

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia  
July 2022, SK Douglas N. Cohen- Grand Commander 2022-23, Carter Diggs-Editor

My Brethren, Sir Knights, Companions,

This is a 'holiday' (from the root meaning Holy Day) - a gathering of friends and families... barbecues; reconnections with families locked down for 2 (almost 3) years; the unofficial beginning of summer... lots of fun stuff, with gatherings and celebrations. Lots of us are headed lots of places and lakes, mountains, road trips, relatives, anywhere !! and do not appreciate this day's most important and true meaning. This is the designated day where we remember, thank, and honor the many men and women deployed to the beaches of Normandy and all of our Military's other conflicts. as well as a thanks to and remembrance of those who fought against the British and declared Independence in 1776

Let us NOT forget the men and women who put it ALL on the line to make certain that this country, government and people 'would not perish from this earth".

I sincerely hope that each and every one of you remembered that as you gathered with family and friends, or took place in any of the amazing displays of honor and respect we paid to our honored dead, and our wounded service members who put it all on the line so that we could enjoy this freedom.

I wish all of you a joyous celebration of our freedoms, paid for by those who knew it was worth the price and selflessly paid it. GOD bless our fallen, and everyone who took or takes up the cause of freedom in whatever manner they are able to serve.

GOD bless their families and loved ones who serve no less and pay easily as high a price for our rights and freedoms.

As I watch the various news casts and reportage, I am often disheartened and even alarmed at the blatant and pervasive disregard and outright obliviousness of those who just don't get it, or want to but who somehow aren't seeing it from a thankful perspective, and those who simply just don't give a damn. This is a shame and a failure to educate our own on the cost of our freedoms and just who paid for them, for us. There is an old and time-honored phrase that "freedom is NEVER free". Someone pays for it and it isn't cheap.

If you can, this 4th of July week, take a bit of time -it does not have to be all that much - just an hour or two, and visit a cemetery, or join in a memorial celebration, or participate in some demonstration of honoring our fallen and our serving men and women, and all who served from all the services. It sends a rather powerful message to them and others, that their service was and is NOT in vain; that their sacrifices were and Are Noticed; that they were and are not, nor will they ever be forgotten.

Think about it...It is not really that much to ask. I will be headed to my father's grave to thank him for HIS service during- WWII in the Navy - and to put a couple of stones on his marker, and on my mom's, who is buried right next to him, so that I remember what it cost for me to enjoy my life and how that was paid for.

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THANK YOU and GOD BLESS you all, but especially our men and women who wore and still wear that mantel of service and sacrifice.

D. N. Cohen  
REGC KTDC 2022

## **DC Palisades Parade on the Fourth of July**

This year as in most previous years on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, DC Grand Commandery will participate marching and riding in the Parade at the DC Palisades on MacArthur Boulevard in DC. REPGC Buddy Wagner will be driving his convertible, with REPGC Jerry Peeters Grand Recorder and Grand Commander Douglas N. Cohen, and Grand Generalissimo Eloi Kpamegan will be the expected attending dignitaries. Kevin Matthews Eminent Commander of Washington Commandery #1 REGC will be there if possible. Marching ahead of the Knights Templar car will be three Sir Knights carrying the Beauceant, the DC KT Banner, and the American Flag. Also, ideally there may be color guards on either side of the flag bearers, with swords at carry. If enough sir Knights take part, there could be Sword bearing Color Guardsmen fore and aft the Flag Bearers as well. If you would like to be a Color Guardsman, please show up with your sword and join in, or come without one and hand out flags.

The meeting place is at MacArthur Boulevard and Whitehaven. You should arrive by 9 AM to find ample parking. You may if you wish sign up with the Grand Lodge to be a Hot Dog Cooker. Cooks are to be at the Palisades Recreation Center by 8:30 AM. There are four parades DC Freemasons are participating in this year are: in no particular order (1)the Palisades as mentioned above, (2)Takoma Park, (3) Capitol Hill, and the (4) National Mall.

The **Lee Resolution** (also known as "**The Resolution for Independence**") was the formal assertion passed by the [Second Continental Congress](#) on July 2, 1776 which resolved that the [Thirteen Colonies](#) in America were "free and independent States", separated from the [British Empire](#) and creating what became the [United States of America](#). News of this act was published that evening in [The Pennsylvania Evening Post](#) and the next day in the [Pennsylvania Gazette](#). The [Declaration of Independence](#) is the formal document which officially announced and explained the resolution, approved two days later on July 4, 1776. The resolution is named for [Richard Henry Lee](#) of [Virginia](#) who proposed it to Congress after receiving instructions from the [Fifth Virginia Convention](#) and its President [Edmund Pendleton](#). Lee's full resolution had three parts which Congress considered on June 7, 1776.