

Connecticut

S.K. Craig R Nelson, Sr.
Grand Commander



Knighly News

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Sir Knights,

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As we enter the month of July, we prepare to celebrate anniversary of the birth of the United States of America. On July 4, 1776, the thirteen original colonies declared their independence from England. This event ultimately led to the formation of this great country. The men who signed the Declaration of Independence came from various backgrounds. There were lawyers, merchants, and plantation owners. Most were men of means and well-educated. They were willing to risk everything for a cause in which they believed. As you are well aware, many of the founding fathers were freemasons. Men like Washington, Hancock, Franklin, Madison, etc., put their lives on the line to found this great nation. As they banded together, they knew not what the future would bring. If you research the lives of the signers, you will find that many of them lost their homes and their fortunes in the years that followed. Of the fifty-six signers, five were captured as traitors by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes looted and burned. Nine fought in the war and died as the result of wounds or hardship of war. However, as Benjamin Franklin stated, "We must all hang together or assuredly we shall hang separately". Hang together they did and the result was the wonderful country in which we live today. My brothers, as Freemasons and especially Knights Templar, we must continue to hang together. Amid the present-day crises, we must take care of each other. Pick up the phone or send an email. Contact a brother that you have not seen for some time. Say hello and let them know that you think about them and care about them. You just might be the person to make their day special.

My fellow Sir Knights, on behalf of myself, my Lady Virginia, and

the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, I wish you all a happy and safe Fourth of July celebration. When you are grilling your burgers, hot dogs, etc., and enjoying the 4th, please take a moment to thank God for all that we have and for what those founding fathers did for us so long ago.

Stay safe, be well, and God bless.

Courteously,
SK Craig R. Nelson, Sr.
Grand Commander



Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders James S. McNeely, IV, and Michael E. Seamon receive their Past Grand Commander's Plaques from Right Eminent Northeast Department Commander Stuart K. Drost