THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight
Gary E. Rock, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander of Texas

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Stephenville No. 100 Inspection with E:. Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knights,

What a month it has been! October has given us one reason after another to be proud of the Grand Commandery of Texas, and I'm grateful for the chance to share a few highlights.

The Outdoor Order of the Temple was a tremendous success! We were honored to confer the Order upon two candidates: Sir Knight Timothy Bell of Alexander C. Garrett Commandery and Sir Knight Dillion Koen of Arlington Commandery. Sir Knights, welcome to our ranks. You have joined a fellowship that stretches back for some time, and you received your Order in a setting few will ever forget.

This year's event was held at Lake Godstone near Jacksboro, Texas, a 188-acre ranch in Jack County built around a spring-fed private lake. Tucked into the hills of North Texas about an hour and a half from the Metroplex, the property is surrounded by trails, wildlife overlooks, and wide-open scenery. Conferring the Order of the Temple outdoors, under the Texas sky and beside quiet water, gave the ritual a depth and solemnity that simply can't be matched indoors. It was, in every sense, a chapter in our "Making History" year.

An event of this scale doesn't happen without generous support. I'd like to extend a special thank you to the York Rite Development Fund, Arlington Commandery, Lubbock Commandery, Dallas Commandery, and Alexander C. Garrett Commandery for their donations in sponsorship of this amazing event. Your generosity made it possible, and every Sir Knight who attended is in your debt.

This month we also attended Family Day at the Texas Masonic Retirement Community, and I'm pleased to report that our Sir Knights turned out in force. A strong group came out to present the colors, and it was a moving sight for residents and families alike. Our Grand Generalissimo, Sir Knight Ricky Cox, paid honor to our nation's flag with a heartfelt recitation of The Ode to the Flag, a fitting tribute that reminded everyone present why that banner means so much to those of us who have served beneath it.

Sir Knight
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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE CONT.

Keeping the day running smoothly as Master of Ceremonies for the entire event was our very own Sir Knight James Kirkpatrick, Grand Sentinel. James, thank you for representing the Grand Commandery with such warmth and professionalism. Events like this remind us that our residents at TMRC are family, and showing up for them is one of the most meaningful things we do.

Speaking of showing up for our TMRC family, I want to recognize an extraordinary act of generosity. Dallas Commandery No. 6, together with Dallas Lodge, Dallas Chapter, and Dallas Council, each donated $20,000, a combined $80,000, toward the purchase of a new bus for the residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Community. That bus will carry our brothers, sisters, and their families to appointments, outings, and events for years to come. It is charity in its truest form, and a shining example of the York Rite bodies and the Lodge working hand in hand for the good of our Masonic family. To every Companion, Brother, and Sir Knight in Dallas who made this possible: thank you.

Sir Knights, let's keep this momentum going. Every event we hold, every candidate we welcome, and every flag we honor adds another page to our history.

Gary E. Rock, Jr.
Grand Commander

RECORDER'S DESK



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

Dear Local Recorders,

As we approach the time to prepare the 2026 annual returns, I would like to provide a few important reminders. Please carefully review and verify all addresses listed on the return forms to ensure they are complete and accurate. The Grand Recorder's Office uses the information provided on these returns as the primary mailing address for official correspondence, so maintaining accurate information is very important. Please also remember that all 2026 returns are due to the Grand Recorder by January 15, 2027. If you have any questions or need assistance with completing your returns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your attention to these important details and for your continued support.

Sir Knight Ronnie Wilson, PGC
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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**



KNIGHT TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION



Our Grand Commander is a big supporter of he 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, $3000, $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.

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

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 2 v10-11). We are all God's children and are temples of the Lord. We have free will and can build upon the foundation as we choose. But our building will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done (1 Corinthians 2 v13). Paul, in his writing to the church at Carthage, discusses division within the church, as well as other things, but the passage above is what speaks to me. He speaks of the wisdom of man and of rulers but the truth is of God. Through Christ's crucifixion we are given a path to salvation, but it is up to us how we choose to live our lives. We build the temple upon the foundation but at the judgment our work will be tested.

Let us so live our lives that at the judgement our work shall be deemed good and square work. Remid us daily to inculcate the virtues of the immaculate Jesus who died that we might live. We all make bad decisions from time to time and occasionally make a wrong turn. But strive to correct those errs that in the end, the temple we build may be deemed worthy of the master overseer's square.

A temple is not built in a day, but each day we lay another stone upon the foundation. If one day we lay a stone that is not good and square, reject it. And the next day lay a stone that is such as needed for the completion of the temple. We are not perfect, but each day strive to do good work and be kind to your fellow man. Strive to practice Christian virtues and in the end may the temple you build be worthy of our blessed redeemer.

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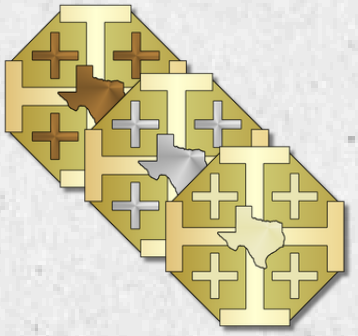
CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS

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 avalible 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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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.

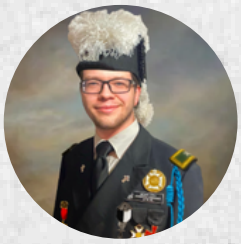
OUTDOOR ORDER OF THE TEMPLE






EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR



Sir Knights,

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the many blessings found in our Templar fraternity, especially the fellowship, faith, and dedication of the Sir Knights who continue to support our work. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributes to this publication, whether through articles, photographs, submissions, or simply taking the time to read each issue. Your support is what keeps this publication alive and meaningful.

As we give thanks for our blessings, may we also remember our calling to serve Christ and our fellow man with humility and charity.

"***In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***" — 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

Thank you for your continued support, and may you and your families enjoy a blessed and peaceful Thanksgiving.

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