

Texas Grand Commander's Message

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Grand Commander's Message - March 2004

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Dear Sir Knights of Texas:

This will be my last letter to all of you. Your new Grand Commander will write next month's article. Words alone cannot express my appreciation for your allowing me the privilege of serving you in the Grand Commandery line of officers, and especially the last year as Grand Commander. I pray that all the things your officers have done or attempted to do have met with your approval. Paula and I have met and made friends across the great state of Texas we would likely have never seen without the Commandery, friends and friendships which will remain with us for the rest of our lives. For these things you have my eternal gratitude.

As we pass through this world, we are fortunate if we can count on the fingers of our hand the number of our true friends. It has been my privilege to count Sir Knight C.M. "Dub" Garner, Jr., as one of those. Dub, Penny, Paula, and I have traveled from coast to coast and from Mexico to parts of Canada together as officers on both the Texas Shrine Motor Patrol and International Motor Patrol officer lines. Many enjoyable hours were spent at our place on Hogg Creek, near Valley Mills, Texas, with mutual friends and families. I have never known a man who was as giving and willing to help as Dub. There is a verse on the sign at the Memorial Student Center at Texas A. & M. which says, "No greater love hath a man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend." Tis is Dub Garner. He is now dying of fast growing cancer of the pancreas. I pray that he will live long enough to read this tribute. He will be greatly missed—thank you, Dub, for all there was, for all there is, and for all that's yet to be.

Father, we thank thee for the night
And for the pleasant morning light,
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair.
Help us to do the things we should,
To others be kind and good,
In all we do, in work or play,
To grow more loving every day.

May God Bless each of you in all your undertakings.

Thank you,
Jim Smith
Grand Commmander

Dub died January 28, 2004 at 7:00 P.M.

SPRING YORK RITE FESTIVAL

Spring York Rite Festival to be held Saturday, March 27, 2004, at St. John's Lodge No. 53, 323 W. Front, Tyler, Texas. Registration to begin at 6:30 A.M., with the degrees to begin at 7:00 A.M. Should conclude at 5:30 P.M. Courtesy candidates are welcomed. Lunch will be served at noon.