

KANSAS TOPICS

SK Wayne D. Drake

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Salute to the Sir Knights of Kansas,

This will be my last article for the Templar Magazine. It has been quite a trip. I had a whole different set of plans for last year, but like everyone else they didn't come to fruition. Serving as Grand Commander in the year of a pandemic isn't something I aspired to accomplish. However, I am still very proud to have been able to be your Grand Commander. I had picked a theme for the year called "**relight the candle.**" It was in hopes of getting inactive Sir Knights reenergized and active again. The Pandemic sure helped me out with that one; not only could the inactive Sir Knights not get engaged, the active Sir Knights were at a standstill as well. I did learn a lot last year, being quarantined isn't much fun. Television gets really boring, I can drive my wife crazy, I eat too many snacks, exercising stinks, and well... you get the idea. What I really learned is how strong we are in the face of adversity. Not only did we support Knights Templar, we were there for everyone who was in need. We suffered losses that left voids that will be hard to fill, but I know we are strong enough to fill those voids and move forward. I could never be prouder to be a Sir Knight of Kansas Knights Templar. We are beginning to return to degree work and I think we are all thrilled. We have a Templar festival on June 26th in Newton and I hope you can all be there to share in the festivities. We will start a 9:00 a.m. and plan to have a full day knighting several new members. If you don't remember how fun and gratifying that is, be sure to be there. The Temple degree is one of the most impressive degrees a Mason

can receive. I can still remember when I went through and if you can't remember yours this would be a great refresher.

I would like to mention a few things about June besides our festival. Father's Day is June 20th and the start of summer. Maybe this year we will be able to get out and thoroughly enjoy summer. Plan an outing, get together with family and friends, and see what it's like to be outdoors away from television. Hey, we may discover this world can be fun. (Who knew?) Did you know June 6th is National Yo-Yo Day; and June 9th is National Donald Duck Day? I tell you if that didn't get you excited, how about June 7th being National Chocolate Ice Cream Day and June 14th being National Bourbon Day. Now I know chocolate ice cream and bourbon can make for a couple great holidays. Enough silliness, just get out, enjoy yourself, and find what makes you happy to be alive.

In closing, I would like to thank you for reading all my articles and taking a partial trip down memory lane with me. I hope, maybe, they were a little entertaining. It truly was a trying year and I hope you found some value in my writings. I originally started my year with the theme, "**relight the candle.**" However, as I turn this task over to Sir Knight Roger Walls, VEDGC, (soon to be Grand Commander) I am going to end the year with a new theme, "**keep the candle lit.**"

God Bless you all.

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

