

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

Web Site



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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights:

As we approach the end of summer, it is my prayer that we all continue to enjoy the blessings of the Great Creator. The Grand Masters Festival is September 10th at Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36. I would encourage all Sir Knights to attend the Blue Lodges in their area, talk about why the York Rite is important in continuing the Master Mason's education, and invite them to attend the festival.

Over the past four months we have discussed four of the six distinct characteristics, Integrity, Humility, Flexibility, and Resilience of servant leaders. We continue the discussion with the fifth characteristic of Stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. — 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

God has given many different spiritual gifts to his people. Can you imagine if everyone thought, looked, and acted the same, how dull life would be?

When you hear the word "stewardship," your mind probably goes straight to managing one's finances. In Merriam-Webster's Dictionary one of the definitions is "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." While being a good steward of our money is something God wants us to do, there are many other things we can steward! It is just as necessary to be good stewards of the people God has placed in our lives.

A servant leader appreciates people as valuable to God and stewards their time and talent well. This kind of leader draws attention to what is good and true about the

people they lead, giving them direction and encouragement in how to serve well. A servant leader uses their time and talent to promote God's glory, not theirs. When you have interactions with this kind of person, you will know it. You feel like you are valued by them and God, and that your talents are being leveraged to honor the Great Captain of Our Salvation.

We must be good stewards of the men placed in our care in Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery. Every Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight has a talent; as leaders we should be encouraging him to use that talent for the benefit of Freemasonry and for the greater good.

SK James R. Taylor
Right Eminent Grand Commander



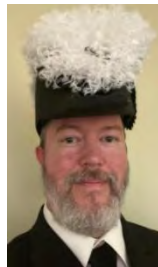
Grand Senior Wardens Message

Holy Land Pilgrimage and Knights of the Holy Land

The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is a program related to the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America. The Holy Land Pilgrimage was started in Detroit, Michigan by Detroit Commandery No.1 and Damascus Commandery No.2 with the assistance and backing of Grand Master Scotty Cameron in 1972. Records from the early years of the program were not very well kept however it is estimated that in excess of 2,600 Ministers have been sent by our Commanderies throughout the United States of America. It is estimated that between 1979 and 2010 that the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma sent approximately 30 Ministers to the Holy Land. (Again records were not kept as well as they could have been and I have been unable to locate all of the proceedings from those years). From 2011 to present records are much more reliable and it would appear that we have sent 11 Ministers during that time period. In the early years of Oklahoma's participation in this program the cost to send our ministers was covered by some very generous Sir Knights from around the State. Then during the Annual Grand Session of Grand Commander Edward Becerra the Grand Commandery authorized the creation of the Knights of the Holy Land Endowment Fund. The goal of this program was to solicit a pool of endowed funds, the earnings of which would be used to support the Holy Land Pilgrimage. Donors may be individuals, organizations, or corporations. The goal was for the earnings to generate sufficient funds to ensure the continuation of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma's participation in this very important program. Donors will contribute no less than \$1000.00 which may be paid \$100.00 per year over a period of ten

years. All donors upon completion of their \$1000.00 donation will receive a beautiful Knights of the Holy Land Jewel. The elements of this jewel include the Malta Cross, the Jerusalem Cross, and a ribbon of Oklahoma blue. The Mission of this program is to send credentialed Ministers on a Biblical study and historic/cultural immersion experience who would not otherwise have the opportunity. Ministers will have an opportunity to have a Baptism Renewal in the Jordan River at Yardenit while they are in Galilee. They will also have the opportunity to take a dip in the salty waters of the Dead Sea. As you can see this is most definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity and one I think all of us would love to be a part of. Sadly in the past several years we have struggled to get our local Commanderies to nominate a pastor from their area. This program has the potential to make a very significant impact in the community served by the pastors chosen and also provides some much needed exposure for the nominating Commandery and our Order. I would therefore encourage every Commandery in Oklahoma to get out in their community and find a deserving minister to nominate. All of the necessary forms etc... can be downloaded from the Grand Encampment website or obtained from the chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee.

SK Mark McFadden
Eminent Grand Jr. Warden



Grand Prelate's Message

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work."

Exodus 20:8-10a

Did you know that the Labor Day holiday originally started in the late 1800's? I can only imagine how excited the people were to take a day off from working. Some may have thought, "What a wonderful and new idea!" Created and implemented as a day of rest by those hard-working blue collar laborers in New York City, this day continues to be one that we as a nation, look forward to every September.

To put it rather loosely, Labor Day has become a man-made American Sabbath day. A yearly day of rest from our labor, to say goodbye to Summer, to go camping, to gather family for a barbecue, and boy howdy, do us Americans look forward to our Labor Day weekend!

If you think about it, God has already created a special day for those of us who labor. As Christians our very own Labor Day doesn't come only once a year, and it

doesn't only come on the first Monday of each September, that special day for us comes every seventh day of the week. If we are smart, we try very hard to honor it. We take that seventh day to stop from our labor and relax a bit. Our bodies weren't created to run full steam ahead each and every day. We were created in His image, and if our God and creator, the great I Am himself rested from His labor on the seventh day, how much more so do we need that rest?!?

Sir Knights, our bodies were made with Sabbath DNA. God placed this spiritual genetic matter within each cell that makes up our miraculous body. So today while you are taking an American Labor Day rest by traveling, painting your house, or doing yard work, remember that God had something even better for His children in mind... a weekly rest, a weekly time-out from our hard work. A time-out from our labor, we all need it.

Remember Sir Knights, God didn't make rest on the Sabbath day a gentle suggestion, He made it a command.

SK Steven Cox
Excellent Grand Prelate



Lawton Commandery Inspection



St. Johns Commandery Inspection