

2026 GRAND YORK RITE SESSION



GRAND COMMANDERY BUSINESS

MAY 1, 2026

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GRAND COMMANDERY OF GEORGIA

2026

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2025-2026 GRAND COMMANDERY GRAND LINE

Daniel C. Ricketts (26) (Stephanie)	REG Commander
William W. Grist (37) (Angela)	VEDG Commander
Ryan C. Nealey (9) (Brianna)	EG Generalissimo
Alessandro V. Silva (9)	EG Captain General
William T. White (37) (Michelle)	EG Senior Warden
John T. Flener, Jr. (42) (Amanda)	EG Junior Warden
Rev. Donald C. Combs (07) (Susan)	EG Prelate
Matthew R. Astin (2) (Sarah)	RE Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Bradley (31) (Gay)	EG Recorder
Eric S. Tress (40)	EG Standard Bearer
Christopher D. Gabor (21) (Robin)	EG Sword Bearer
Tyler W. Pledger (29) (Erin)	EG Warder
John E. Finch, Jr. (26) (Elizabeth)	EG Captain of the Guard
Ainsley E. Coley (26)	EG Sentinel
Anthony C. Williams (26)	EG Adjutant

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS

To the Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Sir Knights, and Distinguished Guests of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar:

Sir Knights, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome each of you to the 166th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Georgia of Knights Templar. This annual gathering is representative of not only the culmination of a year of dedicated service of the Sir Knights of Georgia, but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to the principles of our Order. This Conclave is to honor the efforts and achievements of this past year, reflecting on the dedication and perseverance that each of you, as Sir Knights has demonstrated. This assembly is both a celebration of our collective accomplishments and a renewal of what unites us in our ongoing pursuit of Templar ideals.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the Brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights present for your commitment and involvement in our ongoing service and initiatives. To our distinguished guests from the Grand Encampment, the Southeastern Department, and other jurisdictions, I extend a cordial welcome on behalf of Georgia and thank you for attending our Annual Conclave.

STATE OF THE ORDER

In the many miles traversed across our great state of Georgia, I have had the pleasure to observe the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our Sir Knights. Our Sir Knights continue to uphold our mission that "Every Christian Mason Should Be a Knight Templar!"

I am pleased to report that we continue to have a steady influx of new Christian Knights who have enlisted under the banner of our Order as we take great pride in welcoming these new Sir Knights. The sustained growth of our constituent Commanderies, and subsequently our Grand Commandery, is fundamental and must remain to be the consistent commitment to our faith, values and beliefs.

Our charitable efforts have continued to make a significant impact. Georgia's contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) have remained commendable, and we have upheld our tradition of supporting vision research and aid

across Georgia. I am happy to report that Georgia has surged forward to be Number 3 in overall cumulative giving (contributions+trusts+wills) at the latest updated report of the 58th Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign.

I am pleased to report that our commitment to the Holy Land Pilgrimage has not wavered, despite international challenges, and we were able to send 9 ministers to the Holy Land this Templar year. It is rewarding and beneficial for us but more so to these ministers, that they may return to the pulpit, share the Good News and to preach the Gospel having experienced walking where our Lord and Savior walked. Their words of faith will be enriched by seeing what is written in black and white, which is now brought to the full color of life for each of them through this experience.

The Knights Templar Education Foundation of Georgia reviewed and selected 19 worthy students for scholarships to continue their education, and I was honored to attend the presentation of two \$50,000 University Grants, as well as attend the presentation of two \$90,000 Career starter grants for research and further studies at Emory University and Medical College of Georgia.

The Divisional Inspections and Schools of Instruction have proven instrumental in the continued standardization of our operations and the enhancement of organizational proficiency. For the second consecutive year, each Commandery within the state of Georgia was required to conduct its own Tactics Inspection.

It is noteworthy to commend the enthusiasm, diligence, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by all participants who approached these inspections with genuine commitment. The dedication exhibited by our Sir Knights in fulfilling their Templar responsibilities reflects both the enduring strength of our Order and the perseverance of its members.

YORK RITE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The York Rite Leadership Development Program, comprising of the six distinct modules that were presented at each of the individual Divisional Administrative Inspections and Schools of Instruction, provided a vital role in further equipping the Sir Knights with advanced knowledge and skills essential for future leadership within our Order. I urge that the opportunity to further enhance education and leadership development continue and expand for the benefit of the Sir Knights, and the entire York Rite.

To sustain the ongoing success of our Order, it is essential not only to continue to recruit new members and Sir Knights but also to actively engage them, provide purpose, knowledge and drive. Thus, ensuring that they are adequately prepared for leadership responsibilities, not only in our Order but for the betterment of the communities that we serve.

GEORGIA PATCH PROGRAM

The success of the Georgia Patch Program has surpassed all expectations. The seal of our Grand Commandery of Georgia is a beautiful symbol that should be celebrated and shown to all as part of our uniform. This patch has renewed the excitement of many Sir Knights across our great state. I urge the adoption of this program and its continued success.

The Garrison #1 Patch has been a great success and has added to the success of our fundraising efforts this past year. I am extremely proud that this program has contributed more than \$10,000 to our charitable efforts this year.

The Ritual Awards that were implemented this year for each of the Orders have generated an excitement not previously seen in many years, and I am pleased that there are many Sir Knights who have taken it upon themselves to renew the memorization and conferral of each of our Orders of Knighthood. It is my hope that these programs will continue to foster, instill the passion and commitment for all Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, to take great pride in our Order, in the passion of our ritual and in the commitment to our many charities!

NECROLOGY

With heavy hearts, we respectfully acknowledge the passing of several dedicated Sir Knights during this past year. Their dedicated service, valued friendships, and steadfast commitment to our Order is appreciated and will be remembered. Though they are no longer present with us in body, their influence and legacy endure with everyone they touched. May the Grand Architect of the Universe continue to give comfort to their families, friends and loved ones and grant each of them comfort and peace.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

A leader's effectiveness relies on collaboration. I wish to formally express my appreciation to the Grand Officers and committee members who continue to contribute their time, expertise and talents to advancing the mission of our Grand Commandery of Georgia. Your dedication has been instrumental in sustaining our ongoing achievements, and I am sincerely thankful for your contributions and exemplary performance.

A special word of gratitude and thanks is extended to our Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and dedicated Office Manager. Each of you continues to demonstrate the highest level of commitment to our organization; your work is often hidden and veiled behind the scenes and as such, your efforts go unnoticed and underappreciated. The unwavering dedication that each of you personifies not only ensures the continued smooth operation of our Grand Commandery but also contributes significantly to the individual and collective success of our individual members, our membership and our programs.

We cannot thank you enough for the love and passion that you show for our Grand Commandery and the Sir Knights. Your steadfast support and tireless service are truly the light that brightens the journey and strengthens the bonds within our fraternity.

Thank you!

DISPENSATIONS & INSPECTIONS

All dispensations granted this year were conducted in accordance with Templar Law and have been properly documented in the Grand Recorder's office for reference. This year's Divisional Inspections continue to show strong participation, with the average conclave attendance exceeding 50 Sir Knights and total attendance surpassing 300 Sir Knights! This reflects the enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication of our Commanderies and Sir Knights. Their focus on improving proficiency in the Tactical and Administrative Inspections demonstrates the shared dedication of all Sir Knights to continuous improvement.

I extend my appreciation to the Sir Knights, Officers, and host Commanderies for all their efforts in creating a welcoming and educational environment.

These Divisional Inspections and Schools of Instruction must continue, and I urge their further expansion in education, ritual practices and instruction that will continue to prove

instrumental in promoting consistency and further enhance skill development among our Sir Knights and across our Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Regrettably, Malta Commandery #16 and Crusader Commandery #17, two of our longest-standing Commanderies, were unable to attain fulfillment of both the Administrative and Tactical obligations and requirements.

Consequently, and after much prayer, discussion and reflection, the heartbreaking decision was made that the Charters for Malta Commandery #16 (Valdosta, GA) and Crusader Commandery #17 (Bainbridge, GA) were placed on probation and subsequently arrested.

VISITATIONS & REPRESENTATION

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. During my tenure, I have attended various significant events, that include the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, the Grand Assembly of Georgia International Order of Rainbow for Girls, The Annual Conclave of the Associated Chapters of the Order of DeMolay for the state of Georgia, the Annual Communication of the Eastern Star of Georgia, the Annual Meeting of the Order of Amaranth, the Easter Sunrise Service of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of North America, the Grand York Rite sessions of neighboring states, and numerous Masonic gatherings across Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

I was honored to share with the Presiding Officers of the Grand York Rite of Georgia, the distinct honor and privilege in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC, and humbled beyond words to lay a wreath at the tomb of General George Washington at his home and resting place, Mount Vernon. It was my pleasure to attend the six Divisional Administrative Inspections and attend the Tactical Schools of Instruction that were scheduled for this year.

I have attended each of the Tactical Inspections across our great state of Georgia apart from three Commanderies due to conflicts but have endeavored to visit these Commanderies on a regular meeting night if possible. At each of these conclaves, I was received and acknowledged with all the rights and privileges due this office and extend my sincere appreciation to each of the Sir Knights of our great state!

These experiences have added to my respect for the fraternity's traditions, highlighted the importance of embracing and in cultivating stronger relationships within the Masonic community.

I have been truly humbled and blessed to represent each of you, the Sir Knights of Georgia in all my travels.

I extend my heartfelt and sincere gratitude to each of you for choosing me to be of service.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

I am pleased to report that our commitment to the Holy Land Pilgrimage remains strong, even amid the several international challenges. This Templar year, we were able to send nine ministers to the Holy Land. This experience is rewarding for us all, but especially for these ministers. They can now return to their pulpits and share the Good News with renewed passion, having walked where our Lord and Savior walked.

CHARITABLE WORKS

Our commitment to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, and the Mollie S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust has furthered our mission of service. Our efforts this year have been realized in part to the celebrating the presentation of two Golden Chalice's; Alexius Commandery #22 and Constantine #26.

The implementation of the Grand Commandery of Georgia Shoulder Patch program has shown to be an immediate success and a sense of pride for all Sir Knights of Georgia to now wear the seal of our Grand Commandery. The successful fundraising driven by the Georgia Garrison #1 patch program, and the Crusader's Cross program have helped lift Georgia to the forefront in giving this year.

Being witness to the impact of shown by our contributions reinforces the value of our collective efforts. I am in awe of each of the Sir Knights and our Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Well done my fellow Sir Knights!

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Each constituent Commandery of Knights Templar continues their efforts to send a Minister to the Holy Land.
2. Each constituent Commandery of Knights Templar continues to raise funds for the Mollie S. Moseley Foundation, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and our other charities.
3. The Patch Program continues and renews the focus on the ritual, tactics to ensure we recruit, renew and reinstate membership across our state.
4. The Divisional Inspections continue with the Schools of Instruction and the Leadership Module program to expand and to further educate our members and most especially, strengthen their sense of purpose in these educational areas.
5. Encourage each of our Commanderies and Sir Knights to identify, schedule, and attend public ceremonies in uniform so that we may raise awareness of our Order and our charities.
6. That the Grand Commandery of Georgia continue its mission of making "Every Christian Mason a Knights Templar," and ensure that as such, we are a guiding light for all.

