

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



S. K. Fred Gerdom

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2016

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Grand Commander's Message

Fraternal greetings Sir Knights.

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights who have entrusted me to be the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Florida for the upcoming chivalric year. It is a great honor and I hope to live up to your expectations. My theme this year is **"From The Ground Up"** and I would like to share that with you as the first article.

From The Ground Up

What does that mean? What would that mean to us? Why such a strange phrase of what we do? We are told to the ground we must all return. We are building up ourselves from the ground up. We are also responsible for building our fraternity from the ground up. We start with young men in DeMolay. They are interested in the chivalric ideals and growing up with civil feelings and civic duty towards all humanity. "From The Ground Up". We all started our Masonic journey as a young Entered Apprentice. The lecture states our Mother Earth will accept our mortal remains. "From The Ground Up". We continue our Masonic travels through Fellowcraft degree to reach the summit of Masonry as a Master Mason. There we are deposited into our Mother Earth representing one of our ancient Grand Masters. In the Chapter we search underground for the secrets of the Temple and the Ark. "From The Ground Up". In the Cryptic degrees we work in the vault to preserve the treasures under King Solomon's apartment. "From The Ground Up". We should never stop building from the ground up.

My reason for using this theme is deeply personal. My grandfather worked the land for food. He owned greenhouses and was also a

"...We will not slip into the darkness of the night nor give up our right to exist as Knights..."

florist. I grew up working in those greenhouses and flower shop. He also was a teacher for the school systems in Michigan. It might seem like a strange combination, but these two things are related. He spent his time growing things from the ground, working, feeding, and nurturing the young seedlings. The same work in the schools, growing, feeding, and nurturing young minds, from the ground up. He spent time teaching me values and a code of moral conduct. I did not realize these things at a young age. Only knowing, these were the right things to do. He spent time growing me from the ground up. I still look back on the work ethic and moral ethic he taught me and realize I was very fortunate. His Masonic brethren were always around, but I never knew that they were Masons. I only know that they taught me and respected me growing up as I was taught to respect them.

The connection of Blue Lodge Masonry, the Royal Arch Chapter, the Cryptic Lessons of the Council are furthering our growth from the ground up. We reach the peak of the York Rite in the Commandery. The Christian teachings, along with the chivalric ideals and beliefs, continue that growing. The sense of honor, of defending and protecting our fellow mankind. Allowing all of us the chance to grow into someone we can be proud of.

I look forward to the upcoming year and the travels around this state. I hope to see you all.

Fraternally and in the name of our Lord and Savior,
SK Fred Gerdom
Right Eminent Grand Commander

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 10 - July 9, 2016 - Pensacola York Rite
189 West Airport Boulevard Pensacola, FL 32505

District 5 - July 23, 2016 - Leesburg Lodge
200 Richey Rd, Leesburg, FL 34748

Schedule:
Commandery District School of Instruction - 11:00 AM
Lunch at Noon Meeting Begins at 1:00 PM