



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

MAY 2023 NEWS

Greetings Sir Knights

May Day, Mayday, mayday:

After a weekend of rain spent in the 'Grand Canyon' of Pennsylvania area of Wellsboro Pa., my wife Kandi and I are ready for a little sunshine. Welcome to the first of May and what will be, at the end of the month, Memorial day and the beginning of Summer vacation time. Before then however, we have much to do.

Let me first describe a short trip to the Penn Well Hotel where Kandi had arranged a weekend of Mystery. Seriously- a Murder Mystery weekend featuring several cases of murder that took place before our very eyes and required much eating and drinking with strangers a (some now friends) and plenty of head scratching and cogitation upon the clues and memories of what we had witnessed: who was in the room, suspects, and suspicions. Quite fun all-in-all. If you have never done one of these, this was our first, I highly recommend it. The old haunted hotel in the mountains of upstate Pennsylvania is Grand and Ancient but in good shape and comfy. The clues were given out at meals and cocktails. Friday cocktail party, Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and a reveal at Brunch on Sunday. So much Great food to add to the pondering and a surprising finish. Lady Kandi and I were very close to having the plot and methods of the murders and even some of the motive. However the true culprit(s), when revealed, were far from our guesses. Good fun.

Now on to business. I have mentioned before the Bi-Centennial of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. That takes place this weekend in Williamsburg Virginia and several of our Sir Knights from Maryland will be in attendance to help the Templars of Virginia celebrate and re-dedicate themselves to the tenants of our Christian Knighthood. There are several meetings, a parade, the annual Virginia KT Sessions, a Church Service, and banquets at which many honors and tributes will be conveyed. Many dignitaries will be on hand from far and wide to celebrate. I am sure that you all join me in congratulating the fine Knights Templar of the Great State of

Virginia. Kandi and I and the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Bradley Andrukitis and his Lady Christine will be representing the State of Maryland.

On May 15 the Maryland Grand Commandery will hold our Semi Annual meeting in Cockeysville at 7:30. The meeting is to be held in the Gothic room and representatives of the 11 Commanderies in the State will be there to review the year thus far, elect new officers for the coming Templar year beginning in October, and discuss the locations for the upcoming Grand York Rite sessions- Clarion Hotel in Frederick Md. October 2023, as well as the 2024 location. A reminder that the Dais officers of each Commandery in Maryland are expected to attend. If you are unable to attend, a message to me explaining your absence and requesting to be excused is required.

May 13 we will be honoring our Right Eminent Past Grand Commander SK Randolph Disney with a Memorial Service at Door to Virtue Lodge at 46 Monroe St. in Westminster Maryland. The gathering will begin at 1:00 PM with a Knights Templar Memorial Service to be held at 2:00 PM followed by a Masonic Memorial Service.

Memorial Day weekend will feature a parade in Westminster Md. in which the Masons of Maryland and the Knights Templar will march in the oldest continuous Memorial Day Parade in the United States. Come join us in your Class A uniform and help to show off the Brand Spanking new Marching Banner of the Grand Commandery of Maryland. This new banner is the design of our Grand Generalissimo SK Gary Kennedy and we'll unfurl it for the first time in public. I want to thank Sir Knight Gary for his exemplary work of researching manufacturers, designing, and ordering the great banner and want to thank the KT Finance Committee for quickly motivating to establish the funding for this one of a kind Banner.

Memorial Day Parade, May 29th in Westminster meeting up at Door to Virtue, 46 Monroe Street, Westminster, MD 21157
Monroe Street will be closing about 7:30am and the parade will start stepping off at 9:30am

An opportunity for members of the York Rite College of Maryland is upon us. As recently installed Governor of Maryland College No. 58, I'd like to extend an invitation to those members and their Ladies for a Ladies night out. This will take place at Toby's Dinner theater in Columbia Maryland on Sunday June 11th. Featuring the final performance of the Musical GREASE! Doors open at 5:00 for the Buffet dinner, and the show starts at 7:00PM. In order to attend you'll need to contact me by May 11th (one month before) so we can take advantage of a group rate that has been negotiated. An invitation has been sent to members. Call me @ 301-674-2075 to find out more or make a reservation.

Yours in All Knightly Courtesy,

John H. Austin
Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand commandery of Maryland