

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



To all Knights Templar in Virginia

It is with solemn regret, yet with abiding faith in the promises of Almighty God, that we announce that Right Eminent Sir Knight Jay L. Cotner, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia (2004–2005), has laid down his sword and passed from labor to refreshment in that eternal Asylum not made with hands.

Born on October 26, 1939, in Mississippi County, Missouri, Sir Knight Cotner lived a life marked by duty, discipline, and devotion. He answered the call of his country in 1957, serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for twenty years before retiring in 1977. That same spirit of steadfast service would define his labors in Freemasonry and Templary.

Raised a Master Mason in 1989 in Cabell Lodge No. 328, he quickly distinguished himself as a leader and teacher of the Craft, serving multiple terms as Worshipful Master and later as District Instructor of Work for many years. His journey through the York Rite was no less exemplary—exalted in 1990, knighted in 1991, and serving as Eminent Commander of Charlottesville Commandery No. 3. His election as Grand Commander in 2004 was the natural culmination of years of faithful service, wise counsel, and unwavering commitment to the Orders of Knighthood.

Beyond titles and honors, those who knew him will remember a man of quiet strength, steady guidance, and enduring faith—a Brother and Sir Knight who gave freely of his time, his knowledge, and his heart.

As we mourn his passing, we are reminded that the labors of a faithful Templar do not end, but are taken up in a higher calling. His example remains with us, a living charge to continue the work he so nobly advanced.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who were privileged to call him Brother and Companion in the Christian Orders of Knighthood.

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

It is ordered that the charters in our Subordinate Commanderies be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that this order be read in the east of the Asylum, spread upon the minutes, and a cross of faith performed by the Knights present.



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Michael T. Huff  
Grand Commander

Attest: David R. Conner

David R. Conner  
Grand Recorder

