

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

Send submissions to Editor SK Patrick C. Carr, VEDGC — carrs@cox.net



June, 2025

Frederick (Fred) R. Kemp, REGC 2025-2026

From the Deputy Grand Commander

Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Thank you to each of the Sir Knights of Kansas who elected me to serve as the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Kansas. I realize the importance of the position you have elevated me to, and I understand the expectations from our Sir Knights in Kansas as we grow and continually learn more about Templary.

Being a Christian Mason has many good points. We know who we are, what we believe, and where we will be spending our eternal lives. These are all wonderful things made possible by the redemptive blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who provided us a plan of salvation.

As Masons, we are taught how to act, meet, and part. As Christian Masons, I would like us to dwell, even if only for just a short time, on those same concepts we so often hear within our Blue Lodges. These concepts are not foreign to us, yet we sometimes seem to set them aside.

How should we act? My first thought is to act with kindness to one another, and to the greater world at large. If we are to be the representatives of Christian Masonry to the world, the world will constantly judge us by how we act. None of us are perfect. I surely realize I am not, and sometimes my attitude may not display the love of Christ I have in my heart at that moment. This is something I work on daily, and it is a constant battle, but I try to measure my actions towards others to show the Christian Love I have received through Christ.

How should we meet? Sir Knights, this is another important part of our fraternity. We should always meet upon the level. We know this and are taught this constantly throughout our rituals. So, when we are together, we must strive to treat each other the same. Everyone is special, and needed, in the Order of Christian Knighthood, from the youngest Sir Knight within our Commandery to the Past Eminent Commanders, they are all special, and needed, if we are to continue to grow and treat others with love.

How should we part? Always on the square, but also with dignity and blessings to each other. Praying for our Sir Knights, and Brothers, not just when they are in distress, but when we leave them, is important.

Thank you for all you do for Masonry. Be continually blessed as you walk with Christ each day.

Patrick C. Carr

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Kansas, 2025-2026

2025 Knight Templar Education Scholarships

Sir Knight Gary A. Mason, Junior Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knight Templar of Kansas, represented the Right Eminent Grand Commander shortly after the Grand Convocation was completed in Manhattan. Sir Knight Mason presented several Knights Templar Education Scholarships to worthy and well qualified High School Seniors at Belle Plaine, Kansas in USD 357.

Those receiving scholarships were June Dreiling, Brooklyn Heckathorn and Tannon Bernd. Congratulations to the three 2025 recipients of the Knights Templar Education Scholarships!



Passing of R.E.: Sir Knight James Harold Nolte



Right Eminent Sir Knight James Harold Nolte, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Kansas for the year 1998, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. Right Eminent Sir Knight Nolte was born on May 19, 1927, and was 97 years of age at his passing. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 59 years, Fern, who preceded passed on March 13, 2007. Right Eminent Sir Knight Nolte is survived by three sons, one brother, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Nolte served the Grand Commandery of Kansas with wisdom and leadership during his term of office. Right Eminent Sir Knight Nolte was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on April 9, 1953, and was a Mason for 72 years. During his masonic career, he received the Knight York Cross of Honor with one Grand Quadrant and the Scottish Rite 33rd degree. He was a member of Great Bend Lodge No. 15, the Elks, the Boy Scouts, and the American Legion.

Right Eminent Sir Knight Nolte was interred on Friday, April 25, 2025, in Hudson, Kansas, at Trinity Cemetery, where he received both military and Masonic honors.

To honor our dearly departed Past Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Frederick R. Kemp, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas, has ordered the Sir Knights of Kansas to place the black ribbon of mourning on the hilt of their swords until the next Convocation of the Grand Commandery of Kansas in March, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas.