



NEWS for June 2023

SK Bryan D. Bechler, REGC

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Greetings Sir Knights!

First off, I want to thank all of you for electing me to the position of Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington. I look forward to working with all of you during this Templar year.

I travelled to Pennsylvania just after our Grand Sessions were completed for some family business, but this trip also gave me the opportunity to attend the 170th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. While a number of us have had the opportunity to visit other jurisdictions close to us (Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, etc.), being able to see the work done on the east coast was an amazing experience.

ME David Dixon Goodwin, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America was in attendance, along with RE Jack Harper, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment. During ME Goodwin's remarks, he commented on the chapeaus the Sir Knights were wearing (in a positive way) and the feathers that they each had. He said he'd visited other jurisdictions where some Sir Knights had old and yellowed feathers but that these were all white. He alluded to the pride the Sir Knights had in their uniforms.

I thought back to the first chapeau I received when I became a Knight Templar. It was an old one which had seen better days, but I had pride in that I had BECOME a Knight Templar. I didn't really think about what this one item represented. Sometimes we don't always see what others see. My first chapeau (which I still have) is now shedding its feathers and I have it put away as a sentimental item. Will I get rid of it because of its condition? Probably not. Will I wear it in its current condition? No. But for me it's a piece of my personal history. I would encourage all Sir Knights to look around and see how others may see us. We all have pride in being a Knight Templar and should show our pride to others.

A year can seem like a long time, yet time seems to go quickly. There are a number of things I'd like the Grand Commandery of Washington to accomplish this year, but in order to do so, we will all need to work together. During my official visits, I want to hear from all of you as to where you want OUR Grand Commandery to be in the present and future.

Fraternally,

SK Bryan D. Bechler, REGC

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington