

# 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

**Michael Cote II**

Editor

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Sir Knights,

We are approaching the time that many Christians throughout the world of Christianity know as Lent. The solemn observance is to commemorate the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring the temptations of Satan before He began His public ministry. During this time, I encourage all Sir Knights of Texas to be committed to the virtues that are so solemnly taught in our Templar Orders. Show the world what it means to be a Soldier for Christ through your examples.

We are also closing in on the 171st Grand Conclave to be held April 11-14 in League City. Registration is open, and the numbers are off to a great start. Lady Lisa and I are looking forward to this special and exciting event with each of you and hope that you have a great time with us.

Please submit your Clothes Drive and Food Drive forms to Sir Knight Aaron Tyksinski at your earliest opportunity. Both of these drives will close out on February 29. We are all charged to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted." Thank you to all who have participated so far! I'm looking forward to seeing how these programs close out in the weeks ahead.

In His Service,

T. Chance Chapman  
Grand Commander



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# IN MEMORIAM - R.: E.: CLARENCE J. LANEY, JR.

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**This edition of “The Texas Templar” is published in memory of  
Clarence Joy Laney, Jr. (1947-2024).**

**R.: E.: Grand Commander of Texas (2019)**

**M.: E.: Grand High Priest of Texas (2007)**

**M.: I.: Grand Master of the Grand Council of Texas (2003)**

Clarence was born in Morenci, Arizona to Clarence Joy Laney Sr. and Ethel Eugenia (Hanna) Laney. He worked for the Lewisville ISD as their energy manager. He was a member of the Masonic lodges in Whitesboro, DeSoto, Nash, Midlothian, and Denton; and in The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas: Tancred, Alexander C. Garrett, Dallas, Denton, and Indivisible Friends. Clarence loved to travel, play games on the computer, he enjoyed dominoes, card games, and was a master chess player. In his youth, he was considered a pool shark. Clarence loved his dogs, and he loved his family deeply and dearly.

Most recently, Clarence served as the Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain for the Grand Lodge of Texas in 2023.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 2, 2024 at Meador Funeral Home officiated by Dr. Fred Thrower. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. A time of visitation for family and friends will be held one hour prior to the service time at the funeral home.

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# GRAND LODGE RECAP - JAN. 18-20



We would like to congratulate the new Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, who also serves as our Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, Tommy F. Chapman, KCT, KTCH. He historically served as Grand Master in 2018. We would also like to congratulate other Grand Commandery Officers and personnel for their new grand appointments.

**R.: E.: Chance Chapman (Grand Commander) - R.: W.: Grand Orator**  
**E.: Ricky Cox (Grand Junior Warden) - W.: Grand Tiler**  
**E.: Daniel Bowden (Grand Prelate) - R.: W.: Grand Chaplain**  
**E.: Brad Billings, KCT (Commander A.P.O.A.S., UD) - R.: W.: Grand Secretary**  
**SK Casey Maxwell (Chief of Staff) - R.:W.: District Deputy Grand Master At-Large**  
**SK Michael Cote II (Aide-de-Camp) - W.: Grand Musician**



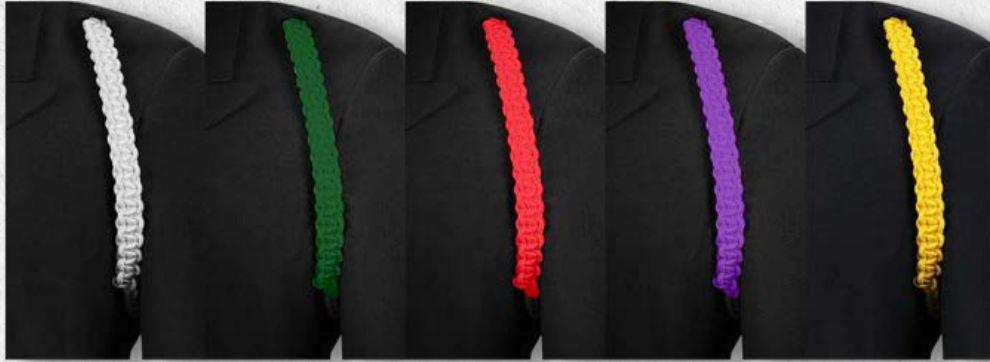
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## CONTINUED PROGRAM - MEMBERSHIP CITATION CORDS



Any Sir Knight who has been the **first line signer** for a total of **three (3)** petitioners, who are either **knighthood 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 in your Class-A uniform.

Contact your Recorder for questions or to begin your tracking!

