

THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



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SK Earl Milstead receiving his 70 year Templar service award with his family!

Sir Knights,

What a great time of year, the summer. With the summer, warmer weather comes, longer days and vacations. As we enter June, let's remember that we should not lose focus on the goals for our commanderies during this season of travel. Keeping these goals in mind, be watchful for the release on **June 1st** of the District Competition rules and regulations. It will be an exciting opportunity to compete and hopefully have your Templar District named the District Champion of the year. We should all be making plans to travel to one or more of the District School of Instructions. Let's set a goal to have great attendance and a fun time. The attendance at the schools will be a part of the competition, so turnout is key.

Also, June brings about a new season for our Lodges, Installation and the turning over of the gavel to a new leader. This time of year is such a great opportunity for us as Templars to get out in front of not only our own lodges but other lodges in the area and represent our Commanderies. We can do this by presenting the American and Texas flags to the various lodges throughout our areas to show support to our blue lodge brethren, and to also promote Templar Masonry. President Reagan once said, "***We must always consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill – the eyes of all people are upon us***". This holds true for us in all that we do. As we want others to become Templars, we should set an example that makes them crave and strive to not only join our ranks, but to imitate us because of our actions.

Regarding the Templar store, during June, it will have updated items for sale starting. So, keep looking at the website to see what is available. We will also be releasing the new Penny-A-Day program items as well. Just a quick reminder, that we should not forget the Rainbow Girls are hosting their Grand Assembly in June and will be located in Waco. We should each and a way to support and help them.

Let's kick off June with a lot of participation and energy.

Sincerely,

Jason L. Lesikar
Grand Commander

SAVE THE DATE - 173RD GRAND ANNUAL CONCLAVE

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Mark your calendars for **April 16-19, 2026** for the 173rd Grand Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas! Our Grand Commander and his team are excited to host the Sir Knights of Texas at the Marriott Dallas/Fort Worth Westlake. Located in Solana Plaza, the host hotel is surrounded by great opportunities for families to enjoy.

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PRELATE'S APARTMENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE **EMINENT GRAND PRELATE** SK CHANCE CHAPMAN, PGC, KCT

Sir Knights,

It is my hope that each of you are taking to heart the duties of Templary and helping to defend and preserve the Christian faith. Hebrews 11:1 reads, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." It is through faith that we are able to press forward through both the good times and the bad times. Right now, we have a lot of our Commanderies experiencing the good times—several knightings each year, exciting events, new opportunities to serve, great fellowship, and so forth.

However, it is an unfortunate reality that some of our Commanderies are experiencing the bad times right now—financial struggles, no recent new members, members not showing up to a Conclave. All Commanderies will go through the cycle of ups and downs. We, as Sir Knights, will too. We are on fire when we are first knighted, and sometimes that fire remains lit for the rest of our lives. Sometimes it is extinguished quickly. In the down times, I encourage every one of us to be reminded of Hebrews 11:1.

Perseverance is one of the main lessons we learn in the Order of the Temple. We, symbolically, spend three years of our preparation engaged in activities that impress upon our minds the importance of learning to do things that, despite difficulties and delays, still help us achieve success. Let us all take the lessons from what we have learned to help grow ourselves and our Commanderies and take that growth to persevere from the better things to come. Romans 12:12 is a great reminder for us. "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Should we emulate this, I have no doubt that our paths will be correct, our lives will be enriched, and our actions will prosper.

Please pray with me:

Our Father, King of the Universe, we beseech Thee to give us the strength to withstand the storms we go through and give thanks for the blessings we receive. In all that we do, may we keep our eyes focused and our hearts full of love and grace. Walk with us in our journeys and guide our steps. All this we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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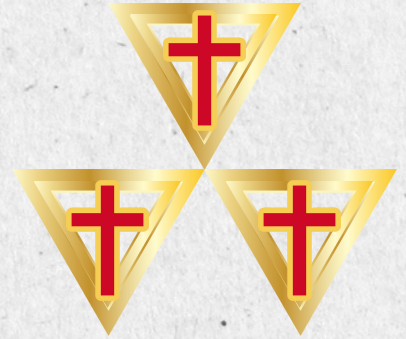
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2025-2026 PROGRAMS

Prayer Project

We are proud to introduce a new program this year for those in need of prayer. Through this project, prayer requests may be sent to the Eminent Grand Prelate of Texas who will “offer up prayers” for all that are submitted. This program is not limited to just Sir Knights of Texas nor members of Commandery alone. Submissions can be sent in through our website or by clicking [here](#).



STATEWIDE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 26-27



The Statewide York Rite Festival is back on after rescheduling! Mark your calendars for September 26-27, when this highly anticipated event will take place at the **Grand Lodge Memorial Temple** in Waco, TX. For those looking to get involved, **Gabriel Jagush** is the main point of contact for any questions or assistance. Registration and more information will be available on the website soon, so stay tuned for updates. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to network with fellow members and experience a memorable weekend of York Rite traditions!

BULLETINS & GENERAL ORDERS

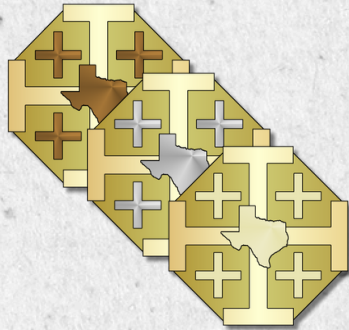
BULLETIN No. 1*Contact Info***GENERAL ORDER No. 1***Districts, Schools, & Clerical info***GENERAL ORDER No. 2***Membership Cords & Grand Officer Info***GENERAL ORDER No. 3***Texas Holding Cmdry***GENERAL ORDER No. 4***Ascension Message*

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CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS



Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation

The [Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation](http://WWW.YORKRITETEXAS.ORG/COMMANDERY/) (THLPF) was established in 2024 to send clergy to the Holy Land. The foundation's first year has been an incredible success, and with your support, we can continue strong! There are several ways you can contribute. Badges are awarded to donors who give \$250 (Bronze), \$500 (Silver), and \$1,000 (Gold). There are also neckties available for lower level donations. If you're interested, please reach out to a board member. Your badge can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform above your left chest!



A.P.O.A.S. Commandery

A.P.O.A.S. Commandery is a traveling, history-focused, and educational Commandery that offers Sir Knights a unique and engaging experience rooted in Templar tradition and history. By taking meetings on the road, it brings Masonic history to life in a dynamic and memorable way across Texas. Membership is open to all Sir Knights in good standing. Each gathering is designed to offer not just business, but a meaningful and immersive experience tailored to the growth and enjoyment of its members.



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR



Sir Knights,

I want to take a moment to personally thank each of you for the overwhelming kindness and encouragement I received. Many of your thoughtful messages came within minutes of the May Edition being published! It continues to remind me why it's such a pleasure to be a part of this noble brotherhood and its various projects. It's your support that keeps this newsletter alive and meaningful. As we continue our journey together, let's remember the words of St. Bernard of Clairvaux: ***"The true knight is a humble man, guided by faith, strengthened by fellowship, and committed to the service of others."*** Thank you for reading, for sharing, and most of all, for standing with me for this great cause!

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