



# GRAND COMMANDERY OF NEW MEXICO

**State Supplement for November 2024**

[www.nmyorkrite.org](http://www.nmyorkrite.org)

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**James E. Bungard, REGC**

Good Sir Knights of the New Mexico Division!

We are entering November already and I hope everyone is well. This is a busy month with many Masonic events, but there are two other holidays we should pay special attention to. Veterans Day on November 11th is a special occasion to say Thank You to those people in our community that have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. While we honor those who have served, and continue to serve, we also need to support our veterans who need additional assistance to let them know they are not alone. We also need to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Copied from the Arlington National Cemetery website:

“For 100 years, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has served as the heart of Arlington National Cemetery. As a sacred memorial site and the grave of three unknown American service members, the Tomb connects visitors with the legacy of the United States armed forces throughout the nation’s history. It stands as a people’s memorial that inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice and mourning. Since November 11, 1921, the Tomb has provided a final resting place for one of America’s unidentified World War I service members, and Unknowns from later wars were added in 1958 and 1984”

Thanksgiving Day, November 25th. It’s a day for giving thanks for the things we have, eating too much, watching football, and planning those Black Friday shopping adventures, but it should mean much more than that. We should make sure not only to be thankful for physical things we have, but also the spiritual gifts we have received, and continue to receive every day, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are heading into a great holiday season that can also be very trying. Please make sure to take time to celebrate in the moment and enjoy the wonders of the universe that surround us. As you prepare for Thanksgiving take a moment and thank God for His wonderful grace. God pours out His grace upon us in a continuous supply that seems to have no end resulting in a fruitful life. What a blessing! Thank God for giving you a fruitful life full of His grace. A life unencumbered with the deceitful desires and worries of this world not worthy of that grace.

I would like to remind everyone to get the award nominations in. The deadline was October 31, 2024, but if you are still working on them, go ahead and submit them. I would also like to congratulate Raegan Shackelford of Albuquerque for winning the Grand Commandry Scholarship! Good luck with you studies as a nurse at the University of New Mexico. We are pleased to be able to help you along your educational journey.

As Masons we are called upon to look out for our brethren and their families. I call on each of you to join me in remembering and honoring our commitment to each other, not only for the work of the day but also, in celebrating the solemn bond that unites us. Remember how thankful we are to share each other's company and how pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. We need to encourage and support each other. Remember to enjoy seeing old friends and getting better acquainted with new ones. Whisper good counsel into the ear of a less experienced Brother, Companion or Sir Knight and most importantly contribute to a positive experience for all we meet along our journey. I therefore call on all Sir Knights of this valiant and magnanimous order to remember who we are and what we stand for, to remember our obligations and commitments, and to remember to enjoy our time together. I call on you to extend courtesy and hospitality while encouraging others, so all look forward to when we meet again. I call on you to support our Masonic Bodies but even more importantly to support each other and enjoy the Comradery of our fellowship so that others will truly observe how good it is to dwell together in unity and want to take part. I ask you to ask yourself the question "If not me then who"?

Lastly, I would like to address our state contributions to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. We heard an excellent presentation by one of the researchers at the Triennial Conclave in Salt Lake City. A biopsy cannot be performed in the eye without destroying the tissue, leading to uncertainty of what treatment to administer. Our researchers have made significant progress in diagnosing eye cancer in children by taking the uncertainty out of the treatment. Our researchers have learned and developed many strategies and processes which through our KTEF grant assistance. I would urge that all SIX commandries contribute \$10 per member in the coming year. Your money will be well spent! Contact the KTEF Committee Chairman Sky Olsen for more information.

I wish all a happy Thanksgiving this November. Let the holiday be a reminder to us to be thankful and appreciate what we have. Let us also please remember to take some time to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. My Fraters, let Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement and strengthen us. Let us thank God for all the good in our lives and prayer for guidance to help us make good men better.

Carry on good Knights!