

# Connecticut

S.K. Craig R. Nelson, Sr.  
Grand Commander



# Knightly News

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## Grand Commander's Message

Sir Knights,

In the month of November, we celebrate two events: Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

On November 11, 1919, the fighting of World War I ended with an Armistice. On November 11, 1920, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> as Armistice Day. President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor veterans of all wars. Today we honor all those who have served. We thank them for their patriotism, sacrifice, love of country, and willingness to serve our country.

The other event that we celebrate is Thanksgiving. According to historians, the Pilgrims celebrated their first successful harvest in the fall of 1621 in Massachusetts. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that Thanksgiving should be celebrated on the final Thursday in November. On December 26, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt changed the celebration of Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday in November.

As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving, we give thanks for many things. Some are material such as home, food, and job. Others are non-material such as family, health, love, and faith.

Sir Knights, I ask you to remember at this time that this is not always a joyous time for all of our fellow Sir Knights. Many are alone. I encourage you to reach out to them. Perhaps you can invite them to spend dinner with you or offer to bring them some food. Let them know that they are not forgotten and that we care about them. As Knights Templar, one of our charges is to "feed the hungry". Bring a box or can of food to a local food bank or shelter.

My Lady Virginia and I wish you all a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.  
Be well, stay safe, and God bless.

Courteously,  
SK Craig R. Nelson, Sr.  
Grand Commander

## Some Musings on Thanksgiving Day

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November, we gather together with family & friends eat lots of food, consume various beverages, and of course, watch football-some venue. But why? After all, can't we do this on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon (after church, if you please!)? Maybe we go to a high school to watch their football game, watch our children make us proud as they make the winning touchdown, or embarrass us with that silly fumble at the very last!

That is not what this special day is about, not in the least. Yes, we get together with family & friends and do all the other things mentioned above. This is the day when we, as Americans, give thanks for the bounty of the earth God has provided to us. And not just the bounty, but the Earth itself-our island home. Our neighbours to the North do the same in October, and probably most nations do so at various times of the year. The point being that this our day to collectively thank God, our Great Creator, for all that He has provided us; O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving,\*sing praises upon the harp unto our God; Who covereth the heaven with clouds, and prepareth rain for the earth,\* and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains, and herb for the use of men; Who giveth fodder unto the cattle,\* and feedeth the young ravens that call upon Him; Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem,\* praise thy God, O Sion.

Let us Pray-

O Most Merciful Father, who hast blessed the labours of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; We give thee humble and hearty thanks for this thy bounty; beseeching thee to continue thy loving-kindness to us, that our land may still yield her increase, to Thy Glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (1928 BCP, the Episcopal Church)

Think on this and praise our most gracious God and His son our Saviour, Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

ESK & Rev. William E. Weisert II, DD mA/HN

Grand Prelate

### **News of Education Foundation for 2022**

The Knights Templar Education Foundation of CT will once again be accepting applicants for grants for the scholastic year 2022-2023. With much of the COVID uncertainties hopefully behind us, compared to 2021, the Foundation expects an up-tic in scholars excited to begin or to resume their studies. The rules are simple and the grants are generous. An application must be filed by the deadline (March 1, 2022) and applicants must show CT residency. In keeping with current technology trends, electronic filings of both students and guidance departments are acceptable, but students need to arrange early for transcripts and letters of recommendation. In other words, students should NOT wait until the last minute, as students have been turned away for missing the deadline. For those continuing in their studies, an updated dossier is required, and a grant award is not automatic.

The forms which detail the requirements and qualifications for grant consideration are available from Chm Miller, or Records of your local Commandery. Awards will be announced in May. Address your requests for forms and information to SK William L. Miller, 4 Aspen Rise, East Granby, CT 06026; phone 860-716-0004 or email: [william.l.miller@snet.net](mailto:william.l.miller@snet.net).