



Digital Missouri Message

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The Changing of the Guard!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Wow, our new Templar year has just barely begun and already Sir Knight Hanson is hounding me to provide a message from the Grand Commander. Actually, and quite presumptively, he made me write this 3 days before the Grand Commandery's Annual Conclave.

I do want everyone to know what a joy and pleasure it was to work with our now Junior Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Michael Christopher Rohman. I have had many years to study many of our Masonic Leaders, and I have learned much from each of them. SK Rohman was no exception, other than he was exceptional. Although we did experience some internal challenges, his calm and thoughtful demeanor helped us to navigate some potentially stormy waters with ease. He worked tirelessly to ensure the path of the Grand Commandery of Missouri was laid with a solid foundation and headed in the right direction. Our hearts are also broken along with his and those of his family in dealing with the loss of his father. May our Lord and Savior bless and keep them all in His loving arms and heal their broken hearts.

Speaking of fathers, I think I can speak for many when I say that those of us who have had fathers who were also members of the fraternity have had a very unique relationship with some very special men. Mine has been gone for over 20 years but I am here nonetheless because of and in honor of him. Therefore, I dedicate this entire year of service to Sir Knight Kenneth Gerald Sample, my father. I only wish he could be here to see what he has been responsible for – good, bad, or otherwise. He was a hard man and taught hard lessons, but he had a huge heart which I didn't completely realize or appreciate until he was long gone. He taught me very early in my life to lead, follow, or get out of the way, but make a decision and stand by your principles. Therefore, that will be my motto for the year, to each of you – Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way! Be strong in your passions but do not diminish the passions of others for they are equally important; do not fear the young man who is passionate, he too will be a great leader some day; and do not allow yourself to be an obstacle to the success of others. This is my aged and learned translation of the words my father engrained in me, and I think they are great words to live by.

We have a very strong Grand Commandery line and a great corps of Regional Grand Commanders and Committee members, and it is my intent to call all of them to service. Additionally, this year, I have employed the help, aide, and assistance of many of the Past Grand Commanders, appointing them to many of our Committees – we need their wisdom and guidance. We all know that we, as leaders, are nothing without those with whom we surround ourselves and I appreciate each and every one of them for their service and dedication to our Fraternity. We have much to do this year

and in my next message, should I actually get elected, I will begin laying out our plans for the 2023-2024 Templar year. I look forward to speaking with you next month and visiting with you down the road.

Finally, congratulations to my fellow York Rite Leaders this year, Most Excellent Companion Mark Allen Bean, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, and Most Illustrious Companion Paul Lee Daniels, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. The "Three Amigos" have much in store for Missouri York Rite Freemasonry this year and I could not be more honored and proud to work with these amazing men.

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way!

Sir Knight Kevin B. Sample, Grand Commander

JUNIOR PAST GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

By the time that you actually receive this publication, I will most likely no longer be your Grand Commander having finished my Templar term. Sir Knight Kevin B. Sample will be your new Grand Commander. I wish him success in moving the Grand Commandery of Missouri forward. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your Grand Commander. I enjoyed visiting the Commanderies throughout the State and meeting with the Sir Knights. A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who helped, aided, and assisted me.

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Past Grand Commander

2023 GRAND COMMANDERY DRILL COMPETITION

Class A Demonstration Drill Team:

FirstPalestine Commandery No. 1798.5

Class B Drill Team Rankings:

FirstSt. Graal Commandery No. 1297.6

Second....Ely Commandery No. 22.....95.7

Third.....Liberty Commandery No. 6.....95.1

Fourth.....Rolla Commandery No. 59.....91.0

Fifth.....Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8.....90.0

SixthAscalon Commandery No. 1689.7