

THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight

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Right Eminent Grand
Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight

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Photo Courtesy:
SK Michael Cote II

Sir Knights,

“Let it be Christmas everywhere/In the songs that we sing and the gifts that we bring/Christmas everywhere/In what this day means and what we believe/From the sandy white beaches where blue water rolls/Snow covered mountains and the valleys below”

These lyrics, sang by Alan Jackson, describe what I want each Sir Knight to feel and express this month. Wherever we go, whomever we meet, whatever we do, keep in mind what Christmas means. We are celebrating the birth of our Saviour and the hope and joy that comes from Him. Lisa and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas! May you be surrounded with peace, love, and joy.

We are in installation season, and I wholeheartedly congratulate the newly installed officers of each Commandery! I know you will enjoy your term this year. I, along with all of the Grand Officers, stand ready to assist your Commandery in your future endeavors.

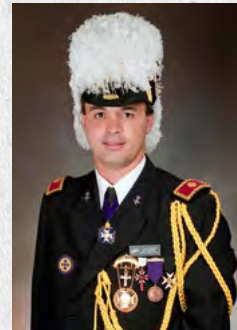
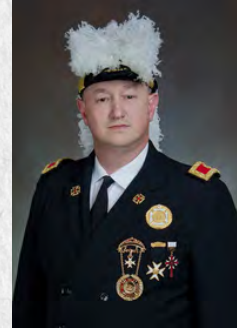
As we begin to wind down this year, I pray a special prayer for the Grand Commandery of Texas and all the Commanderies and Sir Knights throughout the jurisdiction for a new year full of hope, love, mercy, growth, excitement, and future prosperity!

In His Service,

T. Chance Chapman
Grand Commander

GRAND CHAPTER AND GRAND COUNCIL

We wish the Companions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters much success during their annual sessions this month! We are pleased to see that two Past Grand Commanders of Texas will be presiding as Grand High Priest and Grand Master. Robert Loflin served as Grand Commander in 2014, and David Melear served in 2010.



GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICE



During the upcoming sessions of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council in December, our new office will be open for everyone to stop by and visit! We will have some new merchandise available along with the popular Penny-A-Day program items. Be sure to stop by, visit with us, and help support your Grand Commandery!

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NEW ITEM - OFFICIAL BELT BUCKLES

NEW ITEM
Released



\$30.00

**OFFICIAL GRAND
COMMANDERY OF TEXAS
BELT BUCKLE**

Each will be numbered.

Numbers include ALL Commandery Charter numbers.

Prototype No. 000 will be auctioned off at the 2024 Session

Official Grand Commandery of Texas belt buckles, limited to only 125, will be available at the upcoming Grand Chapter & Grand Council sessions! They will also be available for shipping. All will be numbered, including all Commandery charter numbers.

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PENNY-A-DAY CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE



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



HELP US
#FILLTHESWORD

57 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 \$14,000 has been raised. Thanks to all who have participated!

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UPCOMING EVENTS



**FEAST OF
ST. JOHN
FESTIVE BOARD**

HOSTED BY A.P.O.A.S. COMMANDERY

THIS FEAST WILL BE BASED ON THE MINISTRY AND LIFE OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

MEETING: 5:30 PM
ATTIRE: UNIFORM (MEETING);
COAT AND TIE (FEAST)
DINNER & PROGRAM: 7:30 PM

The next meeting of A.P.O.A.S. Commandery, U.D. will be held on Saturday, December 16 at the Galveston Scottish Rite Cathedral (2128 Church St, Galveston, TX 77550). The Feast of St. John will be at Hearsay on the Strand (2410 The Strand, Galveston, TX 77550 - about 0.4 miles from the Cathedral). The meal will be \$45 with a choice of a 12oz Ribeye, Salmon, or Pasta Primavera payable at the restaurant. All Sir Knights in good standing are welcome!

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MONTHLY MENTION

Inculcate /in'kəl.kāt/:

"Instill by persistent instruction."

Deriving from the Latin word *inculcare*, the word meant "to tread on" either literally or figuratively. *Inculcate* was first used in English in the 16th century to mean impress facts, ideas, or ideals on someone through repetition and is a synonym for the word *instill*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charity Ball: December 2 -
Beaumont

**Grand Chapter and Council
Sessions:** December 7-9 - 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

PRELATE'S APARTMENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

God's Christmas Plan

Luke 2:4-12 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

The birth of Jesus the Christ was prophesied in the Old Testament. It is the fulfillment of this prophecy that brings us together to celebrate Christmas. That wondrous birth of God's only begotten son. It was God's plan, as told in **John 3:16-21** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth come into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Think about it for a moment. Consider the enormity of that kind of love because we know that God loved his Son. Just as you love your children, your parents love you, and you love your parents. For us, it is impossible to comprehend the greatness of God's love for us.

During Christmas, when we consider the birth of Christ, it isn't just a celebration of him being born as the son of God. Christmas is also the celebration of the birth of redemption for all human souls. Jesus was born for this reason and this reason alone. His birth means, as the bible states, "**that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" Each of us was given the keys to heaven on the day Jesus was born. If you believe Jesus the Christ child is the only begotten son of God, then you are given the ultimate Christmas gift – life eternal.

Jesus is the hope for the world. Through Christ, God has given us hope of an eternal life. Without Jesus's birth, that hope simply would not exist for us Christians today. But today we have great hope. Jesus's birth signifies our journey back to God, our creator. Jesus restores hope to the world. He paved the way for us. When we believe in Christ, we accept that message of hope proclaimed on Christmas morning that the Christ child was born.

Sir Knights as you remember and celebrate the birth of Christ with your family and friends, let us not forget the less fortunate. Remember; give to the needy and pray for the suffering. In the name of Jesus we give thanks and praise for the blessings God has given us, Amen.

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MONTHLY UPDATES

GRAND COMMANDER'S

UPCOMING TRAVELS

December 2: Installation of Officers, Port Arthur No. 73- **Nederland**; Charity Ball - **Beaumont**

December 7-9: Grand Chapter and Grand Council - **Waco**

December 16: A.P.O.A.S. - **Galveston**

December 21: Installation of Officers, Beaumont No. 38- **Beaumont**

December 25: **Christmas**

Top 5 Knightings Ranking (April 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023)

1. Corpus Christi No. 57 - **13**
2. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - **11**
3. Lone Star No. 114 - **9**
- T4. Fort Bend No. 74 - **6**
- T4. Southeast Texas No. 112 - **6**
5. Midland No. 84 - **5**

Top 5 Reinstatements Ranking (April 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023)

1. Ascension No. 25 - **7**
- T2. East Texas No. 104 - **4**
- T2. Lubbock No. 60 - **3**
- T4. San Antonio No. 7, McKinney No. 34, Corpus Christi No. 57, Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - **2**
- T5. San Felipe de Austin No. 1, Ruthven No. 2, Ivanhoe No. 8, Indivisible Friends No. 13, Vernon No. 33, Beaumont No. 38, 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 issuing a dispensation for 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!