

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

M. W. Martin J. Reinschmidt
Grand Master, 2018-2019
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EDICT 2018-02

WHEREAS, The M: E: Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, has refused to honor the actions of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F. & A. M. in the expulsion of one of its members, and

WHEREAS, The M: E: Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, has not only allowed this expelled mason to retain his membership in the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and has also allowed this expelled mason to retain his office as Department Commander of the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and publicly recognized him as such at the opening of the 67th Triennial Conclave on Monday August 20, 2018, and

WHEREAS, these actions not only violate the obligation of Master Masons, but their own Constitution (Section 202).

"Section 202. *When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled from his Lodge or Chapter or Council where required, for any reason, he shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may be, from his Commandery.* (1988 Pages 208-209)

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph of this section, if a Knight Templar believes he has been involuntarily suspended or expelled from **Chapter, or Council where required**, either illegally or because of personal, arbitrary, capricious or other improper motive by the Chapter or Council he may appeal to the Grand Master and suspension from Templary shall be held in abeyance for a period of not more than 30 days to allow investigation. If within that period the Grand Master and any two other elected officers of the Grand

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Encampment agree, the requirement of continuous Chapter, or Council if otherwise required, membership may be waived for that member. (2012)”
(Phrases highlighted for emphasis), and


Whereas, these acts have been determined by me to be a complete disregard by the M: E: Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, of the authority of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana in determining the status of its members not only in lodge, but in the appendant bodies that operate in the state of Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE, I issue the following Edict on the 20th Day of August 2018:


The Grand Lodge of Louisiana, F. & A. M. has withdrawn its recognition of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. And as such, no member who holds a membership in a Constituent Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F. & A. M. shall sit in any conclaves, meetings or assemblies which are held under the auspices of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the Grand Commandery of Louisiana, Knights Templar, or the commanderies under its jurisdiction from continuing to operate. However, the Grand Commandery of Louisiana shall owe no allegiance to the Grand Encampment and its affiliation with the Grand Encampment is hereby terminated.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE GRAND LODGE OF LOUISIANA F. & A.M.



Martin J Reinschmidt
Grand Master



Woody D Bilyeu
Grand Secretary

