

# THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight

**T. Chance Chapman, KCT**  
Right Eminent Grand  
Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight

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Photo Courtesy:  
SK Michael Cote II

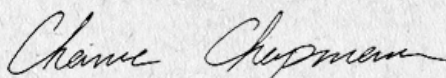
Sir Knights,

What an incredible journey it has been so far! Since being installed on April 16, I have had the honor to visit with many of you either in person or by phone, email, or social media. There is a growing buzz of excitement in the Grand Commandery of Texas. This is from the hard work the Sir Knights of Texas are putting in and sharing their experiences and showing why we are Knights Templar. Keep it up!

We are approaching the time to begin the Statewide Food Drive. Please urge your Commandery to participate in this program. Information can be found on the [website](#) on how to submit the totals for the Commandery. In the July edition of this newsletter, you will find a reverse advent calendar that lays out which day to collect a certain type of food. This can be done either individually or as a Commandery.

As we begin the time for the District Schools of Instruction, I hope each Sir Knight will attend their respective School to hear from their Inspecting Officer. This is also a time to learn how other Commanderies in your district are doing. You may be able to see what is working for them and be able to implement it in your Commandery as well. Let's work together to "finish the race!"

In His Service,



T. Chance Chapman  
Grand Commander

# FEATURED PROGRAM

## 2023-2024 PENNY-A-DAY



The success from the Penny-A-Day program shows the dedication and determination our membership and supporters have for our jurisdiction! The goal of this program is to generate funds to help the financial standing of the Grand Commandery of Texas. With the program now having been operating for one month, we have raised a record breaking **\$5,601.00**, and are proud to announce we had to reorder all supplies, including a second round of coins, within the first three week.

While you will receive a physical token of appreciation, perhaps the more desired accolade is for our "Chief Donors" who go above and beyond in supporting this program. Chief Donors contribute \$225 and receive not only the three variations, they are presented in a display case, and will be honored at the 2024 Grand Session by the Grand Commander. There, all Chief Donors will receive a custom certificate and an engraved plate for their display case.

There are also other options through this program at a lesser contribution.

- Individual copper token (\$36.50).
- Individual encapsulated silver-tone token (\$75.00).
- Individual encapsulated gold-tone token (\$150.00).

If you are interested in this successful program, and wish to join some honorable Sir Knights, please contact either the Grand Commander, Aide-de-Camps, or your local committeemen listed below! Click [here](#) to access the online donation page!

## Penny-A-Day Committee Members

**Ken Shifflett, Chairman - 409-225-1727**

**Seth Spangler (District 1) - 903-249-7343**

**Eddie Hopkins (District 2) - 409-384-0024**

**Joe Taylor (District 3) - 832-549-6950**

**"Ike" Eisenhower (District 4) - 254-291-1974**

**Glynn Saunders (District 5) - 903-879-2995**

**Jerry Taylor (District 6) - 817-706-2255**

**Colton Daniel (District 7) - 940-655-8038**

**Alfredo Gonzalez (District 8) - 915-479-6035**

**Joshua Alocer (District 9) - 956-645-6866**

Sir Knight Ronnie Wilson, PGC  
Grand Recorder  
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Lufkin, TX 75904

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Commandery of Texas  
**Knights Templar**  
**Charity Ball**

Christmas is the season of joy, of gift-giving, and families united

308 Orleans St.  
 Beaumont, TX 77701  
 December 2, 2023  
 6 pm - 11 pm

All attendees are requested to bring an unwrapped children's toy to be donated to Toys from Templars

Come celebrate the Christmas Season with our Right Eminent Grand Commander and his Lady in Beaumont! On December 2, we will have the first Knights Templar Charity Ball. All are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to needy children. Come enjoy music, dancing, food, and fellowship! Tickets will be available later in the year.

## MONTHLY MENTION

Munificent /myō'nifəs(ə)nt/:

"Larger or more generous than is usual or necessary"

Deriving from the Latin word "munificus," the word refers to a very generous person.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### District Schools:

District 1- TBD

District 2- TBD

District 3- June 3, Registration at 9 am, School at 10 a, Fort Bend

District 4- June 17, Registration at 1 pm, School at 2 pm, Corpus Christi

District 5- August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9:30, Ivanhoe

District 6- June 17, Registration at 8 am, School at 9 am, Worth

District 7- TBD

District 8- August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9, Lubbock

District 9- August 26, Registration at 12 pm, School at 1pm, Brownwood

**State-Wide Festival:** July 21-22, Grand Lodge of Texas

### 171st Grand Conclave:

April 11-14, 2024  
 South Shore Harbour Resort  
 League, City, TX

## SURVEY

Take the [Grand Commandery Survey](#) to help grow our Order!

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**A MESSAGE FROM:**  
**BRADLEY S. BILLINGS, KCT**  
**EMINENT COMMANDER OF A.P.O.A.S. COMMANDERY, UD**

On Monday, May 1, at the request of thirty-three Sir Knights, a new Commandery was set to work under dispensation by REGC Chance Chapman styled A.P.O.A.S. Commandery. This Commandery of Research will meet periodically across the great state of Texas with a focus on all things specifically relevant to Knights Templar; mainly Christianity, Chivalry, and Patriotism.

The first meeting will be held on Friday, October 13, 2023 followed by a feast based on the Miracles of Jesus. The education will be on the history of the Order of the Temple by Sir Knight Ben Williams, Right Eminent Past Department Commander and Past Grand Commander of Colorado. Both events will take place in the beautiful Worth Commandery Asylum in Fort Worth, Texas. Please save the date as more details will follow.

If you are desirous of becoming a member, please fill out a petition for affiliation and send it, along with a Certificate of Good Standing, to:

Richard E. Schlaudroff  
P.O. Box 38331  
Dallas, TX 75238

All those who are members at the time of the Grand Conclave in April 2024 will become a Charter Member if a Charter is issued.

Dues are expected to around \$60 per year but won't be set officially until the first meeting. The design of A.P.O.A.S. Commandery is to meet 3-4 times a year throughout the state with meaningful and insightful education on deeper aspects of our Faith. It is hoped that it will be a welcome place for the tenured Templar and a new kind of Commandery experience for those who feel they don't fit the current model.

I hope to see you at the first and historic meeting of A.P.O.A.S. Commandery in October!

In His Name,

Brad Billings, KCT  
Eminent Commander  
A.P.O.A.S. Commandery, UD

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# PRELATE'S APARTMENT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

Sir Knights,

As we move into the month of June, we see changes. The change of seasons from spring to summer. Students change from going to class to finding summer jobs. As Masons we are electing and installing new leaders in our Lodges, Chapters, and Councils. Let us as Christian Sir Knights be there to assist, encourage, and pray for our new leaders that they will be successful and set a good example for us all. Reminding the member and ourselves to be humble and learn from them.

The bible tells us in 1st Peter 5:2-6: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Let us pray: God, your righteous love drives away fear and sin. Your thoughts and will are always for our good. You are the true and perfect Father. When I think of leading my family or others, please humble my spirit so I will desire to serve as you served, to lead as you led. Let your humility pour onto my family, friends, and our leaders. Stir their hearts to love one another and to be kind to others. Help them appreciate their many blessings. I am grateful I have your Word and your Spirit to guide me. In your name I pray, amen.

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# THE MONTHLY BLESSING

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## A BLESSING FROM SIR KNIGHT & REV. SEAN LEICK

For millennia cultures around the world have used sundials to measure the time of day. Historically it was common to have an inscription near the face of the sundial with a profound little philosophical quip for people to contemplate as they measured the time. One such quote, inscribed in English on the face of a sundial, stated simply “It is later than you think.”

Clearly this inscription has served its purpose as it caused me to consider its profound meaning. Upon review I suppose it is later than I thought. Was it not just yesterday that my kids were babies? Was it not just a moment ago that I was a young man in my twenties? Well, clearly not, because here we are. My kids are eleven and eight, and I am...well...no longer in my twenties, or thirties for that matter. How is it that these years have gone by? Where did the time go?

The stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius once said, “Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away.”

I offer this as a reminder of something we all seem to know intuitively but easily forget- take time to enjoy life as it is happening right now- in real time. We worry about many things and we lay out plans for the employment of many years. Then, before we know it, we check the time and are startled to discover that it is in fact later than we thought. All of the matters that were once so important, the tasks that we sacrificed everything to accomplish, no longer seem critical. Reflecting on the past we find that what truly mattered were relationships; our families, churches, friends, brothers, lodge, commandery. These were important. These had value. These mattered. Everything else was, as Solomon says, “a chasing after the wind.” -Eccl. 2:17-19.

The blessings of God are sometimes great events of historical significance, and sometimes they are ordinary; a roof over our head during a rainstorm, a kind word of encouragement from a friend, or good health. Regardless of the size, nature, and scope, take time to appreciate the blessings of God as they come. Great or small, you will long for them when they are gone.

# MONTHLY UPDATES

## GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

June 3: York Rite Conference - El Paso  
 June 7: Kenedy Commandery Official Visit  
 June 22-24: DeMolay International  
 June 25: Texas Rainbow Grand Assembly

## Top 5 Knightings Ranking (April 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023)

- 1. Lone Star No. 114 - 9
- T2. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - 3
- T2. Melrose No. 109 - 3
- T4. Corpus Christi No. 57 - 2
- T4. Fort Bend No. 74 - 2
- T4. Tancred No. 82 - 2
- T4. Midland No. 90 - 2

## Top 5 Reinstatements Ranking (April 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023)

- 1. Ascension No. 25 - 6
- 2. East Texas No. 104 - 3
- 3. San Antonio No. 7 - 2
- T4. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - 1
- T4. Corpus Christi No. 57 - 1
- T4. Ivanhoe No. 8 - 1
- T4. Indivisible Friends No. 13 - 1
- T4. McKinney No. 34 - 1

## SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES



### Facebook Page Growth:

+ 78 Followers  
(Since April 16)

Most views on a single post since Grand Conclave: 2,780

Total Page Reach: 13,383



### Instagram Page Growth:

+ 132 Followers  
(Since Created on April 18)

Total Page Reach: 188

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The Grand Commandery of Texas is organizing a Holy Land Pilgrimage April 30-May 9, 2024! Airfare, double-occupancy lodging, meals, tour guide, entrance fees, and in-country travel Will be covered in your cost! Space is limited. Reserve your spot [here](#).

Deposit due- July 31, 2023

Full amount due- December 31, 2023

**Contact:** Reservation help- 215-572-7676 (Gate1Travel); [Justin Bauer](#) or [Edward Peebles](#)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR  
AIDE-DE CAMP



Sir Knights,

Allow me to express my deepest thanks for the countless calls, messages, and emails from you in regards to your support and praises to this new style of newsletter. If this allows us to communicate better within our Commanderies, within our communities, and with each other, then I deem this as yet another giant success to this Templar year! Though we have yet to “Finish the Race,” we are leaps closer.

You will always find my contact information on the bottom of Page 1, so I hope I will continue to hear from you all.