

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska

June 2026

Daniel J. Marr, Grand Commander

Nebraska Supplement

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Message from the Grand Commander: Encouraging the Knights Among Us

Dear Sir Knights,

Last month, I shared the first major goal for this year within the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska: **“Celebrate and Encourage All Active Knights.”** I would like to continue that discussion this month by focusing on something simple, but incredibly important — our everyday interactions with one another.

As Knights Templar, many of us are deeply passionate about our ritual work. We take pride in our floor work, our signs, our ceremonies, and the traditions that make our Order unique. That passion is a good thing. It reflects our dedication to preserving the dignity and excellence of Templary.

However, we must also remember that much of what we do is unfamiliar to newer Sir Knights. The ritual and customs of the Commandery are often very different from the work they have experienced in other Masonic bodies. Learning the work takes time, patience, and confidence. Sometimes, without intending to, our zeal for doing the work correctly can cause us to come across as impatient, overly critical, or discouraging when a newer Sir Knight struggles or makes mistakes. Most of the time, this does not come from unkind intentions. It comes from caring deeply about the Order and wanting the work done properly. But regardless of intention, sharp comments, visible frustration, or constant criticism can discourage good men who are sincerely trying to learn and improve.

Part of celebrating and encouraging active Knights means remembering that mentorship is just as important as ritual excellence.

Correct mistakes with patience. Encourage effort. Acknowledge improvement, even when the work is not yet perfect. A newer Sir Knight who feels supported and appreciated is far more

likely to continue learning, participating, and eventually becoming a skilled ritualist and future leader of the Order.

Take the time to mentor others. Sit beside them during meetings. Help them quietly and respectfully when needed. Offer encouragement before criticism. Watch for progress and make it a point to recognize it.

Just as importantly, remember the value of simple fellowship. Thank your fellow Sir Knights for attending. Shake hands with the brother you have not seen in several months. Take a few moments before or after meetings to speak with newer members and make them feel welcome. These small moments often have a greater impact than we realize.

The future of our Order will not be secured by ritual skill alone, but by the way we treat one another while teaching that skill. The more we exhibit the ideals of Masonry and Templary in our daily interactions, the more likely we are to transform new members into passionate and loyal Sir Knights who will someday become the mentors and leaders of the future.

Let us continue striving not only for excellence in our ritual work, but also for excellence in our kindness, patience, and brotherly encouragement.

Yours in Service and Brotherhood,

[Daniel J. Marr](#)

Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska