



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oregon



State News for May, 2022

Website <http://www.yorkriteor.org/gckt/>



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Greetings, Sir Knights!

It is my pleasure to address you for this first time as your Grand Commander. Thank you for placing your faith and confidence in me. I look forward to working with you and to meeting each of you on my official visits.

I also want to thank those knights who have agreed to assume the various offices of our Grand Commandery. I will need your support to make this a successful year.

Last month I visited our fraters in Idaho and this month I am heading to Washington. I always feel welcome everywhere I visit. What a wonderful fraternity we have.

As Masonic Knights Templar, we imitate the principles of our Medieval brethren. In the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, we are impressed with almighty force and the importance of truth. In the Order of Malta, we are reminded of the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ Emanuel, and given a brief history of the Knights Hospitaller. And in the Order of the Temple, we partake of a pilgrim's journey and are put in mind of the final moments of our Savior on earth.

You've all heard the tale. In 1118, a group of Catholic monks, led by Hughes de Payens, chose to don armor and pick up the sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian religion. They guarded the roads leading to Jerusalem and set up their headquarters on what was believed to be the mount of the Temple of Solomon. Each member swore to forego earthly riches and donate their wealth to the coffers of the Order. Thus, they were known as the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, or the Knights Templar for short.

Sir Knights, we are part of a long and honored tradition. We live in a different world than the one our pilgrim brothers lived. Modern technology has made our world smaller and more connected. Ideas travel quickly.

Nevertheless, the ideals of manly chivalry, courage, constancy, patience and perseverance, these are the timeless values which we must preserve in ourselves and share with those willing to enlist with us.

Thursday, May 26, 2022 marks Ascension Day, the day when we celebrate the final triumphant ascension of our Savior into heaven 39 days after the crucifixion.

On Sunday, May 22, we will celebrate Ascension Day by attending a Sunday worship service in 'Class A' Templar uniform, without swords, wearing white gloves, and carrying our chapeaus. I will do this at Carpenter's House Church in Union, Oregon, together with those who will accompany me. I ask that all knights in Oregon do the same at some local Church. Please contact the pastor of the church and make sure they are aware and are welcoming of your visit.

God bless you all and may He watch over this Jurisdiction as we continue our labors in His name.

Courteously submitted,
Ryan T. Winters,
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Oregon, K.T.

