

# GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF INDIANA



Jim Fairchild, MEGHP

## 2022-2023 Indiana Grand Chapter Officers

James H. Fairchild	Grand High Priest
Dennis Schraeder	Grand King
Matthew Lowe	Grand Scribe
W. Kris Phillips	Grand Secretary
Marty Evens	Grand Treasurer
Joseph H. Villarreal	Grand Caption of Host
Jason Miller	Grand Principal Sojourner
Tim Brinkmeyer	Grand Royal Arch Captain
Chris Gamblin	Grand Master 3rd Veil
Graid Huber	Grand Master 2nd Veil
David Leach	Grand Master 1st Veil
Brian Hooten	Grand Chaplain
Mike Doxee	Grand Lecturer
Dale Foreman	Grand Guard

[Grand Chapter website link](#)

# Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Indiana



David Miller, MIGM

## 2022-2023 Indiana Grand Council Officers

David Miller	Grand Master
James Catania	Deputy Grand Master
James Davis	Grand Principle Conductor of Work
John C. Gray	Grand Treasurer
David R. Ulrich	Grand Recorder
Charles D. Wood, Jr.	Assistant Grand Recorder
Todd Carpenter	Grand Captain of the Guard
W. Keith Stiner	Grand Conductor of the Council
Frank Capler	Grand Steward
Bruce Bush	Grand Chaplain
Chuck Combi	Grand Sentinel
Charles Bowling	Grand Lecturer
Christopher Gamblin	Grand Organist

[Grand Council website link](#)

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana



Phil Whisner, REGC

## 2022-2023 Indiana Grand Commandery Officers

Phillip D. Whisner	Grand Commander
Randal P. Ellington	Deputy Grand Commander
Randy J. Darling	Grand Generalissimo
Joseph L. Sparks	Grand Captain General
Archie Smallwood	Grand Prelate
Robert Frazer	Grand Treasurer
Edward E. Fodrea	Grand Recorder
Dominic Hamblin	Grand Senior Warden
Jonathan M McCracken	Grand Junior Warden
Dathan Reed	Grand Standard Bearer
Scott Sacek	Grand Sword Bearer
Douglas Patmore	Grand Warder
Mark Elder	Grand Sentinel

[Grand Commandery website link](#)

# York Rite Newsletter

## August 2022

To be removed from this mailing list, send a reply with "Remove" in the subject line.

*Leadership is not a position or a title, it is action and example.*

### Upcoming Events

Don't forget to make your Reservations

- August 1**—Commandery Reception at Prather #62. 6:30p Dinner, 7p Reception. Contact [Bryan Lewis](#).
- August 5 & 6**—Grand Council OKI at Hampton Inn in Wilder, KY. Contact [Thomas Bustle](#)
- August 10**—Commandery Reception at Vincennes Commandery #20. 6p dinner, 7p Reception. Contact [Cecil Scott](#).
- August 13**—Grand Chapter Instructional, District E and Statewide at Greencastle #22. **Postponed**
- August 15**—Commandery Inspection at EH Gary Commandery #57. 7p. Contact [Brush Bush](#).
- August 18**—Mark Master and Past Master Degree at Greenfield Chapter #96. 6p dinner, 7p Degree. Contact [Larry Gray](#)
- August 25**—Most Excellent Master Degree at Greenfield Chapter #96. 6p dinner, 7p Degree. Contact [Larry Gray](#).
- August 27**—Grand Commandery Picnic at Ft. Harrison State Park. 11a. Contact [Phil Whisner](#).
- September 2**—Order of the Red Cross at Crawfordsville Commandery #25. 6p Dinner, 7p meeting. Contact [Joe Sparks](#).
- September 6**—Commandery Inspection at Grand County #21. 6p dinner, 7 p meeting. Contact [George Ingles](#).
- September 8**—Royal Arch Degree at Greenfield Chapter #96. 6p dinner, 7p Degree. Contact [Larry Gray](#).
- September 8**—Commandery Inspection at Bray Commandery #65. 6p dinner, 7p reception. Contact [Sean Jones](#).
- September 10**—Lavant Preceptory Order of the Temple at Birdsell Castle. 6p Degree. Contact [Phil Whisner](#).
- September 11**—74th Annual Indiana Masonic Home Festival at Compass Park. 11a Opening, 3p Parade.
- September 17**—Reception for the Grand Commander hosted by Greenfield Commandery #39. 9a. Contact [Larry Gray](#).
- September 19**—Commandery Inspection at Vincennes #20. 6p dinner, 7p Inspection. Contact [Cecil Scott](#).
- September 20**—Commandery Inspection at Evansville. 6p dinner, 7p Inspection. Contact [Keith Spurgeon](#).
- September 20**—Order of the Temple at Grant County #21. 6p dinner, 7p Degree. Contact [George Ingles](#).

*A special thank you to Carson Smith for providing up to date information for the upcoming events.*



Sir Knight and Companion Terry L. Bisping  
Lady Barbara Black, wife of Harold D. Black  
Sir Knight and Companion James L. Bolinger  
Sir Knight and Companion Charles R. Bowling  
Lady Bonnie Dove, wife of James L. Dove  
Sir Knight and Companion Michael M. Dutton  
Sir Knight and Companion Robert S. Flint  
Lady Barbara Forney, wife of Lloyd R. Forney  
Sir Knight and Companion Lloyd R. Forney

Sir Knight and Companion John R. Freeland  
Sir Knight and Companion Ronald F. Garrison  
Lady Vickie Gundrum, wife of David L. Gundrum  
Sir Knight and Companion John W. Helfrich  
Sir Knight and Companion Graig A. Huber  
Sir Knight and Companion George A. Ingles, Jr.  
Sir Knight and Companion Brant Moore  
Sir Knight and Companion James W. Prairie  
Lady Linda Sue Ravellette, wife of Lawrence Wayne Ravellette  
Sir Knight and Companion Michael D. Ritter  
Lady Marcy Lasko, lady of Vance A. Roberts  
Sir Knight and Companion Gary A. Sherritze  
Lady Sharon Short, lady of William A. Short  
Sir Knight and Companion Archie R. Smallwood  
Lady Debra Sue Spencer, wife of Kevin M. Spencer  
Sir Knight and Companion David E. Strader, Sr.  
Lady Kathy Stroud, wife of Phillip W. Stroud  
Lady Georgia Vaught, wife of Duane L. Vaught  
Lady Rita Ward, wife of Kenneth W. Ward



## PGC Ronald Tungett

BENTON HARBOR, Mich. — Sir Knight Ronald "Ron" Tungett, 82, Benton Harbor, died July 19, 2022 at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville. Tungett served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, Knights Templar, 1982-83.



Ron was born Dec. 4, 1939, in Kansas City, Mo., to Leslie and Ruth (Whittaker) Tungett. He graduated from Northeast High School in Kansas City. Ron served his country in the U.S. Navy from Aug. 21, 1961 to Aug. 20, 1967.

On Feb. 23, 1963, he married Patricia Slough in San Diego.

Ron worked as an I.T. manager for multiple businesses in Indiana and Michigan. Ron earned his Eagle Scout rank as a young man and served many years as a Scout Master in Indiana and Michigan. He also was an active member of Stevensville United Methodist Church.

Tungett held many offices in the various branches of the Masonic Fraternity in both Indiana and Illinois, and had been coroneted a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Ron is survived by his wife, Patricia Tungett; daughter, Diane (Michael) Chupp; son, Timothy (Robbin) Tungett; grandchildren: Nathan Chupp, Cory (Olivia) Chupp and Julian Tungett; and a brother, Frank Tungett.

Ron was preceded by his parents; and siblings: Sharon Loomis and Leslie Tungett Jr.

His body was cremated. Arrangements were made through Starks & Menchinger Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 271118, Flower Mound, TX 75027-1118; or the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.



Steve & Sherry Barton  
Jim & Debbie Bolinger  
Clint & Brittany Cottrell  
Larry & Vickie Deutscher  
Paul & Inger Friend  
Douglas & Sue Green  
George & Karen Ingles  
Keith & Linda Lender

Wilford & Jennie Lutes  
John & Kathy McClelland  
Jerald & Cindy Miller  
Jeff & Virginia Prairie  
Dirk & Valerie Rader  
Mike & Patty Robbins  
Norman & Gloria Smith  
Phillip & Kathy Stroud

## Robert E Hancock Jr. Masonic Center



Members of Prather Commandery No 62, under the direction of Sir Knight Carson C. Smith, form the lines for the Reception of Distinguished Guests from the Grand Lodge of Indiana, at the naming ceremony for the Robert Emerson Hancock Jr. Masonic Center.



The building was named in honor of

Bob Hancock, Past Master of Calvin W. Prather Lodge No. 717, Past Command-in-Chief of the Indiana Consistory, Past Potentate of Murat Shrine, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

This two-story building, located at 7502 East 56th Street in Lawrence, is home to Calvin W. Prather Lodge No. 717, the Prather York Rite Bodies, Order of Eastern Star Lawrence Chapter No. 384, and Job's Daughters Lawrence Bethel No. 108.

Carson Smith



## A Moment of Prayer

Our heavenly father, the Grand Architect of the Universe, We ask your blessings for all companions of the Indiana Royal Arch Masons. May your love and guidance direct all of us to invoke the principles of Masonry of brotherly love and affection. Let all of us work in harmony for the betterment of mankind. Please be with the families of all of the recent major tragedies in this country. May you direct our craft to assist our fellow citizens with any type of assistance possible so we can practice the most important principle of our craft. Please bless all first responders, medical professionals and armed forces personnel who risk their

lives each day, so we can remain the most free and safest country in the world. We also ask that you also be with all of the families of our companions who have joined you and took their place in the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen

Brian Hooten, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter







## 2022 Prather Gravesite Pilgrimage

The members of Calvin W. Prather and Prather York Rite Bodies, make an annual pilgrimage to the gravesite of Calvin W. Prather at Walnut Hill Cemetery, just outside of Jeffersonville, IN. The pilgrimage coincides with the Annual Crypt Rededication of the Grand Council hosted by New Albany York Rite Bodies.

Carson Smith



## LaPorte Chapter #15



Members of LaPorte Chapter #15 had a great evening on July 21. They held a Royal Arch Degree with Jim Fairchild, GHP in attendance.

Jim Dove Facebook



## Jeffersonville OES



On July 9, Sberry, Worthy Matron, and Robert, Worthy Patron, along with their 2022-2023 Officer were installed. Congratulations!

Jeffersonville Chapter #327 OES

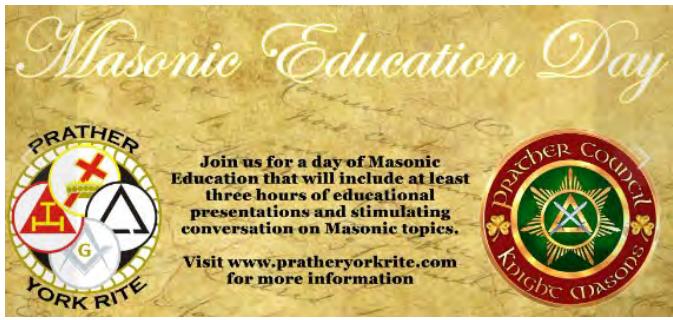
Facebook



## Call for Presentations

Prather York Rite is excited to host their second Masonic Education Day on Saturday, August 27th and are doing a "Call for Presentations" for any Master Mason who would like to submit a Paper/Presentation to be included in the program. For more information, visit their [website](http://www.pratheryorkrite.com).

