



## Massachusetts and Rhode Island Supplement

**Grand Commander**

S.K. James Sanford Stone Sr. (18)

**Editor:**

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### NOVEMBER MESSAGE

From Grand Commander

This month, we celebrate two major National Holidays. We in New England remember the First Thanksgiving was in Plymouth when the Pilgrims were most grateful at having survived the previous winter and having a bountiful harvest. More about that Holiday is below.

I would be very remiss if I did not first thank all of you, Sir Knights, for the honor you have bestowed upon me to become your Grand Commander. Barbara and I will both make it our personal mission to be of service to you and your families this Templar Year. We had planned some special evenings together, unfortunately, do to Covid -19, these evenings will have to be postponed.

Beginning this month, I will be hosting monthly Jurisdiction wide zoom meetings. They will be Held on the third (3rd) Saturday of the month at 7:00 pm and will be open to all Fraters. Zoom invitations will be sent to your Recorder who will then send it via e-mail to the membership.

My goal is to provide you with the latest news and updates as it pertains to Grand Commandery as well as your local Commandery. There will be a guest speaker followed a brief Q&A.



Now, back to our two major holidays. President Washington made the first National Proclamation of a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving on November 26, 1789. Prayers of gratitude were to be directed to Divine Providence in creating the United States and the new Federal Constitution. The annual celebration of Thanksgiving, however, did not come about until President Abraham Lincoln and Congress declared on October 3, 1863, that a Day of Thanksgiving would be on the fourth Thursday of November of every year as a testimonial to the union victory at Gettysburg which changed the course of the war and preserved the Union.

Armistice Day, now referred to as Veterans Day, came about in gratitude for the end of World War I and was celebrated on the 11th Day of the month. The armistice was signed and became effective on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Two very special days of prayer and thanksgiving. As the days shorten and the dark hours of a Covid- 19 winter lengthen, there still is a very great deal to be thankful for: family, friends, a peaceful land to live in – and Life, itself. It is also a time to let those family and friends who might otherwise believe that they are forgotten discover a phone call, letter, or card from you which brightens their day with love.

Remember them, Sir Knights, and may God Bless you.

Happy Thanksgiving

Jim and Barbara

