

SK John D. Barnes

R.E. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

NORTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT, CT, ME, MA/RI, NH, NJ, NY, PA, and VT

John D. Barnes is a native of New Jersey, as is his wife, Lady Cynthia. They have been married for over thirty-five years. He has served as president and treasurer of his church, and he and Lady Cyndi enjoy travel and photography. He spent over thirty-five years in the pension industry, retiring in 2008.

He was raised in 1972, and served three terms as worshipful master. He served his Grand Lodge as district ritual instructor for five terms. He was exalted in 1978, and served as high priest for five terms. He served as grand marshal in 1998, grand high priest in 2004, grand lecturer in 2014 and 2015, and grand treasurer 2016-2019. He earned the General Grand Chapter Ritual Jewel in 2011, the Ephraim Kirby Award in 2015, and the Distinguished Service Medal in Silver in 2020.

He was greeted in 1984, and served as thrice illustrious master in 2008. He served as grand chaplain in 2008. He assumed the duties of grand master in 2011, upon the death of the sitting Most illustrious grand master, serving as grand master in 2012. He has been serving as grand treasurer since 2013. He was awarded the Order of the Secret Vault and the Columbian Medal in 2017 and was appointed Dean of the Order of the Secret Vault College for New Jersey in 2018.

He was knighted in 1986, and served as commander for three terms. He served as grand warder in 1995. He was designated a knight commander of the temple in 2011. He served as grand commander in 2014, as advisor to the right eminent grand commander in 2015, and secretary to the right eminent grand commander in 2016 and 2018. He was appointed to Grand Encampment's Publicity Committee in 2015 and as state coordinator in 2018.

John has written or co-authored grand officers manuals for three grand bodies, restated two grand constitutions, written numerous observations and presentations, been published in several Masonic magazines, and recently completed a dais officers' manual. He is a past presiding officer or treasurer of several appendant bodies in New Jersey.

S.K. John was appointed & installed as the department commander for the Northeastern Department at the 68th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America on August 18, 2021.