

ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT

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The End of an Era

That is how I feel about this edition of the "Arkansas Supplement". Because this will be the last physically printed edition you will receive. From now on, each of you will have to either go to our Grand Commandery web address: <http://www.aryorkrite.org/gckt/> and view or download this monthly newsletter, or give me your email address to have it sent directly to you. But, you will not again see your Arkansas Grand Commandery represented in print in the *Knight Templar* magazine.

I am rather proud of my record as editor. Since April of 1997, when I became the editor, Arkansas has not missed a single edition in the physical magazine. That's 24 years and 4 months of monthly submissions. 292 consecutive months, never missing a submission. Its easier now than it was at first. Now, the editors submit on-line. In the first 5 years or so, there were several times I drove across town late at night to the Federal Express main office to get our "camera-ready" proof to the publisher on time. (Thank goodness for 8:00am next day delivery!) But, those days are gone.

You may have surmised that I'm not sure I think this is an entirely good move by Grand Encampment. You would be correct. As a former communications professional, I feel there is value in a physical "piece", as we call it, in the hands of a subscriber, or in this case member. It is tangible evidence that their membership and participation is valued. But, I do understand the reasoning behind this change.

First of all, printing costs are increasing. And, I believe Grand Encampment is trying to provide the best service value to each of us, as Knights Templar, and Grand Commanderies for the per-capita we all pay. And, I understand that all of us State editors can be difficult to deal with. SK John Palmer, the Managing Editor of the national magazine, and more lately, SK Dan Pushee as his assistant have done a magnificent job of "herding cats", keeping us state editors on-time.

So, we move forward into a new age of electronic communications. The "Arkansas Supplement" will continue, as a monthly PDF e-newsletter. As I mentioned before, it will be available from our state web site, and www.knightstemplar.org. If you want to receive it directly at your in-box, send me your email address. I'll "see you in the funny papers".

Fraternally in His service, T.J. Henwood, editor

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



This month's article is authored by
ESK David Ponder,
Grand Sr. Warden. *Editor.*

Greetings, Sir Knights:

I hope this writing finds all Sir Knights in good health and spirits. There are a couple of exciting things that have happened in Arkansas York Masonry recently and the explanation of a symbol within our Asylum's that I'd like to share with you.

On July 31st we celebrated one of our own, Bro. Steve Tiner, taking the East in the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International. Our beloved Bro. Tiner is now serving as our Most Excellent General Grand High Priest. We paid tribute to our brother and shared in his joy during our "A Night to Remember" event in his honor. We are so very proud of him and all that he's accomplished. May God's unfailing love and peace bless him every day as he continues work for the good of freemasonry.

As social gathering has begun to take place, the work is ramping back up also. With all the Chapter and Council conferrals we have had in recent months, it won't be long until Commanderies will be conferring Orders. Please make sure you keep in touch with your local commanderies about upcoming

events. Hot Springs Commandery No. 5 is trying to plan commandery orders for early 2022, prior to Grand Session. We'll need all the Class A uniform Sir Knights we can get, so please feel free to reach out to us in advance.

Now for the explanation of a symbol that I recently discovered in our ritual, the crossed swords on the altar. The crossed swords on the altar represent the spiritual armor of God that we should put on to defend against Satan's attacks. The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 6:10-18 that we are not at war against flesh and blood, but are fighting spiritual battles. If armed with the full armor of God, we will be able to stand against the wiles of Satan and should arm ourselves daily. I found the meaning of this symbol of interest and hope you do to.

In Christian Faith and Brotherhood,
David S. Ponder
Grand Senior Warden

