

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

The following is a commentary on a well planned and executed Installation as summarized by Sir Knight Marvin W. Gerhard, REPGC.

On January 10th, Springtime Commandery No. 40, stationed at Dunedin, Florida, held their 56th annual Installation, where six Grand Commanders installed the elected and appointed officers, who were received into the asylum through an honor guard, composed of several Sir Knights from Sunshine Commandery Number 20, stationed in St. Petersburg. The officers of Springtime were piped into the asylum under the direction of Sir Knight Rob St. John. (Tampa Ivanhoe Number 8). The officers marched around the asylum and then up a red carpeted Passion Cross measuring 25 feet long with the arm of the cross twelve feet wide.

The officers were seated in the cross with the Commander elect John Drewett at the tip of the cross, and from left to right the Generalissimo, Captain General, Prelate, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden forming the arm of the cross. The remaining officers sitting behind the Prelate (two side by side) filled the base of the cross.

When the cross was filled, the Honor Guard marched from the west and posted the colors in the east in a most impressive ceremony.

The Installing officers were: Sir Marvin W. Gerhard, REPGC installing the Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Paul W. Friend, REGC installing the Generalissimo through the Prelate, Sir Knight

Henry Adams, REPGC installed the balance of the Officers and also delivered the Charge in a most challenging manner. Sir Knight John Sutterly, REPGC (Mass/R.I.) served in the Honor Guard. Sir Knight Charles "Chic" Cicero REPGC was installing Grand Prelate and Sir Knight Carl E. Gilmore REPGC was the installing Grand Marshal and who delivered the Proclamation in a most impressive manner.

Many dignitaries were present including Sir Knight John Werman, PMEGHP, and currently serving as the Southeastern Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest of the GGC RAM, International, Sir Knight John Horne, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of R. and S. Masters of Florida, Sir Knight Donald T. Harriott PMIGM, Sir Knight G. Goron Goodman, past MEGHP and PMIGM of Michigan, Sir Knight Dale E. Goehrig PMWGM, and currently the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Florida, Sir Knight Russell Glendining, Personal Representative of the SGIG, and Sir Knight Rick Agster, PMIGM.

At the conclusion of the introductions, REGC Paul W. Friend and Sir Knight Henry A. Adams, REPGC received Honorary Membership to Springtime Commandery Number 40. Many favorable comments were heard from the Officer's wives and guests saying this was the most impressive installation they had ever witnessed, and were glad they attended.

I would like to recognize two of the Grand Commandery Line Officers, Sir Knight Brett Gordon, Grand Warder and Sir Knight Patrick Velasquez, Grand Sentinel who were installed as Worshipful Masters of their respective lodges, West Broward, No. 253 and Sanford Lodge, No. 62. Congratulations Sir Knights!

Please save the dates of May 17 – 20 and plan to attend the Grand Convention in Panama City. Make your room reservations before April 17th at Edgewater Beach and Golf Resort. Use booking Code 1058HY by internet – www.edgewaterbeachresort.com or York Rite if by phone.

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