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NORTH CAROLINA

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Greetings Sir Knights,

For the last two months, I have been travelling across the state with my counterparts, GHP Will Chriscoe and GIM Jeff York. We have been having a wonderful time meeting with the local bodies and enjoying some wonderful hospitality and fellowship. For this, Sir Knights, I am sincerely grateful.

Regardless of which Masonic bodies we are a part of, we will all at some point come upon a time when the wind in our sails slackens and the energy and enthusiasm runs low. It is during these critical times that we discover the things that sustain us. Perhaps the most important is a sense of purpose. We occasionally need to be reminded of why we are here and why we carry on. One set of reminders is built into the opening ceremonies of our rituals. In these, we recite the duties and purposes of our bodies, sometimes explicitly, sometimes symbolically.

In the Commandery, consider the duties of the Banner Guards (Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, and Warder). If you recall what the banner represents, the Banner Guards' purpose is immediately apparent. Defending the banner, which bears a large red passion cross in its center, implies that we must remain vigilant in defending the principles and values of our faith. This is most often done through our words and actions as well as the example we set in both public and private company.

The Wardens' duties include attending and supporting "weary Pilgrims" on their journey. As I discussed in my message last month, we are all on a journey and thus it is incumbent upon us in this capacity as Knights Templar to support each other. We are travelling, seeking, and struggling every day in our own lives toward some goals or objectives.

Many times, supporting those in distress can demand much of us, including time and resources. But often, it can be just the smallest gestures of kindness that can truly make a difference to some people. Some days, it is we ourselves who are the weary Pilgrims. At other times, we can be the generous and valiant Knight for others in need. Don't miss the opportunity to answer the call of our duties and live up to our ideals.

The Commander's duties include charity, hospitality, and moderation. In this, we are offered wise counsel on how to govern and manage others when we are presented the reins of authority. It is worth noting that in the opening, nowhere does it state that the Commander needs to give orders, demand obedience, or punish transgression. Sometimes, these things may be required of the Commander, but the duties in the opening draw our attention to our higher purposes instead of our more mundane functions. Tending to the hungry, the weary, and the afflicted suggest that humility and service are the ideals to which a Commander should aspire to best serve the Sir Knights in his charge as well as the community around him.

Hopefully, these reminders can help us to stay the course and reaffirm why we get together and what higher purposes we collectively pursue to serve our God, our country, our neighbors, and ourselves.

DISTRICT MEETING- AUGUST 2021

Wednesday, August 4 District 6 Greensboro

CASTLE McCULLOUGH

This year the Greensboro bodies will be hosting a conferral of the Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough in Jamestown, NC on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring new candidates into the Commandery. The cost will be \$100 per candidate, and the funds will go to the Holy Land Pilgrimage fund. Please contact me or Larry Aydlett (supplement editor) for more information.

Courteously,
Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Commander