



# The Grand Commandery

## Knights Templar of Virginia

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## Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia

### Grand Commander's Trestleboard

*June - July 2019*

***Fraternal Greetings Fratres,***

**Worthy of the Name Sir Knight!**

It is with a humble heart and grateful attitude I express my sincere appreciation for the Honor you have bestowed upon me by electing me to serve as your Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Virginia for the 2019-2020 Chivalric Year. Thank you for your vote of confidence; I will strive to the utmost of my ability to see that your confidence was not misplaced. I will work to maintain a strong bond between the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia and the rest of the Freemasonic family.

I wish to thank the Elected and Appointed Grand Officers for being willing to serve in their selected positions. These Sir Knights are truly visionaries with a commitment to inspire our membership to continually improving our Christian Craft. I also wish to express my appreciation to the many committeemen who stepped forward and accepted the tasks when duty called. I know they will make valuable contributions to our Valiant and Magnanimous Order.

As I look back over the past years, we owe so much to many of yesterday's Sir Knights for their sacrifice and devotion to Virginia's Templar Craft. The past Grand Commanders certainly provided sound advice and assistance in seeing that Grand Commandery is going in the right direction. Those who served as appointed officers and committeemen were always ready and more than eager to fall-in when needed. Of course, we cannot under estimate the countless hours given to Templary by the Constituent Officers and Sir Knights in Virginia's Commanderies who took their responsibility seriously to do the ritual and tactics in the best way they could – keep up the excellent work Fratres!

As Stewards of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Dais Officers have the responsibility to provide planning and direction. The Grand Commander's Officers Handbook 2019-2020 was provided to the District Deputy Grand Commanders and the Commanders of Constituent Commanderies earlier. Please review the contents of the Handbook and as Commanderies journey through this Chivalric year with their destinations identified – I asked each Sir Knight to renew his commitment to the preservation and growth of the Templar Craft in Virginia.

Constituent Commandery Dais Officers, I ask that you concentrate on improving stability in your Commandery's Officer Lines, address membership issues as they arise, strengthen the Commandery ritual practices, and provide good and wholesome instruction. Implement a team-oriented approach to the Commandery's business that provides a broad base of information and communication, spread the workload, and set goals for a successful year, achieving a positive impact on the future of the Commandery. Leadership is at the heart of success, a well-balanced team, with differing opinions, experiences, knowledge, and dreams for the future is essential. Inspiration will allow our Commanderies to move forward in a dynamic way.

**Core Values** are the common beliefs and philosophy I hold, they are rooted in the life and tradition of Jesus Christ, and I am sharing them with you, the members of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple. The choices we make ultimately define who we are as a person and a Fraternity. Listen to your inner spirit and live synchronously with it, dedicate a daily influence on the spiritual, intellectual and physical growth in Virginia's Commanderies, and always try to do the right things in the right way.

**Humanity** – As Christian Knights we always treat one another with dignity and mutual respect no matter what our views and our positions.

**Openness** – We will strive to communicate openly and candidly with one another and to share information enabling us to achieve our objectives within the Templar Craft.

**Integrity** – We will be ethical, responsible and consistent with our commitment; we are willing to be held accountable for our actions.

**Courage** – We have the strength of character and conviction of belief to always do what is right, and to make the required decisions to secure the future of Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies.

**Creativity** – We will look for new and creative ways to approach and resolve the issues and challenges that the Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies face.

**Excellence** – We will always attempt to exceed expectations and perform at the very highest levels of quality. We will strive to evaluate the outcomes of our activities in terms of their quality, substance and impact.

We need to go “*Back to Basics in Templar Masonry.*” To enlist Christian Masons, we, ourselves, must be completely "sold" on "our product." Templary stands for the highest ideals of Christianity. It represents the noblest in humanity; it reveals Christianity in action! “***Embrace the Challenge***” to aid the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia and our Constituent Commanderies as we march together, onward toward future growth and development. First and foremost, I am asking every Sir Knight to “***Embrace the Challenge***” to be ***Worthy of the Name Sir Knight*** and be an *Ambassador* to our Symbolic Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters. I am asking every Sir Knight to promote our Order.

**“STAND UP --- STAND OUT --- BE VISIBLE --- BE PROUD TO BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR”**

It will be my honor to visit each of our Constituent Commanderies during the 2019-2020 Chivalric Year and I will be bringing a Masonic Education Program with me. I welcome questions/discussions at the conclusion of the paper. I will be bringing a different paper to each Commandery and I encourage the Sir Knights to travel to as many Commanderies as possible to hear as many messages/discussions as possible. I also hope to see as many Sir Knights and their Ladies, Guests, and the members of Masonic Youth Groups as possible at this year’s Official Visits to the Chivalric Districts.

I ask that you keep all the weary pilgrims in your thoughts and pray that God will lead, guide and protect us as we travel. For now, let us remember as Defender of the Christian Religion, and Soldiers in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we must always hold his banner high and proclaim His name to the World.

Grand Commander’s Schedule for...

### June 2019

June 01, Saturday	<b>Grand Master’s DeMolay Class - Luray VA</b>
June 03, Monday	Portsmouth Valley, Scottish Rite – Portsmouth VA
June 06, Thursday	Norfolk Lodge No. 1 – Fort Wool, Hampton VA
June 08, Saturday	York Rite In-Gathering, Masonic Home - Richmond VA
June 11, Tuesday	Portsmouth Lodge No. 100 - Portsmouth VA
June 12, Wednesday	Masonic Home Board Meeting – Richmond VA
June 15, Saturday	<b>Wreath Laying at MacArthur Memorial – Norfolk VA</b>
June 16, Sunday	<b><i>Father’s Day</i></b>
June 18, Tuesday	Princess Anne RAC No, 1607 (Guest Speaker) - Virginia VA
June 19, Wednesday	Mt Horeb RAC No. 11 (Guest Speaker) - Portsmouth VA
June 22, Saturday	Grand Officers Call Before GCOV to District 2 – Portsmouth VA
June 22, Saturday	<b>Official Visit to Chivalric District 2 – Portsmouth VA</b>
June 23, Sunday	Bethel No. 28 Job’s Daughters – Suffolk VA
June 25-30, Tuesday/Sunday	<b>DeMolay Centennial – Kansas City</b>

### July 2019

July 04, Thursday	<b>Independence Day</b>
July 04, Thursday	Yorktown Parade
July 06, Saturday	<b>Official Visit to Chivalric District 6 – Cave Springs VA</b>
July 09, Tuesday	Portsmouth Lodge No. 100 (Guest Speaker) - Portsmouth VA
July 10, Wednesday	Masonic Home Board Meeting – Richmond VA
July 11, Thursday	<b>Lynn Commandery No. 9 (Official Visit) – Marion VA</b>
July 13, Saturday	<b>Official Visit to Chivalric District 8 – Marion VA</b>
July 15, Monday	<b>Winchester Commandery No. 12 (Official Visit) – Winchester VA</b>
July 17, Wednesday	Mt Horeb RAC No. 11 - Portsmouth VA
July 18, Thursday	<b>Appomattox Commandery No. 6 (Official Visit) – Petersburg VA</b>
July 22, Monday	<b>Harrisonburg Commandery No. 10 (Official Visit) – Harrisonburg VA</b>
July 22, Monday	Rockingham RAC No. 6 (Guest Speaker) – Harrisonburg VA
July 23, Tuesday	W. G. Bottimore RAC No. 28 (Guest Speaker) – Bluefield VA
July 23, Tuesday	<b>Graham Commandery No. 22 (Official Visit) – Bluefield VA</b>
July 25, Thursday	<b>Johnson Commandery No. 14 (Official Visit) – Abingdon VA</b>
July 27, Saturday	Knight Templar Festival, Portsmouth Commandery No. 5 – Portsmouth VA
July 27, Saturday	<b>Grand Master’s DeMolay Banquet - Newport News VA</b>
July 29, Monday	Eastern Shore Scottish Rite Association

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (Nov 5, 1850 – Oct 30, 1919) was born Ella Wheeler on a farm in Wisconsin. In 1884, she married Robert M. Wilcox, a member of St. Elmo Commandery, and moved to his home in Meriden, Connecticut. Mrs. Wilcox was asked to write a poem to honor distinguished guests at St. Elmo Commandery. Her husband provided her with such books and literature as would provide her the history of the Masonic Order. She wrote Worthy the Name of "Sir Knight" to honor her husband and the occasion.

**Please join with me, Sir Knights, in doing all you can to be Worthy of the name  
Sir Knight!**

Courteously,

*Benjamin F. Hill*

Knight Templar Cross of Honor  
Grand Commander

**Worthy the Name of "Sir Knight"**

*Sir Knight of the world's oldest order,  
Sir Knight of the Army of God,  
You have crossed the strange mystical border,  
The ground-floor of truth you have trod;  
You stand on the typical threshold  
Which leads to the temple above;  
Where you come as a stone,  
and a Christ-chosen one,*

*In the Kingdom of Friendship and Love.*

*As you stand in this new realm of beauty,  
Where each man you meet is your friend,  
Think not that your promise of duty  
In hall, or asylum, shall end.  
Outside, in the great world of pleasure.  
Beyond in the clamour of trade,  
In the battle of life  
and its coarse daily strife,  
Remember the vows you have made.*

*Your service, majestic and solemn,  
Your symbols, suggestive and sweet,  
Your uniform phalanx in column  
On gala-days marching the street;  
Your sword and your plume and your helmet,  
Your 'secrets' hid from the world's sight;  
These things are the small,  
lesser parts of the all  
Which are needed to form the true Knight.*

*The martyrs who perished rejoicing,  
In Templary's glorious laws,  
Who died 'midst the faggots while voicing  
The glory and worth of their cause—  
They honoured the title of 'Templar'  
No more than the Knight of to-day,  
Who mars not the name  
with one blemish of shame,  
But carries it clean through life's fray.*

*To live for a cause; to endeavour  
To make your deeds grace it; to try  
And uphold its precepts forever,  
Is harder by far than to die.  
For the battle of life is unending,  
The enemy, Self, never tires,  
And the true Knight must slay  
that sly foe every day,  
Ere he reaches the heights he desires.*

*Sir Knight, have you pondered the meaning  
Of all you have heard and been told?  
Have you strengthened your heart for its weaning  
From vices and faults loved of old?*

*Will you honour, in hours of temptation,  
Your promises noble and grand?  
Will your spirit be strong  
to do battle with wrong,  
'And, having done all, to stand'  
Will you ever be true to a brother  
In actions as well as in creed?  
Will you stand by his side as no other  
Could stand, in the hour of his need?  
Will you boldly defend him from peril,  
And lift from him poverty's curse —  
Will the promise of old,  
which you willingly made,  
Reach down from your lips to your purse?*

*The world's battle-field is before you:  
Let Wisdom walk close by your side,  
Let Faith spread her snowy wings o'er you,  
Let Truth be your comrade and guide;  
Let Fortitude, Justice, and Mercy  
Direct all your conduct aright,  
And let each word and act  
tell to men the proud fact,  
You are worthy the name of 'Sir Knight.'*