



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oregon



State News for November, 2023

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Greetings, Sir Knights

Hostilities of World War One ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. This armistice is commemorated each year as a day to celebrate those brave souls who have sworn to the defense of our country. It is through their service in times of peace and war, whether domestic or overseas, that we ensure our safety as a nation. Too often we hear someone thank our veterans for their service, but the person giving thanks has no idea of what it means, or the hardships endured by both those who served and those who supported them at home. One of the most overlooked portions of the veteran's service is the hardships imposed on those who are left at home while deployed. For all their support they serve also.



At this point it is traditional to speak of Thanksgiving and while many of us have many things to be thankful for, I am going to speak of the poor pilgrim Knights who keep a lonely vigil this festive season. These are the sojourners, widowed, elderly, and lost Sir Knights who will spend this meal in isolation. These are the men who through personal pride have not asked for help when they so sorely need it. In our bounty we will be invited to parties, host dinners for our families, or attend Lodge dinners where there will be an excess of food. Maybe it is time that we start calling in the beginning of the month to determine who these solitary hermits may be and take an empty container, set an empty place at the table, and take a few minutes of our time to share our bounty with them, a bounty of fellowship, a bounty of food, and a bounty of understanding.

As we return to work, we are also returning to the Orders of Templary. I am happy to announce that on November 18th, DeMolay Commandery is presenting the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of the Knights of Malta at St. John's Lodge #17 AF&AM, 431 1st Ave W Albany OR 97321 starting at 10:00 AM. For those who would like to bring candidates for the Orders should send their requests for courtesy work to SK

David Fuller c/o the Salem Scottish Rite Center. I am also aware Columbia Commandery will start putting on degrees sometime this fall. With the death of many of our long-time participants in these Orders, we need to step forward and take parts to ensure our candidates have the best experience possible. I would encourage the Sir Knights to attend those Orders in their area and bring their rituals with them to fill in on the parts that need to be filled. I would also ask that you check out the announcements page of the Oregon York Rite (oregonyorkrite.org) web page for upcoming events. If you have an event that you would like to advertise you can either fill out the contact form there or post it on the Oregon York Rite Facebook page.

We live in contentious times. Wars, political strife, poverty, and destruction all surround us. This has entered into our Commanderies and some have forgotten the lessons and obligations we have taken to each other and to the world at large. This is not to say that we should not have our own opinions, quite the contrary, as each must make his mind up for himself. What we need to do is not let our opinions override our Christian Charity. Our obligations were freely given, and our charity should be just as freely given. There should be no terms and conditions placed upon our charity that the recipient believe as you do. For it is the lesson of the first hermit:

Charity shall cover the multitude of sins – 1 Peter 4:8

If a Brother or Sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? – James 2:15-16

These words in our Order spoke across the years since its creation. They were chosen as the current turbulence we are experiencing is not new, but existed in previous times. The words were chosen to direct the feet of those living in that time as well as those who would tread the path after them in the direction best suited for those of our Order. Our charity must be in abundance if it is to profit the Order. It cannot be empty words, warm to the speaker but cold and empty to the recipient.

To the Veterans of the Grand Commandery of Oregon, your Grand Commander stands in salute to your service.

To each and every Sir Knight in Oregon, in your thanks this year remember those who are in need. In your prayers ask for peace, understanding, and tolerance. In your families never forget to end the day with words of love as tomorrow is not certain.

Courteously,

Dale E. Imbleau, Grand Commander



Putting on the full
suit of armor of God.
Ephesians 6:12-16

