



## VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT SIR KNIGHT JOEL DAVID RATLIFF, SR. RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

Editor: S.K. J. Jeffrey McClelland,  
652 Punchbowl Lane, Jamaica, VA 23079  
804.240.7367, jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com

### FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings Sir Knights,

The Annual Grand Commandery has come and gone, and a great time was had by all. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate each of the Grand Officers, District Deputy Grand Commanders, District Instructors, Assistant Instructors, and Committeemen upon your preferment. Special thanks to my administrative assistants Sir Knights Dennis Haas, P.C. and J.D. Davis P.C.. They spent many hours creating, revising, updating and designing the forms and reports that you will use this year. Without their devotion to our craft I would not be able to attain my vision for the upcoming year. Combined effort is what promotes our Grand Commandery!

I promise to do my best to support each of you and your Commanderies. In General Order No. 1 I have laid out an aggressive schedule for the District Official Visits while limiting the use of the summer weekends as they are valuable family time. Do attend the District Visits and support your District Deputy Grand Commander and your Commandery officers. Each visit is always enjoyable and provides great fellowship! Listen for me at your door as I will be visiting every Commandery in Virginia unannounced at my discretion.

My Motto for this Chivalric year is "Take This Cup". This should remind and have each of us contemplate two things. First, our Christian obligation, as performed in the Holy Eucharist in our Christian Faith, and second, the Fifth Libation in the Orders of Knighthood.

Every Christian Master Mason should be a Knight Templar, not merely because we need the numbers, but because of the positive influence Templar Masonry exerts upon its members. Keep this in mind as you solicit your Brethren and Companions to become part of one of the finest experiences offered in Masonry.

Our Charitable goals this year are to have every Commandery to: keep its' 100% participation in the Life Sponsorship of the Eye Foundation; participate in the Knight Templar Educational Foundation; and (this is especially important to me) actively participate in the Knight Templar Holy Land Fund.

I had the privilege of touring the Holy Land and walk in the footsteps of our Savior. It was a life changing experience and I firmly believe that it needs to be shared with others by us sending ministers, so they can enrich their ministries. Commanderies, look in your area for deserving ministers and nominate them for the Holy Pilgrimage.

Sir Knights, there are programs in development that I hope will invigorate you and your Commandery.

- A Templar Correspondence Course is being developed and will be posted online in the next couple of months. Its' three courses will cover a broad range of Templary and be available at minimal expense with a certificate being awarded upon completion. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your knowledge of our Order.
- I have appointed a District Realignment Committee that will evaluate both the viability of existing Commanderies, and the need to realign the Capitular Districts to better serve our Orders' active Knights.
- I am having the Grand Prelate, S.K. Mark Pennypacker, continue the monthly devotionals and hope that each of you will find his messages interesting, educational, and inspirational.
- Remember our commitment to youth. The DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls have functions this summer and need your support. The DeMolay will again assemble inside the Luray Caverns on June 2 at 5:00 P.M. to perform their degrees. Everyone is invited and there is no fee. Do bring a flashlight, jacket and collapsible chair.

In closing, let's rededicate ourselves to our Christian Heritage, building enthusiasm within our ranks, and enjoying each other's company. When you hear me refer to us as an elite group, please don't make the mistake of interpreting that as our being better than others. It means that we are a small group held to higher standards and expected to set a good example for our Brethren, our neighbors and the world.

If you know of a Sir Knight who is ill or in distress, please supply me with his contact information and I will contact him.

Keep a petition ready!

Courteously,

Joel David Ratliff, Sr., KCT, KYCH  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia  
2018-2019