

## OKLAHOMA SUPPLEMENT

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### Words from the Editor

Thomas Paine wrote in The Crisis No. I (written 19 December 1776, published 23 December 1776).

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.”

This written at the start of the American Revolution has proved true time and time again in wars and disasters that have loomed over this country and world. We welcomed the New Year, unaware of something that was looming over the world, with great anticipation of what we thought would be coming and soon found ourselves knee deep, waist deep and finally neck deep trying to keep our heads above the fray.

Grand Masters throughout the world found themselves doing the unthinkable, closing all Masonic functions for the duration of the virus threat. The greeting of Masons for centuries now becomes a way of transmitting a disease that can kill. Handshakes cannot be used as greetings. We cannot meet in groups of a size to open a Masonic Lodge or other Masonic Organization in a form to properly conduct our business. On May 2, 2020 the Grand Session of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma will meet in a conference call. The Grand Chapter and the Grand Council will have already taken non contact methods to conduct their Grand Sessions. These are moments in

Masonic history, no Mason ever could have imagined. We adapt, we interpret, we invent and we make Masonry carry on.

The Masonic Guilds of old found a way of living through the most dangerous time in history by having a trade and secrets that were needed by the warring tribes and monarchs of the time. They traveled unrestrained thru the countries of Europe, building magnificent castles and cathedrals. The Masons of today have that same basic secret. It is called Brotherhood!

We as Knights Templar have committed ourselves to the same cause as the Knights Templars that we emulate. They committed their lives and fortunes to the Christian Religion. They protected the Christian Pilgrims as they wound their way to the Holy Land. They invented a banking system that protected the pilgrims from being robbed along the way. They built an army and forts along the way and secured the Holy Land for the pilgrims to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We send ministers and preachers to the Holy Land to become pilgrims who walk in the footprints of Jesus and come back more empowered to pass on the gospel.

Those Knights paid for their devotion and their faith, as many have since, with torture and death. They went to their death still holding true to their faith. Jacques de Molay in Paris, France on March 18, 1314 said his last words, “Let evil swiftly befall those who have wrongly condemned us - God will avenge us.” It is within a year from that date King Philip IV and Pope Clement V died. I cannot say that God killed them because of the dying Knight’s last words, but as William Shakespeare wrote in Hamlet, Scene V, “There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

We will not relent our faith in Jesus Christ, we will not relent our faith in our brotherhood. We will become strengthened. We will build our organization to spread the word and work of our Lord God. We will find strength in this time of darkness. We will defeat the Devil and all his minions. We will prevail!

I will send this supplement to Brother John Palmer before May 1, 2020. The magazine should be received by you around June 1<sup>st</sup>. It my prayer and I know it is yours that by that time we will be on the road to full recovery and find the necessary medicines to eradicate this horror. God bless you and yours.

Editor