



# **GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LOUISIANA**



**Knight Templar State News  
December 2022**



Commander: REGC Charles Bertrand  
Website: <https://www.yorkritela.org>

## **GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**To: The Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Louisiana**

Christmas Greetings Sir Knights and  
Ladies

Lady Sharon and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas Season. Christmas Season means a lot to all Christian Knights. As Knight Templars we pledge to defend the Christian Religion. Let us not let down our guard in this troublesome world that we live in. Be steadfast in the Faith

Here is a message from The book of Isaiah 28 16-18: <sup>16</sup>Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.<sup>17</sup>Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.<sup>18</sup>And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

Jesus came and laid the foundation for his church.

Christmas is time of giving. Please do not forget to give to the less fortunate. This is a good time to give to our charity, the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Another gift is that of donating to the Holy Land Pilgrimage where a deserving minister gets to go and see where Jesus walked and lived. I have personally heard several of our ministers from Louisiana relate how moving it was to have been to the Holy Land.

Christmas is a time of giving. Be generous with your time. Treat a brother to a cup of coffee and spend some time with them. Look after your brothers and sisters in our lodges and chapters. Perhaps there is a need for some help with the dues. A small gift basket or gift card to the local grocery goes a long way to cheer some elderly widow up a little. The best gifts are not wrapped up in pretty boxes and bows but are wrapped in friendship, fellowship, and fraternal feelings for one another.

This is the time of Christmas Observances and Lady Sharon and I are delighted to attend as many of these as possible. Please extend an invitation to your lodges, chapters, and youth groups to join you in your celebrations as Sir Knights.

God Bless you and may you all have a very Merry  
Christmas.

We have a new Commandery opening in Houma, LA. Disciples Commandry #31. Any Knight Templar who would like to affiliate please contact Freddie Touchet PC [freddietouchet@gmail.com](mailto:freddietouchet@gmail.com)

Disciples Commandry #31, Houma, LA. will have a two-day Festival on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter and Council Degrees on February 11<sup>th</sup> with the Commandery orders on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Unity Lodge 1029 Bayou Black Dr., Houma, LA. – Freddie Touchet PC [freddietouchet@gmail.com](mailto:freddietouchet@gmail.com)

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights for helping to achieve the goals that the Grand Commandry is trying to achieve. I know that some of you are and have been saying that I am repeating the same things every month in my newsletter.

I hope that lets you understand that I feel these things are very important.

We need to continue to work on:

1. Membership – Recruit, Restore, Retain
2. MMS Roster – Communication for Retention (emails, phone numbers, and addresses)

3. Building an excel spreadsheet that has a list of all Knight Templars listed with contact information - next is a list of all those who were Sir Knights we might Restore
4. 100% Knight Templar Eye Foundation \$3300 dollars to go 200% \$31,560 participation goals
5. Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund of \$150,000 to underwrite annual ordained minister pilgrimages so any commandery may be successful with their nomination
6. Educational Programs every month – Again, Retention
7. Festivals – Fun and Recruitment

PGC Keith Gates established the Holy land Pilgrimage medal endowment fund as an integral part of our completely new Constitution approved in 2019. We need to promote that endowment fund so that we can build our foundation that helps send an ordained minister to the holy land every year. We have established a method to make small recurring credit card payments with Sir Knight Scotty Adams [S2HScotty@gmail.com](mailto:S2HScotty@gmail.com) , Sir Knight Wilson Cook [wilsoncook@icloud.com](mailto:wilsoncook@icloud.com), and the Monroe Valley to make monthly credit card payments until you reach \$1,000. We also have other ways that a Sir Knight can achieve the medal with monthly payments. If interested please contact the Grand Recorder or your Local Recorder. Our goal is for at least 10% of all Sir Knights wearing this medal at the Grand Conclave next year.

If you are a Facebook member or have friends that are, please have them like our page. We are now at 1986. I would like to reach 5000 this year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lagrandyorkritebodies/>

The Monthly News Letter will be adding a Bio of the elected Line Officers December will profile our Grand Treasurer John Knox

John F. Knox, Jr., Eminent Grant Treasurer of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana

As a bit of personal background as requested by Rite Eminent Grand Commander Bertrand, I hail from a small town in eastern Arkansas. Forrest City, Arkansas' main claim to fame is as the home of a Federal Prison. After somehow graduating from the University of Arkansas I was employed in the Agricultural Chemical, Seed, and Fertilizer business and retired the second time in 2014. Since that that time I have worked at several "fun" jobs; initially in the Real Estate business, Southwest Electric Power Co., DOC Energy Services, LLC. and Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office where I volunteer on the Grandpa Patrol.

My wife, Doris, and I have been married for 45 years with two grown children. John III is a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He and his family are currently stationed at Joint Base Richardson Elmendorf in Anchorage, Alaska. Our daughter, Sara, and her husband, Jayme, live in Haughton and have three sons and a daughter. Jayme owns DOC Energy Services, an oilfield services company.

The Novembers' Knight Templar Magazine contained an article written by our esteemed Brother Eminent Grand Recorder Allen Bean. Brother Bean and I have been friends, coworkers in the Presbyterian Church, and Brothers for over thirty years. If there is a finer man than Brother Bean in existence, I would sure like to meet him. Although, as you Brothers that are old enough to remember the old Laurel and Hardy movies will recognize, I have mentioned to Brother Bean on more than one occasion "Well, here's another fine mess you've gotten us into".

Allen and I have been aptly described as "bookends"; where you see one you see the other. We were both put on the Budget and Finance committee of the Presbytery of the Pines from our respective Churches. During our tenure of many years Allen would serve a chairman of the committee for a term and when his term expired, I would take his place, then my term expired he would take over again. No telling how many times we repeated that sequence. In 2014 Allen called and asked if I would help him on the Grand Lodge

Perpetual Membership Committee. Fortunately, Allen's mathematical and management ability made that a pleasurable and valuable job for all our brothers in the state.

Allen and I serve the Grand Commandry of the State of Louisiana as Recorder and Treasurer. The function of these jobs is such that the Recorder and Treasurer must work very closely. The Recorder has the most difficult job in keeping the records and staying on top of the schedule of "what must be done when". The Treasurer works with the Broker who manages the funds of the various Grand Commandry accounts as well as those of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council.

The Treasurer has several functions but first and foremost is developing effective communication with our Broker. The Treasurer, in consultation with the Broker, decides where to put our brothers' money to maximize the return on investment while minimizing the risk of loss. This job sounds simple but it demands the Treasurer to stay current on the direction of the various financial markets as well as providing strategic financial guidance to our Broker. The goal is to have liquid funds available when the Recorder needs it at the least risk of loss of principle. It has been an honor to serve my brothers in the Grand Commandry as Treasurer. Whenever, Brother Glen Girard, is ready to take over the function of Treasurer, whether this year or next, you can all be assured a True and Trusty Brother will be watching your money

Always remember to put on the Armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Onward Christian Soldiers  
Charles Bertrand  
Grand Commander  
Grand Commandry of Knights Templar  
Of the State of Louisiana

"Chivalry, Christianity, Templary – A Way of Life"













**I am sending this out to each Knight Templar in the state of Louisiana. I hope to encourage you to attend your next Commandery meeting. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. My phone # is 985-860-9308.**