

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

Send submissions to Editor SK Patrick C. Carr, VEDGC — carrs@cox.net



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Frederick (Fred) R. Kemp, REGC 2025-2026

From the Grand Senior Warden

Sir Knight Delmus "Dale" Morrow, Eminent Grand Senior Warden

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



This author is very proud to be a Mason, a York Rite Mason and yes, a member of the Order of the Knights Templar of Kansas. I wear that pride in many different ways. I wear a ring at work every day. I have a Shrine Fez on top of the book case behind my work desk on prominent display. I have a Masonic license plate on both my vehicles. We have Masonic Emblems, from the square and compasses, to the cross of the Knights Templar, on our cars and on our trucks. We wear the square and compasses on our lapels, on our heads and on our rings. We do everything we can to let all who see know we are associated with the Masonic Fraternity. That we are Masons. That we are York Rite Masons. That we are Knights Templar and defenders of the Christian faith.

On social media, and I am primarily active on Facebook, I have 1,270 plus friends on that platform. Many of these friends are members of the fraternity, however, many are not. I must be aware that every post that I make will not only be seen by all of my friends, but will likely be seen by a large percentage of the friends of my friends. I was stunned early on, when one of my posts had been viewed by nearly 20,000 people.

In displaying our pride in our fraternity, the world becomes aware of our association. In some circles, you or I may be the only Freemason a profane has ever encountered or has ever had interaction with. With some, we may be the only Freemason a person will ever know. In my professional life, I come in contact and interact with dozens of people a day. The vast majority, profane. Every day I must come to the realization that how I interact with every person I meet, every person I speak to, every act that I commit, good or bad will likely be viewed by someone. Someone who just formed an opinion of Freemasonry by how I carry myself. The person on the highway, I cut in front of in traffic while trying to get to work in the morning. The Masonic license plate prominently displayed and Masonic emblems lit up on my taillights. The snap reaction to an annoying question from someone at work, yes the one you have answered for the fifteenth time today, which to you is so obvious. The social media post in retaliation to another post that has you so triggered at someone else's stupid political views.

Sir Knights, I have had to come to the realization that like the swords we wear at our sides, there are two edges to this blade. As we make ourselves known, we wear the brand, we also carry the responsibility of being true ambassadors of the fraternity in how we carry ourselves and how we interact with people every day. We must be cognizant of every action. The general public has heard many things about the fraternity. Some are far from the truth. May we apply the many lessons we learn in Freemasonry not only in our interactions with other Masons, but with the world at large. May we display the integrity, truth, and love for our fellow man, which masonry teaches, in our own daily interactions with mankind, and in so doing, fulfill the charge we are given in the third degree, "to preserve the reputation of the Fraternity unsullied, must be your constant care." Remember each of us is the visible manifestation of the fraternity on display for the world to see.

Grand Encampment Online Education Offerings

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA, offers several wonderful education programs which you, as a Knight Templar, can register and participate in. The Grand Encampment's Education website (<https://templared.org>) has a place to create an education account and login credentials. Once registered on the site, there are three courses available to participate in.



The first is the Knight Templar Ritualist Course. The Temple Ritualist consists of three modules designed to test your knowledge of the Orders. The modules include the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. These courses will not only test your knowledge of our Templar rituals, but assist you in becoming more effective in knowing where certain things can be found within the rituals and knowing where they are intended to be utilized and repeated. The

only additional study material needed is your Knight Templar Ritual book. The Grand Encampment send each successful recipient a beautifully made patent and pin.

The second course is the History of the Medieval Knights Templar Course. This course takes you through an expansive history of the Order and its purpose, actions, and downfall after the crusades ended. It requires the purchase of the book, *The New Knighthood: A History of the Order of the Temple*, by Malcolm Barber, which is available for purchase on Amazon for \$15.95. Like the Ritualist Course, the Grand Encampment sends a patent and pin upon successful completion of the course.



The third course, which is one of the most expansive courses offered through the TemplarEd site, is the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program. There are currently five Sir Knights in Kansas who have completed the course, and been commissioned in a public ceremony. The course is divided into twelve units, each of which focuses on a certain aspect of chaplaincy for the masonic fraternity. This is a self-paced course that requires reading, viewing of videos, answering short quizzes, and uploading assignments. The course was

written by Sir Knight Rob Elsner, Associate Grand Prelate, and requires the use of a Bible, and the purchase of the book, *On Being a Masonic Chaplain*, by SK Robert J.F. Elsner. Upon successful completion of the coursework, a beautiful certificate and breast jewel will be provided, and the Grand Commandery will schedule a commissioning ceremony to complete the program.

Grand Commander's September Schedule

The Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas, Sir Knight Fred R. Kemp, has been busy making his official visits and other Masonic duties and travel. The Grand Commander's tentative schedule for September, 2025 can be found below.

Montjoie Commandery No. 29	September 9, 2025	Pittsburg, Kansas
Winfield Commandery No. 15	September 11, 2025	Winfield, Kansas
South Central Department Conference	September 18-21, 2025	League City, Texas
Askelon Commandery No. 6	September 22, 2025	McPherson, Kansas
The Guild/Oak Tree Meeting	September 27, 2025	McPherson/Little River, Kansas