

# 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

**Michael Cote II**

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Photo Courtesy:  
SK Ricky Cox

Sir Knights,

Happy New Year! We are off to a fresh new start full of excitement and prosperity ahead. While we begin this new year, I ask you to stop and remember those not with us anymore. “Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?”

We just closed out 2023, and I believe we have so much to be proud of from that year. We set A.P.O.A.S. Commandery to work under dispensation and have held two highly successful meetings and events. We broke records in fundraising efforts by raising over \$16,000 thus far in the Penny-A-Day program. We have introduced new merchandise options which are helping raise funds for several purposes. We held the first known Texas Knights Templar Charity Ball. We had another successful Outdoor Order of the Temple. And, according to MMS, we are on pace for NET GROWTH for this Grand Commandery year! How exciting is that?

I urge you all to continue in your efforts to bring in new Sir Knights. Keep working on reinstating those who have previously gone suspended. Keep creating fantastic experiences for our Knights wheresoever dispersed. Together, let’s “finish the race!”

In His Service,

T. Chance Chapman  
Grand Commander



# GRAND CHAPTER AND GRAND COUNCIL SESSIONS RECAP

We congratulate the Companions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters and wish them much success during their new terms! We additionally wish to acknowledge the R.: E.: Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment and Past Grand Commandery of Texas, Sir Knight Larry Tucker, on his elevation to the office of Grand King in the Grand Chapter, as well as our E.: Grand Junior Warden, Sir Knight Ricky Cox, on his appointment as Grand Photographer for the Grand Council!



## BELT BUCKLE UPDATE



During the sessions of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council in December, we sold all 125 buckles in three days! Thank you for your support! We hope this trial run of merchandise showed a positive reception for future items!

The prototype buckle, as well as Buckle No. 000 will be auctioned off at the Grand Conclave in April!

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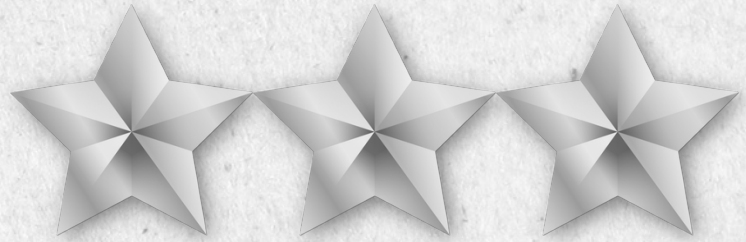
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# CHARITY BALL RECAP



The Knights Templar Charity Ball was a huge success! With over \$1,000 raised for the Knights Templar Charities and over 60 toys donated, those in attendance contributed approximately \$2,500 in monetary and in-kind donations to help others. What a great way to celebrate Christmas by helping those in need!



# FEAST OF ST. JOHN RECAP

Last month in Galveston, A.P.O.A.S. Commandery, UD held their second meeting since conception, and hosted a feast in the name of St. John the Apostle to commemorate his contributions. Various Sir Knights traveled from around the state to attend and even met within the beautiful Egyptian Room!



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# CONTINUED PROGRAM - ENDOWMENT BADGES

GRAND COMMANDERY OF TEXAS  
**PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND**



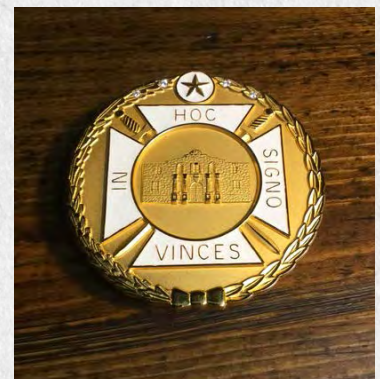
The Permanent Endowment Fund is an assistance fund to help support all aspects of Texas Templary, Grand Encampment Programs, as well as the Masonic Youth, and more. There are two styles, which can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform: a white badge, or a red badge. The white badge signified your \$250 contribution, which sets motion your membership in this program. It is offered in two sizes, large (2 ½”) or small (1 ¼”). For each additional contribution of \$150, a diamond is mounted in the surrounding wreath area of your white badge. There are spaces for twenty diamonds.

The prestigious red badge is limited in quantity to 100 pieces. It is complete with all twenty spaces filled with diamonds, and is the sign of achievement through a one-time, paid in full, donation of \$3,250.

Contact Committee Chairman, SK David Berndt,  
 for participation!

