

West Virginia Supplement

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Vincent E. Perry, Right Eminent Grand Commander



From the Office of your Right Eminent Grand Commander,
Sir Knight Vincent E. Perry:

As of March 10, 2020, Sir Knight Jeffery N. Nelson, our Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knight Templar, issued General Order #11. It states that by his authority under section 23 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment do hereby waive the requirements of section 36(A) of said constitution, and authorize the grand commander of each grand commandery within the grand encampment to postpone its stated conclave for a period not to exceed six months. In that of such postponement, the revised date of the stated conclave shall not conflict with dates of the stated conclave of another Grand Conclave within the department.

After conferring with and receiving assurance from our own Mid Atlantic Department Commander, Sir Knight William F. Reinhold PGC-VA, as to the date for our Grand Conclave of West Virginia, I have postponed our Grand Commandery until July 30, 31st and Aug. 1, 2020. All reservations that have been made, or will be made, will be honored completely. Please take note of the date change. I am looking forward to seeing all sir knights and their ladies. I am hopeful that all of the unpleasantness of the COVID-19 Coronavirus will be under control by then.

Now, since our last supplement, your grand commander and his lady have had the pleasure of attending the Grand Royal Arch, Grand Council Royal and Select Masons and Grand Commandery of the state of Delaware. We were received and treated with the upmost respect. We observed how other Grand bodies conduct their Grand Conclaves and this was a great learning experience for me.

Upon returning home and being advised about the coronavirus, I contacted 14 Past Grand Commanders and our Grand officers on their advice. At this point I issued General Order #7 to cease all meetings and

work of the constituent commanderies until the virus is contained. I am saddened about not being able to fellowship with our members, however these precautions are in the best interests of them.

Under normal circumstances this would be my last supplement to you and I would be telling all and thanking each for the privilege of being your Grand Commander. Also, for the wonderful help that each of our Past Grand Commanders have given me and for the past grand ladies who are always there with kind words of wisdom. I would especially thank the special ones like PGC Paul O. Davis who started me in the line years ago. And his lady Shirley who has truly been a God send to me, especially after the passing of my late wife Kathy. Our recorder, PGC Paul Baker, and treasurer, PGC Ed Ball, who are always there with sound advice. A special thanks goes to my youngest son and E.G. Sword Bearer Tyler M. Perry who is the quiet but wise beyond his years voice that I listen to for guidance. I truly believe that your Grand Commandery Officers are the best in the nation. I think of them all often and they are all in my continued prayers.

Our Commanderies are really trying to confer our work in a professional and meaningful manner. Inspector General Chris Baun has worked diligently to bring our work where it is today with the assistance of his Deputy Corps. Though a lot of their work is done behind the scenes, their efforts really show with our improvement.

My year as your Grand Commander has had some hard times, especially with the passing of our Grand Sword Bearer and Grand High Priest Sir Knight Gary Tucker. The effect of Gary's passing has had a profound effect on me. Gary was just the kind of man that made you feel good to be in the same room as him. You never saw Gary out in public that he wasn't holding his lovely wife Ladonna's hand. Rest assured, Gary still lives in the heart of Ladonna and many, many men and masons across this great land. Please continue to keep Gary's family in your prayers.

Thank you all again for everything you do for our Great State of West Virginia and masonry in general. Allow me to close with a scripture for the gospel of St. Luke, 21st chapter, and 26 verse: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

God be with and bless you all,
Vincent E. Perry, Right Eminent Grand Commander