

ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT



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THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE

Year of Our Lord 2020 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, in
Arkansas, Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER CHRISTMAS 2020

I propose this toast to you, Sir Knight Ronald S. Tucker, our Right Eminent Grand Commander, who has led us in the most unusual circumstances which 2020 has brought to our world, our nation, and our state. It is now that we need the message of Christmas as much as ever before. Conflict, stress, disconnect, isolation – this year has been challenging. We've been aware of the darkness around us. It's the ideal time for some light. It's just the kind of backdrop for a Savior to come. It's the perfect time to rediscover Christmas. He is hope in our uncertainties, peace in our struggles, joy in our discouragements and love in our differences. He is good news in troubling times.

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2), *"out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel."* Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through us, too!

The Divine has entered human history; heaven has descended to earth.

The simple shepherds heard the voice of an angel and found their Lamb; the wise men saw the light of a star and found their Wisdom.

To you, Grand Commander, we raise our cups and unite our voices in fraternal love and admiration. May He Who became flesh be most real to you this Christmas and all the Christmases to follow.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. A Toast to you, Right Eminent Grand Commander!

In His Name,

Steven Tiner, Grand Prelate

Grand Commandery of Arkansas

R.: E.: Grand Commander
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Greetings, Sir Knights:



Sir Knights: As of the deadline for submission of this edition, Nov. 1, we don't know if we will be able to have Christmas Observances. But, these messages are appropriate, even if we don't.

Also, we mourn the loss of RESK Joe Clements, Jr., PGC(H). There will be a full memorial in the January edition. *Editor.*

First, thank you Sir Knight Grand Prelate for the toast. Yes, this year has definitely been a challenge. With everything that has gone wrong in this country it is time to pull together and seek the face of Christ. Only He can bring us through the turmoil that we have been fighting all year long. I have a good friend that said this too shall pass. Yes, it will pass. But, only with the help of our Savior.

As Christmas is approaching, I thank God that he allowed a man to come to earth and represent him. A baby born in flesh but did not know sin; what a great accomplishment. The baby Jesus the Son of God bore the sins of the World on his shoulders; who died for us that we might be saved. Christmas is not just a time to receive or give gifts but to honor a risen Savior that came to save this world from its own unrighteousness.

Yes, Jesus is the good news in our troubled times. He is the Light that glows in the darkness around us. In Ephesians 5:18 The Bible tells us (to be filled with the Spirit speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of Jesus Christ). We must come together to fight the enemy who is all

around us and, we must believe on our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christmas a joyous time of the year. Yes, I am waiting in anticipation of all its wonders the presents under the tree and the joyous time of being with the family; eating Christmas dinner with the family. But, I don't want to forget that a great man died for me so that I could live.. A man that started his journey in a stable with animals not in a luxury hotel. A barn with hay and the smell of the countryside, not in a perfumed room with TV, radio, lights or any of today's luxuries. A little stable with 3 wise men and shepherds tending their flocks and a Star over the stable's roof. Sir Knight Grand Prelate, big that is. Great things do come in small packages and are not we lucky that it does. Jesus a baby but with great love for the world, and yes, we can do great things; but only by the grace of God, if we let him use us as he used his Son, Jesus.

I receive your raised cup and say thank you for allowing me to be your Grand Commander. I am indebted to each and every one of you, Sir Knights. Without you, my year of being your Commander would not have been possible. It is my prayer that each and every one of you will have a blessed and a joyous Christmas and thank you Grand Prelate for being the man and Mason that you are. But, more important thank you for being the Godly man that you are. With Sincere thanks, and best wishes,

Ronald Tucker
Grand Commander