

# Tennessee Knight Templar News

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

June A.D. 2026 / A.O. 908

Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KCT



On Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Right Eminent Grand Commander Roy T. Sutton, III had the honor and privilege of initiating his father Roy T. Sutton, II as an Entered Apprentice in Kingsport Lodge No. 688. The degree was conferred by Upper East Tennessee Knight Templar Degree Team. Also in attendance were several Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery officers. This was no doubt and exciting day for the Sutton family.

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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)

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**



**June Message**

Sir Knights,

Inspections have officially begun, and I cannot tell you how good it was to spend time with the Knights in Tennessee. We had great meals, great attendance, and the work was outstanding. The hard work of the officers of each of the Commanderies showed during the inspections, as we had very impressive work and candidates who enjoyed their Order.

As we continue to travel the state and initiate candidates during our inspections, I want to remind everyone that the most important person in attendance is the man receiving our beautiful Order of the Temple. My focus this year is giving our candidates the best experience possible during our inspections. I was an Inspection candidate myself, and when I think back on my experience, I attribute coming back to my first Commandery meeting to being welcomed by the Knights that first night.

Think back to your first Commandery experience and reflect on what made you come back and be active. What can we do to make our candidate have the same great experience that made you come back? In the month of May, we observed Memorial Day, and hopefully each of the Knights took time to give thanks to the men and women of our armed forces who left home and did not come back. I am very proud to say some of the Commanderies in Tennessee went out in uniform to place flags on veteran's graves in observance.

I appreciate all the Knights working hard each month in their Commanderies. If there is anything that I or my officers can do to help you, please let us know.

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



# From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight Gary W. Coates

## Prelates Devotion for June

### Turn on your heart light!

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10*

“Turn on Your Heart light” — that phrase has such a warm, glowing energy to it. It instantly evokes that gentle, hopeful vibe from the Neil Diamond song without needing to quote it directly. It is basically an invitation to be open, to lead with compassion, and to let yourself be guided by whatever inner spark keeps you moving forward. There is a light inside you that outshines any circumstance. When you choose to turn it on, you choose clarity over confusion, courage over retreat, and connection over isolation. Let this moment be the switch you flip.

#### **Why does this matter?**

*To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. Mark 12:33*

Kindness becomes contagious when you lead with it. Courage becomes easier when you practice it in small, steady ways. Hope finds its footing when you refuse to let fear set the tone. Your heart light is not a grand gesture. It is a steady signal that says you will show up, even when showing up is hard.

#### **How to turn it on:**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

Slow down and breathe. Quiet the noise long enough to hear what matters. Choose one small act of generosity or honesty today. Let it be simple and real. Name one fear and take one tiny step toward it. Action shrinks what once felt overwhelming. Listen more than you speak. Presence is the most luminous thing you can offer.

#### **What happens when it is on:**

*The statues of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. Psalm 19:8*

People feel safer around you. Problems look smaller because you are steadier. Doors open that were invisible before. The ripple you start with a single, deliberate choice reaches farther than you expect.

#### **Call to action:**

*Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.*

Joshua 23:14

Right now, place your hand over your chest and feel the rhythm there. Say to yourself, “Christ will be the light I need.” Then do one thing that proves it. Let that action be the first of many.

Sir Knights, I urge you to “Turn on your heart light”. Christ kept his heart light on continually for all of us. He let it shine for all the world to see. Let us do the same. It is not a one-time event. It is a practice you return to repeatedly. Keep the switch within you always on and let your glow guide you in every step.

In God’s Service,

Gary W. Coates, KTCH  
Eminent Grand Prelate  
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

## Raising Money That Is As Simple As 1-2-3

Sir Knights,

Once again, we will be initiating another popcorn fundraiser through our good friends at Poppin' Popcorn. Last year's initial effort proved to be very successful, and now that we have a better understanding of how simple their program really is, we believe that this year's efforts can be even more successful.

Our fundraiser will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. As soon as the vendor finishes creating our individual Commandery sales ID numbers and corresponding QR codes, they will be distributed to your Recorders for sharing to potential customers.

