

VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT



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FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings, Sir Knights!

This month your editor will give you a little idea of what went on at you're recently concluded Mid Atlantic Department Meeting held July 9-10, 2010, in Maggie Valley, NC. The Department is composed of Grand Commanderies from Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Not counting the Sir Knights from Virginia who are in the Grand Line of DC, Virginia had eight Sir Knights present. Unfortunately, Sir Knight William B. Brunk (NC), REDC, was unable to attend. However, the Grand Encampment Officers filled in.

It is a Grand Encampment Statute that the Grand Commander, the elected dais officers and the Grand Recorder from each jurisdiction are required to attend each year and all other Sir Knights from the various jurisdictions are always welcome to attend.

The primary speaker this year was Sir Knight John L. Palmer, PC, KCT, - Managing Editor of the Knights Templar Magazine. He presented a most interesting session of leadership training reinforcing what many of us have learned over the years. But he also presented new ideas for generating more interest in Knights Templar in general, but more specifically in the individual Commanderies. Through one of the programs, individual Sir Knights from each jurisdiction will be invited to participate next year.

Our Most Eminent Grand Master SK William Howard Koon, II provided insights on the workings of the Grand Encampment and where he hopes to lead it in the next few years. One topic of discussion is perhaps a new focus for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation since all citizens will be covered under the new National Health Care Program.

The Grand Recorder and I closed out our portion of the session with an update and demonstration of the new York Rite Information System. The YRIS allows you as an individual Sir Knight to go into the Grand

Encampment database and check your Commandery information. It is also the means for your Recorder and the Grand Recorder to have information about the various Commanderies and update monthly, or as needed. To check your own personal information, go to: www.masonic-web.com/gekt/login.aspx Enter First Name, Last Name, Birth Date, and Select "Body" to securely confirm, correct and update your information.

APPOMATTOX COMMANDERY NO 6 ASSISTS DINWIDDIE LODGE NO 136 IN A MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

On Monday May 31, 2010, members of Appomattox Commandery No 6 assisted the Brethren of Dinwiddie Lodge No 136 A. F. & A. M. of Virginia in a Memorial Day Observance. This annual event is organized by Sir Knight Tommy F. Peters, Jr. The Commandery escorted the Flag of Our Country to the front of the Courthouse and posted it. After several introductions were made, Em. Joseph P. Westfall, Grand Sword Bearer of The Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Virginia was introduced and delivered the Memorial Day Address. After which a Bugler played Taps. A Bag-piper then played Amazing Grace as he walked into the distance. It was a very impressive service and was witnessed by about 50 people. Seven Sir Knights in full uniform assisted in the 90 degree weather and another eight were on the side lines without uniforms. It was great being in the public and showing our support to the many men and women who gave their lives so we can be free. **Submitted by SK Joseph P. Westfall, Jr.**

