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Grand Commandery of Delaware



Mark K. Button
Grand Commander

State News for March 2023

Happy March to all my Fraters! Sitting in my office in February, writing the news for March is challenging - being that Spring is right around the corner, but snow showers are in the forecast for this weekend. Hard to fathom that I had just recently participated in a Polar Bear plunge where the air temp was 24 degrees and the water temp 37 degrees. Masons in Delaware raised over \$6,000 for the Delaware Special Olympics despite the frigid temps! But warm weather is just around the corner they say!

So, if you are reading this, I was successfully elected and installed as the Grand Commander of Delaware. I am sure the Annual Sessions went off with nary a hitch, as our PGC David Laucius and PGC Randy Mullen were leading the charge for the weekend. Both deserve much applause and accolades for volunteering to plan and execute this event. As prices rise, managing events like this is becoming more and more challenging for our small state. But those two made it happen!

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will be holding their 93rd Annual Grand Encampment Easter Observance for 2023 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on Sunday, April 9, 2023. I will be driving down in the early AM with Lady Heike, and always have an extra seat or two for anyone who would like to ride along. The service is always very beautiful, and I truly enjoy attending. If you have not attended a service, please do!

All of our Chivalric degrees are planned for the next couple of months. Fraters, please ask your Commander's what you can do to help. Support the degree teams by showing up or bringing in new Sir Knights. Fill up those seats and show the newly raised Knights who we are, and what we are. Life is hectic but try to carve out that time for your Commandery.

So, a little about me. I was born and raised in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and graduated at the local high school. Most of my weekends and summer were spent on my grandparent's dairy, then later, beef cattle farm. I learned to drive a tractor by the time I was 10, and a grain truck by the time I was 12. We spent a lot of hours making hay, cutting corn, milking, and all of the regular chores that come with a farm. After graduation, I attended a local tech college and became a Diesel and Heavy Equipment technician and worked several jobs in that industry. I was recruited by Schneider National, and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina to start up a satellite facility. While in Charlotte, I inquired and subsequently joined the Army Reserve. 10 months after Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, I got a call from the recruiter that all prior service were being shipped overseas. In November of 1992, I began a 12 ½ year career in the United States Army, spending the majority of my time in Special Operations units. I left the Army in November of 2004, and subsequently began my career as a Civilian working for the Army. 31 years later, I am still grinding it out, working at Aberdeen Proving Grounds as a Lead Budget Analyst for the Army's Tactical Network.

My Masonic career is much shorter. I joined Union Lodge 48 AF&AM, in Elkton, Maryland in the spring of 2012. I honestly did not know what would await me when I made those first three knocks, but once the journey started, I never looked back. Like many of you, I have found myself in the East more than once, in the myriad of appendant and concordant bodies, and, can say with all due passion, I have truly enjoyed this journey. I look forward to many, many years serving the craft in one capacity or the other.

So, my door is always open, my phone is always on – never, ever feel you cannot reach out to me if there is a problem or concern!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Mark Button, Grand Commander

Please remember our charities and support them with your contributions. The Grand Commandery has a fund set aside to provide for an all-expense paid trip to the Holy Land for ordained ministers. Your donation will help to fund this worthwhile program in the future. Donations can be made out to the Grand Commandery of Delaware and noting that it is for the Holy Land Pilgrimage and sent to the Grand Recorder.

Also, for those Sir Knights who are not already Life Members of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, a contribution of \$30 will allow you to become one. Donations can be made through your local Commandery Recorder.