



# The Florida Knight

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## State Supplement Editor

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Hello Fellow Fraters.

Before I get down to the nuts and bolts of this month's article, Connie and I wish a very Happy Easter to all Sir Knights and their families wherever dispersed. May your Easter day and all your days be filled with peace and happiness that only our Lord and Savior can bring.

As has been in the past my articles attempt to give you some history to bite on to. This month is no different. So here we go. Besides going to church on Easter Sunday why do we have those delicious marshmallow and chocolate Easter Bunnies, what about dyeing eggs and Easter egg hunts? Let me see if I can enlighten you. Perhaps you might just say, heck I knew that. So here we go.

How many of us as children looked so forward to the annual Easter egg hunt? I know I did, although I wasn't very good at finding the eggs. Even though I wasn't good at the hunt I did enjoy the search. As I grew older I found it much more rewarding to watch my children and grandchildren search for those beautifully painted eggs. Now in many cases the eggs today are chocolate filled plastic or some other candy. So what do Easter eggs have to do with Easter or do they? Let's see.

Regardless of your denomination there are many Easter traditions that may not have its roots related to Easter, and Easter eggs may be one of them. In my research I have found that Easter eggs can be found related to non-Christian or even pagan (or non-religious) celebrations. Many people who aren't Christians choose to observe the tradition of egg decorating, egg rolling and egg hunts. In certain pre-dating Christianity pagan traditions it is believed that eggs represent fertility and birth. It is possible that egg decorating may have become an Easter tradition as a result of the importance of the true meaning of Easter; Jesus' resurrection.

Oh those delicious marshmallow or chocolate bunnies as mentioned above. Why are they part of our Easter tradition? No one really knows for sure when, how or why we have Easter Bunnies. Some believe they came to America along with the German immigrants in the 1700's. We all know that bunnies are known or we believe that bunnies are proliferate procreators. So perhaps the arrival of baby bunnies in the spring may have been associated with birth and renewal. If you take time to search the internet you may find other thoughts or ideas how bunnies and eggs worked their way into our Easter traditions.

No matter how we adopted the tradition of Easter bunnies or Easter eggs, one thing is for certain, that in today's world, Easter is a commercial event as well as a religious holiday. The sad fact in my opinion is that in many cases more precedence is placed on making money than the true meaning of Easter and the significance of the resurrection.

I am not the only Sir Knight that does research and I must give credit to Sir Knight Ronald A. Naumowicz for this and I think it is very important. We all know that our ritual contains many stories, passages and verses out of the bible. We have been told this from the Entered Apprentice Degree through the Order of the Temple. In listening to the ritual many times I have wondered why Jesus refused to drink. I thought I knew why. However, I am asking, have any of you Fraters ever been curious as well? If you didn't know why, you soon will. But first are you willing to take some time and research our ritual? I hope so. It is jammed packed with history and biblical facts that we should or may already know. Now on to why Jesus didn't drink. Gr. chole (Matthew 27:34), the LXX. Translation of the Hebrew Rosh in Psalms 69; 21, which foretells our Lord's sufferings. The drink offered to our Lord was vinegar (made of light wine rendered acid, the common drink of Roman soldiers) "mingled with gall," or, according to (Mark 15:23), "mingled with myrrh;" both expressions meaning the same thing, namely, that the vinegar was made bitter by the infusion of wormwood or some other bitter substance, usually given, according to a merciful custom, as an anodyne to those who were crucified, to render them insensible to pain. Our Lord, knowing this, refuses to drink it. He would take nothing to cloud his faculties or blunt the pain of dying. He chooses to suffer every element of woe in the bitter cup of agony given him by the Father (John 18:11).

Who among our numbers, or even yet who in the world is willing to submit to the pain that our savior suffered? Who is willing to lay down their life period? And yet our Savior did it and in the most painful manner. Easter is not about the Easter bunny or brightly colored eggs and hunts, but that our Lord and Savior who suffered a horrible and painful death on the cross, which he did for us, for our salvation and so we may have everlasting life.

No matter where you spend this Easter, and I hope that it is at church or a sunrise service near you and yes I am asking you to choose one this Easter Sunday. I will be at Easter sunrise service in our nations capital. Our Grand Prelate and I were hoping to be able to organize a bus trip and make that available to transport a large delegation of Florida Sir Knights to Washington D.C. for Easter Sunrise Service, but at the moment it is cost prohibited. Who knows we may be able to work that out in the future. I just wish I knew how some states are able to do it.

Fraters as stated above may you and your families have a very blessed Easter and may the blessing of our Lord be with you always. Until next time I remain.

Yours in Faith and Christ our Savior,

Ronald L. Parks, KYCH  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

*From the Editor - Feel free to forward all left over Easter Candy to my address! Happy Easter Sir Knights!*