

# ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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## FROM THE GRAND COMMANDER

Sir Knights, what an honor it is to address you as your Grand Commander. I would like to thank you all for this great privilege, honor and challenge. The leadership displayed by Sir Knights Nesbit and McGee will be difficult to match. With your assistance we can make the Commandery even better.

Are you aware of the Grand encampment's Emerging Leadership Seminars? These are designed to help you grow in Templar, Masonic and everyday leadership. The Grand Lodge of Alabama has chosen this for Lodge leadership. Please consider participating in either the one planned for May 9<sup>th</sup> at Birmingham Metro or at the S.E. York Rite Conference June 12-14 in Mobile.

There are other important dates and events that I hope to see you at: Our fundraising golf tournament is scheduled for April 25 in Montgomery; the leadership seminar May 9<sup>th</sup>; the Southeast York Rite conference will be June 12-14 in Mobile and the side degrees will be August 15.

We will also be having the Knight Templar Ball! As you are probably aware, this is a major fundraiser for sending a minister to the Holy Land. The Ball is scheduled for July 18 at Alcazar Shrine Temple in Montgomery. Ticket prices are \$65 per person, \$100 per couple and \$425 for a table of up to 8.

Sir Knights we are a uniformed Christian Order. The uniform sets us apart and is a visible badge of the Order. Contrary to common beliefs, you do not have to mortgage the house to purchase a uniform. There are several lower cost options available to you. Just look through this publication for options and if you need assistance or have questions, give me a call or email me.

Lady Lena (Sam) and I look forward to fellowshiping with you as we travel down the road together this year!

In His service,  
William J. Burfitt, KCT, KTCH  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

## GRAND PRELATE'S APARTMENT

To begin, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Jerry Burfitt, for appointing me to this position. What a privilege and pleasure it is for me to serve as the Grand Prelate of our Grand Commandery of Alabama once again for the coming year.

During my previous terms as Grand Prelate, I wrote a monthly message for the Alabama Supplement to the *Knight Templar* magazine which I called the "Grand Prelate's Apartment." Since I received many nice compliments on it, I am repeating this column for this coming year.

It is my sincere hope that my efforts will help you on your spiritual journey as a Knight Templar.

The period in the Christian calendar known as Lent began on February 26 (Ash Wednesday) and will end on April 9, 2020 (Maundy Thursday). As I am certain that most of you know, it represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. This 40-day period for Christians is a time to reflect, fast, and show forth repentance in preparation for the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. While many people make a vow to "give up" something for Lent, I maintain that we as Templars should "latch onto" something; namely, watchfulness.

Our Lord Himself exhorts us to be watchful: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42). "Be sure of this: If the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into." (Luke 12:39). Too often we let ourselves be lulled into complacency by the trivial pursuits of the world-- gaming, fantasizing, daydreaming, television, self-pity, brooding, boredom, gluttony in food or drink. And we thus fail to rouse ourselves to what things are really important-- study, meditation, prayer, teaching, service to the poor, justice and peacemaking. We lose opportunities for Christian service and compassion because we are mentally asleep in our cocoon of contentment. During Lent, therefore, let us resolve to fervently watch and pray for the Holy Spirit, who will speak the word of God to our hearts, the word of truth and life, and who will awaken in us a Christ-like humility to be of service to and to have love for all mankind.

In His Name,  
George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, KGT  
Grand Prelate