

SK Michael Whiting, REGC  
Knight Templar of Michigan  
Be Thankful



Greetings Sir Knights:

Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us and while most of us will be enjoying a delicious dinner with family and friends. Let us never forget our Military who are in many parts of the world giving us the freedoms we hold so dear. May our Heavenly Father protect each of them and bring them home safely to their families.

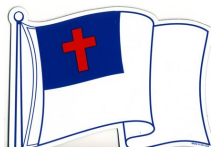
As Lady Jeanne and I sit down with the forty or fifty family members and friends this Thanksgiving Dinner we will count the many blessings our Lord has given us these last forty years. The friendship of each of you Sir Knights and Ladies, as well as the whole Masonic Fraternity is one of our treasured blessings.

The Inspection season is more than halfway finished and I am happy to report that the new format for the Inspections seems to be going well.

There are some kinks, but this is still a work in progress. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve let us know. Remember the Grand Officers were elected to serve you and with your help we can succeed in improving ourselves, our Commanderies and this Grand Commandery. May we all count the many blessings we have received, not only this Thanksgiving Day, but everyday of our lives. God Bless.

In Unity,

Michael Whiting  
Grand Commander



Bark River 2017 recap

For those of you that missed the Bark River tour this year, Sir Knight John Porritt reports that 43 Knights and “Nighty Knights” attending the Welcome Dinner at the 3 seasons. Inspections went well with everyone pitching in to make great days. Bark River Commandery #1313 welcomed 11 new members on Saturday night and everyone had a chance to attend a Hospitaler service before heading back over the bridge on Sunday. If you aren’t yet a member of Bark River 1313, please contact SK. David Bartell for information on 2018 Bark River tour.

**Military Funeral Honor Guards:** Sir Knights the Grand Commandery of Michigan has an agreement with the US Military Honors Team allowing us to have a special detail of Sir Knights present when a deceased Michigan serviceman or woman is returned home for the final honors and burial. This is a great honor and we are in final stages to launch our designated teams. There will be special uniform requirements, you will be expected to perform drill movements at the highest level of perfection and will be expected to perform in a team. Long term standing in these ceremonies will be required. If you are interested in participating please contact SK. Darel Winslow of SK Shawn Bashore. There will be detailed lists available in the near future. I hope to have at least 12 knights selected and ready for duty (when called) not later than 15 January 2018. As this is a very great honor for us as Templars we want to ensure that all who have the desire have the opportunity to participate.



Veterans day Inspections: Again this year a few Commanderies are holding their annual inspection on November 11th, *Veterans Day*. This is always a wonderful and memorable day for an inspection, especially for our Veterans who are also Templars. Those two things that have impacted our lives the strongest come together on these special days. We as Templars recognize and are in fact devoted to the core values of our nation and as Veterans those same values are what we stood (stand) for. I’m not saying that every Veteran enjoyed or even wanted to serve, but the fact is they did. My experience even amongst those drafted to service, is most take pride in that service. When we join with others into a cause, club or fraternity we form a bond, either by virtue of the same oath or commitment or by more severe even life threatening actions. No matter how it is a bond that can’t be explained only experienced This year the Commanderies will be: Demolai #5 inspected by D. Winslow USAF Veteran., Bay City #26, inspected by J. Porritt, USAF Veteran., and Lansing #25, inspected by M. Whiting, REGC, USA Veteran. Join your brothers at one of these inspections for a time of Unity, in brotherhood.

