

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for December, 2021
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
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Greetings Sir Knights!

and I had the great pleasure of attending the York Rite Grand Sessions in Maryland as one of my first out of state visitations as Grand Commander. I wish Sir Knight John H. Austin, Right Eminent Grand Commander, and the Officers of the Grand Commandery of Maryland the best for this Templar year. It was such a pleasure to talk and get to know them. It was great to hear Maryland experienced positive membership growth this past year. The Grand Officers in Maryland have a great working relationship and seem to be very supportive of each other and I think we can expect great things from the state of Maryland. I was also very impressed with the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Maryland, Randolph S. Disney. After seeing the work and integrity of this distinguished Mason, it was not surprising to learn that he was raised in New England Lodge No. 4 and Knighted at Mount Vernon Commandery No. 1 in Ohio. It is great to see leadership coming out of Ohio Freemasonry serving in other jurisdictions. Back in August we met Sir Knight James B. Steele at the Triennial in Minneapolis where he was installed as the Right Eminent Department Commander of the Mid-Atlantic Conference, and it was nice to get to know him better when we saw him in Maryland. We look forward to seeing him again in our travels.

Sir Knight Peter R. Spring, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Virginia seemed excited to share that they are working on projects that will lead up to their Centennial Celebration which will take place in Williamsburg, Virginia in 2023. This year they had a special bicentennial medal made to be sold as a fundraiser with a lot planned for a kickoff at their Grand Conclave in 2022. I am looking forward to seeing S.K. Spring in Alexandria for Easter and hearing more about their plans. In addition, it was a pleasure to meet Sir Knight Randall C. Mullen, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Delaware. It was interesting to learn the Grand Commandery of Delaware was chartered in 1991 and has three Commanderies. It was also good to see Sir Knights F. Thomas Taylor from Delaware and Monty Glover from Hawaii, in our travels. We met these two at the Triennial in Minneapolis back in August. Since then, I believe we have seen them in Tennessee in September and in Maryland in October. Sir Knight Taylor was also at our Grand Conclave in Ohio. I wish them all safe travels.

In November we were very pleased to have so many Sir Knights, Ladies and Guests in attendance at the Grand Commander's Reception in Cuyahoga Falls. It is truly a humbling experience to feel such support. Pam and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who came out. We hope you had a great time, and we look forward to seeing each of you in our travels.

It seems almost every Mason I have ever truly looked up to has spent much time in their Masonic career traveling and visiting around the district, arch, or division. Traveling Masons, in my opinion, tend to be more caring and understanding as well as more knowledgeable of the craft and capable of whispering good council to others. There are two Sir Knights that I have looked up to since becoming a Mason of which seemed to travel everywhere together and in honor of them, I am having two traveling banners made to encourage the Sir Knights of our Commanderies to travel together for comradery as well as to encourage a competitive spirit (not to mention bragging rights for the winners). Therefore, I was very pleased to see Warren Commandery No. 39 claim both the Richard H. Palm Traveling Banner and Frank T. England Traveling Banner.

These banners can be captured by another commandery by visiting a stated conclave of the commandery that possess it (the Frank T. England banner only within the Northeastern Division and the Richard H. Palm banner from any commandery in Ohio) with at least four voting members from their commandery present. The highest-ranking Sir Knight from the visiting commandery just needs to rise and address the Eminent Commander announcing who he is, what commandery he is from and introduce the visiting fraters accompanying him. The banner should be presented to him before closing the meeting to take back to his home commandery. If more than one qualifying visiting commandery is present the commandery with the most present will get the banner. If two with the same number are present than the commandery that traveled the furthest (from their home commandery) will take the banner.



Both banners will continue to be passed as commanderies travel to visit and claim them. Let's not forget about those bragging rights. I encourage the commandery that possesses either of these traveling banners to be sure to remind the other commanderies they have it at each opportunity (while keeping the comments friendly but with all the appropriate bragging rights being applied). It is my hope that this will lead to many happy memories while enjoying the Templar experience.

Sir Knight Frank T. England was a dedicated Mason with many titles including a 33°, Knight York Cross of Honour, Past District Deputy Grand Master, Past Deputy Division Commander, and Knight Templar Cross of Honor. This banner is a traveling banner for within the Northeastern Division and was presented to Warren Commandery No. 39 at the Grand Commander's Reception for being the commandery from the Northeastern Division with the most voting members in attendance.

Sir Knight Richard H. Palm was a dedicated Mason with many titles including a 33°, Knight York Grand Cross of Honour, Past Deputy Division Commander, Knight Commander of the Temple, Past Grand Recorder, and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander. This banner is a traveling banner for the state of Ohio and was presented to Warren Commandery No. 39 at the Grand Commander's Reception for being the Ohio commandery with the most voting members in attendance.



Also in November, the Grand Commandery Officer's traveled to Twinsburg, Ohio to reconsecrate the asylum of Allenby Commandery No. 73 in celebration of their 100th anniversary, to Akron, Ohio to reconsecrate the asylum of Akron Commandery No. 25 in celebration of their 150th anniversary, and to Millbury, Ohio to dedicate the new asylum of Eu-Tah Commandery No. 66. It was certainly a pleasure to share in this special occasion for each of these commanderies and I thank each of you for the courtesy and hospitality displayed at each of these visits. Thank you for being a positive part of the Templar Experience!

December brings us the opportunity for Christmas Observances. Christmas has always been a very special time in my life when we not only rejoice in the blessings of the past but also tend to extend greater kindness, hospitality, and charity to all we know and meet. This particular year, more than many of the past I look forward to the joy of giving of ourselves in support of those in need. I am reminded of our duty to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. I call on all Sir Knights wherever dispersed to take time this Christmas Season to make a difference in the life of someone who needs it. It is my hope that this particular year we may focus more on the experience of others and what we can do to ensure all we meet can join in the celebration.

Pam and I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely and fraternally,

George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC