

**District of Columbia Supplement**  
**Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews**  
**Right Eminent Grand Commander**

**Editor: Carter L. Diggs Jr., EPC, GSw.B.**

I trust that this message finds you and your families in health and safety. I have had an opportunity to converse with many of you over the past several weeks and am continuously impressed by the way that we continue to cope with the social distancing challenges of this COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these challenges continue. A great deal of transportation, businesses, restaurants, and public places closed, we are still closed. As Knights Templars, we need to continue to be leaders in order to help open things up very soon.

We have all played a particularly important role enforcing social distancing. This has helped keep the pandemic numbers in the DC Metro area manageable compared with other areas of the nation and around the world dealing with far greater outbreaks. Our hard work has flattened the curve, and we need to now be involved in the planning to re-open. This must be done gradually, and we will follow the lead of our public and medical officials and continue protect our most vulnerable members. I urge you from your position to encourage things to open. We must have confidence and strength. Our actions will allow us to ultimately emerge from the quarantine faster. Let us demonstrate the leadership for our families, communities, jobs, and Masonic organizations necessary to help our fellow citizens re-establish our business and social lives. With safety concerns in mind, we must venture forth with strength to lead our communities in a return of the success of ourselves and our nation.

The Grand Commander has published some guidance by video.

We will conduct our Grand Session for the Grand Commandery separate from planning with this and that. This will allow us the most flexibility in order to conduct them as soon as we can. He directed that Annual Committee reports be completed and submitted. Next, we are having discussions how we can conduct elections and installations as quickly and efficiently as possible.

At the time of writing, we are working on a good Ascension Day Service that will conclude before publication. When time allows,

we will work with Grand Chapter and Grand Council to establish a schedule for the Orders and start Ritual once again.

At the Commandery level, you should execute your work. We are blessed to have three highly qualified Sir Knights serving as our current Eminent Commanders, each of whom have a great plan to accomplish during 2020-2021. Ritual and Orders are on hold but make use of current technology and social media to accomplish your other goals. Complete your financial and administrative, and present the great programs for your members that you have planned.

We have checked on each other and must continue to do so, from Commandery members, family and community. Do this routinely. As this pandemic continues to linger, good people may continue to lose their jobs and health, and the situations with people will continue to get worse before it gets better. I urge you to be supportive and be charitable. The Grand Master's initiative in DC and MESH are available. If you become aware, be proactive to assist fellow brothers in distress to take care of people.

Let us remember that we are the Knights Templar and Masons, the Masonic First Responders. We act and support our fellow knights and brethren. We do not panic under challenging circumstances and understand that this situation is temporary. When we see anxiety, we must encourage safety and opportunity. Facilitate practical thinking and good decisions. And when circumstances permit, we will show the leadership of our organizations and communities to help open the Post-COVID-19 DC Metro Area.

Sir Knights and Brethren remember that WE ARE the Masonic First Responders. We have done a great job so far. Let us continue to take advantage of our electronic tools to reassure our members and community that help is available if needed, and re-emerging will take place shortly, and we will be even stronger. We have made a difference and will continue to do so!

**Yours in the Service of Christ,**

*Sir Knight Robb Mitchell*

**Deputy Grand Commander 2019-2020**  
**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar**  
**of the District of Columbia**

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