



## *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 –  
September 2025*

Sir Knights,

Warm and fraternal greetings to each of you, wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the fifth 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 finds each of you and your families and loved ones well and blessed.

And just like that...summer was over. Well, not officially, but we are into the days of autumn at this point in our year. If you did not yet see our Grand Prelate's sentiment for this month, allow me to commend it to your attention. It is, as always, well stated, and we sincerely appreciate his efforts. He mentioned that autumn is the time when the trees drop their leaves and again focus on their core...on their internal work that will allow them to flourish yet again with the return of the spring. Men see the outside works that we do (the leaves), but those always come from the internal work that we have already done. The mornings of quiet prayer, the evenings of studying the Word. The meditations of asking God to guide us and for Jesus to never let us think too highly of ourselves. It's like nature reminding us to work on our lights that they may shine and allow men to see our good works and "glorify God" because that is where our true strength and good works come from.

It's been another busy but enjoyable month, and I believe we have some great things to look forward to in the next few months as well. First, the month of August began with a Festival of Orders in Chesapeake, and we welcomed two new SKs to our ranks. During the next week, we were privileged to be part of the delegation, along with our Department

Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Prelate, KTEF Chairman, and our IT staff to represent the KTEF in providing a Career Starter Grant to Dr. Wu. It was an exciting and fulfilling day, and I'll have more to say about it later in this edition. The next weekend we held our Drill School, expertly run by SK Cole David and assisted by our Grand Governor, SK William Reinhold, REPDC. I want to take a moment and give special notice that the entire Grand Line came out to support our Drill Corps! Further, several of our teams were captained by members of the Grand Line. I put together a team while at the school, but SK Cole asked that we not compete...I'm guessing this was because it would look bad if my pickup team won the competition. In this spirit, I was happy to stand aside and cheer for the other teams. On a serious note, this is the kickoff to the Triennial Drill Competition in LA, and we are in it to win it.

We had our 4<sup>th</sup> Official Visit in Waynesboro which, as has been the pattern this year, was well attended. I want to officially thank the SKs of District 5 who conferred the Order of the Red Cross in full form...and I dare say it was almost as well done as the one that we did down in District 6 in June. Any guesses on who was in that cast? 😊 We ended the month, literally, with receiving the MW Grand Master of Masons under an Arch of Steel at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA. The SKs of the Tidewater area came out in full force, and I absolutely appreciated it.

I want to take just a minute and go back to talk about the visit to UVA. I had a chance to visit with the Head of the Biology Department, and she explained just how critical our grants are to further eye research. When a researcher develops a theory or a possible avenue of research, they seek grants to further the process, but without significant outcomes, most grants are out of reach. This is where our KTEF grants come in. They are much smaller than some of the government grants available, but they give the researcher the chance to begin to prove out their theory and therefore, when they get ready to apply for the larger, upwards of \$1M grants, they have something to point to as an accomplishment or something that

indicates there is promise in their theory. So, without our “Career Starter” grants, many researchers would never be able to begin the scientific process to get their ideas off the ground so to speak. So, the KTEF is very critical and much appreciated. So, my Fraters, we have always done well in our contributions to the KTEF. Let us, with this knowledge, continue to push and generously support this charity so that we, like Christ, our Lord, may give sight to the blind.

September is here, as noted, and once again, we will be busy. Take notice of this month’s events. We will visit District 4 on the 13<sup>th</sup> where they will confer the Order of Malta. Of course, this sets up the opportunity for us to visit District 3 on October 11<sup>th</sup> where we will welcome some really fortunate new SKs to the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple at the George Washington Memorial Shrine. We have the Mid Atlantic Conference the weekend of 26 and 27 September where I and other members of our staff will report our accomplishments and make the other Grand Commanderies of our Department wish that they too were members of the Grand Commandery of Virginia 😊.

Now...I want to quickly give you some “save the dates” for October because it starts off hot, heavy, and fantastic! The first weekend, October 4<sup>th</sup> is MAHOVA Family Day in Richmond. We will have a great day as KT’s with our brothers from across the fraternity and finish up with a full-dress parade. I’m a Templar dork, and nothing is as impressive to me as columns of Knights Templar in full-dress on parade. Come on and be a part of this, support your Masonic Home, your Masonic Fraternity, have good food and good comradery. The next weekend, October 11<sup>th</sup> will be the Official Visit to District 4, returning to my home Commandery, Old Dominion, where we will confer the Order of the Temple. It will be a great Templar Day! We will start a little earlier, 9:00 AM in order to get everyone through and still end in time for you to enjoy your evening. We will follow that up with a joint conclave with the King Baldwin Grand Commandery (PHA) on October 16<sup>th</sup> at West Point. More to follow on this, but part of the theme is the truth

found in Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor”. Mark this evening on your calendars and plan to join us. We will follow that up with the Fredericksburg Commandery’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bowman’s Distillery in Fredericksburg. And then I’ll finish October at the Maryland Grand Commandery. So, busy? Yes. Rewarding? Absolutely and without question. If you miss these events, when you hear about them, you will wish you had been there. Plan now to avoid the regrets.

Finally, I keep mentioning our YouTube video. And I’ll begin with...seriously??? This month we are up by 58 more views to 686 views. Yes, that’s a step in the right direction, but...seriously??? That means that most of you still haven’t seen it ☹. So, I’ll mention again, our video was 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>. CLICK THE LINK! 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*  
☎ 540-538-3564  
✉ [gc@vatemplars.org](mailto:gc@vatemplars.org)  
🌐 [www.vatemplars.org](http://www.vatemplars.org)

## *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 - September 2025*

- 13 – Official Visit, District 4
  - Winchester Commandery No. 12
  - Winchester Hiram Lodge #12
  - 118 North Loudon Street
  - Winchester, VA. 22601
  - DDGC: Sir Knight Daniel James Carter 540-974-2401
  - **Order of Malta**
- 26 – 27 – Mid Atlantic Department Conference

*October 2025*

- 4 – MAHOVA Family Day
- 11 – Official Visit, District 3
  - Old Dominion Commandery #11
  - George Washington Masonic Memoria
  - 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301
  - DDGC: Sir Knight Timothy Anderson Dahlman 910-848-1897
  - **Order of The Temple**
- 16 – Joint Conclave with King Baldwin Grand Commandery, PHA
- 18 – Fredericksburg Commandery 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 24-25 – Grand Commandery Maryland