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Greetings, Sir Knights!

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of North Carolina. I would like to congratulate my predecessor and friend R.E. Mike Daniels on a very successful year as Grand Commander. I would also like to thank him for his guidance and support over the last several years.

The Grand High Priest, M.E. Will Chriscoe and the Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, M.I. Jeffrey York, and I have met to coordinate activities and plans for this year. We are looking forward to traveling across the state and being with you, as well as representing you at the conclaves of other Grand Bodies across the United States.

EASTER IN DC

On Saturday April 20th at 1:15pm, the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of North Carolina will lead a squad in the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This is a long-standing tradition and most solemn honor to participate in this tribute to our fallen heroes. We will gather at Arlington National Cemetery in the early afternoon to make our way to the tomb.

Our trip to our nation’s capital will culminate with the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. There will be a parade procession up Shooter’s Hill at dawn and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will conduct the service. This is a rare and beautiful time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at the break of the first rays of the sun. If you plan to attend any of the above events, please contact me for details, meet points and information on rules and protocol while on our visit.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

In December of 1623, while recovering from a deadly fever, English poet John Donne wrote a meditation inspired by the church bell he heard ringing, fearing it was announcing his own imminent death. In what later became known as Meditation XVII, he writes, “No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod washes away, Europe is less... any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.” The often-quoted lines remind us not just of our own death, but also of the ever-changing community of mankind. Death, illness, and loss diminish us, but birth and growth rebuild. We are all connected to each other, directly or indirectly. Working together we are capable of great triumph, but working against each other, we are capable of the profound tragedy. The Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and I have chosen the image of a bell in reference to this passage for our theme this year to signify this message of unity and humility. We have inherited an amazing legacy in the York Rite that is over 200 years old. As we travel across the state this year, we will be sharing this message in hopes of reminding the Companions and Sir Knights of this great state that we are involved in this together, and remind us that when “the bell tolls,” whether it be for the loss of a brother, a building, or a York Rite body, it tolls for thee.

YORK RITE HONORS DAY

This year’s York Rite Honors Day will include the conferral of the honorary “chair degrees” for the Chapter, Council, and Commandery as well as the KYCH on Saturday, May 2nd. It will be held at the Goldsboro Masonic Temple, located at 2301 Norwood Avenue in Goldsboro, NC 27534.

Plans and dates for the district meetings are still being finalized at the time of this writing. More information will be sent out to the Secretary/Recorders shortly.

Faternally,
Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Commander