

## Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland KT Magazine April message 2022

Spring Greetings Sir Knights. The blooms are on the vine and things are popping. Here we are in April and I hope not too many pranks occur on April fool's day.

Following up on events, I want to let you all know that the Easter Sunrise service is coming up very soon and plans are under way for the busses I spoke of last month. Grand Junior Warden Sir Knight Scott Lapp has taken charge of lining up the rides for this event from the 3 locations- Cockeysville, Eastern Shore and Western Maryland. We will post the actual locations and stops for pick up and drop off in the Events section of the website- [yorkritemaryland.org](http://yorkritemaryland.org)

Please consult the website for upcoming events. Currently listed are the upcoming remaining Grand Visitations of the Grand Commandery as well as upcoming Inspections by Grand Inspector General SK Fred Spicer (REPGC). Also note that Easter Sunrise information is in this location.

It is not difficult to navigate. Go to the website. Scroll to the Commandery section and you'll see upcoming events. Go to that location and you will see current information. If any of you have an upcoming event, please contact Grand Recorder Kris Brown and he can place the information on the Events Section.

Also listed here is the upcoming Semi-Annual Grand Sessions on May 14 @ 10:00 AM in the Gothic room at the Grand Lodge in Cockeysville Md. All Sir Knights are welcome to attend. Dais officers of each commandery are required to be present.

Following that meeting in the afternoon will be a meeting of the Past Commanders Association. Same location.

We have word from Carroll Commandery that the annual Memorial Day Parade in Westminster Maryland which is said to be the longest running Memorial Day parade in the country will once again be held. Following a two-year hiatus, this is a great small-town parade! Once again, the Grand Commandery of Maryland will be on hand along with Carroll Commandery to march in the parade. All Sir knights are welcome to march in uniform. This information will also go on the Events section of the calendar with particulars for time, and location.

Here is a repeat of a portion of last month's message about Easter sunrise service. ---

As a Christian organization our Sir Knights and their families will be preparing to honor our Lord during this anniversary of his crucifixion and resurrection. The annual Easter Sunrise service at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is coming up. We'd like Maryland to show up in a big way this year. I hope you can plan to set aside some time to join the rest of the country as we embark on the plans to attend this moving service. This year the Grand Encampment has decided to return to celebrating the Easter service all in one place at the Memorial. In the past few years, there have been 3 locations for this service. At the GWMNM,

in the Midwest, and on the west coast. This year it will again return here to Alexandria Virginia alone.

This is a family event and all are welcome to the memorial for this early morning service. Sir Knights are asked to participate in full uniform and most importantly their black chapeaus. The State of Maryland traditionally marches in unit and heads into the rows of benches on the East facing Memorial steps to form a living cross with our Black uniforms and Chapeaus amid a sea of white chapeaus. The more participants the larger the cross we can form. I can tell you that this is a moving experience especially in clear weather. The sun rising in the East and illuminating the steps of the Memorial with hundreds of Knights Templar in place is transformational. The service provided by the Grand Prelate and his Associate Grand Prelates is moving and emotional. The Grand Commanderies of Maryland and the other states marching with their banners and the American flag are patriotic and glorious. Please plan to participate this year.

Our Grand Visitations have been very successful, and we are almost complete with only a couple to go. We have been outlining the plan to assist all our Commanderies with their work and with ramping up our Conclaves back into action after a long pause.

Finally, and with great regret, I will report on the Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment held on March 12 in Fort Wayne Indiana. I attended along with Sir Knight REPGC Art Hebbeler and witnessed/participated in the meeting which was attended by nearly 300 voting members from around the country.

I will not editorialize on the event other than to say it was a sad ending to a disruptive period in Templar History. We pray for the officers now in place and trust they will do their duties and get back to the work of a functioning administration of the Grand Encampment.

The end result is that Grand Master Michael Johnson was removed from office and most of his decisions and orders were rescinded.

Deputy Grand Master David Kussman was reinstated and then elected to replace Grand Master Johnson. The line behind him advanced with the exception of the Grand Captain General who was appointed to the end of the line following previous dismissal of DGM Kussman. As a result of the actions taken by delegates present and voting the following officers were duly installed.

David J. Kussman GCT-Most Eminent Grand Master  
Jeffrey A. Bolsted GCT Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master  
Jack M Harper GCT Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo  
David W. Studley GCT Right Eminent Grand Captain General (appointed)

Yours In His Service,

John H. Austin, REGC Knights Templar of Maryland

