

ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT



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South Central Department - Virtual Conference

On September 19, 2020, the Grand Officers and Sir Knights from across six states came together in the first ever virtual South-Central Department Conference...via the "Zoom" on-line meeting platform.



The Conference was lead by our Departmental Commander, RESK Jack Harper from Texas. (left) Editor's note: Sorry about the poor picture quality.)



In addition, we had the privilege of hearing from our Most Eminent Grand Master, Jeffrey Nelson (right) The Sir Knights also had the opportunity to continue the Grand Encampment Leadership Training via a separate "zoom" meeting.

R.: E.: Grand Commander
 Ronald S. Tucker
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Greetings, Sir Knights:

Sir Knights: Moving forward into this Templar year, RESK Tucker is again asking his officers to take turns writing articles for the "Arkansas Supplement". This month's article is from ESK Sheldon A. Gately. *Editor.*

Sir Knights:

Globally, nationally and individually, 2020 has proven to be both a challenging year and one filled with opportunities. Throughout mankind's history, we have endured plagues, divisions and economic struggles. It is during these times that the best within each of us shines. These difficult times tend to force us to reflect upon what is the most valuable – caring, supporting and outreach to each other within and outside our organization. These are the moments that we step out of the day to day whirlwind; involving our self- agendas, roll up our sleeves to pull together as a group for a common cause.

Marley stated it best "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business, charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business."

Are we placing mankind as the forefront of our business? Isn't this the soul foundation of our Christian Masonic Commandery? Now, is the time, my fellow Sir Knights, that we lean on each other, that we make those calls, emails, text and personal visits to our members to check on their overall welfare. Applying this same love for mankind throughout our communities. It is, in my opinion, that during these most challenging times, God teaches us our true purpose and reminds us to always be humble and kind. He has a way of bringing us back down from the clouds and to our knees in helping us remember our prime purpose. Serving each other and our communities.

Please, take a moment each day and reach out to your fellow Sir Knights, to folks within your communities. You see, together we will not only survive these times, yet as proven we will thrive.

May God continue to bless each of you!

Sheldon A. Gately
 Eminent Grand Capt. General