

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas
Office of the Grand Commander
Livingston, Tx
May 9, 2022

General Order No. 6, Series 2022-2023

Subject: Passing of Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Texas, Sir Knight Bill Blanks

To: The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Officers, and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of Texas

Greetings, Sir Knights:

It is with a saddened heart I issue General Order No. 6. This is to announce the passing of Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Knights Templar of Texas, Sir Knight Bill Blanks. Sir Knight Blanks served this Order of Christian Masons with distinction and honor. His leadership, calm stead hand, and sharp wit is a great loss to all of us.

It is my order that the attached history of Sir Knight Blanks (written by Sir Knight Jason Lesikar, Grand Captain General) be read at your next conclave and that the charter of your Commandery be draped in honor of this great man.

In His and your service,



Richard R. Jernigan
Grand Commander

Attest:



Jerry N. Kirby
Grand Recorder



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Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight William Lee Blanks:

William Lee (Bill) Blanks was born in San Angelo, Texas on August 6, 1925, the son of William Henry and Emma Lee Blanks. He grew up in West Texas where his father was a rancher. He graduated from Iraan High School in Iraan, Texas, where he was active in sports and 4-H Clubs. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 in the South Pacific.

On March 20, 1948, he married Ann Reed of Granbury, Texas. They were active members of Central Christian Church in Fort Worth. In 1962 he founded the firm of Blanks Welding Supply, from which he retired in December 1977.

He was raised a Master Mason in Granbury Lodge No. 392 on January 21, 1952. Was affiliated with Southside Lodge No. 1114, Fort Worth, on June 10, 1974, where he served as Master in 1980-1981. In 1982 he served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 64D of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M. He received the Golden Trowel award in 1994.

He was exalted as Royal Arch Mason in Polytechnic Chapter No. 404 on October 24, 1959. Affiliated with Southside Chapter No. 378 on March 27, 1974, where he served as High Priest in 1976-1977. He was awarded the Golden Keystone Award.

He was greeted a Royal and Select Master in Polytechnic Council No. 336 on November 5, 1959. Affiliated with Southside Council No. 315 on March 27, 1974, where he served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1976-1977. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas in 1996. He was also awarded the Royal Purple Service Award.

He was knighted in Southside Commandery No. 83 on September 17, 1960. Served as Commander in 1971 and served several years as Instructor. He served on the District 6 Templar Instruction Committee from 1973 to 1977. He was also a dual member of Worth Commandery No. 19.

On April 19, 1977, he was elected Eminent Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. On May 3, 1983, he was elected and installed as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas.

He received his Scottish Rite Degrees in Dallas on April 24, 1960 and transferred to the Fort Worth Consistory as a Charter Member on November 26, 1973. He was honored in 1977 by becoming a Knight Commander Court of Honor of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Bodies and coronated 33 Degree IGH in 1983.

He was also a member of Moslah Shrive, Saint Timothy Conclave, Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and became Sovereign in 1998; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest, Our Redeemer Tabernacle in 1990; The Royal Order of Scotland; Texas Priory No. 23, Knights of the York Cross of Honor; Order of the Silver Trowel; Past Governor of Trinity York Rite College No. 154 in 1997 and Order of the Purple Cross in 1994; Honorary Legion of Honor, Order of the DeMolay in 1993; Knight Commander of the Temple on August 19, 1997; Worth Shamrock Council No. 54.

William Blanks laid down his sword on April 12, 2022 and went to be with our Lord in Heaven. He was preceded in death by his wife Ann Blanks in 2017.