



The Florida Knight

S.K. Brett A. Gordon

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2020
1201 NW 193rd Ave - Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Email: gordonphd@gmail.com
Phone: (954) 802-8147



State Supplement Editor

Gary R. Roane - 3632 6th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713 - grrokane123@gmail.com

Greetings Sir Knights,

While we are still not fully up-and-running, there has been lots going on behind the scenes within the Grand Commandery of Florida. We have had our second Grand Officers/DDGCs meeting where we are planning for various legislative initiatives. One such initiative is the Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) which was instituted by the Grand Encampment in 2019. The Medal is available to all Florida Commanderies to award to one of their worthy members each calendar year. The Grand Officers are putting together the proposed requirements for receiving this medal, which will be voted on during the 2021 Grand Commandery Session. I will try to have a virtual town hall meeting once we develop a draft of the requirements to enable us to receive feedback from the individual commandery members prior to putting in the final legislative paperwork. The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) will be a great way for a local commandery to reward that one special Sir Knight that truly goes above & beyond his duties.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage Award has now been instituted (refer to Executive Order No. 1 dated 1 June A.O. 902) and I believe a few Sir Knights have already made the \$500 contribution to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund of Florida. We are working hard to build a fund that will ultimately allow us to use the interest to help assist sending ministers to the Holy Land. Currently, each time we help a local commandery send a minister, we deplete our Fund. Your support of \$500 will help build that fund quickly and will allow the Florida Grand Commandery to more fully support sending ministers to the Holy Land in the future. If you have made the required contribution of \$500 please inform me so I can make plans to present it to you formally at an upcoming meeting or Festival.

Speaking of which, we should now be preparing for our upcoming Fall Festivals around the State. Please make sure you check with your local District Deputy Grand Commanders for up-to-date times and locations, as they may change depending on local government regulations. I know that COVID19 and General Order No. 12 have hindered our abilities these past few months to operate in the manner that we have been accustomed to in the past. I hope, however, that during this time you have kept busy by holding ritual practices with your local Chapters and Councils at the normally scheduled Commandery meetings. This will keep Commandery members in the habit of meeting monthly and will allow much needed practice to occur before the Fall Festivals.

Last month I received lots of positive feedback regarding our August 1st virtual educational event and I hope that you will be able to attend those that are scheduled in the future. These are great recruiting tools to demonstrate to our Blue Lodge Brothers that the York Rite is the place to continue their Masonic Education. Please periodically check the Grand York Rite website for upcoming educational events that will be held throughout the 2020 - 2021 year. Also, I would ask that you check my Facebook page (Grand Commander

Knights Templar of Florida - 125th Anniversary), as I try to post information that may be of help to you there as well.

In addition to the upcoming Festivals and educational events, we are quickly approaching the October deadline for submitting the names of ministers that are attending the 2021 Holy Land Pilgrimage in February. The 2021 dates are: Group 1, February 1st - 11th and Group 2, February 15th - 25th. The Grand Encampment is still hosting this event, so please try to have your paperwork submitted well ahead of the deadline. I would also request that the names of all ministers attending be submitted to the Deputy Grand Commander, even if your Commandery is planning to pay for the entire cost for the minister to attend the pilgrimage.

As I close out this short message, I want to provide you a little update on my travels. As you read this I will most likely be returning from 130th Supreme Council Session of the Grottos of North America. While I am sure most Past Grand Commanders have not attended this event in previous years, I am sure that all of you will agree that it was certainly an event that I should be present to represent the Grand Commandery of Florida. For those of you that are not members of the Grotto organization, the new Grand Monarch is none other than our own, Sir Knight Tali Atala of Miami Commandery No. 13. It is truly an honor for Florida to have one of its members elected to a national leadership position. In the past, Florida has had this honor only a few times, with George A. Chipouras, PGC as Grand Preceptor in 2006 of the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and Steven Q. Steele, PGHP, PGC as Grand Master General of the Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour. All of these Sir Knights happen to be members of Miami Commandery No. 13, which makes it even more special to me to have witnessed Sir Knight Atala's installation since Miami is my home Commandery. While I know it goes without saying, please support Sir Knight Atala during his year as the Grand Monarch. He is a very dedicated Mason and I am not only proud that he is my Brother and a fellow Knight of the Temple, but that his is my friend.

In addition to attending the National Grotto Convention I have also had the pleasure of attending the Installations of Sir Knight Cirilo P. Marquez, as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of California, Brother Brendon Jackson from Edward K. Walker Chapter as State Master Councilor for the Florida DeMolay Association, and Ms. Cheyenne Glover as the Grand Worthy Advisory for the Florida Assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. It just so happened that all of these were virtual meetings due to the COVID19 restrictions that were in place at the time, but it was certainly a pleasure to represent the Grand Commandery of Florida and be recognized by these organizations while in attendance. The Grand Commandery of California even announced that they had modeled their convention on ours, after speaking with the Most Eminent Grand Master and being told how pleased he was with the manner in which we held our virtual convention in May.

It just goes to show you Sir Knights, Florida Masons and members of the Masonic Fraternity lead the way in innovation. We are at the precipice of Tomorrow's Masonry and we will set the path for others to follow. As always, it is a pleasure to serve as your Grand Commander and to represent the Grand Commandery of Florida wherever I may travel.

Donec Totem Impleat Orbem,

Brett A. Gordon, KYCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander