

# Grand Commandery of the State of New York



## SIR KNIGHTS, LADIES, AND GUESTS GATHER IN ALBANY, NY TO ATTEND RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER SIR KNIGHT JOHN W. SCOTT AND LADY LYNN'S RECEPTION



A reception was held in Albany, NY on October 19, 2024 to celebrate Sir Knight John W. Scott, KCT, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York and Lady Lynn.

Sir Knights from throughout New York State, joined by Masonic dignitaries, ladies, and guests, gathered together at The Crown Plaza Albany - The Desmond Hotel to honor our new Grand Commander. Among the attendees were Sir Knight Marques Jones, Most Eminent Grand Commander, Most Eminent Prince Hall

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of New York, Most Excellent Steven R. Shearer, Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter State of New York Royal Arch Masons, Right Illustrious Richard Kerimoglu, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, along with Right Illustrious Carl J. Klossner, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Right Illustrious Ernest W. Parker, Grand Captain of the Guard, and Right Illustrious Gary Krom, Grand Conductor of the Council, and Illustrious David E. Barnes, 33°, Active Member for New York of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. They were joined by the entire Grand Commandery line.

After a festive Cocktail Hour, attendees gathered in the hotel's Ballroom for the program of the evening, emceed by Sir Knight Theodore C. Volkert, Grand Sentinel, who introduced the luminaries who passed through the large cadre of Knights Templar who formed an impressive Honor Guard.

Sir Knight Stenrick B. Adams, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York (2017-2018), and Associate Grand Prelate of Grand Commandery, delivered the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Sir Knight Morrie Safford, one of the Grand Musicians of Grand Commandery, then led all attendees in the signing of the first verse of the National Anthem of the USA on guitar and vocals.

Once everyone was seated, our Grand Commander welcomed all in attendance, emphasizing his Templar Theme, "*HOPE*." Several presentations followed, including an extra special surprise presentation to four Sir Knights from Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York. Sir Knight Marques Jones, Most Eminent Grand Commander, Most Eminent Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of New York, presented Sir Knight Scott, REGC and Sir Knight Kenneth P. Jordan, Grand Captain General, with impressive plaques indicating that they had been given, "Honorary Membership into the Most Eminent Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of New York and Jurisdictions with all rights and entitlements as such." Two other Sir Knights who were unable to be in attendance, Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York (2023-2024) and Sir Knight Stephen A. Licht, the Zone Commander of Zone 9, also received this special recognition.

The tables were beautifully decorated with floral arrangements of hardy mums, symbolizing the harvest season. Sir Knight Scott recognized Lady Lynn and thanked her for the continued love and support she has given him in their many years of marriage. Each attendee received gifts from the Grand Commander and Lady Lynn.

Dancing began as soon as the DJ played the first song, bringing everyone together in mutual admiration and respect for the new leader of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York.

Inspiring and passionate remarks from Sir Knight Scott, REGC, were followed by coffee, tea, and dessert.

Sir Knight Adams delivered the Benediction. A well-stocked Hospitality room was then the site of lively conversation and music late into the evening.

***Submitted by Sir Knight Grant S. Held  
Grand Standard Bearer***

*Credited photographs by SK Tom Loughlin, Jr.*



**Sir Knight Kenneth P. Jordan, Grand Captain General, was greatly honored to receive Honorary Membership into the Most Eminent Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of New York and Jurisdictions from Sir Knight Marques Jones, Most Eminent Grand Commander, Most Eminent Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of New York**



**Sir Knight Grant S. Held, Grand Standard Bearer, was delighted to spend time with Sir Knight Marques Jones, Most Eminent Grand Commander, Most Eminent Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of New York**



**Lady Lynn Scott (left) and Lady Beth Volkert (right) on the dance floor with the DJ.**



**The new Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York, discussing Templary and his vision for the future**



**Sir Knight Grant S. Held, Grand Standard Bearer, enjoying conversation with Sir Knight Benedetto "Benny" Vitullo, M.D., Grand Warder, prominent Rochester-area physician, and his wife, Lady Geri.**



**The evening ended in the Hospitality Suite, where Sir Knight Morrie Safford played an impromptu set late into the evening. Sir Knight Held's requests included Townes Van Zandt's 'Pancho and Lefty', acoustic versions of The Replacements 'Can't Hardly Wait', Magnolia Electric Company's 'Dark Don't Hide**

***It", Son Volt's 'Windfall', and Wilco's "Via Chicago." He then joined on mandolin for the songs 'Ho Hey' by The Lumineers and 'The Lighthouse Tale' by Nickel Creek. They are currently collaborating on writing an original song called 'American Honey', which will be previewed in a future Hospitality Suite.***



Photo by SK Tom Loughlin Jr.

***Sir Knight Michael Sikos, Grand Sword Bearer, and his lovely fiancé Raisa Montanez, enjoying the music***



Sir Knight John W. Scott, KCT, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York and Lady Dr. Lynn Scott, DNP-FNP-BC, Clinical Assistant Professor specializing in Cardiac health, Underserved populations, and Digital technology at The University of Buffalo School of Nursing