

# THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight

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Right Eminent Grand  
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Sir Knight

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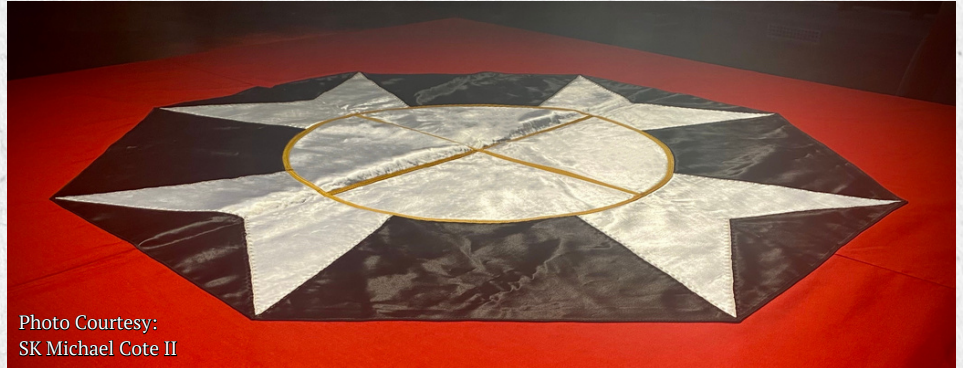


Photo Courtesy:  
SK Michael Cote II

Sir Knights,

247 years ago, a nation was founded based on an idea. An idea that all people are created equal. An idea that supports the freedoms and liberties we enjoy. It is my hope that the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Texas take a moment to remember the sacrifices made and the hope that this country gives to all citizens.

The Schools of Instruction are underway. If you have not made one yet, I encourage you to find one to attend. Our Grand Officers are a dedicated group of men who will answer any questions you may have to the best of their abilities.

Remember, we are currently doing a Statewide Food Drive. On the next page, you will find a reverse advent calendar to help guide you as to which food items to collect. This can be done individually or as a Commandery. We can make a huge difference in the lives of others by participating. Remember to fill out the [form](#) and submit it to Aaron Tyksinski, Chairman of the Public Relations and Special Projects Committee.

Happy Independence Day and God Bless America!

In His Service,

T. Chance Chapman  
Grand Commander

# NEW PROGRAM

## 2023 REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

### Grand Commandery of Texas

Reverse Advent Calendar – Feed, Clothe, Bind Program



Every day of the month of August, pledge the following to donate to a food bank near you for the Texas Summer!

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| August 1 – box of cereal          | August 16 – package of oatmeal      |
| August 2 – peanut butter          | August 17 – package pasta           |
| August 3 – stuffing mix           | August 18 – spaghetti sauce         |
| August 4 – boxed potatoes         | August 19 – chicken noodle soup     |
| August 5 – macaroni and cheese    | August 20 – tomato soup             |
| August 6 – canned fruit           | August 21 – canned corn             |
| August 7 – canned tomatoes        | August 22 – package of ramen        |
| August 8 – canned tuna            | August 23 – bag of trail mix        |
| August 9 – dessert mix            | August 24 – canned chicken          |
| August 10 – jar of applesauce     | August 25 – package of jerky        |
| August 11 – canned sweet potatoes | August 26 – canned green beans      |
| August 12 – cranberry sauce       | August 27 – granola bar             |
| August 13 – canned red beans      | August 28 – package of almonds      |
| August 14 – box of crackers       | August 29 – canned carrots          |
| August 15 – package of rice       | August 30 – package of fruit snacks |
|                                   | August 31 – canned pinto beans      |

While most shelters and pantries receive donations near the holidays at the end of the year, we must always remember as Templars we need to be in the spirit of giving all year!

This year, during a time when fewer donations are received, we will be conducting a statewide drive to collect non-perishable goods for a food pantry or homeless shelter of your individual choosing, or your Commandery's choosing.

