

## Jerry Pingle

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## 2015-2016 TEXAS SUPPLEMENT

### To the Sir Knights of Texas, Greetings:

February, 2016 is already upon us, and it will be long when the Sir Knights of the great state of Texas will be assembling in Abilene, Texas for the Grand Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. We look forward to seeing each and everyone of you, and hope that we can make your stay with us enjoyable. Registration forms will be available on the web site very soon.

February also brings many holidays to us, but one that each of us Sir Knights should remember is that of Valentine's Day. The history of Valentine's Day is rooted with the Roman festival of Lupercalia—a fertility celebration enjoyed by all annually on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and later was changed by Pope Gelasius I to be known as a Christian feast day, and declaring February 14<sup>th</sup> to be St. Valentine's Day.

During the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian feast day became associated with love. Chaucer was the first individual to link St. Valentine's Day with love/romance. Chaucer penned a poem during the time frame of the "Parliament of Fowls," or mating season of birds, and this action formed a relationship between said mating season and St. Valentine's Day. This you could say was the beginning of the love-bird era.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century brought gift-giving and exchanging of cards, and in 1850 this custom became widespread in the United States. In today's world, we continue the custom of exchanging greeting cards to that special person—wife of special friend or friends.

Remember Sir Knights to wish your special person a Very Happy Valentine's Day !!!!

#### Remember two other important holidays-

**February 12<sup>th</sup>—Abraham Lincoln's birthday**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>—first known as George Washington's birthday and later declared as President's Day.**

Remember to take a moment to reflect on the efforts that, not only Washington made, but every President since that time. Consider the dedication each one made to the office, and remember their dedicated service to our nation. Remember to pray, not only for them, but for all our leaders for the local government to our worldly leaders as well. Their decisions are what makes each of us that live in a country **FREE** to speak and worship without being criticized.

God has said in his word: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

During your daily walk, remember these important dates.

*Sincerely and Fraternally,*

*Jerry Pingle*

*Grand Commander 2015-2016*

## IMPORTANT DATES –GRAND CONCLAVE:

All resolutions, must be submitted and received by the Grand Recorder no later than **February 23, 2016.**

The Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes requires the Commandery Dias Officer-Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General to attend Grand Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar.

Commanders and Recorders are required to attend the business session to qualify for the award of merit. Remember it is very important that each Commandery have a representative present to answer roll call and be insured that each commandery has a voice and vote in the affairs of the Grand Commandery. Remember—each Sir Knight is important, and we all must work together as a unit to make the Grand Commandery of Texas a successful organization.

### EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION & COMMITTEE:

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Texas knights Templar Educational Foundation and the Knights Templar Educational Committee met at the Grand Recorder's Office to evaluate 38 scholarship applications. Eleven being incomplete—twenty-seven were evaluated. **Twenty-six \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded and one \$2,000.00 scholarship was awarded.**

### RITUAL AND FIELD DRILL:

The Field Drill Committee met during Grand Lodge in Waco, Texas. They finalized plans for the Field Drill Competition at the Grand Conclave in Abilene, Texas. Past Grand Master Fischer briefed the Drill Captains and Committee members in attendance concerning the upcoming competition. I also was in attendance to answer any questions concerning the drill competition. Sir Knight Tommy Chapman is the chairman of the Ritual Templar Instruction Committee and they plan on having a meeting to finalize the ritual competition sometime in the near future.

The competition will be in the Order of the Red Cross, and the parts are:

- ❖ High Priest,
- ❖ Companion Conductor,
- ❖ Master of Infantry/Warder,
- ❖ Sovereign Master,
- ❖ Master of Calvary,
- ❖ Candidate/Zerubbabel.

**REMEMBER TO SUBMIT FESTIVALS AND COMMANDERY RELATED EVENTS/ITEMS OF INTEREST TO OUR WEBMASTER-**

**SIR KNIGHT MICHAEL BLAIR AT EMAIL**

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