



THE GRAND COMMANDERY
of VIRGINIA NEWS
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Sir Knight Romulo M. “Romi” Capuno, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Fraternal Greetings!

Ahh, February. The month of love.

There is no escaping it. No matter how many wonderful days there are to celebrate this month, **Valentine’s Day** (Feb. 14th) permeates everything.

St. Valentine’s Day began as a celebration of one or more early Christian Saints named Valentinus. Saint Valentine was imprisoned for performing weddings for Roman soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. During his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer. Legend states that before his execution he wrote her a letter “from your Valentine” as a farewell.

Sir Knights, shouldn’t we as Templars show some of the same behavior to those around us? Yes, we need to show the love and affection our wives and sweethearts so rightly deserve for their love and support. Yes, they have put up a lot for us.

In our Masonic Obligations we vow to protect and look after our members, their wives, widows, and orphans. Doesn’t that the actions of St. Valentine? Doesn’t that what we as Templars need to show the world? And while Valentine’s Day may have a leading role, there is more to this month than romantic love to celebrate. In our hectic schedules, we should find time to show love to those Widows of our departed Sir Knights. They are or should be our Sweethearts as well.

We should share our love to everyone including our adversaries and extend charity to the less fortunate. Please remember your love gift to the three noble Templary Philanthropies: The Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage, and the Educational Foundation. Each gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference in the lives of the recipients.

On February 20th, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is holding a re-dedication of the cornerstone laying. The original celebration of the cornerstone was a national Masonic event. Over 10,000 Freemasons attended the Memorial’s cornerstone laying in 1923. In 2023, Masons will gather again at the Memorial to witness the re-dedication of this cornerstone. Let us celebrate the Memorial’s timeless legacy and become part of their second century of making history. Please go to the Memorial website to register.

Before the March elections, you should coordinate with your District Instructors to obtain a certificate of ritual proficiency. I would like to remind the District Deputies, the Grand and local Committee Chairmen to start preparing their year-end reports for the Grand Conclave. I ask that all Commanderies make nominations for the Knights Templar Cross of Honor, Meritorious Award from the Grand Encampment, and the Grice Award. All Dais Officers, you should be preparing for your term by setting goals, planning programs, and establishing committees for the proper leadership and operation of your Commanderies.

On April 9th, the 93rd Annual Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, will be held on the steps of George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. Grand Commanders are requested to appoint a delegation chairman and notify SK Lawrence Tucker, RE Grand Recorder at john@gektusa.org or call 713-349-8700. The hotel and meal ticket cutoff date is March 1, 2023. Headquarters hotel is the Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan national Airport. Please make your reservation directly to the hotel by calling, 703-418-6800 (mention Knights Templar). Registration and hotel reservation link is available at www.knightstemplar.org.

The Grand Commandery continues its preparation for the Annual Grand Conclave in May 2023 and working tirelessly to make this a historic and memorable occasion because, we are also celebrating our Bi-Centennial Year. So, Please Save the Date!

Sir Knights and Friends, each year at the Grand Conclave (this year is Grand Bicentennial), most of us enjoy the excellent outlay of food, coffee, and drinks in the Hospitality Suite. It is your generous donations that make it all possible. This year, SK Michael Huff and his team will be hosting. Please consider a monetary donation from each of the Commandery or personally. No funds will be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.

We are creating a Souvenir Program to be included in the time capsule. We request that you be part of the celebration and history by buying an ad or ads for the Souvenir Program. For more information, please e-mail: ktvabc2023@gmail.com or send ad information at: <https://forms.gle/vwgt64hF2tNppJS6>.

I appreciate the diligence, untiring work and unconditional support of all Grand Line Officers, District Deputies, Grand Aide de Camps and Committee Chairs. You are inspiring. This is a **TEAM** that works at its best. **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieve **M**ore!

Until then, I remain your humble servant.

In His Service and Yours,



Romulo M. "Romi" Capuno, KCT

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May this pin remind you of the "Shield of Faith" and to put on the "Armor of God" everyday.