APPRECIATION & FINAL THOUGHTS

First and foremost, I give thanks to Almighty God for His guidance, strength, and blessings throughout this year. Without His divine providence, none of our work would be possible.

To my fellow Sir Knights, thank you for your dedication, hospitality, and support. The friendships I have built and the experiences I have shared with you will remain with me always.

To Constantine Commandery #26, words cannot express my gratitude for your assistance, support and dedication. This year has been a success due to each of you that helped in so many ways. I am indebted to each of you.

To my family, especially my beloved wife Stephanie, my 3 daughters Madison, Sydney and Leslie; my sons Mason, Jackson, my bonus sons and daughters, my beautiful and handsome grandchildren; your unwavering support, assistance and most especially,

your understanding of my many absences, have been my foundation throughout this journey.

As I conclude my tenure as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the great state of Georgia, I humbly reflect on this past year with immeasurable gratitude. Though my time in this role is at an end, my commitment to our Order and to the Grand Commandery of Georgia remains steadfast. I have no doubt that those who follow will continue to build upon our efforts, ensuring that the Grand Commandery of Georgia remains a beacon of Christian Knighthood.

As I depart, I leave you with these words:

“With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable.” – General George Washington, 1783

“Remember my fellow Sir Knights – Be the Crusader in all that you do, remember to always be curious and never judgmental!” – REGC Daniel C. Ricketts, 2026

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit lead guide and direct each of our paths, bless each of you and guide the Grand Commandery of Georgia in the years to come.

Fraternally and Knightly: Daniel C. Ricketts, Right Eminent Grand Commander

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS

ADDENDUM

To the Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Sir Knights, and Distinguished Guests of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar:

I am pleased to offer the following addendum to the Grand Commander's Address found in the preliminary report.

The countless miles and fellowship shared with so many as I represented each of the Sir Knights of Georgia are experiences, I am thankful for and deeply cherish. The fellowship and unity within our Order are priceless, and I would not trade them for anything.

Being chosen as your representative has filled me with honor, joy, and humble gratitude. The trust you reposed in me is deeply meaningful. My sincere hope and prayer are that I have exceeded your expectations in service and leadership.

The lessons of true Leadership are of the greatest importance; the fellowship of our great Order is paramount and the true reason for us all in our Order. I hope that this has been seen, learned and conveyed in the Leadership Modules, the Schools of Instruction and the return of being present in our Asylums to witness to individual Commandery inspections. Much work is to be done, yet we have come so far, and we must pledge not to look back!

To support our ongoing progress and inspire future leaders, I offer these practical recommendations:

- Attend all Schools of Instruction to strengthen your understanding and skills. Bring pride in our ritual, our ceremonies and our heritage.
- Mentor new members, sharing your knowledge and fostering their growth within the Order.
- Participate actively in Commandery inspections, your own and travel to assist others, to uphold our standards and traditions.

- Embody and promote the values taught in the Leadership Modules—integrity, service, humility, and unity.
- Be present regularly within your Asylum, encouraging presence and involvement among your fellow Sir Knights.

There are those who claim our Order is faltering or that the York Rite in Georgia or even the Southeast is lost. To this, I ask us all to stand together and proclaim with unwavering conviction: We are here, we are strong, and we will not be dismissed or ignored. Our unity and our commitment are our greatest strengths.

As this year concludes, I urge every Grand Officer and Sir Knight, who has the desire and aspiration to be a true leader - embrace these recommendations.

The bar has been set, the standard and expectation are clear, and the sacrifice is profoundly greater than words can express. The path of our success is before you all and as such, you are urged to follow in the footsteps of those who have led by example and continue to uphold the noble traditions of our Order.

That bar, that standard, that expectation, and most especially that sacrifice I am reminding you is not what a mortal man has set, nor could in any lifetime but by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Now Sir Knights, more than ever, let us strive to live up to His divine example.

Sir Knights, govern yourselves accordingly!

Be curious, Not Judgmental!!

Always remember to Be the Crusader!

Fraternally and Knightly: Daniel C. Ricketts, Right Eminent Grand Commander

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS**

To the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Officers, and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Georgia Knights Templar.

Your committee joins with our Grand Commander in welcoming all Sir Knights to the 166TH Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. We welcome all out-of-state guests, in-state guests, and dignitaries. You indeed honor us with your presence. We thank our host Commandery, Constantine #26, for all the hospitality and kindness extended to the visitors and members of this conclave.

We fully agree that the State of the Order of our Grand Commandery is in excellent condition. We deeply regret also that we lost two Commanders. Our hopes are that we can rebuild York Rite in this area. The Divisional inspections were well done and accomplished several tasks including the inspections, school of instruction, and standardized the uniform work across the state. We agree Tactics inspections should be done at each Commandery, and the training should continue. Congratulations for the second year in a row for accomplishing this task. Our Grand Commandery set the standard in sending Ministers to the Holy Land and we're very proud we are sending nine this year. We hope Commanderies will work together by sharing the cost and send a Minister next year. We are thankful for the Sir Knights supporting the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Mollie Moseley Foundation Trust. Awarding 19 scholarships and the two grants is an outstanding way to accomplish the reason for the Foundation at its beginning. Presenting two Golden Chalice is outstanding. Congratulations to Alexius Commandery and Constantine Commandery. The marketing for our charities by

our Grand Commander, his officers and the Sir Knights is outstanding, we salute each of you. Our uniform tells who we are and what we represent, so we agree to keep wearing the uniform. Our membership is growing due to hard work and demonstration of our faith in our mission.

We are very proud of knighting more Sir Knights last year and the growth in many areas. We welcome all new members and let us keep them by making them apart in all that we do.

