



THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATION VEHICLE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

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## **GRAND COMMANDERY MESSAGE**

I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Grand Commander for the ensuing Templar Year. My theme for the year is “God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things” and the Bible passage I’ve selected is Joshua 24:15, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” I am proud to be a Knight Templar and proud of those who share this honor with me. Being a Templar stands for something. I will endeavor to remind each of you of this.

At Grand Sessions this year, I was requested to give a talk at the Commandery Breakfast. Afterward, several of you suggested that I publish the text of my talk in the Encompasser. So, to honor that request, what I said is shown in the article below: **COMMANDER’S BREAKFAST MESSAGE.**

**Bud Ramsey KYGCH**  
**Right Eminent Grand Commander**

## **GRAND COUNCIL MESSAGE**

I bring you greetings from the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in California. While numbering only slightly over 3,800, we are, none the less, a hearty and committed band of brothers. I am very proud to be numbered among these Masons.

My theme for this year is “It’s about Quality, not Quantity”. I firmly believe we can grow the number of Cryptic Masons in California, or anywhere else for that matter, only if we provide candidates a meaningful and Quality experience while going through the degrees. We must also provide them, and our existing Companions, with good reason to attend our assemblies as well.

The Quality of the work done in the Degrees is as critical as the Quality of the work done in our business meetings. Also, we must not forget our obligation to our families. It is critical that we include our families in our “non-tiled” activities.

It turns out that about 10% of our Companions attend their Councils on a regular basis. Why is this case? I submit that the Quality of the Work and the Lack of Inclusion of our families in our activities are both major contributing factors.

I challenge each of us to remember, that as Masons, we are to strive to be better husbands and better fathers. Without striving to do, we cannot truly be good Masons.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this year; the year that you have given to me the privilege and honor of serving the Grand Council.

**Raymond D Godeke KTCH KYGCH**  
**Most Illustrious Grand Master**

## **GRAND CHAPTER MESSAGE**

Thank you, companions, for your trust and confidence by electing me to serve you as your Grand High Priest for Capitular Year 2012-2013. I look forward to meeting all of you sometime during the year at visitations, receptions, award ceremonies, and so forth. You can find a brief biography of me at our website, but having served the Active Army Reserves for 15 years, and the Department of the Navy for the last 31 years, I am most happy to address you soon after Memorial Day. I would like to quote part of an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal of May 26<sup>th</sup>, about the use of the Poppy as a tradition to remember our fallen soldiers. “Once upon a time, before Memorial Day inspired thoughts of a weekday at the beach, it marked an opportunity to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of America. The poppy became a symbol of remembrance and gratitude for departed soldiers after World War I and the publication of the 1915 poem ‘In Flanders Fields.’ Written by Canadian army officer and physician John McCrae after he had witnessed the horrific carnage at Ypres, the poem begins with the words, “In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row.” It concludes with a message from the honored dead: ‘To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields.’

Nearly a bloody century later, Americans have infinitely more reasons to remember and to be thankful for all who have since died in the defense of liberty. “

My hope is that I can serve this Grand Chapter as well this year as our troops, living and dead, have served our country, indeed the world, for the last few decades.

Best wishes for the remainder of 2012! Remember to contribute to the DeBarrows Scholarship Fund.

**Bob Wright KYGCH**  
**Most Excellent Grand High Priest**

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

### IN MEMORIAM

Companion and Sir Knight  
**H. Edward Barr K.Y.G.C.H.**  
Most Illustrious Past Grand Master of the  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California  
Born January 26, 1927  
Entered into Eternal Rest on June 12, 2012

Sad News. H. Edward Barr, MIGM in 1996 passed away this morning of lung cancer. No further details are available at the present time.

His lady, Mary K. Barr, is at:

P. O. Box 779  
Helendale, CA 92342-0779

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ken Hope, Grand Recorder

Soft and safe to thee, Companion, be they resting  
place  
Bright and glorious be thy rising from it.  
Fragrant be the *Acacia* sprig that there shall flourish!  
May the earliest buds of Spring unfold their beauties  
O'er thy resting place,  
And there may the sweetness of the Summer's last  
rose  
Linger longest!  
Though the winds of Autumn may destroy the  
loveliness  
Of their existence  
Yet the destruction is not final, and, in the  
springtime,  
They shall surely bloom again.  
So, in the bright morning of the Resurrection,  
Thy *Spirit* shall spring into newness of life,  
And expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond  
The skies! Until then, Companion, until then,  
Farewell!

### CALENDARS OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

The itineraries can be found at the Grand York Rite website. Hold down the CTRL key and click on the line below. For M.E.C. Bob go to:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/ghpcalendar.html>

For M.I.G.M Ray, go to:

[http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/council/council\\_2012/2012\\_calendar.html](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/council/council_2012/2012_calendar.html)

For R.E.C. Bud, go to:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/itinerary.html>

### GRAND SESSION RESULTS

As an appendix, see the back of this publication for results at the Annual Convocation, Annual Assembly, and Annual Conclave. Just below is a picture of the Youth Order representatives who spoke at the banquet on Sunday night.



### THIRD DEGREE

The article below, entitled What Is This Third Degree, was adapted from a paper delivered to the Edward J. Gribble Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees on June 3, 2012. Although not a member of that Council, the author, M. E. C. Phil Hardiman, is currently Sovereign Master of Siminoff Council #485 meeting at Union City.

### COMPANION ADEPT OF THE TEMPLE

The York Rite Sovereign College has developed a new self-study educational program, similar in concept to the Scottish Rite's Master Craftsman Program, for the York Rite bodies. It is available to any York Rite Mason by enrollment through the Sovereign College Office. Cost is only \$30. Eight resources are made available, seven of them at no cost. Your editor purchased the other from Amazon for \$1.99! These resources include books by Mackey, Thomas Smith Webb, Jeremy Cross, Bernard Jones, Jackson Chase and George Cooper Connor. You will be happy to have these resources on your PC! Or your eBook reader. For information, contact the College Office at (313) 833-1385.

### RAM-I NEWSLETTER

As you know, our Grand Chapter is associated with the General Grand Chapter RAM International. The General Grand Chapter is now publishing a newsletter with international scope. Issue number 8 for June of 2012 will soon be forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Under Grand Chapters on the left side of the Newsletter, check for California specific news. In the June edition, you will find copies of the flyers distributed at Grand Sessions for the upcoming 3-Way Receptions, if you need further info for those events.

Prior editions from March 2012 can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website: [www.goldenstatechapter.org](http://www.goldenstatechapter.org)

### HISTORY OF THE CRYPTIC RITE

General Grand Council has recently re-published a two-volume History, first published in 1931 and again in 1977. This new edition has just arrived and looks to be very enlightening, especially as regards the relationship of the Cryptic Rite to the Scottish Rite and the Royal Arch. The authors (Eugene E. Hinman, Ray V. Denslow, and Charles C. Hunt) say in the Preface:

"It has been our purpose, therefore, to place within the compass of a single work all that is known about the Cryptic Rite. That the reader may have all possible information at his disposal we have prepared an appendix in which appear copies of the most important documents, and selections from the writings of noted students of the subject. ....

"While this work is essentially a history, that history has been largely influenced by jurisdictional and legal questions, and we have therefore prepared chapters on this phase of the subject. Chapters have also been inserted on the subjects of Legend, Tradition and Symbolism, all of which have had their influence on the history. It is this rich legacy of Legend and Symbolism that gave the Rite its popularity to the present time, for the degrees stand entirely upon their own merits and are not required for advancement to any other rite or degree." (Vol. I, page 8)

Contact the General Grand Recorder to acquire your own copy of this valuable document. There are still copies of the original 80 available at \$100 for both volumes, so act now to get your own set. Contact:

David A. Grindle, General Grand Recorder,  
PO Box 332, Meridian ID 83680-0332  
Fax: 208-895-6612 e-mail: [ggr@ggccmi.org](mailto:ggr@ggccmi.org)

### COMMUNICATIONS

As mentioned in the January Encompasser, communications are vital to assist those seeking further light in Masonry. So resolve now to ACT: 1) broadcast this publication far and wide, and encourage each of your York Rite bodies to buy a 2-year subscription; 2) broadcast the monthly Workman to the leaders of all your bodies; 3) access the following websites, and see that your Companions are aware of their existence and how to access them:

[www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org)  
[www.goldenstatechapter.org](http://www.goldenstatechapter.org)  
[www.yorkrite.org](http://www.yorkrite.org)

And as you continue into this Capitular year, make every effort you can to continually remind your membership of the **Colorado River Fall Festival** next October. Confer the Mark Master as often as you can and build interest in our brethren of pursuing further light.

## **COMMANDER'S BREAKFAST TALK**

On Christmas afternoon, the Pastor's wife dropped into an easy chair saying, "Boy! Am I ever tired." Her husband (the Pastor) looked over at her & said, "I had to conduct two special services last night, three today, & give a total of five sermons. Why are you so tired?" "Dearest," she replied, "I had to listen to all of them." Hopefully that's not how you'll feel when I'm done talking, but we'll see. I decided to talk about a question that continues to nag at me. And that question is, "Why should a man want to be a Knight's Templar?" "What's the big deal?"

Since at least the 18th century Freemasonry has incorporated the Templar symbols and rituals in a number of Masonic bodies, most notably, as you know, the "Order of the Temple" or, as we commonly refer to ourselves, as the Knights Templar. Bernard de Clairvaux and founder Hugues de Payens devised the specific code of behavior for the Templar Order, known to modern historians as the Latin Rule. Its 72 clauses defined the ideal behavior for the Knights. I'm telling you this as a reminder that we have a rich heritage, an honorable reputation, and that we are solidly based in the Christian Faith. This alone calls us to a higher standard.

Over time, the Knights Templar have become associated with legends concerning secrets and mysteries handed down to "the select" from ancient times. And no, I won't tell you where the treasure is hidden. Rumors circulated even during the time of the Templars themselves. Masonic writers added their own speculations in the 19th century, and further fictional embellishments have been added in popular novels such as *Ivanhoe*, *Foucault's Pendulum*, *The Da Vinci Code*; and others, as well as modern movies such as *National Treasure* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*; and then there are video games such as *Assassin's Creed* and *Broken Sword*.

Freemasonry demands only a belief in a Supreme Being; therefore it should not surprise anyone that the Christian Freemasons established a branch of the Fraternity where they have the freedom to interpret the symbols of the Blue Lodge according to their religious beliefs. The Order of the Temple, or Knights Templar, is a logical outcome of the Christian Mason's belief in Christ as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The Templars of today are or should be men who, by their loyalty and devotion, are making Templary a meaningful Christian Order that has the respect and admiration of the public at large. The

principle tenets of Freemasonry and the foundation of strong Christian values make this Order stand for something of incredible value.

Those who have worked in the vineyards of Templar Masonry find it rewarding, educational, comforting and satisfying. It is not entirely about ritual although our ritual offers valuable lessons and insights. I once confessed to my Pastor that I learned more about scripture from Freemasonry than I have from anywhere else. But just as importantly as our ritual is the set of values that are laid in the hearts of men who are working for the good of the Order and the benefit of others. It is an amazing responsibility to be the successors in this modern world of an Order so ancient, so noble and so glorious.

So perhaps a better question would be, "Why would any Christian Mason not want to be a Knight's Templar?" In any case, we as Templars should hold the bar high! We as Templars should set the example. I have heard it said many, many times that "Chivalry is dead." I think that what people really mean is that courtesy just isn't present like it used to be. There's less of it. This is something I can certainly agree with. As Templars and Masons, we should be called to a higher standard. Chivalry is not dead. Chivalry exists wherever an individual is willing to put forth an effort to be courteous, generous, or to invest their lives, fortunes or honor for the benefit of someone else.

As a Knight Templar, you have many opportunities to help others that are less fortunate. One of the obvious ways of course is through our Knights Templar Eye Foundation, which is our major charity. Another is our Knights Templar Educational Foundation that helps provide educational advantages to the youth of this country. It has been a source of low cost loans for students to complete their college education. And all of you know about our Holy Land Pilgrimages which sends ordained Christian Ministers, at no cost to the Minister, on Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, for their spiritual enrichment, enthusiasm, and refreshed dedication. I think most of you are aware that Masonic membership is not required and the minister can be male or female.

As Knights Templar we also provide financial support, advisors and scholarships to Masonic-related Youth Organizations such as International Order of

Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, and Order of DeMolay. And there are a lot of ways not so obvious.

Loren Eisley wrote "The Starfish Story". I'm sure many of you have heard this, but bear with me as I retell it.

*One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.*

*Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"*

*The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean.*

*The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."*

*"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"*

*After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one."*

***God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things!***

You are an ordinary person that can make an extraordinary difference. And what do I mean by an extraordinary difference? No doctrine or faith or knowledge is of any value except as it bears fruit in action. As a Templar Mason, you are in a position to live out and exemplify your faith...to put it into action. When you take the time to help a child with the reading, math, or school work, this is an extraordinary thing. You may not fully understand the difference it can make to that child at that time, but, if you look at the lives that have been changed by an act as simple as this, you'd be impressed. Statistics used to get an estimate of how much space will be needed in prisons in the future, is based on the reading level being attained by the third graders. That's part of why the Grand Lodge has adopted "Raising a Reader" as their primary focus for the next few years.

If you take the time to mow a lawn for one of our widows, this is an extraordinary thing. What greater value is there to a person than to know that someone cares enough about them to want to make things better or easier. When you take the time to genuinely listen to someone, even though you disagree with what they're saying, this can be an extraordinary thing. Again... someone cares enough to listen. Doing any random act of kindness. Making a difference for someone.

A line from one of my favorite songs, "The Impossible Dream", goes like this. "And the world will be better for this, that one man scorned and covered with scars, still strove with his last ounce of courage, to reach the

unreachable star." Be that one man. Be a true Templar.

As a Templar, step up to the plate. Make the commitment to make a difference in the lives around you. Make a commitment to "set the example". Be a man of integrity. Keep the bar raised high.

Set the example by your actions and encourage the other Sir Knights in your Department to do the same. Be courteous to others at all times. Do not be disrespectful. Treat others as you would like to be treated. I'm not just talking about "big things" but in every day small things. If you attend an event or dinner, let "guests" go first. Let the officers go last. Be chivalrous to the ladies and treat them with respect. Be kind, understanding, and patient with children. They should realize that they too have value and that you recognize that value. Follow the rules. If it's a bad rule, there is a proper way to see that it gets changed. But, until then, set the example and follow the rules. Pay attention to your surroundings, what you're doing, what you're saying, and the language you're using. Especially when we have youth present, but at all times. If someone relates something negative to you about another person, don't just assume it's true and don't pass it on to others. Instead, focus on what you have that's positive to share. Be quick to give a kind word or to praise something noteworthy in others. Let the world know that on becoming a Knight Templar, you have become a man of high integrity and honor.

So, why should every Christian Mason be a Knights Templar? To be around men of like stock who do things that will continually remind him that, with God's help, he has the power to make a difference in the lives of others. To be with an organization that allows him to not only learn about his faith, but to live it!

***"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."***

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the San Francisco York Rite Bodies, in conjunction with the Peninsula York Rite Bodies conferred their Lifetime Masonic Achievement Award (#004) upon **Sir Knight Sidney L. Pond**. The ceremony was held at San Mateo Lodge #226, with great thanks to Lodge Master Johnny Sanchez and SK Bill Price.



EC Mori Moriuchi, High Priest, represented California Chapter #1, R.A.M.; IC George Terry, Illustrious Master, represented California Council #2, R&SM; and SK



Antonio Cimarra, Eminent Commander, represented California Commandery #1. Samuel Yee, President of the Chinese Acacia Club, sat in the North; Ted Lyau, Secretary of our YR Bodies, sat in the West; and SK Nick Raisis, the Drill Team Captain, escorted SK Sid into the room for his ceremony, and then sat in the South; MIC Robert A.L. Whitfield was in the East for the ceremony.

Approximately 150 people attended the ceremony and subsequent banquet hosted by the companions and Sir Knights of the above-mentioned Bodies. Lady Janet Price and Worshipful Johnny Sanchez did the cooking.

SK Sid was born in 1924, and is a retired electrical foreman. He was raised as a Master Mason in 1955, and was Master of Pacific Starr King Lodge #136 in San Francisco in 1970. He has been the Treasurer of that lodge for at least 14 years. He also serves Grand Lodge on their Public Schools Committee under Most Worshipful Frank Loui. Sid has served in the East as the presiding officer of California Chapter #1, Royal Arch Masons; California Council #2, Cryptic Masons; California Commandery #1, Knights Templar; Bay Cities Council AMD in Oakland; St. Philip Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine; and the Chinese Acacia Club of San Francisco. He is active in the San Francisco Scottish Rite and the Asiya Shriners Section Crew.

This article could go on at length with all the different roles that SK Sid has served our craft, but the most important are the following:

1. He has often served our fallen Brothers as the Funeral Master, gently reminding their families and friends that they will not be forgotten; and

2. Sid continually volunteers his time to cook and clean for countless Masonic functions. He mentors and acts as a sounding block for younger Masons, and he raises his right hand continually to volunteer for whatever is needed. All of the above is done with the quiet smile of a friend we have come to love.

Sid's ceremony was highlighted by the presence of SK David Shull and Sid Cerates (LMAA #001, and #003) who were similarly honored by the East Bay York Rite Bodies in 2009 and 2011.

Several Brothers of San Leandro Lodge #113 put together a PowerPoint photo presentation of SK Sid's earlier years. Lady Erny Dunn delivered a poignant message of how Sid has quietly mentored so many Masons around him over the years, including our beloved SK Malcolm Dunn, who left us last year. Representatives from all the various bodies of Masonry were present for Sid's special moment that evening as the yellow ribboned medallion was placed around his neck. He was escorted around the Lodge Room listening to the Traveler's Poem with stops at each of the four stations to listen to the personalized congratulations from his longtime friends.

The California York Rite Lifetime Achievement Award is meant as 'a last award' to our elder statesman – One who is recognized well above all those around him in a wide geographic area. It combines a minimum age, time as a mason, and leadership achievement. An emphasis is placed on character and continuous dedication to helping those around him. It is very much about what has been done with his time long after the spotlight has faded from his days in the East.

If you know one of these special men, contact Bob Whitfield at (925) 963-0933.

By Bob Whitfield, MIPGM

### **WHAT IS THIS THIRD DEGREE**

I'd like to try to answer that question in several different ways, with the purpose of putting it in the broader context of the York Rite, and additional degrees. We all have our own ideas about our Masonic activities – their value, meaning, intent, and so forth. We occasionally have to deal with offensive claims that we are a religion and thus represent a threat to or competition for organized religious activities. We know better because we understand

the difference between religious affiliation and spiritual involvement. We don't need to attend church in order to grow spiritually, although, of course, that attendance can help.

I would first characterize the Third Degree as an Ending. This should be most evident to all of us – it's an ending to a three-stage process that instructs us in (1) matters of the Heart, (2) Matters of the Mind, and (3) Matters of the Spirit. Let me explain, briefly, with reference to the First Degree, where we instill the three principal tenets of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; and we emphasize the importance of the four Cardinal Virtues: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. These are clearly emotional matters, matters of the Heart. In the Second Degree, we teach the importance of the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy – especially Geometry, where we think of the Almighty as the Great Geometrician. Then we give instruction in the five Orders in Architecture. These are all clearly matters of the Mind. And in the Third Degree, we dramatize for the initiate, or candidate, the death, burial and raising of the architect of King Solomon's Temple, culminating in that great spiritual teaching: that "Death is not a grim tyrant but a kind messenger, sent to translate us from this imperfect to that all perfect, glorious and celestial Lodge above." And so the Ending, which ends in the candidate becoming a voting, dues paying member, leaves him with an understanding of the three-fold aspect of his Life: the *emotional*, *intellectual*, and *spiritual* aspects. He should readily conclude that his Life will be richer if these three aspects function in unison and in a healthy manner – in other words, where our emotions and our behavior are governed by an informed and learned Mind with a Spiritual intent and consciousness.

But the Third Degree is also an Opportunity. And many of our brethren follow the many paths of service available to them, whereby they focus on providing relief or charity to others. Think of the Masonic Homes and Scholarship Programs; of the York Rite Charities: Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA), and California Scholarships, the Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF), Templar Eye Foundation; of the Scottish Rite Language Clinics; and of the Shrine Hospitals. How many of our brethren do you know who devote a lot of their time and energy and financial resources to support these charities? How many of you do so yourself? Many other brethren focus on more intellectual endeavors to be found in the Research Lodges, the Research Chapter (see me later!), the Masonic Society, Philalethes, and so forth. And

other brethren focus on spiritual matters when, for example, they support the Templar Christian Ministry program. Or for example when they participate in Scottish Rite degrees. These may not obviously be spiritual activities, but when you realize that Pike's *Morals and Dogma* is a great study in Comparative Religion, you realize that the Scottish Rite can be an essentially spiritual organization. Study the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, the Chamber of Reflection, and tell me it didn't have an important effect on you. I know it did for me. It's important to recognize that Masonic work can be life-changing, *if you let it*. And we teach the same reverence for the Sacred Name of Deity in the Royal Arch Degrees. And remember the First Degree Charge where we teach our duty to God "by never mentioning his name but with that awe and reverence due from the creature to his creator."

So the Third Degree is also a Sublime Experience. Now I've often wondered if that claim is not a bit pretentious. We're such earthy creatures – not just us as Masons, but as part of "the whole human family, the high and the low, the rich and the poor..." We're often self-centered, greedy, grasping, jealous, ambitious and so forth. But nonetheless we all experience moments of goodness (maybe not often enough, but some, in any event!) – and as it's often said, Masonry is designed to take *good* men and make them *better*; not make them *perfect*. So to the extent that Masonic work through our Degrees makes us each more noble, more lofty in our thoughts, more elevated or exalted in our behavior and intent, then so can that work be understood fairly to be sublime.

But the Third Degree is also a Beginning. It's the beginning of many, many rich opportunities to interact with our fellow-man, and also our brethren, and to demonstrate Love and Charity. It's the beginning of personal development and growth, of improvement in understanding, of acquisition of wisdom. It's a *portal* to a never-ending opportunity to join!!

