

## **CIRCULAR No. 5 (McBride)**

**JOHN THOMAS RIEDAS, Sr.**

**Right Eminent Grand Commander 2005**

Born: February 17, 1937  
April 3, 2026

At Rest:

John Thomas Riedas, Sr. entered this life on February 17, 1937 in the city of Chicago, as the son of Thomas John and Hazel Anna (Kratz) Riedas. His education from primary through junior college was all in the city of Chicago. Sir Knight Riedas spent the majority of his working career in retail, retiring on July 31, 2004 from Marshall Fields and Company in Chicago. On July 31, 1975, he was united in marriage with Virginia Nell Regnerus. Their family consisted of sons E. Michael (Susan), Robert William (Cynthia), Lora Jane, and John Thomas, Jr. To this have been added five granddaughters, Rachael Ann and Emma Christine, daughters of Michael and Susan; Heather Lynn, and Amy Jean, daughters of Robert and Cynthia; Kayla Nicole, daughter of John, Jr. Lady Virginia was called from her labors on January 19, 1994. The Riedas family holds membership in Calvary Reformed Church of Orland Park, Illinois.

Sir Knight Riedas began his walk through Masonry when he petitioned Kenwood Lodge #800 of Chicago, Illinois on March 16, 1959. He was raised a Master Mason on July 6, 1959 and began his Masonic career as an Officer soon after, filling every office within the lodge and being elevated by his brethren to the office of Worshipful Master in 1967. He then continued with his service by being elevated as Secretary during 1974 and 1975. Following the merger of Kenwood Lodge with Elmhurst Lodge, Sir Knight Riedas affiliated with Tinley Park Lodge #8 JO, Tinley Park, Illinois, where he presently holds membership.

Continuing his search of Masonic knowledge he petitioned Fairview Chapter #161, Royal Arch Masons, being exalted on February 14, 1960, serving as Excellent High Priest for the years 1971 and 1972, being anointed a member of the Order of High Priesthood in 1971. Through several mergers Companion Riedas became a member of Logan Chapter #196, where he served as Secretary.

Greeted a Select Master in Imperial-Woodlawn Council #85, Royal and Select Masters on October 3, 1964 he served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1968, 1984, and 1985. At the 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Illinois Companion Riedas was elected to the office of Illustrious Grand Steward, advancing through the several offices until on July 28, 1977, at the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master in Illinois he was elected and installed, Most Illustrious Grand Master. Imperial-Woodlawn Council merged with Temple Council #65 where Companion Riedas held membership and is served as Recorder. In addition to receiving the Order of Thrice Illustrious Master in Illinois Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters in 1970 he has received similar recognition in many of our sister jurisdictions.

Sir Knight Riedas was knighted on March 15, 1961 in Montjoie Commandery #53. This began his relationship, which continued as he served his Commandery as Eminent Commander in 1964, 1967, and 1979. Again merger came into play and Montjoie Commandery #53 merged with Mizpah Commandery #73 with the resulting Commandery being Mizpah Commandery #53, where Sir Knight Riedas served as Recorder. He is a charter member of the Illinois Past Commanders Association. Sir Knight Riedas was elected to the Office of Eminent Grand Senior Warden. Advancing from that station he was elected and installed, Right Eminent Grand Commander on July 31, 2004. Sir Knight Riedas served on the Triennial Committee of the Grand Encampment held in Chicago during 1973. Over the many years he filled a number of Committee positions for the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

His service to the fraternity was recognized with the invitation to membership in a number of honorary Masonic Organizations including, St. John's Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Royal Order of Scotland, Simon Peter Tabernacle XXII, HRAKTP, Lux Et Oriente, Allied Masonic Degrees, Illinois York Rite College #15, serving as Governor in 1976 and receiving the Order of the Purple Cross in 1975, St. Bridget Council #23, Knight Masons, Illinois Priory #11, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, and was a holder of the Knight York Rite Grand Cross with two quadrants.

Masonic Memberships included the Valley of Chicago, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, NMJ, Medinah Temple, AAONMS, and the South West Side Shrine Club, America-Cyrene Chapter 11454, OES, Neighbor Chapter #1025, OES, Unity Shrine #22, White Shrine of Jerusalem, Vesta Conclave #35, Order of True Kindred, Sword of Bunker Hill. His efforts on behalf of the York Rite of Freemasonry brought him a large number of Honorary Memberships in all three of the York Rite Bodies in Illinois.

His most cherished involvement was with the Masonic Youth Bodies in Illinois. He served as an Advisor of DeMolay since the 1970s and had been recognized with both the Advisors Cross and an Honorary Legion of Honor. He served as an Advisor of Oak Forest Assembly # 103 Order of Rainbow being recognized with the Grand Cross of Color from the International Supreme Council.

Sir Knight John Thomas Riedas, Sr. ended his labor on earth April 3, 2026

*Mark A. Keagle*

Grand Recorder

Attest: **Mark A. Keagle**, PGC, KCT.