1st Award	3 Petitions	Color: White
2nd Award	6 Petitions	Color: Green
3rd Award	9 Petitions	Color: Red
4th Award	15 Petitions	Color: Purple
5th Award	20 Petitions	Color: Gold
6th Award	25 Petitions	Color: Green & White
7th Award	30 Petitions	Color: Green & Red
8th Award	35 Petitions	Color: Green & Purple
9th Award	40 Petitions	Color: Green & Gold
10th Award	45 Petitions	Color: Red & White
11th Award	50 Petitions	Color: Red & Purple
12th Award	60 Petitions	Color: Red & Blue
13th Award	70 Petitions	Color: Red & Gold
14th Award	80 Petitions	Color: Purple & White
15th Award	90 Petitions	Color: Purple & Blue
16th Award	100 Petitions	Color: Purple & Gold



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# PENNY-A-DAY CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE



HELP US  
#FILLTHESWORD



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



**66 CHIEF DONORS AND COUNTING...**

We are growing our challenge more and more, yet we have a steep goal ahead! Our mission is to honor and name 100 Chief Donors by the Grand Conclave.

Our tag for this campaign will be **#FillTheSword**.

To date, **over \$16,000** has been raised. Thank you to all who have participated!

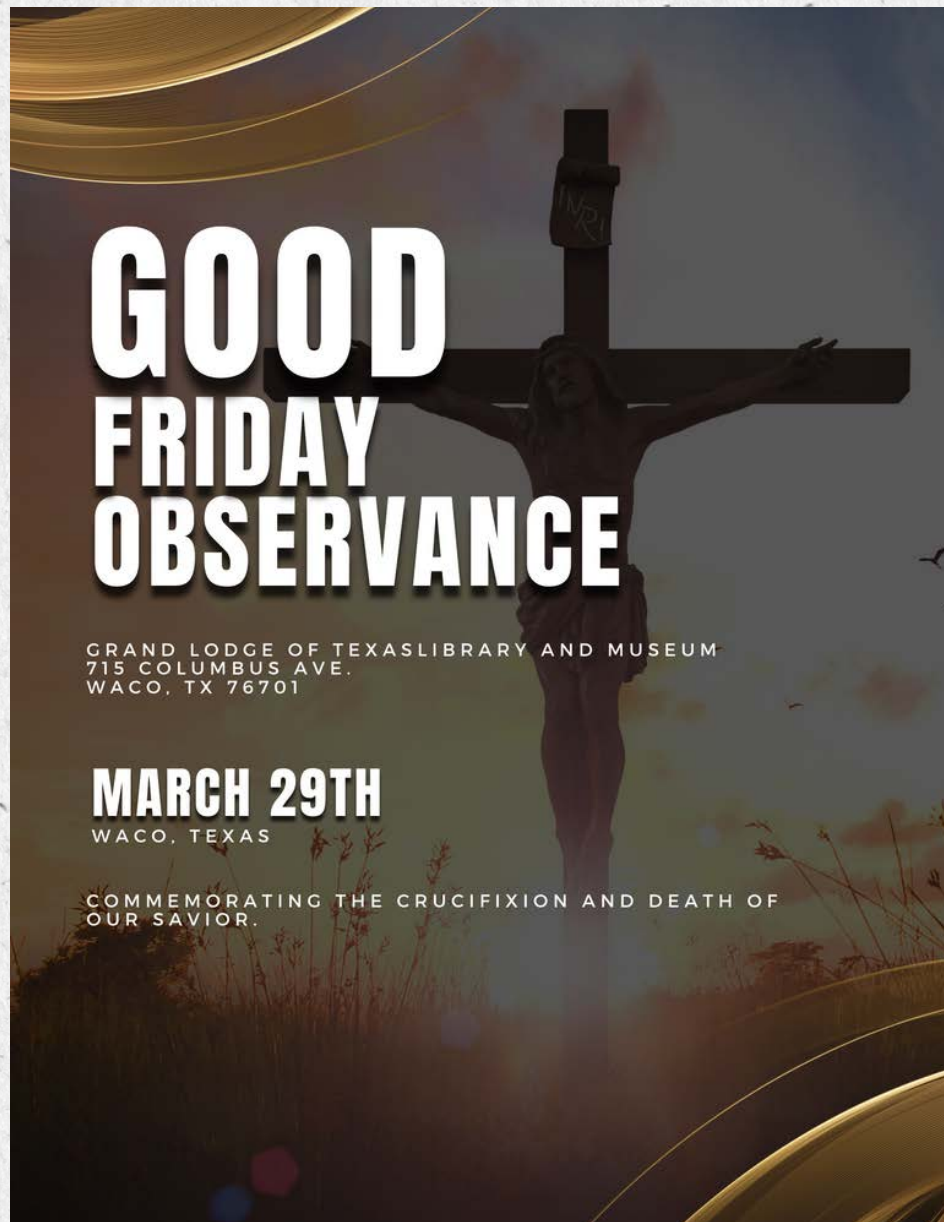
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# UPCOMING EVENTS



Make plans to join us for an observance on Good Friday, March 29, 2024. We will remember the death, and ultimately the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Dress will be Class A Uniforms for Sir Knights and Sunday dress for any guests.

Assemble at 2:00 pm. Procession into the Lower Auditorium at 2:30 pm. Observance to begin immediately following procession.

## MONTHLY MENTION

Ethereal /iˈTHirēəl/:

"Of or relating to regions beyond the earth."

Deriving from the Greek word of *aithein*, which meant "to ignite" or "to blaze," it translated in English in the 1500s to *ethereal* as the adjective of *ether*. It refers to the rejoins beyond Earth.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Good Friday Observance:** March 29  
- Waco; Assemble at 2:00 pm

**171st Grand Conclave:**  
April 11-14, 2024  
South Shore Harbour Resort  
League City, TX

### District Ritual Certificate Examinations:

District 1 - Saturday, February 3  
McKinney Commandery No. 34  
1811 Ridge Road  
McKinney, TX 75071  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

District 8 - Saturday, February 24  
Amarillo Commander No.,  
1512 West 10th St.  
Amarillo, TX 79101  
1:00 pm  
Please RSVP to Elijah WEST

## SURVEY

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

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# PRELATE'S APARTMENT

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

### Love One Another

My Christian brothers and Sir Knights, we have much to praise God and be thankful for. **John 13:34-35** “**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**”

February is the month of love. We celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14th. But for many Christians, that day is also Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Which will end on Maundy Thursday, March 28th. Then follows Good Friday and Holy Saturday, March 29th and 30th. So, from February 14th to March 30th, not including Sundays, is 40 days.

Forty is typically indicative of a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel.

I pray, Sir Knights, that each of you take this time to not just reflect on the past but look forward to the future and prepare your heart, mind, and soul to walk in the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ and to love one another. I would also ask that you never let a day go by without telling your friends and loved ones how important they are to you. **None of us are promised tomorrow.** I am so thankful during our time in Waco recently that I spent 10 minutes talking to our Grand Chaplain at the time, Clarence Joy Laney. He touched my life, and he will be missed.

Let us pray:

Father, You want us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love. We take our lead from Jesus, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. Because we are all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, we will stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. We have one Master, one faith, one God and Father of all. Everything we are and think and do is permeated with oneness. Father, we commit to pray for one another, keeping our eyes open and keeping each other's spirits up, so that no one falls behind or drops out. We pray for our leaders that they will know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time. We are one in the bond of love, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

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# MONTHLY UPDATES

## GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

February 12: **Port Arthur  
Commandery**

February 13: Beaumont Council  
MIGM Official Visit- **Beaumont**

February 15: Holland Lodge  
MWGM Official Visit - **Houston**

February 22: Confer OT  
Beaumont Commandery -  
**Beaumont**

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

1. Port Arthur No. 73 - **16**
2. Corpus Christi No. 57 - **13**
3. Lone Star No. 114 - **12**
4. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - **11**
- T5. San Marcos No. 56, Houston  
No. 95 - **10**

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

1. Tancred No. 82 - **9**
2. Ascension No. 25 - **8**
- T3. Ivanhoe No. 8, Corpus Christi No.  
57, East Texas No. 104 - **4**
- T4. Ruthven No. 2, Lubbock No. 60 - **3**
- T5. San Antonio No. 7, McKinney No.  
34, Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - **2**

## 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!



## BELT BUCKLE UPDATE

By your demand, we have REORDERED official Grand Commandery belt buckles! These are unnumbered and will be gifted for your donation of \$30.00 just as the previous series!



## EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR  
AIDE-DE CAMP



Sir Knights,

In Psalms 23:5, we read, "That my cup runneth over." I connect to this beyond words. I am not worthy of the blessings many of you have given me. I want to thank all of you for the well-wishes with my new roles within the Grand Lodge. With that, please continue to pray for our beloved Grand Lodge of Texas as well as our Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Over the last 10 months, I have been honored to work within this Grand Commandery in various roles, and I can proudly say there is a superb rejuvenation within Texas Templary. I am one of those rejuvenated Sir Knights. Before this year, I regretfully admit I was good to pay my dues and make the Christmas Observance. There are few organizations where you can fellowship with Masons unapologetically in the name of Jesus. This organization draws us together through faith and brotherhood, not restricted to just the latter. Be proud. Be true. Be generous. Be reliable. Be sensible. Be you - a Knight!