

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



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Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander
gc@vatemplars.org

Sir Knight Christopher R. Faraldi
Editor: Virginia Supplement
gadc-cr@vatemplars.com

Knightly Greetings Sir Knights!

On the afternoon, Friday May 6, 2023, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar celebrated our Bicentennial anniversary, 200 years of Templary in Virginia. Sir Knights from the Grand Commandery of Virginia, accompanied by their ladies and family members, officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA, and Sir Knights from several other jurisdictions, gathered together in Colonial Williamsburg to hold a divine service at historic Bruton Parish. After which we casually made our way to Merchant Square in a very public display of Templary.

Sir Knights, their families and guests, filled the three hundred-plus year old church to praise God and offer up thanks for two centuries of Templary service. Many of our nation's founding fathers had worshipped at Bruton Parish when in Williamsburg. The divine service was opened in prayer as everyone was welcomed by a George Washington reenactor, who also had served as Worshipful Master of historic Williamsburg Masonic Lodge No. 6. Sir Knights then partook in worship hymns and scripture readings, led by Sir Knight David J. Kussman, Most Eminent Grand Master, Sir Knight Jack M. Harper II, Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo, and Sir Knight David W. Studley, Right Eminent Grand Captain General. We were blessed to hear an original worship song composed and performed by Sir Knight Jeffrey A. Bolstad, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master.

Afterwards, Sir Knight Richard Saunders, Eminent Grand Prelate, gave a homily entitled 'Living Stones' based on 1 Peter 2:4-7. The message focused on sharing Templary in Virginia that stands upon the foundation laid by Jesus Christ, as well as those that have served our order for the past two hundred years to bring us to where we are today. It is now our turn to carry on as

living stones, as servant leaders, being the hands, feet, and light of Jesus Christ to the world around us as we lead our Order into its third century.

The praise and worship of all those present, combined with the beautiful pipe organ music and the historic setting of Bruton Parish, provided a wonderful atmosphere to glorify God and show just how blessed we are to be able to be a part of this great Christian fraternity of Knights Templar in Virginia.

Following the divine service, the Sir Knights and guests walked together down the Duke of Gloucester Street of Colonial Williamsburg, led by a horse-drawn carriage carrying the reenactor General Washington, Sir Knight David J. Kussman, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, the, Sir Knight Romulo M. Capuno, Grand Commander of Virginia, and his lady Grace, and Sir Knight Ralph Woodrow, the Grand Marshal, who not only is the oldest Sir Knight in the Grand Commandery of Virginia at the age of ninety-nine years young, but the oldest living DeMolay in the Grand Encampment. It was a beautiful spring day, and the procession captured the attention of the many visitors of Colonial Williamsburg that afternoon.

The weekend celebration continued into the evening which included a banquet and dance with live music provided by the “Phun Doctors” a local classic rock band. We enjoyed the live performance by the Bruton Parish Handbell Choir as well as a performance on the “Armonica,” a glass musical instrument invented by our brother and founder, Ben Franklin.

On Saturday, October 7th, the Grand Commandery will conduct the ‘Bicentennial Time Capsule’ ceremony on the grounds of the Masonic Home of Virginia, MAHOVA, the crown jewel of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, at the Grand Commandery Headquarters at the York Rite Building. This ceremony will capture the items leading up to and highlighted during the Bicentennial Celebration. We will encapsulate and seal these memorabilia only to be reopened in May 2123 by the future leaders of the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

The Sir Knights of the Grand Comnmandery of Knights Templar of Virginia are not only thankful for the opportunity to serve our great fraternity but also for the great and honorable men that lead this fraternity. This Bicentennial Celebration was truly a “once and never again, event.”

Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Haas' with a stylized flourish at the end.

S. K. Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Grand Commander, 2023-2024

