

Wisconsin Forward

Grand Commandery of Wisconsin

gkctwis.org



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From the desk of the Grand Prelate



Ken's thoughts as he "retires" as Grand Prelate

It has been a heck-of-a ride and adventure. Having been elected, and most recently appointed, as Grand Prelate has been a humbling experience for me. I sincerely believe that there was a reason for these actions-God thought I had something to share with all the Sir Knights.

I have written many Christmas articles, Easter articles, Ascension Day articles and many a divine or vesper service. Throughout the times of writing, I have been able to absorb and validate my beliefs regarding the Lord God and his Son, Jesus. It has truly been a growth experience for me.

I will miss those opportunities as I "retire" from that position, but I will always have those memories and copies of those experiences with me. It is a bittersweet time. As you know my wife of almost 55 years passed away on Easter Sunday and that void will not be able to be filled but I continue to live and cherish her memory. Life, after death, goes on and I can celebrate her beauty and grace. She is with the Lord in that house not made with hands-eternal in the heavens and as a Knight Templar I know that we will be re-connected again.

I wish to thank all the Sir Knights, no matter their rank or title. It has been a real pleasure for me to serve as Grand Prelate. I have enjoyed all the opportunities to share my faith in the Lord and will continue to do so. My active role is coming to an end, but I will wander among you at Inspection time and whenever called upon in the future. We have a very strong Grand Commandery filled with officers who care about us and who are willing to give of themselves time, and time again. I leave this position knowing that we will continue to grow and hone this organization into a finely tuned Grand Commandery.

Again, thank you for these opportunities. May the peace of the Lord be with you all. I'll see you the next time we meet, but not before.

s in the Holy Trinity,

Ken Bales, Grand Prelate, KTCH, KCT



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The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Of the State of Wisconsin

Jeffery L. Lancelle
Grand Commander

Final Article of my Grand Commandery Year

Looking back on my Masonic Career, I must give credit where credit is due. My son, Jacob Lancelle is most responsible for introducing me to this thing of ours, Freemasonry. He had attended Washington Lodge and received his three degrees by early 2006. He convinced me that the Lodge Lifestyle mimicked the military of which I was recently retired. My military experience gave me a sense of commitment and belonging. Belonging to something greater than myself. Spring 2006 I was Raised to Master Mason during the last Man to Mason Festival in Madison, WI. That was the start of my journey that has culminated to today.

As I ponder the road I have traveled, it has never been alone. I've always had mentors, brothers and friends traveling along that road alongside me. They say that you can travel the path with someone, but never for them. Each of us experiences the road differently and learns different lessons along the way. I have had the ups and downs of that rough road of life. Some tragic and sad, but mostly joyful and exciting. Those who have been by my side will hopefully regard my presence as beneficial as I do theirs.

My year as Grand Commander began as I thought it would. The proverbial drinking from a firehose. At first, I was inundated with the administrative aspect of being in charge and responsible for "EVERYTHING", or so I thought. The task at the time seemed never ending. But with the help of SK Michael Clinnin, the Eminent Grand Recorder, who guided me through the landmines of command, I made it. Without his guidance and help, I would not have navigated the rocky shoals of being the Grand Commander.

As I finish my final article, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has had a hand in both my Masonic journey and Chivalric year. There are far too many people for me to thank here and far too many to blame as well. My reign of terror has come to an end, and I feel like I will pass the mantle of command to the next Grand Commander better prepared for success in the future.

Jeff Lancelle, GC



Jeffrey Cavatola
Grand Commander
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