

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for November 2022**

Web Site



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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights:

November is the month of Thanksgiving. It is a time of harvest, and a time when people are thankful they had food stored for the coming winter. As we celebrate this holiday, let us be thankful for our families, our health, and the brotherhood of Templary and Freemasonry. Also, let us remember on November 11th and every day, the true heroes who have defended our great country so we can live in a free and peaceful society.

As we reflect on all that we have been given, let us take the time to come closer to our Creator and give thanks to Him for He sent his Son who paved a path for us to be able to return to Him when our journey and service to Him has been completed on Earth. Though the hardships of this life can be difficult, it is all part of His greater plan of Salvation. It is during these hardships we stop relying on ourselves and place our trust in Him to see us through. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Him in whatever capacity He deems fit for me.

Sir Knights, as we continue through this Templar year, I pray for the blessings and peace of our Lord over your lives.

In His Service,
SK James R. Taylor, Jr.
R:: E:: Grand Commander



Grand Prelate's Message

Dear Sir Knights as Thanksgiving approaches, I have begun to reflect on all that has happened. We have lost many Sir Knights over the past couple of years, many of them my friends. It has been a difficult time for us all. Upon reflecting on what I am thankful for I would have to say I am most thankful for those Sir Knights who I have developed close bonds with. They have enriched my life immeasurably, and with those who have passed, I regret not having told them how thankful I was to have them in my life. Sir Knights this Thanksgiving I want you to tell those Sir Knights who are always there for you and enrich your lives, thank you, thank them for their counsel when needed, a helping hand when yours was not strong enough, and a brotherly ear when you needed to be heard. When times are tough it is difficult to be thankful, sometimes being thankful is a choice, in these turbulent times, chose to be thankful to what God has given us and too those around you who lift you up when you are down. With that I leave you with a prayer.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
May He make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the broad expanse of God's love
and the abundance of His riches in glory,
shape your perspective on your own life and needs,
including those things which disappoint you.

May the eyes of your heart be open
to all the blessings which surround you;
may this awareness produce a harvest of generosity in your spirit.

May thankfulness rise up within you,
not just during this short season,
but day after day,
from the early morning watch until you retire for the night.

May your prayers reflect gratitude,
while also acknowledging the needs of others
whose situations are so drastically different.

May thoughts of Jesus fill your mind,
and hunger for God drive your soul,
and love for Lord guide your speech and your actions.

And finally, may the grace, peace, and love of the triune God,
protect, defend, and empower you
to run with perseverance the race marked out for you.

Amen.

SK Steven Cox
Excellent Grand Prelate



GRAND STANDARD BEARER'S MESSAGE

New Updates in Stem Cell Research

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) is the charity of Cryptic Masonry. Our primary purpose is to fund research into the treatment of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Type 1 Diabetes, Heart disease, breast cancer, and strokes. Not only has our research found viable options for less invasive and long term treatment, but we now understand that these disease processes may also be related to many other ailments.

Having discovered a primary cause of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, which often goes undiagnosed until it becomes a medical emergency, we now understand that it may be as simple as a cellular imbalance within the body. CMMRF has been working on a 'vaccine' to prevent this from occurring. The risk factors for these aneurysms include being a male, over the age of 60, and a smoker. When diagnosed with this type of aneurysm, the current treatment is surgery, but only when it grows to a critical size. CMMRF has funded research that has been testing a simple stem cell transplant, using your own body's cells, to correct the imbalance. Moreover, our funding is also being used to create a Bio-Pencil, which is a 3D hand held printer to inject stem cells around the aneurysm, thus preventing major surgery and improving outcomes!

In regards to Peripheral Artery Disease, we are also injecting stem cells into mice with the intent to regrow blood vessels. Once these procedures prove to be safe, they will begin testing in humans. Research has shown that these stem cells are also migrating to nearby areas, proving that the stem cell transplant is not only working but they are thriving in their new environment. Peripheral Artery Disease is responsible for slowly healing wounds, poor circulation, and can ultimately end in amputation.

For the diabetics, our research is also looking into Type 1 Diabetes. We have a device, called a Buchi Encapsulator, to take insulin-excreting cells and surround them with a material that protects the cell from damage by the body. Research has shown that these camouflaged cells are undetectable within the body, but they can also produce insulin at a rate the body needs. Imagine having to use insulin one day, and never having to use insulin again. This is what our charity is funding.

The research that Cryptic Masons are funding through CMMRF is life changing! Imagine adding new cells to the heart for those suffering with heart damage, treating cancer with a simple injection, or reversing the symptoms of stroke much later than the currently acceptable 3-4 hour window of treatment. Stem cells are allowing this to happen, and our researchers at Indiana University are at the forefront of this experimental field of study. Consider giving to CMMRF, either through CMMRF.ORG or signing up for the CrypticMasons.ORG weekly newsletter and getting up-to-date info on this and many other medical advances.

SK Brian Ragain
Eminent Grand Standard Bearer