

Tennessee Knight Templar News

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

August A.D. 2026 / A.O. 908

Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KCT



ALL MASONS DAY

A DAY OF LIGHT, BROTHERHOOD & ADVANCEMENT

SATURDAY
AUGUST 22ND
—2026—

ALL OF THE CHAPTER, COUNCIL,
AND COMMANDERY DEGREES
AND ORDERS WILL BE CONFERRED

CHAPTER DEGREES



ROYAL ARCH MASONS

COUNCIL DEGREES



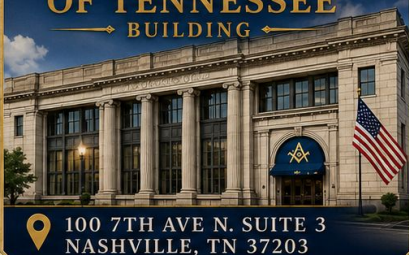
CRYPTIC MASONS

COMMANDERY ORDERS



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

TAKING PLACE IN THE
GRAND LODGE OF TENNESSEE
BUILDING



100 7TH AVE N, SUITE 3
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

ONE DAY.
ALL DEGREES.
ONE BROTHERHOOD.



BE PART OF
SOMETHING GREATER.



REGISTRATION FEE
\$65
INCLUDES
BREAKFAST,
LUNCH, AND DINNER



BREAKFAST
WILL START AT
6:00 AM



REGISTRATION DEADLINE
AUGUST 1ST, 2026



JOIN BROTHERS FROM
ACROSS THE STATE FOR
A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP,
LIGHT, AND MASONIC LIGHT!

YORK RITE – BUILDING BETTER MEN, BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Join the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand Master, and Right Eminent Grand Commander for All Masons Day in Nashville on August 22nd. The hotel booking link can be found on Page 3 and the Registration Form is on Page 5. Please come out and support this outstanding event honoring this years presiding Grand York Rite officers.

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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

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**



August Message

Sir Knights,

I want to congratulate all the Knights of the Commanderies on another great month of Conferrals. It was a busy month for our York Rite Bodies. I want to congratulate the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, David Lacy, and our Most Illustrious Grand Master, Ron McVey, on holding great Chapter and Council Group Meetings across the State. It is an absolute honor and I am pleased to be able to serve with both of these men as the heads of the Grand York Rite Bodies. If you missed any of the meetings, each was different and the upcoming Grand Officers gave outstanding talks about our York Rite future.

This month I am excited to announce the 2026 Malta Jewel for Tennessee. These were approved by the Grand Encampment to be worn during the 2026 year as we celebrate 250 years of America. They can be ordered through the Grand Recorder's Office and will be sold for \$30.00 each. I recommend that each Commandery buy a few to present to your candidates as they receive the Order of Malta. The proceeds of this jewel will be split between our Masonic Youth, DeMolay and Rainbow.

Please remember that we still have our popcorn sale going on until August 31. All the money raised from the sales will go toward the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund. The Grand Officers are working hard to meet our goal to be able to sponsor a minister each year with this fund.

I had the opportunity to spend the 4th of July weekend at the DeMolay State Conclave and I highly recommend anyone who hasn't been to a Conclave to attend. Our State Executive Officer, John Whitaker, has asked the Commanderies to reach out to the local DeMolay Chapters and invite these young men to their Asylum, either before or after your meeting or on a separate day, and work with the young men on sword tactics. The DeMolay use many sword tactics that the Knights use and it's a great opportunity to grow a strong relationship between the DeMolay and the Sir Knights.

I look forward to traveling across the State this month and being with the Sir Knights of Tennessee. Please keep the upcoming dates in your calendar:

All York Rite Day – August 22, 2026 at the Grand Lodge Building

All Chapter and Council Degrees and Commandery Orders will be conferred in one day. Please make sure that any candidates that your local York Rite body would like to send to All York Rite Day have paid their local fee and been elected to your York Rite Body. Candidates will receive a special certificate for being a part of this event. Commanders, please let us know at the beginning of the day if you want your candidate to receive the Order of



the Temple at your local Commandery. We encourage and support each candidate receiving this Order at his local Commandery but we will confer on any candidates that wants to receive it that day.

