

KANSAS TOPICS

SK Wayne D. Drake

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Salute to the Sir Knights of Kansas,

Happy New Year! We finally get to turn the page from 2020. The New Year offers new hope and new beginnings. How many of you know January 29th is Kansas Day? It is the day we celebrate Kansas' admission to the Union in 1861, making it the 34th state. Okay, you probably knew that. Did you know the last Monday of January is Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day? I am not sure where that started, but it seems kind of silly to me. However, after last year of 2020 and being semi quarantined most of the year, I'm up for anything; break out the wine and cheese (and the bubble wrap). Life for the most part is not always easy; it is what we make of it. Charles R. Swindoll wrote "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it". I believe that to be true and last year was a test of our 90%. We have a way to go before we even begin to show any signs of normal. If fact, normal, as we knew it, will never be the same again. People who are working from home probably won't return to the office on a regular basis. Kids will return to school, but instead of a snow day it will be a virtual learning day. Zoom meetings are here to stay and it's not all bad, although we do need to return to a normal socialization. We need to be able to go to restaurants, movies, outdoor events, sporting events, and in other words we need to be able to be around people. We need to be able to shake hands and most importantly hug one another. I don't think the test of our perseverance is done yet, but we will get there. Life has much to offer us and we need to be ready for it. We need to be kinder, more understanding and more patient. We need to continue as Sir Knights and reach out a helping hand to others. We need to continue to pray for everyone who has

been directly affected by this pandemic. I know I'm preaching to the choir here, as I'm sure you are already doing those things. As Sir Knights, I would expect nothing less. I'm hoping in this New Year we will be able to have festivals and degree work. I am really hoping we will be able to have Grand Session in May. I greatly miss the fellowship and faces without masks. We need to get back to work initiating new members and expanding our craft. Sir Knight Rodney Middleton, EGJW is in the process of putting together a list of members who can help with degree work. Please, if he reaches out to you, volunteer to do a part no matter how small. All the small pieces come together and make one big piece and one great degree conferral. Better yet, reach out to SK Rodney and see what needs to be filled. We want to put on impressive degrees for our incoming members. We all know how sloppy work does little to give new inductees a feeling they made the right choice. Also, there is nothing more impressive than degree work done well. Make a New Year's resolution, if the pandemic allows; try and attend your local meetings and make your Commandry active again. If everyone attends their local Commandry meetings there is no telling what we could accomplish. This is great place for fellowship and a terrific place to practice and learn new parts creating the end result of flawless conferrals to new members. Once again Happy New Year! We are going to take our 90% attitude and make this a fantastic year.

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

