

The Florida Knight

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Right Eminent Grand Commander 2021
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State Editor

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Greetings Sir Knights!

April is here already. My, how time flies. Spring is in full bloom, the flowers and grass are starting to grow quickly, the days are getting a lot warmer, the rains are soon to begin a little more frequently. It is a wonderful time of year. It is a time of renewed growth for nature after the short Florida winter which though mild, restricts growth.

There is a very important holiday in April as well. Easter. Many parents know this all too well, as they spend time with their kids or grandkids dyeing eggs, easter egg hunts, baskets, and candy galore. While this is entertaining and gives us an opportunity to spend some quality time enjoying our youth, we need to also take the time to reflect upon the season as Christians. Easter is a remembrance and celebration of the death and resurrection of our Redeemer. 1 Peter Chapter 1 verse 3 says: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". Romans 6:8-11 states: "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." The resurrection of our Lord and Redeemer gave us the gift of Salvation. This is an important lesson that we, as Christians, are to spread to the world. While we are enjoying all the outwardly events surrounding the Easter Holiday, let us also be sure to spread the message of Resurrection, starting with our families, especially to our younger children so they gain a better understanding of the true reason for the season.

The Grand York Rite Convention is only one month away. The Dais Officers of each Body are required to attend their session so that the Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies can have their voice heard through voting. If they can not attend, they need to be sure that they appoint a proxy to go in their place. If you are attending the sessions, it is very important to fill out and return the registration form to the Grand Recorders Office so Returns and Credentials has your information ready for you when you get to the convention.

Soon after the Convention, we have the Southeast Department Conference. This is held on the second weekend of June. This year is a good year to attend as it will be held right here in Florida in Melbourne. Registration information can be obtained from the Grand Recorders Office as well. During this conference, in addition to the individual session for the three bodies, there is also the Leadership Training Classes. If you have never taken these, or are continuing them, this would be a good time as it is close. There is very good information contained in these classes that apply to various aspects of life, not only to the Fraternity. Be sure if you are planning to take this class that you are still required to register so that everything is properly accounted for.

Courteously,

Adam M. Bryan
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Current Events in Florida

Editor's Contribution "Peaches and Captain Kangaroo"

In 1976 I was at my grandparents' in Choudrant, Louisiana for the Fourth of July. It was a full house. All my cousins, aunts and uncles were in attendance. Every bed in the big 2 story built by Bert Jones of the Colts and his dad was filled and a couple of us had sleeping bags in the semi-finished basement. The house never had been or was again that full.

Family from Monroe and Farmerville came for the picnic and brought more fresh food than a normal grocery store would stock. My Cousin John and I split an entire watermelon, and ate the entire thing against threats of "floating away that night" as a consequence. I learned my Grandmother's recipe for creamed corn made right off the cob, Mrs. Kelly showed us how to do a proper pound cake, and Uncle Spud taught us to shuck purple hulls or black eyed peas.

My Uncle Cubbie, the only man to this day I personally know who could wiggle his ears, took Cousin John and I to the fireworks stand on the other side of Ruston. We bought what seemed like a grocery sack of goods for \$5 and rode home plotting the destruction of all we could get away with, agreeing not to tie up Cousin Bo in the dark basement until we shot off our bounty. It was an absolutely glorious time to be a kid and I am very thankful for it.

My takeaway from this is completely personal and I am ok with that. Every morning for those two weeks, my grandfather and I got up before dawn and went out to the kitchen, closing the pocket doors at the end of the hall so the rest of the house could continue sleeping. We had a simple agreement, I'd help make coffee and peel peaches over frosted flakes or his grape nuts while we watched a half hour of news. I did not, nor was I allowed, to grumble about any of these things. The next half hour was spent eating fresh peaches and frosted flakes while watching Captain Kangaroo with my grandfather. None of my other relatives ever got to do this and I can hardly keep a dry eye thinking about how darn special that was not just to me, but to him as well. He was at work for most of my dad's childhood, we grandkids were a great deal of fun for him and I just happened to be the first/oldest. We all went for walks down Pikes Road, learned to shoot, chop wood, not "plant" a pocket knife and so on, peaches and Captain Kangaroo was a thing that only he and I shared, it always was and still is ours.

I can't stress enough how important it is to participate in our daily lives and contribute to the betterment of not just ourselves but our families and others. Be the good man that entered and was raised to be great. It does make a difference.

Fraternally,
Gary R. Roane
Clearwater Florida York Rite

