

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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December, 2023

William Leonard, REGC 2023-2024

Greetings from the Grand Commander!

Sir Knight William P. Leonard, Right Eminent Grand Commander

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has written the article for this month's issue. Other issues will be written by the current Grand Commandery Officers..



Sir Knights of Kansas,

As we enter the Holy season of Christmas, I need to catch my breath as I look back on the past six months of Kansas Templary in action. A fantastic and wonderful run as R.:E.: Grand Commander it has been thus far. I am so thankful for the great and meaningful work of the Grand Sir Knight officers and members throughout Kansas. They have been instrumental in moving Kansas Templary forward at a fast pace. Thank you.

The 35th annual Wreath Laying ceremony by Kansas Knight Templars at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Heritage Park on Memorial Day in Junction City, Kansas was beautiful. The ceremony had Sir Knights in full Class-A uniforms and was an awesome sight to behold as they marched two by two to their positions for presenting an arch of steel for the R.:E.: Grand Commander and other dignitaries through which to approach the podium at the Memorial wall. A great lunch was served before the ceremony and

provided quality time for the renewal of friendships and wonderful fellowship.

The 2nd Annual **Templar Feast** in was held in July and was 600 feet down in a working salt mine known as STRATACA, in Hutchison, Kansas. This event is a Class-A Uniform dress evening with ladies and friends. We enjoyed a great banquet meal, and the many toasts with engraved toasting cannons. We had an enlightening speaker, and the Grand Commandery of Kansas was able to recognize several deserving Sir Knights. Over 80 guests, which included the Grand Commander of Missouri and several dignitaries from both Oklahoma and Nebraska. Many took advantage of the tours of the salt mine.

The Kansas Knight Templars were represented by the Grand Commander and other Grand Commandery officers who attended the annual conclaves of the Masonic youth groups of Kansas. Our annual donations to each group were presented to the Jobs Daughters, the Rainbow Girls, and the Order of DeMolay.

The Continuation of the Grand Master's classes for the conferral of the Chapter and Council degrees were held in many locations across the state. The capstone of this year long program was the conferral of the Commandery Orders in Newton, Kansas where 52 candidates were Knighted as new Sir Knights by receiving the Orders of Christian Knighthood.

The South-Central Department Conference in Branson, Missouri was a well-attended and super event. The Sir Knights of Missouri rolled out the red carpet and provided a wonderful meeting.

Our Kansas Knight Templar Color Guard presented the Colors at Belle Plaine high school for their annual Veteran's Day program. On the next morning, the Knight Templars of Kansas participated in the annual Veteran's Parade in Leavenworth, Kansas, the home of Fort Leavenworth. It has indeed been a busy and productive year for Templary in Kansas.

In celebration of the Season: Merry Christmas with blessings from our Lord.

Sir Knight W. P. (Bill) Leonard
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Kansas

The Templar Oath

Be without FEAR in the face of your enemies
Stand BRAVE and upright
that the LORD may love thee
Speak the TRUTH always
PROTECT the helpless and do no wrong

A Toast to our Most Eminent Grand Master

Year of Our Lord 2023 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

Most Eminent Grand Master, greetings in the name of the Christ our Lord

On behalf of the Sir Knights of our Grand Encampment, we raise a Toast in your honor this Christmas as our Grand Master. We join with you Grand Master echoing the words sang by the Angels to Shepherds who "*abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night,*" "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill toward men.*"

Our hearts are filled with hope and anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, our Redeemer Kinsman, the Wonderful Councilor, the Prince of Peace, and the Lamb of God.

Like the Angels we bid to you "*good tidings of great joy*" joining our hearts with yours we celebrate those tidings "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*"

With you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in celebration, rejoicing in all that God has done. We again commend to your prayers all the Sir Knights of our great Order, especially those who are homebound and unable to enjoy Knightly Fellowship due to health. Those who God has summoned home, we remember in our meditations. We pray God's richest blessings upon our great Order, our great charities, you, Grand Master, and all who labor for the cause of Christ.

A Toast to you Grand Master!

In Christ's Service,

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC, Chairman

The Committee on Religious Activities

The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner

The Reverend Paul D. Erickson