



GRAND COMMANDERY OF NEW MEXICO

State Supplement for January 2025

www.nmyorkrite.org

Editor: SK L Roughgarden: lenrough@gmail.com

SK S Olsen: skyolsen@ymail.com

James E. Bungard, REGC

Good Sir Knights of the New Mexico Division!

Happy New Year, Sir Knights! Hopefully we have put all the trials and tribulations of the past year behind us and with the renewal of the Lords Birth, we have begun a turn toward the sun and better times for all. We have some challenges ahead, that is always to be expected, but I am sure that with the support of all, we will be able to deal with all that is brought before us.

A whole new year is upon us and a fresh start for Templary throughout the state. With many Installations occurring last month and a new Officer Corp preparing to start their programs or continue programs started previously, we can look forward to a successful year in the beginning.

I trust all of you had as enjoyable a Christmas as My wife and I did. I love both the festiveness and the spirituality of the season as the old year fades out and the new year, with all of its hope and opportunity, rushes upon the scene.

I started my official visits to Las Cruces Commandry No.11 in November where I was received in ritualistic form proficiently. Las Cruces also conducted a wonderful Christmas Observance complete with a delicious meal, Christmas caroling, a special rendition of "Oh Holy Night by SK Nick Williams with his acapella opera voice which absolutely moved everyone followed by a most inspiring presentation by Rev Nick Kootnz. I completed the rest of my official visits in December starting with Rio Hondo No. 6 in Clovis where I enjoyed a wonderful Christmas observance and had the distinct pleasure of installing their elected officers. My next stop was Baldwin Commandry No. 12 in Gallup for a wonderful Christmas observance complete with music and holiday stories, specifically SK Bob Keene reading the "the Story of Jesus" from the Little Golden Book. Next was Santa Fe Commandry No. 1. Where EC Nate Matheny, hosted a great meal and Christmas observance. I had the privilege of conducting the election of officers for the Santa Fe Commandry and the distinct pleasure of installing them. Thank you again for the pleasure of installing the elected officers. My next stop was, finally, Shiprock Commandry No. 15 in Farmington where we enjoyed a grand Christmas observance with "White Elephant" gifts. The Commandry opened in full form and received the Grand Commander most proficiently. Once again, I was fortunate to install the officers of this Commandry. Even though I was within 20 miles of the State line in all four cardinal directions within a short time, the travel companionship and reception by the various Commandries made the trips very pleasurable. I thank all the Sir Knights in the Grand jurisdiction for their support and attendance.

In accordance with the 55th Annual Voluntary Knight Templar Eye Foundation Awards program, I presented several seals and certificates to New Mexico Commandries. Congratulations to Pilgrim Commandry No. 3 and Shiprock Commandry No.15 for achieving \$10 or more per member and receiving a Seal.

Congratulations to Rio Hondo Commandry No. 6 and Las Cruces Commandry No.11 for achieving \$5-\$9.99 per member and receiving a certificate.

I encourage all Sir Knights to study their ritual. Our opening is a beautiful sight when done correctly with all knights wielding their swords, instead of ritual books. Our Full Form opening, while very few Commanderies are able to perform one, is as impressive a ceremony as most of us will ever see.

The Nine Man Opening is worthy of praise when completed with precision and memory, without the aid of books (or cheat sheets!) Please work on your Rituals, Sir Knights, it is truly awe inspiring when properly performed.

The Grand York Rite Sessions are soon approaching on April 11-13, 2024, at the Shrine Center in Albuquerque. Registration forms should be coming soon.

Finally, as a gentle reminder, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage are just two examples of our philanthropic endeavors. Our assistance to Blue Lodges during education programs, our charitable meals and gifts to the less fortunate during the Christmas season, are two more glowing reasons why we should all be justifiably proud of our fraternity.

I request that we all continue to spread the light and truth of our Savior's Grace whenever and wherever we can.

My best to all of you and your families. May God bless everyone and God Bless the USA.

Carry on good Knights!