

****Grand Commandery of New Mexico – February 2026****



E. Hans Schmidt, REGC

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Grand Commander's February 2026 Insert

Sir Knights,

As February settles upon us, we remain in the dark days of winter—both in season and in spirit. Across our nation, division continues to deepen. Neighbors speak past one another, communities fracture, and the warmth of unity feels distant. These are challenging days for our country, and it is easy to believe that winter may linger longer than we wish.

Yet as Christians and as Templars, we know a deeper truth: winter is never the final word. Beneath the frozen ground, life waits. Beneath the long nights, dawn gathers strength. And even in times of discord, hope continues to rise.

Scripture reminds us, “*The light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*” (John 1:5). Darkness has never defeated the light—not in the world, not in the Church, and not in the hearts of those who follow Christ.

We may not heal the nation in a single stroke. But we can bring light to the places where God has planted us. In our Commanderies, in our churches, in our families, and in our communities, we can be instruments of peace, charity, and reconciliation. Small acts of kindness, steadfast faith, and the courage to listen and serve—these are the lamps that push back the shadows.

**Let us remember that hope does not wait for spring. Hope is something we carry.
Hope is something we choose. Hope is something we share.**

**As we continue through this winter season, may each Sir Knight of New Mexico be a
beacon of Christ's love and a reminder that unity begins with us. May God grant us the
strength to shine His light boldly, even when the world feels cold.**

In Faith, Unity, and Service,

E. Hans Schmidt

Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico