



VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT
Carry the shield forward.



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Knighly Greetings,

The New Year begins with renewed faith and hope even during a pandemic. Everyone will wait for the countdown to reach zero or the ball to reach the ground exactly at 12 o' clock midnight. That will still occur but in most cases the sky will not fill up with bright lights and the sounds of cheering spectators will not be heard. It will still be the beginning of a New Year.

During January we would normally get together to entertain and have fun. We usually would meet in a warm comfortable house or outside in the freezing cold. The stormy weather of January makes it hard to stay warm, but we still made the best of it. This can still can be done this year in moderation and with consideration.

The month that opens the New Year, January, is named after the Roman god of doors, Janus, because this month is the door into the New Year. Janus is also called the two-faced god as he represents all beginnings and possesses the ability to see the past and the future. We as Knights Templar use that same ability to use our knowledge of the past in planning our future.

We move forward into new beginning's and by having a celebration of what was last year and the coming of a New Year with fellow Sir Knights, family, and friends. A New Year means more opportunities. It gives us more opportunities to start over and fill new promises.

Not only does January bring a New Year, but also it means the return of school in one form or another. Children may not fill the halls with joy of seeing each other again and adults have the school of life that reverts to their everyday tasks. The days just pass by. Children and adults do not like

the idea that their schools are back in a very unfamiliar form, but you and they smile and continue. By the end of January, days become warmer and the cold winter starts to end, and you and they begin to wonder about what the remainder of the year will bring. The children's thoughts are about advancing to a higher academic level and the adults look to advancing their hopes and dreams.

A new year is like starting a new chapter in our Orders history. It is our chance to **write an incredible story for our Order**. As we as Knights Templar pursue our hopes and dreams, may this year bring us much success in our Chivalric journey

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." – Maria Robinson.

"Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page." -Henry Ward Beecher.

"It's a wise man who understands that every day is a new beginning, because boy, how many mistakes do you make in a day?" – Unknown

Many of you are continuing to move our Order forward and to a higher level. Your perseverance, resourcefulness, and pride in our Order sets you apart. My chapeau is off to you, **THANK YOU**.

Until we meet in person,

"Carry the shield forward."

With All Knightly Courtesy,

J. Jeffrey McClelland, KCT
Grand Commander