

## KANSAS TOPICS

SK Wayne D. Drake

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Salute to the Sir Knights of Kansas,

October is here and along with it autumn is in full swing. The temperatures will be falling and leaves will be turning colors providing us with beautiful fall scenery. Then comes the part we all love.... raking leaves. As a kid, who didn't enjoy jumping into a pile of freshly raked leaves, and my favorite holiday, Halloween? When else could you dress up in a cool or not so cool costume and walk door to door for FREE candy. I mean life doesn't get any better than that. I remember leaving home around dusk and not getting back till late at night having collected my booty. Well, maybe it wasn't really late but I was kid so what did I know. When you found the house that gave out a full-size candy bar (Snickers) you would have to go back later for a second stop. We used grocery sacks to do our bidding and our task wasn't complete until they were filled to the brim. We didn't have the fears today's kids do about people tampering with candy and safety. The only concern we had was someone putting ice in our sack so the bottom would get soggy and all the candy would fall out. We would have so much candy that it would last until Christmas. I'm sure my mom would throw out what was left since it was getting old and by that time, we would have had way too much. If I had been smarter, I would have hidden it better, so it would have lasted until the next Halloween. (Yuck!) I think being a Knight Templar is a little bit like having Halloween all year. Although we do not get free candy, we do get to dress up in really cool uniforms and perform degrees that enrich lives, which is better than free candy. The degrees last not only until Christmas,

but for the rest of our lives and opens doors to many other organizations that improve our character. If we follow the teachings and our Christian values, we are the free candy to society. We promote fellowship, help others in need and by our example, and demonstrate good will. During this time of the Pandemic, it is more important than ever to stay true to these teachings. We are, still, unable to meet in person and have degree work, but we can still carry out our ideals. The time will come when we can meet again and we will be stronger, more caring and appreciate fellowship with each other at a new level. I have visited with SK Rodney Middleton, EGJW, and we are still in hopes of having a festival for Chapter and Council in March of 2021 and April for Commandry; provided this Pandemic subsides and we are able. Locations are yet to be determined and I'll keep you informed. SK Rodney is keeping a list of what parts Sir Knights can fill and if there is one you are willing to do, please, let him or myself know. Also, if there is a new part you would like to fill let us know, as we are always in need. When we go through the Temple Degree, we are symbolically subjected to seven years pilgrimage to test our patience and perseverance. The reality is this pandemic is testing them and I feel the rest of the year is going to be a wash. However, I have high hopes that 2021 will bring new hope and I think working together we will have a victorious year. Please, stay prepared and keep the faith. As always, take care of your health and families.

God Bless You All,

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

