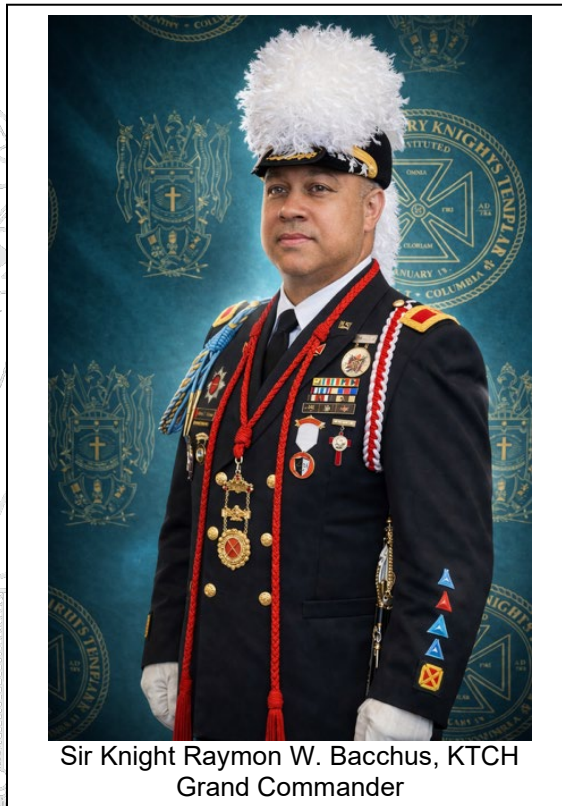


# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the District of Columbia

Monthly Knight Templar Magazine Supplement Message – June 2026  
Editor: Sir Knight Carter L. Diggs, REPGC



Sir Knight Raymon W. Bacchus, KTCH  
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

June brings a welcome balance of reflection, fellowship, and continued progress. As the first full quarter of this Chivalric Year draws to a close, we are given an opportunity to assess the strength of our early labors while preparing ourselves for the work and opportunities ahead. The warmth of the season also invites us to wear our authorized Summer Uniforms, beginning 1 June through 30 September, when we gather in conclave and continue building bonds.

June also brings an opportunity to honor and reflect upon the role of fathers and father figures in our lives. Their examples of steadfastness, moral guidance, sacrifice, and selfless love remind us of the virtues that we, as Knights of the Temple, strive to embody. These influences shape not only our personal lives, but also the quality of our leadership within the Commandery, the broader Masonic family, and the communities we serve.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a truly historic occasion for our nation. In celebration, there will be several major parades in which the Masonic family will be proudly represented. You are warmly invited and strongly encouraged, if able, to unite with our Brethren for the Palisades Fourth of July Parade. Most Worshipful Brother Chetin Durak, Grand Master of Masons in Washington, D.C., has asked that we come together in unity as one Masonic family and march in celebration before the world. Every Mason who registers and marches will receive a free, high-quality polo shirt and ball cap. Please register

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early, and before 3 June 2026, so your correct shirt size can be reserved. Register here at your earliest opportunity:

[https://dcgrandlodge.us19.list-](https://dcgrandlodge.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=91a3d0de32599f593e463ca78&id=06e6695ecd&e=ce1e84617b)

[manage.com/track/click?u=91a3d0de32599f593e463ca78&id=06e6695ecd&e=ce1e84617b](https://dcgrandlodge.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=91a3d0de32599f593e463ca78&id=06e6695ecd&e=ce1e84617b)

June also marks the close of the current Knights Templar Eye Foundation donation cycle on 30 June. One of the goals for this Chivalric Year is for our jurisdiction to reach 200% Life Sponsorship. This is an ambitious but worthy goal, and it reflects our commitment to charity in action. I encourage each Sir Knight and each Commandery to consider how we may support this important philanthropic work before the close of the cycle.

From 1 to 3 May, I was honored to accept the kind invitation of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia to attend their Grand Conclave in Harrisonburg, Virginia as an honored guest. Their Grand Conclave included a conferral of the Order of the Temple, and I was privileged to be part of a remarkable cast of distinguished Sir Knights and Masonic leaders, including representation from the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council, Grand Encampment, Prince Hall Templary and each jurisdiction in our Mid-Atlantic Department. It was truly a memorable occasion, and I felt the warmth and hospitality of the Virginia Templars throughout the weekend.

I was also pleased to attend the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of West Virginia in Davis, West Virginia from 15 to 16 May as an honored guest. Each jurisdiction in our Mid-Atlantic Department was represented, and the hospitality was exemplary. This was my fourth time attending their Grand Conclave, and they continue to raise the bar each year.

Our Grand Officers continue their dedicated service through outreach to individual members and visitations to each Commandery. Their work helps ensure that the voice of the membership is heard and that each Commandery receives the guidance, encouragement, and support it needs to flourish. This ongoing commitment reflects the principle that leadership in Templary exists for the benefit of the Sir Knights, providing a steady and reliable foundation for all our endeavors.

Beyond fellowship and reflection, June serves as a bridge in our Chivalric journey. It is a moment to evaluate our progress, renew our discipline, strengthen our bonds with one another, and prepare for the work that awaits us later in the year. As we look toward the months ahead, let us continue our journey with humility, unity, and unwavering purpose.

*With all Knightly Courtesy, sincerely and fraternally yours in friendship and service,*

*Ray*

*Raymon W. Bacchus*

*Grand Commander (2026-2027)*

*Direct Line: 1-703-899-8590*

***Motto: Dux Servit (A Leader Serves)***

***Theme: Building Bonds***

***Guide: FAITH · VIRTUE · HONOR · COURAGE · CHARITY***

*A year grounded in Faith, guided by Virtue, lived with Honor, strengthened by Courage, and expressed through Charity.*

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the District of Columbia

## Upcoming Events:

- Summer Uniform Authorized  
1 June through 30 September 2026
- Independence Day Palisades Parade  
4 July 2026
- Communication Initiative (Virtual) - Elected Grand Officers and the Commander of each Constituent Commandery  
7 July 2026
- Grand Lodge of D.C. Celebration of the 250th Birthday of the U.S.A.  
29 July through 1 August 2026
- Deadline for Submission of Constitutional Amendments, Reports, and Business for the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave  
1 August 2026
- Grand Commandery Annual School of Instruction hosted by Columbia Commandery No. 2  
17 August 2026
- Communication Initiative (Virtual) - Elected Grand Officers and the Commander of each Constituent Commandery  
8 September 2026
- Annual D.C. York Rite Picnic at Fort Hunt Park, Group Picnic Area C 002  
12 September 2026, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- Mid Atlantic Department Conference  
25 through 26 September 2026
- York Rite Emerging Leaders Program  
25 through 26 September 2026
- Semi Annual Grand Conclave at Singleton Lodge Hall  
3 October 2026

