

# Connecticut

S.K. James S. McNeely, IV, KTCH  
Grand Commander



## Knightly News

S.K. Charles D. O'Neill, KCT, PGC  
cdoneill@snet.net

Sir Knights,

Just like every month let me start by saying, I hope this message finds you well. As I write this message Jack has just started the first week of in-person classes being held every day. I have truly been amazed by how quickly time has progressed. Three years ago, Anne and I were preparing to head to China to bring our son home. That was a life changing event in our household, 2020 has provided life changing events for many of our Sir Knights and their families. While Anne and I saw our lives change it was many of the Sir Knights and their ladies that helped us adjust. As Sir Knights let us always remember to not only check on our brothers and their families but never to be afraid to ask our fellow frater for help when help is needed.

As we enter the latter months of autumn it is time to be thankful for all that we have in our lives. While many might say that in 2020 there isn't much to be thankful for, we have many things to celebrate. This year I am thankful for each of you, for my family, for those that work to keep all of us safe, and those that make sure we have food on our tables. Having grown up where there are more cattle than people and with a father that runs the only clinic, I know the sacrifices that our health care workers and farmers make every day. As this is now November let us remember to take time to remember what we are thankful for and give that thanks to the Lord.

Until I see you down the road...

James S. McNeely, KCT, KTCH  
Grand Commander

### **Knight Templar Eye Foundation**

by SK Edward Page, Grand Captain General

We have all heard the phrase "They would give their shirt off their back". Those are tall words and ideals to guide and live by. Recently Sir Knight James S. McNeely IV, Right Eminent Grand Commander offered something more in an effort to help bring attention to and raise money for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. His goal is to raise at least \$2500.00 and to do this he has offered to the top donation; they will shear his hair. After that he will raffle off opportunities until there is literally nothing left. This offer is for a limited time however, and will close targeting December 31. I know his many friends, brothers and fellow Sir Knights from Minnesota will be looking to participate.

The Knight Templar Eye Foundation's mission is to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. Grants supported by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. are awarded to impact the care of infants, children, and adults. Clinical and basic research on conditions that may be potentially preventable or correctable such as amblyo-

pia, cataract, glaucoma, optic nerve hypoplasia, nystagmus, retinopathy of prematurity, and hereditary diseases that occur at birth or within early childhood, such as retinoblastoma, is encouraged. Proposals for support of basic research on eye and visual system development also are welcome. Since its inception, the Foundation has expended over \$156 million on research, patient care, and education. Research grants totaling in excess of \$28 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics. All endowed professorships are awarded \$2 million, matched dollar for dollar by the institution. Endowed Professorships; The Knights Templar Eye Foundation has established endowed professorship programs at a leading research universities and teaching hospitals, including the Mayo Clinic, Baylor College of Medicine, and Wilmer Eye Institute.

As this year's Chairman of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Connecticut I have personal connection to this worthy cause, I and my family have had eye disorders. I have had two detached retinas; my father and brother have also had detached retinas. And I too have undergone cataract surgery. We have great respect for those doing research, physicians who implement the techniques gained through ocular study, and patients who undergo necessary procedures. Every year more and more advancements are made in the science of the eye to make it possible to retain sight, where without this research and care those 5, 10, 20 years ago, many would have lost their sight. From techniques, equipment, knowledge, and medicine every advancement makes a difference to so many. Please send all donations to, SK Edward C. Page (Knights Templar Eye Foundation Chairman) PO Box #897, Brooklyn CT 06234

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

by SK Edward Varjabedian, Grand Prelate

As Fratres and Sir Knights we should pause for a moment in our daily activities and give thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for giving us another day of safe living and health. There are millions of people throughout the world who cannot proclaim the same. During this time of unprecedented uncertainty, let us give thanks for what we have.

Let us offer praise and thanksgiving to God. We lift up our hearts to Him and thank Him for all the good works and care He provides. Even in times of hopelessness and despair the one thing that binds us together is the promise of Hope, and hope only comes from Faith.

Always remember as Templars that our forefathers stopped and gave thanks, whether for giving them a new day, a meal or the opportunity to gather and praise Him. We, as Knights Templar, have fought in wars, protected our nations against the forces of evil, and political unrest. In every instance we have stopped and knelt to give thanks. Our Lord is our Guardian of Hope and as His faithful servants we ask that He protect us from our enemies, both visible and invisible. We, Your faithful servants, who are under the protection of Your Holy and venerable Cross, ask your protection for all of our Fratres, their families, their homes, their bread, their salt and their water. Make us worthy to glorify the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always, forever and ever. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

connecticut supplement