



Grand Commandery Knights Templar South Dakota



October 2022 News
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**Ervin "Red" Alspaw
Grand Commander**

TO ALL SIR KNIGHTS WHEREVER YOU MAY BE,

THIS MORNING I PUT MY FEET ON THE FLOOR, GOT MY NOSE UP HIGHER THAN MY KNEES,
WAS ABLE TO DO A LITTLE JIGGY-JIGGY... IT IS A WONDERFUL DAY.

AS I OPENED THE GREAT LIGHT IN MASONRY THIS DAY, I WAS AWAKENED BY THE WORDS
OF GENESIS ONE THRU THREE.

*"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH
AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM AND VOID, AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE
FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS.
AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT AND THERE WAS LIGHT."*

THOSE WERE THE WORDS SPOKEN AT THE FIRST THREE OBLIGATIONS WE TOOK WHILE
BECOMING A BROTHER IN THE MASONIC FRATERNITY. THOSE WERE THE WORDS THAT
BROUGHT FURTHER LIGHT AS WE PROGRESSED.

WE AS SIR KNIGHTS, HAVE BEEN SEEKING THAT FURTHER LIGHT AND SHOULD STILL BE
SEARCHING FOR MORE AND MORE BRIGHTNESS AS WE ENDEAVOR TO BECOME BETTER
WITHIN OURSELVES. WITH EACH OTHERS HELP ALONG THE WAY, I AM SURE THAT WE

CAN FIND NEW AND LASTING LIGHT AMONG US. WITH YOUR HELP AND GUIDANCE, WE TOGETHER, CAN HELP ONE ANOTHER SHINE BRIGHTLY.

HOPE ALL IS WELL IN YOUR LIVES AND HOMES. BE GOOD TO THOSE AROUND AND TO YOURSELVES AS WELL.

Right Eminent Ervin "Red" Alspaw

GRAND COMMANDER KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA

In September, The Grand Commandery met for its' annual meeting. Among other things new officers were elected and appointed. This is your new officers for the 2022-2023 year:



South Dakota Grand Commandery

Front row: Grand Recorder George Bauder, Grand Senior Warden Tony Larsen, Deputy Grand Commander Bruce Crisman, Grand Commander Ervin "Red" Alspaw, Grand Generalissimo Gary Waack, Grand Junior Warden Robert Carrico, Grand Prelate Matt Schatz, Grand Treasurer John Laughlin; Back row: Grand First Guard Paul Rapp, Grand Third Guard Michael Argenziano, Grand Second Guard Dan Conklin, Grand Warder Chad Gruis.

In addition to installation of new officers, several awards were given:

REGC Red Alspaw was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment.

You may wonder what this award is... It is the second-highest award by the Grand Encampment. This award was originated in 1994 when Most Eminent Grand Master William Thornley wished to honor those Sir Knights who have given continued service to the Templar Order, Freemasonry, their community, and to mankind.



The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the Knights Templar Cross of Honor (KTCH) to Sir Knights who have demonstrated meritorious service to Templary. The Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

This year Grand Commander Roger Hansen awarded the KTCH to, **Sir Knight Ron Knott**



The Grand Commandery of South Dakota wished to honor those individuals that have served the Order but are not members. The Grand Commandery created the “Grand Yorkie of South Dakota” to honor such individuals. There are many deserving people, but the first recipient of this new award was given to the most deserving, **Lady Lonnie Hansen**, for her continued support of activities of Grand Commandery.



Grand Commander Roger Hansen presented **Sir Knight Paul Rapp**, with a “Certificate of Appreciation” for his assistance to the Grand Commander throughout the year.

