



## Missouri Supplement

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## Be United In Our Cause!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

In keeping with the traditions of the Grand Commandery the month of May is reserved for the Deputy Grand Commander. In this month's supplement, Sir Knight Harry L. Tripp, Jr. will formally introduce himself.

### Christianity - Templary - In Christ's Footsteps!

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Grand Commander

### DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greeting Sir Knights,

I am looking forward to the distinct honor of being your Grand Commander for the 2021-2022 term if I am elected. We are in changing times and trying to keep our families and friends safe from the current pandemic. It has forced us all to alter our normal ways of life. I hope that we can all stay safe and to soon return to our regular Masonic lives. We are all looking forward to seeing each other in person at Masonic meetings and once again enjoy breaking bread together. We look forward to being able to practice our Commandery Asylum tactics and prepare for the annual Grand Commandery Drill Competition event. We are looking forward to a day when we can return to greeting new members into our Fraternity. With our faith firmly placed in Christ's Holy Name we will survive this pandemic.

I was saved at Costa Mesa, California in the Nazarene Church in 1971. I am currently a member of God's Country Cowboy Church in Fredericktown, MO.

I served as a United States Marine from 1970 to 1976. I received an NCO honorable discharge. I was a member of Chester Marine Corp League from 1986 to 1993. I was a Commander of my Marine Corp League from 1992 to 1993. I helped to start two additional Marine Corp Leagues in 1991 and in 1993.

I attended Rend Lake College of Illinois and graduated with an LPN certificate in 1981. I also graduated from Rend with a Registered Nurse Associate Degree in 1982.

In 2004, I married my lovely Lady, Christine. We were both previously married and together we have six children, three boys and three girls, as well as thir-

teen grandchildren and three great grandchildren. I retired from the State of Illinois Department of Corrections where I was a Registered Nurse.

I was Worshipful Master of Markus Lodge No. 110, AF&AM, in 2010. I was High Priest of Uel Chapter No. 129, RAM, in 2012. I was Illustrious Master of Bonne Terre Council No. 43, RSM, in 2009. I was Commander of DeSoto Commandery No. 56, KT, from 2012 to 2014. I received a Knights Templar Cross of Honor as well as three Honor Commandery Awards.

### Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

Sir Knight Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Deputy Grand Commander

### THAT WE MAY BE ONE IN THE LORD

What does God want for us? He wants our lives to be fruitful. He wants us to live in unity. He wants the love that He so freely gives us to allow us to help others to experience God's life transforming love.

Reverend William Arnot (1808–1875) was a Scottish minister and theological writer. One of the books that he wrote was "Lesser Parables of Our Lord," originally published, London, by T. Nelson, in 1884. In the Chapter entitled "The Salt of the Earth," on page 253, Arnot said, "He gives what he demands, and demands what he gives. The same master both gives the talents and requires an account of their outlay." This is a wonderful expression about God's design and the part we play as His creation. In John 13:34-35 (NIV), Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

However, what does the love we share look like to those outside the Fraternity? Is the love that we share with each other inviting and contagious to others? Does our love reveal the kind of unity for which Jesus prayed? Do others really understand that we are Jesus' disciples by the way that we love each other?

There is a fabric that unites us in glorifying God. It organizes and integrates us. We are first and foremost organized by God's design. We are united in spite of our diversity. Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) says, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." We each represent the many parts of our Fraternity, but we are all of one body in Knights Templary. We each have a function to perform and we work together to fulfill Jesus' prayer.

God wants us to be animated by His Holy Spirit. Jesus died for the sins that would otherwise hinder us in our mission to become His disciples. While there is faith, hope, and love; we know that love is the greatest of these. The Body of Christ grows when our love and fellowship becomes contagious. We should each pray, "Lord, through our obedience, help us to be the answer to Your prayer. Help us to be one with you as you are with our Heavenly Father. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – Amen!"