

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO  
State News for December, 2022  
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>  
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## **“You seen one earth; you’ve seen them all”**

Lady Diana and I bring you greetings from Eastern Ohio and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Fifty years ago this month, in December of 1972 the crew of Apollo 17 was conducting NASA’s last crewed mission to the moon. Command Module Pilot Ron Evans orbited the moon in the Command Module “America” while Commander Gene Cernan and Harrison “Jack” Schmitt had taken the Lunar Module “Challenger” to the lunar surface.

On Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, 1972, Mission Commander Cernan and Lunar Module Pilot Schmitt were in the initial stages of their first EVA (Moonwalk). Cernan was loading the lunar rover while Schmitt was gathering some surface samples. Schmitt was the only Apollo astronaut who was not a professional pilot. He was a scientist with a PhD in Geology. His friends called him Dr Rock and he was known to be very stoic and taciturn. While loading the rover, Cernan looked up and saw the Earth suspended just above the Taurus Mountains in a black sky.

Cernan was so moved by the sight of the Earth that he called Schmitt. “Hey, Jack, just stop. You owe yourself thirty seconds to look up over the South Massif and look at the Earth.” The response was typical Jack Schmitt. “Aaah! You seen one Earth; you’ve seen them all.” Schmitt was busy with his sample gathering and was unimpressed with the sight. In his defense, Jack had been training for this mission for years and had just traveled a quarter of a million miles to get to the Valley of Taurus-Littrow. He was the only lunar geologist to ever set foot on the moon so his enthusiasm for his work is understandable.

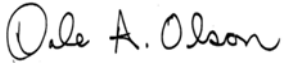
So, what does all this have to do with Christmas? Schmitt was absolutely 100% correct. If you have seen one Earth, you HAVE seen them all. An astrophysicist will tell you that there are billions of galaxies in the universe with millions of Earth-like planets. Earth-like but **NOT** Earth. In the entire universe there is only ONE Earth and Jack Schmitt was right. You seen one Earth; you’ve seen them all. This earth, our Earth, the one that we live on is the one that God has chosen to send his only begotten son to save us from our sins.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.”

I ask you all to celebrate the birth of our savior and rejoice in the knowledge that God chose to send his son to die for our sins and save us from ourselves. As we celebrate Christmas this year, I ask you to remember why we are doing so. We celebrate the gift that God gave to the world to save us from our sins.

Finally, I ask you to remember my theme this year, "Soar Aloft," and dwell forever in the realms of life and light eternal. Without the gift of our savior which God sent to earth on that first Christmas, we would have no such promise of eternal life. Merry Christmas Sir Knights, and may God bless you and your families. Enjoy your Christmas, stay safe and I hope to see you all in the New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale A. Olson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Ohio