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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

As a Native Texan, I can't help but be proud of the rich and important history we observe in March. A group of brave men who believed in a larger vision came together at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1836 to declare Texas's independence from Mexico. These men saw Texas as an opportunity – a higher calling – to make a difference. Texas was a future for their children. They were a part of something special. As a result, the Republic of Texas was born.

On March 6, 1836, 187 men answered this higher calling and made a difference at the Alamo. The call was answered yet again by over 340 men who were massacred on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836 at Goliad. So much was sacrificed and so much blood was shed, yet the calling stayed strong. The vision was never lost. These men died knowing they were part of something special. These men died to protect a belief that Texas should be a free and independent republic. They also died to protect the rich heritage that you and I have today. As you "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad", remember the vision, and remember that you live in the greatest state in the Union.

Texans are very attached to their heritage. As we carry the vision of these brave men forward, we always keep an eye to the past. We strive to preserve the very soul of what make us "Texans". Houston remembers our heritage in March during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The Rodeo promotes "Benefitting Youth and Supporting Education" through Western Heritage. With over 26,000 volunteers and over 100 Committees and Sub-Committees involved, it is a huge event for Houston. The men and women who work at the Rodeo commit many hours to the Show. Many of these volunteers had to wait several years for an opening to get on their Committee. Yet, that commitment is made year after year. My FAMILY has been involved with the Rodeo for over thirty years. Becky showed her 4-H animals at the Show before working for 15 years as Ms. Moo, and I have been a committeeman for the last 17

years – a long-term commitment for both of us. The Show is tirelessly staffed by volunteers year after year. When you ask a volunteer "why", there are many different reasons, but all agree on the following:

1. To be a part of something special
2. To support the youth of Texas by providing scholarships
3. To wear the "Gold Badge" of a committeeman

In many ways the Patriots of the Republic and Texas, and the committeemen of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo are no different than the Sir Knights of Texas. We all became Knights Templar because we believe our Commanderies are something special. We benefit youth and support their education by providing scholarships through the Knight Templar Education Committee, and through our support of the young women and men of Rainbow and DeMolay. We see that future for our children as well.

And many of us strive to wear our "Gold Badge", which is the Passion Cross surrounded by rays of light.

Sir Knights, be proud that you are a part of something special. When you take pride in being a Knight Templar others see your enthusiasm, and in return they want to be a part of something special. If you know of a young college student who has 30 or more hours and is interested in one of our scholarships, please know that you can print an application from the website. Support our youth groups by attending one of their meetings letting them know that you CARE. Keep the future of Texas, and Templary, strong.

March is also a very busy month for the 159th Grand Conclave Committees. These Sir Knights and ladies are working diligently to insure that your experience in April will be one filled with FUN, FAMILY, CHIVALRY and CARING! Registration packets were sent to your Recorder and are available on the website. We look forward to welcoming you with warm Houston hospitality. We hope you will come to Grand Commandery and be a part of something special!

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