Let's consider the AMD, and particularly three degrees in its repertoire: The Order of the Secret Monitor also known as the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan; the Royal Ark Mariner; and the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr. It's my view that these three degrees correspond in an important way to the three craft degrees. They share the same orientation to the Heart, the Mind, and the Spirit. And so experiencing these degrees in the AMD setting,



especially by having a role in the conferral, enhances the craft degree experience.

Take the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, also called the Order of the Secret Monitor. This particular Degree is based on scripture in I Samuel 18 and following, which describes the love between Jonathan (Saul's son) and David, the future King – Jonathan is said to have loved David “as his own soul.” What a marvelous expression of Brotherly Love. Jonathan defies his father, Saul, and gives up future claim to Kingship in favor of David. What a great addition this Degree and its underlying scripture is to our appreciation of that great Psalm which begins the First craft Degree – “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

Take the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, based on the Legend of Noah and his Ark. It won't take a lot of “thought” to see the correlation between this Degree and the Fellowcraft Degree – the concept of building, the working tools of a Royal Ark Mariner being the Saw, the Axe, and the Augur. But the significance of this Degree in enhancing our Masonic experience goes much deeper. The key to understanding its import lies in the question of Noah to his son Japhet: “Son Japhet, of what was the Ark a type?” And Japhet's answer: “The Church of God.” Why is this important? Because it helps us understand that the Ark is a symbol of the Church that Noah built, where the name Noah itself is a symbol of the work done over generations by Noah's descendants in building his Church. This may seem hard to grasp, but think of it in the context of making sense of the longevity of the Patriarchs. Patriarchs didn't, in my view, live hundreds of years back then, but the work they initiated took that long to be accomplished – in the form of the Church or collection of doctrine and dogma which they developed.

Take the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr. You can read about St. Lawrence in various sources, such as Wikipedia, which I draw from to give you an idea of what the Degree is all about. St. Lawrence was commanded in the year 258 A.D. to bring the treasures of his church to the Roman prefect. This treasure supposedly included the Holy Chalice, which became known as the Holy Grail. Lawrence asked for three days to make arrangements, during which time he disposed of all assets to the poor, and brought only those poor and the crippled, the blind and the suffering of his church as its treasure. This infuriated the prefect, who ordered St Lawrence broiled alive, slowly, on a gridiron over a bed of coals. Now, this isn't scriptural, of course. But

nonetheless St Lawrence's responses during the torment were two-fold, and show a marvelous control over the body and commensurate *spiritual* development: “Turn me over, I'm done on this side;” and “it's broiled enough, you may eat and see which is better, roast meat or raw.” The sarcasm is rich, but most importantly the detachment from his body is instructive! St Lawrence clearly had an understanding of his coming resurrection, and future life. He clearly had a highly developed spiritual life.

These are important lessons, all, and I abbreviate too much. But you have at your fingertips in the AMD ritual resources, access to the full content of this superb ritual work. You should pursue it, learn it, share it with your brethren and, at least indirectly, with family.

Let me close by trying to tie this all together. I have tried to show a correlation between the three Craft Degrees and three of the AMD Degrees. The same correlation exists between the first three of the Royal Arch Chapter Degrees and the Craft Degrees. Hence, we have at least three sets of Degree Triplets – the Craft Degrees, the three Chapter Degrees and the three AMD Degrees, all teaching the importance of integrating the Heart, the Mind, and the Spirit, in governance of our bodily Life and physical existence! I hope, then, that you can see how the Third Degree (as it opens to you the opportunity for these other degrees) is a beginning, perhaps a new beginning, rather than an ending.

## **GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH** **CHAPTER**

The latest meeting of the Research Chapter was held in Bakersfield on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, after the Grand Chapter Annual Convocation and the conferral of the Order of High Priesthood.

The website located at [www.goldenstatechapter.org](http://www.goldenstatechapter.org) now contains a copy of the 2010 and 2011 Grand Orations booklets. At the latest convocation, the Chapter approved the publication of the 2012 Grand Orations. This will also contain the paper delivered by our out-going High Priest, Richard Wilson, Inspector, and the Vesper Service and West Coast Easter Observance messages given by Tom Boles, the out-going Grand Prelate.

Peter Eiserloh was elected as King, and our Research Chapter web-master, Casey Latham from the High Desert, was elected King. Our Scribe, Dan Kaffka, preferred to remain as Scribe. After a brief and failed attempt to encourage the out-going High Priest to move in as Secretary, Yours Truly was re-elected as Secretary, and Grand Secretary, Ken Hope, as Treasurer.

The next meeting will be at Grand Lodge on Friday night, during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, at 5:00 p.m. outside the library. The new Grand Orations booklet should be available at that time.

**For information about membership, contact:**  
**Ex. Comp Peter Eiserloh, High Priest**  
[eiserlohpp@yahoo.com](mailto:eiserlohpp@yahoo.com)

**Casey Latham, King**  
[casey.latham@mycampus.apus.edu](mailto:casey.latham@mycampus.apus.edu)

**Daniel Kaffka, Scribe**  
[kych1@msn.com](mailto:kych1@msn.com)

**M.:E.: Comp.: Philip A. Hardiman, Secretary**  
[philipandnancy@aol.com](mailto:philipandnancy@aol.com)

### **GRAND YORK RITE CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Most Excellent Grand High Priest:**

Robert V. Wright, Jr. (86) Janet  
936 Lewis Ln  
Fillmore 93015-1117  
(805) 524-1271 (H)  
(805) 990-4063 (C)  
[rvwrightjr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvwrightjr@sbcglobal.net)

