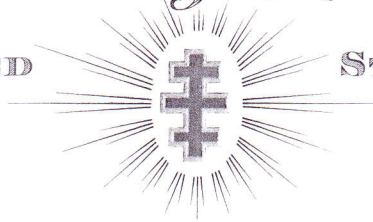


Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

OF THE UNITED



STATES of AMERICA

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OFFICE OF
WILLIAM HOWARD KOON, II
MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER

February 13, 2012

To the Sir Knights Under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar— My Dear Fraters:

It is with deep sadness that I advise you of the death of our beloved Sir Knight Willard Meredith Avery, GCT, Most Eminent Past Grand Master.

Sir Knight Avery served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of Indiana in 1956-1957. He was appointed Right Eminent Department Commander of the East Central Department in 1961-1964. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Captain General on Wednesday, August 23, 1967, at Detroit, Michigan; elected Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo on Wednesday, August 26, 1970, at Denver, Colorado; elected Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master on Wednesday, August 15, 1973, at Chicago, Illinois; and, elected Most Eminent Grand Master on Wednesday, September 1, 1976, at Kansas City.

Sir Knight Avery laid down his sword and entered the Supreme Asylum above on Saturday, February 11, 2012.

It is my order that the Charters of all Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment be draped in Sir Knight Avery's honor at their next Stated Conclave following receipt of this notice. The Charter is to remain draped until the following Stated Conclave.

I further direct that the Charters of all Grand Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment be draped in Sir Knight Avery's honor during their Annual Conclave.

Each Commandery and Grand Commandery is expected to pay appropriate tribute to Sir Knight Avery at their annual Memorial Service. Please remember Sir Knight Avery's family in your prayers.

Yours in Templary,

⚔ *William H. Koon, II*

William H. Koon, II, GCT
Grand Master

WILLARD MEREDITH AVERY, GCT
M: E: Grand Master
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
1976-1979

Sir Knight Avery was born on February 2, 1907, at Palmyra, Indiana. He was a Rector Scholar at DePauw University from which he graduated with highest honors in 1929. After graduation, he taught social studies and speech for two years at Portland High School, Portland, Indiana. He then attended the University of Michigan Law School where he was the winner of the Henry M. Campbell case club award and served as senior judge in case club competition. While attending law school, he was elected Student President of the Lawyers Club and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree in 1934.

Following his graduation, he was engaged in the general practice of law at Knightstown, Indiana. He was also engaged in farming activities. He and his wife Margaret had two sons, Max and Jack, two grandsons, and one granddaughter.

He was continuously active in the civic affairs of his community; served as President of the Knightstown Library Board for many years. A Methodist, he served in numerous lay capacities in the church, including President of the Administrative Board, and with distinction as local President and Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis International.

He was Raised to the degree of Master Mason in New Castle Lodge No. 91, in New Castle, Indiana, on April 27, 1936. He transferred to Golden Rule Lodge No. 16, Knightstown, Indiana, December 11, 1936, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1940. He was Exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason in Knightstown Chapter No. 33, May 20, 1938; and served as High Priest in 1955. He was Greeted as a Royal and Select Master in Cryptic Council No. 29, Knightstown, Indiana, September 19, 1945, and served as Illustrious Master in 1954.

Sir Knight Avery was actively engaged in Grand Encampment projects for many years. He was Knighted in Knightstown Commandery No. 9, May 2, 1939. He served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana in 1956-57. He was the first President of the Board of Directors of the Indiana foundation of DeMolay, Inc., a model for other DeMolay Foundations throughout the United States, and holds the DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor. He served as legal counsel for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. He was a Past Grand Patron of the Indiana Grand Chapter, O.E.S., and was Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Committee of the General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star during its 1982-1985 Triennium, at which time the Foundation was designated as General Grand Chapter's "No. 1" charitable project; Past Sovereign of St. Basil's Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine; member of the K.Y.C.H.; member of Murat Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; He was a charter member and Past Preceptor of St. Andrew's Tabernacle H.R.A.K.T.P. a Knight Grand Commander and holder of the Grand Cross; member of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Indianapolis. He was made an Honorary 33°, Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, September 1967, at Pittsburgh.

He served the Grand Encampment as Department Commander of the East Central Department, 1961-1964. He was Editor of the Knights Templar Magazine for 5 ½ years until 1967. He was elected and installed as R:E: Grand Captain General in Detroit, 1967; R:E: Grand Generalissimo in Denver, 1970; R:E: Deputy Grand Master in Chicago, 1973; and as M:E: Grand Master in Kansas City, 1976.

Sir Knight Avery presided over the 54th Triennial Conclave in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 11-16, 1979.

THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN MEMORIAM

WILLARD MEREDITH AVERY

MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER
1976-1979

Born: February 2, 1907
Palmyra, Indiana

Died: February 11, 2012
Greenfield, Indiana

ATTEST:

Lawrence E. Tucker

LAWRENCE EUGENE TUCKER
GRAND RECORDER



⌘ *William Howard Koon, II*

WILLIAM HOWARD KOON, II
GRAND MASTER