



# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

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

Russell E Duckett (NY), KCT, Most Eminent Grand Master

1221-4 Faichney Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 783-7532

[rduckett@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rduckett@twcny.rr.com) or [ducketruss95@gmail.com](mailto:ducketruss95@gmail.com)



Sir Robert W. Glenn (AL)  
R.E. Deputy Grand Master  
6064 Hwy 10-W  
Lisman, AL 36912  
(205) 457-4015  
[rw6glenn1234@yahoo.com](mailto:rw6glenn1234@yahoo.com)

Sir Fred R.S. Nelson, Jr. (PA)  
R.E. Grand Generalissimo  
5971 Westmore Drive  
Jackson, MS 39206  
(601) 238-5100  
[pha\\_dingo@hotmail.com](mailto:pha_dingo@hotmail.com)

Sir Fredrick Joyner (DC)  
R.E. Grand Captain General  
4340 George Frye Circle  
Woodbridge, VA 22193  
(703) 309-8517  
[joyner.f@verizon.net](mailto:joyner.f@verizon.net)

Sir Joseph Purdie, III (PA)  
R.E. Grand Treasurer  
949 East Johnson Street  
Philadelphia PA 19138-1013  
(215) 549-0454  
[jkppurdie@aol.com](mailto:jkppurdie@aol.com)

Sir Kenneth E. Brown (TN)  
R.E. Grand Recorder  
2871 Fulham Place  
Memphis, TN 38128  
(901) 292-7985  
[kbrown1139@comcast.net](mailto:kbrown1139@comcast.net)

Sir Ronald D. Gerac (TX)  
R.E. Grand Prelate  
7831 Cardinal Landing Lane  
Cypress, TX 77433  
(832) 816-9329  
[rgerac@gmail.com](mailto:rgerac@gmail.com)

Sir Joaquin M. Diaz  
R.E. Grand Senior Warden  
94-674 Kauluikua Place  
Mililani HI 96789  
[d9jccsm@aol.com](mailto:d9jccsm@aol.com)

Skt Terry Bowman  
R.E. Grand Junior Warden  
4061 Delgate Cove  
Memphis, TN 38125  
[tbowmansr@yahoo.com](mailto:tbowmansr@yahoo.com)

## Proclamation Christmas Day Observance December 25, 2022

SIR KNIGHTS:

I am honored to have the opportunity to present the Most Eminent Honorary Past Grand Master Sir Knight Joe B. Lewis as our Christmas Toastee for 2022. Sir Knight Lewis a rich spiritual, civic and Masonic background, and is no stranger to hard work as he has worked very diligently in his efforts to lead and support the Grand Encampment of knights Templar and other National York Rite Bodies and the community in which he resides.

Please join me in a celebratory toast for our Toastee Most Eminent Honorary Past Grand Master Sir Knight Joe B. Lewis hailing from the Jurisdiction of Missouri.

Yours In Knightly Courtesy,

ME Sir Russell E. Duckett (NY), KCT, KYGCH  
29<sup>th</sup> Most Eminent Grand Master

ATTESTED BY:

  
RE Sir Kenneth E. Brown (TN), M.Div.  
Grand Recorder

Joe Berkeley Lewis came from a very religious Baptist family and all of his upbringing and ideals were modeled from his early childhood. Sunday was the day for attending church and nothing else. The family attended for three generations. Sunday school, afternoon services, dinner and movies were all provided at the Church. Joe's school days started in Memphis, TN., and it took him two (2) full years before he could understand why he could not attend the school across the street from his home. That's when he realized he was a victim of a segregated school system.

When he was ten years old, father found employment in St. Louis and the family moved here. Joe attended several elementary schools and graduated from Simmons Elementary School. He then went to Beaumont High School as one of the first integrated classes in the City of St. Louis school system. After graduating from Beaumont High School, he entered Harris Teachers College as a Junior College student. He attended Harris for one year and transferred to Southern Illinois University on the East St. Louis campus. After several different jobs his father convinced him to go to engineering schools and after completing this course and receiving a certificate as a plant engineer, he began his new career.

Joe received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and a master's degree in Environment Health and Safety and is a Certified Plant Engineer (CPE). Joe is a life member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and belongs to the St. Louis Alumni Chapter.

Joe joined the Eugene G. Lacey Lodge #12 on November 11, 1969 and has held numerous offices in this Lodge including Worshipful Master. Joe joined the Holy Royal Arch Masons in far West Chapter #2 and has served as District Deputy Grand High Priest. He also has served as Eminent Commander of Onward Commander #2, Knights Templar and Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Missouri and its Jurisdiction. Joe is also a member of Eureka Consistory #29, AASR, Southern Jurisdiction and advanced to the 33 Grand Inspector General in 1985. Joe was created a Noble in Medinah Temple #39 in July 1971 and elected Illustrious Potentate in December 1984. He has held numerous appointments in the Imperial Council, A.E.A.O.N.M.S. including the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Missouri, Thrice Illustrious Master 2013 - Graham #2, Past General Grand Council High Priest, Past Most Eminent Grand Master Knight Templar.

Joe has received numerous awards and recognized for his outstanding service to the citizens of the State of Missouri.

Joe had the honor of having the State of Missouri Grand Council of Royal & Select Masons named after him.