

# Connecticut

S.K. James S. McNeely, IV, KTCH  
Grand Commander



## Knightly News

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Sir Knights,

As I write this message, we still don't know the direction that public gatherings will be taking. Thus, I will open by saying I look forward to the time when we can come together and celebrate life, all of our blessings, our Order, and our Past Grand Commander Mike Seamon for the fabulous year he had as Grand Commander. SK Mike and Lady Linda, I thank you for all you did representing the Grand Commandery and every Sir Knight of Connecticut.

As we know the days are getting warm and the hours of sunlight are almost at their zenith. We should all be out enjoying our time in the sun. It has been a strange spring and now as we approach summer it is time to be outdoors. Take the opportunity to be outside on a hike, a bike, or even to just grill some food and read a book. If we have learned on thing over the last couple of months it is that we need to slow down and enjoy the little things. Regardless of what you do, take time to enjoy the beauty of where we live and give thanks, for He shall see us all.

### FAMILY

During my installation I made mention of three things that we as Sir Knights should focus on and last month I wrote about Faith. I actually forgot to mention one thing last month when talking about Faith and that is the great work that SK Jack Stevens does every year putting together a great Easter sunrise service and breakfast at Masonicare every year on behalf of the Grand Commandery. This month I want to cover, Family. For too many people family is just those that are related by birth, blood, or marriage. Within the Masonic bodies we are brothers, sisters, companions, cousins, fraters, daughters, moms, and dads. Why do we use these familial forms to address and refer to each other? I would argue that it is to build the bonds that tie us together and create a stronger relationship based on love and trust. As I mentioned during the installation, love me or hate me you are my family. I may not always agree with you but I will stand by your side and fight for you every day of the week.

Before Anne had even been offered her job at UTC, I had the chance to meet several Sir Knights from Connecticut in Alexandria at the triennial session. There was one that stood out to me and the conversations that we had over those few days still ring in my ears. As an old sub guy, he talked about how everyone knows everyone else and we work together to get the job done. While he may or may not have said the words, I

heard then and I see it even now, we are a family.

As many of you know when I travel if it is possible and appropriate, I travel with both Anne and Jack. My son has learned that he has many aunts, uncles, grandpas, and grandmas and that they are spread not only across the state but throughout the Northeast as well as masonry. There is nothing that we do outside of our asylums that can't include our families. I have found that everywhere I travel my family is always welcome, we need to make sure that all of our Sir Knights and their Ladies feel the same. In fact, when I show up someplace without Jack, the first question that I usually get is "Where is he." There is a Past Grand Commander who from the first time I met him he has always emphasized how much Templary is family.

I would encourage and support any and every Commander and Commandery that looks to change their culture to add more family friendly events and focus. If we show our members that family is important and that we enjoy spending a little time together hopefully it will give more of our Sir Knights a reason to come out and give non-Templars a reason to want to join us.

Until I see you down the road...

James S. McNeely, KCT, KTCH  
Grand Commander

### Bakeless Bakesale

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Sir Knights and others for your continued support of the "Joyce Kluntz Memorial Bakeless Bake Sale". In spite of all that has gone on this year, such as no Conclave, your donations still made it possible to have a final total of \$4,105.00. Also thank you to all those "Pickle Lovers" out there and you know who you are as your purchases contributed to the final total. Again thank you for the continued support and look forward to a better year in 2021.

Thank you,  
Lady Lori Cowie, CT  
Chairperson

### St. John's Day

At this current time (late April) we are still planning on our first statewide Grand Commandery event will be the Grand Commandery St. John's Day Service. For several years now the Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church in Plantsville has hosted our annual June St. John's Day service under the direction of Sir Knight and Father Joseph Krusien-ski. This year we are planning on Sunday, June 28th with Holy Mass at 10 am followed by a brunch served by the members of the parish. This year there are also plans to rededicate the cornerstone with Masonic cornerstone ceremony, all Sir Knights are encouraged to wear their uniform. This event is open to all Masons and their families. Not only is this a great celebration of our Faith but it is a Family event that is full of Fellowship.