#### **Most Illustrious Grand Master:**

Raymond D. Godeke (14) (Vicki)  
3080 Heather Dr; Fullerton 92835-2204  
(714) 671-9749 (H)  
(714) 345-2223 (C)  
[godeke33@msn.com](mailto:godeke33@msn.com)

#### **Right Eminent Grand Commander**

Howard W. "Bud" Ramsey Jr. (10) (Susan)  
5160 Poston Dr  
San Jose 95136-3320  
(408) 224-9431 (H)  
(408) 838-3730 (C)  
[budsusanr@att.net](mailto:budsusanr@att.net)

#### **Grand Secretary:**

Ken Hope  
11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13  
Artesia, CA 90701-3872  
(562) 924-6500(W)  
(562) 484-1611(C)  
[ca.yorkrite@verizon.net](mailto:ca.yorkrite@verizon.net)

#### **Assistant Grand Secretary:**

Al Lewis  
11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13  
Artesia, CA 90701-3872  
(562) 924-6500(W)  
(562) 713-1706(C)  
[am.lewis@verizon.net](mailto:am.lewis@verizon.net)

#### **Editor:**

Phil Hardiman, PGHP  
2713 Hoffman Woods Lane  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
(916) 712-4814(C)  
[philipandnancy@aol.com](mailto:philipandnancy@aol.com)

#### **Websites:**

[www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org)

**If you need access to the confidential features of the website, contact one of the officers above for userid and password.**

[WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG](http://WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG)

# GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS - 2012 GRAND CONVOCATION REPORT

## GRAND OFFICERS

Grand High Priest.	<b>Robert V. Wright, Jr.</b>	Oxnard Chapter No. 86
Grand King.	<b>Gary W. Spriggs</b>	Nevada Chapter No. 6
Grand Scribe.	<b>Jon D. Humphreys</b>	Sacramento Chapter No. 3
Grand Treasurer.	<b>Jerrold A. Wohlfarth</b> , PGHP.	Triangle Chapter No. 155
Grand Secretary.	<b>Kenneth G. Hope</b> HPGHP.	Triple Tau Chapter No. 33
Grand Lecturer.	<b>Frederick G. Kleyn III.</b>	San Diego Chapter No. 61
Grand Chaplain North.	<b>Leland G. Routt</b>	Stockton Chapter No. 28
Grand Chaplain South.	<b>William S. H. Downey</b>	Ventura Chapter No. 50
Grand Captain of the Host.	<b>Steven R. Goad</b>	Norris C. Viles Chapter No. 153
Grand Principal Sojourner.	<b>Richard D. Baskin</b>	San Diego Chapter No. 61
Grand Royal Arch Captain.	<b>Dennis T. Dyer</b>	Oxnard Chapter No. 86
Grand Master of the Third Veil.	<b>Lawrence R. Rodriguez</b>	San Luis Chapter No. 62
Grand Master of the Second Veil.	<b>Eduardo Estrada</b>	Signet Chapter No. 57
Grand Master of the First Veil.	<b>Alberto D. Santos</b>	Oxnard Chapter No. 86
Grand Orator.	<b>Andrew B. Pippin</b>	Corinthian Chapter No. 51
Grand Marshal North.	<b>Anthony T. Yuson</b>	Ancient-Antioch Chapter No. 31
Grand Marshal South.	<b>Raymond A. Broomfield</b>	Ventura Chapter No. 50
Grand Soloist.	<b>E. Floyd Griffin</b>	Ventura Chapter No. 50
Grand Musician.	<b>Richard A. Wilson</b>	Sacramento Chapter No. 3
Grand Sentinel.	<b>Thomas G. McKinney</b>	Kern River Chapter No. 162
Assistant Grand Secretary.	<b>Albert M. Lewis</b>	Triple Tau Chapter No. 33

## GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL IN SILVER

**Frederick G. Kleyn III.** . . . . . San Diego Chapter No. 61

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL IN BRONZE

**James G. Baum.** . . . . . High Desert Chapter No. 127

## GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CALIFORNIA AWARDS

### GRAND HIGH PRIEST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

**William E. Price.** . . . . . King Solomon's Chapter No. 95

**Lowell G. Roberts.** . . . . . Chico Chapter No. 42

**Kenneth L. Edwards.** . . . . . Stockton Chapter No. 28

**Raymond A. Broomfield.** . . . . . Ventura Chapter No. 50

**Thomas R. Handell.** . . . . . Tyre Chapter No. 130

### HIGH PRIEST OF THE YEAR

High Priest the Year for the State. . . . . **Anthony T. Yuson** . . . . . Ancient-Antioch Chapter No. 31

High Priest of the Year Department #2. . . **James A. Beddall** . . . . . Chico Chapter No. 42

High Priest of the Year Department #3. . . **Harry P. Hughes** . . . . . Sonora Chapter No. 2

High Priest of the Year Department #4. . . **Rees W. Padfield** . . . . . Oxnard Chapter No. 86

High Priest of the Year Department #5. **Patrick W. Wohlrabe** . . . . . San Diego Chapter No. 61

### SECRETARY OF THE YEAR

Secretary for the State. . . . . **Carlos H. Gonzalez** . . . . . Signet Chapter No. 57

Secretary the Year Department #1. . . . . **Jerome M. Miller** . . . . . Oakland Chapter No. 36

Secretary of the Year Department #3. . . . **Steven M. Fowler** . . . . . Stockton Chapter No. 28

Secretary of the Year Department #5. . . . **Timothy B. Sheets** . . . . . Tyre Chapter No. 130

### DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP AWARD

**Carlos H. Gonzalez.** . . . . . Signet Chapter No. 57

**Simon A. McIlroy** . . . . . Signet Chapter No. 57

**Gary K. Jackson.** . . . . . Kern Valley Chapter No. 75

**M. Robert Bettencourt II** . . . . . San Luis Chapter No. 62

## MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

<b>Bruce E. Hudson</b> .....	Signet Chapter No. 57
<b>Alberto T. Jacinto</b> .....	King Solomon's Chapter No. 95
<b>Michael J. Sekera</b> .....	Tyre Chapter No. 130

Chapter with the highest percentage increase in membership (35.7%)..... **Imperial Valley Chapter No. 109**

Chapter with the highest number of new members (42)..... **Signet Chapter No. 57**

## RUSSELL D. ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY

<b>Gary K. Jackson</b> .....	Kern Valley Chapter No. 75
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**NOTE: There were no Resolutions presented this year.**

**EVERY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER WAS PRESENT AT THIS ANNUAL GRAND CONVOCATION**

# GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS - 2012 GRAND ASSEMBLY REPORT

## GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Master.....	<b>Raymond D. Godeke</b> .....	Orange County Council No. 14
Deputy Grand Master.....	<b>Richard W. Williamson</b> .....	King Solomon's Council No. 29
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.....	<b>David L. Chesebro</b> .....	San Luis Obispo Council No. 38
Grand Treasurer.....	<b>Frederick J. "Tiny" Potter</b> , MIPGM.....	Ventura Council No. 15
Grand Recorder.....	<b>Kenneth G. Hope</b> , HMIPGM.....	Shekinah Council No. 35
Grand Director of Ritual.....	<b>Kenneth G. Nagel</b> .....	San Jose Council No. 20
Grand Chaplain (North).....	<b>William S. Dann</b> .....	Pacific Council No. 37
Grand Chaplain (South).....	<b>William Bottorff</b> .....	Orange County Council No. 14
Grand Captain of the Guard.....	<b>Brett A. MacDonald</b> .....	Shekinah Council No. 35
Grand Conductor of the Council.....	<b>Henry Clayton Jr.</b> .....	King Solomon's Council No. 29
Grand Steward.....	<b>William E. Price</b> .....	California Council No. 2
Grand Sentinel.....	<b>Lee P. Whelan</b> .....	Riverside Council No. 59
Grand Orator.....	<b>John L. Cooper III</b> .....	Omega Council No. 11
Grand Marshal (North).....	<b>Richard A. Fonseca</b> .....	Redwood Empire Council No. 46
Grand Marshal (South).....	<b>Richard B. Wood</b> .....	Orange County Council No. 14
Grand Soloist.....	<b>K. Mark Harris</b> .....	Oakland Council No. 12
Grand Organist.....	<b>Arthur H. Walton</b> .....	San Jose Council No. 20
Grand Bible Bearer.....	<b>James H. Mason</b> .....	Riverside Council No. 59
Grand Standard Bearer.....	<b>Michael T. Sherman</b> .....	Helix Council No. 58
Assistant Grand Recorder.....	<b>Albert M. Lewis</b> .....	Shekinah Council No. 35

## GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

<b>Cryptic Mason of the Year</b> .....	<b>Carlos H. Gonzalez</b> .....	Omega Council No. 11
<b>Adult Leadership Award</b> .....	<b>Karl A. Krummell</b> .....	Gateway Council No. 13
<b>Lady of the Council</b> .....	<b>Mrs. Genie Whitfield</b>	
.....	<b>Mrs. Jacki McKeay</b>	
.....	<b>Mrs. Carol Whitcher</b>	

## GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS OF CALIFORNIA AWARDS

### GRAND MASTER of ISH SODI AWARD

<b>William E. Ellison</b> .....	Palo Alto Council No. 51
<b>William E. Whitcher</b> .....	Sierra Nevada Council No. 44
<b>Fenton R. Mereness</b> .....	San Jose Council No. 20
<b>Raymond A. Broomfield</b> .....	Ventura Council No. 15
<b>Mark S. Hoage</b> .....	Orange County Council No. 14
<b>Michael T. Sherman</b> .....	Helix Council No. 58
<b>Richard E. Thornton</b> .....	Stockton Council No. 10

## ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER OF THE YEAR

Eduardo Estrada. . . . . Omega Council No. 11

## RECORDER OF THE YEAR

Mark S. Hoage. . . . . Orange County Council No. 14

## GRAND MASTER'S APPRECIATION AWARD

Robert A. Morrison. . . . . Shasta Council No. 6

Richard T. Cooper. . . . . Omega Council No. 11

Sara Lee Martin. . . . . Supreme Inspector in CA, International Order of Rainbow for Girls

## DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Carlos H. Gonzalez. . . . . Omega Council No. 11

Simon A. McIlroy. . . . . Omega Council No. 11

Gary K. Jackson. . . . . Bakersfield Council No. 28

## MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

Bruce E. Hudson. . . . . Omega Council No. 11

Alberto T. Jacinto. . . . . California Council No. 2

Michael J. Sekera. . . . . Helix Council No. 58

Timothy B. Sheets. . . . . Helix Council No. 58

James A. Beddall. . . . . Butte Council No. 50

Council with the highest percentage increase in membership (34.6%). . . . . **Imperial Valley Council No. 60**

Council with the highest increase in number of members (43). . . . . **Omega Council No. 11**

## RITUALIST OF THE YEAR

Ritualist for the State. . . . . **Thomas R. Handell.** . . . . Helix Council No. 58

Ritualist for Department 1. . . . . **K. Mark Harris.** . . . . Oakland Council No. 12

Ritualist for Department 2. . . . . **Scott E. Barbu.** . . . . Amador Council No. 31

Ritualist for Department 3. . . . . **Mike L. Szepfalvi.** . . . . Bakersfield Council No. 28