The Necrology report always brings sadness for our loss of Sir Knights but let us turn the coin and remember all the great times shared with them and thank God for the wonderful memories. Our relationship with Sir Knight Wade Smith set an example for us to follow.

Your Choice of the Appointed Officers, Grand Inspecting Officers, and Committee Members was well done, they took their responsibilities serious, and their performances were outstanding. We are grateful for their services. Well done, Sir Knights.

Your travels took you many places representing our Grand Commandery and the time and miles help build relationships and witness how others manage their affairs. We hope that your memories will last forever and be treasured in your heart.

We are thankful for supporting the Easter Sunrise Service. We hope the growth of Sir Knights and their lady's participation will increase as they witness this beautiful event as we celebrate Easter.

Our forefathers set up the Knight Templar Educational Foundation and we are very thankful. The management of these funds are outstanding by contributing to research at Emory University and Medical College of Georgia, scholarships and assist in sending Ministers to the Holy Land.

Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel Ricketts, you have served the Grand Commandery of Georgia with honor and set a high standard for us to follow. Your actions have demonstrated love, enjoyment, and happiness for each of us. We ask for God's blessing upon you and hope the memories will be last forever as you continue to serve. The wonderful support from your family, we agree was your foundation and we thank each of them.

I appreciate you for being my friend and I know your dad is looking down from heaven saying, "WELL DONE, MY SON!"

Respectfully Submitted: Bobby B. Simmons, Chairman; Johnie Garmon; and Lloyd Leinbaugh

REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia.

We, your Committee on Jurisprudence, report there were two (2) Bills submitted to the committee to amend the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia.

Code Bill No. 1

A BILL, to provide for an amendment of the Elections by amending Article IV, of the Business, Elections Section, Section 6, Elections Section of the 2022 Grand Commandery Code of Georgia relating to nominations from the floor.

The Committee on Jurisprudence finds this Bill is in proper form and not in conflict with any other section of the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations.

Code Bill No. 2

A BILL, to provide for an amendment of the Templar Uniform by amending Section I, of the TEMPLAR UNIFORM, Section, 17. Sleeve Ornaments of the 2022 Grand Commandery Code of Georgia adding the provision for a Shoulder Patch.

The Committee on Jurisprudence finds this Bill is in proper form and not in conflict with any other section of the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations.

We are pleased to report all the Orders and Dispensations issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander and the office of the Grand Recorder were in strict accordance with the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of the State of Georgia.

The Committee wishes to thank the Right Eminent Grand Commander for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; C. Danny Wofford; Tommy T. Marshall; Daniel C. Ricketts; Tyler W. Pledger

REPORT OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND EDICTS COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Bills, Resolutions and Edicts wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee has reviewed two Bills presented for consideration at this Grand Conclave and HIGHLY recommends they be adopted: They have been reviewed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar who stated "There is nothing in this proposal that will conflict with any GEKT statute" and by our own Jurisprudence Committee who finds them in proper format:

Bill No. 1 amends Article IV Section 6 by allowing nominations from the floor for any vacancies in the Grand Officer line. Any candidate must meet the requirements of Code Section 2 and may not nominate himself nor may any current Grand Commandery line officer nominate a candidate. This bill is effective upon adoption.

Bill No. 2 amends the Templar Uniform Section of the code to provide for a shoulder patch to be worn on the left shoulder and additional crescents added for honors and other distinctions as deemed appropriate. This bill is effective upon adoption. This bill codifies General Order No. 3 issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander on May 3, 2025.

Your Committee has reviewed two Resolution issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, both issued March 2, 2026 to arrest the charter of Malta Commandery No. 16 at Valdosta and to arrest the charter of Crusader Commandery No. 17 at Bainbridge. These were necessary actions and your Committee recommends their adoption.

Your Committee has determined that General Orders issued by The Right Eminent Grand Commander do not come under the purview of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF CHARTER & BY-LAWS & DISPENSATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia:

Your committee on Charters and By-Laws and Dispensations wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee has received a complete revision of the ByLaws of Alexius Commandery No. 22. Your Committee recommends approval as submitted.

Your Committee has received a complete revision of the ByLaws of Waycross Commandery No. 36. Your Committee recommends approval as submitted. YOUR 2023 COMMITTEE examined a complete revision of the bylaws of Coastal Plain Commandery No. 42 and asked for several changes, which have not been received. Your Committee is pleased to report these Bylaws will be finalized very soon. This committee has reviewed all dispensations issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander and they are of routine nature and meet with our approval. Almost all were to receive and ballot at a regular conclave. Your Committee notes that St. Paul Commandery No. 5 at Albany was consolidated with Coastal Plain Commandery No. 42 at Tifton on June 4, 2025. Your Committee notes with sadness that the Charters of Malta Commandery No. 16 at Valdosta and Crusader Commandery No. 17 at Bainbridge were arrested for cause on March 2, 2026 and the current members issued demits that they may affiliate with a commandery of their choosing. This Committee has received no requests for new Commandery charters. HAPPY BIRTHDAY: St. Omer Commandery No. 2 175 years on September 17, 2025 Douglasville Commandery No. 40 50 years, Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Stephen C. Higgins; and T. Matthew Sanford

REPORT OF CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Code Revision wishes to make the following report:

The May 2, 2025 Commandery Code is available from the Grand Recorder's office.

The 2025 code is placed on the Grand York Rite website as a PDF file and SHOULD BE updated annually after each Grand Conclave session so that a current copy is always available for use by any member.

The Code will be reprinted every third year with all amendments and changes.

I will be submitting at least one amendment to the Code at the 2027 annual Conclave to change the requirement that a Sir Knight be at least THREE years behind in dues before suspension to TWO years.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Ryan C. Nealey; and William T. White

REPORT OF FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of the State of Georgia:

Your Foreign Correspondent wishes to make the following report:

No out of state or foreign proceedings have been received for review. I do not know if any Grand Jurisdictions even send proceedings to other states anymore.

