

February 904 A.O.

2022 A.D.

North Dakota Knights Templar

From the Desk of Grand Commander

Right Eminent SK Gregory Taylor

Sir Knights,

I keep hearing of this thing called “cancel culture” (noun) so I decided to dive into it a bit and try to relate it to us being Knight Templars.

According to Merriam-Webster, cancel culture appeared in 2016.

#### **Definition of *cancel culture***

: the practice or tendency of engaging in mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure

For those of you who aren't aware, *cancel culture* refers to the mass withdrawal of support from public figures or celebrities who have done things that aren't socially accepted today. This practice of "canceling" or **mass shaming** often occurs on social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook.

— Demetria Slyt

“Cancel culture.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cancel%20culture>. Accessed 30 Jan. 2022.

Cancel culture — the phenomenon of promoting the “canceling” of people, brands and even shows and movies due to what some consider to be offensive or problematic remarks or ideologies — isn't all that new.

Dr. Jill McCorkel, a professor of sociology and criminology at Villanova University, told *The Post* that the roots of cancel culture have been present throughout human history. Societies have punished people for behaving outside of perceived social norms for centuries, she said, and this is just another variation.

“Cancel culture is an extension of or a contemporary evolution of a much bolder set of social processes that we can see in the form of banishment,” she said. “[They] are designed to reinforce the set of norms.”

Is it okay to ban books, movies, opinions, even people? What is next...book burning? Even Dr. Suess and Disney have “been canceled” because they offended someone. Is it okay to “**mass shame**” our Brothers and Sir Knights? Why can’t we respect everyone and handle ourselves in a professional (Knighly) manner? You do not have to agree with someone to do this. I would think that being a Sir Knight would hold us to an even higher standard than that of the general public.

In my career as a public school teacher, I am held to higher moral and ethical standards...I believe that we should be as well. I believe that we MUST improve our behavior as it is crushing our Knight Templar reputation. Let us all strive to carry ourselves in a Knighly fashion going forward. I am reminded of part of the Scottish Rite Knight Commander of the Court of Honour investiture ...demonstrate that you are not an ingrate who has forgotten the cause, nor the men who have honored it.

Annual North Dakota York Rite Sessions will be July 7th-July 10th at the Hilton Garden Inn, Grand Forks, North Dakota. The Commandery session will be held July 9th. Hotel details have been mostly worked out with great rates on rooms and suites negotiated. Meals have also been planned along with many of the details to make this a successful session. Details will be posted on our website [ndyorkrite.org](http://ndyorkrite.org) as we firm everything up. We hope to see you there - mark your calendars now!

Happenings across the state...

- Knight Templar Eye Foundation News - our gun raffle and life memberships have been going VERY well. SK Jesse Stephan is working with SK Steve Renslow to print off the tickets and to personally bring them/visit with each of our Commanderies in the coming months (the drawing for the AR-15, handgun and binoculars will be held at our Commandery Banquet Saturday, July 9th. Tickets are limited to 400 and the proceeds will be used to help North Dakota reach 100% membership! If you would like tickets, please give me a call - they are \$20 or (6) for \$100.
- New Commandery in the works!!! With the help of SK Deputy Grand Master RE Rick Wightman we are working to create a new Commandery in Williston at our annual session in Grand Forks this July (2022).
- News from your Dais Officers - all of your Officers have now committed to traveling to the Call2Conclave in Fort Wayne Indiana in March (along with a number of Past Grand Commanders). Our very own SK Michael Argenziano

who is now also an Officer in South Dakota's Grand Commandery is bringing a number of their Sir Knights to join us in Indiana.

- New Member information - the International Knight Templar website has some great resources for you including this member packet - it is likely great information even to those who have been Sir Knights for a while - check it out! <https://knightstemplar.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/KTNewMemberPacketO3National.pdf>
- Holy Land Pilgrimage - we now have over \$5,000 to fund a pastor to attend! We have begun searching for qualified candidates (see the Grand Encampment website). Please myself or any of our Officers know if you have someone who would be an excellent candidate.

*The Fragrance of the Rose lingers on  
the hand that casts it*

- William Shakespeare

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory Taylor". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Taylor".

SK Gregory Taylor  
Grand Commander  
North Dakota  
701-696-9026