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"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

Greetings Sir Knights,

18

What the world needs right now is a little more wisdom, and wisdom comes from knowledge synthesized with experience. Knowledge without experience is merely philosophy; experience without knowledge is ignorance. But if we can combine the two, then we are getting close to something more like wisdom.

In light of this, I am happy to announce that our NC Knights Templar Education Fund is funded, structured and is now fully functional! Your contributions go directly into the trust fund created by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the purpose of assisting worthy students to secure higher education known as "The Knights Templar Educational Foundation." Your KTEF committee has screened, qualified and selected and awarded scholarships to three worthy young scholars!

The Foundation believes education beyond high school is essential in a technological age. In addition to colleges and universities, our program extends to vocational schools, technical schools, and professional schools. We know our future depends on our ability to rise to its challenges and wisely discern our paths. That starts with education. Thank you for supporting our future. If you would like to make a donation, contact me or your local Recorder.

With all Fraternal fondness and respect,
-Michael Daniels Grand Commander

August 2020

"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

From the Deputy Grand Commander:

Greetings, Sir Knights

So many of our traditional institutions and historical figures are being questioned recently if not attacked outright. We as Knights Templar model ourselves after a branch of the crusaders from the Middle Ages. While this may have been fashionable and desirable in the nineteenth century, the Crusades are no longer viewed as favorably by historians and much of the general public. To paraphrase a passage from another degree, in Masonic rituals we often select examples from history to serve as epitomes of the best that man can be. In the process, we tend to overlook many of their shortcomings, and sometimes even bestow upon them virtues or honor they never possessed. I urge you to continue to strive for these ideals as they will likely be put to the test.

In the first degree lecture of the Blue Lodge, we hear the phrase, "silence and circumspection are truly Masonic virtues." The nature of recent events call for this now more than ever. Circumspection, while being synonymous with caution, also implies that we should be careful to view all sides of an argument (from the Latin prefix "circum," meaning around, and "specere," to look). I do not mean that we should remain silent about things that concern us, but that we should remind ourselves that silence should *precede* circumspection. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally, Ludwik Wodka Deputy Grand Commander



19