

District of Columbia Supplement

Sir Knight Robb Mitchell

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Editor: Carter L. Diggs Jr., EPC, Grand Sentinel

Early Progress during *Anno Regenerantur*, the “Year of Rebirth” 2021-2022

As we venture forth during our Chivalric Year, *Anno Regenerantur*, the “Year of Rebirth, we are taking steps to revitalize our Order and return to full capacity. I will take this opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of last year and our early progress this year as we emerge from the COVID pandemic.

Thanks very much to last year’s talented team who accomplished many tasks during extremely difficult conditions that were brought on by COVID. Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Kevin Matthews expertly applied his talents to organize and film the virtual forums for the Ascension Day Service in May and the Christmas Libation in December that we were able to transmit to our members. I pass along publicly a hearty chivalric appreciation to SK Art Hebbeler, KGC, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment for his excellent assistance and masterful performance at the Christmas Libation. As I write, we are finalizing our coordination to film of our 2021 Ascension Day Service to transmit to our members.

Excellent job last year by the talented Grand Line, who will continue to provide years of important leadership to our organization. Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Doug Cohen has been my mentor for the Scottish Rite and my battle buddy during several years in the Grand Line; Grand Generalissimo Annas Kamara who provides sage and steady leadership for the Grand Commandery, and beyond that for the other York Rite bodies and the Grand Lodge of Masons for the District of Columbia. Many thanks to the hard work and talents of Grand Captain General Matthew Matyjek who portrays an abundance of aptitude and energy, as well as service in the US Army. Much appreciation goes out to Grand Senior Warden Eloi Kpamegan, and Grand Junior Warden Elijah Mills. Special continued thanks to Grand Recorder Jerry Peeters, REPGC, retiring Grand Treasurer James Golladay, REPGC, and incoming Grand Treasurer Craig Lasher, REPGC.

Special thanks goes out to many other members for their outstanding contributions, including Grand Prelate Mark Wright for his excellent service and devotion, SK Carter Diggs for service to the Knight Templar Magazine, SK Roger Cundiff for service to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, for the many behind the scenes tasks by SK Walter Benesch, SK Nicki Sampogna and many others, and to SK Elijah Mills and SK Jack

Campbell for their service to the extremely successful Leaders Book.

Excellent performance by our Commanderies during these challenging times: Washington #1, great leadership by Eminent Past Commander Sylvanus Newstead who continues to serve the three York Rite Bodies, and fine leadership so far by Commander Jean-Claude Eugene and his talented dais officers SK Jean-Paul Dogmo and SK Victor Petrossian. Columbia #2, superb work by EPC Peter Brucoe, and now Commander Ray Bacchus who provides exceptional leadership, and his dais team SK Doug Rose and SK Christopher Di Pasquale. Potomac #3, excellent performance by EPC Jacob Bressman, and now by his work horse predecessor Commander Mike Erickson and his fine dais officers SK Ziad Sahab and SK Kevin Coy.

I want to express my friendship with the leaders of our other York Rite Bodies, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Annas Kamara, and Most Excellent Grand Master Marcel Desroches. We are committed to scheduling future degrees and orders together and working jointly together on future opportunities such as the York Rite Picnic.

We are saddened by the sudden loss of several Sir Knights over the course of 2020 and 2021. The heaviest felt by the entire organization are Sir Knights Ken Fuller and Jack Campbell. MWB Ken Fuller was the Masonic version of a military 4-Star General. Serving first as the Commander of Washington Commandery #1, Ken was Past Grand Master of Masons in 2016; Past Grand High Priest of Royal Arch; Past Thrice Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons; Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar, as well as a Body Head for the DC Scottish Rite. Jack Campbell served as the Commander of Columbia Commandery #2, Most Worthy Grand Patron of the Eastern Star, and Commander of Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh in the DC Scottish Rite. Their memory reminds us of service to God, our communities, and our families.

Sir Knights, I am greatly humbled to serve as your Grand Commander over the next year. We have much work to do during our *Anno Regenerantur*, our “Year of Rebirth.” We must make maximum use of our virtual technology until we fully reopen. We must also stand ready to return to face to face work as soon as we are able, then this will truly be a year that we can remember with a great deal of pride.

In the Service of Christ,

SK Robb Mitchell

Grand Commander 2021 – 2022

**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the
District of Columbia** [Send any queries to gcktdc@gmail.com](mailto:gcktdc@gmail.com)