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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

January begins a new year, a new beginning. Many of us make New Year's Resolutions. We have good intentions to carry out those things we know we should do. We resolve to lose weight, to stop smoking, to exercise more, to be more attentive to our families. And we start out doing pretty well. But all too soon, we slip back into our old habits and its back to our old selves again.

I believe one of the reasons we don't keep those resolutions is that we set the goals higher than we're willing to work for. Nothing is beyond our reach, but we have to be dedicated to the task at hand.

This year, why not make one of your Resolutions to attend and participate, and be Visible in your Blue Lodge. As a Knight Templar, you can set a proper example in your Lodge. Those members who are not York Rite Masons will listen when you enlighten them as to what they are missing. You may not be in Templar uniform, but just being there at the meetings and participating in the various activities of your Lodge will get noticed. You can open the door for conversation that can lead to filling out petitions for your fellow Blue Lodge Masons to continue their Masonic quest for additional light, by taking the York Rite.

Your New Year's Resolutions should also include being visible in your community. I have encouraged Sir Knights to participate in Flag Raising ceremonies at public functions, raise the flag at sporting events, march or ride in parades, all in Templar uniform to attract the public's attention. We need to be seen to educate the uninformed of what we believe and what we stand for. And I believe that the need for more visibility extends beyond Templary, but should include members of all Masonic bodies. Let the public know what Masons are, what we do, and what charities we support. We must be more visible.

January is a good time to start to turn the trend around. We can attract good men to enlist in our Fraternity if we are the good examples we should be. And being visible is one tool we are not using as well as we should.

So, make your New Year's Resolutions. Set your goals high. But be willing to work for them. They won't happen if we are not willing to put forth the effort to accomplish them.

In His Service,

A. Glen McCandless
Grand Commander

Dates and Events to remember:

Dallas York Rite Festival, January 26th, 27th