

Connecticut

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



Knighly News

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Sir Knights,

One main event that occurs during the month of June is Flag Day. The person given credit for making the first American Flag is Elizabeth "Betsy" Ross. According to her family's tradition, George Washington came to visit her in May, 1776. He was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army at that time, and gave her a drawing of an idea for the American flag. It is said that she changed the 6-pointed star to one of five points. The flag that was developed had thirteen white stars in a circle against a blue background in the upper left corner. It also had seven horizontal red and six white stripes.

The flag of our country has undergone many changes over the years as states were added to the Union. The flag that we have today was adopted on July 4, 1960, after Hawaii became the 50th state to be added to the Union and the 50th star to be added to the flag.

Here in the United States of America, we celebrate Flag Day on June 14. This date commemorates the adoption of our flag on June 14, 1777 by the Second Continental Congress. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day. In August, 1949, President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress that designated June 14th of each year as National Flag Day. The flag is to be displayed on all government buildings. As Knights Templar, we always display the flag of our country in the East of every asylum, in a place of honor. I encourage us all to proudly display the colors on this June 14 to honor our great country.

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Summer

For most of us, the beginning of June marks the start of Summer. During this month, certain activities begin to wind down. The children get out of school for summer vacation. Families begin to take their vacations toward the end of the month. All is in bloom and the weather is warm. It is a time for lawncare, tending the garden, outside work, grilling, picnics, and just being out in the fresh air. It is also a time to get some relaxation after the difficult winter that we experienced due in large part to the pandemic.

For most Knights Templar, June also marks a time for winding down. We look forward to the summer break when we may pause from our Knighly and other masonic activities to rest, relax, and refresh. However, consider for a moment the idea that perhaps there are those of us who might not look forward to the break from our Templar activities. There might be those who are alone and look forward to attending meetings and activities. With the temporary suspension of those activities, they might have a difficult time dealing with the loss of fellowship and social interaction. I remember when I was able, back in March, to attend my first in-person conclave again in New Haven. The comment that I heard most often from the Sir Knights was how good it felt to finally meet in person. Although the virtual meetings were good, they did not compare to being with our comrades in person.

So, as you are enjoying the summertime, please take a few moments and reach out to our brothers during this period. Perhaps a phone call or a short visit to check on them, or just to let them know that we are thinking of them. It just might help them get through a tough time.