



# *Knightly News*

The Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America  
PMB 234, 4094 Majestic Lane, Fairfax Virginia, USA 22033-2104

Fall 2008

Volume 12 Number 2

## Headlines

- ANNUAL MEETING at Hyatt-Alexandria- February 13, 2009
- MAKE ANNUAL MEETING Meal Reservations NOW!
- Seven Councils under dispensation
- Texas institutes its Fourteenth Council

## From the Great Chief

Greetings Cousins,  
Events in Knight Masonry are moving fast. New Councils have been instituted in Texas, Florida, Illinois, and Tennessee, with requests for dispensations from Virginia, Arkansas, Florida and North Carolina. I am elated the Knight Masonry is expanding in our jurisdiction.

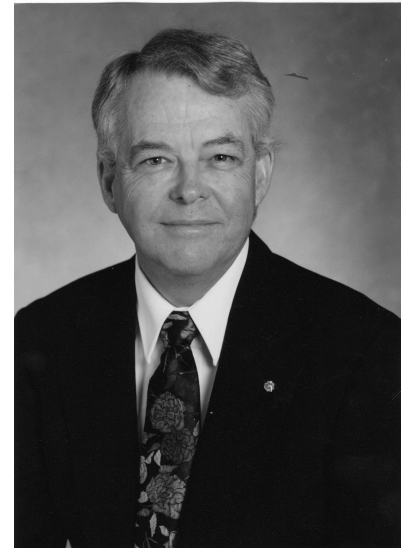
Knight Masonry runs deep in the family of Freemasonry, being among the most ancient of the many degrees. The interest in creating new councils keeps alive our organization and provides greater opportunity for membership growth and competent ritual presentation.

The requirements for membership are being a Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason in good standing. To increase our membership we must support these two organizations as they are the recruiting areas for Knight Masonry. Knight Masonry does not want in membership every Royal Arch Mason, just the best of them.

In our readings and discussions about Knight Masonry we refer to the Knight Mason degrees as the "Green Degrees." In my travels I have been asked on several occasions to detail why we are "Green." As we are Irish in origin one could think the "Emerald Isle" might have influence on this designation. Things are not this simple.

Our Excellent Cousin and good friend, David Lindez of Northern New Jersey Council #10, KM, has authored a well researched paper concerning the origin of Knight Masonry and its various sources and designations. This paper was presented on June 29, 2007. The following is quoted with Dave's permission:

"Knight Masonry is an invitational Rite with an inextricable tie to the Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Masons. The "Youghal Incident" of 1743 was pointed to as a reference for the earliest documented instance of Royal Arch Masonry by Harold V.B. Voorhis (Past Grand Historian of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in New Jersey) when speaking on the connection between the green degrees of Knight Masonry and the Royal Arch. This was an early account of the Royal Arch being carried by two "Excellent Masons" in a St. John's Day procession through town by Youghal Lodge #19. The earliest mention of the Royal Arch degree in a minute book is found in Vernon Lodge No. 123 at Coleraine, County Derry and mentions "April 16 1752—at this Lodge Bro. Thos. Blair proposed Sampson Moore, a Master & Royal Arch Mason to be admitted a member of our Lodge" There are other references found in the records of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England during the 1750's while the earliest record in America is found in the minutes of the lodge at Fredericks-



**ME Dr. Donald B. Street**  
**Great Chief**

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burg, VA and dated Dec. 22, 1753. The relevance for the citations of Royal Arch history lay in the realization of the relationship between the legends of Joshua and Zerubbabel. Even today the Knight Mason degrees in Scotland are worked under the authority of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

"Noticeably missing from the Knight Mason degrees of Red Cross Masonry is the commonplace Irish Masonic mythos of *Tuaatha de Danaan* and Tribe of Dan as found in the Order of Eri as well as the numerous other Stuart degrees of antiquity. The Ireland Lodge of Research #200 has transactions of 1923 that detail extensively the legends of "J" and "Z" as worked in the North and South of Ireland. The "J" legend refers to "Red

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Great Chief's Comments – Continued**

Masonry” while the “Z” refers of “Green Masonry” In the archives of Lodge #557 in Ireland we find a certificate of the Green degrees, and James D. Mitchell or Birr was found in 1962 to still possess an apron that is now 220 years old with one side green and decorated with the emblems of Knight Masons while the reverse was red with the symbols of the Holy Royal Arch. In 1790, we find references to “Green Masonry” becoming separate from that of the Royal Arch. Henceforward the Knight Mason degrees are referred to as “Red Cross Masonry” as in the Red Cross of Babylon. These degrees were usually but 3 and known as the Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West.

“A Thesis that has gone overlooked for the most part with regards to the Red Cross degrees of Babylon and the Holy Royal Arch is the relevance of the co-existence of the “J” “S” “Z” degrees of Freemasonry that would precipitate the manufacturing of regalia with the colors and symbols of both systems on either side. Esoterically they formed a completion that is observed today in Joshua, whose name is the Hebrew form of Jesus, led the children of Israel down through the waters of the Jordan and up into the promised land, submerging and rising up out of the water to inherit the promise (Joshua 4:19). In the Zerubbabel legend, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into a fiery furnace by Nebuchadnezzar only to emerge uninjured. Essentially we find that the Joshua and Zerubbabel legends are polar opposites with an obvious correlation to the Saints John the Evangelists and the Baptist as pillars in the North and South. Esoterically, a Mason who receives both the green and the red degrees is traveling the middle path at the altar between mercy and severity. The Baptism by Fire and the Baptism by water carry elemental as well as religious themes in the Mystery Traditions of most cultures.”

Thank you Cousin Lindez for allowing me to quote your work.

Do not forget our annual session in Alexandria, VA, on February, 13, 2009.

Thanks to all the Knight Masons for their support, aid and encouragement during the past year.

Best wishes to all.

*Donald B. Street, MEGC.*

**– In Memoriam –**

**M.E. Willard Faroe Bond, Jr.**

June 7, 1911 – May 25, 2008

Deputy Great Chief – 1998

Great Chief Honorary – 1999

**Fourteenth Council Instituted in Texas**

Until 1991 there were no Knight Masons Councils in the state of Texas. In that year due to the efforts of M.E. Reese L. Harrison, Jr., a Past Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council, the Grand Lodge of Texas granted recognition to the order. In December 1991 a dispensation was issued to form Texas Council No. 45 in San Antonio with Reese L. Harrison, Jr., as the Charter Chief, and 27 Charter Members. The Charter was granted during the February 1992 Annual Meeting and, as they say, “the rest is history.” Three councils were chartered in 1993, one in 1994, two in 1995, and one each in 1996, 1997, and 1998. Then no new councils were formed until 2005 when two were added followed by one last year. This year a group of Knights felt that Dallas was too far to go for meetings and petitioned for dispensation to form Frank G. McDonald Council No. 97 U.D. in Hillsboro – the fourteenth council in Texas.

V.E. Sir Kt. Kenneth B Fischer, Grand Director of Ceremonies, served as Acting Great Chief for the Institution of the council on October 20<sup>th</sup> in the Grand Lodge of Texas building in Waco, Texas. Waco is about 30+ miles south of the council's home of Hillsboro, but the institution was held there to coincide with the Texas Grand Chapter and Grand Council meetings. As a result, 22 Members and 14 visitors were present, including Past Great Chiefs Reese L. Harrison, Jr. and Lawrence E. Tucker.

The Grand Council was opened and following the Ceremony of Institution and the officers, including Ex. Jack M. Harper as the Excellent Chief, and E. Dixon Toney as the Scribe, were installed with the assistance of Lawrence E. Tucker, PGC and John C. Elkinton, Past Chief of Anson Jones Council #47.

Fourteen per cent of the Knight Masons Councils are in Texas with eight percent of the Knight Masons membership.



**Scribes Take Notice**

All councils must again file an “E-Postcard 990” report with the IRS. This report must be filed on-line, by May 15, 2009 for the year ending December 31, 2008. If you have any questions, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and search for “990N” in the search box on the upper right of the page.

Some Councils have already filed the Annual Report for 2008. Forms are available for download at [briefcase.yahoo.com/gc\\_km\\_usa](http://briefcase.yahoo.com/gc_km_usa) and in the Forms area of the KtMasons Yahoo Group. Also, Forms have been mailed to all those councils for which the Scribe has no email address. Note that the old report forms are out of date since there is no longer any per capita due. Reports are due by January 31, 2009, and subject to penalty on February 13, 2009.

## Grand Scribe's Comments

Knight Masonry is spreading! At the moment we have seven councils under dispensation, and have received inquiries from three other groups that have an interest. The councils under dispensation are:

Green Degrees No. 93  
Des Moines, Iowa

SemperFi No. 95  
Bellevue, Florida

W.W. Cannon No 96  
Johnson City, Tennessee

Frank G. McDonald No 97  
Hillsboro, Texas

Irish Sea No 98  
Albion, Illinois

Piedmont Celtic No. 99  
Winston Salem, North Carolina

Rock of Cashel No 100  
Front Royal, Virginia

There now are councils in all states except Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Oregon, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Vermont. Massachusetts and Rhode Island have a single Grand Commandery covering both states. Consequently Colonial Council No. 19, chartered in Massachusetts, now meets in Rhode Island and has members from both states.

Annual Reports are arriving earlier since there is no capitation to be paid - hence no need to worry about late changes. The Grand Scribe appreciates this, since it must all be wrapped up in time for the February meeting. We have resumed the constant membership growth that existed for the first 40 years - 2007's net loss of 43 members was a result of councils clearing out the dead wood rather than paying the \$10 fee. Although only a few councils have reported, most have shown an increase in membership. One added 26 new members - a 15% increase!

A Yahoo Group - KtMasons - has been established to simplify communication to the Councils. An invitation was sent by email to every Grand Officer, Committee member and

## Semper Fi Council NO 95 UD Instituted



Back Row: Excellent Chief James P. Rudman, Act. Great Chief Harvey L. Ward, Senior Knight Fred Piasecki, Scribe/Treasurer David Aponte; Middle Row: Steward William Wagner, Jr., Sentinel Larry D. Duff; Front Row: Priest Wayne Sessa, Director of Ceremonies Randall R. Jesmok, Senior Warden James Hughey, Junior Warden C. Alan Walls

Shortly after receiving a dispensation to form Semper Fi Council in Bellevue, Florida, Sir Knight James P. Rudman was installed as the Grand High Priest of the Grand RAC of Florida. Thus it was appropriate that M.E. Harvey L. Ward, a Past Grand High Priest served as the Acting Great Chief for the institution of the Council. He was assisted by Darryl A. D'Angina, PEC as Grand Director of Ceremonies and Robert Cooper as Grand Priest - all members of Gateway Council No. 51 in Jacksonville. The team joined with the prospective

officers and members of Semper Fi Council for dinner at Bellevue Masonic Temple on September 17, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Following the usual Masonic fellowship, they adjourned to the Lodge Room where an occasional meeting of the Grand Council was opened in ample form. The Council was instituted, the Officers installed and the new members obligated. Following the Proclamation by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Excellent Chief Rudman knelt at the Altar and offered an eloquent prayer from his heart for strength, guidance and the blessings of The Almighty on himself and the Council. After prayer he assumed his Station where the Acting Great Chief was pleased to present him the Chair and trowel and express congratulations and best wishes for the future of the council.



Scribe. Other members may request an invitation. This is not intended as a discussion group but rather a means for the Grand Scribe to be sure to have a current email address for sending out information. Members may change the address themselves so that it remains current. There is another Yahoo Group - KnightMasons - established by a member of Northern New Jersey Council No. 10 for discussions about Knight Masons.

**Masonic Week — February 11-14 2009**

Hilton, Alexandria  
 Mark Center  
 5000 Seminary Rd.  
 Alexandria, VA 22311

Hotel Reservations: 800-HILTONS

Meal Reservations:  
[www.yorkrite.com/MasonicWeek/index.html](http://www.yorkrite.com/MasonicWeek/index.html)

**All Meals Must be Reserved by February 1**  
**Tickets WILL NOT be Available**  
**at the HOTEL**  
**Brethren living outside of the USA**  
 Contact: Paul Newhall [pnewhall@cox.net](mailto:pnewhall@cox.net)  
 (703) 598-5077

**Ladies Program**  
 Ladies are invited to all breakfasts and banquets

**FRIDAY LADIES COFFEE**  
 At 9:00 AM on Friday, Feb. 13, 2008, the Ladies are invited to meet for Coffee in the Capitol View Room overlooking Washington D.C. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

**Entertainment Gathering**  
 Ladies who are interested in attending Friday Night's Entertainment Gathering are to contact Brenda Watson at: [ohioemom@aol.com](mailto:ohioemom@aol.com)

**THURSDAY, Feb. 12, 2009**  
 8:00 AM - Trinity Chapel No. 12, St. Thomas of Acon  
 10:00 AM - Marvin E. Fowler Commandery No. 7  
 10:00 AM - Grand Preceptors Council - St. Thomas of Acon  
 12:30 PM - Festive Board - Trinity Chapel  
 2:00 PM - The High Council, SRICF  
 4:30 PM - Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor  
 7:00 PM - The Annual Banquet of the High Council SRICF  
 Speaker: John R. Paternoster, IX, Supreme Magus, SRIA

**FRIDAY, February 13, 2009**  
 7:00 AM - Convent General KYCH Breakfast  
 All Welcome (including Ladies)  
**8:30 AM - Grand Council Knight Masons, USA**  
**Great Chief's Council "0"**  
 11:00 AM - Society of Blue Friars, (All Masons Welcome)  
 12:00 Noon - Lunch (on your own)  
 1:30 PM - Grand College of America HRAKTP  
 Grand Preceptor's Tabernacle "A"  
 3:30 PM - Ceremonies of Installation  
 Installed Sovereign Master  
 5:00 PM - Chevaliers Bienfaisants De La Cite Sainte, (CBCS);  
 6:00 PM - Royal Society of Knights Occidental,  
 All Masons are Welcome!  
 6:00 PM - The Masonic Society First Annual Dinner  
 All Masons are Welcome!  
 9:00 PM - "The Scarlet Cord" (1st Grade) AMD Members Only!  
 10:00 PM - Masonic Order of the Bath

**SATURDAY, February 14, 2009**  
 7:00 AM - AMD Breakfast Sponsored by: The AASR  
 for the NMJ & SMJ All Welcome (including Ladies)  
 8:30 AM - Grand College of Rites of the USA  
 10:00 AM - Nine Muses Council No. 13  
 (All Masons Welcome)  
 11:00 AM - Grand Master's Council AMD  
 12:00 Noon - Scottish Rite Research Society  
 Speaker to be Announced (All Masons Welcome)  
 2:00 PM - Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees  
 6:00 PM - Grand Council AMD Annual Banquet  
 All Welcome (including Ladies)  
 9:00 PM - Ye Antiente Order of Corks

**First Class Mail**

*Knighly News*

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