



MARK S. JOHNSON, KTCH
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

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MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings Sir Knights!

The Grand Encampment has issued General Order No. 14 along with Reopening 2021 Safety Protocols. You can find them on the Grand Encampment web page www.knightstemplar.org listed in downloads. I have issued General Order No. 2 and we are in Phase Zero because of the increase of COVID-19 cases. I have canceled the Inspections for the 2020-2021 year. Many of the Commanders' were concerned with no meetings, practices and no guidelines on how the work was to be done they couldn't be ready. The Recorders still need to file the 990 tax forms. We can't re-write the opening per Section 231 and 232 of the Constitution & Statutes of the Grand Encampment, so we are waiting on direction on how the work is to be done. The Greater Atlanta Christmas Observance has been canceled. Waycross, Lakewood and the Macon York Rite Bodies Christmas Observance are still on.

Mark S. Johnson
Right Eminent Grand Commander

UPCOMING COMMANDERY INSPECTION SCHEDULE

**ALL INSPECTIONS ARE CANCELED FOR THE 2020 - 2021
COMMANDERY YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

BRIEF HISTORY OF GEORGIA TEMPLARY (CONT.)

BY RIGHT EMINENT MARK S. JOHNSON

ALEXIUS COMMANDERY #22

The 4th Annual Conclave April 27, 1863. By the time this conclave convened the deep feeling of antagonism and bitterness engendered by the war was so strong that even the Grand Commander had become convinced that a withdrawal from the Grand Encampment was advisable. In his annual address he advocated it. His address was taken up almost wholly in discussing it, as follows: "The unhappy state of the country seems to have drawn the attention of all from every other subject—and Masonry, as is said of law, has been silent amid the din of arms. How long this state of things is to continue, or what is to be the final result, is known only to Him who rules the destinies of nations. While it exists, our Order, like any other public interest, feels its effect—and we are, in an official manner, called to consider its operation on our present organization.

"The Grand Commandery was created by the Grand Encampment of the United States. To that body we have heretofore owed allegiance; and in our continuing under its authority were possible, after the political changes of the past year, that allegiance could not be severed. But is it possible? A war, wholly unprovoked on our part, is waged against us by those we called our brothers, the only object of which the subjugation of the South into a state of colonial vassalage. The "restoration of the Union" was the war-cry at first; but the purposes of our enemies are now so clearly developed that the repetition of them now is a mere insult to our understanding. The Union never can be restored. With the feeling which this war has roused to madness between the two sections, it never ought to be. How, then, can a Masonic Body in the Confederate States continue subordinate to one in the United States? The question needs no answer. We are precisely in the position occupied at the close of the Revolutionary War by the Lodges of this country towards the Grand Lodge of England. That body claimed no jurisdiction after 1783, and had none after 1776, So now. The Confederate States have become an independent Power, and must remain so till that which, to human view, is impossible, reduces them to the level of subjugated provinces.

(TO BE CONTINUED...)