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# Grand Commandery of Delaware

**Mark K. Button**  
**Grand Commander**



## State News for June/July 2023

Greeting my Fraters!

We are well into the summer of 2023, and temperatures here in Maryland and Delaware are on the rise, as well as the accompanying humidity. Make sure to take precautions on your summer travels and stay hydrated. As well as the heat, those summer thunderstorms that seem to bring the flash-flooding with them are pretty intense and very dangerous. Stay aware and stay safe.

May and June brought us a several events that I was that I was proud to attend. I started the month by joining the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Maryland, SK John Austin at the installation of Chesapeake Commandery's Commander and subordinate officers. Then, I thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of the Great State of West "by GAWD" Virginia's annual conclave. My co-pilot, your Deputy Grand Commander, Joe Dawson joined me. It was a long drive, but the scenery was fantastic and we may have even had time to visit the local Sasquatch museum. SK Joe commented that the museum visit was probably equivalent to a Button Family Tree – he walked home (just kidding).

Mt. Olivet Commandery hosted a Table Commandery that was a lot of fun, and our Grand Generalissimo Eric Thompson accompanied me on the trip. I never knew New Jersey had to so many back roads. I do now. We were well received and sat down with the Right Eminent Grand Commander of New Jersey, SK E. Eugene Fricks and his staff. Job well done Mount Olivet!

On 10 June, I reconvened the Grand Commandery for the purpose of conferring all three orders on 8 brand new Sir Knights in Dover, DE! It was a great day, starting off with donuts and coffee, and included lunch. All the Delaware Commandery's did a great job in conferring the degrees. A special thanks to PGC's Jae Eberly, Randy Mullen, David Laucius, A.Tony Maxwell, Jay Bergstrom, Franklin Townsend, JB Walsh, William Lott and Mark Irwin (if I forgot anyone I apologize). Also, many thanks to everybody that helped and made this a successful endeavor.

So, my message this month is about perseverance. I have talked about change before, and enthusiasm, but without perseverance applied to the task at hand, all too often we find ourselves failing. It's hard to stick to a task when the world, this self-induced rat race, is pulling us in hundreds of different directions.

Timothy 4:7 – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Have you ever heard that verse before? It's the essence of perseverance. Fighting the good fight, finishing the race of life, and keeping the faith the whole time. Don't you want to be able to say that? When you get to the end of your life, don't you want to be able to confidently say that you persevered through the hard circumstance, that you kept fighting your way through the tough times? Or do you want to look back on your life and just see time after time where you chose quitting over perseverance?

Hebrews 12:1-2 – "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race

marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Here, the race comes up again. And here, we see that in order to run the race marked out for us, we have to have perseverance. But that’s not all we see in this verse. We see that not only do we need to have perseverance, but that we need to fix our eyes on Jesus. Why? Because He persevered.

You can persevere, or you can be a quitter. Those are really the only choices you have when it comes to hard times and tough circumstances. Sure, it’s going to be tempting to quit sometimes. But when that happens, just remember what the endgame is. Remember who is on your side and what’s at stake.

And remember: if you don’t quit, you can’t fail. If you keep going, if you persevere, then you win no matter what. And that is so much better than quitting.

With my warmest regards and respect,

DEO VOLENTE,

Mark Button, Grand Commander