



NEWS for February 2025  
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**Sir Knights—**

**As my year starts to wind down and most of my traveling is completed, it allows me to ramble on a few things. My rambles aren't particularly based on my commandery visitation but also on Freemasonry in general and many conversations held over the past year. A lot of the conversations I've had remind me of an old Cherokee Indian Story (and I am paraphrasing this) where a young Brave who was struggling with anger was talking to his Chief about his anger but wondered why and why did others seem so calm. The Chief replied there are two wolves that live within us: one is angry at the world, vengeful, full of hate and mean; the other is calm, at peace, carefree and loving. The one that survives is the one you chose to feed.**

**Sadly, I have watched brothers walk away from the fraternity over some small things and even worse some big things. I have seen and heard of things that one would never expect of someone who obligated themselves to do better. This year I was invited to two separate, yet similar, events. Both of which I knew my host would be incredibly busy and to be fair I honestly had no clue why I was invited to either. The first event I showed up and as expected, my host was indeed busy. However, at the first chance they had they made sure to**

come greet me and make sure I knew what to expect and had accommodations they made sure I felt welcome, had people around that I not only felt comfortable with but they made sure I knew why they wanted me to be there. The second event just like the first. My host was extremely busy. As a matter of fact, I never had a second to have any conversation with them. I did find a place reserved for me and I guess this one person was supposed to be a “team leader” at our group. He looked at me and asked “why are you here?” All I could muster was an awkward “I don’t know. They sent an invitation so I showed up.” There were two of us at that table that seemed to be the outsiders as the other five knew each other and only talked amongst themselves, and if we tried to participate in their conversation, they gave quick answers as if to dismiss us. At the end of the event the “Team Leader” guy (remember him?) asked me “So did you find out why you were asked to be here?” I shook his hand said no but I am just happy they asked all the same.

Sir Knights, I share these stories not to make anyone look bad but maybe to help in difficult times. Just like those two events there were a lot of positive things to learn and grow from in both of them. Choose wisely which wolf you feed don’t let a bad situation, or a disappointing circumstance, take the beauty out of our craft for you. Just because you can’t touch them doesn’t mean you shouldn’t reach for the stars. The only way to effectively change things for the better is by starting with the person that stares back at YOU in the mirror. Let’s be that Change.

Don’t forget we are looking for people to form a statewide drill team. Please Contact John Vivian and let him know you are interested.

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