

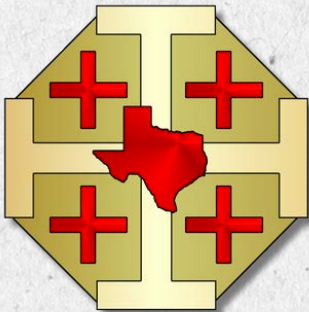
THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight
Justin C. Bauer, KCT
Right Eminent Grand
Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight
Michael Cote II
Editor
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Sir Knights,

I am honored to serve all the Knights across our great state as your Grand Commander. Your Grand Commandery is already hard at work.

I am happy to report The Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation corporation paperwork has been filed with the state. Our board has already submitted the required IRS request for a 501(c)(3) designation. The Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage badges are ordered and we expect to receive them by the end of May. With your generous contributions, we have raised over \$12,000 in two short weeks since our Grand Conclave!

On April 27th, I had the honor of Knighting 13 new members in Lubbock. That same day, almost 400 miles away, your newly-elected Grand Sentinel, Hardy Nevill, and the Knights of Colorado No. 4 knighted a new member. Neither Sir Knight Hardy, nor I could have done this without you. Your energy is contagious.

The Grand Commandery of Texas is only as strong as its constituent commanderies. Your engagement at your local commandery makes us great. Your actions to spread Chivalric Masonry across Texas make us great. Simply by showing up, attending a conferral, a stated meeting, or a festival, you help increase our engagement.

Get engaged! Stay engaged! Encourage others to be engaged! Through your activity, we will achieve greatness!

In His Service,

Justin C. Bauer
Grand Commander

2024-2025 GRAND OFFICERS



Justin Bauer
Grand Commander



Jason Lesikar
Deputy Grand Commander



Gary Rock
Grand Generalissimo



Ralph Royall
Grand Captain General



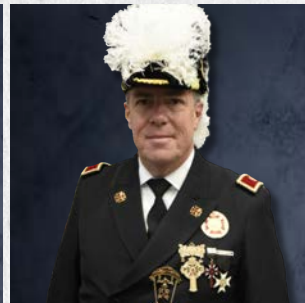
Ricky Cox
Grand Senior Warden



Tommy Chapman
Grand Junior Warden



Brad Billings
Grand Prelate



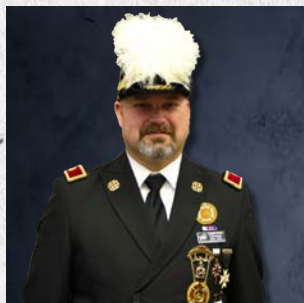
Hunter Schappaugh
Grand Treasurer



Ronnie Wilson, PGC
Grand Recorder



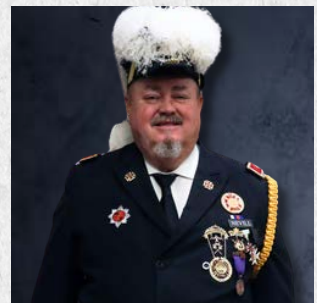
Judge Risley
Grand Standard Bearer



Christopher Little
Grand Sword Bearer



Gabriel Jagush
Grand Warder



Hardy Nevill
Grand Sentinel

Sir Knight Ronnie Wilson, PGC
Grand Recorder
248 Fredonia Ave
Lufkin, TX 75904

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2024 GRAND COMMANDERY RECAP



LEGISLATIVE RESULTS

Resolution 1

(PASSED)

Creation of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation

Resolution 2

(PASSED)

Pertaining to issuing a Charter to A.P.O.A.S. No. 1314

Resolution 3

(PASSED)

Pertaining to creating a Holy Land Pilgrimage uniform badge

Resolution 4

(PASSED)

Pertaining to the website domain included in the statutes and regulations

Resolution 5

(WITHDRAWN)

Pertaining to grammar corrections within the lawbook

Resolution 6

(PASSED)

Pertaining to maintaining a corrected numbering system within the statutes and regulations

Resolution 7

(PASSED)

Pertaining to correcting the Table of Contents to the statutes and regulations

Recommendation 1

(PASSED)

Pertaining to codifying the Templar Esoteric Certificate program

Recommendation 2

(PASSED)

Pertaining to the Grand Commandery sponsoring Sam P. Cochran Honorary DeMolay Chapter

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BULLETIN NO. 1 & GENERAL ORDERS 1-4



Please click on the blue links below to see the most recent documents issued by the Grand Commander. All can be found through the website link in the top right corner of each page.

[GENERAL ORDER NO. 1](#)

- District Appointments & Conclaves
- Schools of Instruction
- Annual Visitation
- Blanket Dispensations
- Grand Commandery Committee Meetings
- Drill and Ritual Competition
- Annual Grand Conclave

[GENERAL ORDER NO. 2](#)

- Membership Retention and Restoration Committee
- Liaison Committee
- Member Citation Cord Award Program
- Grand Officer Availability.

[GENERAL ORDER NO. 3](#)

- Texas Holding Commandery No. 200

[GENERAL ORDER NO. 4](#)

- Grand Commander's Ritual of Excellence Award

[BULLETIN NO. 1](#)

Grand Officer Contact
Committee Appointments & Contact
Aide-de-Camp Appointments & Contact
Living Past Grand Commanders & Contact

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MEET YOUR NEW EMINENT GRAND SENTINEL SK HARDY NEVILL

Eminent Sir Knight Hardy Nevill was knighted in Brenham Commandery No. 15 on October 13, 2012. He is a Past Commander, a recipient of the Pro-Merito Award, a member of the Grand Master's Club, and holds the fifth rank of the membership cord citation program. He was elected as Eminent Grand Sentinel at the 171st Grand Conclave, and is in line to be your Grand Commander in the 2033-2034 year.



NEW GRAND COMMANDERY ANNOUNCEMENTS



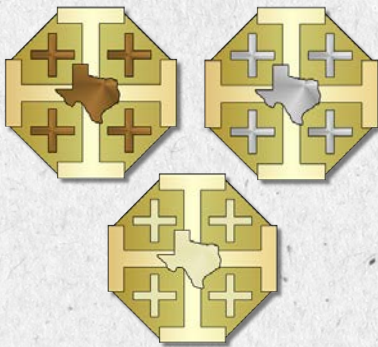
172nd Grand Conclave - April 2025

It is our pleasure to announce the next Grand Conclave will be held April 10-13, 2025 in Grapevine, Texas at the Embassy Suites.

More details will come at a later time, but we hope you will save the date to join us next year!

Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation

The Grand Commandery is now offering, for a donation to the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation, a Holy Land Pilgrimage Badge. This badge bears a Jerusalem Cross with the outline of Texas in the center being bronze, silver, or gold to denote the value of the contribution to the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation, such that:



- Bronze Crosses in each quadrant - \$250 donation
- Silver Crosses in each quadrant - \$500 donation
- Gold Crosses in each quadrant - \$1000 donation

