



VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT

*Embrace the Challenge
Stand Up—Stand Out—Be Visible
Be Proud to Be A Knight Templar*



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Knighly Greetings,

The word "crisis" is shorthand for "those rough times". It is based on the definition of crisis, "a potentially unstable or dangerous situation, and/or emotionally stressful event". This certainly describes our current place in time.

Using a Western reinterpretation of a Chinese phrase that has now become slang to many linguists and native Chinese speakers provides the way to view crisis. 危机 (wēi jī) is loosely translated as "danger and opportunity". To take this further, there is opportunity in danger.

In crisis, we are looking for a greater sense of predictability, safety, hope, connection and trust.

In Future Shock, Alvin Toffler wrote that when people go through times of rapid change, they need what he calls "islands of stability". As Knights Templar our Christian values provide that.

In the current pandemic environment, our opportunity is to expand our knowledge and improve so it does not reoccur. It is not an easy road to follow but we have done it before – Black Plague, Spanish Flu, WWII, 9-11 as examples. What was the norm will no longer be so.

Our islands of stability come from God. His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ states in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." No matter how tumultuous or volatile this world gets, we can count on our Savior to be our anchor and refuge. God will give us the strength we need to make it through if we look to Him and His Word to guide us. He is our refuge and our strength (Psalms 46:1).

In consideration of the current danger, S. K. Benjamin F. Hill, REGC, found it necessary to postpone and relocate the Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. He has put the welfare of all Sir Knights above what may be convenient for a few.

The Stated Conclave will be a one-day intense business event held at the Scottish Rite Temple in Richmond, VA on Saturday June 27, 2020. All the information pertaining to the conclave was distributed to the Commanderies and posted on the Grand Commandery website. It will be a long arduous day, but our Order will emerge stronger and more focused than ever.

Danger is not new to our Order as evidenced by the steady decline in our membership. Opportunity was seized two years ago with the development and implementation of The Long Range Plan. It is beginning its' third year as a living document and is making a difference.

For the first time in over forty years our Order increased its membership! This begins fulfilling the three stated goals of the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar U. S. A., Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, which are Membership, Membership, and Membership. It took the leadership of our Grand Commander and the tireless work of the Grand Officers, the Membership Committee, the DDGC's, Commanders and every Sir Knight to accomplish this. Well done.

Moving forward, membership must be the first goal. Without a growing membership we cannot maintain our charities that are a great part of our recognition outside of our Order. Membership must be our priority as it is the only way to create a thriving Order. Charities represent us but membership makes us.

In All Knightly Courtesy,

J. Jeffrey McClelland, KCT
V. Eminent Deputy Grand Commander