



NEWS for September 2024
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Sir Knights—

First, a little bit about the 69th Triennial. If you happen to see SK Jeff Craig, REPGC, please congratulate him as he was installed as our new Northwest Department Commander. SK Jeremy Vaughn, REPDC, was elected as a trustee on the KTEF. And congratulations to Sir Knight David Kussman on his election and installation as the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA. Sir Knight Jeff Bolstad was elected and installed as the Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA, Sir Knight Jack Harper was elected and installed as the Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA, Sir Knight James McGee was elected and installed as the Right Eminent Captain of the Guard of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA, Sir Knight David Studley on his election and installation as the Right Eminent Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA and Sir Knight Larry Tucker on his election and installation as the Right Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA.

This year was the first in many that we were able to have a drill team competition. There were eight teams made up of 169 Sir Knights, 101 of them drilling for the first time and the oldest on the drill field was

89 years old! What are we waiting for?! Where are my drill team volunteers?! Please contact myself or SK John Vivian. We are waiting to hear from you!

I have thought of this article a lot. And it really touched home while visiting with a brother I have known for a while from Canada. We had the opportunity to meet for lunch in early August and I had planned to give him one of my coins to spark his interest in the York Rite when he gets back home. As I said he shared a story with me before I could give him my coin—one that I would like to share with you as a hint that this could have been any of us in his shoes. My friend was struggling with life's issues as we sometimes do. One night in Lodge he asked his Lodge brothers this simple favor. His words were "I need you to call and check on me". He went on to explain you can call and talk about just about anything just call. And to make it even simpler do it on the same day as your birthday so if you were born on January 10th, please call the 10th of every month for a while until I get over this. My friend has always been a good Brother to me, and it hurt me deep to know his phone didn't ring. I gave him my coin after hearing that story. And it brought a tear of joy to his eyes. We talked for a bit about why the phone may not have rung and how hard it might have been to start that conversation. But I gave this brother an out and let him know while I may not know to call him, he can always call on me just by giving him a coin. That coin brought a tear to his eye that day but meant more than any words that could have been spoken.

When I was Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in Scottish Rite, one thing I tried tirelessly to do was to get the brothers to reach out and call brothers who weren't there. Not to ask why they weren't coming, not to ask if they needed a ride to get there but just to check in on them. But to no avail. It just seemed to be too large of a task. I still make those calls. Many go to voicemail, never to be returned. Others have been good conversations. I try not to bring up lodge business as I don't want to pressure anyone, but we always seem to talk about lodge as Freemasons will. My fellow Sir Knights, I urge you to pick up that phone and call on a brother that might be struggling. You would be surprised how much a simple call can mean to someone. I don't know who said it but it is worth repeating: A person may not remember what you said or did, but they will never forget

how you made them feel.

And last but not least be well and God Bless you!

Sincerely and fraternally,

**SK Barron J. White, REGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington**