

THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



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Right Eminent Grand
Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight
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Sir Knights,

Thank you so much for the confidence you have placed in me to be your Grand Commander this year. I am completely humbled and honored to be given this responsibility. I have some pretty big shoes to fill and hope that I can make each and every one of you proud in the work that your Grand Commandery is doing for you. The journey to get to this point has been an incredible adventure that I have cherished every moment. It has been an honor to meet so many of you at schools of instruction, inspections, conferences, and various other functions over the past nine years.

During my travels, I've listened to many Sir Knights express their thoughts over what they would like to see our Grand Commandery accomplish for our amazing fraternity and our beautiful Order. With that in mind, I am implementing new programs and trying to strengthen some of our existing ones as well.

We will continue the e-newsletter each month, together with publishing it on the website for our fellow Sir Knights that may not have their emails in the mailing system. This will provide a better tool to communicate information, announcements, reminders, and other spotlights throughout the year. We will also start to focus in on Christ and his teachings this year. Remembering that all that we have and do are truly gifts from Him. Hoping that as others see us through our actions and the way we love one another, they will know we are Christians and want to join such an amazing group of Brothers in Christ.

You will continue to see several links to click on in this edition as well as future ones. Please click the links and see what all is going on. It is my hope that all Texas Sir Knights are as enthusiastic for Chivalric Masonry as your Grand Officers are this year.

Sincerely,

Jason L. Lesikar
Grand Commander

2025-2026 GRAND OFFICERS



Jason Lesikar
Grand Commander



Gary Rock
Deputy Grand Commander



Ralph Royall
Grand Generalissimo



Ricky Cox
Grand Captain General



Tommy Chapman
Grand Senior Warden



Chris Little
Grand Junior Warden



Chance Chapman, PGC
Grand Prelate



Hunter Schappaugh
Grand Treasurer



Ronnie Wilson, PGC
Grand Recorder



Gabriel Jagush
Grand Standard Bearer



Hardy Nevill
Grand Sword Bearer



Michael Malone
Grand Warden



Edward Peebles
Grand Sentinel

2025 GRAND COMMANDERY RECAP



BUSINESS RESULTS & HONOREES

PASSED **RESOLUTION 1**
Pertaining to Registration Fees

FAILED **RESOLUTION 2**
Pertaining to Per Capita Increase

PASSED **RESOLUTION 3**
Pertaining to a Name Change

PASSED **RESOLUTION 4**
Pertaining to Issuing Charter No. 118

W **RESOLUTION 5**
Withdrawn Pertaining to Issuing Charter No. 117

PASSED **RESOLUTION 6**
Pertaining to Relocating a Commandery

PASSED **RECOMMENDATION 1**
Pertaining to Reinstatement & Restoration Policies

PASSED **RECOMMENDATION 2**
Pertaining to the Permanent Endowment Fund



Companion of the Temple
Mrs. Angela Seymour



Knight Commander of the Temple
SK Raborn Reader, KCT
SK Steven Seymour, KCT



Knight Templar Cross of Honor
SK Randy Clifton, KTCH
SK Brian Cook, KCT, KTCH

HONORING R.: E.: JUDGE R. RISLEY, HPGC



In a distinguished moment held at the 172nd Grand Conclave in Grapevine, Judge Robert "Jud" Risley of Amarillo Commandery No. 48 was honored with the title of Right Eminent Honorary Past Grand Commander by the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas. This prestigious accolade recognizes his decades of unwavering dedication and exceptional service to our Grand Commandery. The conferment of the Right Eminent Honorary Past Grand Commander title is a rare honor, with the last such recognition occurring over 20 years ago.

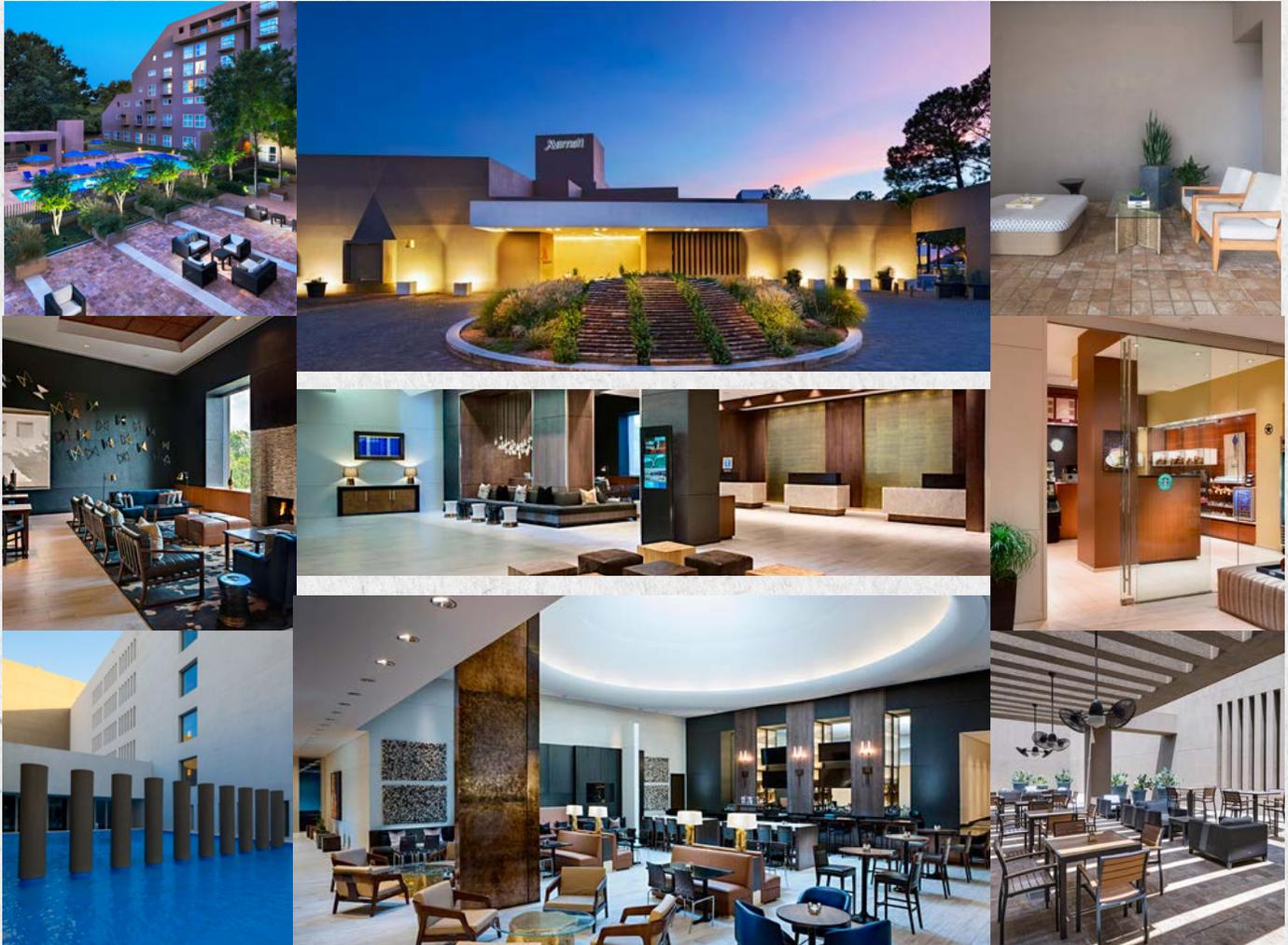
Sir Knight Risley's service spans many years, marked by significant contributions at both local and state levels. In 2018, he was awarded the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, the highest accolade a Grand Commandery can bestow, acknowledging his exceptional service to the Order. Before being elected as Grand Sentinel in 2021, he served as Eminent Grand Prelate in 2015-2016 and as the Templar Instruction Committee Chairman. His journey from a dedicated member of Amarillo Commandery No. 48 to achieving the esteemed position of Right Eminent Honorary Past Grand Commander inspires fellow Knights Templar, exemplifying the values of commitment and excellence that define the Order. The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas continues to honor individuals like Judge Risley, whose lifelong dedication enriches the fraternity and sets a standard for future generations of Knights Templar.

