



John H. Austin
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Maryland

APRIL 2023 NEWS

Greetings Sir Knights

We are now fully engaged in Spring! The Vernal Equinox has come and gone, and official spring has kicked off with some really marvelous and long-lasting blooming going on. Varieties of plants are far advanced from normal bloom times and cooler weather has provided for an extended bloom time in many cases. This puts a smile on my face.

Now for an appeal to you. I ask each of you to offer Prayers to our Lord and Savior. As I write this message, one of our finest examples of Masonry and York Rite Masonry in particular, is in trouble. REPGC Randolph Disney, who currently acts as our Grand Inspector General in the Grand Commandery of Maryland has been hospitalized. The family informs us that he is in the ICU ward at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Brother and Sir Knight Randy has been in a heroic battle with illness for some time. His uncomplaining and stoic personality has kept him engaged and fully available to the craft on multiple occasions, even while undergoing treatment for his ailments. His activity this past year alone was substantial, conferring the Order of the Temple in Commandery, the SEM Degree in the Council, among other fine examples of ritual and Masonic engagement. Please take a few moments in reverent prayer to lift up Past Grand Commander Disney and his family to the Lord.

In News- The commanderies of Maryland Knights Templar have held elections and the installations will begin next week. I wish each of the new officers leading the 11 Commanderies the best for the coming Templar term. I congratulate the outgoing Eminent Commanders and hope to see them able to fully engage the members of their commanderies in support of new leadership. Please aid them by attending your Commandery and take part in the Installation of officers. I will, along with the Grand Commandery officers, be attending as many of these installations as we can manage and will assist in the installation of this new group of leaders. Congratulations Sir Knights.

The most revered day for Knights Templar and Christians of all kinds is approaching. Easter is the time when we renew our pledge of faith. Remember the terrible crucifixion. Celebrate the divine Resurrection!

Plans are underway to attend the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on Easter Sunday April 9th in Alexandria Virginia. Please plan to join us. A bus is going to be supplied by Monumental Crusade Commandery No. 3 leaving from Cockeysville Md. and stopping in Columbia Md. Easter morning to take Knights and family members directly to the memorial. If you wish to travel to celebrate the Easter religious ceremony with us, please refer to the information on the website. Look under the Events section of the Grand Commandery portion of the website- (yorkritemaryland.org) Plan to be on the hill at the Memorial by 7 AM. Families are welcome.

Maryland Knights Templar members are honored to form a living cross with our Black Chapeaus among a sea of White chapeaus upon the steps of the Memorial. If you have never taken part, please put on your uniforms and Join in the Ceremony with us. It is a Glorious day.

May 15 is the Grand Commandery Semi-Annual Conclave. We'll be holding our elections for the next Grand Commandery Templar year and reviewing the work done, and the work to do in the remaining Templar year. Please plan to join us. We'll be meeting in the gothic Room at the Grand Lodge in Cockeysville. All Templars are welcome, Dais officers of each Commandery are required to attend. Time of the meeting is 7:30

In the month of May (4th – 7th) we have been invited to attend the Bicentennial of the Grand Commandery of Virginia to be held in Williamsburg Virginia. I have written about this before and hope that you have considered attending. VEDGC Brad Andrukitis and I will be attending, and I understand that several others from Maryland Templary also have plans. You will find on the Events section of the Website full information on the events to take place in Williamsburg. If you have an interest, please make your plans right away as the event hotel is filled up and nearby hotels are rapidly running out of space. Tickets for certain aspects and meals are also scarce now- so get going.

REPGC Charles E. Warns, and his band of merry men (Knights Training Team) will be announcing dates for New Knight Training in the next couple of days. June is the month when he plans to hold his first training session. See the website under Events for current information.

A reminder-- I have been informed of a change to the publication schedule of the Knight Templar magazine. Due to cost constraints, we are told that the magazine will no longer be published each month as has been the case. Starting with the March 2023 issue, the magazine will come out quarterly. Please make note of this. It will not come in the mail once/month any longer. However, this monthly message will be changing to bring you up to speed on current events in Maryland Templary. It will be the same magazine cover for 3 months at a time but access the home page for the York Rite at yorkritemaryland.org and you will see the current

magazine posted just like always but under the CURRENT SUPPLEMENT, hit that section and a new monthly message will download.

Sir Knights- The health and success of Maryland Templary is in your hands. I realize that one only has a certain amount of time to devote to the work of the Commandery. I hope that you will live your lives with Fervency and Zeal. Attend to your Family and the daily needs of your wives and children. Attend to your spiritual and personal health. Attend to the work of your chosen occupation and deliver to your business the attention needed for your success and those of your employees and co-workers. Attend your Masonic Lodge regularly and work with them to make your community vital and safe. Attend your Chapter and Council meetings and help to make those organizations thrive. From these places are where we meet new friends and Brothers. From these ranks come our valiant new Sir Knights of faith and valor.

We are not normal people. We who live our lives as Masons and set a daily example to our fellow creatures on the planet earth have a special calling. Energy and Action are the watchwords of those so engaged. Use your time with skill, determination, and love- Love of mankind, your Lord and your neighbors. Perseverance and Tenacity are the never-ending traits of a Templar. Push on. Pull others with you. God Bless you in your travels.

Continue having a great spring!
Yours in All Knightly Courtesy,

John H. Austin
Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand commandery of Maryland