

GRAND COMMANDERY OF HAWAII

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Aloha Sir Knights:

I hope that everyone is staying healthy and close to being vaccinated! Congratulations to Sir Knight Alex Escasa on his ascension to Grand Commander of the Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Hawaii. I would also like to recognize Sir Knight Chris Williams who received the Knights Templar Cross of Honor. Sir Knight Chris was nominated for his role in organizing and maintaining the Maui York Rite Food Bank during the pandemic. Sir Knight Chris is the first to receive this award in Hawaii since it was awarded to Sir Knight Scott Waracka in 2015.

You may be wondering why you are still hearing from me when my term ended a week ago? It has to do with the Knights Templar magazine being printed and distributed. Not only must we write articles months in advance, it costs the Grand Encampment hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to print and distribute. It may very well be that we will not have an option in the future and all publications will be distributed electronically. So, now is the time to contact your Sir Knight recorders and let them know that you would prefer to receive the magazine electronically.

The Grand Encampment also tracks the number of KT Eye Foundation life members (\$30). This amount may be paid at one time or over the course of several months (or years). Our Jurisdiction has one of the lowest percentages of Life Members in the Grand Encampment. Some jurisdictions raise tens of thousands of dollars each year, we barely contribute \$5,000 in total.

For those that are not familiar, the KT Eye Foundation's mission is "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." The Foundation now only participates in direct patient care through the Seniors Eye Care Program in partnership with EyeCare America and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. With this change, the Foundation is benefitting untold millions in generations to come through grants that support research and education. For the donation of \$2.50 per month (less than a Starbucks Coffee), you could become a Life Member. <https://www.ktef.org/>

If you have not done so already, please mark your calendars for the **Grand Encampment's Triennial will be held from August 14th to the 18th, 2021**, in Minneapolis. All More information may be found here: <https://www.knightstemplar.org/ge682021.html>

I look forward to seeing everyone in person as more of us are vaccinated. I started traveling again earlier this year when I flew to Texas for meetings and to Oklahoma to visit my brother. While I was apprehensive at first, I am happy to say that while there may not be a lot of governmental regulations in place at some of those locations, everyone was being smart and practicing CDC guidelines. Hopefully, other jurisdictions will take note and loosen restrictions as the roll out of vaccines continues. It is time that we all were able to return to work and continue the Lord's work of promoting peace and charity.

With that, I would like to thank everyone for their support this past year. It was challenging, but we all supported each other and persevered.

God bless,

Dustin Verity

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