

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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*The end has come, as come, it must,
To all things; in these sweet June days,
The teacher and the scholar trust,
Their parting feet to separate ways.*

--John Greenleaf Whittier

Sir Knights,

As a young lad, how I relished the end of the school year, cycling home with “No more pencils, no more books ...” running through my head, looking forward to playing baseball and other adventures with friends and family. Of course, learning didn’t stop with the last school bell. My parents had instilled in me the love of reading which I did voraciously. Many years Summer also meant a trip across the country. To maintain their effectiveness, B-52 crews were required to take their leaves together. My dad’s crew took a month in the Summer and we would drive from our home in Fairfield, California to our native Manchester, traveling the Lincoln Highway.

Last month we held our Annual Grand Conclave in Manchester, in the New Hampshire Masonic Center. At its conclusion, Sir Knight Peter J. Noddin, K.T.C.H., was installed as our Right Eminent Grand Commander, succeeding Sir Knight Arthur W. Stauff, K.T.C.H. Sir Knight Noddin was born in East Millinocket, Maine in 1964, and graduated from the University of Maine in 1986. He is the Manager of Safety and Health of Monadnock Paper Mills in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and is a Certified Safety Professional and Occupational Safety and Health Technician. He resides in Jaffrey, New Hampshire with Peggy, his Lady of sixteen years. They have four adult children. Sir Knight Peter is a Past Master of Charity Lodge No. 18, F.&A.M., in Jaffrey, Past High Priest of Trinity Chapter No. 2, Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Horace Chase Council No. 4, and Past Commander of Mount Horeb Commandery No. 3, all in Concord. He holds memberships in Profile York Rite College, No. 100, Granite State Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Scenic Council, No. 37, Knight Masons, and Palestine Tabernacle, No. XLI, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests. He is an Eagle Scout.



Left: Our new Grand Commander and his Officers. Right: S.K. Noddin receives his jewel and Red Cord from his Lady, Peggy, as his predecessor, Sir Knight Stauff looks on.

Among the honorees at the York Rite Banquet the evening before the Conclave was Sir Knight Noddin who received the Reverend Jonathan Nye Distinguished Service Medal of New Hampshire Grand Commandery. Sir Knight John A. Loven, Eminent Grand Senior Warden, received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor. Lady Linda Ann Pangborn Stauff was created a Companion of the Temple in recognition of her unstinting support of Sir Knight Arthur Stauff, K.T.C.H., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, and the Order of DeMolay, of which he is Executive Officer and she a long- time Advisor.



Left: Lady Peggy pins the Nye Medal on S.K. Noddin as S.K. Stauff looks on. Right: Lady Linda and her proud Sir Knight Stauff display her Companion of the Temple Plaque. Looking on are S.K.s Kenneth A. Caldwell, K.C.T., R.E. Department Commander, Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., R.E. Past Department Commander and Dean of the College of Honors, and Jeffrey A. Bolstad, K.G.C., R.E. Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.



S.K. John A. Loven receives his Knight Templar Cross of Honor Plaque From S.K Jeffrey A. Bolstad, as Grand Commander Stauff and Department Commander Caldwell look on. In the background are S.K.s Noddin and Scott R. Borkwith, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, F.&A.M.

Five of the other, serving Grand Commanders of the Northeastern Department attended our Grand Conclave. That turnout is not atypical for the Northeastern Department which has long prided itself on the camaraderie among the Sir Knights of the several jurisdictions in the Department. Sir Knight Stauff demonstrated his appreciation of their support with a generous contribution to the Knights Templar Eye

Foundation in their honor.



The visiting Grand Commanders are pictured with S.K. Arthur Stauff, from left to right, S.K.s Eric S. Pooler, K.C.T., Maine, Joshua J. Nay, K.C.T., Pennsylvania, Kenneth D. Roach, Connecticut, Kirk C. White, Vermont, Stauff, and Peter A Randall, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, under the able leadership of Sir Knight Kenneth A. Colpaert. Sr., Eminent Grand Generalissimo, awarded several scholarships this year to students pursuing post-secondary education, two of whom received their checks at the Banquet.