No requests for recognition from other Grand Commanderies have been received to my knowledge.

I do receive the Knight Templar magazine and occasional newsletters from other states and I note with interest activities going on in other states.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Sir Knights of Georgia, it is once again my pleasure to report that the state of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) is thriving due to your hard work, contributions, and fundraisers. The mission of the KTEF is to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. There is a video on the Grand York Rite of Georgia website regarding all the positive impacts we are having on our community, our families, and our lodges, through the partnership with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). Donations to the Mollie S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. continue to aid in bringing vision care to rural Georgia. Even today, of the 159 Georgia counties, 52 lack adequate vision services and this is where your contributions are making a difference right here at home. We have learned over past decades that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that we have had fewer and fewer children with strabismus (crossed eyes) to treat. Our research dollars have helped develop new, non-surgical treatments for this problem, and additional research and endowment programs are all being funded as well by your faithful and continued support. Every donation you make, raise, or work towards will assist in making a tremendous difference in the lives of children by helping the Foundation to fulfill its mission. There are the 50 United States and 16 additional countries that fund the KTEF and, as a Georgian, I could not be more proud to announce that the STATE of Georgia ranks NINTH (9th), up from 15th just this time last year of all members, donating MORE than some of the other countries. Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight. Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed; research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, THANK YOU!

REPORT OF THE EASTER SUNRISE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the members of the committee, EGSW William White, EGC Brad Simmons, WB Tracy Wright, MWB Mark Bradley, and PMIGM Judd Wolfe, we would like to thank Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts for the opportunity to serve on the Easter Sunrise Service Committee. We were truly humbled to serve on the committee. After discussions, the committee and REGC Ricketts recognized that this year presented the Grand Commandery of Georgia with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit our Nation's Capital city during this historic 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. The Committee worked with the REGC to include in this trip events celebrating the semi-quincentennial of the United States of America.

26 Sir Knights, Spouses, and guests participated in the 2026 Grand Commander's Easter Sunrise Trip.

After arriving in our nation's capital, we gathered for a welcome reception followed by a private moonlight trolley tour of our National Mall and Monuments.

On Thursday, we traveled to Gettysburg, PA, where we were treated to a private tour by a National Park Ranger of the home of our 34th president of the United States, Dwight D Eisenhower. Next stop was the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor's Center, followed by lunch and camaraderie overlooking the Gettysburg Battlefield, one of the major turning points in the Civil War. We then continued with a visit to the Friend-to-Friend Masonic Memorial, which depicts the "Armistead-Bingham incident."

That evening, we traveled to Ford's Theatre to take in an "insightful, vibrant and humorous take on our founding fathers' determination to do the right thing for their fledgling nation" – the production 1776 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Friday was a free day for everyone to explore our nation's capital and enjoy the 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival and take in several of the America 250 exhibits and events. That evening, several of us gathered for camaraderie and a one-of-a-kind Colonial Dining. Gadsby's Tavern was known as a mecca for the first five presidents of the United States: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and John Monroe.

We began Saturday with a trip to Mount Vernon. After a solemn ceremony, MEGHP Oelgoetz, III, REGC Rickets, and Grand Master Shepard laid a wreath at the tomb of General, President, and Brother George Washington. A brother who was "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," from the eulogy written by Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. We were then treated to a private tour of the Mansion. In celebration of America 250, we were able to see the newly reopened Washington's Bedchamber and the brand-new Patriots Path. Afterwards, we again broke bread and enjoyed fellowship with lunch at Mount Vernon Inn.

Saturday afternoon, we gathered at Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After a moving ceremony with solemn remembrance, MEGHP Oelgoetz, III, MIGM Miller, REGC Rickets, and Grand Master Shepard paused to remember and honor our brave men and women who "laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom," a quote from the Bugsby letter from President Abraham Lincoln.

After a solemn and patriotic-filled day, we gathered with fellow Christian Knights and their guests at the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Annual Banquet for an evening of fraternal camaraderie.

On Sunday morning, your York Right representatives from the great state of Georgia, along with our Grand Master, participated in the parade up Shooter's Hill to the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and participated in the 96th Annual Grand Encampment Easter Observance honoring our Lord and Savior, the One Living God.

Respectfully Submitted: John Flener, Chairman

REPORT OF THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

To: The RE Grand Commander, RE Past Grand Commanders, Knights Templar Education Foundation Committee, Inc., the Grand Commandery Officers, and the Grand Commandery of Georgia:

It is indeed an honor and great pleasure to serve and be a part of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee. We thank our Right Eminent Grand Commander for this appointment.

As Chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, I submit the following report: Minister's for 2026 Holy Land Pilgrimage are as follows:

Ministers

Rev. Robert Dale Kitchen
Rev. Kirk Nicholas Broxton, Sr.
Rev. Willis Peek

Commandery Sponsored By

Arnold De Troye No. 31
Atlanta No. 9
Coeur De Lion No. 4

Rev. Murphy Dodd Hagen	Douglasville No. 40
Rev. Paul A. Bennett	Pilgrim No. 15
Rev. Kevin Wilhite	St. Bernard No. 25
Rev. Bobby Bowers	St. Johns No. 19
Rev. Steve A. Johnson	St. Omer No. 2
Rev. Christopher W. Shurtz	St. Bernard No. 25

Rev Steve Johnson, sponsored by St Omer Commandery No 2, was not able to participate as a winter storm caused a cancellation of his flight to Newark New Jersey, which was the point of departure. We pray that he can make the trip at a future time. As Israel has been in a time of devastation and unrest for the last couple of years and are working toward a peaceful conclusion with Hamas, let us continue our prayers for a peaceful solution. So, that Isreal can once again be the joyful Country and Nation that they can be, and to welcoming all that want to come to visit the Holy Land of promise. As I stated in 2024, Israel seems to be the place that most of the world wants to control. Please continue in prayer for the wellbeing of the Israelis', all inhabitants, and the land of Israel.

