



THE GRAND COMMANDERY
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Sir Knight Peter R. Spring, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Knighly Greetings!

Fredericksburg Commandery #1 – Order of Malta
(September 16, 2021)



During their September Stated Conclave, Fredericksburg Commandery #1 conferred the Order of Malta on two candidates. The following SKs conferred the Order: Chuck Barbee – Prior; Shawn Bryar – Chaplin; Chris Tripp – Lieutenant Commander; Richard Fisher – Captain General; Jarrett Frame – Captain of the Outposts; Chuck Dirienzo – Marshal; Sandy Mackey, Henry Knauf, and Mike Brennan were Knights at the table. In attendance we were also fortunate enough to have Sir Knight William Reinhold, REPDC, and Sir Knight Joel Ratliff, REPGC. As you can see, though we are grown men, we really enjoyed ‘playing dress up.’ Most of us were in knight costumes with chainmail which made the conferral a lot of fun for us.

The Prior led the processional followed by the Chaplain with an open Bible in his hands. All who dressed as knights marched in with their swords inverted to resemble carrying crosses. We marched in to “Verdi – Aida – Grand March” music. After we opened, just before and during bringing the Candidates to the altar, we played “Gregorian Chant Music – Monks of the Dark Abbey.” If you have never played music for this Order, I think everyone in our Commandery will proudly tell you...it really adds a lot to the conferral.

At the end of the evening, we had two brand new and extremely excited Knights of Malta, who were really looking forward to receiving the Order of the Temple!

Meritorious Service Medal Award

Sir Knight Flannery was the Recorder for NRV Commandery since 2011 and held that position through many hardships he faced personally with his health and with his Wife's health. He was able to help

transition the Commandery from Blacksburg to its new location in Christiansburg with retaining a lot of old documents, information, and photos. It was not until this year (2020) that Michael stepped down to help in trying to alleviate some of his health concerns. Sir Knight Flannery always served the Office he was into the best of his ability and with the best intentions for NRV Commandery and the Grand Commandery of Virginia in mind. Sir Knight Flannery has also served New River Valley Commandery as Eminent Commander and the 7th Chivalric District as DDGC during his career. The Meritorious Service Medal was a fantastic way to recognize Sir Knight Flannery for his dedication throughout the years to the New River Valley Commandery, the Grand Commandery of Virginia, and the Grand Encampment of the USA.



SK Bruce Wachob (50-year Veteran):

Sir Knight Bruce Wachob has over 50 years as Knights Templar. During this time, he held most of the positions in the Blacksburg Commandery #32 which changed to the New River Valley Commandery #32. He has been the Commander and District Deputy. Also, he has held the position of the Prelate for at least the last 5 years. He is fluent in our Ritual. You can always count on Bruce to be at the meetings.



With all Knightly Courtesies,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. R. Spring".

Peter R. Spring, KCT
Grand Commander