



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

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FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings Sir Knights,

The stated conclave in May is still fresh on our minds. I want to thank installing officer S. K. Jeffrey G. Burcham, REPDC, assisted by S. K. Philip E. Maybery, REPGC, and SK Wallace E. Maybery, for the great job they did installing our officers.

A special thanks to the Fredericksburg Assembly No. 266 Social Order of the Beauceant for a job well done at the registration desk. Commendations to Lady Sharon (Mrs. Edwin R. Carpenter, Jr) who has chaired this endeavor since its beginning. Their work shows us a love of service to their Beauceant and the Grand Commandery that is appreciated by all.

We are truly blessed to have such a grand line of talented officers! Our Sunday service was conducted by S. K. Jeffrey C. Hedges, Eminent Grand Musician, assisted by S. K. Barry E. Constant, PC and S. K. Philip E. Maybery, REPGC. It was a beautiful musical tribute and religious service commemorating the late Rev. Billy Graham.

Of interest: General Order No.1 has been updated and distributed. Please review the dates and come out to support your district deputies and commanderies. The internet committee met recently and was well attended. New plans for our social media are in the works! Standing and special committees are hard at work to accomplish their goals for the chivalric year.

Sir Knights, one word, **MEMBERSHIP!** We must contact, either by telephone call or a personal visit, all Sir Knights prior to suspension for nonpayment of dues or allowing them to demit. By reaching out you could be the difference in keeping a Sir Knight involved or reinvigorating him. Always carry a petition! You never know when opportunity will knock.

Lady Sandy and I enjoyed attending the "Jump on the Bandwagon" Grand Session of the Order of the Easter Star. Worthy Grand Matron, Marcia Perry

greeted me with honors and wished me a safe journey through our great Commonwealth of Virginia. On May 18th, I traveled to the stated conclave of the Grand Commandery of West Virginia. The warm hospitality and fellowship I received will be long remembered.

During the beautiful Memorial Day weekend, I hope you and your families enjoyed the holiday and took time to reverently remember all those who gave the supreme sacrifice for our freedom.

On June 3rd I attended a memorial service held at Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, VA conducted by the members of Turner Ashby Commandery No. 35 in honor of their namesake, COL Turner Ashby a Confederate cavalry commander in the late unpleasantness. He achieved prominence as Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's cavalry commander in the Shenandoah Valley and was killed in the Battle of Good's Farm. Ashby was originally interred at the University of Virginia Cemetery until October 1866 when his remains were moved to the Mount Hebron Cemetery.

July brings us our Independence Day celebration. Let's all remember to thank the Lord for the blessings we have living in the United States of America and remember our military men and women in the service of our country.

Dates to remember:

July 29th - August 1st, Rainbow Girls Supreme Assembly, Hampton VA.
August 6th - Hampton Roads Masonic Youth pizza party and educational tour, Fort Monroe Casemate Museum.

August 18th – 22nd - The Grand Encampment Triennial to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana

The deadline for submitting names for the Holy Land Pilgrimage is drawing near. Providing the opportunity for ministers to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus' has a positive effect on their ministries and furthers the goals of our magnanimous order. I ask that each Commandery nominate one or more deserving ministers for consideration by our committee.

“THIS IS THE CUP”

In His Holy Name,

Joel D. Ratliff, Sr., KCT, KYCH, OPC
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia