

KANSAS TOPICS

SK Wayne D. Drake

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Salute to the Sir Knights of Kansas,

May is here and the opportunity has risen to continue our work. We will have a Chapter festival on Saturday, May 1st, in Newton starting at 9:00 am; Council will have a festival on Saturday, May 22nd, in Newton starting at 9:00 am; Commandry will have a festival Saturday, June 26th, in Newton starting at 9:00 am. Newton is a good central location and I hope as many of you as possible will be in attendance. This year our annual Vietnam Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony in Junction City will take place while following all safety protocols. Junction City Commandry graciously works with Grand Commandry to host this event. I would request any who are able, to attend; especially Grand Commandry Officers. More information regarding this to follow via email.

May is a month when most of the cold weather and memories of winter are behind us. It's a time for getting outside and enjoying the weather. Mother's Day is a holiday we definitely want to celebrate. I don't even need to explain that one. Another holiday in May is Memorial Day. It's a day we remember those brave service members, who gave their lives so we can enjoy the freedoms we have. It makes me think of **Why I Love America**. We have some of the most beautiful country in the whole world. The Rocky Mountains, the Plains of the Midwest, the beaches of our coastline, the Black Hills, the Redwood Forests, the Grand Canyon, and the list goes on. Our national parks are, also, the greatest on earth. We have a very diverse culture and although we don't always get along, we do have the right to our diversities. If our Nation and our peace are

threatened it's that diverse culture that comes together to fight for our freedom of rights. We don't always say the right things, but we have the right to say them. Remember that line from the movie, *American President*; "You want free speech, let's see you acknowledge a man whose words make your blood boil, who's standing center stage and advocating at the top of his lungs, that which you would spend a lifetime opposing at the top of yours". That is the America I love. It allows us to worship the way we want and allows us to be Knights Templar. Why do I love Knights Templar? Other than it has some pretty cool uniforms; it has some of the most beautiful degrees in Masonry and it advances Masonic knowledge. You have to be a Christian to belong, and the Sir Knights in my opinion are the best of the best, not to mention the social interaction that Knights Templar provides. So, let's do our utmost to celebrate Memorial Day in memory of our fallen military and our fallen Sir Knights. We have lost many this last year and although it wasn't in defense of our country; they were Sir Knights who believed in doing what was right, their belief in the Christian religion, and improving mankind.

In closing, I would like to ask as many Sir Knights as possible, to please attend our Vietnam Wreath Laying Ceremony in Junction City this Memorial Day. Vietnam was not a popular war and we don't want to ever forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Also, it's a good day as a group to remember our Sir Knights who have gone to that house not made with hands this last year. Thank you.

God Bless you all.

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

