

THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



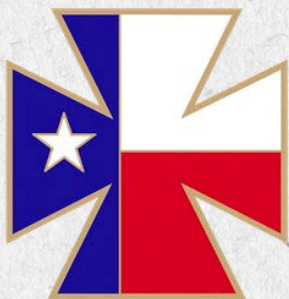
Sir Knight

Gary E. Rock, KCT

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Sir Knight

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For 250 years, we have celebrated the blessings of liberty that our forefathers secured through courage, sacrifice, and an unwavering faith in God. Independence Day is a time to reflect on the principles upon which our nation was founded and the responsibility each of us has to preserve them.

As Knights Templar, our commitment extends beyond our Commanderies. We are called to be examples of Christian character, patriotism, and service in our communities. Let us honor those who have defended our freedoms by living lives worthy of their sacrifice and by continuing to support the values that make our nation strong.

I encourage each Sir Knight to proudly represent our Order throughout this patriotic season and to seek opportunities to serve your Commanderies, lodges, and your community.

If you wish to showcase the perfect combination of templary and patriotism, I hope you will make plans to join us for our annual Family Day on Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Texas Masonic Retirement Community in Arlington. Our Honor Guard will once again present our patriotic Flag Presentation and Tribute, and all Sir Knights with a Class A uniform are invited to participate. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our traditions, honor our nation, and enjoy fellowship with our Masonic family.

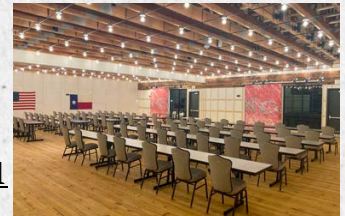
I look forward to seeing you there.

Gary E. Rock, Jr.
Grand Commander

SAVE THE DATE - 174TH GRAND ANNUAL CONCLAVE

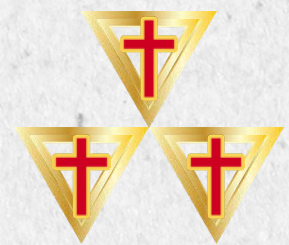


Mark your calendars for April 8-11, 2027 for the 174th Grand Annual Conclave which will be held at the Cotton Court Hotel in **Lubbock, TX!**
Located at **1610 Broadway St, Lubbock, TX 79401**



PRAYER PROJECT

The Eminent Grand Prelate has reinstated the Texas Prayer Project! Prayer requests may be sent in without name through our website or by clicking [here](#). The Grand Prelate 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.



FAMILY DAY 2026

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Family Day on Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, held in the beautiful pecan orchard of the TMRC. Come enjoy live music, all bodies of Freemasonry, delicious BBQ, a Car Show, vendor booths, and more all for free admission. A patriotic Flag Presentation will also be held, and **Sir Knights are invited to participate in Class A Uniform.**



Interested in being a vendor? Reserve your booth by September 21. We hope you'll join us for a day of fellowship, food, and fun while supporting the Texas Masonic Retirement Community!

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



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PRELATE'S APARTMENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE SK NIKOLAUS FEHRENBACH, KTCH

The Gospel of Luke is the third of the New Testament's canonical Gospels. It is the longest and chronicles the birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. St Johns Day is the beginning of our Masonic year and celebrates the nativity of John the Baptist. For my July message I draw your attention to Luke 1-2, the parallel birth announcements of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, the miraculous beginnings of two lives that would change the world forever. These chapters are not just historical accounts of ancient births, they are a testament of God's grace, setting the stage for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While John prepares the way by calling Israel to repentance, Jesus is the ultimate Savior, fulfilling Old Testament covenants to bring light and peace to all.

The story begins with Zechariah and Elizabeth, an elderly childless couple of impeccable faith. While Zechariah serves in the temple, the angel Gabriel appears to him and informs him that Elizabeth will bear a son and his name will be John. John's calling was to be prophet, going before the Lord to prepare His ways. He was to turn the hearts of the people back to God.

Zechariah doubted Gabriel's word because he was old and Elizabeth was stricken in years. For this lapse in faith, Zechariah was struck mute until the baby was born. Yet, upon John's naming, Zechariah's tongue was loosed and he praised God. We learn from this that God's purposes will be accomplished, and our role is simply to be faithful heralds of the truth.

Months after Elizabeth's conception, the angel Gabriel visits a young virgin named Mary in Nazareth. The angel informs Mary that she shall conceive a son, and he shall be called Jesus. He shall be great and called the son of the most high. Hearing this Mary said to Gabriel, how can this be as I have not known a man.

