

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for May 2023**

Web Site



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GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

As I am sitting here, I am thinking of the year ahead. We came out of Covid last year finding a huge drop in Commanderies being ready to stand inspection in Opening, Receiving and Closing. The Order of the Temple was out of the Question. Opening and Closing are the life blood of Masonry and needs to be done properly at all meetings. The Order of the Temple is the only order required to stand inspection. The Commander cannot receive the Past Commanders Ceremony without doing it. The Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta should be worked also.

Last year the Grand Commander authorized Schools to bring the knowledge of Opening, Receiving and Closing back to the Sir Knights in the Commanderies. The Inspectors came to the Commanderies and taught the work. The OICs were also sent to help their assigned Commanderies practice and help with the Order of the Temple.

This year there will be no Schools. The OICs will visit the Commanderies in the quest to do the Openings, Reception and Closing and The Order of the Temple. We cannot grow if we do not have the ability to do the required work. Masonic Lodges that cannot do the work cannot survive. I am not chastising the Commanderies or Sir Knights for I have seen the difficulties involved in getting Sir Knights to attend, participate or take positions in the line. This is where the work begins. We have to find ways to make our meetings interesting and Sir Knights desire to be present and learn how to take responsibility for a part or office. We need to find those Christian Masons and explain the distinguishing attributes of the Knights Templar. Don't forget the Chapter and Council degrees, especially the Royal Arch. The Knights have to be there first.

The problems do not stop there. The foundation of our Order is Blue Lodge Master Masons. The number of Masons in Oklahoma is in decline. Suspensions and death are the exceeding the making of new Master Masons and the foundations of the Dependent Bodies are crumbling. Churches and Civic Groups are also suffering. Along with convincing Brother Masons of the Christian values of the Order and taking the Christ Jesus into our Masonic Lives we need to work at the Blue Lodge level to find the young men who will carry on the values of Masonry

well into the future. We also need to contact the suspensions and find their reasons for doing so. Tell them we value them and their input, want them back and will work to address problems that sent them on their way.

If each of us would bring in one new member we could double our membership and if they bring in one triple etc. etc. etc. YOU have set yourself on the course of Knowledge and self improvement by furthering yourself in the Orders. I laud your spirit and drive and I pray that we will be able to keep Masonry and therefore Knighthood with the Christ Jesus for those who follow. **I am open to all ideas**, please observe and find ideas that may help us in our quest and pass them on.

Yours in the Christ Jesus,
SK John E. King
REGC Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Oklahoma



GRAND PRELATES DEVOTIONAL

Memorial Day is not just about sales and a three day work weekend. Many traditions have been lost over the years that neglect to remind us of this truly important day of Remembrance. Established in 1868, Memorial Day serves as a day to remember those that died while serving our nation. The official moment of remembrance is at 3:00pm, where all Americans are intended to reflect upon the sacrifices and true purpose of this day. The following inspirational Memorial Day messages are great examples of wartime quotes and moments of reflection from veterans and observers.

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle and patriotism is loyalty to that principle.

Aspire rather to be a hero than merely appear one.

Bravery never goes out of fashion.

Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.

For love of country they accepted death...

Four things support the world: the learning of the wise, the justice of the great, the prayers of the good, and the valor of the brave.

Future years will never know the seething hell and the black infernal background, the countless minor scenes and interiors of the secession war; and it is best they should not. The real war will never get in the books.

Heroes take journeys, confront dragons, and discover the treasure of their true selves.

Heroism is not only in the man, but in the occasion.

In the face of impossible odds, people who love this country can change it.

Isn't death to fall for Freedom's right? He's dead alone who lacks her light.

It is surmounting difficulties that makes heroes.

Nurture your minds with great thoughts, to believe in the heroic makes heroes.

On thy grave the rain shall fall from the eyes of a mighty nation.

Some of the shells brought my heart into my mouth; lying there waiting for them was intolerable. I was sure I was going to be blown to pieces.

The brave die never, though they sleep in dust. Their courage nerves a thousand living men.

The flag still floats unblotted with defeat. But ah the blood that keeps its ripples red, the starry lives that keep its field alight.

The greatest glory of a free born people is to transmit that freedom to their children.

The patriot's blood is the seed of Freedom's tree.

Their silent wounds have speech, more eloquent than men; their tones can deeper reach, than human voice or pen.

There was nothing macho about the war at all. We were a bunch of scared kid who had a job to do.

Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it till the test comes. And those having it in one test never know for sure if they will have it when the next test comes.

We come, not to mourn our dead soldiers but to praise them.

Who kept the faith and fought the fight; The glory theirs, the duty ours.

Your silent tents of green, We deck with fragrant flowers; Yours has the suffering been, The memory shall be ours.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is Lord”

On this Memorial Day, how can you and I “take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion”?

By taking “increased devotion” to the One whose Spirit and word empower us to be a nation worth such sacrifice.

Would you ask God to help you choose and emulate the “righteousness” that “exalts a nation”?

Would you ask his Spirit to help you stand against the “sin” that “is a reproach to any people”?

Would you honor the sacrificial courage we remember today by the sacrificial submission of your life to your Lord on behalf of your nation? (Romans 12:1–2)

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” (Psalm 33:12) Let’s do all we can to help our nation be so “blessed” to the glory of God.

SK STEVEN COX
EG PRELATE



2023 -2024 GRAND OFFICERS

WITH
SK JACK M. HARPER
R.E. GRAND Generalissimo
Installing officer
