

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS

THROUGH THE VEILS



REGALIA PRESENTED TO HONORARY PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST. MORE ON [PAGE 4](#).

WELCOME TO "THROUGH THE VEILS" MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

Editor's Update!

Several viewers responded to the [Newsletter Survey](#) from last month and your input is valued and cherished! Some recommended the newsletter should be distributed to all Companions. We are in the works to make that possible! Our current distribution platform only allows a maximum of 500 email addresses. We are working with our webmasters and the Grand Secretary's Office to ensure all can receive it going forward! In the meantime, the newsletter is available to be forwarded via email, is on the website for download and viewing, and it is also linked on the Grand Chapter's [Facebook Page](#).



CONTACT / SUBMISSIONS

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Editor
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MOST EXCELLENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Companions,

As we continue to build on our successes this year, I am excited to announce the upcoming Conviviums in Turkey, TX and Tyler TX! These events, like that in Beaumont, promise to be a time of inspiration, brotherhood, and celebration. I encourage all of you to attend and experience the unified fellowship that our gatherings are being known for. Be sure to check out the flyer and registration link [later in this newsletter](#) for more details.

I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Very Excellent Ken Cooley, who was presented with the regalia of a Honorary Past Grand High Priest regalia. This honor is a testament to his unwavering dedication, commitment, and service to our Order. Ken, your contributions have truly been remarkable, and we are proud to see you receive this well-deserved recognition.

Continuing, I am pleased to report the successful sales of our [Fundraiser Jewels](#). These beautiful pieces are not only a symbol of our fraternity, but also an important means of supporting our ongoing initiatives with our Companions at the beautiful TMRC. Additionally, we have launched new [Texas Shekels](#). These are available for purchase online in bulk. Don't miss out on these wonderful mementos of our journey together. You can also get them individually through team members or in person at the office!

Finally, I want to emphasize the incredible Fellowship and Unity we are experiencing this year. We've seen tremendous success within and without our chapters, and it is all thanks to the collaborative spirit that each of you brings to the table. The fun we are having, the bonds we are strengthening, and the progress we are making are all part of the success we're achieving together. Let's continue this momentum, as we are stronger than ever when we work hand in hand.

Wishing you all continued success, joy, and unity in the coming months!

Don Paul Payton
Grand High Priest





FROM THE GRAND ORATOR'S SCROLL

Shem, one of Noah's sons, survived the Great Flood in the Bible along with his wife, parents, and brothers and their wives. He and his brothers repopulated the Earth. His descendants would become the Assyrians, Arameans, Chaldeans, Elamites, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Arabs, and Hebrews. It was from his line that Abraham would emerge. As we know, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all religions that stem from Abraham, and by these measures, Shem. He was also regarded as a custodian of knowledge and wisdom. It is through his efforts of preserving knowledge and wisdom that many teachings were passed down to another descendant, Solomon, for his construction of the Temple.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S FUND

The Grand High Priest's Fund Jewels were commissioned for Capitular Masons in Texas and elsewhere to support the effort of the "No Mason Left Behind" program. By donating **\$150.00** (plus an online fee and shipping) to this program, you will receive a jewel in a beautiful red presentation case. The jewels can be purchased [online](#) and shipped to you! To date, we have raised over \$20,000 for this vitally important Masonic cause!



ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH



SWORDS & SABERS

The Templar sword, like those that represent the Guard, was designed primarily for protection. This double-edged blade was built for close combat, offering a balance of cutting and thrusting power. Its purpose was to defend, safeguarding lives.

In contrast, the saber has a more ceremonial and symbolic role, particularly in the context of leadership and military tradition. With its curved, single-edged blade, the saber is often associated with cavalry officers. It is a symbol of authority, leadership, and honor, worn proudly to denote one's status as a commanding figure, or in our Capitular case, that of a Captain. The saber was less about the practicalities of everyday battle and more about displaying the power and prestige of the individual who wielded it.

In essence, while the Templar sword stood for protection and readiness in combat, the saber represented a higher rank and a visible marker of leadership. Due to this denotation, this is why the Captain of the Host of our Chapters bear the sabers and is of higher rank than most Capitular officers in the official lineup.

TEXAS SHEKELS



Online purchases for the Texas Shekels can be found [here](#). Minimum quantity for online purchases are five shekels are calculated for you based on quantity.

DISTRICT BREAKDOWN

DISTRICT 5

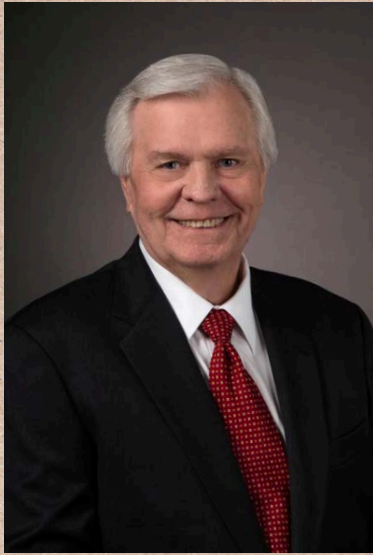
- Goose Creek
- Will N. Kidd
- North Houston
- Lloyd L. Gibson



DISTRICT 6

- San Felipe de Austin
- Washington
- Columbia
- Park Place
- Richmond

V.: E.: KENNETH E. COOLEY, HPGHP



RESOLUTION NO. 7
*Referred to the Committees on Purposes & Policies, Jurisprudence**

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

Whereas, Companion Kenneth E. Cooley has retired after eighteen plus years, first serving eleven years as Grand Treasurer and then seven and a half years as Grand Secretary; and

Whereas, his continued service and dedication, giving generously of his time and talents to Capitular Masonry and to this Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas for these many years; and


Whereas, in order to compliment his Masonic career with honors richly deserved by his long and distinguished service in the cause of Capitular Masonry and Masonry in general;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas hereby elects and confers upon the said Companion, Kenneth E. Cooley, the rank of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, together with all the rights and privileges of a Past Grand High Priest.

It is further directed that he be presented with the regalia of a Past Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter and that his name shall be carried on the rolls of this Grand Chapter as Honorary Past Grand High Priest.

Fraternally submitted,

James Roy Elliott, PHP, Midlothian No. 211, R.A.M.
 Jerry N. Kirby, PHP, Midlothian No. 211, R.A.M.
 W.E. Bill Schroeder, PHP, Port Neches No. 436, R.A.M.
 J. Weldon Champine, PHP, Washington No. 2, R.A.M.
 John C. Ekinton, PHP, Park Place No. 458, R.A.M.
 G. Clay Smith, PHP, George Washington No. 422, R.A.M.
 Thomas W. Snyder, PHP, Love Field No. 478, R.A.M.
 Tommy F. Chapman, PHP, Port Neches No. 436, R.A.M.
 Rexer L. Harrison, Jr., PHP, San Antonio No. 391, R.A.M.
 Charles S. Wolfe, PHP, Texas No. 362, R.A.M.
 W. David Melton, PHP, Quamath No. 450, R.A.M.
 Jackie W. Matthews, PHP, Keystone No. 172, R.A.M.
 E.E. Buster Williams, PHP, Llano No. 197, R.A.M.
 Joe F. Schriener, PHP, San Angelo No. 170, R.A.M.
 David M. Buskin, PHP, George Washington No. 422, R.A.M.
 Mark D. Myer, PHP, Port Neches No. 436, R.A.M.
 F.E. Skip Smith, PHP, Midlothian No. 211, R.A.M.
 Robert M. Luffin, PHP, Port Lavaca No. 238, R.A.M.
 James D. Masley, PHP, Tarrant No. 416, R.A.M.



At the 2024 Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, by a unanimous vote of the voting Companions present, the election and conferral of the rank of a Very Excellent Honorary Past Grand High Priest was bestowed upon Companion Kenneth E. Cooley of Midlothian Chapter No. 212 RAM for his eighteen plus years of service as Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary to the Grand Chapter of Texas. Resolution 7, shown above, further directed that he be presented with the proper regalia and that his name shall be carried on the rolls of this Grand Chapter. This becomes the second Honorary Past Grand High Priest of Texas, the first being V.: E.: Thomas Mitchell Bartley of Floydada Chapter No. 227 in 1941 who had served as Grand Secretary for 32 years. On Monday, February 3, 2025, the regalia was formally presented to Companion Cooley at Midlothian Chapter by V.: E.: Jerry Kirby, who presented the collar, and V.: E.: / R.: E.: Jackie Matthews, who presented the apron

For the photo album of the event, please click [here!](#)

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS




Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas
620 likes · 764 followers

It is our hope to hit 1,000 Facebook followers this term! With your help, we can grow our audience and share our missions with a larger group! Please click [here](#) or click on the Facebook icon above to be taken to the page. Content is always being added, posted, & shared!

SPECIAL SHEKEL

Keep an eye out for a new golden version of the Texas Shekel! They have been minted for the Grand High Priest to exclusively present. You might see one or even be given one by attending a convivium, a degree, a festival, an official visit, or other activities where the Grand High Priest might be present at!



UPCOMING CONVIVIUMS

REGIONAL WEEKENDS FOR UNITED FELLOWSHIP & QUARRY WORK!

WEST TEXAS
YORK RITE CONVIVIUM
TURKEY, TEX

March 28 & 29, 2025
"THE ROUND-UP"

Come join us for a two-day Convivium in quite possibly the most "Texas Town" - Turkey, TX! Headquartered at Hotel Turkey, we will celebrate in the home region of our Grand High Priest with an evening of Companionship together, with likely some "Bob Wills Music." The following day (March 29), we will join the quarry work of Floydada Chapter and Council at their lodge 45 minutes southwest, with registration opening at 8am. For further inquiries, please contact the event coordinator, **Chris Bates** at (806) 300-2870.

MARCH 28 - 29

Friday night, the 28th, we will assemble at Hotel Turkey for fellowship and dinner in the most western town in Texas at 7pm. You can make a hotel reservation [here](#) as well!

On Saturday, we will assist in a festival hosted by Floydada. You can sign-up for parts and register [here!](#)

MAY 9-10

Friday Night, we will assemble at "Country Tavern" in Kilgore, TX for an authentic Texas BBQ meal! On Saturday, we will assist in a festival hosted by the Companions in Tyler, TX. Registration for the festival will open at 8am with the degrees following soon after.

EAST TEXAS
YORK RITE CONVIVIUM
TYLER, TEX

May 9 & 10, 2025
"THE MIDTERM"

Come join us for a two-day Convivium in the Piney Woods. We will gather Friday evening (May 9) at "The Country Tavern" in Kilgore, TX. The next day (May 10), we will join the East Texas Companions in Tyler, just 30 minutes west, for their annual festival with registration opening at 8am. For further inquiries, please contact the event coordinator, **Richard Gaiser** at (903) 571-3841.

OFFICIAL EMBLEM
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER



According to Section B of the Grand Chapter Code of Laws, the above emblem is the official emblem of this Grand Jurisdiction and is visually depicted within our law book. It is slightly different from most Royal Arch insignia even though at first glance, it looks the same. Specifically, this emblem compared to others house two triangles of different thicknesses, with other abstract lines embedded within the Triple Tau.

COUNTERPART CORNER



Congratulations to John C. Elkinton, KGC on a successful session at Masonic Week, presiding over the largest attendance in their history as Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of North America! (AMD).

COMMITTEE COLUMN

- GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEES -



FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee on Fraternal Correspondence shall examine all requests for recognition made by other Grand Chapters, and report its recommendation thereon. Additionally, the committee advises the Companions of Texas on travel regularities and counsels the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary on corresponding with foreign Grand Chapters. The committee also prepares an annual review of the proceedings while maintaining a current list of other Grand Chapters in fraternal relations with this Grand Chapter. This committee is not termed and is selected fully by the Grand High Priest. It has five seats. The current Chairman is Comp. Michael Cote II.

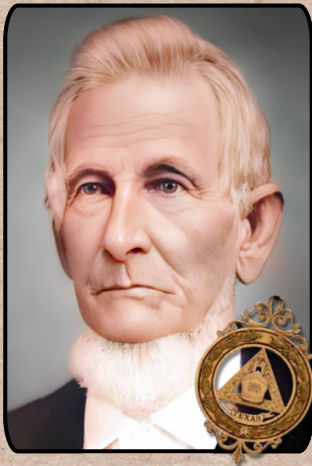


GRAND OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Committee on Grand Officers' Reports shall review the address of the Grand High Priest and the reports of the Grand Officers, confirming that such comments are for the best interests of Capitular Masonry, and distribute the subjects embraced in the address and reports to the appropriate committees. They shall not prepare any amendment to the laws or formulate any standing regulations, but may make recommendations for such, in which event same shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence for examination and report thereon. This termed committee has five seats with one that rolls off every year. The current Chairman is V.: E. John Elkinton, PGHP.

“COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING. KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS. WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.”

- HENRY FORD -



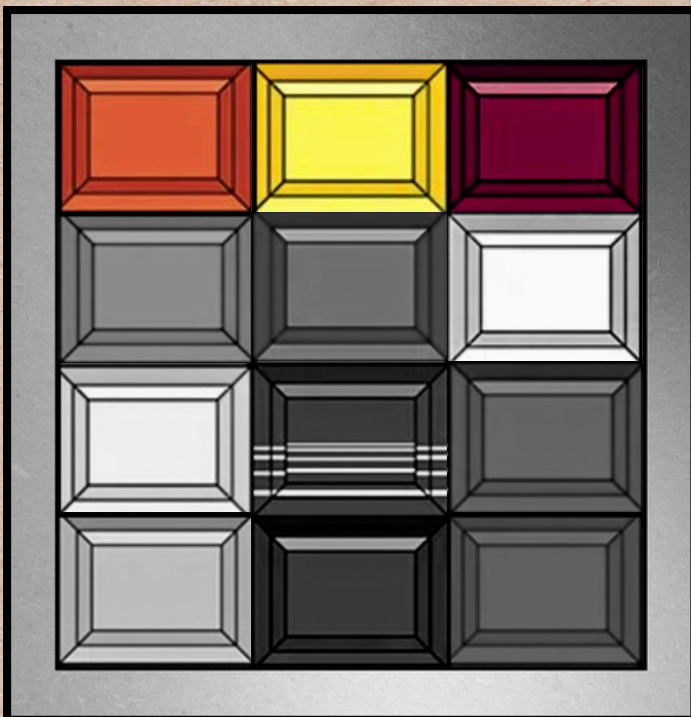
PRESERVING OUR PASTS

V. E. GEORGE MOFFITT PATRICK, PGHP

Dr. George M. Patrick, MD (1801-1889) served as the seventh and last Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Republic of Texas. He later served as the third Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas in 1853, becoming the only Companion to preside over both Grand Jurisdictions in Texas. He received his Royal Arch degree in a Craft Lodge under a warrant from a Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons. Dr. Patrick was the Charter High Priest for both Jerusalem Chapter No. 7 (RoT) and Jerusalem Chapter No. 3 (GRACoT). He became the first Texas Mason to preside over all four Grand Bodies of Texas which included two terms as Grand Master of Texas Masons.

EXPLORING EXODUS IDENTIFYING THE TWELVE STONES

In the Book of Exodus, we are introduced to Aaron's Breastplate, which is also known as the Breastplate of Judgement. Aaron wore this breastplate which had twelve stones on it representing the twelve tribes of Israel. It was meant to remind him of his obligations not only to God, but also to the people. This breastplate is the symbol used for Past High Priests, and it bears 12 precious stones that are not explained esoterically. Nearly every translation is different and some stones have since been renamed. The **Masonic Heirloom Bible** will be the version used for the remainder of this segment!



CARBUNCLE

Carbuncle is the third stone of the first row of the Breastplate. Traditionally, the name has been used in reference to any reddish gemstone, most often a garnet. Etymology of the word tells us carbuncle means "abscess" or "growth". This is because a garnet is naturally formed as a dodecahedron (twelve-faced solid) which protrudes from the rock in clusters. An alternative translation stems from Latin word "carbunculus" originally meaning small coal.

AN EYE ON AI



With the rising cultural influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), this artistic digital image was generated after entering certain keywords in order to form a visualization of our ancient craft. The words used were:

- Ancient**
- Desert**
- Tabernacle**
- Stone**
- Blue, Purple, Red, and White Veils**
- Three Men**
- Private Meeting**
- Three Chairs**
- Ruins**
- Workers in Distance**

The generated AI caption of the photo reads, "Three honored men of ancient time are seated looking through colored veils within an deserted tabernacle overseeing ruins in the distance where workmen are employed."

GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER'S PORTFOLIO



 **Texas Grand Chapter**
Photo Gallery



TEXAS MASONIC RETIREMENT COMMUNITY UPDATES!



Book Vendor Space NOW – Family Day 2025

Raise funds for your Lodge projects! Reserve your free booth NOW to sell items or food at Texas' largest Masonic event–Family Day 2025! Mark your calendar for Family Day on Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Texas Masonic Retirement Community in Arlington.

Reserve your booth at <https://yourtmrc.org/family-day/>

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE STATE



MARCH

- 1 // Park Place Festival - C/C Only (Houston, TX)
- 22 // San Felipe de Austin Festival - C/C Only (Texas City, TX)
- 25 // Pendar-Laney PM Degree w/ CoW (Sanger, TX)
- 28 // West Texas Convivium (Turkey, TX)
- 29 // Floydada Festival (Floydada, TX)



APRIL

- 10-13 // Grand Commandery (Grapevine, TX)
- 18 // Grand Commandery Good Friday Observance (Waco, TX)



EDITOR'S NOTE

COMPANION MICHAEL COTE II
ASSISTANT STATE COORDINATOR & E.: GRAND ORGANIST

Companions,

February was a busy month! I received multiple emails with wonderful updates and invitations to events from around the state. What a great way for us to unite in fellowship to promote the fun of Capitular Masonry. I encourage all of you to share with me pictures or events Chapters are participating in. **This newsletter is for you!**

