



*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 -
February 2026*

Sir Knights,

Warm and fraternal greetings to each of you, wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the tenth 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.

I chuckled a little when I looked at the first word of this message, “warm”. This season has been anything but warm...at least on the outside. Temperatures have hovered well below freezing for quite some time and most of us received anything from a good dusting of snow to several inches of snow capped off with ice. I don’t know about you, but if I had wanted this I would have moved to Canada. That said, however, we are fortunate that the cold was only outside. Inside of our fraternity, the fires of friendship and brotherly love have been burning just as brightly as ever.

I believe we set a record for turnout at the Religious Freedom Day Parade. Let me just say it plainly, if you missed it, you MISSED it! We had an excellent turnout from our Grand Commandery and, we were joined by a good number of our Fraters from the King Baldwin Commandery. For the parade and ceremonies, I and their Grand Commander marched at the head of our combined group and afterwards, we jointly laid the wreath at the monument. Most especially, we were blessed to get this all done BEFORE the weather hit. If you have been to this event before, you know that the second week in January can be a bit dicey. It was an awesome day and a great display of Christian unity, showing that we are living our vows and being true to the principles that Christ laid out for us.

We followed that up with our official visit to my home district, District 9. Once again, my brothers, you showed up and showed out. I do not believe I have ever seen the Fredericksburg Lodge with more people present. I cannot thank you all enough for your continued support. We were able to confer the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross (IORC) on 9 candidates, getting them started on their journey to becoming Knights Templar. If you were there, then you know we had a special guest...the Holy Bible upon which our Illustrious Brother George Washington took his obligations of Masonry was present and available for photos. To top it off, tours of the Old Lodge Room were given as well. Thanks again to District 9 and SK Paul Lockhart for their excellent work in hosting this event.

It was brought to my attention that we missed a few candidates who were unable to attend the Official Visit (OV). At tremendous expense, I have arranged for the IORC to be conferred at the Fredericksburg Commandery #1 Stated Conclave on February 19, 2026. I am given to understand that a relatively well-known member of our Order will preside and confer the IORC from the East. If you have candidates that missed the OV or if you would just like to come and be a part of the excitement, come on over! The important thing here is that we get this done in time for our candidates to join us at District 1 for the Order of Malta on February 21. If you are bringing candidates to Fredericksburg, please be so kind as to advise the Fredericksburg Recorder, SK Jarrett Frame, so that proper arrangements can be made.

In my last message, I mentioned that on 24 January we would have a special fund-raising for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in Waynesboro, that being the sheering of SK Tony Daniels' beard. I can report that the sheering was successful with a special thank you to SK and Past Grand Commander Scott Fielding for winning the bid for the honors and then passing them to me. I made the first cut and, since I did not want to take full responsibility for the outcome, passed the sheers to others in attendance 😊. On two

serious notes, we raised over \$1300 for our charity and, SK Tony advises that he is in good health following his surgery. All in all, a great outcome all around.

Looking ahead, since this is edition #10 of our newsletter, our Annual Grand Conclave is fast approaching. I and the team will be finalizing things this month and the Call to Grand Conclave will follow shortly. For planning purposes, remember that our Constitutions and Statutes set the date, so this year, we kick off the festivities on April 30 and finish up on May 3, once again in Harrisonburg at the Hotel Madison. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there, I'm hoping it will be special for all of us.

OK...that's everything...except a traditional mention of our social media campaigns. While we are over 1K views on our main YouTube video, allow me to once again commend it to your viewing pleasure.

<https://youtu.be/pGB4PBXVJLY>. Also, while you're there, you may also see our Christmas video. While the "holiday" is over for a time, the message is eternal. It's located here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O19Rsf1Vzms>. And, while I'm on a roll, a video montage of pictures from our joint conclave with the King Baldwin guys at West Point is also available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmQvTDo-2R8>. Our IT team has been doing an amazing job, I simply cannot commend them enough. Take a look at their work and tell me what you think.

Ok. That's all for now, for real this time. Busy month of February coming up. Stay warm brothers, spring is closer than you think! I hope to see most of you in our travels. God bless, keep, and protect you and yours!

Yours In Christian and Knightly Courtesy,

Bill



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

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*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 – February 2026

- 19 Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
 - Fredericksburg No. 1 – 7:30 PM
 - Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
 - 803 Princess Anne Street Fredericksburg, VA
- 21 – Official Visit – District 1
 - Richmond Commandery #2
 - Lee Manchester Masonic Lodge No. 14
 - 6787 Forest Hill Avenue Richmond, VA 23225
 - DDGC: Sir Knight William Jonathan Sirman 804-396-5468