

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

S.K. Paul W. Friend, R.E.G.C.

Mipgm96@aol.com
(772) 260-6404

*Editor: S.K. John D. Pickford
137 SW East Danville Circle, Port St. Lucie,
FL 34953-5942*



GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,

When we think about September what comes to our minds is Labor Day. The first Labor Day was held in 1882 and it became a federal holiday in 1894. It was originally intended that the day would be filled with a street parade to allow the public to appreciate the work of the trade and labor organizations. One of the reasons for choosing to celebrate this on the first Monday in September was to add a holiday between July 4th and Thanksgiving. But, do you realize this is also the same month that our U. S. Constitution was ratified? It was ratified on September 17, 1787. Of the thirty-nine men that officially brought the United States government into existence, there is quite an array of them that were Freemasons. Of these, thirteen names are definitely known to be Freemasons. More than that number, discreetly, have chosen to remain anonymous. We find one who was a Roman Catholic, Jesuit educated, Brother Daniel Carroll who also participated in the Masonic cornerstone laying of the U.S. Capitol, with George Washington. Four of the signers became Grand Masters with three of them being the first Grand Master in their State. Only one signer became President of United States, the Father of our Country, Brother George Washington.

The 9th District Meeting & Festival (Tallahassee, Panama City, and Marianna York Rite Bodies) was held on June 27th & 28th at Jackson Lodge No. 1. We knighted eleven new members and we had over sixty-five in attendance with two of our three Commanders present. I would like to recognize and thank Sir Knight Luther (Chop) Bodiford, III for organizing the festival for the 9th District Meeting. Sir Knight Chop did all this while fighting a lot of health issues. The 8th District Meeting & Festival (Gainesville, Lake City, Ocala, and Lawtey York Rite Bodies) was held July 26th & 27th at R.T. Schafer Lodge No. 350. We knighted

six new members and over seventy-five members in attendance with all four Commanders in attendance. Forty Sir Knights were in uniform for the Order of the Temple. I would also like to recognize and thank Sir Knight Adam Bryan, Eminent Commander of Pilgrim Commandery No. 7 for all the hard work he did in organizing the 8th District Meeting. This Sir Knight was knighted less than four years ago and he conferred the Order of the Temple in a superb matter. We have now knighted in 2014, year to date, 114 new members. We still have six District Festivals left for this year.

At the 9th District Meeting the Sir Knights of Tallahassee Commandery No. 12 KT presented the paper work and money to send a Minster to the Holy Land next February or March. I would like thank the members of Tallahassee Commandery. This now makes two Ministers whose paper work has been turned in to the Chairman from Grand Encampment. The cost to send a minister is \$3,390.00 from JFK to Israel plus airfare from their local airport to JFK. Please get with your local recorder to nominate your ministers. Remember all paper work and monies are due on October 15.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming District Meetings/Festivals.

10th District (Crestview, Fort Walton, Pensacola York Rite Bodies)
Pensacola York Rite Temple 189 W. Airport Blvd. Pensacola, Fl Friday
Sept.5th and Saturday Sept 6th

5th District (Daytona, Sanford, Leesburg, Orlando York Rite Bodies) Eola
Lodge No. 207, 3200 E. Grant Street, Orlando, Fl. Friday Sept 12th and
Saturday Sept 13th

6th District (Ft. Pierce, Melbourne, Cocoa York Rite Bodies) Ft. Pierce
Lodge No. 87, 4590 Oleander Ave, Ft. Pierce, Friday Oct. 3rd and
Saturday Oct. 4th

7th District (Jacksonville, Palatka, St. Augustine, Fernandina Beach York
Rite Bodies) Jacksonville York Rite Temple, 1237 S. McDuff Ave.
Jacksonville, Fl. Friday Oct 10th and Saturday Oct. 11th

Yours in Christ,
S.K. Paul W. Friend, KTCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander