

# South Dakota



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Herb Cook  
Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

When this article is published, the country will have been shut down and stay-at-home instituted for seven months. About two hundred four thousand people will have died by the end of September and there is still no end in sight.

I see no practical end to all of the political bickering and indecision. All around us, no one can agree with another, and each is, of course, right. This is obviously not making any progress; it just doesn't work. I feel that if all who believe in God would pray for help, so much could be accomplished. With His help anything can be done. I ask all Sir Knights to spend time in prayer everyday asking for help and guidance for the world.

On September 19, 2020, the virtual South Dakota Grand York Rite Session was held. It began at 9:00am, MDT, with Grand Council, followed by Grand Commandery at 10:00am and Grand Chapter RAM at 11:00am. The session went well. All of the Grand York Rite officers are the same for 2020 – 2021, with the exception of the Grand Standard Bearer of Grand Commandery, now SK John Viessman. The Executive officers of the three Grand York Rite bodies agreed that 2020 was pretty non-productive, and the continuation will hopefully allow each officer to attend meetings and grow in his York Rite commitment. The Budget and Reinstatement of the officers was the only business before the Grand Commandery and both Passed.

I continue to pray that our national situation will improve. We can again travel and hold meetings, and progress with our work of furthering our goal of all Christian Masons belonging to the Knights Templar. Until then, we are limited to ZOOM meetings.

SK Bruce Crisman, Grand Generalissimo, has the simplified Uniform Code so everyone can understand the regulations. If a Commandery would like one, email the Grand Recorder and it will be mailed to that Commandery.

In closing, I remind all SKs to pray for guidance and an end of this pandemic. Thank you for your gifts to the KTEP. YEA for 2021. And, as ever, Stay safe, Wash your hands, and Help protect the world, Please wear a mask.

*Herb Cook*

Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Knights Templar of South Dakota.

## A Thanksgiving Prayer

*“Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

*Travelingtemplar.com, 11/26/2015*