

## *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 –*  
*October 2025*

Sir Knights,

Warm and fraternal greetings to each of you, wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the sixth 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.

When I am on vacation in some great spot, it seems that time moves much faster. I find myself saying with some regularity “Where did the time go?”. While the year that I have been privileged to serve as your Grand Commander has been anything but a vacation, I still find myself asking that same question...where did the time go. That said, I am resolved to follow the words of our Sacred Scripture, which directs us to make the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16). Kipling said much the same thing when he admonished us to fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run. And so, it is in that spirit that we arrive in October and the halfway point of our chivalric year! I pray that each of you has found the year so far to be enjoyable, inspirational and spiritually enriching.

September found us, once again, quite busy. As there were fewer official functions, I was fortunate to visit a few of our Commanderies during their regular Stated Conclaves. I thank each of you for the warm and fraternal welcome I received and for the efforts that I know you are putting into learning and executing our ritual. The effort is paying off. In addition, we conducted an Official Visit to District 4 in Winchester where we conferred the Order of Malta, full form. What a great Templar Day it was, and again,

thank you to the SKs of District 4 for your efforts and assiduity. This served nicely to set us up for what I believe are two highlights in the coming month.

I and almost your entire Grand Line represented our great Commonwealth at the Mid Atlantic Department Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. We were accompanied by numerous additional SKs from our fraternity as well...with it being no surprise that we had the highest attendance of the Grand Commanderies present. Again. Of course. 😊 We provided an update of the work that you SKs have put into this year and we received excellent feedback from our Department Commander as well as the Grand Master himself. Let me reiterate this again, you have done amazing work so far this year, and it was my honor to convey that up the chain of command. My opening theme for my briefing was “Being the Grand Commander in Virginia feels a lot like cheating”. Thank you to each of you for your efforts.

With that as background, we have a very busy and exciting month of October ahead of us. First, on October 4, we have the opportunity to represent our branch of Virginia Masonry at the annual family day at the Masonic Home of Virginia (MAHOVA). There will be a full day of activities including the ribbon cutting for the new Masonic Museum, a full-dress parade, and then lunch sponsored by the Grand Lodge. I have it on good authority that excellent weather has been ordered for our comfort, sunny and 75 degrees. I’d like to have a full contingent of SKs present for our parade which is actually a little shorter than in previous years. We will go full dress with swords for the parade only. Following the parade, we can “rest” our swords, gloves and chapeaus. Should be a great day! If you can, please join us! I’ve included the flyer with the schedule and map at the end of this newsletter for your information.

The next weekend, October 11, we will conduct our Official Visit to District 3 at one of my home Commanderies, Old Dominion. I’m really excited for this visit, so allow me to tell you about it. The festivities kick off with us

conferring the Order of The Temple in the morning. We have, at last count, over 20 candidates! This is outstanding, and reflects the work that you have been doing in beating the bushes and encouraging our Brothers to join us in becoming Knights of the Temple. Now...because of the large numbers, we will begin the Chamber at 0800 as opposed to the normal start time of 1000. That said, I get it, that's early especially if you are coming from some distance. So, please have your candidates present for the start, but the rest of you can get there when you can, we'll filter you in during the breaks in the action. As this is a significant number, if you have not already RSVP's to SK Tim Dahlman, please do so as soon as possible ([ddgc-d3@vatemplars.com](mailto:ddgc-d3@vatemplars.com)). Also, as always, please bring your Ladies with you, we will have a tour of the Masonic Memorial for them in the morning along with a "special event" and then a brief program in the afternoon. Speaking of the afternoon, we will conduct the Official Visit, hopefully kicking off at or about 1330 (1:30 PM). Consider the following...this is going to be an excellent chance for our brand-new SKs to see a full form opening and reception on the same day as their Creation. Our goal is to fill these new fraters with enthusiasm for their new fraternity that will last a lifetime.

We follow that with the 16<sup>th</sup> of October when we will hold a Joint Conclave with our Fraters from the King Baldwin Commandery of Knights Templar, PHA at Penn-Neck Commandery #33, located at West Point Lodge #238. Dinner will be served at 1800 (6:00 PM) with the opening an hour later. Our theme for this evening appropriately comes from Ecclesiastes 4: 9 - "Two *are* better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor." Prayerfully, this event will serve to enhance the fraternal bonds with our fellow Christian Fraters. I've included the invitation to this historical event at the bottom of this newsletter, come out and join us if you can.

October 18 will see us celebrating a monumental event for Fredericksburg #1. On that day, my mother Commandery will turn 150 years old! I am the oldest member of the Grand Line but no, I was not present when Fredericksburg was formed. The Commandery was chartered on October

18, 1875 and we will celebrate this event on that same date, 2025, at 1800 (6:00 PM) at the historic A. Smith Bowman Distillery at 1 Bowman Drive in Fredericksburg. The RSVP date has passed, but I have it on good authority that if you act quickly, they might be able to get you in. Email [celebrate150@FxbgKT1.org](mailto:celebrate150@FxbgKT1.org).

So, October will be full of great things and opportunities for us to meet and continue in our bonds friendship and brotherly love. I hope to see as many of you as possible in our travels across the Commonwealth. As always, I've only listed the "official" events here. I will be out and about at numerous unofficial events as well.

Finally, true to form, I'm mentioning our YouTube video, Who Are The Knights Templar - Faithful To Our Vows. This morning we have 778 views. We are approaching the level of credibility, but not quite there yet. I showed this at our Mid Atlantic Conference and it received high praise from the attendees. If you have not yet watched it (and I know who you are) then you are missing out. Ok. I don't know who you are but if that statement concerned you...well, you know who you are. Watch it. And share it with your Brothers and Companions. 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! The Grand Master of the Grand Encampment was heard to say "I get chills every time I watch that". Watch it yourself and get chills as well. 😊 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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🌐 [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 - October 2025*

- 4 – MAHOVA Family Day
- 11 – Official Visit, District 3
  - Old Dominion Commandery #11
  - 0800 – Chamber of Reflection
  - 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
  - Penn-Neck Commandery #33



- Dinner at 6PM, opening at 7PM
  - 2126 King William Ave West Point, VA
  - RSVP: [gr@vatemplars.org](mailto:gr@vatemplars.org)
- 18 – Fredericksburg Commandery 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - 6PM
  - A. Smith Bowman Distillery, 1 Bowman Drive, Fredericksburg, VA
  - RSVP: [celebrate150@FxbgKT1.org](mailto:celebrate150@FxbgKT1.org)
- 24-25 – Grand Commandery Maryland

Thank You  
for helping us celebrate...

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SPECIAL EVENTS

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**Ascend Health**

**Powerback**

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[www.MAHOVA.org](http://www.MAHOVA.org)

**MAHOVA**  
Your Masonic Community  
**135 Years**  
of HOME



Most Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman

Join us in the  
1890 Club



#### SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

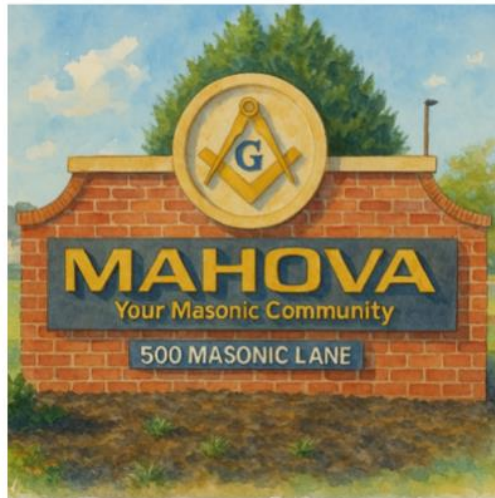
- 8:00 am Coffee & Doughnuts @GLOVA
- 10:30am Welcome to 135 Years of HOME @The WWII Memorial  
Prayer - Pledge - Introductions
- 11:00am Your 2025 Masonic Family Day Parade - See Map -  
New staging area and route this year
- 12:00pm Lunch w/Dreamsicle @The Dining Tents & Stage  
BBQ on your plate, Jimmy Buffett in the air
- 1:30pm Grand Master's Pie Eating Contest @The Stage  
4 Man Contest - Only 1 Winner

#### ATTRACTIONS

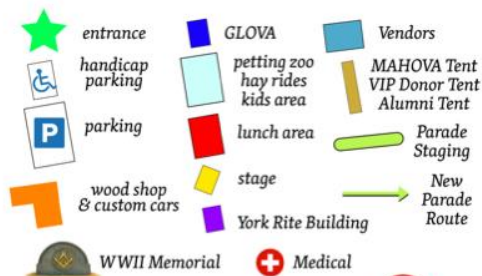
- Over 20 Vendors
- Wood Shop Sale
- Custom & Antique Cars
- Petting Zoo, Inflatables & Hayrides
- Apartment & Cottage Tours  
Sign Up At the VIP Tent
- New GLOVA Museum Exhibits  
"Must See" Exciting New Finds
- The York Rite Building Exhibits
- The MAHOVA VIP Donor Tent  
1890 Club Members Get Your Member Card Here
- Dreamsicle - A Jimmy Buffett Experience  
On stage right after the parade



## Masonic Family Day 2025



## 135 Years of HOME





## -ATTENTION TO ORDERS-

To All Sir Knights, Wheresoever Dispersed – Greetings!

The Right Eminent Grand Commander Of Knights Templar in Virginia

Cordially invites you to attend a Joint Conclave of the Grand Commandery of  
Knights Templar of Virginia, and the King Baldwin Grand Commandery of Knights  
Templar of Virginia, PHA

This historical chivalric event will take place at West Point Lodge #238, A.F.&A.M,  
located at 2126 King William Ave, West Point, VA 23181 for the purpose of  
building fraternal bonds within our Christian Order

On

-The 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five-  
Dinner will be served at Six o'clock, in the evening, with the Joint Conclave directly  
following at Seven o'clock

Please RSVP by October 3, 2025

Email: [gr@vatemplars.org](mailto:gr@vatemplars.org)

