



# The Florida Knight

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## State Supplement Editor

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Hello Fellow Fraters.

Depending on how things go with the coronavirus, this should be my last writing to you as Grand Commander. I hope that all have weathered this pandemic with minimal impact to you and your family. I have truly enjoined my time and serving the Grand Commandery of Florida and the great Knights in our Grand Jurisdiction. From the bottom of my heart I thank each of you for making, in my opinion, my/our year successful. I could not have completed this year without your support.

I want to personally thank my Grand Line Officers one and all for your support and dedication. I know our Grand Line is in good shape for the future and you will continue to do your best for my relief and his and so on. I thank the District Deputies and District Instructors for all you have done for your districts and for the Grand Commandery. To all Eminent Commanders thank you for leading your Commandries in support of our goals. Speaking of goals I must touch on goals. I believe most of my goals were realized and I won't elaborate on them except for one, which didn't even come close. I had high hopes for our Ministers to the Holy Land and we didn't get close to the mark set last May. I can give you lots of reasons of why we fell way short, but choose to accept full responsibility for the poor showing in this area.

Enough negative, I will move on to something more positive and enjoyable. If you read your Knights Templar Magazine for February and my supplement for that month you will remember I spoke about knighting 103 Masons in one day which is quite an accomplishment. I challenged our Commandries if any of them would like to try and top the 103 knights in one day. I recently heard back from Sir Knight Harvey L. Ward, PMEGHP that New York isn't the only state to accomplish such. I was unaware that in 1987 Gainesville Commandery hosted candidates from throughout the state, where they knighted 107 in one day. He states the work was perfectly done, without prompters, from complete memory, with nothing being skipped nor eliminated. Sir Knight George Chipouras, PREGC conferred the Order of the Temple and knighted each man himself. It took 13 or 14 hours to complete the ceremony. The order of the Temple was conferred at R.T. Schafer Lodge No. 350. There was standing room only with over 250 in attendance. Since receiving this information I spoke to S. K. Marvin Gerhard, PREGC, and this isn't the only time that 100+ have been knighted in one day in Florida. To quote Sir Knight Harvey "Florida does not take a back seat to anyone and Excellence is the key word." As I said before who is going to take up the sword and do it again?

Sir Knights, this is our history and I believe it needs to be documented, not solely for the Commandery, but for all our York Rite Bodies. Fact of life is we all are getting older, and if events like the one mentioned above aren't documented, we will lose that history. I hope that Gainesville's 107 Knighting in one day is documented in writing somewhere besides Harvey's head and I am sure it is in the proceedings for 1987, but if not it should be in our history files as well. I wonder how much of our important history is lost because we haven't communicated with each other.

Now a bit of history for your reading pleasure. Have you ever wondered how we as Knights Templar went from the uniform they wore during the Crusades to the Class "A" uniform we wear today. I for one have, but so far I haven't figured out when or why it changed. I will keep researching and I am sure I will find it someday. While researching, I did find out a couple interesting things. The white mantle they wore was said to be a symbol of purity and a reflection of the Knight's vow of chastity. It has also been suggested, but not proven that they were required to wear sheepskin underwear and they were never to be removed as another one of their vows. Who is up for that one? I know we all have seen movies or seen where many knights of the day had long hair. However, the Templars hair was short and they were forbidden to cut their beards. Being a retired member of the armed forces I see the need for short hair, but don't know why they weren't allowed to cut their beards. I for one think being a Knights Templar required much more of a man centuries ago then it does today.

Now for some Florida history for you, and I challenge you to tell me where I have retrieved this information. The following are three short articles I found doing some reading and thought I would share part of them with you. Your challenge is to figure out where I got the information;

1. I read an article about an Easter Service at Springtime Commandery No. 40 in Dunedin, Florida. What cause did they pass the plate for?
2. Another one was about a York Rite Festival in Jacksonville honoring past Grand High Priest Wilbur Welling Masters Jr. What did they present to each member of that class?
3. This Commandery took time to congratulate its Eminent Commander George E. Pertric with 115 Knights present. What Commandery did Eminent Commander Pertric belong to?

Here is my hint. I like reading old Knights Templar Magazine Articles. Now you just have to figure out which one. Good luck. If you can't figure it out I will tell you the answers, but only after you give me some history you find interesting.

Fraters I think it is time that I finish this supplement and give you all a rest from my ramblings. Before I go once again, thank you from the bottom on my heart for all that the Grand Officers, District Deputies, District Instructors and the Knights of subordinate Commanderies have done to make this a successful year, and especially to my wife Connie, without her I could not have gotten this far.

Yours in Faith and Christ our Savior,

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Right Eminent Grand Commander