Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

United States of America & its Jurisdictions
Prince Hall Affiliation, Incorporated

Sir Fredrick Joyner (DC), GCT, KYGCH
39th Most Eminent Grand Master
megm@gektpha.org

Christmas Day Observance
December 25, 2026

Sir Joaquin M. Diaz. (HI)
R.E. Deputy Grand Master
redgm@gektpha.org

Sir Eddie V. Tucker (MD)
R.E. Grand Generalissimo
regg@gektpha.org

Sir Mark C. Maxwell (KY)
R.E. Grand Captain General
regcg@gektpha.org

Sir Kenneth A. Ferguson (FL)
R.E. Grand Treasurer
regt@gektpha.org

Sir Otho Z. Wilbur, Sr (TX)
R.E. Grand Recorder
regr@gektpha.org

Sir Frank Fields (OK)
R.E. Grand Prelate
regr@gektpha.org

Sir Steven S. Legette (VA)
R.E. Grand Senior Warden
regsw@gektpha.org

Sir Richard Bourne (NY)
R.E. Grand Junior Warden
regjw@gektpha.org

Sir Amondus Brown (OK)
R.E. Grand Trustee - 3 year
regtrustee03@gektpha.org

Sir James Reed (NC)
R.E. Grand Trustee - 2 year
regtrustee02@gektpha.org

Sir Marques Jones (NY)
R.E. Grand Trustee - 1 year
regtrustee01@gektpha.org

Sir Dale E. Weaver (MD)
R.E. Grand CCFC
regccfc@gektpha.org

Sir Knights,

I am honored to have the opportunity to present Most Eminent Past Grand Master Russell E. Duckett as our Christmas Day Toastee for 2026.

MEPGM Duckett has a rich spiritual, civic, and Masonic background and is no stranger to hard work. He has worked diligently in his efforts to lead and support the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, other National York Rite Bodies, and the community in which he resides.

His dedication, leadership, and commitment to service make him a most deserving selection for this special recognition.

Sir Knights please join me in a celebratory toast as we honor our 2026 Christmas Day Toastee, Most Eminent Past Grand Master Russell E. Duckett, hailing from the Jurisdiction of New York.

Most Eminent Past Grand Master Russell E. Duckett

Biography

Russell Edmund Duckett is the eldest son of the late Russell Theodore Duckett and the late Mary Catherine Simms-Duckett. He was born on January 4, 1963, at Prince George's Hospital in Cheverly, Maryland. He is the brother of Cynthia Elizabeth Duckett, Cassandra Eloise Duckett, Howard Oscar Duckett, Walton Bernard Duckett, Arthur Carnell Duckett, Sr., Vincent Theodore Duckett, and the late Lanore Paulette Duckett. He is the father of four daughters, ShaRonda, Amber, Hailey, and Kailey.

He was educated in the Prince George's County Public School System, attending Henry G. Ferguson Elementary School, Eugene Burroughs Middle School in Accokeek, Maryland, and Gwynn Park Senior High School in Brandywine, Maryland. He also attended Central Texas College and Jefferson Community College.

Russell met Dawn Felice Estep in June 1989, and they were married on December 11, 1989, in La Plata, Maryland. In 1992, he adopted Dawn's two sisters, Brandi J. Estep and Kandi Shea Estep.

Russell entered the United States Army on September 15, 1981, completing Basic Training at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama. During his military career, he served at numerous locations throughout the United States and overseas, including assignments in Korea,

Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, and several military installations in the United States. He retired from the United States Army at Fort Drum, New York, in October 2001.

Following his military retirement, he worked for Laidlaw Transportation, Freeman Bus Corporation, and First Student from 2002 to 2019. He also served with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision from 2004 until his retirement in 2022. He now enjoys traveling.

Masonic Affiliation

Russell's Masonic journey began in October 1991 with Plumbline Lodge No. 67 in Pusan, Korea, under the Jurisdiction of Oklahoma. He later became affiliated with Sylvester McClellan Military Lodge No. 148 in Budingen, Germany, where he served from June 1995 until May 1997 and was Treasurer in 1996.

In May 1997, he became affiliated with Paul J. Cooper Military Lodge No. 120 in Fort Drum, New York, under the Jurisdiction of New York, where he remains an active member. His service to the Lodge has included Treasurer in 1998, Junior Warden in 1999, and Worshipful Master in 2000, 2005, 2006, 2010, and 2011. He served as Secretary from 2001 through 2007 and has served again from 2009 to the present.

His service to the Grand Lodge has included:

- District Deputy Grand Lecturer, 2001–2003
- District Deputy Grand Marshal, 2004–2013
- District Deputy Grand Master, 2013–2025
- District Deputy Grand Marshal Emeritus, 2014
- District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus, 2015

Holy Royal Arch Masonry

Russell was affiliated with James L. Thomas Holy Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 24 in Fliegerhorst, Germany, under the Jurisdiction of Oklahoma, from December 2005 until May 2007. He later became affiliated with Jacob's Ladder Holy Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 40 in Fort Drum, New York, where he has served from May 2007 to the present.

His Capitular service has included Excellent High Priest, Secretary, District Deputy Grand High Priest, and Most Excellent Grand High Priest. He currently serves as the General Conference Grand Scribe.

Royal and Select Masters

Russell was affiliated with Higher Learning Royal and Select Masters Council No. 7 in Fliegerhorst, Germany, under the Jurisdiction of Oklahoma, from December 1995 until 1998.

He is a Charter Member of Julius H. Snoddy Royal and Select Masters Council No. 24 in Fort Drum, New York, where he has served from 1998 to the present. His offices have included:

- Principal Conductor of the Works, 1999
- Deputy Thrice Illustrious Master, 2000
- Thrice Illustrious Master, 2001
- Grand Recorder, 2008–2010
- Thrice Illustrious Grand Master, 2019–2020

Knights Templar

Russell's Chivalric service began with Roger O. Alford Commandery No. 8 in Fliegerhorst, Germany, under the Oklahoma Jurisdiction, where he served from March 1996 until October 1998.

He is a Charter Member of King David Commandery No. 22 in Fort Drum, New York, where he served as Generalissimo in 1999 and Eminent Commander in 2000 and 2010. He later served as Most Eminent Grand Commander from 2010 to 2011.

His service reached the national level when he was elected and served as the 36th Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, Prince Hall Affiliation, from 2021 to 2023.

Scottish Rite

Russell became affiliated with Utica Consistory No. 45 in Syracuse, New York, in September 1997. He served as Commander-in-Chief in 2003 and was crowned a 33rd Degree Grand Inspector General in Chicago, Illinois, on May 26, 2005. In May 2014, he was elevated to Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine

Russell is also a member of Aleppo Temple No. 88, AEAONMS, Inc., in Syracuse, New York. His service has included:

- Illustrious Potentate, 2001
- Recorder, 2003–2014 and 2016–2026
- Deputy of the Oasis, 2010–2022

Throughout his Masonic journey, Russell Edmund Duckett has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to leadership and service. His Masonic journey across the Symbolic, Capitular, Cryptic, Chivalric, Scottish Rite, and Shrine bodies in numerous leadership positions at the local, jurisdictional, and national levels reflects decades of dedication to the principles of Freemasonry and the many organizations he has been privileged to serve.

Yours in Knightly Courtesy,

Fredrick Joyner FJ
ME Sir Fredrick Joyner (DC), GCT, KYGCH
39th Most Eminent Grand Master

ATTESTED BY:
OZW
RE Sir Otho Z. Wilbur, Sr (TX), GCT, KYCH
Right Eminent Grand Recorder

In Hoc Signo Vinces!