



MARK S. JOHNSON, KTCH
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

EDITOR: MICHAEL H. SAMPSELL

MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings Sir Knights! I hope all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year. I did get to attend four of the York Rite Christmas Observances and it was nice to be with the Companions. We had a Knights Templar virtual meeting December 5th and the Knights Templar Education Foundation approved two \$50,000 grants one for The Medical College of Georgia and one to Emory University Medical College and seven \$1,000 scholarships and the Knights Templar Education Foundation Division of the Grand Commandery also awarded five \$1,000 scholarships. I am thankful what our ancestors have done for us. Georgia's ranking for contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is falling. We've gone from 5th place to 7th place so please give if you can. I would like to remind the Commanderies to get your nominations in for the "Knights Templar Cross of Honor" (see the Grand Encampment Statutes Section 237 b). The Grand Encampment has also canceled the Easter Sunrise Services this year, they will be virtual. We also had a virtual Grand York Rite meeting December 8th to discuss the Grand Masters Class and the annual session in May. The date for the Grand Masters Class has not been set (still watching the Covid), but if the Grand Session is on it will be May 3rd and it will be scaled back from what we usually have. We'll have it at the Grand York Rite Building and the business session will be for one day. Then on May 15th we'll have the Chair Degrees starting at 8:00AM a Joint Luncheon at 4:00 a Joint Memorial Service and at 5:00 we'll have Open Installation for the Officers and a Meet and Greet Session afterwards. It seems lately I've been receiving a lot of funeral notices or attending funerals. Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest William L. Montgomery, Jr. Passed November 13 and Past Commander Ronald F.(Ronnie) Keel Aide-de-Camp for R.E. Grand Treasurer SK Bobby Simmons December 10th, so while upon bended knees pray for their families and the others not mentioned.

Mark S. Johnson
Right Eminent Grand Commander

BRIEF HISTORY OF GEORGIA TEMPLARY (CONT.)

BY RIGHT EMINENT MARK S. JOHNSON

ALEXIUS COMMANDERY #22

The following Resolution was offered and unanimously adopted; "That Whereas, The Grand Encampment of the United States having heretofore held jurisdiction over this Grand Commandery, from whom it received its charter and derived its authority to work; "And Whereas, A part of the States forming the original United States having withdrawn from said compact, and declared themselves free and independent—therefore, be it "Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of the State of Georgia hereby declares itself independent of, and owing no fealty or allegiance whatever to, the Grand Encampment of the United States. "Resolved, That inasmuch as the States now forming the Confederate States have established a separate and distinct Government from that of the United States, we respectfully call upon our sister Commanderies to unite with us in the formation of a Confederate States Grand Encampment, at as early a day as the nature of the case will possibly admit of.

No Grand Sessions were held by the Commandry, Chapter nor Council for the years 1864 and 1865. At the Annual Conclave April 23, 1866, a Resolution was adopted unanimously to repeal the 1863 Resolution. A letter was sent to the M.E. Grand Master May 1, 1866 and he replied that the Grand Encampment never received the Resolution and the Grand Encampment never dropped Georgia from its rolls and deemed it unnecessary to issue a public edict on the subject of the restoration, but would do so if desired. He indicated, "I sincerely unite in the hope you so eloquently expressed, that "no future interruption may ever occur to mar the harmony of our intercourse as countrymen, as Masons, and as Knights of our noble order.""

(TO BE CONTINUED...)

UPCOMING COMMANDERY INSPECTION SCHEDULE

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