



*Grand Commandery of Virginia -
Attention To Orders!*





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

Sir Knights,

Fraternal and warm greetings to each of you, wheresoever dispersed. As I began to draft this letter to you, it is the Sunday after our annual Grand Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. I pray that all who attended have returned safely to their homes and that you found the time spent this weekend to have been valuable and enjoyable. Before I write another word, I must thank each and every one of you for your faith and confidence in giving me the opportunity of a lifetime, that being to have the responsibility to command this magnanimous Order. As I stated during my acceptance message, I do not view command as a badge of authority. Rather, I view it as an indication of the responsibility you have entrusted me with; the responsibility to be the main caretaker and representative of our Order. My only promise to you is that I will always do my best to ensure that you never regret the trust and confidence you have reposed in me.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2025 Grand Stated Conclave! We set the Grand Commandery on the path to continued growth and service for the coming Chivalric year. We also had the pleasure of reconnecting with many old friends and acquaintances and meeting new ones throughout the weekend. For those who did not attend our Grand Conclave, may I respectfully inquire as to the reason? Perhaps it is due to the perception that it consists of tedious meetings and formal activities. Well...ok...there is some of that, I can't deny it. However, the true essence lies in what occurs between these sessions. It involves walking into Harrisonburg for dinner at a great little restaurant with friends, enjoying the best meatloaf one has

tasted in recent times. It includes sharing a few drinks (or more) with long-unseen friends, reveling in the moment until hotel security requests us to lower the noise (yikes!). It encompasses gathering for a roasted lechon and lumpia dinner, packing a room full enough to give a fire marshal anxiety but feeling entirely at home because we are with family.

In essence, that's what I cherish about the value of our Grand Conclave. It's found in the time we spend together as family, creating lasting memories. Time is our most precious and scarce commodity, and when we share it, we forge unforgettable moments that we carry with us as memories. If you have not attended one of our Conclaves, or if it has been a while since you last attended one, allow me to encourage you to join us at the next one. Please mark your calendars for the first weekend in May 2026, when, God willing, we will reconvene in Harrisonburg to hear the account of the current Grand Commander, welcome the new one, and advance the Grand Commandery for the 2026-2027 chivalric year.

It's been about 24 hours now since you made me your 152nd Grand Commander. I'm still getting used to the idea. But I will celebrate every single day the Brothers, Companions, and Fraters of our constituent Commanderies where the real work of Templary happens. I'll celebrate the families that support us because without them, the world would be a drab and sad place. And I'll revel in the fun I and Lady Luz will have this year traveling all over the state to meet you and enjoy fellowship at our official visits.

When I was at West Point, each day we had unofficial communications from the leadership at meals called "Attention To Orders". I stole the title for this unofficial communications channel. This is the first of what I hope to be a monthly message out to the body. I believe that communication is the key to everything we do, and so this is just another medium through which I can communicate my thoughts and seek your input as well. I hope you find it valuable.

Finally, we introduced a video 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 - May 2025

- 24 – Official Visit, District 6
 - DeMolay Commandery No. 4
Campbell Masonic Lodge No. 316
204 Lynch Mill Road
Lynch Station, VA 24571
DDGC: Sir Knight Mark Ronald Day
540-797-7754
 - The Order of The Red Cross

- 28 – Old Dominion Ascension Day Celebration¹
- 31 – Official Visit, District 7
 - New River Valley Commandery No. 32
McDaniel Lodge No. 86
710 College Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
DDGC: Sir Knight William Arthur Crosscup, V
540-467-7406
 - The Order of Malta

¹ The REGC has been invited to deliver appropriate remarks at this celebration. As it is one of our Holy Days, the REGC requests the presence of local officers if within your ability to attend.