

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for July 2023**

Web Site



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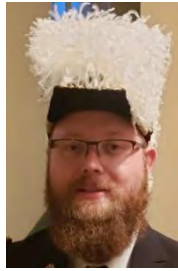
GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

I was reading something, I do not remember what, but a saying stuck in my mind. "Strength comes with unity". I looked it up and found there was a multitude of quotes and inspiring explanations. We as Masons need the strength in unity. We are as in Aesop's tales of the "The Four Oxen and the Lion" and "The Bundle of Sticks." Together, the oxen could fend off the lion. Apart, the lion had a feast. They could not break the bundle of sticks, but one at a time they were all broken. Through time I have watched Lodges fold because the unity gave way to individualism. "It is amazing what can be accomplished when nobody care who gets the credit." *Harry Truman*. "Remember upon the conduct of each depend the fate of all." *Alexander the Great*. "If everyone is moving forward together, the success takes care of itself." *Henry Ford*.

The military depends on unity for victory. The Navy Seals are "Strength in Unity. Their success depends on each man being one with the others. If we don't act now we will fall. The fate of this great fraternity depends on each of us working together. "United we stand divided we fall."

I didn't write this as a long harangue. I kept it short as something that each one of us need to consider.

Yours in Christ Jesus
SK John E. King REGC



MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND GENERALISIMO

Sir Knights,

I hope the summer has found you all well and that you are enduring the heat of season. As July has brought the summer heat it has also brought with us another Independence Day! As Knights Templar let us remember that our order is not only dedicated for Christian Masons, but that we are also an order of patriots. We conclude every ceremony of knighting with a beautiful salute to our flag where we state that as long as it flies "... Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth". This sentiment is appropriate to reflect upon as we celebrate another year of that great flag flying over our land. The duties we as knights have to our God and our Country are not unique just to us but are shared by many of our Masonic brethren in our lodges. I would encourage all of the knights reading this to seek out our like minded brethren and recruit them as New York Rite Masons. The Grand Masters festival will be held in OKC on 22 July and I can think of no better time for someone to assume the vows of knighthood than during the month of our Nations greatest celebration. It is truly an honor to stand with each of you as a Knight and I look forward to continuing to serve you all in

SK John Turner
Grand Generalissimo



MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND PRELATE

In the realm of human existence, there exists a profound longing for freedom—a thirst that resonates deep within the core of our being. It is a universal desire, an innate yearning to break free from the chains that confine us and embrace the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. Independence, in all its forms, holds a sacred place in our hearts and souls.

When we speak of independence, we often think of nations and their struggles for sovereignty. We reflect upon the courageous individuals who fought for the liberation of their people, sacrificing their lives to secure a future free from oppression. Their unwavering spirit and relentless pursuit of autonomy serve as a testament to the indomitable human will.

But independence extends far beyond the realm of politics and borders. It is a personal journey, an intimate exploration of our own strengths and convictions. It is a call to rise above the limitations that society imposes upon us, to transcend the expectations that bind us, and to embrace the fullness of our authentic selves.

In our quest for independence, we encounter obstacles that test our resolve. We confront doubts that attempt to shatter our confidence, fears that whisper of failure, and the weight of societal norms that seek to confine us within predetermined boundaries. Yet, within the depths of our souls, we discover an inner flame—a spark of divine light—that guides us on this transformative path. True independence requires the courage to challenge the status quo, to question the prevailing narratives, and to embark upon uncharted territories. It demands that we trust in our own abilities and trust in the guidance of a higher power. It invites us to be creators rather than followers, pioneers rather than conformists, and champions of our own destinies.

As we cultivate independence, we must also cultivate humility. For in our pursuit of personal liberation, we must acknowledge that we are not alone in this grand tapestry of existence. We are interconnected beings, intricately woven into the fabric of life. And just as we seek our own freedom, we must extend the same grace to others, supporting and uplifting one another on this shared journey.

Independence, therefore, is not a solitary endeavor but a collective aspiration. It is a celebration of the human spirit, an ode to the resilience of the human soul. It is an acknowledgement of the countless individuals who have paved the way for us, the visionaries and pioneers who have shattered the barriers of limitation. It is a tribute to the divine spark within us all, that eternal flame of freedom that burns bright in every heart.

So let us embrace independence with unwavering faith, for it is an extraordinary gift bestowed upon us by the divine. Let us honor those who have fought for freedom in all its forms, recognizing that their sacrifices have not been in vain. And let us march forward on the path of self-discovery, guided by our inner compass, as we unlock the limitless potential that lies within.

May we cherish the blessings of independence, both personal and collective, and may we strive to create a world where every soul can experience the joy of liberation. In this pursuit, we shall find not only our own true selves but also the interconnectedness that unites us all. And in that unity, we shall discover the true essence of freedom—the sweetest harmony of the human spirit.

Sir Knight Steven Cox Excellent Grand Prelate