The angel said that the Holy Spirit will come over thee and that holy thing that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age. And this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

And it came to pass that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary that John leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

The overarching theme of these two births is joy, gladness, and praise. For with God, nothing is impossible. Today, the same Savior who was born in Bethlehem visits our lives. Like John, we are called to prepare the way for His truth, and like Mary and Zechariah, our hearts should overflow with wonder and praise for the incredible gift of Jesus.

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RECORDER'S DESK



A MESSAGE FROM THE **EMINENT GRAND RECORDER** SK RONNIE WILSON, PGC, KCT

On September 3rd the MMS database will begin the process of creating dues cards for all Commanderies on a calendar year. Once the dues cards are printed they will be shipped to the mailing address listed for the Commandery in MMS. As we begin the Summer months it is imperative that your Commanderies complete all updates to their membership records. They need to enter all Knighting, Demits, Suspensions, Affiliations, Reinstatements, and address changes before September 1st. Each Recorder should also verify that the addresses for their Commanderies are up to date in MMS. Please see the information below:

In MMS there are four addresses for every Commandery:

Official Address – Must be the location where your Commandery holds its meetings. No mail is ever sent to the Official Address.

Dues Return Address – This is the address printed on the upper left hand corner of the dues cards. This can be any address you choose. If you mail the dues cards to your members using a double window envelope this is the only time this address is important.

Fed Ex/UPS Shipping Address – This address is used when we ship large boxes to a Commandery. It must be a location where someone is available to sign for a package when delivered.

Mailing Address – This is the address where you want all mail for your Commandery to be sent. The dues cards will be sent to this address when printed. It can be any address you choose. The building where your Commandery meets, a PO Box, the address of the Recorder or somewhere convenient for the Recorder.

These addresses are found in MMS by using the drop down menu for “System”, then select “Organization”, then “Maintenance”. In the left hand column of this screen select “Addresses Edit”.

If local Recorders have any questions or need assistance with any changes to MMS they should contact the Grand Encampment office at 713-349-8700 and ask for John Elkinton. He normally is available Monday through Friday from 7am to 4pm Central Time.

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CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS

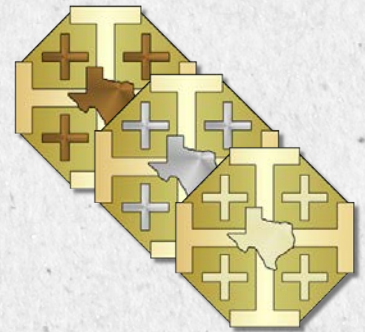
Permanent Endowment Fund

The [Permanent Endowment Fund](#) provides a long-term resource that supports the goals and efforts of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. Your donation of \$250 for a white badge will help further the success of the Grand Commandery. For any additional \$150, a Diamond will be added to your badge. For the one-time payment of \$3,250, your badge comes adorned with red enamel and 20 diamonds. Your badge can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform above your left chest!



Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation

The [Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation](#) (THLPF) was established in 2024 to send clergy to the Holy Land. 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!



Member Citation Cord Awards

Any Sir Knight who has been the first line signer for a total of three petitioners, who are either knighted or restored to membership since January 1, 2016, is eligible to receive the Member Citation Cord Award. There are various levels represented by different colors, to show your quantity of recruitment or restoration. The total is cumulative with no time boundaries. When [awarded](#) with a cord, it is to be worn on your left shoulder.



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. Membership is open to all Sir Knights in good standing.



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KNIGHT TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION



Our Grand Commander is a big supporter of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. He encourages everyone to explore the various donation programs the KTEF offer.

The Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. has a number of donation programs most with associated recognition programs. One of their primary contribution programs is the [Grand Master's Club](#). These are contributions of \$1,000 which can be accumulated over time. These accumulations are known as the Grand Commander's Club (\$100 each until \$1,000 is reached). Currently Grand Master's Club donors receive a plaque and a lapel pin.

The Crusader's Cross comes in 5 levels, \$1,000, \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 or above. The \$1,000 level has the single, larger cross in the center. Each additional \$1,000 is identified with an additional small cross in a quadrant until at \$5,000 or above all four quadrants are occupied to complete the emblem known as the Crusader's Cross. There are 25 total variations. Recipients of The Crusader's Cross may wear it on the right side of the class "A" uniform.



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR



Sir Knights,

As this edition of The Texas Templar is published on Independence Day, I wish each of you and your families a happy and safe Fourth of July. As we celebrate the birth of our nation and the freedoms we cherish, may we also reflect upon our duty to God, our country, and the principles of Christian Knighthood.

Thank you for your continued support of The Texas Templar. I hope you enjoy this issue, and I encourage you to share your Commandery's news and accomplishments for future editions.

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