Ritualist for Department 4. . . . . **Eduardo Estrada.** . . . . Omega Council No. 11

Ritualist for Department 6. . . . . **George W. Morton.** . . . . Orange County Council No. 14

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2012-1 To amend who can open & close a Council in Ample Form. . . . . Passed

**EVERY CRYPTIC COUNCIL WAS PRESENT AT THIS ANNUAL GRAND ASSEMBLY**

## GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR - 2012 GRAND CONCLAVE REPORT

### GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Commander. . . . . **Howard W. "Bud" Ramsey.** . . . . San Jose Commandery No. 10

Deputy Grand Commander. . . . . **Myron A. Tisdell.** . . . . Redding Commandery No. 50

Grand Generalissimo. . . . . **Carlos H. Gonzalez.** . . . . Los Angeles Commandery No. 9

Grand Captain General. . . . . **Fenton R. Mereness.** . . . . Vacaville Commandery No. 38

Grand Senior Warden. . . . . **Stephen E. Alderete.** . . . . St. Bernard Commandery No. 23

Grand Junior Warden. . . . . **Thomas N. Thomas.** . . . . Whittier Commandery No. 51

Grand Prelate. . . . . **David J. Kussman,** PGC. . . . . Orange County Commandery No. 36

Grand Treasurer. . . . . **Gary D. Miller,** PGC. . . . . Riverside Commandery No. 28

Grand Recorder. . . . . **Kenneth G. Hope,** HPGC. . . . . Golden West Commandery No. 43

Grand Standard Bearer. . . . . **Malcolm G. Hill.** . . . . Auburn Commandery No. 52

Grand Sword Bearer. . . . . **Gregg A. Hall.** . . . . San Jose Commandery No. 10

Grand Warder. . . . . **Gary L. Schlusser.** . . . . Nevada Commandery No. 6

Grand Sentinel. . . . . **Nicholas L. Muhlhauser.** . . . . San Jose Commandery No. 10



## GRAND ENCAMPMENT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE U.S.A. AWARDS

### KNIGHT TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

James M. Sunseri..... Golden West Commandery No. 43

### KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE TEMPLE

Frank Loui..... California Commandery No. 1  
William D. Robertson..... Pacific Commandery No. 3  
Philip A. Hardiman..... Sacramento Commandery No.2

### COMPANION OF THE TEMPLE

Lady Kimberly R. Derby-Lee

## GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF CALIFORNIA AWARDS

### COMMANDER OF THE YEAR

David M. Ferreria..... Santa Monica Bay Commandery No. 61

### RECORDER OF THE YEAR

William E. Price..... Golden Gate Commandery No. 16

### OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE RITUAL STAFF

Robert A. Morrison..... Red Bluff Commandery No. 17

### DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Carlos H. Gonzalez..... Los Angeles Commandery No. 9  
Simon A. McIlroy..... Los Angeles Commandery No. 9

### MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

Albert T. Jacinto..... Golden Gate Commandery No. 16  
James A. Beddall..... Butte Commandery No. 5  
Bud Ramsey, Jr..... San Jose Commandery No. 10  
Commandery with the highest percentage increase (19.2%)..... **High Desert Commandery No. 79**  
Commandery with the highest increase in the number of members (40).. . . **Los Angeles Commandery No. 9**

### RILL TEAM COMPETITION

Class "B" Champion..... **Los Angeles Commandery No. 9**..... 952 points  
Class "C" Champion..... **Orange County Commandery No. 36**..... 958 points  
Class "C" 2nd Place..... **California Commandery No. 1**..... 925 points  
Class "D" Champion..... **Golden West Commandery No. 43**..... 986 points  
Class "D" 2nd Place..... **Long Beach Commandery No. 40**..... 963 points

### CROSS & CROWN AWARD

Commandery of the Year for Department 2..... **Los Angeles Commandery No. 9**  
Commandery of the Year for Department 4..... **California Commandery No. 1**  
Commandery of the Year for Department 7..... **Marysville Commandery No. 7**

### COMMANDERY OF THE YEAR

**Marysville Commandery No. 6**

**NOTE: There were no Resolutions presented this year.**

**EVERY COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR WAS PRESENT AT THIS ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE**



*California Grand Commandery*  
***Dais Officer Workshop***

This workshop is designed specifically for the Commandery Dais Officers to be better prepared to lead their respective Commandery, but any officer or Sir Knight is encouraged to attend.

The following is an overview of what will be covered:

- Grand Commandery vs Grand Encampment
- Commandery Administration
- Protocol and Special Events
- Ritual, Tactics, & Uniforms
- Leadership

*Note: This is not a ritual seminar/school of instruction*

Four workshops have been scheduled as outlined below. Please plan to attend the one nearest you, but if that date doesn't work, go ahead and attend one of the others.

All workshops are schedule on a Saturday from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM and lunch will be provided. There is no charge to the attendees. Dress is casual.

<b><i>DATE:</i></b>	<b><i>LOCATION:</i></b>
June 30, 2012	Bellflower Masonic Lodge 9813 Beach Street, Bellflower, CA 90706-5917
July 21, 2012	San Jose Scottish Rite 2455 Masonic Drive, San Jose, CA 95125
August 25, 2012	Visalia-Mineral King Lodge 128 E Mineral King Ave, Visalia, CA 93291-6926
September 8, 2012	Vesper Lodge 822 Main St, Red Bluff, CA 96080-2759

RSVP to Bud Ramsey, 5160 Poston Drive, San Jose, CA 95136-3320  
*Phone:* 408-838-3730      *Email:* budsusanr@att.net

GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

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FAX NUMBER:  
(562) 924-6534

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