

OHIO SUPPLEMENT



SK R. Thomas Starr, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander
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As Mother's Day approaches, I find myself thinking, especially after what we have been through in the past year, about the positive impact that our Commandery ladies have on our Templar fraternity.

It is not only the Sir Knights who have missed each other's company over the past year. I consider the fellowship that our ladies share and know it is as important to the ladies as the kinship shared by all Sir Knights. Of all that we have missed out on since our time apart, there is no doubt that is very high on the list for me.

I learned early in my Commandery career the importance of supportive ladies to the success of our Commanderies. I saw the work they did and the fun they had together on inspection day and other social occasions. I observed the organization and the camaraderie in the hospitality rooms. I also realized that the tea table was a great place to gravitate to on inspection day!

Mother's Day as a modern holiday was an initiative of a woman named Anna Jarvis. It was first celebrated in 1908 when Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a holiday in the United States actually began in 1905, the year her mother died. The elder Mrs. Jarvis had been a peace activist and cared for wounded soldiers on both sides during the Civil War. She and another activist, Julia Ward Howe, promoted the creation of a "Mother's Day" dedicated to peace. By 1911, all U. S. states observed the holiday. However, it was not until 1914 that President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day as a national holiday, to be held on the second Sunday in May.

Ironically, Anna Jarvis came to oppose the commercialization of the holiday by greeting card companies and candy makers, believing the true spirit of

Mother's Day lies in the sentimentality and the personal relationship children have with their mother.

To all the Commandery ladies who have looked after and supported me like a son or a little brother – and many still do - I am thankful for your love and kindness. I lost my mom when I was a teenager, but I have been fortunate to have had many "Commandery Moms" over the years, and I hope I have told you that I love and appreciate each of you.

Every DeMolay knows the final admonition of the "Flower Talk": DeMolay can ask no more of you than that you shall endeavor so to live as to be worthy of your mother's love." So mote it be for all of us.



On March 9, I presented a 70-year award to SK Richard A. Benadum, longtime Recorder of Lancaster Commandery No. 2. Dick was knighted on November 25, 1950, the same day Ohio State and Michigan played the famous "Snow Bowl" game in Ohio Stadium. Dick still works every day at his print shop, North End Press, in Lancaster. Congratulations, Dick!

In Knightly Courtesy,
R. Thomas Starr, KCT, Right Eminent Grand Commander