



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 Holiday Season is upon us and pause to reflect on all the blessings and comforts which surround us and remember those whose hard work made this year so rewarding. My fellow Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, District Deputy Grand Commanders, District Instructors, Commanders, Records and all the Sir Knights who have devoted their time, energies and talents to promote the cause of Christian Masonry have my deepest respect and gratitude. You, along with friends and family, have made my Masonic journey very meaningful. My thanks alone cannot express my appreciation, admiration and respect. I am most thankful that you have afforded me the honor of serving as your Grand Commander.

I ask you to take a moment and reflect on those whose friendships have helped enrich your life. Sir Knights extend your deepest appreciation to our Ladies who give their love, understanding and support enabling us to be a Knight Templar.

The Baldwin-Brown Fellowship Program is the fundraiser that supports OUR Grand Commandery. The fund's earnings are to reduce future assessments and cover Grand Commandery expenses. Do consider donating to the Baldwin-Brown Fellowship. Donations assist the Committee on Finance in the future financial planning for your Grand Commandery. This committee does a great job as stewards of your money and scrutinizes every penny that is spent and every request for funds.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage provides for two or more ordained Virginia Christian Ministers to travel to the Holy Land and follow the steps taken

by our Savior, Jesus Christ. Christian Pastors teach us the lessons that Christ taught as he walked the sacred land. This fund allows ministers, at no expense to them, to visit Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other places to have an experience of a lifetime that enhances their ministries. Virginia began participating in 1983 due to the efforts and the leadership of S. K. Robert B. McMarlin, PGC. We are proud to provide this financial support that provides this opportunity to Christian Ministers of Virginia and it demonstrates our allegiance to our Knight Templar vows.

At our annual Grand Commandery Awards Banquet, two Robert B. McMarlin trophies are presented to the Commanderies with the highest average contribution per member based on membership over 100 and under 100 members. Currently the Knights Templar of Virginia has received over \$5,300.00 in donations for this year's campaign. To contribute to this worthy cause, contact our chairman, S. K. J.D. Davis. What could be more appropriate during the Christmas season than to donate to a program which gives Christian ministers the chance to travel to the Holy Land!

To our Grand Commandery Drill Team, captained by S. K. William F. Reinhold, PGC, "Congratulations" on your fine performance in the drill team competition at the 67th Triennial Conclave in Indianapolis, IN. Your performance displayed Templar camaraderie and brought recognition to our Grand Commandery. Well done!

As our Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays near, we as Knights Templar should praise the Lord and Savior for all the blessings He has given us. Lady Sandy and I look forward to attending the Commanderies Christmas Celebrations.

"THIS IS THE CUP"

Courteously,

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