



*Grand Commandery of Virginia -
Attention To Orders!¹*



¹ 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 -
NOVEMBER 2025

Sir Knights,

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

The old saying back home when the weather began to get a little cooler was “There was frost on the pumpkin this morning”. I suspect that some of my more rural brothers understand that, and the city types are probably wondering why there would be frost on the cans in the store. The fall season is well underway as I’m sure we all know. And if you are wondering why I’m taking so long to tell you this, the answer is simple. This month’s newsletter is late because I’ve been raking leaves and I was trying to figure out how to tell you that without it sounding like an excuse.

October was just as busy as I suspected it would be. We had Family Day at MAHOVA where we were well represented by a sizeable contingent of SKs for a full-dress parade. And, I have to say that this was the best weather for a Family Day in the last few years, so if you missed getting out and hanging out with us, well, we had a good time 😊.

On the heels of Family Day, we knighted, if I recall correctly, 18 new Sir Knights into our fraternity during our visit to District 3 on the 11th of October. What a great Templar Day that was. It was, as SK Jason Matchett said, “A full day”. It started a bit earlier and ended a bit later, but the result was that we got a lot done. I want to thank the SK Tim Dahlman, DDGC and

the SKs of District 3 for their amazing hospitality, for accommodating us that full day, and for putting on an impressive full form opening in the afternoon to truly welcome our new Fraters. A special thanks to SK Matchett, who conferred the Order from the east and to all the other members of our fraternity who came from far and wide to make the day what it was. It was a day well spent.

As advertised, we had the joint conclave with the SKs of the King Baldwin Grand Commandery at Penn-Neck on October 16th. If you missed this meeting, you missed, to begin with, the best baked ziti I've ever had. Alright, so it's not all about the food but it really was good. You also missed an evening of Chivalric Unity the likes of which have not been seen in our Commonwealth. SK Michael Coffey, REGC of the King Baldwin Grand Commandery and myself received an escort into the asylum and we were both received under an arch of steel provided by members of both bodies. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Gary Huffman sent his regrets that he could not attend with a letter that he had me read to the assembly. Also on hand was our own R.E. Department Commander, SK John Austin and our Grand Governor, SK William Reinhold, both of whom took a few minutes to greet the assembly. I, of course, had a word or two to provide to the group related to our need to work together for the cause of Christ and Freemasonry. We have enough enemies on the outside, we do not need to create separation between those of us who have taken the same vows to our Fraternity and to Christ. Thank you again to the SKs of Penn-Neck and to SK Bill Sirman, DDGC of District 1 for their tireless work in getting this meeting arranged and accommodated. You have indeed brought great credit upon yourselves and the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

We followed that event up with celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Fredericksburg Commandery #1 on October 18th. This was also a great event. And, as if to show us that the future of our fraternity and Fredericksburg in particular are well secured, some of the principal members of the arrangements committee were two of the newest SKs of

our fraternity. The SKs of 150 years ago laid a firm foundation, it is up to each of us to build upon it until, one day, we likewise become a part of the foundation that future generations of SKs likewise build upon.

In all of these activities, I want you to know that your Grand Line has worked tirelessly on your behalf. Also, numerous of the Past Grand Commanders have lent their support and presence as well. While I have tramped across the entire Commonwealth, they have been right there with me, and I sincerely appreciate their support. Once again, our Grand Commandery is in great shape for the future.

There are no official functions scheduled for this month or the next. As you know, the Grand Lodge Annual Grand Stated Communication and the Grand Chapter Annual Grand Convocation both take place in November, as well as the little holiday that take place on the 4th Thursday of the month. Let's support our parent organizations and then enjoy a time of giving thanks for the blessings of Providence that allow us to live in the best country in the world, and be members of the best fraternal organization in that country.

In December, also, there are no official visits planned. As you know, we are all encouraged to have local Christmas celebrations at our Commanderies or at least at our Districts. Allow me to encourage you to open those up to guests and invite members of your local lodges, chapters, and the ladies to join you in the celebration. You never know...that might result in a petition or two. Within the next few weeks, I will send out my guidance for how this celebration can be conducted. Not required to be done this way, just a recommendation. That said, it is my intention to drop in on as many of the local Christmas celebrations as possible. At last count, I believe I was up to 5 or so that I'll be attending. Also, and this is important...we will have our Annual Christmas Dinner and Celebration at MAHOVA this year on the 20th of December. Details to follow shortly, please mark your calendars accordingly.

Speaking of the Grand Line, I have routinely called your attention to one or other of our charities during these messages, and this month, I want to call your attention to the work of SK Jake Trenery, the Holy Land Pilgrimage (HLP). The HLP seeks to send credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical & cultural immersion experience in the Holy Land who would not have the opportunity otherwise. The goal is to give them the opportunity to ‘walk where Jesus walked’ which can positively affect the preaching, teaching, and spirituality of Christian ministers. Our funding allows them to experience the land, the sights, the sounds, the history, and the cultures of the Holy Land, past and present.

For the past few years, there has been reluctance to send ministers into the Holy Land due to the troubles, but the organizers are again confident that we can send ministers on this worthwhile trip. It is an all-expenses paid study pilgrimage in Israel for 11 days. In 2026 there will be two groups...Group A, Monday, February 9 – Thursday, February 19, 2026. Group B will be Monday, February 23 – Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Please note that we do not solicit applications. Local ministers are invited by individual Commanderies of Knights Templar to consider the possibility, and a nomination form is submitted. And this is where we need your help. Obviously, we need to continue to fund this program and we have done well, with funding now to send 4 ministers. But we also need local ministers willing and able to travel. You should know and convey to a possible candidate that this is a fully packed itinerary and a physically aggressive program that involves 5 -7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces. If you know of a deserving and dedicated minister, please bring their nomination forward to our Grand Senior Warden and Chairman, SK Jason Curtis “Jake” Trenery who can be contacted specifically via email about this philanthropy at hlp@vatemplars.com or at 703-928-8939.

You can financially support this program as well by donating online to purchase a Holy Land Pilgrimage jewel or Oak Leaf Cluster at <https://vatemplars.square.site/s/shop>, and by purchasing a raffle ticket to win a HLP jewel or Oak Leaf Cluster at an Official Visit.

Finally, true to form, I'm mentioning our YouTube video, Who Are The Knights Templar - Faithful To Our Vows. This evening we have 968 views! That's good, but by now we should be at 1K 😊. 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. K.C.T.

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 - November 2025

- 7 – 9 Grand Lodge of Virginia
- 20 – 23 Grand Royal Arch of Virginia