

OKLAHOMA SUPPLEMENT

S.K. John E. King, Editor
1128 N. Lee St.
Altus, OK 73521
(580) 471-0636
jek41@sbcglobal.net



GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Greeting and Salutations Sir Knights,

As I write this message our Symbolic Lodges as well as our Asylums across the state are still operating in a limited capacity with the expectation that by the time you read this Masonry across the state will be opening up and be fully operational. We are facing many challenges in the up-coming year in bringing our Commandery's back on-line after sitting idle for over twelve months due to the Corona Virus that has plagued our state and nation. We will do so with caution with a few minor changes in the near future. We have to reestablish ourselves and bring relevance to the organization and the charities that we support. We have few opportunities to be seen in public in uniform and we will have to seize these opportunities when they become available. We have been present at Grand Lodge Cornerstone ceremonies, although not in full force due to the pandemic, this I expect will change going forward. Any opportunity we have to be seen in the public eye will draw attention not just to the Masonic fraternity but to Templary in particular. We may have the opportunity to march in a parade during a cornerstone ceremony in the spring of 2022 and I would love to see as many Sir Knights in uniform at that event as possible, even if you cannot march your presence in uniform will be uplifting to the Craft. There will be more information on this as the event gets closer.

Unfortunately, we have seen many Brothers and Sir Knights pass away in these trying times and we have not had the opportunity to attend their funerals and offer the proper respects deserving of a fallen Templar. We could and should serve as honor guards and escorts for the fallen Sir Knight.

Talking with my Grand Chapter and Grand Council counter parts we are looking to reinstate quarterly meeting allowing better communications to flow between the Grand York Rite and the local bodies. As far as the Commandery goes we will be scheduling inspections for the late summer/early fall after the meeting of Grand Encampment in mid-August as we are expecting some last-minute directions from them due to the fallout from the pandemic.

The Grand Commandery is still in possession of the Henry Masonic Rifle that was donated to us several years ago. The previous winner of the raffle has donated it back to us. We will be raffling this rifle again this year with the proceeds going to the Holy Land Pilgrimage account. Grand Encampment has informed us that we will be sending a minister/pastor to the Holy Lands in February of 2022. All donations to this worthy cause will be accepted and appreciated. We must not forget about our other Charity, the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. The KTEF has been underwriting research grants in the field of eye diseases and disorders. Both of these are fine charities and worthy of our financial gifts.

Last but not least, Grand Encampment encourages commandery's to celebrate three religious events and one patriotic observance each year. Easter, Ascension Day, Christmas, and a patriotic observance of your choice whether it be Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, etc.... that choice is yours. On Thursday May 21, the Grand Commandery will be hosting a ZOOM meeting open to all Sir Knights interested celebrating Ascension Day.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you as I travel around this great state.

SK Robert R. Rolseth
REGC