

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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

From the Grand Captain General

Sir Knight Gary B. Strout, CTC, Eminent Grand Captain General

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



I hope this communication finds you well. In this age defined by digital distractions, shifting values, and a relentless pace, one might wonder what relevance do the chivalric virtues of the medieval Knights Templar hold for us today? As Sir Knights in the 21st century, we may no longer wield swords in physical battle, but we are nonetheless engaged in spiritual warfare, moral struggles, and the defense of truth and righteousness in a world that often seems indifferent to such ideals.

The virtues that guided the ancient Templars are not relics of a bygone era; they still guide us toward lives of integrity, service, and devotion. The following examples of knightly virtues can serve us in this modern age:

- 1. Faith:** The cornerstone of our Order is an unwavering faith in God, in His divine plan, and in our sacred obligations. In a world increasingly skeptical of spiritual truth, our steadfast faith bears witness to something greater than ourselves. We must be men of prayer and men of action, anchored by our faith in the Sovereign Grand Master of the Universe.
- 2. Courage:** Though we no longer ride into physical battle clad in armor, we still must demonstrate moral courage and the bravery to stand for what is right, even when unpopular. Whether confronting injustice, defending the weak, or upholding Masonic values in our communities, a true Sir Knight does not shrink from truth.
- 3. Honor:** To live honorably is to align our actions with our sacred oaths. In our dealings with family, work, church, lodge, and Commandery, let our word be our bond. Let us hold ourselves to a standard that inspires respect and emulation.
- 4. Charity:** St. Paul wrote “the greatest of these is charity.” Some may feel that charity is the giving of money to a cause, but in reality, it is compassion in action. Whether supporting Christian causes, offering comfort to a grieving Brother, or extending kindness to a stranger, charity is our badge and armor.
- 5. Humility** The Templar knight wore a white mantle to symbolize purity, but he also wore a red cross, reminding him of the sacrifice and service he was called to. As Sir Knights, we do not serve to be seen. True humility places others before oneself and recognizes that our rank is not a privilege, but a responsibility.
- 6. Discipline:** Modern temptations are subtle and pervasive. A Knight Templar must be disciplined in his conduct, temperance, and time. We must guard our hearts, our speech, and our habits and remain vigilant as soldiers of the Cross.
- 7. Fidelity:** Loyalty to our Order, our Brothers, and our sacred obligations must not waver. Let us be faithful in attendance, in service, and in upholding the Christian virtues that distinguish our Knighthood.

Knight Templar Feast 2025



The 2025 Knight Templar Feast was held in Emporia, Kansas at the Champions Landing Chamber Room and was well attended. The Honor Guard, under the direction of Sir Knight Justin Crippen, posted the colors and America was played on the bagpipes by Sir Knight Kelly Long,. The food was exceptional, as was the fellowship. Sir Knights from across the Kansas were in attendance and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship the evening provided.

The speaker for the evening was Sir Knight Steve Tiner, from the Grand Commandery of Arkansas. He is Senior Pastor at Levy Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and a recipient of the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage fund. He spoke about the wonderful time he had on the Pilgrimage with the other pastors from around the United States and reminded each of

us just how important this Pilgrimage is to a pastor. The ability to visit Israel, the Holy Land, is something each pastor should have the ability to do.

Awards were presented by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Fred Kemp. Sir Knights Ken Foster and A.J. Pence received the Grand Commander's Cup for their thirst for Templary. Sir Knight Wayne Rollf, REPGC, received the Knight Templar Warrior Award for his steadfast support and defense of Templary in Kansas. Sir Knight Patrick Carr, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, received the Kansas York Rite Dynamo Award for his tireless efforts and energy on behalf of Kansas Templary.

The Fifth Annual Knight Templar Feast is already being planned for 2026.



Grand Commander's August Schedule

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

Pike's Peak Inspection	August 1-3, 2025	Manitou Springs, Colorado
DeMolay Commandery No. 4 Official Visit	August 5, 2025	Baldwin City, Kansas
Leavenworth Commandery No. 1 Official Visit	August 19, 2025	Overland Park, Kansas
Masonic Unity Conference	August 23, 2025	McPherson, Kansas