

# South Dakota



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Herb Cook  
Grand Commander

As I pondered what I should say to you I began to reflect on what Knighthood means to me. I have no doubt that a portion of all of us has that fantasy of the noble knight on a white horse rescuing the damsel in distress. Obviously, as a Knight Templar our reality is far from that. But, are we not Sir Knights? Shouldn't we espouse the chivalric virtues our Knightly cousins represented in our fantasies?

I understand, to try to emulate a fantasy is not reality and it can be very difficult. But, I also know that the practice of Knightly virtue and chivalry is a something that we can emulate and make a part of our lives. Being decent to your fellow human beings is the first step in your virtuous quest. I can tell you from experience dealing with the public in my everyday life that it can be very difficult to see the bright side of every situation. The public at large is very fractured and can easily be offended by your actions. In our post COVID world as the public emerges from their cocoons, I've found the public is far less patient and much more demanding. I had hoped that our separation would breed self-reflection and introspection about how we are all part of one almighty family, who are created by one almighty parent to aid, assist and protect each other. But alas that has not been the case.

What are we Sir Knight's to do to help our fellow man? The first step is the constant practice of our Knight virtues. By setting the example, we inspire others to follow in our footsteps. Many of you Sir Knights found an interest in Freemasonry because of the example set by someone you looked up to. Ask yourself, why did you look up to that particular person in your life. I can imagine, like it was with me, that

person set an example of virtue and honesty. You saw a person who was in control of his destiny and was kind person to those around him. He was a person you could look to in times of need. When you discovered that person was a Mason, it was an easy decision on your part to be a Mason yourself. You chose to be a Sir Knight because of that person's example or because you wanted to do more.

Set the example, Sir Knight, and be the example to the next generation. Be kind to your fellow man and be a guiding light of virtue for the world. If we all do our part, the light will shine brightly.

On Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Black Hills Council performed degree work for the first time in two years. I know it is not Templary but it is a sign of York Rite Bodies getting back to work and meeting together to make men better.



Sioux Falls York Rite will begin doing degree work on May 4<sup>th</sup> with the Chapter degrees.

Get our there are do things!

*Your Editor*