

OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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I pray that you are well, and that you have been spared the ravages of the Corona Virus. We are still learning more about the affects and the effects of this pandemic.

Be certain of your own welfare. Be cautious in your travels. In the beginning, we agreed to self quarantine to allow the medical and science fields to prepare for mass infections, to surrender our liberties for the benefit of all. We were never told that by this self exclusion we would be protected from eventual exposure to this very contagious virus. It appears that somehow, reason has left and a fear of natural events has led our governmental controls to reach a conclusion that is unrealistic.

We should of course, and must, limit our transmission of the virus to others using the best practices possible.

By the time this is printed and distributed, many of our states will have opened for work and some modified leisure activities. So should we, but we need to develop some improved personal and social hygiene in our interactions with each other.

How sad it is when we may lose the handshake greeting with each other. The Knuckle bump does not fill the same assurance and comfort the firm grip a companion shares or the hand on a back. Fortunately we as Knights have been presented with a greater exchange, that of the salute. We have several. The sword and the hand salute.

If we use them, and understand them, we as knights can better accept and practice them with a full appreciation of what they mean.

Historically Knights in armor would raise their visor, to show their face when meeting and greeting each other. In Roman times, assassins were common and in approaching another person, would raise his right hand or sword arm to show that he was not holding a weapon. In later years it became a custom to touch their cap or hat to show respect. In some circumstances we can see the "tipping of the hat", touching the brim and slightly nodding the head or removing the head covering when entering a building or in the presence of a lady.

By 1820 the salute became touching of the brim of the hat and now modified as we see it today.

Our manual describes the Salute with the Hand #65. Raise the right hand smartly till the tip of the forefinger touches the lower part of the headdress (if uncovered the forehead) above the right eye, thumb and fingers extended and joined, palm to the left, fore arm inclined at about 45 degrees, hand and wrist straight; at the same time look toward the person saluted; (TWO), drop the arm smartly by the side.

Honors and Salutes: #152. Sir Knights should exchange salutes, the Knight or officer junior in rank saluting first. General Instructions #4. In saluting the Junior Officer salutes first, looking toward the Officer, Junior Officer, or Knight saluted...When acknowledged, drop hand to side simultaneously with the ranking officer.

Understanding and exchanging salutes will show your respect and courtesy toward each other and improve your own esteem by doing it correctly. This exchange made smartly will demonstrate to your fellow Knight, your respect for his office, honor towards him and reduce the transmission of the virus.

The Grand Commandery Face book page is open for your participation. Stop by and say hello!

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oregon

S.K. Grant Sharp, Deputy Grand Commander