

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for May 2025**



Grand Commander SK Mark K. McFadden REGC

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GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

As we all set out to begin the new Templar year of 2025-2026, I am honored to serve as the Grand Commander for Oklahoma. The 2025 Grand Sessions weekend has passed, and I believe a good time was had by all. Our Oklahoma Grand York Rite Bodies have new leaders and officers installed. I feel quite confident that we have a great group of Sir Knights assembled to serve you in the coming year. As an example of the quality of men we have on this year's line may I point out that four of this year's line, are recipients of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor. I would also like to congratulate our Grand Recorder who was this year's recipient of this prestigious award! Congratulations are also in order to our two newest members of your elected line. SK Steven E. Cox who was elected Grand Senior Warden and SK Ryan R. Frederick who was elected Grand Junior Warden. Welcome aboard Sir Knights.

My congratulations go out to Most Excellent Companion Frank J. Belluardo, Jr. and Most Illustrious Companion Brian M. Ragain, 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.

This was the first year for the Knights Crusader award and it was exciting to see the Sir Knights of Muskogee Commandery as well as Trinity Commandery be the first ever recipients. I believe everyone was impressed with the banners presented to these two Commanderies at the Banquet Friday night. It was also a most impressive sight to see the Dias Officers of these two Commanderies march in after roll call and post their banners in the front of the room. Good Job Sir Knights and I hope to see many other Commanderies work towards receiving this recognition at next year's session.

Your Grand Commandery Officers will be very busy in the coming year and are standing by ready to serve you. Please reach out to your Officer in charge or any Grand Commandery officer if you or your Commandery is in need of assistance.

We have made some changes to Work and Tactics for this year. We will bring a school to you if requested. These schools will be conducted by members of Work and Tactics, your local OIC, and Inspectors for this year. This will alleviate the burden of travel and we hope will increase participation. Many Commanderies have already scheduled schools and or their inspection dates. If your Commandery has not done so please contact the Chairman of Work and Tactics, James R. Taylor, Jr., for more information and dates available.

Sir Knights this year theme is all about Servant Leadership and service to others. In the spirit of this theme I have commissioned a beautiful coin to be sold throughout the year. The cost of this coin is \$25.00 and all net proceeds go to the Knights of the Holy Land Fund.

I have also commissioned a beautiful jewel reminiscent of the conclave jewels that were produced ages ago. The result was a magnificent jewel which anyone should be proud to wear. This jewel sells for \$30.00 and the net proceeds will benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. I will have both items available for sale as we make our visits across this great state and I hope you and your Commandery will support these two projects by purchasing one or more of each.

Our annual Grand Masters Festival is quickly approaching and it is vital that we all get out and visit with the brethren of our local lodges about this opportunity. I am quite confident that every Christian Mason wants to be Knight Templar. Their reasons for not having joined thus far are many. It is our obligation as Brothers and our duty as Knights who have enlisted under the Banner of Him, the Grand Captain of our Salvation, to speak to them, ease any fears they might have, and encourage these Christian Masons to join our ranks.

Again Sir Knights, thank you for the opportunity to serve this year as your Grand Commander. I will do everything in my power to make you proud and serve our Order. Your Grand Officers stand ready to serve you. All you need to do is ask. I would ask that the Dias officers of our Constituent Commanderies make it their mission to serve the Sir Knights of their local Commanderies. And that the Sir Knights of our Constituent Commanderies get out in their community and find ways to serve their fellow man. In our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
SK Mark K McFadden
Right Eminent Grand Commander



GRAND PRELATES MESSAGE

Glory to God most high! Hello Sir Knights, I hope this finds you all well and healthy.

“No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.” – John 3:13

Ascension Day: the day we celebrate when Jesus ascended with transcended majesty into heaven. In Acts 1, the disciples ask Jesus if it is time to restore the kingdom of Israel. Jesus replied,

“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in his own power” – Acts 1:7

I find comfort in what Jesus said here. We sometimes worry about the future, or we dwell on things outside our control. It is good to plan ahead or think of the future. That doesn't mean we should obsess about it. We may not be in control of things that will be and when they will be. These things were never in our authority to begin with. So, trust in the Lord our god and walk with the confidence that his Will be done.

Your brother in Christ,
SK Micah Foreman
Excellent Grand Prelate