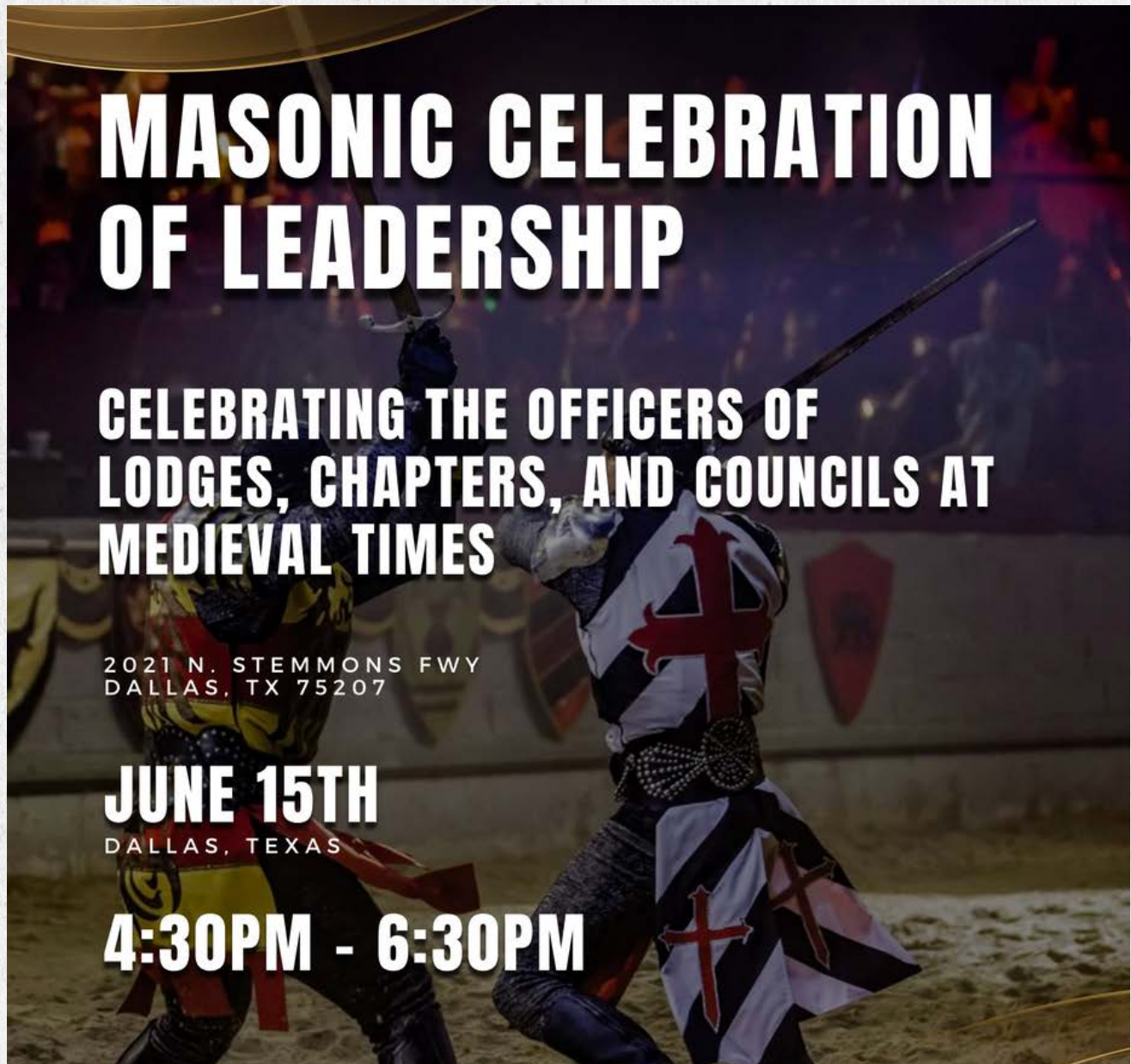
This Badge may be worn by the Sir Knight purchasing the same as a part of his Templar Uniform. It may be worn on the left side of the uniform above the pocket and the name tag and veterans ribbon, if applicable. **The first 100 Sir Knights to purchase a full badge shall receive a specially colored badge, which shall designate them as one of the Charter Donors.** The Holy Land Pilgrimage Badge may be worn on All Texas Templar Uniforms except the cap and mantle.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Celebrate the officers of our Lodges, Chapters, and Councils as they kick off the new year. The event is at Medieval Times in Dallas on June 15th at 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. Families are encouraged to attend!

[Link to Details and Registration!](#)

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PRELATE'S CORNER



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE SK BRAD BILLINGS, KCT

Sir Knights,

If you've ever had hesitation, doubt, feelings of unworthiness, imperfections, weakness or fear you are NOT alone. When asked to serve as Grand Prelate I gave my usual response of "let me think and pray about it." While I feel this is the best advice anyone can utilize before making a decision, I must admit this time it was more of a way to pause while I found a way to respectfully decline the invitation. While I was thankful, excited even, for the awesome opportunity of filling a vital role within our Grand Commandery, I couldn't shake the feeling of unworthiness (which I still feel to this day).

As I prayed over the next few days one thought remained constant in my mind: God uses imperfect people! Moses couldn't speak well. David was an adulterer, and the argument can be made that he was a murderer too. Paul persecuted Christians. Peter denied Christ. Jacob stole his birthright. God's chosen people, the Israelites, despite being led out of captivity by a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of smoke during the day and even having seen the miracle of the Red Sea parted, chose to worship an idol. Even Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, and a key character in our Masonic journey, fell victim to the lust for women and wine. In fact, every commandment, all ten, were broken at some point by someone God chose to represent him in the greatest story ever told. WHY?

If you grew up in the revival era you, like me, were probably told that people who broke the laws of God were destined for "fire and brimstone." Further, we were told that is what they deserved. But if that is the case, why would an all-powerful God choose to tell his story through these imperfect examples? Is it possible that these were the best representatives He could find? I can't imagine that is the case. So, the only plausible answer is, He CHOSE to use imperfect people.