Below is a tentative schedule:

6am-7am Breakfast

Chapter Degrees

7am-8am Mark Master Degree

8am-8:30am Past Master Degree

8:30am-9:30am Most Excellent Master Degree

9am-9:30 Break

9:30am-12pm Royal Arch Degree

Lunch 12pm-1pm

Council Degrees

1pm-2:15pm Royal Master Degree

2:15pm-3:15pm Select Master Degree

3:15pm-3:45 Break

Commandery Orders

3:45pm-4:45pm Order of Red Cross

4:45pm-6pm Order of Malta and Mediterranean Pass

6pm-7pm Dinner

7pm-9pm Order of the Temple

***Make hotel reservations by calling General Reservations and providing the group code **MX47R1**.

Booking Link: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/MX47R1> ***

If you would like to take part in any of the Degrees and Orders, please reach out to David Lacy, MEGHP; Ron McVey, MIGM; or Tim Sutton, REGC and they can let you know the Degree Captains working on filling the teams.

Outdoor Order of the Temple – October 9, 2026 at Katy Branch in Chuckey, TN

The Commanderies of Upper East TN will be conferring the Order of the Temple outside at Katy Branch in Chuckey, TN. There is no address for this location but directions can be found by searching Katy Branch on Google Maps. We will have signs to help guide anyone that would like to join us. The facility does have a shelter with bathrooms and a kitchen on site. Please bring your own chair for the conferral as most will happen in an open field. We will begin the conferral around 7pm (depending on daylight) and due to being in the mountains in October, I suggest bringing an extra coat with you.

KTEF Golf Tournament – October 17, 2026 at Graysburg Golf Course

The Golf Tournament that was originally schedule for May was postponed to October due to weather. If you would like to register a team and support KTEF, please contact Sammy Dennison at Sammy.dennison2013@gmail.com, George Hughes at gchughes30@gmail.com, or Chuck Stanton at cstanton279@gmail.com. Lunch will be provided with the team fee and will be served at Noon and the Tournament will have a shotgun start at 1:30pm. Please reach out to these Knights if you or your Commandery would like to be a hole-sponsor.

August Spotlight of the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee

Section 40. Any proposal to amend or change the constitution, laws and regulations of this Grand Commandery

shall be submitted in writing or by e-mail to the Grand Recorder no later than January 1 prior to the annual conclave of the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Recorder shall cause the same to be printed and distributed to every constituent Commandery at least fifty (50) days before said conclave. Any such proposal which does not meet this requirement shall lie over until the next annual conclave, unless the Grand Commandery by unanimous consent of the members present shall agree to consider and act upon it. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present shall be necessary for adoption. 1981. 35. 1984. 16. 34. 2003.

**August Spotlight of the CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, DISCIPLINARY RULES, STANDING
RESOLUTIONS, CEREMONIES, FORMS AND APPROVED DECISIONS OF THE Grand
Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America**

Section 186. A rejected Petitioner for the Orders, if still residing within the Jurisdiction of the Commandery petitioned, may again Petition after the expiration of Six Months, but shall not Petition any other Commandery until the expiration of Three Years after such rejection unless the consent of the Commandery by which he was rejected is given by unanimous ballot.

A Commandery retains no territorial jurisdiction over a Royal Arch Mason who moved from his jurisdiction to that of another Commandery and becomes a bonafide resident thereof.

After having been rejected by a Commandery and thereafter moving to the territorial jurisdiction of another Commandery and residing therein for six months, the rejected man may petition the Commandery into whose jurisdiction he has removed, but such petition cannot be acted on within three years after his rejection without the consent by unanimous ballot of the Commandery by which he was previously rejected. (1925, p 89 & 410, No. 31, Newby)

An objection against an elected petitioner for the Orders who has not received the Order of Red Cross, is voided at the end of six months, but he may not petition another Commandery until the expiration of three years after such objection, unless the consent of the Commandery by which he was rejected is given by unanimous ballot, the objection being analogous to rejection by ballot, and governed by Section 186 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. (1949, p 80 & 216, No. 8, Rice)

Sir Knights, as always, both myself and your Grand Officers are here for any questions or help you or your Commandery may need. Please reach out to us for any Conferrals happening your local Commanderies so we can help promote them through email and social media.

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





**GRAND YORK RITE TENNESSEE
ALL MASONS DAY REGISTRATION
AND MEAL ORDER FORM
AUGUST 22, 2026**

Companions and Sir Knights:

The schedule of events for our All Masons Day will be as follows:

6am – 7am	Breakfast
Chapter Degrees in honor of MEGHP	
7am – 8am	Mark Master Degree
8am – 8:30am	Past Master Degree
8:30am – 9:30am	Most Excellent Master Degree
9am – 9:30am	Break
9:30am – 12pm	Royal Arch Degree
12pm – 1pm	Lunch
Council Degrees in honor of MIGM	
1pm – 2:15pm	Royal Master Degree
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Select Master Degree
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Break
Commandery Orders in honor of REGC	
3:45pm – 4:45pm	Order of the Red Cross
4:45pm – 6pm	Order of Malta
6pm – 7pm	Dinner
7pm – 9pm	Order of the Temple

Please mark which applies to you and if you would like to order meals

_____ **I am already a member**

_____ **I am a candidate for the Degrees and Orders (Please attach a letter from your Secretary/Recorder that your degree fees have been paid.)**

Meal registration must be received by August 1, 2026 to allow the caterer time to order.

Meal order – This includes breakfast, lunch and dinner _____ x 65.00 / person = _____

NOTES:

If you order meal (s), with the intent to pay at registration/pick up, then do not show, you are still responsible for the costs/payment of those meals you ordered.

If you order meals and send in the payment, then do not attend, after the meal order has been placed with the caterer, we cannot return your funds.

Name:

Address:

York Rite Bodies where you are/will be a member:

PAY BY CHECK ONLY – WE DO NOT ACCEPT CASH

Please make checks payable to: Grand York Bodies of Tennessee

Send Payment to: Grand York Rite Office

100 7th Avenue, North, Suite #3, Nashville, TN 37203-3726



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Order Form

Submitted by:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Address:	
City:	

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amount Due
1	250 th Commemorative Malta Jewel		\$30.00	

Make checks payable to Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

and mail to: Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

100 7th Ave. North, Suite #3

Nashville, TN 37203-3726

From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight Gary W. Coates

Prelates Devotion for August

Proverbs 11:3– *“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.”*

Right now, someone somewhere is making a choice between what is right and what is wrong. The cashier just got extra change and must decide whether to keep it. A student spots an answer key left on the teacher’s desk before a test. A business owner finds a way to dodge taxes without getting caught.

These small moments shape who we are. They build our character one decision at a time. Think about the last time you faced such a choice. Maybe you told a white lie to avoid hurting someone’s feelings. Maybe you took credit for someone else’s work because they did not speak up.

Psalms 25:21– *“May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you”*

Living with integrity means choosing the right path even when no one would blame you for taking an easier one. It means keeping your promises even when circumstances change. It means telling the truth even when a lie would make your life simpler.

The impact of integrity goes beyond your own life. When you maintain your integrity through tough times, you create a pattern others can follow. You show that it is possible to succeed without compromising your values. You prove that character still counts.

Ephesians 4:25– *“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”*

Your foundation of integrity affects everything you build in life. It affects your relationships because people know they can trust you. It affects your work because others can rely on you. It affects your self-respect because you know you are living by your principles.

Making integrity your constant companion means committing to a certain kind of life. A life where your words and actions align. A life where your principles guide your choices. A life where you can look anyone in the eye because you know you have done what is right.

Sir Knights, living with integrity according to the Bible, I believe, involves, honesty in speech and actions, and avoiding deceit and falsehood. Let us all be constant in our moral choices, acting rightly even when unobserved. Let us all be faithful to God’s principles and align our daily lives with scripture, building trust in relationships and fostering respect and reliability, among others.

In God’s Service,

Gary W. Coates, KTCH

Eminent Grand Prelate

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund Popcorn Fundraiser

Sir Knights,

Here are the 2026 Popcorn Fundraiser Customer ID numbers and corresponding store links. Please distribute the entire list to each Commandery, as there are some Knights who are plural members and may choose to make a purchase under multiple entities. Our Fundraiser will begin July 1st and go to September 1st.

REMINDER:

Charity and Fundraising activities are a part of our overall annual scoring. Each Commandery that participates in this fundraiser, will help earn credit for their respective scores. I encourage our members to not only purchase the products themselves, but to share the event on their social media, and ask their friends and contacts to also purchase and share as well. Our Endowment Fund receives 50% of the total sales generated. That can come to a large sum if we all put forth some effort.

In HIS Service,
Bobby Blankenship, KTCH
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund of Tennessee

#1, NASHVILLE – 00575180

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00575180>

#7, BALDWIN – 00952470

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00952470>

#8, CLARKSVILLE – 00944561

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00944561>

#9, COEUR DE LION – 00781138

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00781138>

#10, MURFREESBORO – 00571008

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00571008>

#11, DEPAYENS – 00563131

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00563131>

#13, WTRC – 00415954

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00415954>

#14, LOOKOUT – 00562161

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00562161>

#16, PARIS – 00791252

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00791252>

#19, ST. OMER – 00822800

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00822800>

#21, CHEVALIER – 00316828

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00316828>

#23, CYPRUS – 00650587

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00650587>

#25, WATAUGA – 00450586

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00450586>

#26, CUMBERLAND 00448044

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00448044>

#31, SOUTHWEST – 00086992

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00086992>

#33, KINGSPORT – 00245545

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00245545>

#34, CYRENE – 00998468

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00998468>

#37, CARTER – 00388347

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00388347>

#40, MANCHESTER 00334351

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00334351>

#41, DICKSON – 00134298

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00134298>

#43, GREENEVILLE – 00651472

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00651472>

#45, APPALACHIA – 00911634

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00911634>

#46, PHILLIP LACY – 00908870

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00908870>

#47, COLUMBIA – 00792788

Store Link: <https://poppinpopcornonline.com/store/store.php?sID=00792788>

Membership Committee Update

The Membership Committee is diligently working to improve its outreach to new and seasoned Master Masons. We are currently looking into a new pamphlet to put into the hands of Master Masons. Its goal is to try and “re-brand” the York Rite as an exclusive organization that continues a Master Mason’s direct educational path to more light. We are working with the mentorship program, helping to improve the information that can be used for future contacts and giving them talking points to use in their conversations. The Passport Program is in full swing, and we have even seen some Sir Knights being awarded their first cords. We look forward to seeing this program blossoming and continuing to encourage Sir Knights in attendance and ritual. If there is anything that the Membership Committee can do to help improve your Commandery’s membership, please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know.

Fraternally yours,
Travis Russell
Chairman, Membership Committee
(865) 256-2522
Hulk1262@yahoo.com

2026 Grand Commandery Inspection Schedule

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

July Inspection Photos



Cumberland Commandery #26



Columbia Commandery #47



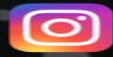
DePayens Commandery #11



Follow us online!



/TNCommandery



TNCommandery



@TNCommandery

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