

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 **Knights Templar Education Foundation, (KTEduF)**. First, I want to introduce our Committee Chairman, Sir Knight Joseph Martin Matthews. Sir Knight Matthews hails from Lynn Commandery No. 9 in Marion, Virginia and is currently serving as our Grand Warder. Serving as our Committee Chairman, Sir Knight Matthews is sending out the following correspondence to the membership.

We don't talk about the Educational Foundation as much as the Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund or the Baldwin-Brown Fellowship. Hopefully, this message will provide everyone with a little bit of information on why the Educational Foundation is so important and why we should strive to enhance the work that it does.

Through the **Knights Templar Educational Foundation**, we provide grants to rising junior and senior college students, helping them to pay for the completion of their degrees. Recipients of these grants do not need to have a Masonic affiliation; they only need to be a United States citizen attending an accredited four-year institution. While rewarding members of our Masonic family is a noble endeavor, we can do more to advance our Fraternity as a whole by stepping out into the community and showing people that we contribute to the betterment of the world at large.

As we evaluate our applicants, we look at what they have done in the classroom and in the community since they stepped out from under the watchful eye of their families and began to live life as adults. Certainly, we can all think back to the first couple of years we were out on our own and realized that our parents knew a lot more than we gave them credit for when we were teenagers. Seeing those young men and women take the time out of their academic, extra-curricular, and social lives to apply for our grant shows their maturity and time management skills which will be essential as they enter the world of work.

After serving for one year as your Chairman, I believe we have a terrific opportunity to enhance this program and award more grants each year. This is a two-pronged task, as we must increase knowledge about this opportunity and raise funds to increase the balance in our account.

Accomplishing this goal begins with the Sir Knights. We must talk about this opportunity, not only in our Asylums but in our Blue Lodges, our churches, our places of business, and everywhere else we know that we can get the attention of a deserving college student.

We currently have the funds to award five grants to students every year but are not receiving that many applications. If one out of 10 Sir Knights in Virginia hands out an application to a college student and half of those students take the time to apply for our grant, we would have 75 applications! Can you imagine how competitive that application process would become? We would have more deserving candidates than we could award grants to.

This brings us to the next goal, increasing the balance in our Foundation account, which is managed by the Grand Encampment in coordination with several other grand jurisdictions. If half of the Sir Knights in Virginia would donate \$20 per year to the Educational Foundation, we would raise enough money to award 10 grants every year to deserving students in less than 10 years based on interest income alone.

I will close with a challenge. Look around your community to find a deserving college student and encourage them to apply for the grant by visiting www.vatemplars.com and filling out the application. Also, if it is within the length of your cable tow, please consider contributing by sending a check with "Virginia Division" in the memo line to:

1. **Make check out to: *Knights Templar Educational Foundation with "Virginia Division" in the memo line.***

Mail check to:

**Knights Templar Educational Foundation
3 Sugar Creek Ctr. Blvd. Suite 410
Sugar Land, TX 77478**

Send Notice To:

**Sir Knight Joseph M. Matthews
kteducation@vatemplars.com
(919) 842-2903
And,
Grand Recorder
gr@vatemplars.org
(804) 404-8507**

2. Make it a point to pass the hat/collection plate at each Conclave. Little donations throughout the year can add up.

If you have any questions regarding the **Knights Templar Educational Foundation**, please reach out to Sir Knight Matthews at, Cell: 919-842-2903 or email him at KTEducation@vatemplars.com

Courteously,



S. K. Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Grand Commander, 2023-2024