

## State of Maryland August supplement - Knights Templar Magazine 2022

August is here, and if you thought July was hot and muggy, we in the genteel society call this type of weather 'close' (sweaty), you ain't seen nuthin yet. The Dog days of August are on the way.

Not to be negative or a doomsayer, but I can tell you since I work outdoors in the landscape industry, that our men have had a rough way to go already for a while this year and in August, we ask them to halt most planting, and slow down considerably so as not to fall on their faces in the mud or dust.

A good time to get away for us in the Austin household because we do slow down at work, and we also have a cut back in most Masonic events. Even still, Last night was the Grand Master's Ball and it was a very enjoyable time, well attended with good food and a great band in Brother/Sir Knight Richard Thurfield's group 'What's Next'.

Our travels in late August and Early September will take us north to the State of Vermont to cool of a bit.

Your Grand Commandery is gearing up for a very busy fall. Note on your calendars that the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September (17-18) is the annual Friend to Friend memorial service put on in Gettysburg by the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. The service is to commemorate an occasion that is near to the hearts of all Masons as it remembers an actual event on the battlefield where an officer serving on one side of the conflict came to the aid of an officer on the opposing force- both were Masons. The US Parks Department has curtailed the gathering for the second year running for fear of having a large 'controversial' gathering which may prove to be problematic for them. It seems there was a threat of protesters at the event last year and the commemorations had to take place at a hotel nearby rather than at the actual memorial at the battlefield cemetery. I will attend and keep you informed on the 'Events' page of the Grand Commandery Website if there may be room for some others of our Sir Knights to attend.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> a Lodge/York Rite Festive Board will be held at Pentalpha Lodge #194 with the Lodge and Montgomery York Rite co-hosting this event. We have not been able to hold it the past 2 years because of the covid threat, but this year we are back on with this fun meal. This is an open event and ladies are invited. Information can be found on the 'Compass points' page of the Grand Lodge where we have a flyer posted or by following Pentlapha Lodge or Montgomery Commandery on Facebook. Most Worshipful Grand Master Marlin Mills will be our Guest of Honor and we will be treated to a talk by Brother Brent Morris who will tell us a story about Cryptography which is one of his special practices.

The following day on September 23<sup>rd</sup> we join the Commanderies from several States for the Mid Atlantic Department Conference hosted by the Grand Encampment and by Department Commander James Steele. The Grand Line Officers are required to attend but others are welcome. I am sending a message out to the Constituent Commanderies of Maryland suggesting that some of our members attend the York Rite Leadership Program that is always included with the Department Conference. I have attended this worthy and enlightening

program myself and I can tell you it is an eye opener for a force of volunteers. If you or someone you know that is headed into the leadership ranks of any Masonic Organization, but more particularly that of the Commandery/York Rite Bodies, by all means have a look. You can access the Leadership program at [-yorkriteleadership.org](http://-yorkriteleadership.org). More information on the Department Conference which is held each year at the Crystal City Hilton in Arlington Va. can be found at Grand Encampment website- [knightstemplar.org](http://knightstemplar.org)

We will be preparing for the York Rite Grand Sessions coming up in October (28-29<sup>th</sup>) which will be held again this year at the Dunes Hotel in Ocean City. If you are an officer of a York Rite body or an interested member, the event is open to all. The Chapter, Council, and Commandery each hold a meeting and Installation of new officers. Other Masonic bodies groups are apt to meet at the same location. We'll have a banquet on Friday featuring some of the award presentations as well as the main Banquet on Saturday celebrating the Outgoing and newly installed officers of the York Rite bodies. There will be a lady's luncheon/ event on Saturday which is free and should be lots of fun for the women in our lives. Information and registration information can be found at [-yorkritemaryland.org](http://-yorkritemaryland.org).

I am also informed that Monumental Crusade Commandery #3 plans to confer a full form Order of Malta ceremony some time in November. Stay tuned for more on that. I have never participated or seen anything other than the short form and I can't wait to see how this one goes. We should be filing up the Gothic room at the Grand Lodge for this so pay attention.

Another Reminder that in February we will be participating in events around the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Rededication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria Virginia. The events are on and around February 20<sup>th</sup>. Again, keep track on the Events section of the Grand Commandery in the York Rite Website.

Finally a report on the health of our Grand Recorder Kris Brown. I have spoken to him recently and he sounded so much better than previously. He is in the care of a rehabilitation clinic and we look forward to a substantial recovery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he works to reconstruct his health.

Stay cool and have a fun rest of the summer Sir Knights!

In His Service,

John H. Austin  
Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Maryland