



ORIENT: LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

Lexington, Massachusetts, Feb. 6, 2018

TO ALL FREEMASONS OF THE ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
OF THE OBEDIENCE OF THIS SUPREME COUNCIL

PEERS AND BRETHREN:

ILL.: JOHN THOMAS PHILLIPS, 33°

Active Member for this Supreme Council for the state of Illinois, died on Saturday, January 6, 2018.

III.: John Thomas Phillips, 33°, was born in Chicago, the son of Glen T. Phillips. He was educated St. Gertrude's Grade School and East Leyden High School, both located in Franklin Park, IL. He attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA, and earned a BA in English, and went on to graduate school at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, IA. There, he earned a JD degree, with distinction.

In his early life he worked as a railway clerk for the Milwaukee Railroad. For a brief time, after graduation, he was a supervising attorney for H.E.L.P. Legal Assistance Clinic in Davenport, IA. Later, he was an assistant staff judge advocate at Lackland AFB in Texas, while he was serving his country in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from military service in 1997 with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

From May 1972 until January 1973 he engaged in the private practice of law with the firm of Churchill, Baumgartner, and Phillips, LTD. He was appointed as an associate judge in 1992, and in 1996 as a circuit judge. In 2016 he was elected as chief judge by his peers.

He completed his career as a judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit, Lake County, Il, in the court at Waukegan.

On April 22, 1988 he was united in marriage with Catherine Marie Amann, in Round Lake, IL. He had two step sons: David A. Baker and Matthew D. Baker, and six grandchildren.

Brother Phillips served his community well. He was elected as Precinct Committeeman in 1991. He was a member of the Illinois State Bar Association; the Lake County Bar Association; the Illinois Judges Association; the Reserve Officers Association, and the VFW. His hobbies included flying and hunting.

His military awards included the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.

Our Illustrious Brother had a distinguished career in Freemasonry:

SYMBOLIC: Raised a Master Mason in Rising Sun Lodge No. 115, of Grayslake, IL on Feb. 3, 1996. He served there as Junior Warden (2001), Senior Warden (2002), Worshipful Master (2003), Secretary (2004), and Chaplain (2000 and 2004).

- GRAND LODGE:** Member of the Legislative Committee of the Grand Lodge of the state of Illinois in 2003.
- CAPITULAR:** Exalted in Waukegan Chapter No. 41 R.A.M. in Waukegan, Illinois, in April 2003.
- CHIVALRIC** Knighted in Bethel Commandery, No. 36, Knight Templar, Palatine, Illinois, in May 2003.
- SCOTTISH RITE:** Completed the degrees of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Chicago on April 13, 1996.
- SUPREME COUNCIL:** On August 30, 2005, he was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, Honorary Member of the Supreme Council at Grand Rapids, MI. He was elected an Active Member for the Supreme Council on August 29, 2006, at Chicago. Brother Phillips was Grand Lieutenant Commander of the Supreme Council 2017-18; Deputy for the state of Illinois from 2017-18, and he was Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council from 2015-18.

He performed various special assignments and served on the following committees:

Constitutions, Laws, and Jurisprudence	2006-2018
Ritualistic Matters	2008-2018
Nominating	2013-2018
Fraternal Relations	2014-2018

He was a member of Medinah Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.; Lake Council No. 121 Cryptic Masons; St. John's Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, and Illinois College Masonic Society Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis. He was the recipient of the Honorary Legion of Honor DeMolay International.

Masonic services were held at the auditorium of the Valley of Chicago on January 11, 2018.

A funeral mass was held on January 13, 2018, at St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Old Mill Creek, IL.

It is hereby directed that this Balustre be communicated to each Body of the Rite, and be suitably mentioned at the first meeting after its receipt.

May our Heavenly Father have him in His Holy Keeping.

 D. A. G. [Signature], 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Attest:

 Thomas R. [Signature], 33°
Grand Secretary General

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