



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Thomas C. Helm
Grand Commander

4250 Elm Drive
Allentown, PA 18103-5606
610-737-2553
drtom4250@gmail.com

May 22, 2023

TO: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania.

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER THREE

KNIGHT TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

Sir Knights:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 237(b) of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, a Meritorious Service Award, known as the "Knights Templar Cross of Honor" may be awarded by the Grand Master upon a deserving Sir Knight of a Commandery once each year. Paragraph C of said Section 237(b) describes the eligibility for this award.

The National Award is the highest honor the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar can confer upon an individual Sir Knight. Therefore, this award is made only for EXCEPTIONAL and MERITORIOUS service rendered to the Order, above and beyond the call of duty and beyond service normally expected of an officer or member.

No Elected Grand Officer, past or present, may be considered for this award. A nomination for this award shall be made by motion by the Commandery of which the nominee is a member. Then the Commander of said Commandery shall cause to be filed, with the Grand Commander, the proper Nomination Form supplied with the general Order.

PLEASE NOTE: The item of this form titled, "Facts Submitted for Justification for Nomination", should be a summary of the Nominee's merits for this award. It should be concise and summarize why this individual is an exceptional Sir Knight, worthy of receiving the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Grand Encampment. This will aid the Grand Commander in selecting the most worthy recipient for this distinction. Nomination forms from the previous year will be placed in consideration this year. From this point forward all nomination forms will be saved and be under consideration the following year.

Complete and submit the attached Supplemental Nomination Form, adding additional pages if needed. This completed form must be signed by the Commander and shall be forwarded to:

Thomas C. Helm, REGC
4250 Elm Drive
Allentown, PA 18103-6106

All nominations must be received by January 1, 2024. Incomplete forms or nominations received after that date will NOT be considered.

This General Order is to be made available at the next Stated Conclave and all Stated Conclaves prior to the deadline and entered in full in the records.

Given over my hand and seal of the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania on May 22, 2023, in the year of our Lord, A.O. 905.

Yours in Templary,
Thomas C. Helm
Grand Commander

Attest:
Mark G. Mattern
Grand Recorder

KTCH Nomination Form and Guidelines Follow Below

KTCH NOMINATION GUIDELINES (Rev GE 2012)

- 1) In accordance with the provisions of Section 237(b) of the Statutes of Grand Encampment, as amended at the 50th Triennial conclave, the meritorious award known as the KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR, shall be conferred by the Grand Master on behalf of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to deserving Sir Knights of Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies upon certain conditions hereinafter set forth.
- 2) The KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR shall be awarded "only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member." In deciding upon the award, precedents shall be entirely ignored, and each case shall be decided upon its own usual merits. No posthumous award shall be made, and no present or past elected Grand Officer of a Grand Commandery shall be eligible for the award.
- 3) One nomination may be made from a Grand Commandery membership, regardless of number of members, plus one additional nomination may be made from a Grand Commandery for each **5,000** members, or major fraction thereof, during any one year. Only one nomination may be made from the total of the Subordinate Commandery's during one year. (Amended 2009)
- 4) The procedure to be followed for making nominations for this Award shall be as follows:
 - a. Any Constituent Commandery desiring to make a nomination shall first adopt a formal resolution, setting forth the full name of its nominee, and the nature of the meritorious service upon which such nomination is based.
 - b. The Commander of such Constituent Commandery shall thereupon cause to be filled-in a Nomination Form to be supplied by the Grand Recorder of his Grand Commandery, giving the date, full name of the nominee, address, Templar rank, name of the Commandery and a statement of the nature of the meritorious service upon which such nomination is based.
 - b. Such Nomination Form shall be signed by the Commander of such Constituent Commandery and shall be forwarded by him to the Grand Commandery of his jurisdiction for consideration.
 - c. Such Grand Commander shall consider all nominations made by Constituent Commandery's of his Grand Commandery upon Nomination Forms and shall select only one nominee (more where qualified) in any one year; upon making such selection, the Grand Commander shall affix his written approval to such Nomination Form and shall thereupon send the name to the GRAND ENCAMPMENT FOR THE GRAND MASTER'S CONSIDERATION.
 - d. Any Subordinate Commandery desiring to make a nomination for this Award shall follow the same procedure as is set forth above for the Constituent Commanderies, except that such Subordinate Commandery desiring to make a nomination, shall forward the Nomination Form supplied by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, and the same shall bear the written approval of the Commander of such Subordinate Commandery before being sent to the GRAND ENCAMPMENT FOR THE GRAND MASTER'S CONSIDERATION.

5). The KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR medal shall consist of a round, gold-finished medal, the outer circle of which shall bear the words "KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR," showing through in black enamel, and in the center shall appear the Patriarchal Cross of the Grand Encampment in purple enamel. Such medal shall be suspended from a gold-finished bar by two small chain links on either side; upon the face of the bar shall be engraved the name of the Sir Knight who shall be the recipient thereof.

The KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR may be worn upon the Commandery uniform by the recipient upon all occasions.

6) The Certificate of Award, issued by the Grand Encampment, signed by the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder, and bearing the seal of the Grand Encampment thereon, shall accompany the medal. The Certificate of Award shall contain a summary of the Citation upon which such Award is based.

7) It shall be the responsibility of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to provide the medals, Certificates of Award for the KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR, without any cost to the recipient or to his Constituent of Grand Commandery, or his Subordinate Commandery. Presentation of the KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR Medals, Certificates shall be made at an appropriate ceremony of the Grand Commandery's and Subordinate Commandery's, and a report thereof shall be sent by the respective Recorder to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment within thirty days thereafter.

NOMINATION
For the Award of
“KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR”

_____ Commandery No _____ K.T. stationed at _____
City

_____, on _____ Day of _____, _____ adopted a motion
Name Month Year

to nominate the following Sir Knight, one of its own members, to be awarded the "Knights Templar Cross of Honor" for the Templar Year _____

1. His full name: _____
(Print Full Name)

2. His Residence: _____
(Street Number) City State Zip Code

3. His Templar Rank: _____

4. The following facts are submitted as a justification for his Nomination:

Masonic Record:

(Name and Number)	Office(s) held	Year Held	Comments
-------------------	----------------	-----------	----------

Lodge:

Chapter:

Council:

Commandery:

Supplemental Information

(Attachments as Needed)

Church Record/Activities

Community Record/Activities

Service (Youth Groups/Humanity)

Specific Contributions to Templary

Other Masonic Service/Affiliations

Comments/Recommendations

Approved this _____ Day of _____ 20____, by _____

Commander of _____ Commandery No. _____

Approved this _____ Day of _____ 20____, by _____

Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of _____

Approved this _____ Day of _____ 20____, by _____

Grand Master

IMPORTANT: Please follow instructions for filling in the form for Nomination for the Award of Knights Templar Cross of Honor. Rules and Regulations appear on the reverse side OF THIS FORM.

SUBMIT FORM TO THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND RECORDER OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT AT LEAST TWO (2) MONTHS PRIOR TO PRESENTATION.