

# Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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January, 2026

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

## From the Grand Commander

Sir Knight Frederick R. Kemp, Right Eminent Grand Commander

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



As we approach the year 2026 we have a lot of exciting things to prepare for. My officers will need to finish making all their inspections and get ready for the two practices for the Grand Commandery opening at the Grand York Rite session. These practices will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2026, and on Sunday, April 26, 2026 at Emporia Lodge.

The Louisiana Grand York Rite Session will occur on February 28, 2026 in Alexandria, Louisiana. Oklahoma will have their Grand York Rite Session on April 23-25, 2026 in Oklahoma City. These sessions are a lot of fun to attend.

The Annual Communication for the Grand Lodge of Kansas will be held on March 20-21, 2026 in Manhattan, Kansas. Most likely we will be asked to perform the Arch of Steel as we have done for several year. So, we need Sir Knights to volunteer to be part of that line. The uniform of the day will be Class A uniforms with Chapeaus.

Our 2026 Grand York Rite Session will be from Thursday, April 30, 2026 through May 2, 2026 in Manhattan, Kansas at the Blumont Hotel. On Thursday we will have the meeting of Ashmole Court #17, Masonic Order of Athelstan, the Necrology Service, and several other side orders. On Friday there will be 160<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. On the same afternoon the 159<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will be held. On Saturday May 2, 2026, the 158<sup>th</sup> Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will be held and installation will follow the Grand Commandery meeting.

I hope to see y'all there. Happy New Year and enjoy the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States. I hope everyone stays safe!

Thank you, and God bless.

*Fred Kemp*

## 2025 Christmas Observances in Kansas



Many of the Commanderies in Kansas hold an annual Christmas Observance for both their members and the public. This year was no different. Askelon Commandery No. 6 in McPherson, Kansas held their annual joint installation of officers as usual. After the business was completed the newly installed Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Mark Mock,



led the annual Christmas observance for the Sir Knights and their families who attended. Sir Knight Patrick Carr, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, brought the Christmas message for the service and led the singing of the traditional Christmas carols.

Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 12 of Wichita, Kansas held their annual Christmas Observance on Friday, December 19, 2025, after the installation of their Commandery officers. It was a beautiful ceremony which was organized by Sir Knight Justin D. Crippen, Grand Generalissimo and Commandery Secretary.

Other Commanderies in Kansas held their own unique services as well. These

are wonderful times to celebrate the virgin birth of the baby Jesus, the Savior of the World, who came to provide a way of salvation for all mankind.



## Grand Commander's January Schedule

For our new year, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas, Sir Knight Fred R. Kemp, will continue to make his Official Visits to the various Commanderies in Kansas. As our Grand Commander is active in many of the honorary and invitational York Rite bodies, he will be attending those meetings during the month of January. January is the month where each of the new presiding officers of masonic bodies in Kansas are busy with implementing and kicking off of the new year of meetings and services which have been previously been planned.

While our Grand Commander does not have any scheduled Official Visits during the month of January, do not be surprised if he pays your Commandery a visit during the month. He may appear unannounced to visit with you and the other Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of the State of Kansas.