

The Grand Priory Honours Life Time of Commitment of one of its Knights



The Royal Hospital Chelsea, built during the times of King Charles II was the setting for a very personal and unique presentation to a Knight who has given his full measure of service to the Grand Priory during his life both whilst as a serving soldier and as a veteran.



RE Kt Michael Wickens joined Pilgrims Preceptory in 1998 and quickly showed his commitment and ability to rise to Grand rank. Due to the requirements of the eservice, RE Kt Michael had to return to the UK and continued to active in supporting the GPvD and made 87 trips back to Germany to join his brother Knights in Germany. He was recognised and conferred the rank of Past Grand Prelate by the Grand Priory and an Honorary membership of Pilgrims.



In more recent times, being unable to travel due to personal circumstances, he graciously donated his regalia to Pilgrims to sold and the funds donated to charity. In doing so, he raised just short of €500 for good works.

His example has been a true inspiration and beacon of commitment exemplifying the deeper Templar spirit. His selfless, humble and generous approach led the Grand Master consent to the crafting of a unique certificate to

recognise a Knight's contribution to the Order over a life

time. Unique in that this is the first time such an honour has been bestowed and the first time a certificate like this has been made. The whole occasion has



been made more unique in the setting of where it was presented ... the Royal Hospital Chelsea, established 1682 to provide a home for soldiers "broken by age and war." In 1682, the King commissioned Sir Christopher Wren, one of Britain's most celebrated architects, to design this sanctuary for veteran

soldiers.

The presentation was made on behalf of the Grand Master by the Grand Chancellor, RE Kt Lt Col (Retd) Ian Harper who served for over 30 years to a RE Michael, a veteran who served as a combat engineer for full military of 22 years.



On receiving the certificate and the being told it's significance and how it had been proposed and received, Michael said, "I am totally blown away by this honour and what it means. In particular that it is the very first to be presented with such strong support from the Grand Master. I am deeply touched that the Knights in Germany have remember me in this way and that it presented to me here in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea".

Before RE Kt Harper left, he was asked by RE Kt Michael to take his "firing sword" and present to a worthy Knight so its use and meaning could continue whilst bringing joy to the new owner.

