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Greetings, Sir Knights, and Happy Independence Day!

As we observe this important holiday in the traditional manner with parades, barbeques and all types of celebrations, let us remember our 3rd President, Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the ***Declaration of Independence***, and those courageous men from the 13 Colonies who signed it.

This document and the Revolutionary War against Great Britain brought to this land and to the world a new type of government: a *government of the people, by the people, and for the people*, wherein this government was to be controlled by its citizens and not by a monarch. How many of us remember the accusations against the King that brought about this momentous document? Well, here are a few as listed in the document:

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to not acknowledged by the British Constitution and laws; giving his assent to Parliament's Acts of pretended legislation.

He cut off our trade with all parts of the World.

He imposed taxes on us without our consent or any say therein.

He deprived us, in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury.

Consider these are only 5 of the 28 grievances presented in the Declaration of Independence. We should also remember our brother, General George Washington, and his courageous men who brought the Revolutionary War to a successful conclusion.

Happy 4th of July my Fraters.

Schools of Instruction: It is that time of year when the Grand Officer for each Templar District will be scheduling a time, place and date for a School of Instruction. This School is to aid the Commanderies in their preparation for the Official Visitation during September, October, and November. I must bring your attention to Article 113 at page 90 of the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery that partially states:

At such Schools of Instruction it shall be the duty of all the officers of each Commandery situated in such District to attend at the time and place designated by the Grand Commander or his representative, and to participate in the work of such school.

I congratulate the Grand Officers on their promotion at the 156th Grand Conclave. I particularly want to congratulate E. Richard Doss for his election to this Grand Line as Grand Sentinel. **Welcome to the Grand Commandery Line Sir Knight Richard and his wife, Lady Kathy.**

In His Name,

Dock F. Dixon, Jr.

R:E: Grand Commander



Bennington Flag



First Navy Jack

York Rite Festival announcement: Fort Worth Masonic Temple – Sept 11-12 – Chapter Degrees begin @ 6:45PM on 11th; remaining Degrees and Orders begin @ 7:00AM on 12th. Meals served one hour before start. Festival in honor of R:E: **William L. Blanks, PGC.** Contact Larry Whitfield, (682) 557-6166; lwhitfield123@att.net.

Remember to submit Festival and other items of Templar interest/importance to the Texas Page Editor. His contact information is listed in the masthead. Send him anything you believe should be of note for and/or published to the Sir Knights of Texas. His deadline is the 25th of the month a full month prior to the issue in which it is requested to be published; for example, for the September issue, your submission must reach him by July 25th.