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# PENNY-A-DAY CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE

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**HELP US  
#FILLTHESWORD**

**T. CHANCE CHAPMAN**  
**FINISH THE RACE**  
**ACTS 20:24**

**OUR NEW GOAL IS TO PRODUCE AND HONOR**  
**100 CHIEF DONORS!**  
**A CONTRIBUTING DONATION OF \$225**

**65 CHIEF DONORS AND COUNTING...**

The response of this program has been beyond the imagination from when it was first planned! Because of this, we are now shooting for the stars and hoping to honor 100 chief donors! Our tag for this campaign will be #FillTheSword.

To date, over \$16,000 has been raised. Thanks to all who have participated!

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



Make plans to join us for an observance on Good Friday, March 29, 2024. We will remember the death, and ultimately the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Dress will be Class A Uniforms for Sir Knights and Sunday dress for any guests.

Further details will be released as we get closer to the observance.

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## MONTHLY MENTION

Sanctity /saNG(k)tədə/:

"Holiness of life and character."

Deriving from the Middle English word *saunctite* and the Latin word *sanctitas*, the word meant "sacred." *Sanctity* was first used in English in the 14th century to express a sentiment of Godliness.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Grand Lodge Sessions:** January 18-20 - Waco

**Good Friday Observance:** March 29 - Waco

**171st Grand Conclave:**  
April 11-14, 2024  
South Shore Harbour Resort  
League City, TX

**District Ritual Certificate Examinations:**

Information for each district's exam is forthcoming and will be posted here when received.

## SURVEY

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

@GrandCommanderyTexas



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# PRELATE'S APARTMENT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

### A New Year

As we start a new year, let's get down on our knees and thank God we're still on our feet. But, let us not forget the past year and just start over towards the new. While down on our knees, let us remember the ones who we lost and pray for their loved ones. Let us remember all the wonderful ways God blessed us, our families, and our Order this past year. May we always be grateful for the past, find joy in the present, and remain excited for the future. I know many of us have started making plans and resolutions for the new year. For myself that list seems to be the same list from last year. I believe we should set goals for ourselves. The question is, what are you willing to give up achieving your goals? Your time, your talent, your money, your prayers, or just stopping the bad habits that seem to come so easily.

As we move into the new year remember; **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." God's love for us never fails. **Lamentations 3:22-25** Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him."

Look forward to new beginnings in 2024. Make a concerted effort to love others, regardless of how much you "like" them. Try to see others through God's lens. Our Grand Commander still calls upon all Sir Knights to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted.

Let us pray: As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways. God, you gave us the greatest gift: the gift of life. In the coming year, help us use it wisely. May we grow in generosity, kindness and forgiveness, hope, faith, and love for one another. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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# MONTHLY UPDATES

## GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

January 1: **New Year's Day**  
 January 5-6: Southeast Texas  
 York Rite Festival - **Port  
 Neches/Nederland**  
 January 18-20: Grand Lodge -  
**Waco**

## Top 5 Knightings Ranking (April 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)

1. Corpus Christi No. 57 - **13**
2. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - **11**
- T3. San Marcos No. 56, Houston  
 No. 95, Lone Star No. 114 - **10**
- T4. Fort Bend No. 74 , Southeast  
 Texas No. 112 - **6**
- T5. Port Arthur No. 73, Midland No.  
 84, Melrose No. 109 - **5**

## Top 5 Reinstatements Ranking (April 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)

1. Ascension No. 25 - **8**
2. East Texas No. 104 - **4**
- T3. Corpus Christi No. 57, Lubbock No.  
 60 - **3**
- T4. Ruthven No. 2, San Antonio No. 7,  
 McKinney No. 34, Alexander C. Garrett  
 No. 103 - **2**
- T5. San Felipe de Austin No. 1, Ivanhoe  
 No. 8, Indivisible Friends No. 13,  
 Brenham No. 15, Vernon No. 33,  
 Beaumont No. 38, Temple No. 41,  
 Denton No. 45, Tancred No. 82. Melrose  
 No. 109 - **1**

## GRAND COMMANDERY SURVEY

Take the [Grand Commandery Survey](#) to help grow our Order! Click the link above or scan this QR code to access the survey and provide crucial feedback that will help the Grand Officers assist the Sir Knights of Texas to the best of their ability!



## EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR  
 AIDE-DE CAMP



Sir Knights,

As we say farewell to 2023, may we collectively pause and review the year of success this Grand Commandery has endured under superb leadership. From establishing a functional office in Waco, to official merchandise being created. From raising thousands of dollars for the Penny-A-Day, to updating universal engagement and communications. From a statewide food drive to supporting the youth. From a new Commandery, to observing Friday the 13th. These are just some of giant successes for the betterment of our order. It is my hope that "The Texas Templar" has conveyed these positive additions and programs to you as individuals, and to all the constituencies in Texas. I look forward to the remaining months of this term, and to reveal some even more exciting programs and opportunities into the new year!