Now, it comes as no surprise to anyone reading this that I am NOT perfect. It is, however, the greatest source of hope for modern Christians that despite our many flaws and daily shortcomings to the expectations of God, He, through His grace and mercy to mankind, can and will use us in spite of our imperfect nature.

Even you may be the example! I hope you will continue to pray for me, as I pray for you, to be the best in whatever role God has seen fit to bless us with. In doing so, I believe we live out the journey He has planned for us, a part only we can play.

Please pray with me:

Heavenly Father, I come before you today with a humble heart, fully acknowledging my flaws and where I have fallen short of your expectations. I am amazed and aware of your ability to use imperfect people to the honor and glory of Your holy Name, and I ask that you use me according to your design. Use the brokenness in me to complete your story and make my weakness strength in you. Help me to recognize when I am called to step out in faith to accomplish Your will and give me the courage and fortitude to do so. In the strong Name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

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CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS

Permanent Endowment Fund

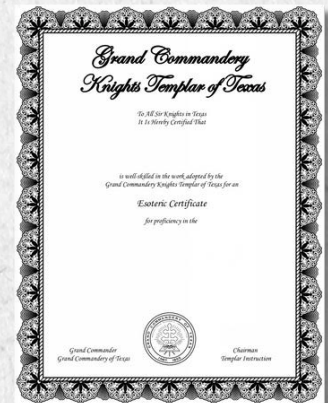
The [Permanent Endowment Fund](#) was created to provide a long-term resource that supports the goals and efforts of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. Your financial assistance of \$250 for a starter badge will help further the success of the annual Grand Communications, as well as any such other item as voted on by this Grand Commandery, as funds allow. For any additional \$150, a diamond will be added to your badge with 20 slots available! If all diamond slots are filled with a single donation, totaling \$3250, your fully jeweled badge will bear the color red. Your badge can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform above your name badge!



Esoteric Certificate Examinations

The Grand Commandery of Texas has formally adopted the esoteric certificate program. As exam dates are made available, a listing will be provided.

You can also reach out to a Grand Officer or your District Committeeman to schedule an examination if one has not been scheduled in your area.



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. Those being restored to membership must have been off the active roll for a period of one year or more to qualify in the count. The total is cumulative with no time boundaries. When awarded with a cord, it is to be worn on your left shoulder.



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MONTHLY UPDATES

GRAND COMMANDER'S [UPCOMING TRAVELS](#)

MAY

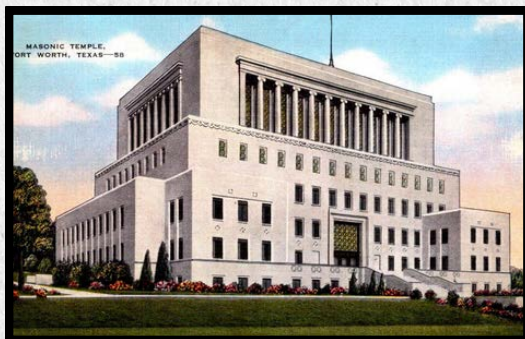
- 3 - 5 - Tarrant County York Rite Festival
- 11 - Kingsville York Rite Conference
- 18 - Leander York Rite Conference
- 31 - Texas Allied Masonic Degrees Association
Ingathering

JUNE

- 1 - Texas Allied Masonic Degrees Association
Ingathering
- 1 - El Paso York Rite Conference
- 15 - Masonic Celebration of Leadership
- 21-23 - Statewide York Rite Festival

SAVE THE DATE!

Information Coming Soon!



Knight Templar Ball
Saturday, December 7th, 2024
Fort Worth Masonic Temple



172nd Annual Grand Conclave
4/10/2025 - 4/13/2025
Embassy Suites - Grapevine



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II



Sir Knights,

I am thrilled to have been asked to continue this publication into a second administration. I would like to thank the Grand Commander for his confidence as we continue to spread helpful information to all the Sir Knights of Texas in an attractive and appealing platform! A special thank you goes to our Grand Encampment personnel for their support and distribution. What a joy it was to see so many of you in League City last month, and I hope we will be able to cross paths again very soon! As always, you can find my contact information on the cover page. Thank you!
