

HENDLEY-MACK GRAND COMMANDERY ORDER OF KNIGHTS  
TEMPLAR JURISDICTION OF ALABAMA P.H.A.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER  
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July 15, 2016

To: Past Grand Commander Hawkins, Past Grand Commander Glenn, Past Grand Commander Pettus, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Officers, Eminent Commanders, Past Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, Captain Generals, Sir Knights of the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery, visiting Sir Knights

Greetings:

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13 KJV)

As we come to the close of our 126<sup>th</sup> year in Knights Templarism in Alabama, I stand before you the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery. I come humbly to give an account of my stewardship, the state of the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery, and the vision for the future. Before any great undertaking, I will call upon S.K. Jerry Taylor to lead us in a hymn and S.K. Ellington to lead us to the throne of grace. Attention Sir Knights; uncover.

State of the Nation

The United State of America is preparing to elect the 45<sup>th</sup> President. I pray the new administration will continue to move our nation forward. We still have several obstacles in front of us. Our nation continues to need prayer. As the Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama, completes his second term as our nation's 44<sup>th</sup> President, we have seen a significant amount of progress. President Obama established the American Opportunity Credit for college students, foreign relations, and the singular thing that eleven previous presidents attempted and wasn't passed through the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, was Universal Healthcare for all Americans.

Our nation has also lost several of our great icons. On April 27, musical icon Prince passed away. On June 3, boxer and activist Muhammad Ali passed away. Why did I only mention these two individuals? They lived their lives and expressed their lives through their creative work that they performed. On June 12, 2016 a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 in a night

club shooting. It was the deadliest mass shooting by a single gunman in the U.S. Our nation also experienced life. Many of us can relate. There are two instances that I want to share with you. First, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Freddie Armstead welcomed Freddie Armstead III weighing 7lbs and 9ozs. I myself also watched a beautiful life come into this world. On May 9, Marie Ann Motley was introduced into the world weighing 8lbs and measuring 21 ½ inches long. Life is a beautiful thing and we must cherish it.

#### State of the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery

I am proud to report the continuous support that the W.H. Mack Grand Chapter, W.H. Mack Grand Council, and the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery show together to make the York Rite successful. The Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery continues to grow significantly in membership and education. Several commanderies have sponsored workshops in their various geographic areas. There are several commanderies that have hosted various York Rite Days. York Rite Day is an opportunity for Ancient Craft Mason to be arched into the Capitalur Degrees, greeted into the Cryptic Degrees, and dubbed and created into the Chivalry Orders. I would like to acknowledge Sir Knight William Garrett, the Eminent Commander of Persia #2, for dubbing and creating 23 companions on April 16, 2016 into Persia Commandery #2. Along with supporters comes opposition, I welcome anybody that has a better idea of bringing in members. I am willing to work with anyone, but to outright oppose something based on who brought the idea or who did not bring the idea is unacceptable.

I would like to acknowledge S.K. Courtney Williams, Grand District Deputy of the Northern Jurisdiction. He has visited every commandery and turned in a detailed report of his visitations. S. K. Williams was chosen to be a district deputy for his eagerness to help the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery. I have received some phone calls from several Eminent Commanders on how other District Deputies approach the commanderies. I must say the feedback is very positive. A district deputy's job is very hard and he must be able to work with commanderies and within the Grand Commandery to ensure that all rules and edicts are being enforced. I have noticed through my years as a District Deputy, Deputy Grand Commander, and now Grand Commander that our biggest downfall is leadership and the lack there of. We must put ourselves in position to be able to listen and work with each other for the common goal of

making this organization better. The goal is not to hold a position, but to have the organization, best interest at heart.

I along with Past Grand Commander Victor Pettus and Grand Recorder Michael Brown was bestowed the honor of Knight Commander of the Temple. We share this honor with Past Grand Commander Robert Glenn and Past Grand Commander Corey Hawkins along with several distinguished members of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, PHA.

#### State of the Future

It is my goal to implement more workshops within our Annual Conclave. I would like to host more educational sections in the Annual Conclave. This will help us fully understand Templarism. I have been confronted by Sir Knights voicing concerns about me raising taxes. I have no plans to raise taxes, if we continue to support fundraisers within the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery.

First, Sir Knights encourage companions to join a Commandery. Second, Eminent Commanders make it affordable to be a Sir Knight and implement a ritual within the initiation fee. It does not make sense to charge someone \$100.00 to be a Sir Knight and they do not receive a ritual. Eminent Commanders I encourage you to also make your dues affordable for the Sir Knights to remain a member of your commandery. If the Grand Commandery can sustain on a minimum of \$19.00 per man I assume the commandery can sustain them off a reasonable fee as well. I would like to see more workshops within our Jurisdiction. I encourage Eminent Commanders, Generalissimo, and Captain Generals to put a workshop together with the Royal Arch and Royal & Select Masters to educate brothers, companions, and Sir Knights. I want us to use our Alabama York Rite website to its full potential. I feel that it is the best way to get out our information.

#### Necrology

If men die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. (Job 14:14)

This has been a very trying year in that I have lost several great men that have touched my life from a personal and Masonic stance S.K. James Spears, S.K. Leonard Smith, S.K. Levan Smith, and S.K. Nathaniel Moton. All four of these Sir Knights have had a great impact on our Grand Commandery.

#### Travel

July – Attended a workshop in Marion, AL

August – Attended A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Imperial Council in Cincinnati, OH

September – Attended Grand Conclave in Georgia and Attended Prince Hall Americanism Weekend in Montgomery.

October – Attended United Supreme Council in Memphis, TN where I was elevated to the 33° in the William O. Jones Class of 2015.

November – Attended Constantine Day in Birmingham, AL

Attended Red Cross Consistory No. 2A Annual Banquet

January – Attended S.K. Levan Smith last rites memorial service.

March – Attended Mississippi York Rite Meetings of Holy Royal Arch and Royal & Select Masters Attended Alabama Gala Day in Huntsville, AL

April – Attended a York Rite Workshop and York Rite Day in Anniston, AL; Attended a York Rite Day in Birmingham, AL

May – Attended S.K. Nathaniel Moton last rites ceremony

June – Performed the initiation into Alabama Commandery#459 for General Dennis L. Via, CSM James K. Sims, LTC Courtney L. Abraham, and Col. David Wilson

Attended a York Rite Workshop in Demopolis, AL

Attended the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Jurisdiction of U.S.A. PHA in Los Angeles, California

#### Recommendation

1. Article VI Duties of Elected Officers Section I of the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery Order of Knights Templar grants the Grand Commander the authority and power to grant a Charter for a special Commandery. The Grand Commander shall report his actions in full at the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action. I have started Alabama Commandery No. 459. Alabama Commandery No. 459 is a holding Commandery for Sir. Knights. Sir. Knights that join this commandery have a special situation to be in Alabama Commandery No. 459. Alabama Commandery No. 459 will be managed and overseen by the Grand Commander. All petitions will be handled through the Grand Commander. There will not be any annual taxes or charity tax paid in this commandery.

2. I propose the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery invest \$1,000.00 from the Annual Tax and Charity Tax into a Mutual Fund account. I propose we allow the money to stay for a period of five years. I propose we invest a minimum of \$500.00 a year throughout the next five years. I propose that we will revisit this investment after five years for a possible reinvestment to continue to let our money grow.

3. The Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery mailbox will be overseen by the Grand Trustees. The mailbox keys will be turned into the Grand Trustee at the beginning of every Grand Conclave. The Grand Trustee will possess the keys during the session. The Grand Trustees will issue the keys to the Right Eminent Grand Commander and the respective office designated by the Grand Commander. The Grand Trustee will obtain a signature from both the Right Eminent Grand Commander and the designated officer to issue them a key. The signatures will be archived with the Grand Recorder.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

In conclusion, I never thought I would have the opportunity to lead such a distinguished group of men. I encourage every Sir Knight to learn the administration positions of your commandery, read your ritual, and understand your constitution and by-laws. God Bless you, God Bless your family, and God Bless the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery.

Yours by the Sign of the Cross

Charles L. Motley Jr.

*Charles L. Motley Jr.*

S.K. Charles L. Motley Jr., Right Eminent Grand Commander, K.Y.C.H. - K.C.T.