In our biblical studies, we see that ever since God gave the land to Israel, people after people have been trying to run Israel out of the land, declaring that the land isn't Israel's. But, in the end, God himself, will fight the fight for His chosen people. Respectfully Submitted: Rev. Terry L. Hensley, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION RETURNS

To the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the State of Georgia. This Committee has reviewed the annual inspection reports of the 30 Commanderies of the State for the Templar Year 2025-2026, and we submit the following report.

Inspections were divided between administrative and tactics and conducted as follows:

Grand Commander	1
Past Grand Commanders	9
Grand Line Officers	14
Past Commanders	6

FULL FORM OPENINGS:

The number of full form openings for this inspection year was 221.

ATTENDANCE:

The average attendance at conclaves is 10.

DUES STATUS:

Reports show 128 members were in arrears for one year. In arrears for two years were 76 and in arrears for three years 10.

Number of Commanderies	Amount Charged for the orders
<u>1</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>\$140.00</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>\$135.00</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>\$130.00</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>\$127.00</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>\$125.00</u>

1	\$121.00
1	\$105.00
5	\$100.00
1	\$95.00
1	\$90.00
2	\$85.00
1	\$55.00

CASH

The total reported cash in treasuries was \$471,308.00

The general condition for each commandery, rated as follows:

Excellent: (100-91) 1,2,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,14,15,19,21,25,26,29,30,31,36,37,41,42,73

Very Good: (90,81) 40,12,22,33

Good: (80-71) 38

Fair: (70-0) 16,17,11

Respectfully Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; Lloyd J. Leinbaugh;
and Floyd E. Edmondson

REPORT OF THE TACTICS AND RITUAL COMMITTEE

To the Grand Commandery Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery of the State of Georgia:

The Tactics and Ritual Committee has continued to work diligently with the Grand Commandery Officers and the Sir Knights of our great State of Georgia as to the revised Manual of Asylum Ceremonies throughout the past Templar year. We continue to receive questions and positive feedback from the 2022 revision. Many Sir Knights have expressed appreciation of the clearer instructions on ceremonial procedures, while some requested additional clarification on uniform requirements at the Schools of Instruction and individual Tactics Inspections this past year.

The Tactics and Ritual Committee has found that several Sir Knights still possess outdated copies of the Manual of Asylum Ceremonies. However, the number of outdated manuals identified at inspections decreased immensely compared to last year, reflecting improved communication and distribution efforts.

The Custodians of the North and the South continue to inform all Sir Knights of Georgia that the manual is available in digital format, as well as in a physical copy for a nominal fee from the office of the Grand Recorder.

The revised Manual of Asylum Ceremonies has been presented at each of the six Divisional Inspections this past year, where it continues to be well received. These divisional inspections and Schools of Instruction provide Sir Knights with a comprehensive guide to opening a Commandery in both Open and Closed Inspections, the Manual of the Sword and other important instructions. The feedback and discussion at each event are beneficial and instructive to all who attend and we urge that these Schools of Instruction continue in the future.

All requests for clarification, instruction, or other matters were referred to the Grand Custodian of the North or South and were handled expeditiously and appropriately. The continued success of our tactics and rituals will only be furthered with the assistance of all Sir Knights and the renewed interest in informed instruction of our forms and ceremonies.

Respectfully Submitted: Daniel C. Ricketts, Chairman; Tommy T. Marshall; and Mark Johnson

REPORT OF THE TRIENNIAL COMMITTEE

The 70th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment will be held August 15-18, 2027, at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, 2500 N Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. Drill Competition will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2027, in the hotel convention center. This hotel is located across from Bob Hope Airport (Hollywood Burbank Airport). More information will be on the Grand Encampment website when the registration opens. I expect registration will be available beginning January 1, 2027. Knights Templar Eye Foundation BOD will meet August 12-13 immediately preceding the GEKT. Mark your calendar, let's have a good group of Sir Knights and Ladies from Georgia.

Respectfully Submitted: Bobby B. Simmons, Chairman

2026-2027 GRAND COMMANDERY GRAND LINE

William W. Grist (37) (Angela)	REG Commander
Ryan C. Nealey (9) (Brianna)	VEDG Commander
Alessandro V. Silva (9)	EG Generalissimo
William T. White (37) (Michelle)	EG Captain General
John T. Flener, Jr. (42) (Amanda)	EG Senior Warden
Eric S. Tress (40)	EG Junior Warden
Rev. Donald C. Combs (07) (Susan)	EG Prelate
Matthew R. Astin (2) (Sarah)	EG Treasurer
Mark A. Bradley (31) (Gay)	EG Recorder
Christopher D. Gabor (21) (Robin)	EG Standard Bearer
Tyler W. Pledger (29) (Erin)	EG Sword Bearer
	EG Warder
Brandon P. Simmons (37) (Heather)	EG Captain of the Guard
Danny L. Russell (37)	EG Sentinel
Richard L. Tanner (37)	EG Adjutant

2026-2027 GRAND COMMANDERY APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Jack J. Bell, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Howard Maddox

Memorial: Donald C. Combs; Beau M. Davis, James W. Bard

Jurisprudence: William F. Shepard, Chair; C. Danny Wofford; Daniel C. Ricketts

Charter/ By-Law/ Dispensation: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Stephen C. Higgins;

Matthew Sanford

Triennial: Bobby B. Simmons, Chair; Ryan Nealey; Tommy T. Marshall

KTEF, Inc., KTEF Div., & MSM Trustees: Clyde E. Griffin, Chair; Bobby B. Simmons, Vice Chair; Tyler W. Pledger; James E. Stevens; Ditmar W. Chavez

Relief: Mark A. Bradley, Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin;

Tyler W. Pledger

KTEF & MSM Presenters: William T. White, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; Eric S. Tress

Patriotic & Civic: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; William T. White; Alessandro Silva
Grand Commander's Address: Bobby B. Simmons, Chair; Johnie M. Garmon;
Lloyd J. Leinbaugh
Credentials: Matthew R. Astin, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell;
Dennis C. Simpson; Mark A. Bradley
Holy Land Pilgrimage: Terry L. Hensley, Chair; Donald C. Combs; Gregory B. Foster
Easter Sunrise Service: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; William T. White; Brad Simmons;
Tracy Wright; Judd Wolfe
Inspection Reports: William F. Shepard, Chair; Lloyd J. Leinbaugh;
Floyd E. Edmondson
Long Range Planning: Tyler W. Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Michael Hamlin
Membership: Tyler Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Brandon P. Simmons
Code Revision: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; William T. White
Perpetual Membership: Benjamin W. Polston, II, Chair; Michael H. Wilson;
Mark A. Bradley; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin
Tactics and Ritual: Daniel C. Ricketts, Chair; Tommy T. Marshall; Tyler W. Pledger
Education and Historical: C. Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe E. Turner; Jimmy Densmore;
Matthew Sanford; Timothy K. Starling
Masonic Messenger Supplement: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; John E. Finch
Editor, Ga. Supplement, KT, Magazine: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Daniel Bennett;
Thomas J. Chapman
Public Relations: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Rick Hallwood
Web Master: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Richard T. Petersen; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Fraternal Correspondence: Joe E. Turner, Chair
Entertainment: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Judd Wolfe
Audit: Mike Taylor, Chair; Lloyd R. Lane; James D. Arnold
Grand Custodians of the Work: North: Daniel C. Ricketts; South: Matthew Sanford
GM York Rite Festival: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Daniel C. Ricketts; Peter D. Bard;
Matt Sanford; Joey Jackson
Photographer: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; Robert W. Tidwell
Parliamentarian: Johnie M. Garmon
Sunshine: Floyd E. Edmondson

**From the Apartment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander
William W. Grist**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1

THIS ORDER SHALL BE READ AT THE HEAD OF THE COMMANDERY LINES IN EACH COMMANDERY AT THE NEXT STATED CONCLAVE AND SHALL BE MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES THEREOF.

TO: Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders and Constituent Commanderies. Greetings:

BE IT HEREBY ORDERED: That during the 2026-2027 Grand Commandery Year, the Grand Commandery of Georgia shall be organized into two Corps. The two Corps shall have three Divisions. The First Corps containing Divisions One, Two, and Three and the Second Corps containing Divisions Four, Five, and Six.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the First Corps shall be assigned to the Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Ryan C. Neally, and the Second Corps shall be assigned to the

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, William W. Grist.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That each Division will have a Grand Commandery Officer assigned as Division Commander. The Division Commander assignments are as follows:

Division One: *The Grand Warder, (To Be Elected)*

Division Two: *The Grand Sword Bearer, (To Be Elected)*

Division Three: The Grand Standard Bearer, Eric S. Tress

Division Four: The Grand Junior Warden, John T. Flener, Jr.

Division Five: The Grand Senior Warden, William T. White

Division Six: The Grand Captain General, Alessandro V. Silva

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Commanderies will be assigned to Divisions as follows:

FIRST CORPS:

FIRST DIVISION: *The Grand Warder (To Be Elected)*

Division Officers: **Joe Futch (30); Howard L. Maddox (42)**

Bethlehem No. 30 (Thomasville); Coastal Plain 42 (Tifton)

SECOND DIVISION: *The Grand Sword Bearer (To Be Elected)*

Division Officers: **Robert Brooks (7); James R. Bennett (36)**

Palestine No. 7 (Savannah); St. Elmo No. 21 (Brunswick); Waycross No. 36 (Waycross)

THIRD DIVISION: Eric S. Tress (4)

Division Officers: **Jerry H. Purvis (2); Baron Conklin (3)**

St. Omer No. 2 (Macon); Plantagenet No. 12 (Milledgeville); Ivanhoe No. 10 (Ft. Valley); St. Aldemar No. 3 (Columbus); Ft. Benning No. 73 (Columbus)

SECOND CORPS: Ryan C. Nealey (9)

FOURTH DIVISION: John T. Flener, Jr. (42)

Division Officers: **Skip Mason (4); Keith Bryant (26); P. Brian Kelley (38)**

Constantine No. 26 (Marietta); Douglasville No. 40 (Douglasville); Coeur de Lion No. 4 (College Park); Atlanta No. 9 (Atlanta); Dekalb No. 38 (Decatur); Tancred No. 11 (Newnan); Alexius No. 22 (Lovejoy)

FIFTH DIVISION: William T. White (37)

Division Officers: **Nathan L. Wade (41); Jimmy L. Densmore (19)**

Blue Ridge Mtn. No. 37 (McCaysville); Amicalola No. 41 (Jasper); Rome No. 8 (Rome); St. John's No. 19 (Dalton); Charles Martel No. 29 (Chickamauga)

SIXTH DIVISION: Alessandro V. Silva (9)

Division Officers: **Dale B. Cliett (1); Bill Garrison (31)**

Philemon No. 33 (Toccoa); Arnold de Troye No. 31 (Buford); Pilgrim No. 15 (Gainesville); Georgia No. 1 (Augusta); Godfrey de Bouillon No. 14 (Elberton); St. Bernard No. 25 (Covington)

