

GRAND COMMANDERS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

Sir Knights and Ladies of the Grand Commandery of Ohio,

Lady Diana and I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas. Although I realize that the situation for many of our members and their families is anything but merry, I hope that we can all still find hope and strength as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I have run through the gamut of emotions this Christmas season, but I find that I am overwhelmed with appreciation for what you, the Sir Knights and Ladies of Ohio have done in support of others this Christmas. I thank each of you who have chosen to support our Christmas initiative of giving. Even though you did not have to do so, many of you have reached out to me and described how you have made a difference in someone's life this Christmas season.

Some of you have given in traditional ways such as donating toys, clothing and even bicycles, while many others have touched lives in ways that I had not even considered. Some of our commanderies joined me in supporting Toys for Tots, Salvation Army, and local Giving Trees. Some have made donations to organizations like "Shop with a Cop," local homeless shelters and food banks.

There have been donations made to the Gary Sinise Foundation, The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund, and the American Cancer Society. I know that some of you have been terribly busy spreading love and cheer as Santa and Ms. Claus. Some have visited cancer patients and donated blankets and socks to them.

I have been touched by each and every act of kindness and generosity this Christmas and I am not ashamed to say that many of them have moved me to tears. I had hoped for a good response to my Christmas Card initiative, but I never expected the incredible outpouring of love and support that you have shown. I have no doubt that thousands of dollars in donations were made across Ohio and that many children and adults had a Merry Christmas this year due to the generosity of the Sir Knights and ladies of the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

I am incredibly grateful to all of you for your support and I just want to say thank you and Merry Christmas to you again. Even if no other aspect of my Grand Commanders program is successful this Templar year, I will still count my year as a success due to your generosity and the fact that we, as Knights Templar have made a difference in the lives of so many this Christmas. I have never been so proud to be a member of any group as I am to be a Knights Templar tonight. Merry Christmas everyone and may God Bless you all.

Dale A. Olson. KCT

Grand Commander