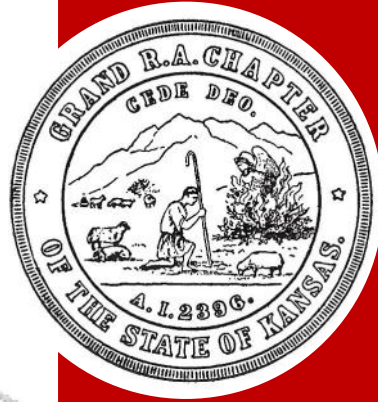


# News of the Ark

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



## From the Grand Master of the 1st Veil

Excellent Companion Wayne Drake, Grand Master of the 1st Veil

*The Most Excellent Grand High Priest has asked the current Grand Chapter Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.*



Greetings Companions,

December is here with all the faith, happiness, and hope the Christmas season can bring. Let us first, reflect back a little on November. Several Masonic events were held during this month which was highlighted by our first official Red Cross Ingathering on November 1<sup>st</sup> and was hugely successful. November brought exciting sights; such as the Beaver Moon that was seen brightly in the early night sky, showcasing the Fall season with the changing of leaves and the kick off of darker evenings due to the change of Daylight Savings Time. Our country once again experienced and celebrated our Veterans who

served bravely to maintain our freedoms. A salute and special thanks to the Sir Knights who marched in the Veterans Day parade in Leavenworth. Remember, the poppies seen on coat lapels, hat bands and twined around anything to display the ultimate sacrifice given. We also were astonished by the appearance of the Northern Lights and the colors displayed for those individuals fortunate enough to view them. You witness and enjoy the things November brings and you have to believe God is looking down on us. We share that belief on Thanksgiving when we can hopefully be with family, friends, and brothers.

December slows down a little for Masonic events. It is filled with Annual communications, election of Officers and installations. Some Lodges have a Table Lodge to celebrate the Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist as well as other events held to celebrate the season. December marks the start of Winter and people as a general rule become more friendly, peaceful and patient because of the Christmas Holiday. It is a wonderful time of the year. The crisp cool air, a chance of freshly fallen snow, and the twinkling of Christmas lights. I often wish the spirit that fills the hearts of people would continue throughout the year, but it is quickly forgotten as our lives return to normal. I hope everyone gets a chance to get out with their family, drive around and look at Christmas lights. It is my Christmas wish that everyone gets a chance to enjoy family and friends this season. It's been a difficult year world news wise and we need a little Christmas joy. As Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights, let's make this a time when all can come together in a message of unity and much sought after peace for our world. May we continue to strive for our organization to be unified and present for whatever needs a fellow Mason may ask of us. Our Faith, our country, and our family will continue to give us strength and guidance to face new challenges and beautiful opportunities. May we all experience a well lived life. I wish a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to everyone.

God Bless,

*Wayne Drake*

December, 2025

Patrick C. Carr,

Most Excellent  
Grand High Priest

2025-2026



# *A Holiday Message from the Grand King*

As we enter the holiday season, I am reminded of the countless blessings that surround us, often overlooked amid the pace and pressures of daily life. Among the greatest of these is the privilege of being part of this ancient and honorable fraternity. At a time when the world so often feels divided, our Chapters remain places where friendship, brotherly love, and mutual support are not only encouraged but lived out in meaningful ways. For this, I am deeply thankful.

This season invites us to reflect on what we have been given and how we can complete the cycle by giving back. Each of us was first prepared to be a Mason in our heart, and it is within that sacred inner chamber that gratitude takes root. I encourage each of you to pause and consider the blessings that Masonry has brought into your life, the friendships forged, the lessons learned, the opportunities to serve, and the quiet moments of reflection when light pierced the veil of uncertainty. These are gifts, and we honor them best by living as examples of the virtues we profess.

As Royal Arch Masons, our gratitude carries a particular depth, for we labor within the very heart of the Masonic story. The Royal Arch is far more than an additional degree; it is the completion of the Master Mason's journey. In its sublime teachings, we find the restoration of that which was lost, the culmination of the quest for further light, and the reaffirmation that perseverance, faith, and brotherly unity lead us toward greater truth. The Arch we symbolically help to raise is not built of stone alone; it is constructed from the character of each Companion who labors beside us.

This understanding should deepen our appreciation for the path we have been allowed to walk. To be a Royal Arch Mason is to stand among those who seek not only knowledge, but understanding; not only fellowship, but genuine brotherhood; not only ritual, but transformation. What a tremendous blessing it is to belong to such a body.

As you gather with family and friends during this season, may we carry with us a renewed sense of thankfulness for our Chapters, for our Companions, and for this sacred fraternity.

Gary B. Strout

R.:E.: Grand King, 2025-2026

---

## *December Grand High Priest's Schedule*

December will be a bit less busy for our Grand High Priest as he continues to travel:

|                                     |                   |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Masonic Education at Union Lodge    | December 4, 2025  | Junction City, Kansas |
| Installation of Salina YR Officers  | December 8, 2025  | McPherson, Kansas     |
| Installation of Commandery Officers | December 19, 2025 | Newton, Kansas        |