferral, please remember that the most important person at each inspection is our candidate. We should strive to make the best impression possible and make him want to come back to be an active member of your Commandery. If you have any questions about the opening or conferral of the Order, please reach out to Clarence Crump, Grand Instructor/Inspector for clarifications.

Attendance – Completed attendance record. Each officer in attendance at a stated meeting will be calculated as follows:

$9.09 \times \text{number of officers present} / \text{number of stated conclaves since the first of the year.}$

Note - Stated Conclaves not held due to lack of a quorum will be counted.

Recorder – Please have your minutes book ready for the Grand Recorder prior to the beginning of the Inspection. Things he will be looking for are:

Minute Book present, all minutes completed and signed for stated and called conclaves, including all correspondence, General Orders, Annual Return, Grand Conclave Notification and Grand Conclave Synopsis, Dispensations, Last Year's Inspection Report, and Current year Commandery Inspection Notification. Complete financial records, including Cash Book, current Ledger Sheet for each Sir Knight, last year's audit report, and filed 990N.

Knight Templar Eye Foundation – The annual Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation goes from May 16th to May 15th each year. The first inspection will be on May 15th, so every Commandery should have made their donations to the KTEF office before we begin. To receive full credit in this category, please make sure you are at 100% of Life Sponsorships. You can contact the State Chairman, Steven Young, to find out your status. Final score will be calculated on percentage of your members that have life sponsorships (i.e.: 100% = 100 on grade, 80% = 80 on grade).

Holy Land Pilgrimage – Full credit for this category will come from donations made from November 1, 2025 until your Inspection date. We have had several opportunities during the 2025 year with the popcorn sales. Donations made to either the Endowment Fund or to the Immediate Use fund will count for credit. Each Commandery will be given either a 0 or 100 depending on if any donation has been made.

Patriotic/Religious – As a Christian Order, it is necessary we have observances for Christmas, Easter, and Ascension Day. We should also observe a Patriotic or Civic Observance such as Veteran’s Day, Memorial Day, or 4th of July. This can be done by participating in a parade or holding an observance in your Lodge or Commandery. The last inspection in 2025 was REPGC Ron Coates’ homecoming on November 1, 2025. Observances held after that date will be counted towards the score (Veteran’s Day 11-11-25, Christmas 12-25-25, Easter 4-5-26). The Commanderies who will be inspected in May will have until the end of the month to submit your Observance Report with your MAR to get credit for an Ascension Service. All other Commanderies should have all reports submitted before your inspection date. Scores will be calculated by Observance report submitted to the Grand Recorder.

Bonus Category – Full Form Conferral of the Orders. If your Commandery has conferred all Orders in full form on your candidate, you can request this category with each Order earning 33.3% or 100% for conferring all Orders in full form. This is an optional category to help increase your overall score by doing long form conferrals. If your Commandery has not conferred all 3 Orders in full form, it is recommended that you do not ask for this bonus. If you have, please let the Grand Recorder know before the inspection begins and this can help your Commandery improve its score by taking the 7 categories and dividing them by 7.

Sir Knights, again I want to remind everyone that my Officers and myself are here to help the Commanderies in any way possible. Please let us know of any conferrals that you are planning and please be sure to let Sir Knight Jesse Harper know so it can be added to the Newsletter and let any member of the Public Relations Committee know for it to be added to our social media pages.

Roy T. Sutton III
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar Of Tennessee





Roy T. Sutton III
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Tennessee

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

April 8, 2026
Kingsport, Tennessee

To the Officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, and to the Officers and Knights of the Constituent Commanderies thereof:

REPGC AKARD WAS INITIATED AN EA ON 11/1/65 AT NICHOLAS CA#129. HE RECEIVED HIS FC ON 12/6/65 AND MM ON 1/17/66. AKARD AFFILIATED WITH NEW MARKET TN#246 ON 11/10/1971. BROTHER AKARD SERVED AS WM IN 1987 AND WAS ELECTED TO SECT IN 1988. HE SERVED AS GRAND TILER IN 1991, AND GRAND LODGE COUNTY CHAIRMAN IN 1990/2000. BROTHER AKARD SERVED AS THE FIRST GRAND LODGE OF TN WEBMASTER 1993 (including all Masonic Grand Bodies). BROTHER AKARD JOINED THE E TN PAST MASTERS ASSOCIATION ON 2/14/87, SERVED AS WM/PRES IN 1996 AND SEC IN 1997. JOINED THE TN MASONIC VETERANS IN 3/28/90, AND THE TN LODGE OF RESEARCH F&AM ON 3/12/88. SERVED AS PM IN 1996, FELLOW IN 1997. JOINED THE MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL #1002 AF&AM, TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH #2002 AF&AM, VIRGINIA RESEARCH LODGE #1777 AF&AM, QUANT CORANATORA LODGE #2076, & THE PHILALETES SOCIETY

COMPANION AKARD JOINED JEFFERSON CHAPTER TN#81 ON 4/2/88, SERVED AS HIGH PRIEST IN 1990 & 1998. SERVED AS KEY MAN IN 91 & 97 IN THE ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD ON 3/26/90. SERVED AS DIST DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST IN 1992 & 93, & GRAND PRINCIPLE SOJOURNER IN 2000. HE ALSO BECAME A MEMBER OF MORRISTOWN COUNCIL TN#113 ON 4/2/88 & S.E.M. ON 10/26/88. HE SERVED AS ILL MASTER IN 1991, HE WENT THROUGH THE ORDER OF SILVER TROWELL ON 3/25/91 AND SERVED AS GRAND MARSHAL IN 1994. HE BECAME A COMPANION KNIGHT OF COEUR DE LION COMMANDERY TN#9 ON 6/11/88. SERVED AS COMMANDER IN 1993, AND WAS PRIVILEGED TO GO THROUGH THE KNIGHT CRUSADER OF THE CROSS ON 4/23/93, SERVED AS GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN IN 1995, GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL IN 2001 AND WAS ELECTED TO THE HONORS OF RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND COMMANDER IN 2004.

REPGC AKARD JOINED THE KNOXVILLE AREA YORK RITE ASSOCIATION ON 5/30/88 & SERVED AS PRES IN 1993. HE WAS INVITED TO JOIN KNIGHT YORK CROSS OF HONOR (KYCH) ON 3/26/94 TN PRIORY #15. HELPED TO CHARTER FRIZZELL YORK RITE COLLEGE #146 ON 5/25/89 WAS INVITED TO THE PURPLE CROSS ON 8/2/97, WHERE HE SERVED AS GOVERNOR IN 2000. HE WAS INVITED TO JOIN KNIGHT MASONS #7293, & ST. PATRICK'S #1 ON 7/7/1990. HE TRANSFERRED TO AND BECAME A CHARTER MEMBER TRALEE #41 IN 1991 THEN TRANSFERRED TO AND BECAME A CHARTER MEMBER GAELIC #60 IN 1996 IN CHATTANOOGA THEN TRANSFERRED TO AND BECAME A CHARTERED MEMBER OF WILLIAM BENJIMAN ANDERSON #73 IN 1999 IN KNOXVILLE INSTITUTED ON 11/6/99 AND CHARTERED 2/00. FIRST CHIEF – INSTALLED CHIEF INVESTURER ON 11/6/99. WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE ALLIED MASONIC

DEGREES, TENNESSEE COUNCIL #341 ON 12/2/96. FORMED E LESSLE WEBB JR COUNCIL #357 ON 4/29/97 AND CHARTERED 2/98. SERVED AS FIRST SOVEREIGN MASTER, SOVEREIGN MASTER INVESTURER WAS ON 6/11/97. SERVED AS KNIGHT COMMANDER OF CHATTANOOGA ASYLUM #2 ON 9/30/99.

BROTHER AKARD JOINED THE VALLEY OF SACRAMENTO, CENTENIAL CLASS ON 5/(10,11,12,13)/1967. HE AFFILIATED WITH KNOXVILLE VALLEY ON 11/24/70. HE RECIEVED THE HONOR OF KCCH ON 10/16/89, AND THE 33° INSPECTORS GENERAL HONORARY ON 10/3/01. HE BECAME CONSISTORIANS PRESIDENT ON 1992 & COUNTY CHAIRMAN IN 1988. HE WAS FEATURED ON THE 3rd DEG TEAM, 14th DEG, 30th DEG, SOUND COMMITTEE, STAGE/WORK CREW, SCOTTISH RITE LODGE OF RESEARCH, WEBMASTER TN SGIG WEBPAGE, & ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND ON 8/26/89.

BROTHER AKARD JOINED TENNESSEE FOREST #195, FORMED & INSTITUTED ON 9/20/97 CHARTER MEMBER & FIRST CHIEF SIDONIAN.

JOINED BEN ALI IN 1967, BECAME POTENTATES REPRESENTATIVE (BEALE, AFB) 67-70, (MEMBERSHIP AWARD 1969). HE AFFILIATED WITH KERBELA ON 11/17/70; (MEMBERSHIP WATCH AWARD 1989). HE RECIEVED THE POTENTATES OUTSTANDING SHRINER AWARD ON 1985, AMBASSADOR IN 1985. HE JOINED THE JEFFERSON CO CLUB (CHARTER MEMBER), SERVED AS PRESIDENT IN 1986, GREETER UNIT FOUNDER & PRESIDENT IN 1986&87, FINANCE COMMITTEE IN 1987,88,89,90, HOUSING & REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN (SMOKY MTN FUN FEST) – 1989,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,00&01, DIRECTORY & CALENDAR CHAIRMAN – 1991,92,93,95&96

JOINED QUETZALCOATL “Q” TANASSA #138, COATE 8/21/98, ARTISAN 9/2/98, & MASTER ARTISAN (10/9/99 ATLANTA LARGEST CLASS EVER 298)

BROTHER AKARD JOINED WHEATLAND CA#48 – 1967, THEN TRANSFERED TO HOLSTON TN#384 IN 1995, & RAINBOW – GRAND CROSS OF COLOR IN 6/27/93.

On April 7, 2026, REPGC Akard ascended to that Asylum above, where he shall rest from his labors and be at peace forever.

It is my order that all charter of all Tennessee Commanderies be draped at the next stated conclave in his honor.

This General Order must be read at the first Stated Conclave following its receipt and made a part of those minutes

Roy T. Sutton III
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery
Of Tennessee
2026



From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight Gary W. Coates

Prelates Devotion for May

One Day Is Not Enough

Proverbs 31:26 – *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

A woman had quit work to stay home and take care of her new baby daughter. Countless hours of peekaboo and other games slowly took their toll. One evening she smacked her bare toes on the corner of a dresser and, grabbing her foot, sank to the floor. Her husband rushed to her side and asked where it hurt. She looked at her husband through her tear-filled eyes and managed to moan, “It’s the piggy that ate the roast beef.”

While it is wonderful that we set aside one day to especially honor mothers, let us reflect for a moment on all the things mothers do for us. First, they bring us into the world through a biological miracle that is amazing, but certainly not easy. They then spend the next two decades preparing meals, solving problems, kissing boo-boos, helping us learn everything from how to brush our teeth to how to navigate the difficulties of the “real world.” They spend the rest of their lives fretting and worrying about us. They care for us in a way that is beyond words. They sacrifice for us in ways beyond words.

Philippians 1:3 – *I thank my God every time I remember you.*

Even after they have passed on, Mother’s Day can be especially difficult for those of us who have lost mothers, their influence is so powerful that it stays with us always. I propose that one day is not enough. One day is nice, but it is not enough. So, while we take a day in May to honor mothers, let us think of it as a planned day. How can we honor our mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, each day? How can we recognize their special contributions to our lives every day?

Let us take a moment on how we can truly honor our mothers. May we be as patient as they were with us, as generous in spirit, and as steadfast in love. And may we never forget that behind every good Mason, there was someone who first taught him to walk, with integrity, upright before God and man.

Sir Knights, let us make a commitment to honor them—not just today, but every day, because one day is not enough!