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SAVE THE DATE - 173RD GRAND ANNUAL CONCLAVE



Mark your calendars for **April 16-19, 2026** for the 173rd Grand Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas! Our Grand Commander and his team are excited to host the Sir Knights of Texas at the Marriott Dallas/Fort Worth Westlake. Located in Solana Plaza, the host hotel is surrounded by great opportunities for families to enjoy.

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PRELATE'S APARTMENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE SK CHANCE CHAPMAN, PGC, KCT

Sir Knights,

I am honored to once again be writing to you in this monthly newsletter. While it is in a different role than I previously held, I am extremely excited to share a message with you each month for the upcoming year. Each month will have a specific theme to the message. The Ascension Message has been sent out as [General Order No. 4](#). I would still like for this first message to be centered on the remembrance of the Ascension of Jesus and also that of new beginnings.

Sir Knights, as we begin this new year of the Grand Commandery, let us have the same hope that comes with anything else that is new. We all know that feeling that comes with a new job, a new car, a new home, a new Masonic organization, or a new task assigned to us. We should all carry that same type of hope with us this year and do our parts in supporting our Grand Commandery to the best of our ability. With this hope should come action. That action should lead to our collective success. In all that we do, we must remember the love of Jesus and share the Good News as much as we can.

As Knights Templar, we celebrate all the major moments in the earthly existence of Jesus: the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. While we are hopeful in this new year, let us pause for a moment to remember the ascension of our Blessed Savior. Death did not prevail. Jesus rose from the dead and continue teaching about the Kingdom of God. After forty days and in all His majesty, He ascended into Heaven and now sits “at the right hand of the Father.”

Let us emulate this example of continued work. We have work to do for the Kingdom and also for our Grand Commandery. May everything we do be in glory to God. Romans 8:38-39 NIV states, “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Please pray with me:

Our Father, Creator of the Universe, we come before you now and thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us as a Grand Commandery. I ask that you bless the Grand Officers this year in their travels and guide their paths as they are in service to their fellow Sir Knights and to you. Please watch over all those in our jurisdiction that we may aware of our actions and promote the teachings shared with us. We thank you for the mercy you give us and the love that never fails. May we always bow before you in humble admiration. All this we ask in the name of the Blessed Emanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Great Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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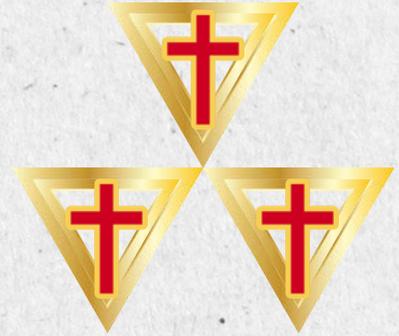
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2025-2026 PROGRAMS

Prayer Project

We are proud to introduce a new program this year for those in need of prayer. Through this project, prayer requests may be sent to the Eminent Grand Prelate of Texas who will “offer up prayers” for all that are submitted. This program is not limited to just Sir Knights of Texas nor members of Commandery alone. Submissions can be sent in through our website or by clicking [here](#).



STATEWIDE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 26-27



The Statewide York Rite Festival is back on after rescheduling! Mark your calendars for September 26-27, when this highly anticipated event will take place at the **Grand Lodge Memorial Temple** in Waco, TX. For those looking to get involved, Gabriel Jagush is the main point of contact for any questions or assistance. Registration and more information will be available on the website soon, so stay tuned for updates. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to network with fellow members and experience a memorable weekend of York Rite traditions!

BULLETINS & GENERAL ORDERS

BULLETIN No. 1 >>

Contact Info

GENERAL ORDER No. 1 >>

Districts, Schools, &
Clerical info

GENERAL ORDER No. 2 >>

Membership Cords &
Grand Officer Info

GENERAL ORDER No. 3 >>

Texas Holding Cmdry

GENERAL ORDER No. 4 >>

Ascension Message

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CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS

Permanent Endowment Fund

The [Permanent Endowment Fund](#) provides 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 this Grand Jurisdiction. For any additional \$150, a Diamond will be added to your badge.

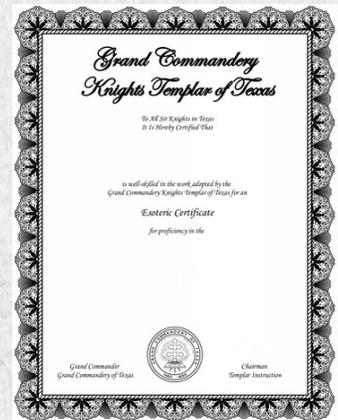
If the full badge with all diamonds is acquired at the single endowment of \$3,250, your badge comes adorned with red enamel and 20 diamonds. Your badge can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform above your left chest!



Esoteric Certificate Examinations

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

You can also reach out to a your District Committeeman to schedule an examination if one has not been scheduled in your area. Click [here](#) for more information on the procedures and requirements for earning a certificate.



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 in order 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.

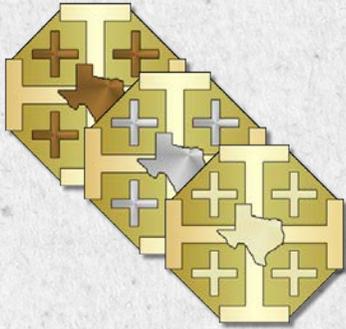


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CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS



Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation

The [Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation](#) (THLPF) was established in 2024 to send clergy to the Holy Land. The foundation's first year has been an incredible success, and with your support, we can continue strong! There are several ways you can contribute. Badges are awarded to donors who give \$250 (Bronze), \$500 (Silver), and \$1,000 (Gold). There are also neckties available for lower level donations. If you're interested, please reach out to a board member. Your badge can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform above your left chest!



A.P.O.A.S. Commandery

A.P.O.A.S. Commandery is a traveling, history-focused, and educational Commandery that offers Sir Knights a unique and engaging experience rooted in Templar tradition and history. By taking meetings on the road, it brings Masonic history to life in a dynamic and memorable way across Texas. Membership is open to all Sir Knights in good standing. Each gathering is designed to offer not just business, but a meaningful and immersive experience tailored to the growth and enjoyment of its members.

RECORDER'S DESK



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE EMINENT GRAND RECORDER SK RONNIE WILSON, PGC, KCT

This is a general reminder to all local Recorders that the IRS Form 990 filing period is now open. All subordinate Commanderies are required to ensure their annual filings are completed accurately and submitted in a timely manner. Additionally, please verify that your Commandery's information is up to date. Prompt attention to this matter is essential for maintaining compliance and good standing of your Commandery.

For questions or additional guidance, refer to the official documentation or contact me at texasgrandrecorder@gmail.com!

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NEW COMMANDERY INSTITUTED - LEANDER NO. 118

Texas York Rite Masonry celebrated a significant milestone with the institution of Leander Commandery No. 118, the newest Commandery to be chartered in the Lone Star State. The ceremony was conducted with full formality and deep reverence for the traditions of Templary. Held in Leander, Texas, the event brought together Sir Knights from across the state, along with distinguished leadership from the Grand Commandery of Texas. The presence of the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander as well as four Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders lent an air of historic importance to the proceedings, as they assisted in the formal institution and offered their support, wisdom, and blessing to the new Commandery.

Leander Commandery No. 118 now takes its place among the ranks of Texas Commanderies with a strong foundation of brotherhood, dedication, and service. The formation of this Commandery reflects the continued growth and vitality of Templar Masonry in Texas, especially in communities experiencing renewed interest in Masonic fellowship and service. With committed leadership and a clear sense of purpose, Leander No. 118 is poised to uphold the noble ideals of Christian knighthood and charitable outreach as it embarks on its journey. The future shines bright for this new beacon of Templary in Central Texas.



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GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE RECAP



Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. refore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR



Sir Knights,

It is with deep humility and gratitude to have been selected to serve this Grand Commandery for a third continuous administration in this editorial role. I am especially thankful to Right Eminent Lesikar for his trust and continued confidence. Serving alongside such dedicated Sir Knights has been a great privilege, and I look forward to continuing our mission together grounded in faith, duty, and service.

I'm quite often humbly reminded of Brother Winston Churchill's words: *"To each, there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fit for their talents."* To be part of something used and revered by so many is an opportunity I do not take lightly. To show my appreciation, I am introducing a new "Contributor Pin" (seen above). I personally had these created as a small token of recognition for those who help me in creating this publication. This pin will be personally handed out by me as a thank you to those who help me with this project! It is my hope we can jointly continue this project for all!