Two scholarship recipients are pictured with S.K.s Stauff and Colpaert, and Ms. Stacy Desrosiers, Supreme Deputy for New Hampshire, International Order Of Rainbow for Girls.

A highlight of the Grand Conclave was the Commissioning of Sir Knight Stauff as a Templar Chaplain, under the Grand Encampment's relatively new, self-study program intended to develop "leaders

who exemplify servant leadership and service [by] being there for people in real and meaningful ways at the difficult times in their lives.” Sir Knight Stauff is the first Commissioned Templar Chaplain in the Granite State. Incidentally, the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program is open to all members of the Fraternity, including members of our youth groups.



S.K. Stauff holds his new Commission and sports the Jewel of a Commissioned Templar Chaplain. S.K.s Bolstad, Noddin, and Paul C. Smith, R.E. Past Grand Commander and E.Grand Prelate, participated in the commissioning ceremony.

On May 2, a rededication ceremony was held to mark the 200th Anniversary of the charter of Mount Horeb Commandery No. 3, now holden in Concord. The ceremony was led by Sir Knight Stauff, Right Eminent Grand Commander, and featured an expository lecture by Sir Knight John E. Glover, Eminent Grand Captain General, on the history of Mount Horeb and the other Commanderies of whom it is the successor. A sumptuous Table Conclave followed the Ceremony.



The R.E. Grand Commander and Sir Knights of Mount Horeb Commandery in the Asylum in Concord.



Left: S.K. Glover addresses the Sir Knights. Behind him are Standards of Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 7, Keene, Pilgrim Commandery, Laconia. Center: The Standards are displayed with that of Sullivan Commandery, Claremont. Right: The modern Standard of Mount Horeb Commandery No. 3.

Our new Grand Commander has issued three General Orders of which two relate principally to the Grand Commandery's Bicentennial Celebration Saturday, June 13, in Manchester. All Sir Knights are urged to attend. Please note that the deadline for reservations for the Banquet is June 5, next. Sunday, June 28, is Saint Johns Sunday. Sir Knights are requested to participate in the observances at the Cathedral of the Pines in Ringe and at Saint John's Church in Portsmouth. For additional details, consult the Orders which are posted on the New Hampshire York Rite Website, <https://nhyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/grand-commandery-forms-documents/>.

Owing to heavy rains Memorial Day morning, several parades in which our Sir Knights were planning to march, most notably that in Concord, were cancelled. Several Sir Knights were able to participate in parades and observances in the afternoon, however.



Left: Sir Knights form the color guard for the Masons of Charity-Altmont Lodge No. 18 for the Memorial Day observance in Ringe. Right: S.K. David S. Collins, K.C.T., R.E. Past Grand Commander, plays taps at the Memorial Day observance in his home town, Colebrook.



Sir Knights joined members of Horace Chase Lodge No. 72 and S.K.s Kenneth A. Clay, Jr., 33°, Deputy for New Hampshire, A.A.S.R., N.M.J., and Kenneth A. Colpaert, Sr., E. Grand Generalissimo, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of New Hampshire, and Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Cryptic Council of New Hampshire, marching in the Memorial Day Parade in Penacook.

As I write, I am grateful that my father is not one of the names we honored Memorial Day. A proud veteran of the Air Force and Strategic Air Command, he came through the Cold War and Viet Nam, over 3,000 flight hours, without a scratch. Regrettably, many of his colleagues and fathers of my childhood friends were not so fortunate. Let us remember the values for which they made the ultimate sacrifice and resolve to do all in our power to defend and preserve them.

Courteously,

Thomas X. Tsirimokos

Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., P.G.C., P.D.C.
 Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

York Rite Calendar -- <https://nyorkrite.org/calendars>