



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

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWS

GREETINGS SIR KNIGHTS!

I Hope one and all have had a good New Year and successful transition to 2023. Those of you who write checks and letters have now gotten used to writing in the New date on your headers.

The month of January is a busy one with the Lodges of Maryland as we install new Masters and officers in all Lodges. Congratulations to the new Worshipful Masters and their line of officers. Like most years I was able to attend a few of these, Not as many as normal as I had plans to head out of state with my Lady Kandi to visit a son in Kansas and deliver some of his property to a new home there in Wichita. We also had a planned vacation in February changed to January, so I was not present at very many of the Lodge installations. In the past I have had the honor and pleasure to present Master's pins to New (and repeat) Worshipful Masters on behalf of the Most Excellent High Priest. (this year Andy Martinez) A tradition that stems from the years of Grand Master Steven Ponzillo III during his term of office. These lapel pins are prized by Worshipful Masters across the State as they are a reminder to all, even after their time in office, that they were once in a position to run and organize a Masonic lodge of loyal Brothers and place their imprint upon their lodge. We in the York Rite must continue to support the Lodges of our area and attend as often as we are able, to assist in the Great work of the Lodge. Paramount among those efforts is the act of Creating Masons. The 3 degrees of which are carried out only in the lodges. It is from this source that we as York Rite Masons benefit to be able to welcome into our Chapters/Councils and Commanderies, the good men that become our new members.

The main event this month will be the celebration at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria Virginia that I have mentioned in past messages.

This is the 100th anniversary of the Cornerstone laying at the Memorial, February 20 2023

There will be a rededication to the Memorial preceded by a parade down King Street in Alexandria. Thousands will be marching in the parade. Approximately 1200 Masons have registered to participate. Your Grand Commandery of Maryland has registered to participate and you Sir Knights can march along with us.

You can see all the particulars of the event including the assembly point of the parade, Parade route, as well as schedule of events that day by going to the website – Yorkritemaryland.org -- click on the Commandery section. Under Events you will find 5 attachments with directions. Also of note: We are being asked to assist in Marshalling the parade. Special instructions are enclosed in the information found on the website. If you have time and interest on Feb. 20 please plan to come and participate. Here is my message regarding the event which is posted on the website – again under EVENTS

The long-advertised Celebration for the 100th anniversary of the Cornerstone laying at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is upon us. The rededication ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone will be at 3:00 on the 20th of February. This will be preceded at 1:00 by a parade through Alexandria Virginia.

THIS EVENT IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY- ACT NOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT
The Grand Commandery of Maryland has registered to march in the parade, and all are welcome to attend to march along with us. As of now about 1200 Masons from around the country are signed up to participate with a total of about 2700 individuals in units along the route. The enclosed attachments have finally outlined the start point, path of the parade and schedule of events surrounding the Celebration. If you are able to attend, there will be a bus leaving Cockeysville and returning that day- We will post that information on the website under the EVENTS section - yorkritemaryland.org contact person is Scott Lapp

If you cannot march, you are welcome to observe the parade from the King street observation area or attend only the Ceremony at the memorial itself. Families are welcome to observe the parade, however only Masons will be marching.

We are asked to dress in Class A Uniform with Chapeau/cap, buff gloves and swords. Alternatively if you wish to participate as a lodge member or Officer, please wear Dark suit or tux, aprons, collars and white gloves.

WE ARE ALSO BEING ASKED FOR MEMBERS TO ACT AS PARADE MARSHALS- Several have volunteered but we are looking for a couple dozen more at this point to assist the formation and organization of the parade participants. If you are willing to act as a Marshall there is to be a meeting held by Parade director Tyler Vanice of the GWMNM staff at 10:30. - Please see the enclosed rules and procedures attached for the

location. CONTACT- Tyler Vanice- tvanice@gwmemorial.org office- 703-683-2007 x 2013 cell- 703-582-3838

Parking is limited, there is a Metro stop near the assembly point that may be taken advantage of if you wish to park at a Metro stop and head directly to the start point. Parking passes (very limited) may be applied for by contacting Tyler Vanice directly- tvanice@gwmemorial.org

A recent zoom meeting with Maynard Edwards with the House of the Temple has resulted in an opportunity to further advertise on social media for participation as well as several podcasts which will contain interviews with event organizers and principal participants, as well as live viewing of events if you are not able to attend.

The podcasts can be found at - scottishrite.org

Local Grand Commanderies in Washington DC and Virginia are anticipated to attend and assist. We'd really like to see a large local turnout to support the events. This activity coincides with the Conference of Grand Masters. The leadership of the Grand Encampment will also be in town for these events so a great opportunity to meet your representatives and Grand Officers of many Masonic Organizations.

Yours in All Knightly Courtesy,
John H. Austin
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