Prather York Rite Facebook





Come Support this Great Event!

**SCOTCH & CIGAR**  
— MASONIC BENEFIT —

Sunday, September 18th • 11:30am to 4:00pm

LIMIT 60 TICKETS AVAILABLE  
**\$60.00 per person**  
 Includes Two Cigars and One Glass of Scotch

Hosted by The Golden Leaf Cigars.  
 All proceeds will be donated to Porter Lodge's 2026 Grand Masters Fund.

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT**  
<https://bit.ly/39cmKKH>

## Grand Bethel

The Grand Bethel line of Indiana Job’s Daughters attend-  
ed the Rainbow Grand Assembly opening on July 7.

Indiana Job’s Daughters Facebook



## 60 years!



On July 9, Brother How-  
ard Vann received his 60-  
year certificate and pin.  
Congratulations!

Centerville Masonic Lodge  
#1291 Facebook

## 4th of July Parade

The Sahara Grotto participated in the 2022 Lawrence  
July 4th Parade.

Sahara Grotto Facebook



Pictures from the Lawrence Town Facebook page

## 4th of July Parade



Members of Cal-  
vin W. Prather  
Lodge #717  
joined the parade  
in Lawrence.

Calvin W. Prather Lodge #717 F.&A.M. Facebook



Pictures from the Lawrence Town Facebook page





## Hope #150 F&AM

August 27,2022

Wyaloosing Golf Course

6869 N IN 3, Greensburg, In 47240

Registration 8:00 to 8:50

Start / 9:00

\$45 @ Player \$180 Team

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Event Sponsor	\$150	Hole Sponsor	\$50
Tee Sponsor	\$50	Lunch Sponsor	\$150
Beverage Sponson	\$100	Closest to Pin	\$50
Long Drive Sponsor	\$50		

### Additional Information or to pre-register

Ohmer Miller 812-371-7786

Dave Pate 317-696-3688

Larry Wheeler 812-343-1879

Player Registration

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

## Commandery Reception

Crawfordsville Commandery #25 and Greencastle Commandery #11 held their Reception on July 20. Congratulations to SK Terry Bisping and SK Kenneth Custer for receiving their Distinguished Service Award!

*Peterson's Pics and Stuff Facebook*



## 4th of July Parade

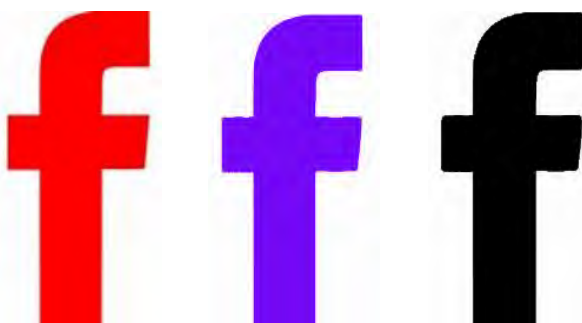


Masons and family members from Rising Sun Lodge #6 participated in the 4th of July Parade in Milan, IN.

*Rising Sun Lodge 6 Free and Accepted Masons*



## Facebook Links



## Share with Us

Does your Lodge, Star, Chapter, Council or Commandery, etc. have an upcoming event that we can put on the calendar? Are having a fish fry or chili cookoff that you'd like to advertise? Did you just have a degree and you took pictures? Did someone in your lodge just get an Award of Gold? Let us celebrate with you! Send your pictures, upcoming events, flyers, birthdays, etc. to [Monica](#).







# MASONIC AUTO SHOW



**Saturday October 8th**  
**9am-3pm**

Rain Date: October 22nd

**20+ AWARDS**

**Separate Car/Truck and  
Motorcycle Categories**

**Judging begins at 12pm  
Awards announced at 2:30pm**

**FUN FOR ALL**  
**Music, Food, Games,  
Door Prizes, and More!**

**VENDOR SPACES**  
**\$20 for 10'x10' Lot**  
**\$10 for Masonic Owned Businesses**

**\$15 PRE - REGISTRATION**

**Pre-Register to receive a free dash plaque and goodie bag.  
Registration Fee increases to \$20 after September 24th.**

**REGISTER ONLINE: [www.CalvinWPrather.com](http://www.CalvinWPrather.com)**



## SAHARA GROTTO - 2022 CAVE DEGREE FIELD TRIP

The Sahara Grotto has contacted Union Masonic Lodge # 38 located at 550 W Spring Street, Kingston, TN 37763 regarding their Cave Degree's this coming August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to visit another lodge out of state and see how other jurisdictions perform their degree's. An itinerary of events is as follows:

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00am - Registration will begin and continue through out the day in the dining area of the Lodge & continue Saturday morning until noon. When you register, you will be issued a "King Solomon's Passport" which will allow you access to the Fellow Craft Degree starting at 7:00pm. Friday night in the Lodge, and to the master's degree in the cave on Saturday starting at 1:00pm. To avoid delays at degree time, the Passport is recommended. Please have a current dues card or someone who can vouch for you.
- 4:30pm - 7:00pm - Dinner served in Lodge dining room
- 7:00pm - A New Jersey Fellow Craft degree will be conferred by a team from the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Masonic District in the upstairs Lodge room.

Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00am - 11:00am - Breakfast will be served in Lodge dining room. Registration continues 8:00am - 12:00pm in the dining area.
- 9:00am - Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Burlington Forest # 207 will hold a meeting and doing an installation if there are any petitions.
  - A Yellow Dog degree will be conferred during the morning breaks. Details TBD.
- 1:00pm - A Delaware Master Mason degree will be conferred in Ebelen Cave at 1501-599 Ebelen Cave Road, Lemor City, TN 37772.
  - Please note it is cool, average 55 degrees and damp, in the cave. Light weight jackets & hats (permitted) are recommended.
- 5:00pm - Dinner in Lodge dining room

Spouses / significant others are welcome & encouraged to attend. Meals are open to the family and Union Lodge # 38 has planned activities for the ladies Saturday during the degree's if they would like to participate in those.

Union Lodge has contacted the Holiday Inn Express located at 1885 S Roane, Street, Harriman, TN 37748. They are giving individuals attending a room rate of \$90.00 per night if booked before August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mention CAVE DEGREE to get the discounted rate. You can reserve one of the twenty five King rooms by calling the hotel at 865-295-0001. Please note transportation is not being provided by the Sahara Grotto and Master Mason will need to make their own travel arrangements to arrive.

Please RSVP on the Sahara Grotto website at saharagrotto.com so we can notify Union Lodge # 38 an accurate head count for attendance. Please email me if you have any additional questions at [Stephen.roberts2013@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.roberts2013@gmail.com).

## Speedway DeMolay

Speedway DeMolay went to Cincinnati to provide the Honor Guard and Sword Escort for James Drake, Grand Monarch for Grottoes of North America as he presided over the 132 Annual Supreme Council Session.



*Speedway DeMolay  
Facebook*



**Monrovia Masonic Lodge  
#654 Craft Club &  
Monrovia Festival**  
**SEPTEMBER 10TH**  
**32nd Annual**  
**2022**  
**CAR/TRUCK/RATROD  
& BIKE SHOW**  
**185 W. WASHINGTON ST., MONROVIA, IN.**  
**Registration 9am-12pm**  
**Awards 3pm**  
**\$17.00 Pre-registration**  
**\$20.00 Day of show**  
**Door Prizes!**  
**50/50**  
**DRAWING**  
**Dash Plaques & Goodie Bags for First 125 Registrations**  
**CALL FOR DETAILS**  
**317-291-0851**  
**RAIN DATE: SEPTEMBER 11TH**

## Website Links

Click on the picture





YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR

An Evening in

# PARIS

ISH SODI FUNDRAISING GALA

Join us for a special evening in your formal attire, Tuxedo or Dark Suit, and Evening Wear for the Ladies!

at The Sahara Grotto

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2022

SOCIAL AT 5:30PM, DINNER AT 6:30PM

7620 MADISON AVE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227

RSVP To: Ish Sodi Council #1855 U.D.  
James Catania • 317-679-5557 • 531 Glastonberry Lane, Mooresville, IN 46158  
Make Checks Payable to: Ish Sodi Council #1855 U.D.

HORS D'OEUVRES FOLLOWED BY  
DELICIOUS CHICKEN AND BEEF BUFFET

☐ \$40.00 Single ☐ \$70.00 Couple

\*Please be prepared to participate in the silent auction that will be hosted during this event, remembering that all proceeds will go to benefit the C.M.M.R.F.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR R.S.V.P. BY SEPTEMBER 15TH VIA EMAIL, MAIL OR TEXT

## Rededication Weekend

On July 16, Grand Council held their annual Rededication Ceremony at the Crypt at New Albany #1. The Commandery Formed the Lines. The Rededication was followed by Masonic Education in the Hospitality Room, then a lunch time cruise on the Ohio River.

*Peterson's Pics and Stuff Facebook*



## Who were the Knight Templars?

Hot—Hot—Hot

Sir Knights, as we go into the month of August, we have some left-over business and that is the weather. It is Hot—Hot—Hot now and was also in July. We should recall that not only our predecessors, those valiant Knights Templar of old, with full uniform and sword kept to their vows even in the hot weather, as you may recall our Savior and Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ, walked many, many miles over those roads which were hot. We complain of the hot weather and rightfully so because it is hot even today, however, let us take refuge in the thought that we are not alone. Those who had gone before us walked and suffered the hot weather as well as held to their vows of helping others even when it meant some discomfort to ourselves. You have seen in the last couple of months the energy that our Grand Commandery here



in Indiana has had by traveling to various parts of the state to many Commanderies to support them with their presents and assist them whenever needed. Let us all take a lesson from those who serve Knights Templar in each of the Commanderies around the state or in the Grand line as they let their light shine for Knights Templary.

A book I like to refer to, you may know or not, called *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young, say it well and I would like to share it with you for thought: “WAIT WITH ME FOR A WHILE. I have much to tell you. You are walking along the path I have chosen for you. It is both a privileged and perilous way: Experiencing My glorious Presence and heralding that reality to others. Sometimes you feel presumptuous to be carrying out such an assignment. Do not worry about what other people think of you. The work I am doing in you is hidden at first. But eventually, blossoms will burst forth, and abundant fruit will be borne. Stay on the path of Life with Me. Trust Me wholeheartedly, letting My Spirit fill you with Joy and Peace.”

O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.—Kings 8:23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.—Galatians 5:22-23

*SK Archie R. Smallwood, Grand Prelate*





## A Templar Wedding and Preserving Masonic Facilities

*That headline sounds quite similar to the title of Stephen King's short story, Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption, which became the basis for the award-winning movie, Shawshank Redemption. While this column has to do with Masonic facilities in Indiana rather than with a penitentiary in Maine, we all romantically hope that a marriage is a life sentence.*

In the March, 2019, edition of what was then the Indiana Supplement to the *Knight Templar Magazine*, I wrote of the Knight Templar wedding of Sir Knight Joseph and Lady Tracy Sparks. Sparks is currently Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana. Grand Commander Phil Whisner gave Sparks responsibility for this month's Grand Officer column. Thus, Sparks and I had several conversations about what he could do. Knowing about his Knight Templar wedding, I suggested that topic, because it was one he knew well, and I had never heard of another. But although that 2019 story contained a lot of "what," there was little "why." And I love "why." In the meantime, I had seen short mentions of Crawfordsville's Masonic Cornerstone in the *Indiana Freemason*, but really didn't know much of that story.

