



*Grand Commandery of Virginia -  
Attention To Orders!<sup>1</sup>*



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<sup>1</sup> 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 -  
April 2026*

Sir Knights,

I am happy to once again have the opportunity to communicate with each of you wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the twelfth and, yes, the final 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 believe I have mentioned at least once before that we needed to learn to number our days, to understand that time is fleeting (Psalm 90: 12). It's hard to believe how quickly the last 11 months have flown by. However, while the time moved swiftly, when we look back, I think it's clear that we made the most of every moment together. This year was filled with memorable experiences, such as gathering for Stated Conclaves, Official Visits and Orders, or just meeting for Knightly bonding activities. Whether sharing the laughter and fun of friends and brothers or conducting ritual with precision and reverence, each gathering brought us closer as Fraters and Soldiers of Christ.

We strengthened our ties to each other, but also to our fellow Knights throughout the Department and with our brethren from the King Baldwin Grand Commandery. These connections are at the heart of what we do, and I am grateful for the spirit of unity and esprit de corps that exists within our ranks. In everything for this entire year, you have been committed to the cause of Christ and brotherhood. Let us carry this momentum forward as we continue to serve and support each other. Thank you all for making this an especially fond memory.

I visited a few of our Commanderies during this past month and will add in a few highlights here. I had the opportunity to participate in a few installations of new Eminent Commanders and continue to be excited about the level of leadership our organization attracts. I'm excited for the coming year(s). I was also privileged to be present at Old Dominion when a Sword Of Merit was presented to SK Sheldon Richman as a result of his very generous donation to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. As you all know, this is a charity that is near and dear to every Knight Templar, and I am extremely grateful that we have men of his caliber and generosity among our ranks. Moreover, I was absolutely overwhelmed when SK Richman presented his sword to me. Again, his generosity is unlimited, and I was able to subsequently use this sword to knight our new fraters the following weekend.

On that note, I want to make a special call out to the SKs of District 2 for an excellent Order of the Temple and Official Visit this past weekend. What an amazing Templar Day! The ritual for the Order of the Temple was outstanding, expertly conducted from the east by our own SK Jeff Paras, Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery. He was ably assisted by a very efficient support team and, when it was over, we had 10 new SKs among our ranks! The District is to be further congratulated on the ritual of their full form opening and reception. Lady Luz and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves; again, it was a joyful day.

Alright...while District 2 was our final Official Visit, the year is not yet over. We still have a few things to do. First, I want to invite you to join us on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the George Washington Memorial Shrine for our annual Easter Sunrise Service. This year will be a little different as we will not march up the hill, but rather, we will assemble in the auditorium. This is a little different from past years. I encourage us all to gather and celebrate the Resurrection of the Great Captain of our salvation. As we will not be marching, no swords are needed.

Following that, recall that we are invited to a Joint Conclave on April 8, 2026 at the “Mount Olivet Commandery #2” located at 4000 Woody Drive, Richmond, VA. I humbly ask that as many of you as possible join us for that event, which will start at 6:00 PM.

We are just about a month away from our Grand Conclave where we will celebrate our accomplishments for the year and set ourselves up to do even more in the coming years. I have every confidence in the men that will follow me as the Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Virginia and, frankly, I can't wait to see where they will take us. Our base hotel has filled up but never fear. We have arranged for an overflow hotel at the Hampton Inn, Harrisonburg University, located at 85 University Blvd in Harrisonburg. The room rate is \$105 per night for two double beds and \$99 per night for kings. This rate includes complimentary breakfast, parking, and WiFi. So, if you still wish to attend and missed the Madison, grab one of those rooms, the hotel is only about 2 miles away. Here is the link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=HSB UVHX&groupCode=CHHGCK&arrivaldate=2026-04-30&departuredate=2026-05-03&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

You will want to be at Grand Conclave, by the way, because we are planning some things that have not been done before. We will once again confer the Order of The Temple on Saturday morning...but with a bit of a twist. I will confer the Order from the East, ably assisted by our Most Worshipful Grand Master as our Generalissimo, our Most Excellent Grand High Priest as our Captain General, and various Grand Line Officers and visiting REGCs sprinkled throughout the cast in strategic positions. If you miss it, I can almost assure you that you will wish that you had not 😊. **And don't leave the ladies out.** On Friday, they will have what I hope is a fun and festive outing at a local winery/lavender farm complete with a pizza lunch (just like

we will be having at Grand Conclave), a wine tasting and a tour of the grounds. The bus departs Madison Hotel at 11:00 AM. I must ask that you make sure to RSVP with the Grand Recorder in advance so that we make sure everything is arranged for our ladies.

OK...that's everything...except a traditional mention of our social media campaigns. I've mentioned this in every message, no need to stop now LOL. 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. Another busy month coming up. I hope to see most of you in our travels. God bless, keep, and protect you and yours, and I'll see you in Harrisonburg if not sooner!

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 - April 2026*

- 5 Easter Sunrise Service –
  - Geo. Washington Masonic Shrine
  - 0800 Inside the Shrine, no parade
- 8 Joint Conclave with King Baldwin
  - Mount Olivet Commandery #2
    - 4000 Woody Drive, Richmond, VA
    - Dinner at 6:00 PM
- May 1 Grand Conclave – Harrisonburg, VA
  - See Call To Conclave for Details