



NEWS for August 2026
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Greetings Sir Knights,

Little acts of kindness and consideration are deeply woven into our cultural fabric. Whether you call them “chivalry” or just good manners, things like holding a door, standing when you meet somebody or letting someone ahead of you in line are the sorts of actions that distinguish someone as a lady or gentleman “of good character.”

Chivalry is the generic term for the Knightly system of the Middle Ages and for virtues and qualities it inspired in its followers. The word evolved from terms such as chevalier (French), caballero (Spanish), and cavaliere (Italian), all meaning a warrior who fought on horseback. The term came to mean so much more during medieval times. 13th Century conventions of chivalry directed that men should honor, serve, and do nothing to displease ladies and maidens. Although there is no “authentic” code of chivalry, discussions of knightly virtues can be found in writings throughout history. Nearly all writings agree on the following chivalric virtues:

Prowess: Seeking excellence in all endeavors; seeking strength to be used for justice rather than personal gain.

Justice: Seeking what is right without personal bias or prejudice; tempered by humanity and mercy.

Loyalty: Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to a person or ideal.

Defense: Defending your lord and those who depend on you.

Courage: Choosing the more difficult path, rather than what comes easy; choosing to live by truth.

Faith: Having faith in your beliefs so that when humanity disappoints you, you still have hope.

Humility: Refusing to boast in your own accomplishments; putting others before yourself.

Largesse: Being as generous as your resources allow.

Nobility: Seeking great stature of character; being the best you can be, realizing that perfection is impossible but always striving toward that ideal.

Franchise: Emulating all parts of the code of chivalry in the hope that others will follow your example.

Chivalry as a set of ideals changed throughout the Middle Ages to meet new socio-economic realities. That said, it is only logical that a new chivalric code can be set to meet today's unique society, maintaining the essential quality of defending "rightness" that defines what we understand as chivalry. Naturally, there will be disputes over who or what is "right," and this could be a starting point for some very interesting discussion.

I challenge each of us to explore these virtues and exemplify them through our deeds and actions.

In His Name,

SK Joseph L. McAlister, REGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Washington