

Kansas Topics

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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights of Kansas:

Winding down as your Grand Commander has been especially difficult for me. I had a good ride and my few minutes of fame have ended. I wish I could personally thank all of the individuals that made my year memorable. I would shake their hand and tell them how much they really mean to me. It would be my pleasure to leave this office with a balanced budget, but that won't happen. In the 'real world' dreams and wishes seldom are fulfilled. I was proud to represent our great State, but especially you Sir Knights for the years 2008/2009. I would like to leave you with some important facts and thoughts.

The First 3 Knights in America

William Davis was born in 1724, just one year after Anderson's Constitutions was published in England; served as Master of St. Johns Lodge in 1750; was created a Knight Templar in 1769...record of this remaining the oldest extant evidence mentioning a specific Mason being dubbed a Knight in America...at St. Andrews Royal Arch Lodge in Boston. Davis went on to earn singular distinction as the hero at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 when he suggested the "Barrel Defense" where the colonists filled large barrels with rocks and earth and rolled them down the hill at the oncoming Redcoats. He was also at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

Paul Revere was created a Knight Templar, also in 1769 and aside from numerous historical events he is famous for, he went on to be installed Grand Master of Massachusetts. During his three-year term he doubled the number of chartered Lodges in the state.

General Joseph Warren was created a Knight Templar in 1770 just two years after he was commissioned by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to serve as Grand Master of the Continent of America. This was quite an honor! He died at the battle of Bunker Hill. Legend has it that he was delayed getting to the battle. Arriving late the battle was already underway and Warren, rather than trying to assume command and chance confusion in the ranks, drew his saber and charged the line. He was lost in the fray. His Brother Knight and Companion, Paul Revere, identified his body after the battle. He was given the highest honor procession through the streets of the newly liberated city of Boston.

These men ushered in the great events which laid the foundation stones of our great nation. Their history is our history, our heritage. These Knights bravely led the charge in throwing down the shackles of tyranny of absolute power residing in the hands of a few falsely privileged. Choosing instead to be self-governed they helped found a nation of freemen...free to seek their destiny singular and collective, and share their goodwill and fortunes with their fellows. In many ways we, as Knights, have surpassed our traditional predecessors--the original Order of the Temple, in cumulative achievement and membership. Let us continue in the spirit of sublime charity to surpass those who came before us.

Though I graciously pass on the mantle of leadership as your Grand Commander to our new leader, I remain committed to lead as an elder among you Knights. As an elder committed to steward and shepherd where needed by the Brethren of our Valiant and Magnanimous Order. I pray that Kansas may one day lead this great nation or ours in contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Yours as always,
"Mack"