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Corps Commanders will command, assist, and supervise their respective Divisions.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Division Commanders shall:

- (1) Maintain direct communication with the Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Corps Commander and the Eminent Grand Recorder's Office with respect to each Commandery in his Division, as to ritual, opening, tactics, armory, regalia, programs, and/or any special needs or assistance;

- (2) Visit each Commandery in his respective Division as often as needed, but at least once during the Commandery year; and
- (3) Represent the Grand Commander when requested to do so.
- (4) To promote programs of involvement that will enhance Templary.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Grand Commandery Officers, exclusive of the Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Adjutant, and Grand Sentinel will submit to the Grand Recorder's office an annual report of all visitations made and activities engaged upon for the Grand Commandery no later than April 15, 2027.

GRAND LIAISON OFFICERS

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That Grand Liaison Officers are appointed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander. The Grand Liaison Officers will report to and represent the Grand Commander and or the Division Commander while on official business and will be afforded the respect and honors due a Grand Commandery Officer. Each Grand Liaison Officer will make one Official Visit to their Respective Commanderies in the Templar Year, assist the Division Commander in coordinating the Annual Inspections of their Respective Commanderies and attend the Grand Commandery Conclave. The Grand Liaison Officers shall wear a red and green shoulder cord as recognition of their office.

INSPECTIONS

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Commanderies shall be inspected by March 1, 2027. Each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on a date and time selected by the Eminent Commander, for the purpose of participating in their Annual Tactics Inspection. This Inspection shall be held in accordance with the Tactics and Customs of this Grand Jurisdiction and shall include a full uniform Tactics Inspection by their assigned Grand Liaison Officer, serving as the Grand Inspecting Officer. The Eminent Commander shall see that each Sir Knight, in the line, is in full uniform in accordance with the Grand Commandery Code and the Grand Encampment Constitution. The uniform symbolizes us as the Christian Soldiers within the Masonic Fraternity and we should each take personal pride in wearing it as a statement of who we are and what we represent. The assigned Grand Liaison Officer shall submit to the Grand Recorder a full report of the Tactics Inspection within ten (10) days of said inspection using the 2026-27 Commandery Tactics Inspection Report form. All outdated Inspection Report forms will be rejected.

The failure of a Commandery to not have the Tactical Inspection completed by March 1 of the calendar year, will receive an "Incomplete" Tactical Inspection Report. If a Commandery receives an "Incomplete" Tactical Inspection Report for two (2) consecutive years, that Commandery will be liable to the Grand Commandery of Georgia Code Article III, Section 13.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on the assigned Divisional Conclave Date and at the assigned time, for the purpose of participating in their respective Annual Divisional Conclave. The Divisional Conclave shall include a Tactics and Ritual School of Instruction facilitated by the appropriate Grand Commandery Custodians. Also at the Annual Divisional Conclave, each Recorder shall furnish their assigned Grand Inspecting Officer such information that will enable him to answer all questions on the Administrative Inspection Form. The completed Administrative Inspection Form shall

then be forwarded to the Grand Recorder within ten (10) days after said Administrative Inspection. All assigned Grand Inspecting Officers MUST use the current Administrative Inspection Report form. All outdated Inspection Report forms will be rejected.

The failure of a Commandery to not have the Administrative Inspection completed by March 1 of the calendar year, will receive an "Incomplete" Administrative Inspection Report. If a Commandery receives an "Incomplete" Administrative Inspection Report for two (2) consecutive years, that Commandery will be liable to the Grand Commandery of Georgia Code Article III, Section 13.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That as per the Grand Commandery Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations that the Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery will be bonded, unless the Commandery By-laws require more than one signature on a voucher or check before any monies are disbursed. The Grand Inspecting Officer shall verify if either method is in order.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That written proof of the last audit, showing date audited and a copy of tax form 990 shall be provided to the Grand Inspecting Officer at the Divisional Conclave.

CHARITIES

It is my hope and prayer that each Sir Knight, within this Grand Jurisdiction, shall continue to contribute to our charities as liberally as his ability permits. Let us continue our efforts to support the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc., the Molly S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust of Georgia, Inc., and the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. I would like for every Commandery in Georgia to work toward the goal of sending a minister to the Holy Land. I know it is difficult for some Commanderies to accomplish this feat alone. I, therefore, encourage each Commandery that cannot individually sponsor a Minister to partner with another Commandery(s) and jointly send a minister to the Holy Land. Our goal is for our Grand Commandery to send a total of 10 ministers to the Holy Land in 2027.

FUNDRAISERS

I encourage every Commandery to hold at least one fundraiser per year to support the programs of the Commandery and the charitable efforts of the Grand Commandery. Please support as many fundraisers as you can, either monetarily or by spending time participating in these worthwhile projects.

FESTIVALS

All Commanderies participating in York Rite Festivals, where all the York Rite Degrees/Orders are conferred, are encouraged to confer the Templar Orders on a separate date when possible. I encourage the full conferral of the Templar Orders. We rob much from our candidates and ourselves when we exemplify the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta in short form. When the Templar Orders are conferred, all candidates should be appropriately dressed in coat and tie.

COMMITTEES

The successful completion of our many projects rests solely on the dedicated work of the members appointed to the various Committees. I have appointed those Sir Knights that I feel will excel in the tasks at hand. Your knowledge, experience and dedication to the Order have afforded you this important trust. Changes have been made, so please exercise due diligence in the Committees, to which you have you been assigned.

Respectfully ordered on this the 2nd day of May in the year of our Lord 2026.

William W. Grist

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:

Mark A. Bradley

Eminent Grand Recorder