Simple as 1-2-3:

1. With the easy online access, you can go to their website and enter the customer number. Or, you can simply scan the QR code and it will take you directly to your order screen.
2. The customer makes the selections they want from the large variety of popcorn flavors and other delicious items available, and then pays directly to the vendor on their check-out screen.
3. The order is filled and shipped DIRECTLY to the customer.

IT IS THAT SIMPLE!!

When the fundraiser has ended, the vendor sends us a check for our portion of the sales (we get 50% of the total sales. We don't have to knock on doors. We don't have to make phone calls. We don't have to handle money. We don't even have to deliver products. All we have to do is get the word out and share the information provided. Almost EVERYONE, everywhere has social media. Use it and ask those contacts to share the information as well. This is a tremendous opportunity to make a great dent in the balance of the funding needed to realize our Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund goal. Every sale generates dollars. Please help make this effort successful.

Oh!, and did I mention that every participating Commandery gets credit towards your yearly grading? So you are raising funds, and at the same time increasing your evaluation grade. WIN! WIN!

Thank you for your support,

Bobby Blankenship, KTCH  
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

## Social Order of the Beauceant

Sir Knights,

I would like to give you more information about the Social Order of the Beauceant that you may share with your wives. The Social Order of the Beauceant is an organization for women that promotes fellowship, charity, faith, and service while honoring the traditions associated with the Knights Templar. Inspired by the historic Beauceant banner, members strive to uphold values such as loyalty, compassion, dignity, and moral integrity. Through local assemblies and community involvement, women form lasting friendships and work together to support charitable causes and preserve meaningful traditions connected to Templar heritage.

As the wife of a Knight Templar, I take pride in supporting my husband's dedication to the principles of faith, honor, and service. I support the Knights Templar Eye Foundation as my charity, and I belong to Kingsport Assembly, which is one of the two Assemblies in Tennessee; the other is located in Nashville. Through the Social Order of the Beauceant, women encourage and strengthen the spirit of fellowship within the Templar and Masonic family by volunteering, assisting with charitable work, and participating in meaningful traditions and events. Our support reflects a shared commitment to service, community, and the enduring values represented by the Beauceant banner.

Sir Knights, please encourage your wives to join us as we continue building friendships, supporting our communities, and preserving the traditions and values we hold dear.

If I can assist your lady with any questions or how to petition an Assembly, please reach out to me.

Your Sister in Christ,

Lindsey Sutton  
Worthy President  
Kingsport Assembly No. 244  
[Lindseyksutton@yahoo.com](mailto:Lindseyksutton@yahoo.com)

### Grand Encampment's 96th Annual Easter Sunrise Observance Service



Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Bobby Blankenship, had the distinct honor of delivering the message for the Grand Encampment's 96th Annual Easter Sunrise Observance Service this year.

The link to the service can be found here: [Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service 2026](#)



<b>A FATHER'S TEN COMMANDMENTS</b> BY MY EXAMPLE...	
	
<p><b>1</b> I shall teach my child respect for his fellow man.</p>	<p><b>6</b> I shall encourage him to apply himself to difficult tasks.</p>
	
<p><b>2</b> I shall teach him good sportsmanship in work and play.</p>	<p><b>7</b> I shall teach him the importance of participation in community affairs and local government.</p>
	
<p><b>3</b> I shall instill in him an appreciation of religion and the family, the backbone of society.</p>	<p><b>8</b> I shall teach him self-reliance and help him develop an independent spirit.</p>
	
<p><b>4</b> I shall strive for companionship and mutual understanding.</p>	<p><b>9</b> I shall help him develop a sense of responsibility in planning for the future.</p>
	
<p><b>5</b> I shall impart to him a desire to love and honor his country and obey its laws.</p>	<p><b>10</b> I shall, above all, prepare him for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a free society.</p>

"Juvenile Integrity Starts in the Home"

Originally printed: *Knight Templar Magazine*, June 1967

## 2026 Grand Commandery Inspection Schedule

### 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

Thursday	10/01/26	Greeneville No. 43	540 E. Andrew Johnson Hwy Greeneville	7:00 PM EST
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

## May Inspection Photos



Dickson Commandery #41



Southwest Commandery #31



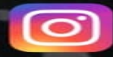
Phillip Lacy Commandery #46



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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)