



*Grand Commandery of Virginia -
Attention To Orders!¹*



¹ When I was at West Point, each day we had unofficial communications from the leadership at meals that began with "Attention To Orders". I stole the title for this unofficial communications channel.



From the Apartment of the Grand Commander -
DECEMBER 2025

Sir Knights,

Warm and fraternal greetings to each of you, wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the eighth edition of our monthly communication from me to the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia. I pray that this message finds each of you and your families and loved ones well and blessed.

Thanksgiving is now in our rearview mirrors as we look forward to the celebration of the Advent of our Blessed Savior. If you are like me at all, you look forward to this time of year as a time when hearts are filled with joy and wonder. There was a time when, quite frankly, I sort of lost this feeling about Christmas. It became a time of frazzled nerves, menu planning and wrapping paper. And it all culminated in a one-day frenzy of activity and when it was over, it was time to face the challenges of a new year. I dreaded the whole thing. If you're hearing in your mind the words "bah humbug" then you've got it just about right. I had fallen prey to the world's Christmas, which is a fleeting moment in December marked by the exchange of presents, festive dinners, and temporary fun. These traditions hold value, but they are but a shadow of the lasting, deeper significance of the season which, once grasped, you carry for all time.

Thankfully, a serious illness around Christmas a few years ago served to change my heart, and I want to share that change with you. I was not visited by three spirits or anything that significant (the Dickens you say), but I certainly had a good scare...one might even rightly call it a "come to Jesus moment" because that's exactly what happened. In my mortality I faced the fact that my focus had been on the wrong things at the wrong times.

The reality of Jesus' birth, which we celebrate at this time of year, reminds us of the profound hope, peace, and love that He brought into the world – values that inspire and guide us as Sir Knights, Companions, and Masons. Yes, Christmas is still a time to gather with loved ones and cherish the bonds of friendship, family, and especially fraternity that warm our spirits. It's all of that, but it's more. Our calling as Knights Templar means that this spirit should transcend the limits of a single day. The love, generosity, and selfless service that He showed means that we carry the message and the joy of Christ and most especially, *His sacrifice* with us throughout the year.

Yes, Christmas is a great time, and I look forward to celebrating it with you on 20 December at MAHOVA. But when the last toast is drunk and we all head to the places we will be from, let us do so with the knowledge that our joy, our selfless service, indeed, our calling goes well beyond a day or even a season. We carry the message from Christ Himself that He provided salvation to a fallen and sinful world. It's an invitation for us to share the fact that we, who received so much when we deserved none of it, should live our lives focused on peace, love, and goodwill not just in December, but all the time. Then, this sacred season becomes an opportunity to magnify that which we carry in all seasons.

A Merry and Joyous Christmas to each of you, but more importantly, I wish you a year filled with the joy of serving our Savior!

[A Christmas Greeting For You and Yours!](#)

This year, I thought I would try something a little different. Please enjoy this Christmas greeting from your Grand Commandery. Special thanks to SK Josh Payne for putting my words into this video!

[A Knight Templar Christmas](#) ←===Click the link!

By the way, don't think for a second I forgot about our other video. Congratulations! We are over 1K views! I also showed this at the Grand Royal Arch Convocation where it received a great response. It tells the story of who we are and what we do much better than I could. Alright...well, I wrote the script but you get the idea. Share the link with that prospect you've been working on along with a petition for the Orders 😊! You can find it here: <https://youtu.be/pGB4PBXVJLY>. Let me know what you think.

One more round of Orders concurrent with Official Visits coming up starting in January. Now is the time to get your candidates lined up and ready to go!

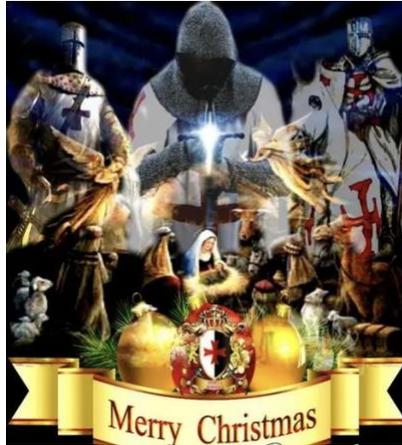
Yours In Christian and Knightly Courtesy,

Bill



WILLIAM SEARCY, III. KCT.
Grand Commander 2025-2026

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To All Sir Knights, Wheresoever Dispersed - Greetings!

On Behalf of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia

The Right Eminent Grand Commander and the Grand Line Officers

Cordially invite you to celebrate the joy of the Advent of Our Blessed Redeemer

At the Masonic Home of Virginia, 500 Masonic Lane, Richmond, VA

On

-The 20th day of December in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five-

Dinner will be served at Five o'clock, in the evening, cost is \$10 with the Christmas

Program and Toasts directly following at Six o'clock

Please RSVP by December 15, 2025²

Email: gr@vatemplars.org



² Seating is limited, please RSVP early to avoid disappointment

*Grand Commandery of Virginia
2025 - 2026 Leadership Team*



From L to R:

- SK William Jonathan Sirman, DDGC, District 1
- SK Brian Dean Joos, DDGC, District 2
- SK Timothy Anderson Dahlman, DDGC, District 3
- SK Daniel James Carter, DDGC, District 4
- SK William (Bill) Searcy, REGC
- SK Eric Dale Swortzel, DDGC, District 5
- SK Mark Ronald Day, DDGC, District 6
- SK William Arthur Crosscup, V, DDGC, District 7
- SK Joseph Brandon Hale, DDGC, District 8
- SK Paul William Lockhart, DDGC, District 9

Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.



UPCOMING EVENTS - December 2025

- 20 Grand Commandery Christmas Celebration