You probably know about the name change of the Indiana Masonic Home to Compass Park, but you probably haven't heard about The Masonic Cornerstone in Crawfordsville. Each change is an attempt to preserve Masonic facilities in a changing world. By expanding the number of people in the market for the services each provides by offering them to the general public beyond the members of Freemasonry, those in charge hope to spread the cost of operation and improvement across many more people.

Joe Sparks, a union pipefitter, lives south of Crawfordsville, but works 12 hours a day maintaining the Evonik chemicals plant in Lafayette. But despite those hours, if he falls in love with something, he becomes totally involved. Thus, it should be no surprise that he, 1, married Lady Tracy, 2, in a Knight Templar service, in 3, a Masonic Temple.

"It all begins with Masonry" Sparks said. "After I became a Master Mason in 2009, in Montgomery Lodge No. 50. I wanted to join the officer line, and I served as Worshipful Master in 2012, and again in 2013. I was seeking more light and sought a petition to join York Rite. I started my York Rite journey in 2015 but, due to work, was not able to be knighted until 2016, in Crawfordsville Commandery No. 25."

Sparks became Eminent Commander in 2019. He soon became a Deputy Battalion Commander, then was appointed Grand Warder and has progressed up the line.

In the meantime, it had been decided the way to provide for funding for preservation and improvement of the Crawfordsville Masonic Temple was to invite members of the public to use its facilities as an events venue, create a foundation to accept ownership with a 16-member board, only four of which are Masons, and then obtain a 501(C)3 organizational status from the Internal Revenue Service. The latter makes it eligible to apply for grants and other types of outside funding. Given that new status and a prominent location on a downtown Crawfordsville corner, the structure is now known as the Crawfordsville Masonic Cornerstone.

"It's still a Masonic Temple, but the Masonic organizations pay rent to the foundation to use the Temple," Sparks said. "Our ultimate goal is to restore and upgrade the building."

Back in 2019, SK Joe and Lady Tracy were planning their wedding and needed a venue. But, as always, price was a consideration.

"The Crawfordsville Temple is a beautiful temple, and, at that time members could use it for free, but only once, and that would save us money," Sparks said. "My wife has always been very supportive of my Masonic endeavor and understands the importance of the fraternity to me. Plus it helped promote the Temple by using it as our wedding venue."

SK Steven Kromann, who was then Grand Photographer, gave the couple the idea of a Templar wedding.

"We liked the uniqueness," Sparks said. "It was new, but it also was something involving the fraternity."

It took place in the temple's ballroom/dining room, and about 70 people attended. Dozens of Sir Knights appeared in full uniform, including SK Terry Kehrer, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, and SK Duane Vaught, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America.

SK Randal Ellington, a Grand Prelate Emeritus and currently the Deputy Grand Commander of Indiana, officiated.

The Knights formed double lines from the hallway into the room, with Lady Tracy waiting in that hallway while Ellington made Sparks kneel and take an extra vow upon himself,

"One of the things my wife really enjoyed was that Randy had me kneel and take an oath to 'signify that you are worthy of taking Lady Tracy's hand.'" Sparks said.



Lady Tracy was then passed under an arch of steel, escorted through the lines by GM Vaught and followed by GC Kehrer.

Lady Tracy's sons, then age 25 and 21, met her at the head of the lines and escorted her to the altar, giving the bride away, Sparks said.

And thus, SK Joseph and Lady Tracy became husband and wife, in a Temple ballroom surrounded by many Sir Knights in uniform, a venue in which many more couples – Masonic or not – may join together in the future, in a building hopefully financially preserved indefinitely by the changes made, of which I learned when I asked SK Joe Sparks to tell me about his wedding.

SK Edward L Sebring, KCT, KTCH, GEP, Editor

