

KANSAS TOPICS

SK Wayne D. Drake

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Salute to the Sir Knights of Kansas,

I pray all of you and your families are well and healthy. This pandemic does not seem to have an end in sight, so we are just going to conduct business as best we can. I want to thank everyone for placing their trust in me and electing me Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas. I feel very honored and will do my best to perform the duties of this office.

The motto I have chosen for this upcoming year is *"Relight the Candle."* I know how important it is to increase our numbers and gain new membership of Sir Knights; but I also think it's important to get current Sir Knights reenergized in our organization. We have a lot of members no longer active in our craft and it would be nice to enliven our membership once again. I would like to challenge each of you to invite just one inactive Sir Knight back to the craft. This could prove to be a huge boost for Knights Templar. I ask that you invite them to a Grand Commandry or local Commandry event and not just a stated communication. There is an abundance of knowledge and experience to be shared and learned from these Sir Knights and we just need to remind them how important they are. This may be really difficult in the current climate, but if the opportunity does come up, please, invite them.

I became a Mason because my daughter, who is a Past Honor Queen, asked me to join. She informed me it was a requirement for her getting into Jobs Daughters. This turned out to be the best decision she ever made for me. I was raised a Master Mason in 1987 and joined York Rite that same year. I can't begin to tell you how important York Rite and Commandry are to me. In my opinion, the Temple Degree is the most beautiful degree a Mason can receive. We as Knights Templar must always strive to maintain this important undertaking. Passing what we have learned and keeping the Temple degree alive for other Masons to enjoy, must be a priority. Many of you have worked hard to accomplish this and I encourage all of you to continue in your endeavors.

I wish I could foresee the future, and how the pandemic will affect us during this year. We need to plan all future events accordingly. The health and safety of all our members is FIRST and of utmost importance. I hope we are able to hold a reception for Grand York Rite Officers and continue our degree festivals. Our Inspections and Schools of Instructions will be in a holding pattern. This is definitely not the kind of year I hoped for as your Grand Commander, but I feel that working together it will be a good one. If the time comes, we may need to put events together quickly.

In closing, I ask you to stay the course. Knights Templar have weathered a lot of adversity over the years and we can survive this. Pray for each other and this great Nation. This too shall pass.

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

