

Sir Knight Benjamin Franklin Hill, KTCH
Knight Templar Cross of Honor
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia

Benjamin F. Hill was born March 2, 1944 in Houston, Texas. He was the son of the late Benjamin F. Hill of Jennings, Louisiana, and Jane W. Cade of Houston, Texas (both deceased); he had five younger brothers and sisters—one brother is deceased, and his two sisters and two brothers live in Houston, Texas. He was educated in the public schools graduating May 1963 and enlisted into the United States Marine Corps in June 1965. He went through the ranks to Gunny Sergeant (E7), commissioned a Warrant Officer in January 1977, and appointed a Limited Duty Officer on May 1980 with Intelligence and Operational specialties. His combat duties were with the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines (3/4) and the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MAC-SOG). After a distinguishable career as a Tactical/Strategic Intelligence and Counterintelligence Officer, he retired on July 1988.

He earned a Bachelor of Science with a major in Management and minor in Economics from Maryland University in 1988. He entered Graduate School at Golden Gate University and was awarded a Master of Public Administration Degree in Administrative Organization and Management Science August 26, 1989.

After retiring from the United States Marine Corps, he was employed as a senior Defense Intelligence Agency civilian at the United States Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, where he was the Deputy Chief of Intelligence Plans, Policy, Programs & Resources Directorate and the Chief of Intelligence Policy & Strategic Planning Division. A forward thinker, innovative manager with a practical approach to analysis, he reduced complex issues to understandable terms. Often recognized for his professional knowledge, leadership and strong team-building skills, he retired in December 2009 and was presented the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for his distinguishable service to the Department of Defense.

Sir Knight Hill is results-oriented, takes initiative, makes decisions, and accepts responsibility. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Fellowship Lodge No. 148, Portsmouth, Virginia, on April 09, 1991. His leadership positions include:

- Worshipful Master of Ivor No. 291 [1995 and 1996]
- Worshipful Master of America Fellowship No. 148 [1997]
- District Deputy Grand Master District No. 31 [1999]
- High Priest of Mt Horeb Royal Arch Chapter No. 11 [1995-1996]
- District Deputy Grand High Priest, Capitular District No. 21 [1997-1998]
- Sovereign Master, Charles M. Flintoff Council No. 198 [1999], Allied Masonic Degrees
- Sovereign Master, J. Leon Codd Council No. 99 [2000], Allied Masonic Degrees
- Master of each of the Portsmouth Scottish Rite Bodies [1998, 2001, 2005, 2006]
- President of Portsmouth Chapter No. 352 National Sojourners [2002-2003]
- Commander of Gosport Camp Heroes of '76' [2004]
- Curator, Library and Museum, Portsmouth Scottish Rite Bodies [2010 – Present]

- Commander, Portsmouth Knights Templar Commandery No. 5 [2010-2011]
- Secretary, Hampton Roads York Rite College No. 95, YRSCNA [2012-2016]
- Prior, Virginia Research Priory No. 1823 [2015]
- Puissant Sovereign, St. Thomas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine [2016]
- Eminent Governor, Commonwealth College, YRSCNA [2017]
- Chairman, Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia Bicentennial Celebration [2016-2023]
- Garden of Gethsemane No. 2, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests [Fourth Pillar]
- Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon [Almoner]
- Virginia College, Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foedertis, VII Degree [4th Herald]

His Masonic membership also includes:

- Lynn Commandery Knights Templar No. 9
- Craddock Royal Arch Chapter No. 72 (Honorary)
- Rose of Sharon Prior No. 2, Knights of the York Cross of Honour
- Royal Order of Scotland
- The Grand College of Rites of the United States of America
- Portsmouth-Chesapeake Council No. 155, Allied Masonic Degrees
- King Darius Council No. 17 and Emerald Isle Council No. 30, Knight Masons of U.S.A.
- The Masonic Society
- Thrice Illustrious Masters in Virginia
- Several Masonic Research Organizations: Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076; Virginia Research Royal Arch Chapter No. 753; Philalethes Society; Scottish Rite Research Society; Missouri Lodge of Research

Sir Knight Hill is an avid reader of History, Freemasonry and Esoteric subjects. He enjoys researching and writing Masonic papers for presentation at various Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Allied Masonic Degree Chapters, Knights Templar Commanderies, Virginia College SRICF, and Scottish Rite Bodies. Many of his Masonic papers have been published in various Masonic publications and he has authored several planning documents for the Scottish Rite Valley of Portsmouth, Virginia:

- *Long-Range Strategic Plan: A Vision for the Future*
- *Strategic Roadmap*
- *Governance Structure*

He also authored:

- Portsmouth Lodge No. 100's Bicentennial History: *Evolution of a Virginia Lodge: The History of Portsmouth Lodge No. 100, A.F. & A.M., From December 14, 1814 to December 14, 2014*
- Grand Commandery of Virginia's Long-Range Plan: *The Swords of Process: A Vision of the Future 2018-2023*

Sir Knight Hill's Honors and Awards include:

- Scottish Rite Fellow, Supreme Council Leadership Conference, Southern Jurisdiction [1998]
- Ennobled Knight (1994) and Knight Commander (2012) of Red Branch of Eri, AMD
- Silver Trowel, Grand Council Anointed High Priests of Virginia [1995]
- Investiture of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, Supreme Council Scottish Rite [1999]
- Coroneted 33° Inspector General Honorary, Supreme Council Scottish [2007]
- Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor [2010]
- Investiture Knight of the York Cross of Honour [2011]
- Investiture of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, Grand Encampment Knights Templar [2012]
- Investiture Order of the Purple Cross, York Rite Sovereign College of North America [2014]
- Investiture DeMolay Legion of Honor Honorary, International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay [2018]

As Worshipful Master of America Fellowship No. 148 in 1997, Sir Knight Hill received the *James Noah Hillman Memorial Award* from the Grand Lodge of Virginia for exceptional service in the areas of Masonic Ritual, Education Achievement, Lodge Administration, and the Lodge's Charity, Family and Community Programs. As Commander of Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, the Portsmouth Commandery received the *Right Eminent W. Crews Wooding Trophy* from the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia as the "Best Commandery" in Virginia in the 2010-2011 Chivalric year for Templar zeal and exceptional Chivalric program achievements and received the *Ivan Clayton "Pat" Myers "Magna Cum Laude" Award* for the Commandery's high marks in Templar proficiency.

Sir Knight Hill is married to the former Carolann Persson of Wildwood, New Jersey. The Hills live in Portsmouth, Virginia, where they enjoy reading and traveling. They have two sons, Michael lives in Oregon and Jeffrey lives in Virginia. The Hills are active members of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Old Town Portsmouth, Virginia.