In God’s Service,

Gary W. Coates, KTCH

Eminent Grand Prelate

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee



SATURDAY MAY 30, 2026

LUNCH AT 1 PM
SHOTGUN START AT 2 PM

GRAYSBURG HILLS GOLF COURSE
910 Graysburg Hills Road
Chucky, TN 37641

18 TEAMS MAX
\$400.00 PER TEAM
\$125.00 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL



SPONSORSHIPS

\$150.00 - HOLE SPONSOR

\$250.00 - 2'X4' VINYL HOLE SIGN

\$500.00 - 3'X8' VINYL HOLE SIGN

\$1,000.00 - BRONZE SPONSORSHIP

FREE 4 PERSON TEAM, 2'X4' BANNER, PLAQUE

\$2,000.00 - SILVER SPONSORSHIP

FREE 4 PERSON TEAM, 3'X8' BANNER, PLAQUE

\$5,000.00 - GOLD SPONSORSHIP

FREE (2) 4 PERSON TEAMS, 3'X8' BANNER,
PLAQUE

LUNCH INCLUDED IN TEAM FEE

PLAYER 1

PLAYER 2

PLAYER 3

PLAYER 4



**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
EYE FOUNDATION
CHARITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT**



GRAND COMMANDERY OF TENNESSEE

Sammy Dennison, George Hughes, & Chuck Stanton
423-863-6597, 423-360-5423, 423-444-9741

2026 Grand Commandery Inspection Schedule

Week 1

Friday	05/15/26	Dickson No. 41	702 Henslee Dr. Dickson, TN	7:00 PM CST
Saturday	05/16/26	Southwest No. 31	539 W. Cooper St. Memphis, TN	9:00 AM CST
Saturday	05/16/26	Phillip Lacy No. 46	153 4th St. Selmer, TN 38375	3:00 PM CST

Week 2

Friday	06/05/26	Clarksville No. 8	1496 Golf Club Ln. Clarksville, TN	7:00 PM CST
Saturday	06/06/26	Paris No. 16	108 W. Blythe St. Paris, TN	9:00 AM CST
Saturday	06/06/26	West TN Regional No. 13	2911 US 45 Bypass Jackson, TN	3:00 PM CST

Week 3

Friday	07/24/26	Cumberland No. 26	3003-B Spring St. Cookeville, TN	7:00 PM CST
Saturday	07/25/26	Columbia No. 47	123 Theta Pike Columbia, TN	9:00 AM CST
Saturday	07/25/26	DePayens No. 11	115 2nd Ave. South Franklin, TN	3:00 PM CST

Week 4

Friday	08/14/26	Chevalier No. 21	115 Lafayette Dr. Oak Ridge, TN	7:00 PM EST
Saturday	08/15/26	Nashville No. 1	2523 Lebanon Pike Nashville, TN	9:00 AM CST
Saturday	08/15/26	Baldwin No. 7	106 N. College St. Lebanon, TN	3:00 PM CST

Week 5

Friday	09/11/26	Coeur de Lion No. 9	612 16th St. Knoxville, TN	7:00 PM EST
Saturday	09/12/26	Manchester No. 40	1313 Hillsboro Blvd. Manchester, TN	9:00 AM CST
Saturday	09/12/26	Murfreesboro No. 10	1206 SE Broad St. Murfreesboro, TN	3:00 PM CST

Week 6

Friday	09/18/26	Cyprus No. 23	318 Ellis Ave. Maryville, TN	7:00 PM EST
Saturday	09/19/26	Cyrene No. 34	310 2nd Ave. Dayton, TN	9:00 AM EST
Saturday	09/19/26	Lookout No. 14	551 W. 21st St. Chattanooga, TN	3:00 PM EST

Week 7

			540 E. Andrew Johnson Hwy Greeneville	7:00 PM EST
Thursday	10/01/26	Greeneville No. 43		
Friday	10/02/26	Appalachia No. 45	5400 N. Broadway St. Knoxville, TN	7:00 PM EST
Saturday	10/03/26	Carter No. 37	410 E Doe Ave. Elizabethton, TN	9:00 AM EST
Saturday	10/03/26	Watauga No. 25	304 W. Watauga Ave. Johnson City, TN	3:00 PM EST

Week 8

Saturday	10/10/26	St. Omer No. 19	35 5th St. Bristol, TN	9:00 AM EST
Saturday	10/10/26	Kingsport No. 33	2317 Ft. Henry Dr. Kingsport, TN	3:00 PM EST

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER ROY T. SUTTON III HOMECOMING
MEALS SERVED ONE HOUR PRIOR TO THE MEETING



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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