Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Firginia



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September 2023

Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas, KCT Right Eminent Grand Commander gc@vatemplars.org Sir Knight Christopher R. Faraldi Editor: Virginia Supplement editor@vatemplars.com

Knightly Greetings Sir Knights!

This month I want to update you on our efforts to support the **Baldwin Brown Fellowship Program, (BBF)**. First, I want to introduce and thank our Committee Chairman, Sir Knight Charles Jarrett Frame, Jr, KCT and KTCH. Sir Knight Frame hails from Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Serving as our BBF Committee Chairman, Sir Knight Frame desires to send out the following correspondence to the membership.

Would you like to support the finances of the Grand Commandery of Virginia and help guard against future dues increases? If yes, then you may be interested in the Baldwin Brown Fellowship Program. This program was established over twenty years ago by the Grand Commandery of Virginia. It is named for two Past Grand Commanders: Sir Knights Richard Burditt Baldwin and Fitz Allen Brown.

At the time, the Grand Commandery realized that over time, operating costs would continue to increase. These higher costs would translate into increased assessments, which to turn would lead to dues increases. To offset these increased costs, the Grand Commandery borrowed a successful fund raising idea from the Grand Commandery of Indiana. For an initial donation of \$150, the donor would receive a beautiful pin. For additional donations of \$150, a diamond would be affixed to the pin.



The pin is a Knights Templar Maltese Cross and Crown Emblem, surrounded by a black and white border with "Baldwin-Brown Fellow" above and "Virginia Knights Templar" below. It is about one inch in diameter. Intended to be worn on civilian clothes, the pin may also be worn in uniform attached to the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross medal. The pin is an acknowledgement of a voluntary contribution to the Knights Templar organization and is not a reward for any particular service or office held. Donors are not limited to Sir Knights. Any individual, spouse, or business may contribute to the fund.

Contributions to the fund go into an interest earning endowment fund from which only the interest can be used for operating expenses of the Grand Commandery.

To participate in the program, download the enrollment form from the Grand Commandery of Virginia website:

bbf_fillable_2023.pdf (vatemplars.org)

Complete the form as directed and mail it with the financial contribution to the Grand Recorder:

Make your check payable to: *Grand Commandery of Virginia* with *Baldwin Brown Fellowship* in the memo line.

Mail your check and payment to: Knights Templar of Virginia P. O. Box 9178 Virginia Beach, VA 23450 Send Notice to BBF Committee Chairman: Sir Knight Charles Jarrett Frame, Jr. bbf@vatemplars.com 540-373-2278

The donor will receive an acknowledgment letter when the form and contribution is received. Pins will be awarded at the annual Grand Commanders Awards Banquet held during Grand Stated Conclave.

The goal of the program is to have every Virginia Knight Templar participate. That way, the Grand Commandery of Virginia can continue into the future with a secure source of funding.

If you have any questions regarding the **Baldwin Brown Fellowship Program**, please reach out to Sir Knight Frame: Cell: 540-373-2278 or email him at <u>BBF@vatemplars.com</u>

Courteously,

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Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas, KCT Grand Commander, 2023-2024 Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia