

GRAND COMMANDERY OF GEORGIA  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

*"Sword and Banner"*

Official Newsletter

In Hoc Signo Vinces

**MAY 2026**

Sir Knight  
**Daniel C. Ricketts, KCT**  
Grand Commander



**2026 STATE OF THE ORDER**

In the many miles traversed across our great state of Georgia, I have had the pleasure to observe the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our Sir Knights. Our Sir Knights continue to uphold our mission that **"Every Christian Mason Should Be a Knight Templar!"**

I am pleased to report that we continue to have a steady influx of new Christian Knights who have enlisted under the banner of our Order as we take great pride in welcoming these new Sir Knights. The sustained growth of our constituent Commanderies, and subsequently our Grand Commandery, is fundamental and must remain to be the consistent commitment to our faith, values and beliefs.

Our charitable efforts have continued to make a significant impact. Georgia's contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) have remained commendable, and we have upheld our tradition of supporting vision research and aid

across Georgia. I am happy to report that Georgia has surged forward to be Number 3 in overall cumulative giving (contributions+trusts+wills) at the latest updated report of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign.

I am pleased to report that our commitment to the Holy Land Pilgrimage has not wavered, despite international challenges, and we were able to send 9 ministers to the Holy Land this Templar year. It is rewarding and beneficial for us but more so to these ministers, that they may return to the pulpit, share the Good News and to preach the Gospel having experienced walking where our Lord and Savior walked. Their words of faith will be enriched by seeing what is written in black and white, which is now brought to the full color of life for each of them through this experience.

The Knights Templar Education Foundation of Georgia reviewed and selected 19 worthy students for scholarships to continue their education, and I was honored to attend the presentation of two \$50,000 University Grants, as well as attend the presentation of two \$90,000 Career starter grants for research and further studies at Emory University and Medical College of Georgia.

The Divisional Inspections and Schools of Instruction have proven instrumental in the continued standardization of our operations and the enhancement of organizational proficiency. For the second consecutive year, each Commandery within the state of Georgia was required to conduct its own Tactics Inspection.

It is noteworthy to commend the enthusiasm, diligence, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by all participants who approached these inspections with genuine commitment. The dedication exhibited by our Sir Knights in fulfilling their Templar responsibilities reflects both the enduring strength of our Order and the perseverance of its members.



# **YORK RITE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The York Rite Leadership Development Program, comprising of the six distinct modules that were presented at each of the individual Divisional Administrative Inspections and Schools of Instruction, provided a vital role in further equipping the Sir Knights with advanced knowledge and skills essential for future leadership within our Order. I urge that the opportunity to further enhance education and leadership development continue and expand for the benefit of the Sir Knights, and the entire York Rite.

To sustain the ongoing success of our Order, it is essential not only to continue to recruit new members and Sir Knights but also to actively engage them, provide purpose, knowledge and drive. Thus, ensuring that they are adequately prepared for leadership responsibilities, not only in our Order but for the betterment of the communities that we serve.

## **GEORGIA PATCH PROGRAM**



The success of the Georgia Patch Program has surpassed all expectations. The seal of our Grand Commandery of Georgia is a beautiful symbol that should be celebrated and shown to all as part of our uniform. This patch has renewed the excitement of many Sir Knights across our great state. I urge the adoption of this program and its continued success.

The Garrison #1 Patch has been a great success and has added to the success of our fundraising efforts this past year. I am extremely proud that this program has contributed more than \$10,000 to our charitable efforts this year.

The Ritual Awards that were implemented this year for each of the Orders have generated an excitement not previously seen in many years, and I am pleased that there are many Sir Knights who have taken it upon themselves to renew the memorization and conferral of each of our Orders of Knighthood.

It is my hope that these programs will continue to foster, instill the passion and commitment for all Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, to take great pride in our Order, in the passion of our ritual and in the commitment to our many charities!

## **VISITATIONS & REPRESENTATION**

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. During my tenure, I have attended various significant events, that include the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, the Grand Assembly of Georgia International Order of Rainbow for Girls, The Annual Conclave of the Associated Chapters of the Order of DeMolay for the state of Georgia, the Annual Communication of the Eastern Star of Georgia, the Annual Meeting of the Order of Amaranth, the Easter Sunrise Service of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of North America, the Grand York Rite sessions of neighboring states, and numerous Masonic gatherings across Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina and San Juan, Puerto Rico.



I was honored to share with the Presiding Officers of the Grand York Rite of Georgia, the distinct honor and privilege in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC, and humbled beyond words to lay a wreath at the tomb of General George Washington at his home and resting place, Mount Vernon. It was my pleasure to attend the six Divisional Administrative Inspections and attend the Tactical Schools of Instruction that were scheduled for this year.

I have attended each of the Tactical Inspections across our great state of Georgia apart from three Commanderies due to conflicts but have endeavored to visit these Commanderies on a regular meeting night if possible. At each of these conclaves, I was received and acknowledged with all the rights and privileges due this office and extend my sincere appreciation to each of the Sir Knights of our great state!

These experiences have added to my respect for the fraternity's traditions, highlighted the importance of embracing and in cultivating stronger relationships within the Masonic community.

I have been truly humbled and blessed to represent each of you, the Sir Knights of Georgia in all my travels.

I extend my heartfelt and sincere gratitude to each of you for choosing me to be of service.

## **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

I am pleased to report that our commitment to the Holy Land Pilgrimage remains strong, even amid the several international challenges.

This Templar year, we were able to send nine ministers to the Holy Land. This experience is rewarding for us all, but especially for these ministers.

They can now return to their pulpits and share the Good News with renewed passion, having walked where our Lord and Savior walked.



## MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND COMMANDER



The countless miles and fellowship shared with so many as I represented each of the Sir Knights of Georgia are experiences, I am thankful for and deeply cherish. The fellowship and unity within our Order are priceless, and I would not trade them for anything.

Being chosen as your representative has filled me with honor, joy, and humble gratitude. The trust you reposed in me is deeply meaningful. My sincere hope and prayer are that I have exceeded your expectations in service and leadership.

The lessons of true Leadership are of the greatest importance; the fellowship of our great Order is paramount and the true reason for us all in our Order. I hope that this has been seen, learned and conveyed in the Leadership Modules, the Schools of Instruction and the return of being present in our Asylums to witness to individual Commandery inspections. Much work is to be done, yet we have come so far, and we must pledge not to look back!

To support our ongoing progress and inspire future leaders, I offer these practical recommendations:

- Attend all Schools of Instruction to strengthen your understanding and skills. Bring pride in our ritual, our ceremonies and our heritage.
- Mentor new members, sharing your knowledge and fostering their growth within the Order.
- Participate actively in Commandery inspections, your own and travel to assist others, to uphold our standards and traditions.
- Embody and promote the values taught in the Leadership Modules- integrity, service, humility, and unity.
- Be present regularly within your Asylum, encouraging presence and involvement among your fellow Sir Knights.

There are those who claim our Order is faltering or that the York Rite in Georgia or even the Southeast is lost. To this, I ask us all to stand together and proclaim with unwavering conviction: We are here, we are strong, and we will not be dismissed or ignored. Our unity and our commitment are our greatest strengths.

As this year concludes, I urge every Grand Officer and Sir Knight, who has the desire and aspiration to be a true leader - embrace these recommendations.

The bar has been set, the standard and expectation are clear, and the sacrifice is profoundly greater than words can express. The path of our success is before you all and as such, you are urged to follow in the footsteps of those who have led by example and continue to uphold the noble traditions of our Order.

That bar, that standard, that expectation, and most especially that sacrifice I am reminding you is not what a mortal man has set, nor could in any lifetime but by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Now Sir Knights, more than ever, let us strive to live up to His divine example.

Sir Knights, govern yourselves accordingly!

Be curious, Not Judgmental!!

Always remember to Be the Crusader!

Fraternally and Knightly:

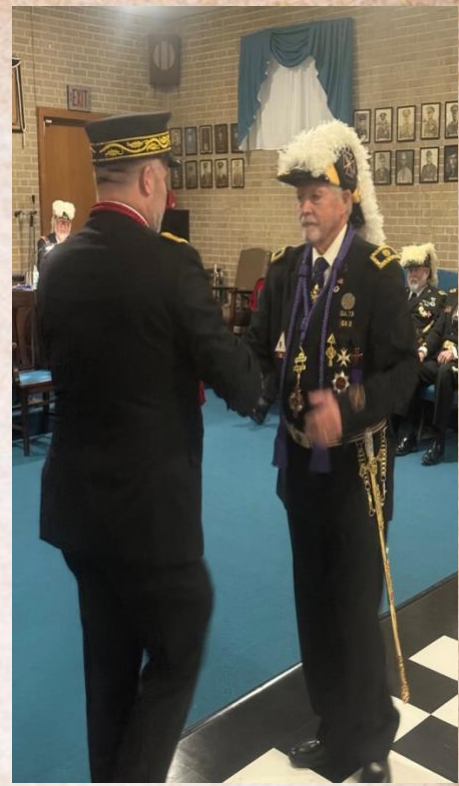
Daniel C. Ricketts,

Right Eminent Grand Commander

## **A YEAR OF FELLOWSHIP**











# UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

**April 30 – May 2**

## Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia Annual Communication

**April 30 - 11:00 – 5:00 Registration**

### May 1

**6:30 Registration / 7:30 – Joint Session Begins**

**9:00 AM - 166<sup>th</sup> Grand Commandery Annual Conclave**

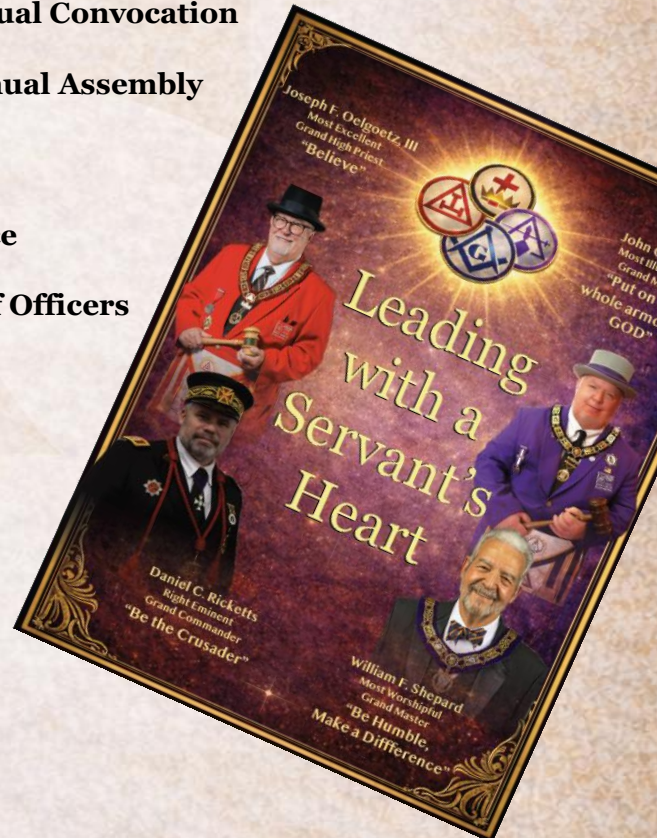
**10:30 AM - 204<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Annual Convocation**

**1:30 PM - 200<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Annual Assembly**

### May 2

**Joint Memorial Service**

**followed by the Installation of Officers**



**June 12-23**

## 2026 Southeastern York Rite Conference

**Atlanta, GA**

**Register online at [www.YorkRiteofGA.org](http://www.YorkRiteofGA.org)**