The items listed on this flyer are recommended and very inexpensive donations, but it will require your time in service to others.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Commandery of Texas

## Knights Templar Charity Ball

Christmas is the season of joy, of  
gift-giving, and families united

308 Orleans St.  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
December 2, 2023  
6 pm - 11 pm

All attendees are requested to bring an  
unwrapped children's toy to be donated  
to Toys from Templars

Come celebrate the Christmas Season with our Right Eminent Grand Commander and his Lady in Beaumont! On December 2, we will have the first Knights Templar Charity Ball. All are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to needy children. Come enjoy music, dancing, food, and fellowship! Tickets are available by clicking [here](#).

Space is limited to 100 attendees. Don't wait to get your ticket!

## MONTHLY MENTION

Magnanimous /mag'nānəməs/:

"Showing or suggesting a lofty and courageous spirit"

Deriving from the Latin root words "magnus" and "animus," the word is basically the opposite of selfishness.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### District Schools:

**District 1-** July 15, Registration at 8:30 am, School at 9:15, McKinney

**District 2-** August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9, Southeast Texas

**District 3-** June 3 COMPLETED

**District 4-** June 17, COMPLETED

**District 5-** August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9:30, Ivanhoe

**District 6-** June 17, COMPLETED

**District 7-** August 19. Registration at 9 a, School at 10 am, Vernon

**District 8-** August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9, Lubbock

**District 9-** August 26, Registration at 12 pm, School at 1pm, Brownwood

**State-Wide Festival:** July 21-22,  
Grand Lodge of Texas

### 171st Grand Conclave:

April 11-14, 2024  
South Shore Harbour Resort  
League, City, TX

## SURVEY

Take the [Grand Commandery Survey](#) to help grow our Order!

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# TEMPLAR TALKS

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**CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR:**  
**SK SETH W. SPANGLER**  
GENERALISSIMO OF DEMOLAY COMMANDERY NO. 20

Greetings to my Templar brothers far and wide,

I have always been asked ever since I became a knight what made me want to join this great an honorable Order and what makes it different from the other bodies of masonry. For me I love my Masonic journey! Everything I joined I have learned something new and gained great friends, but what makes commandery different from the others is when I joined I knew there was a spiritual calling. As a Christian I always felt something was missing in my life and I knew this was it! As someone who couldn't get into the military and wanted to serve his country, it was heartbreaking but God told me he had something else planned for me! And when God opens a door for you unimaginable thing will happen! Commandery gives you the military structure to serve God and Country and be with a strong group of brothers where you know you can call upon them, even in our darkest hours! IN HOC SIGNO VINCES!!!

*"Templar Talks" are a new segment for this publication, which highlight Sir Knights and constituent commanderies on their own plans, views, visions, experiences and goals. Guest submission can be made to the Editor for consideration or future publication.*

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## 2023-2024 Penny-A-Day July 2023 Update

The success from the Penny-A-Day program shows the dedication and determination our membership and supporters have for our jurisdiction! The goal of this program is to generate funds to help the financial standing of the Grand Commandery of Texas. With the program now having been operating for one month, we have raised a record breaking **\$7,677.00**, and are proud to announce we had to reorder all supplies, including a second round of coins, within the first three weeks.

There are also other options through this program at a lesser contribution.

- Individual copper token (\$36.50).
- Individual encapsulated silver-tone token (\$75.00).
- Individual encapsulated gold-tone token (\$150.00).

If you are interested in this successful program, and wish to join some honorable Sir Knights, please contact either the Grand Commander, Aide-de-Camps, or your local committeemen listed below! Click [here](#) to access the online donation page!

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# PRELATE'S APARTMENT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

Sir Knights,

As we move into July, we are busy installing officers in our lodges, chapters, and councils. We also need to take time to celebrate our country's 247th birthday. Remembering how blessed we are to not only live in the great state of Texas, but also these United States of America. Psalm 33:12 reads: **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.** Sir Knights, we must put God first in our lives and be an example to those around us. Pray for the leaders of our country, state, and fraternity.

Let us pray: Our Lord God in the name of Jesus, we come before you and claim your promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14, **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.** We humble ourselves before you in prayer. We seek your presence, wisdom, and love in our lives and the lives of our leaders. We pray Father, you direct the decisions made by our leaders. We give You all the glory and praise. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

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## A BLESSING FROM SIR KNIGHT & REV. SEAN LEICK

I was reading a history book written about my local church in Baytown, TX. Our church was established in 1844 and has overcome a number of difficulties to survive 180 years; the Civil War, the Great Depression, two world wars, countless natural disasters, and an endless number of obstacles to survive in early Southeast Texas. I discovered hidden within this book an article published in 1894 in which the following words were offered, "These first fifty years were years of trials and tribulations, but the ones who were responsible for the success of the church and its welfare were people whose spirit would not be crushed- the true spirit of the pioneer Texan."

To me these words seem to have great significance given that Independence Day is around the corner. We should not forget the great sacrifices made for the cause of American independence, the ideals of individual freedom, and the opportunity to pursue our own happiness- to chart our own course as it were. I am grateful that of all the places and all the times throughout history into which I could have been born, I landed in this great nation of ours where we are free to practice our religion and free from a tyrannical government. I pray that this spirit of American freedom, or the "spirit of the pioneer Texan," will never depart from our collective conscience.

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# MONTHLY UPDATES

## GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

July 10: Confer Order of the Temple - Port Arthur  
 July 13-16: Texas DeMolay Conclave - Fort Worth  
 July 22: Statewide Festival - Waco  
 July 28-30: York Rite Sovereign College - Providence, RI

## Top 5 Knightings Ranking (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

1. Lone Star No. 114 - 9
- T2. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - 3
- T2. Melrose No. 109 - 3
- T4. Denton No. 45 - 2
- T4. Corpus Christi No. 57 - 2
- T4. Fort Bend No. 74 - 2
- T4. Tancred No. 82 - 2
- T4. Midland No. 90 - 2

## Top 5 Reinstatements Ranking (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

1. Ascension No. 25 - 6
2. East Texas No. 104 - 3
3. San Antonio No. 7 - 2
- T3. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - 2
- T5. Ivanhoe No. 8, Indivisible Friends No. 13, McKinney No. 34, Denton No. 45, Corpus Christi No. 57, Tancred No. 82. Melrose No. 109 - 1

## SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES



### Facebook Page Growth:

+ 90 Followers  
(Since April 16)

Most views on a single post since Grand Conclave: 2,792

Total Page Reach: 14,244



### Instagram Page Growth:

+ 161 Followers (Since created - April 18)

Total Page Reach: 221

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The Grand Commandery of Texas is organizing a Holy Land Pilgrimage April 30-May 9, 2024! Airfare, double-occupancy lodging, meals, tour guide, entrance fees, and in-country travel Will be covered in your cost! Space is limited. Reserve your spot [here](#).

We are excited to announced that all spots for this trip are now full!

Full amount due- December 31, 2023

**Contact:** Reservation help- 215-572-7676 (Gate1Travel); [Justin Bauer](#) or [Edward Peebles](#)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR  
AIDE-DE CAMP



Sir Knights,

In the two months since the Grand Conclave, I have been astonished by the interest and rejuvenation of the Sir Knights of Texas, which includes myself. I have traveled and visited several commanderies, attended and participated in Orders of Red Cross and Malta, and have been in contact with several Grand Encampment officials, to which everyone everywhere is ecstatic of this year's changes and performances. The thrill of the Sir Knights this year so far is unmatched, and it is being noticed by all. In words of one correspondence I recently received, "In many conversations as I go around to all the Department Conferences and other meetings, I am always pointing out to leaders how Texas communicates to its members and how effective it is."