

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa

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Kyle J. Peterson, REGC
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To: *All Past Grand Commanders, current Grand Officers, Committee Members, Officers and Sir Knights of all Constituent Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Iowa*

It is with a sad heart, that I must announce the passing of Sir Knight Bill Joe Hildreth, Past Grand Commander of Iowa (2000 – 2001) on the morning of Saturday, November 4, 2017. Billy Joe also served as Most Excellent Grand High Priest (2010 – 2011) of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Iowa.

Billy Joe Hildreth
Right Eminent Grand Commander 2000 - 2001
June 26, 1935 ~ November 4, 2017



Billy Joe Hildreth was born June 26, 1935 to Glenn N. and Cleo L. (Barnes) Hildreth in Des Moines, Iowa. He is the youngest of four children; Carl, Ray, Faye (deceased). Billy Joe graduated from Ankeny High School in 1954. He received a B.S. degree in Business Administration in 1958 from McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas. He then attended Drake University doing graduate work in Education. Billy Joe has farmed the family century farm his entire life. The Ankeny School District employed Billy Joe from 1960 to 1972. Billy Joe retired from the United Postal Service after 41 years.

Billy Joe was united in Marriage to G. Darlene Ackelson on August 24, 1968 in Des Moines. To this union came one son, Bryce B. Hildreth.

Billy Joe has been active in many civic affairs. He is a charter member of the Ankeny Golf and Country Club, a charter member of the Ankeny Jaycees, served seventeen years on the Polk County Farm Bureau Board, many years as treasurer, and was a 4-H Leader.

Masonic History

Billy Joe was initiated, passed, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Logic Lodge No. 636 in Ankeny. Served Logic Lodge No. 636 as Worshipful Master in 1976 and 1995 and as Treasurer since 1980. He also holds dual membership in Westgate/Adelphic Lodge No. 509 in Des Moines.

Billy Joe was exalted in Corinthian Chapter No. 14, Des Moines and served as High Priest in 1980. He a member of the Order of High Priesthood. He served the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Iowa as Grand Master of the III Veil in 1983 and as Grand Chaplain in 1989.

Greeted in Alpha Council No. 1, Des Moines he served as Illustrious Master in 1980. He is a member of the Thrice Illustrious Master.

Billy Joe was knighted in Temple Commander No. 4 and served as Eminent Commander in 1983. He is a member of the Iowa Past Commanders Association. He is a life sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and a member of the Grand Masters Club. The Grand Encampment honored Billy Joe as a Knight Commander of the Temple.

A member of the Des Moines Scottish Rite Bodies, Billy Joe is a recipient of the Loring S. Parker award for outstanding ritual. He was coroneted a 33° in 1995, and is a member of the Heritage Society of the Iowa Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation. In 2006 He was honored by the Supreme Council in the Pillars of Charity of the House of the Temple including his portrait being on display.

Billy Joe is a member of several Masonic affiliated organizations; Za-Ga-Zig Shrine A.A.O.N.M.S., Past President of the Past Masters Club, Potentate Aid in 1980, Past President of the DeMolay Knights Club, and Director of the Ritual Staff; St. Bartholomew Conclave Red Cross of Constantine; Iowa York Rite College, receiving the Order of the Purple Cross in s2008, Charles Clyde Hunt Priory, KYCH, Prior in 2000-2001, Last Supper Tabernacle No XVII, HRAKTP, Preceptor 2015, The Royal Order of Scotland; Past Master of Iowa Research Lodge No. 2; Past DeMolay Advisor, received DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor; Masonic Temple Trustee, 1982-present, President 1991-94.

Billy Joe has faithfully served the Grand Commandery of Iowa as Grand Warder, 1984, Grand Standard Bearer, 1987, and Grand Prelate, 1991. He was elected Grand Captain General for 1997, Grand Generalissimo in 1998, Deputy Grand Commander for 1999, and Grand Commander for 2000-2001.

Masonic Services were conducted by Logic Lodge No. 636, Thursday November 9, 2018 at the Ankeny Church of the Brethren with RW Brother and SK Wade E Sheeler, PGC presiding. Christian services were held Friday November 10, 2018 with Rev and SK Tim Bonney conducting the Christian service and SK Willard Loper, PGC conducting the Knight Templar Funeral Service. Sir Knights honored our Past Grand Commander with cross swords and all Pall Bearers were Past Grand Commanders of Iowa. Interment was at the Brethren Cemetery in Elkhart, IA.

Chivalric Regards,

Kyle J. Peterson

Kyle J. Peterson
R.E. Grand Commander



Attested:

Rusty L. Hill

Rusty L. Hill, REPGC
Grand Recorder

Pages 2 – 2 are covered by this seal.