



VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT

Carry the shield forward.



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Knighly Greetings,

Our unique and challenging ten-month journey has now brought us into February. Given the origin of the name, may it bring us a brighter outlook for the immediate future.

February is derived from the Latin word februum. Translated it means purification because the month was a time for purification in ancient Rome. Derived from Februalia, which is the name of a Roman purification festival of Spring washing or cleaning that was held in February for three days beginning on the 13th and ending on the 15th. The change of the spelling of Februum to February came in the 15th century.

Modern sources have connected the Latin word for fever to the same word for purification or purging. This was because of the perspiration that is common with fevers and was viewed as a purging.

The word fever brings us to our current day pandemic and the hope that February will truly live up to its name and bring purification and purging in the form of controlling Covid-19. We need to pray, hope, and follow medical advice to assist that end.

Until then we must move forward using the tools at our disposal. Assistance has arrived in the form of surprise development of a vaccine that was released early and is being looked to with great hope.

Our ancient brothers came to the aid of an undermanned army that was looking to get relief from what seemed to be an indomitable force.

In 1310, Robert the Bruce raided English cities in the northern parts of England to reclaim territory seized by the English. King Edward II was

forced to take a large army to Scotland to stop this uprising.

The army of Robert Bruce was outnumbered against Edward’s battle-hardened knights, but the Scots chose their place to defend very carefully. They used the natural terrain to their advantage. On the first day of the “Battle of Bannockburn” the English made the mistake of becoming entrapped between the River Forth and Bannockburn. Scottish warriors attacked them with spears and forced them into marshy grounds. As the English tried to escape, Scottish guerrillas attacked massacring hundreds.

On the second day with the outcome still in question, mounted Templar Knights appeared and smashed through Edward’s infantry and cavaliers leading Scottish knights into the battle. The combined forces were victorious. Edward II not being given a choice as his army was being slaughtered, fled, and returned to England.

These are only two examples of how unexpected help arrived to turn the tide in what seemed to be an almost hopeless situation.

Sir Knights while we are in a “period of inconvenience” we must summon our strength and continue to move forward. We took the name of the ancient Sir Knights and along with that came a commitment to maintain their fervent belief in our Lord and Savior, their commitments to mankind, and their moral strength. We now are being called upon to use them. That we will do, and our Order will prosper.

“Carry the shield forward.”

With All Knightly Courtesy,

J. Jeffrey McClelland, KCT
Grand Commander