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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

“Three things will last forever – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love.” 1 Cor.13:13 NLT

This is one of my favorite Bible verses, and one that comes to my mind when I think of February and Valentine’s Day. If you were to ask Becky what my greeting is on Valentine’s Day is, without hesitation she would say “Happy Capitalist Day”. I say this because roses, like hotel rooms in Waco the first weekend in December, seem to triple and sometimes quadruple in price. Truth be known, I really love Valentine’s Day and I get a really good rate at the hotel in Waco!

February is a month for traditions. On Valentine’s Day, it has been my tradition to bring Becky one red rose for every year we’ve been married. On our fifth anniversary I broke tradition a bit and gave her 5 rose bushes to start a rose garden at our new home. This year I’m up to 19 roses! Melrose Commandery has a long tradition of honoring our ladies with a rose or carnation at our February Conclave. I hope that your Commandery has a similar tradition of honoring your ladies, because they truly are the backbone of our Commanderies.

February is also a month of preparation. Becky always uses Valentine’s Day to prune those roses I gave her in preparation for spring blooms. As we look forward to those warmer days of spring, I hope that all of you are making plans to attend the 159th Grand Conclave April 20th – 23rd in Houston. Registration forms have been sent to your Recorder and are available on the website, www.texasorkrite.org. Please note that all resolutions must be in the Grand Recorder’s office no later than the 23rd of this month in order to be considered at the Grand Conclave. Section 67 of the Constitution of Grand Encampment requires that your Commandery’s Dias officers attend Grand Commandery, and the Statutes and Regulations of Texas require the Commander and Recorder to attend the business session in order to be eligible to receive their respective distinguished service medals. Sir Knights, this is the time for your voice

to be heard. You cannot change the laws or the way we do things if you are not present to vote. It is, therefore, very important that your Commandery has someone present to answer the roll call of Commanderies and insure that your Commandery has a voice and a vote. Don’t forget to bring your zip-lock bag of change for the Penny-a-Day program!

I want to thank those of you who have supported the Permanent Endowment Fund this year. We have raised over \$6,000.00 so far, and Becky is planning to raise even more at the Ladies Luncheon at Grand Commandery. If you have not purchased your badge yet, not to worry - I will have plenty at the Grand Conclave!

I close with this:

“Her words are sensible, and her advice is thoughtful. She takes good care of her family and is never lazy. Her children praise her, and with great pride her husband says, ‘There are many good women but you are the best!’ Charm can be deceiving, and beauty fades away, but a woman who honors the LORD deserves to be praised. Show her respect - praise her in public for what she has done.” Proverbs 31: 26-31 CEV. I never knew that King Solomon meet Becky, but this describes her and every one of our Ladies. I am often teased at work about wearing a pink shirt. I do not let it get to me, I simply tell them real men wear pink, real men pray, and real men praise their wife in public. That being said, Becky, with all of my heart and soul, I love you. You are my rock, and your love and support have helped me reach my dream of serving this Grand Commandery.

Sir Knights, this is the month that the CARING part of my theme really shines. I hope that all of you have something wonderful planned for your ladies this Valentine’s Day. Please do not forget the wives of our deceased members. Call them and let them know you CARE. Also, I know some of our Sir Knights are spending this Valentine’s Day without their lady – they also need our support and CARE. Happy Valentine’s Day!

***In Christ’s Name,
Paul E. Wunsche,
Right Eminent Grand Commander***