

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



<https://vatemplars.org>

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Knightly Greetings Sir Knights!

This month I want to update you on our efforts to support the **Holy Land Pilgrimage, (HLP)**.

First, I want to introduce and thank our Committee Chairman, Sir Knight Joel David Ratliff, Sr, KCT, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, 2018-2019, his theme was "This Is The Cup." Sir Knight Ratliff hails from Winchester Commandery No. 12 in Winchester, Virginia. Serving as our HLP Committee Chairman, Sir Knight Ratliff desires to send out the following correspondence to the membership.

"When I got on the plane, there were other ministers there; we couldn't believe we were going to the Holy Land!" "I couldn't believe I was actually going!" These are the excited quotes from the Christian ministers that YOU sent to the Holy Land.

Christian ministers from all over the United States travel to Israel every year because of the monies you donate for this most special charity of The Knights Templar. Virginia especially values this program. Every year because of your donations from purchasing the **Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrim Medal**, \$500.00, the **HLP Challenge Coins**, \$20.00, and generous donations from individuals, Commanderies and our interested and benevolent masonic organizations, Virginia Grand Commandery is able to actively participate in this program.

Sir Knights, not only do we actively fund this program ourselves, sending Virginia Ministers, but we rely on you for your recommendations for ministers to send. Being the chairman of this Committee I am regularly asked about how a Knight can recommend a minister.

I always respond, "**Go to the Grand Encampment web site**" The reason is simple. The Information contained there is a complete coverage on not only "**How To**" but it also contains and describes all the requirements, paperwork, information for the Minister, the program in Israel, personal needs and information, as well as the sponsoring Commanderies requirements.

When you do sponsor a minister, remember, this is an expensive proposition. It is paid for from your Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund, and once the arrangements are made; the check is sent; it is non-refundable.

One other thing you should consider, it has been the custom for a very long period that the sponsoring Commandery pay the round trip ticket to New York or Newark for the minister. This has been a courtesy to assist the traveling minister the Commandery is sponsoring.

**DEADLINES! July 1** to the Chairman, paperwork must be in, with check, by **1 August**, for travel the following **February or March!** This is absolute! Reviews have to be made for completion, and finance arrangements must be made. **This Takes time.** If not completed properly, it will be rejected by Grand Encampment.

### **HOW DO I Contribute?**

**Make checks out to: *Grand Commandery of Virginia with Holy Land Pilgrimage in the memo line.***

**Mail Check to:  
Knights templar of Virginia  
P. O. Box 9178  
Virginia Beach, VA 23450**

**Send Notification to:  
Sir Knight Joel David Ratliff, Sr.  
[HLP@vatemplars.com](mailto:HLP@vatemplars.com)**

Sir Knights, we have so many willing and capable Christian Ministers in Virginia that would consider this a fulfillment of a lifelong dream to actually see and walked where our Lord Jesus lived, spread the Gospel, and lastly, died for our sins and was raised. Do you know that deserving minister?

It all sounds a little daunting, but it really is not. I am here to assist and guide you through the process; the minister actually does the most. So, let's do this!

If you have any questions regarding the **Holy Land Pilgrimage**, please reach out to Sir Knight Ratliff:  
Cell: 540-622-3498 or email him at [HLP@vatemplars.com](mailto:HLP@vatemplars.com)

Yours in Christ,



Joel D. Ratliff, Sr., KCT, PGC  
Chairman, Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, K.T. of Virginia