

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Gary Mason, REGC 2024-2025

From the Grand Commander

Sir Knight Gary A. Mason, Right Eminent Grand Commander

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles for this supplement, but this month we hear from our Right Eminent Grand Commander!



As the Right Eminent Grand Commander for the Kansas Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, this will be my last article for my term as Grand Commander. It does not seem like a year since I was installed as Grand Commander in May 2024 at the 156th Grand Session held in Manhattan, Kansas.

I would like to thank Sir Knight, Right Eminent Roger Walls, for appointing me to start as the Grand Standard Bearer but after several deaths and unforeseen circumstances I moved up the line quickly.

During the year there were three patriotic events that were well represented by the Grand Commandery. Even though I was only able to make two of them the third was at the same time as one of the other events.

Other events I was able to attend during the term included the Gand Sessions for the three youth groups, the Social Order of the Beauceant Supreme Session in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Triennial meeting of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, our South Central Department Conference, the Prince Hall Grand Master's reception, the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, the Oklahoma Grand York Rite sessions, and our 2nd Annual Easter Sunrise Observance held at Coronado Heights Castle.

I was able to attend several Commandery meetings and had the honor of Installing the 2025 Officers of two of the Commanderies. We had two Commandery Schools of Instruction during the year, and we were able to knight 15 Sir Knights from around the State.

We are having our Grand Commandery Session om May 3rd. and I will be going out as Right Eminent Grand Commander and the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Fred Kemp will be installed as the new Right Eminent Grand Commander for Kansas.

On a final note, I would like to thank all of my Grand Officers, Committee members and especially my Aid-de-Camps for doing a great job for me and for advising me on what to do. I would like to congratulate Very Eminent Sir Knight Fred Kemp on his next adventure in being installed as the Right Eminent Grand Commander for the 2025-2026 term.

Fraternally submitted,

Gary A. Mason

Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Kansas, 2024-2025

15 New Sir Knights in Kansas

On Saturday, March 8, 2025, in Russell, Kansas, the Grand Commandery of Kansas held a one-day class for the Orders of Christian Knighthood. There were 15 candidates in waiting to receive the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Magnanimous Order of the Temple. Sir Knight Tom Krauss, and the Sir Knights from Aleppo Commandery No. 31 in Hays, came together and provided not only an exceptional fresh cooked meal, but organized the items needed for the day.

The Orders were conferred by Sir Knights Justin D. Crippen, Grand Captain General, Patrick C. Carr, Grand Generalissimo, and Sir Knight Gary A. Mason, Right Eminent Grand Commander. There were several other Grand Commandery Officers present. This included Sir Knights Fred R. Kemp, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Gary B. Strout, Grand Senior Warden, Dale Morrow, Grand Standard Bearer,

Robert Beardsley, Grand Warder, Andrew G. Mosley, Grand Sentinel, Kelly J. Long, Grand Musician, Juanito Ernacio, Grand Guard, Robert Haynes, Grand Guard, and Wayne D. Drake, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and Aide-de-Camp to the Grand Commander.



Thank you to all who attended, worked, prepared food, or just helped out. You are what makes our Grand Commandery in Kansas such a success.

2025 Easter Sunrise Service

The Grand Commandery of Kansas will host the 2nd Annual Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20, 2025, at approximately 7:00 AM (sunrise) at Coronado Heights park near Lindsborg, Kansas. The morning will start with the sunrise service which will include music, singing, responsive prayers, and a sermon. There will not be a breakfast served this year, but all Sir Knights are encouraged to visit the many restaurants and coffee shops in Lindsborg, McPherson, and Salina for a bite to eat after the sunrise service has concluded. Sir Knights are requested to wear their Class A uniform without sword or chapeau, or a dark suit. We look forward to seeing you at our Sunrise Service.

