PRESIDENT

As I look back at 2021 there were many of what ifs. What if we would have done this or what if my chapter or I had done that. These what ifs do not matter now, the new year is here, and we need to look forward. I would like to thank the Board, Committees, and the Chapter Members for a job well done in 2021. All together we have reached our goal with 10,000 members.

2021 was another challenging year with COVID and other illnesses within the club. I hope that we as a family reached out to those in need and extended a helping hand. Again, we were not able to have our convention this year, but we were able to hold a few of our Rallies. Thanks to those that were able to attend and support the events, it was nice getting out to see everyone.

I encourage each member to be engaged with their chapter in 2022. Stay focused to help the chapter and the club to grow, while supporting your local communities. Contact your Regional Director with concerns and ideas to help the Red Knights not only grown but support for each other. We need to remember that this is our club, not just one person’s. I have learned being on the board that a lot of times if we put ideas together it works best for the organization. We all need to think what is best for the Red Knights as a whole, not just ourselves or one chapter or region. In attending three 9/11 rides with local chapters this past year, I saw old friendships rekindled and new friendships being made. The communities welcomed us with open arms and enthused to see the Red Knights and the support for there hometowns.

The board has planned our spring meeting to be face to face for the ones that can be there and the others will join by zoom. Currently, the 2022 Convention and the Rallies are a go! We hope that you are able to attend at least one of the events. This is also a great opportunity to talk about new ideas for the Red Knights that you are entertaining.

In 2022, I challenge the members to focus on what we, everyone, can get out of the club but what we can give to our organization. If you give of yourself and your time, in return you get a feeling of satisfaction knowing you not only help your chapter, community but you may have been that encouragement for another member because of your willingness and positive attitude. You will certainly make more friendships than you can imagine not just in the chapter but around the world. How many people do you know that can say they have friends in other countries? As a friend of mine always tells me when I call him, “just get on your bike and ride, enjoying the adventure of where it takes you and the people you meet”.

In closing remember your family and tell them you love them at the beginning and at the end of each day. You never know when it might be the last time, they may see you.

"My profession is somewhat unique in comparison to that of the average person. At any one fixed moment in time when duty calls upon me, I am prepared to sacrifice my own life to save the lives of others I may not even know. I am willing to do this because I understand that we all make choices in life. As for myself, this is the choice and path of service that I have chosen to follow. Though my job is often rewarding, it can also be unsettling. I often reflect upon the simplicity of one question, "Who am I?" At times, I cannot provide this answer, not even for myself. So, "Who am I" to choose a profession in life that regularly shows no mercy for the preciousness of life? "Who am I" to willingly, without hesitation, invite myself into some of the most uninviting situations known to mankind? "Who am I", so that when duty calls, may never again lay eyes on the loved ones I could leave behind? The assumed simplicity of this question is not so simple after all. Understanding "Who I am" may be difficult to answer at times. However, all I need to do is pause, think about, and remember those lives I have positively influenced and maybe even saved. All I need to do is look back on the years of service I have given to my community and realize that I helped make the world a safer place in which to live. In my heart, I know I made a difference. "Who am I?" I am a Firefighter!"

WE ARE A FAMILY OF ONE - THE RED KNIGHTS......