

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for May 2024**

Web Site



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GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

As we begin the new Templar year of 2024-2025, I am honored to serve you as the Grand Commander for Oklahoma. The 2024 Grand Sessions weekend has passed, and all our Oklahoma Grand York Rite Bodies have new leaders and officers installed. My congratulations go out to Most Excellent Companion Blaine McKnight and Most Illustrious Companion James R. Taylor, Jr., as they assume the leadership of our Grand Chapter and Grand Council. Together, we will work toward the improvement of York Rite in our Great State.

Our Grand Commandery will be active this year, as in the past, and I invite all of you to stay informed of the many activities and visits to Commanderies this year, by logging on to our website and keeping the calendar in your daily checks. We will do our best to keep you updated on our travels. You are invited to visit other Commanderies when we do inspections or observe the Order of the Temple ceremonies. Joining together at these and the many other events is what makes the journey rich with the lessons of our orders.

Sir Knights, I believe that every Christian Mason wants to be a York Rite Knight Templar. What is holding them back is fear. Fear that they do not know anyone in the order, or fear that the journey to becoming a Knight is so arduous that they cannot commit to it. Fear that they are not deserving of the honor of knighthood. It is our obligation as Brothers and our duty as Knights, to not only be

Soldiers of Christ, but to be Soldiers fighting against those fears that keep good Christian Masons from joining our ranks.

Make a commitment to yourself to speak to our brothers in Lodge about the York Rite. Ask the Worshipful Master if you may present a 3–5-minute talk on our Order. Getting them associated with you as a Knight may decrease some of those fears they face. Visit the DeMolay in your area and you may establish a connection with those young leaders that may someday be a Christian Mason who desires to stand with us in our cause.

Now, for something to help us grow..... Ask yourself, “If the entire world decided to follow me today... where am I leading them?” This is an important question I try to ask myself every day. Whatever the answer is for you, today, let us always remember that one of our duties is to lead them back to themselves so that they may grow spiritually and morally. The lessons of the York Rite do just that, taking them on a journey to discovery. Let us all commit to our faith in our Savior and through consistent remembrance of the sacrifice that gives us the gift of life, forever.

SK Glen Allen Chaney
R.: E.: Grand Commander



GRAND PRELATE’S MESSAGE

Memorial Day – to some it’s merely the beginning of summer and to others it’s a solemn day to remember those who have passed from this life. However, to the war veteran and to the families of fallen soldiers, Memorial Day carries significance so deep that words cannot express their hearts.

When we look into the eyes of those who still mourn these once vibrant men and women, we often sense their loneliness and pain. We hear them choke back tears as they simply say the ranks and names of their military brothers and sisters at a Memorial Day service. White gloves, dress uniforms, rigid posture, and perfectly precision salutes represent the reverence and respect flowing from within. Those

who have been personally affected by war understand and appreciate this day of remembrance.

What should we say to those who sincerely honor this day? "Happy Memorial Day" doesn't seem fitting. "I'm sorry for your loss" may be closer to appropriate. What would the fallen soldier want from their comrades and the rest of the country on this day?

In an often-quoted Memorial Day speech given in 1884 by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., the speaker ended his address with these words, "Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death -- of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope, and will."

The American soldier who gave his or her life for U.S. citizens to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness won't be telling us how to observe the holiday. But I believe that Holmes' proposition to "think of life, not death" would honor the fallen soldier. Their sacrifice follows the example of Jesus Christ laying down His life for our freedom. It's selfless love for others – not so others can mourn forever, but live!

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So, we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

Notice that in scripture and in military service, the willingness to give up one's life is not dependent on the worthiness of the people who benefit from the honorable act. In a perfect world, all who receive freedom and grace would be worthy of such a sacrifice and full of gratitude. But that's not the way it is anywhere on Earth or in Heaven.

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8

We are blessed to be living in a free society. May we honor our American soldiers for the liberty we have in this country. May we also give thanks to Almighty God for the freedom we have to spend eternity with Him because of His gift of forgiveness through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

SK Steven Cox
E.: Grand Prelate



BEN HUR NO.14 AND TRINITY NO. 20 INSPECTION WINNERS



SK MICHAEL TERRY HARDEN PRESENTED WITH THE KNIGHT
TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR



2024 – 2025 OKLAHOMA GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICERS



R.:E.: JOHN E. KING RECEIVING THE KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE TEMPLE FROM HIS DAUGHTER CATHERINE, REPRESENTING HERE MOTHER VICKI.