

## KANSAS TOPICS

SK Wayne D. Drake

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Salute to the Sir Knights of Kansas,

Family! As the saying goes “you can choose your friends, but not your family”. So, sit back, close your eyes and envision your family. Think about your family as a child and your current family. Where would you be without them? Who would you be? I’m sure everyone has a different path in life and a story to tell. Family is the glue that holds us together. Some probably do not have fond memories of family, but you are who you are because of them. I have been very fortunate. I have a sister who is not only family but a great friend. I have a wife that loves me more than life itself and although she tells me frequently, I can feel it when I’m around her. I hope all of you have family equally as caring. Friends on the other hand, come and go. So now, sit back, close your eyes and envision your friends, past and present. In my observation, women tend to keep friendships longer than men. Men have friends for a long time, but not close like women. We do but it is rare. We tend not to stay in touch except for the class reunion or accidental encounter. Most of our friendships revolve around similar current interests. Not a bad thing because we are loyal to old friends as well as current. I have some old childhood friends, class friends and Masonic friends. I’d have to say, I stay in touch with my Masonic friends the most; not that they are better friends, but are better at staying in touch due to our Masonic teachings.

Once again, where am I going with all this? We choose to be Knights Templar and by so doing we pick up friends. I like to think we are a family. We didn’t choose who else is a Knight Templar but they become family. They shape us a little more into who we are. In most cases they make us better. We look out and take care of each other. We share Christian values. We have not yet met in person and so it becomes more important we stay in touch. Being a Knight Templar is more than having a meeting and doing degree work. It has to reach down into our heart and soul and make us more giving and more caring. We need to not only take care of other Sir Knights, but all others as well. I know that is really difficult to do in the middle of a pandemic because we need to stay safe and healthy. Just stay alert to any act of kindness we can do for others to help, and of course, a prayer goes a long way. We are engaged in a war and like Knights Templar of old, we will not be defeated. Let’s do all we can every day to make this world a better place.

I know I’m not telling you anything you don’t already know or practice. I hope you don’t think I’m preaching from my soap box all high and mighty. I just try to speak from my heart, and like you, I’m frustrated with the way the world is going right now. However, I do believe, with all my heart, we will get through this, and have meetings, festivals, and even break bread together. Sir Knights, you are family and you are in my thoughts and prayers.

God Bless you all,

*Sir Knight Wayne D. Drake*  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
of Knights Templar of Kansas

