Tennessee Knight Templar News

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

November A.D. 2026 / A.O. 908

Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KCT



The Grand Commander along with several other Upper East Tennessee Sir Knights had the privilege of welcoming home veterans during a recent Honor Flight.

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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: jessharp@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



November Message

Sir Knights,

As we finish October, we have finished all Inspections of 2026. I want to thank all the Commanderies across the state for the hospitality and reception of me and my Grand Officers. We enjoyed great meals and great fellowship this year. I am very proud of all the Commanderies working to keep the focus of the Inspections on our candidates and give them the best experience possible during their initiation. I am very proud of the work presented this year, it showed all the Knights who participated had been working hard throughout the year.

If you were not able to attend the Outdoor Order of the Temple then you missed a great Order. We had several Knights who worked to make this happen but a special thanks to David Harwell and Tony Haynes for spending the day setting up and also working in the Order. Sammy Dennison cooked hotdogs and hamburgers to keep everyone well fed. I believe the candidate received a truly special Order and was extremely impressed. I want to thank my Grand Officers who traveled from across the state, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest David Lacy, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Ron McVey, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Wes Edens for being in attendance to support this being a success.

We also held our KTEF Golf Tournament in October and I'm pleased to report it was a success. We raised $1,393.20 for the Eye Foundation and had a great time playing golf together. This deserves a special thanks to George Hughes, Ollie Stanton, and Sammy Dennison who worked through out the year to make this happen.

As we begin November, we will be observing Veterans Day on Nov. 11. I ask all Commanderies to take a few minutes to recognize the Veterans who made it possible for us to have the freedom to belong to our Fraternity. I also ask that each Commandery participate in a Veteran's Day service whether it be at your local blue lodge presenting the flag and recognizing Veterans there or attending a Veteran's Day service in the community in uniform. Also, as a reminder, any Commandery who participates will receive credit in their Inspection grade for a Patriotic Observance.

I hope each and everyone of you have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Many Knights have worked tirelessly this year and I hope each take the time to spend with their families.

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

Section 3.

Any Commander, Generalissimo or Captain General of a constituent Commandery may be represented by proxy, said proxy at the time of service a member of the same constituent Commandery as his principal, and bearing a duly authenticated certificate of appointment.

November 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

CHANGE IN THE RITUAL RITUAL CHANGE FOR OPTIONAL USE –
In the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, some Sir Knights feel that the deliberation of the Jewish Council could be made more meaningful by a greater participation of the Council members; if used on an optional basis, it shall never be read. OPTIONAL RITUAL MAY BE ORDERED FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OFFICE. 1997

Sir Knights, as always, both myself and your Grand Officers are here for any questions or help you or you 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

From the Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight Gary W. Coates

Prelates Devotion for November

"Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go!"
"Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!"
Psalm 136:26 – *"Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His loving kindness (graciousness, mercy, compassion) endures forever."*

The lyrics to this familiar old song recall the wonderful time of the year when hearts are filled with love, compassion, and joy. We reflect on our fond memories of past Thanksgiving's, of family, friends and loved ones and the beautiful times we shared with each other.

To me, Thanksgiving is more than a holiday. It is an opportunity to reflect on God's blessings, appreciate the fellowship of family and brethren, and renew my commitment to living according to Masonic principles. It inspires me to be thankful, compassionate, and generous throughout the year, not only during the Thanksgiving season.

As we give thanks, let us shift our focus from what we enjoy and experience, to who God is. A faithful, generous, and steadfast in love for one another, a gratitude that grounds us in joy, humbles us in grace, and opens our hearts to peace. In all things, the scripture invites us to live with a posture of praise.

Psalm 95:2 – *"Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song."*

This verse is an invitation to enter God's presence actively and wholeheartedly, emphasizing both thankfulness and joyful expression. Approaching God with thanksgiving acknowledges His greatness, His mercy, and His faithfulness, shaping the believer's heart toward gratitude rather than complaint

Sir Knights, Thanksgiving is a time to fill all wonderful and tingly inside. It's a time of togetherness and gratitude. It was never meant to be all enclosed in a single day. It's not what we say about our blessings but how we use them. A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues we possess. Let us all find the time to thank the people who make a difference in our lives. Let us strive to be a Knight with a heart of kindness, of thankfulness, of forgiving, and always strive to imitate the virtues that our heavenly father has given us. Let us turn on our heart light! Let it shine for all the world to see!

Sir Knights, I wish you a wonderful, happy, glorious, Thanksgiving! My prayer is that you and all your family are safe and healthy. Enjoy this beautiful time of the year. A time to reminisce of previous Thanksgivings. A time to enjoy our present blessings and a time to look forward to what God has in store for our future.

"Turn on your heart light!"
"Let It shine for all the world to see!"

In God's Service,

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

All Knight Templars Are Invited!

Dr. Bill See will be presenting a special program about St. Bernard of Clairvaux's connection to early Templar spirit at the November stated meeting of DePayens Commandery #11 in Franklin, Tennessee. The meeting will begin on Monday, November 9, at 6:00 PM with a dinner followed by the program and stated meeting at 7:00 PM. Any Templar is invited to attend this interesting and informative session. There is no charge for the meal, however, if you intend to bring five or more Knights from your Commandery, please advise Eminent Commander Wade Bartlett (wabklt@aol.com) so that we can ensure that we have enough food for all. We hope to see you there!

Grand Warden of Heaven

Sir Knights, when you were made a Freemason, you started building your temple. As a Knight Templar, you reaffirmed your commitment to Christ to follow the principles laid down in the Holy Scriptures.

Each day is a gift and the next day is not guaranteed. We know not when we will render a final account to the Grand Warden of Heaven. When we hear that last trumpet sound and stand before the Great White Throne, we won't be judged by the wealth we have, not our political affiliation, not the Church we attend, nor the color of our skin.

We will only be judged by the content of our hearts. My prayer is that when your last course on earth is run, and are called home by the Grand Warden of Heaven, you will hear the welcome words, Well Done Good and Faithful Servant, Enter into the Joy of the Lord. May we all strive for World peace and build a future for our children and our children's children!

God Bless,
Shawn M Bashore
Past Grand Commander, Michigan

Grand Master's Traveling Sword

The Grand Master's Traveling Sword is once again at DePayens Commandery in Franklin.
Other Commanderies are encouraged to visit DePayens and take it home.
If your Commandery takes possession of the sword, then please notify Jesse Harper at jessharp@comcast.net, so that the location of the sword can be properly tracked.

Popcorn Fundraiser

Our 2nd popcorn fundraiser will begin on Sunday, November 1st and will end on Saturday, December 12th. The links to the individual Commandery sales ID will remain the same as before. I have listed them below for reference. I hope that each Commandery and SK will put forth as much effort as possible to insure the success of this endeavor. And don't forget, all Commanderies will receive credit for participation.

In His Service,
Bobby Blankenship, VEDGC

#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, GREENVILLE - 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

Grand Commander's October Travels



Grand Commander's Golf Tournament

EA Degree
at Overton Lodge #5





Outdoor Door Degree

October Inspection Photos



Greeneville Commandery #43



Appalachia Commandery #45



Carter Commandery #37

October Inspection Photos



Watauga Commandery # 25



St. Omer Commandery #19



Kingsport Commandery #33



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