



## New Mexico Supplement



Christopher A. Larsen, II  
Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

Visiting Commanderies is always a blessing; knowing that ritual work is valued and camaraderie is strong in New Mexico. These visits are truly a memorable experience with meeting old familiar friends from throughout the years and of course meeting and establishing new friendships, which creates a sense of renewed energy in each of our personal commitments to our Christian faith.

Our Commanderies have for the past few years provided honour guard duties to several lodges, the shrine, many shows of our Shrine Circus and also the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. Not only are these activities vital for a positive exposure of our fraternity, but provides an important service to our lodges and brethren. A special thanks to Sir Knight Harry Jenkins and Sir Knight Leon Alderette for their leadership in organizing these honour guards and I look forward next month to continue this tradition.

Well we did it! WE, all Masons, had an enormous showing at the New Mexico State Fair parade! We as Masons should be very proud that we stretched many street blocks of Masons in the parade, whether you were riding, marching or walking! Our York Rite float was terrific, we couldn't have done it without our Las Cruces brothers in lending their float for us to participate in, Thank You! Our Grand Master Adam Hathaway's vision of providing an outstanding showing and presentation of Masons to the many spectators was abundantly fulfilled and we should all be very proud of our presence in the community! Thank you Grand Master for your leadership and vision.



Pictured Above: York Rite in the State Fair and Grand Masters of Masons of New Mexico: (L to R) EC Frank Izquierdo, Dennis R. Detrow, PGC, GT, H.C. Sky Olsen, GG, Ed McBride, GChap(GCouncil), Dion Newhouse, PGC, GR, Ashley Balke (Rainbow), Sean Balke (DeMolay), Chris Larsen, II, GC. 2nd Image: Adam Hathaway, GM, Edward C. Mitchell, GM, Todd Ireland (Mesa Lodge). Photos by Michele Balke

Community involvement is the key to our success through opportunities in local activities and programs such as organizing corner-stone layings, fund-raisers, blood drives, flea markets, yard sales, picnics, breakfasts, dinners and even dances. And closest to our hearts is our Christmas Observances, Easter Sunrise Services, Memorial Services and sponsoring Holy Land Pilgrimages. We, as Christian Masons must also emphasize our positions of civic responsibility and give honor to those that have made the ultimate personal sacrifice in protecting and upholding our American heritage.

Let us never forget and to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. Here is a short history of its beginnings-

On June 28, 1919, WWI had officially ended, but however, the fighting continued. The fighting finally ended with an armistice, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. As such, on November 11th of the following year, this day was honored by President Woodrow Wilson as Armistice Day.

In 1954, Armistice Day was changed by President Eisenhower to Veterans Day to honor veterans of all wars. Between 1968 and 1975, Veterans Day was moved around, even into October. Finally, President Gerald Ford signed into law that the annual observance be placed back to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.

There are many ways in which to honor veterans, here are a few ideas. First, to show appreciation, thank a veteran. Have a discussion with them, for example, ask them what they did in the military; how long did they serve; and did anyone else in their family serve. And sometimes, all you have to do is to just listen and give them your full attention.

Another way you can honor a veteran is to visit a Veterans Administration hospital and spend a day with a veteran. Veterans Day is a celebration to honor veterans for their patriotism and sacrifice for the common good, so get out there and honor our veterans! Oh, and while you are chatting with Veterans over the turkey, don't forget to pass the gravy! Have a wonderful, blessed Thanksgiving!

### Drill and Ceremonies - Officer's Guidance:

When Generalissimo or the Captain General are standing, and the Commander addresses them, they execute a left or right face and salute the Commander. The Commander does not face.

Keep up with events, visit our website: <https://nmyorkrite.org>

Courteously,

Christopher A. Larsen, II  
Grand Commander

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Please send article drafts and comments/suggestions to the email above.