

Connecticut

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



Knighly News

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Sir Knights,

As I am writing this, it is March, 2021. It is being written with the hope that I shall be elected and installed next month as your Grand Commander. With that in mind, I thank you for electing me to serve in that office for the coming year. It is a great honor and I shall do my best to live up to your trust. I congratulate my elected and appointed officers. We have a great team and I look forward to working with you this year. Last year was a difficult year for Templary in Connecticut. Because of the pandemic, almost all of our planned activities had to be eliminated. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, James S. McNeely, IV, we were able to meet at least virtually. He has succeeded in keeping Templary alive in Connecticut and we thank him for all that he has done. Although by means of the virtual meetings, we were able to see some of our Sir Knights who live at a distance, the in-person socialization is still greatly desired. Perhaps the future will bring the possibility of hybrid meetings where our distant Sir Knights can be more involved.

Our goal for this year is Membership. As of this writing, we have finally begun to meet again in person. Hopefully we shall soon begin to perform some form of ritual. I encourage all Eminent Commanders to communicate with their Sir Knights and remind them of upcoming stated conclaves in a timely manner. Everyone is very busy and it is very easy to overlook the date of a stated conclave. I believe that it is important that we continue to keep the lines of communication open. This can help to increase attendance.

Also, when we are able to expand our ritual, I believe that we should encourage all Sir Knights to take part in our Orders. All parts are important in giving our candidates a worthwhile experience as they travel on their journey through the Orders.

In addition, I encourage Eminent Commanders to continue to provide an educational component to your monthly conclave, especially when no ritual is to be performed. I have attended many virtual conclaves and have found the educational portion to be very interesting and thought-provoking. I commend those Command-

ers who have put forth the time and effort to research and present those pieces.

I have always believed in the saying "If it is going to be, it is up to me". Together, as a team, and with your help, we can keep Templary growing and strong in Connecticut.

Stay safe, be well, and God bless.

Craig R. Nelson, Sr.
Grand Commander

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a federal holiday that is observed on the last Monday in May. This year it is observed on May 31. It was established to honor the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Services.

The idea of remembering our fallen dead is said to have probably originated during the period just preceding the end of the American Civil War. Women's groups in the South would gather to decorate the graves of Confederate dead. In 1886, the Ladies Monument Association in Georgia decided to remember the fallen once a year.

In May 1868, General John Logan issued a decree that May 30 of each year should become a nationwide day to commemorate those soldiers who had died in the Civil War. It was originally called Decoration Day because flowers were used to decorate the gravesites. For the next 50 years the day was set aside to commemorate those who had fallen only during the Civil War. It was not until World War I that it was expanded to include all of the wars.

In 1968, the date of the observance was changed to the last Monday in May. In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday.

Sir Knights, on this Memorial Day, when you are preparing to welcome in the unofficial start of the summer season, I encourage you to pause for a moment and reflect upon the meaning of the day, and give thanks to those men and women who have performed the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation.