



## *Grand Commandery of Virginia - Attention To Orders!<sup>1</sup>*



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<sup>1</sup> When I was at West Point, each day we had unofficial communications from the leadership at meals that began with "Attention To Orders". I stole the title for this unofficial communications channel.



*From the Apartment of the Grand Commander –  
July 2025*

Sir Knights,

Warm and fraternal greetings to each of you, wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the third edition of our monthly communication from me to the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia. I pray that this message is finding each of you and your families and loved ones well and blessed.

I can't believe it's only July, the month of our great nation's birth. We have been running around the commonwealth and, frankly, while very busy, loving every minute of it. June saw us conduct what I would call an operational pause in official visits due to the number of other requirements. The highlights of the month were the visits to the DeMolay and Rainbow for Girls International. Both organizations exemplify the spirit of community, leadership, and personal growth.

We first went to Luray for the DeMolay Degree with the Grand Master. This group of young men left a lasting impression with their commitment to developing young leaders. The members showcased their dedication through a series of activities that emphasized teamwork, respect, and responsibility. I especially noted their ritualistic excellence...a lesson that should not be lost on each of us. Observing their camaraderie and passion for making a positive impact in their communities was truly inspiring. I commend DeMolay for fostering an environment where young men can thrive, learn valuable life skills, and grow into confident leaders.

I then went to Harrisonburg for the Rainbow for Girls International, and found them equally impressive, with the focus on empowering young

women. The group's activities highlighted the importance of self-confidence, creativity, and altruism. The members demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and a genuine desire to contribute to society. The Rainbow for Girls organization deserves high praise for creating a supportive space where young women can develop their talents, build lasting friendships, and become empowered to achieve their dreams. Exceptionally well done.

To both DeMolay and Rainbow for Girls, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Your dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders is commendable. Continue to inspire and challenge your members to reach their full potential. Your efforts are not only shaping individuals but also building a brighter future for our communities. And to the recipients of this note who are members of our fraternity, we should continue to encourage and support our youth groups, because they are the future. I know that sounds like a cliché, but it is absolutely true and inevitable. These two groups provided me with encouragement to know that the future is indeed bright.

I and members of your Grand Line met with representatives from the King Baldwin Knights Templar during this month as well. You may recall that their VEDGC was with us at our Grand Conclave in May, and I said then that we would work on establishing a stronger tie between our two organizations. This makes sense, because the Bible asks the question, 1 Corinthians 1 “<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided?” We had a great meeting at the Masonic Home of Virginia where we worked on a framework for future cooperation going forward. To that end, I have appointed SK Jeff Paras, our Eminent Grand Captain General, to be our Grand Representative to the King Baldwin Commandery. Watch this space for further details as we continue to develop ties to our brothers in Christ. This will include a joint conclave as well as cooperation in our various charitable activities. This is exciting and, I believe this is what Christ would want us to do. Afterall, He said “<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you,

that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35).

I mentioned that this meeting was held at MAHOVA, and I must take a moment and mention just how great that facility is. We met in the executive conference room and followed that up with lunch on the grounds near the York Rite Building. If you think that MAHOVA is just a “nursing home” then you are completely mistaken. It is a vibrant community where your neighbors are also your brothers. It’s a place where leaving your garage door up by accident is not a cause for panic or even concern. If you have not taken a look lately, check out the Crown Jewel of Virginia Masonry. We are now one of only two all Masonic Communities remaining in the country, and we can be rightly proud of that. We need to redouble our efforts to support it and ensure that it remains independent of state control. And, it’s not too early for you to mark your calendars for MAHOVA Day on October 4, 2025. I always enjoy the time to fellowship with our Brothers from across the entire spectrum of Virginia Freemasonry and, to show off our marching prowess with a parade. We will be wearing full dress uniforms, so let’s pray for temperate weather.

Saint John the Baptist Day was in June, and I had the honor of presenting a brief program to the Spotsylvania Lodge. This is entirely appropriate since St. John ushered in Christ as His forerunner...the one who prepared the way. What a great opportunity for us to speak on the subject that we should be most passionate about, the life of Jesus Christ, our Savior and ultimate Master. St. John the Evangelist Day is in December. May I recommend to you that this is an excellent opportunity for us to speak on the subject in the various Blue Lodges in our areas. Now is the time to begin laying the groundwork. Speak with the Senior Wardens in your lodges as they will be the new masters when this day comes around. I can assure you as a Past Master that many of them are anxiously trying to plan their programs for the year. If you show up with a solution, at least for their December program, they will be both relieved and impressed.

Finally, YouTube keeps track of how many views a particular video has. I just looked at our introduction video for the year and it has less than 1000 views. That means that some of you still haven't seen it ☹. So, I'll mention again, our video introduced towards the end of our Grand Conclave, "Who Are The Knights Templar – Faithful To Our Vows". I commissioned this video to highlight who we are and what we do, with the underlying theme for the year, Faithful To Our Vows. We have it on our YouTube channel now and I encourage you to take a look. You can find it here: <https://youtu.be/pGB4PBXVJLY>. How about having our brothers from the Blue Lodge or Companions of the Royal Arch take a look as well? We just might encourage some of them to join our ranks. Few things would make me happier than having to ask our Awards Committee to order more membership awards. ☺ Let me know what you think.

Yours In Christian and Knightly Courtesy,

Bill



WILLIAM SEARCY, III. KCT.  
*Grand Commander 2025-2026*

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## *Grand Commandery of Virginia 2025 - 2026 Leadership Team*



From L to R:

SK William Jonathan Sirman, DDGC, District 1  
SK Brian Dean Joos, DDGC, District 2  
SK Timothy Anderson Dahlman, DDGC, District 3  
SK Daniel James Carter, DDGC, District 4  
SK William (Bill) Searcy, REGC  
SK Eric Dale Swortzel, DDGC, District 5  
SK Mark Ronald Day, DDGC, District 6  
SK William Arthur Crosscup, V, DDGC, District 7  
SK Joseph Brandon Hale, DDGC, District 8  
SK Paul William Lockhart, DDGC, District 9

Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.





*UPCOMING EVENTS - July 2025*

- 12 – Official Visit, District 8
  - Lynn Commandery No. 9
  - 112 South Church Street Marion, VA 24354
  - DDGC: Sir Knight Joseph Brandon Hale 276-971-6095
  - The Order of The Temple
- 19 – Red Cross of Constantine
- 25 – 26 – DeMolay Grand Conclave, Norfolk, VA