KANSAS TOPICS

SK Roger L. Walls

R:. E:. Grand Commander



Greetings Sir Knights,

First, I want to thank my brothers for their trust and confidence in electing me as Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Grand York Rite of Kansas. This is indeed an honor and a privilege I do not take lightly. Reaching this level of success in my York Rite Journey is by no means, an end to my journey.

My moto and theme for the ensuing year is 'FROM SUCCESS TO SIGNIFICANCE". I received my inspiration from the book "HALF TIME" by Bob Buford. In the book there is a chapter entitled "FROM SUCCESS TO SIGNIFICNCE" which greatly, and in depth, explains the meaning of the title, and a Godly inspirational message. I was also reminded of my freshman basketball coach, Mr. Nicolas Vorhis. When we broke for half-time in our games, he always called the first half of the game a successful time frame, regardless of the score. If we were in the lead, he would say something to the effect we know what to do right to continue our goal for a hugely successful game. If we were not in the lead, we should learn from observing the actions and plays of the opposing team, and we can apply that to our 2nd half strategy, and push on to success. That was the high point of our half-time session, and we were inspired by his words of encouragement.

This strategy is what I want to apply to the 2nd half of my York Rite journey, applying what I learned from my first half journey of achieving the success of Grand Commander of the Knights Templars of the Grand York Rite of Kansas. I want to pass on to those who follow me on their journey. In doing so, the next generation of Templars receive the benefit of lessons I have learned from my first half journey toward my success. This is my pledge of significance to the York Rite body.

I want to encourage the leaders of the bodies of our York Rite to pass on everything they have learned from their journey to success to those who follow them, and the future of the Grand York Rite will enjoy, and benefit, from those who have traveled their road to their success. The future of our York Rite in masonry demands we impart such knowledge to the next generation of brothers.

I would be remiss in not recognizing and acknowledging those brothers who have laid the path I am now follow. Such great men, to name a few, who have provided me with great guidance and inspiration; SK Alvin Houserman, REPGC, who led me to do the funeral lecture, SK Paul Harold, REPGC, who established the Junction City Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day, SK T. Michael Fegan, REPDC, who MCs that ceremony each year, SK John Dugan, REPGC, who always had good guidance for me, SK L. Kent Needham, REPGC, who taught me the proper way to handle my sword, WK Chuck Arens, REPGC, and SK James Burns, REPGC, who gave their inspirational presentations at the ceremony, SK Wayne Drake, REPGC, for reasons I won't divulge in keeping the tradition of laying the wreath in spite of difficulties imposed by the pandemic, SK John Staton, REPGC, and his assistance in maintain the tradition of sending a pastor on the Holy Land Pilgrimage, SK Michael Smith, REPGC, who appointed me as Grand Standard Bearer and started my journey to Grand Commander. To these Sir Knights, I owe a special debt of gratitude and appreciation. But most of all, I recognize my mentor through my masonic and my professional journey, my masonic father, and best friend and esteemed brother, SK Ron (The Big Mac) McKenzie, REPGC. He has been my greatest inspiration throughout all my endeavors as a mason and my usual avocation. When I would get frustrated, I could always count on him for "wise council" with the knowledge that, that council was from a great and good man. Ron could apply the principals of masonry to all walks of life with compassion and comfort to me. A truly heartfelt thank you, to my masonic father.

Above all, and this includes the obvious debt I owe to my lovely lady, Jean "Mrs. America" who has stood beside me and supported me in all my undertakings both as a mason and as a minister; Behind every good man, there is a better woman, my Jean; I thank my Heavenly Father for every opportunity He gives me so serve Him. My greatest trust is in Him and my faith is in His Son, Jesus the Christ, who sent the Holy Spirit to provide me with guidance along this path He has set me upon and every success I have achieved. All thanks to the Father, my Lord, and my refuge in time of need.

With those who I have mentioned, and the Trinity behind me, I begin the second half of my journey with the knowledge and experience I have gained from the first half and can become a significant factor to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and York Rite of Kansas.

SO HELP ME GOD AND KEEP ME STEADFAST

God Bless you all.

Sir Knight Roger L. Walls

Right Eminent Grand Commander



of Knights Templar of Kansas