



Washington Supplement

SK Alan T. Spreen  
REPGC

SK Bryan D. Bechler, PC, COH,  
KCT, Editor

[bry.kat@frontier.com](mailto:bry.kat@frontier.com)



Greetings Sir Knights:

I hope by the time you read this that the restrictions imposed by the Governor during this pandemic have been finally lifted, and that we are able to resume normal activities. I am watching the news to see if this actually happens.

Our candidates have been kept in waiting for some time now, and it is time to begin the conferring of the Orders. Please remember that first impressions are lasting, and well delivered work can have a lasting impression on the candidates and inspire them to seek further light. To this end I encourage each Commandery to practice their work, and also to be sure to have a Sir Knight available to answer the questions of the new Sir Knights.

Please also emphasize to the Sir Knights the importance of education. The symbols employed in our Degrees and Orders are very old and have many layers of meanings. Conferral of the Degrees and Orders can be very impressive, but sometimes the explanations of the philosophy and symbols is superficial. I encourage all to extend their knowledge of the history, philosophy and symbolism of Freemasonry. In this regard, the Companion Adept of the Temple program offered by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America is very helpful, and I encourage all of our Sir Knights to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

I wish to emphasize the history of our wonderful Fraternity goes back not only to the Craft Guilds, but also to the Knights Templar of the Crusades. Despite the efforts of Phillip and

Clement, the Knights Templar was not destroyed, but continued to exist under other names. In Portugal, it was renamed Knights of Christ and placed under protection of the King rather than the Pope, and the Templar prowess in navigation was undoubtedly involved in Portuguese success in the fifteenth century. Prince Henry the Navigator was a Grand Master of the Knights of Christ and Vasco de Gama was a member.

In Scotland, as late as 1488, King James IV issued a Charter reaffirming the rights not only of the Knights of St. John to their holdings in Scotland, but also to the Knights Templar. Of the many Templar holdings in Scotland, the Knights Hospitaller had taken over only four properties which they held separately from their own and recorded in their records as Templar properties. The remaining Templar properties remained in Templar hands.

I hope the above has excited your interest in the history of Knights Templar and Masonry. I plan to add more tidbits in missives to come.

Once again, I wish to emphasize Communication. Although electronics have helped some during the restrictions of the pandemic, I fear we have left behind a number of members who are not savvy to electronics and are not electronically connected. We need to make a concerted effort to keep all members informed of our plans and activities by whatever means of communication are needed. This includes not only electronic media, but also snail mail, telephone, and whatever other means we can come up with. Experience shows that keeping our membership informed and involved will go a long way toward accomplishing our goal of membership retention.

I wish all the best for our Sir Knights and their families.

SK Alan T. Spreen, REGC  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington