

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for October, 2022
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
SK George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC



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Greetings Sir Knights!

Sir Knights, serving this Grand Commandery has been one of the greatest honors of my life and a most humbling experience. There are so many people I need to thank for so many things over the past several years that I could not possibly list them all. I am overwhelmed by the love and support I have received by so many. We have been through a lot together Sir Knights and I am happy to say it has been well worth the trouble. By the blessings and grace of Almighty God along with a great deal of help from so many we have reached this moment in time when words cannot possibly express my feelings while addressing you at the end of this chapter of my life. Let me just say thank you for allowing me to be part of the Templar Experience and serving along with you as we work to improve ourselves in Masonry.

First and foremost, I thank God for all he has done in my life, I thank him for allowing me this incredible undertaking and for the guidance and strength to complete this chapter of my life. May we faithfully serve his will and bring glory to his name in all that we do.

Second only to God, I thank my Lady Pam for all the love and support she has given me and for being by my side in everything I do. I firmly believe it was God's will that she and I be together and without her I would not have done or would not ever do the things I do in my life. She makes me a better man, a better person in general, and frankly a better Mason. Pam, I love you and will love you and cherish you for as long as I live.

Sir Knight Timothy S. Wheeland, Most Worshipful Grand Master, it was such an honor to serve with you this past year. I sincerely enjoyed getting to know you and will always treasure our friendship. Thank you for your support.

Sir Knight Richard J. Brady first approached me to consider serving as an officer for the Grand Commandery of Ohio. He also shared that Perry Coxson and he had been discussing this and both agreed I should consider this next step of service. After much consideration, many prayers for guidance, and much discussion with my wife, I agreed if this path was placed before me, with the guidance of God and my Fraters, I would do my best to serve the Sir Knights of Ohio to the best of my ability. Sir Knights Richard J. Brady and Perry E. Coxson III, thank you for your confidence in me and all of the encouragement and advice you have given me over the years.

Sir Knight Ronald L. Vicars first approached me asking if I would accept an appointment as Grand Standard Bearer should he be elected Grand Commander in the future, and I humbly agreed that I would be honored to serve should this come to pass. Due to the unfortunate passing of Sir Knight Paxton T. Mendelssohn I was appointed to Grand Standard Bearer during the previous term so I had the honor of instead standing election and was elected to be the Grand Junior Warden under Sir Knight Vicars instead. Sir Knight Vicars, Thank you for your confidence and support.

To the Past Grand Commanders of this Grand Commandery, I am proud to say that I have gotten to know each of you along my journey. It will be a great honor to be added to this respectable and honorable group of Past Grand Commanders. I hope my actions as Grand Commander have met with your expectations and that I have not disappointed any of you. I have traveled to visit many other jurisdictions and I will say there is no Grand Commandery like the Grand Commandery of Ohio. Ohio really works hard to maintain the standard and keep the high expectations deserving of this Magnanimous Order. Thank you for leading the way and thank you for the advise and guidance you have provided over the years.

To the elected officers of this Grand Commandery, thank you for your service and friendship. It has been an honor to serve with you. I fully intend to continue to serve and support you into the future. Please feel free to call on me for anything I might be able to do to ensure your success and the future success of this fraternity.

To the appointed officers of this Grand Commandery, thank you for accepting your appointments and serving this past year. As each of you should know, while I consider each of you a friend, you were not chosen for that reason but for your ability and commitment to the work that we do. I know my expectations are high but that is in part due to the vast abilities you each possess. Thank you for your service and for all that you have done and all that you will continue to do.

To S.K. Ronald E. Shaw Eminent Prior, S.K. Rodney L. Carr Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest, and David G. Weimer Most Illustrious Past Grand Master, it has been such an honor traveling with you and supporting you this past year. I also thank you for the overwhelming support you have shown me this past year. It is great to see the heads of all our York Rite Bodies working together. Thank you for your friendship and thank you for all the memories.

To the Ladies of the Social Order of the Beauceant, thank you for all that you do to support the Knights Templar of Ohio. And thank you for your support of me this past year.

Sir Knight S. Jefferson Slattery, thank you for all the reminders for the Knights Templar Magazine articles. I apologize for being slow in getting a few of them to you. I sincerely appreciated the reminders and your patience as well as the efforts of keeping things straight and published to the website.

Sir Knight Alfred T. Johnson, it has been such a pleasure to work with you Sir. I have always been impressed with the work that you do. I am so thankful for having you with me this past year as our Grand Recorder. Thank you for all your dedication and support.

Sir Knight William H. Koon II, I have appreciated our conversations, your advice, and the sharing of the benefits of your experience. Thank you for always having time to talk and for always being willing to provide background and history on so many topics. I truly enjoyed our discussions. Thank you for your support.

To the Sir Knights of Warren Commandery No. 39, the Northeastern Division, and their Ladies, there is nothing I can say that would express how I feel about you. I have learned so much working with you over the years as we support each other and work together on so many goals and objectives. I have and always will enjoy our time together. You will always have a special place in my heart, and I will always be proud to be from the Northeast corner. Thank you for always being there for me.

There is a special group of Sir Knights in Ohio that I simply must mention. This is the group that was not only there at the beginning of an event to make sure all was ready but was also there at the end of an event to help clean up or do the work after many others had called it a night. This group created moments which will always be among my favorite memories of this past year and yes, sorry Sir Knights, there are photos and even a few videos out there. This group has come to be known as the "Survivors" as they seem to endure any challenges that came their way and still survive to the end. I will not mention them by name but would like to just say thank you to all the Survivors out there. We know who they are but I can't tell you; we know how they became Survivors but I can't tell you, we know how they earned a Survivor pin but I can't tell you. Thank you, my friends! Thank you for being a Survivor!

In conclusion, words cannot express my feelings regarding the honor of serving the Sir Knights of Ohio as the Grand Commander of your Grand Commandery. As I write this report, I cannot help but reflect upon the past several years in my journey through the officer line as well as the past twenty years as a Mason leading me to this moment in time. It is with deep emotion that I remember good moments as well as bad, causes for celebration as well as cause for great sorrow, times when I did not know how I possibly arrived at where I was or had no idea where to go from there, but by the grace of God and the support of my Fraters, Friends, and Family I have arrived at this moment when we may celebrate the close of this chapter of my life. I am so humbled by the support I have received and thankful for this great opportunity to serve this Christian Order of Knights Templar for the largest and greatest jurisdiction in the world. Thank you to all who have given of their time, love, and support over the past several years. It has been an honor to represent you throughout this great country and I pledge to you now, while this chapter of my time as your Grand Commander ends, my Masonic journey is never ending, I am not going anywhere and will always be here to support the Sir Knights of this great fraternity.

Sincerely and fraternally,

George Edmiston III, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Ohio