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### +Greetings and Welcome + I hope you are enjoying your Templary!

**Templar Field Day, Honoring Jacques DeMolay** – March 18, 2014, is a significant date for all Knight Templar's; it is the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Jacques DeMolay, the last Grand Master of the ancient Templar's, who gave up his life rather than betray his brethren and friends (a trait that we should all attempt to emulate). On Saturday, March 15, 2014, we will gather in Waco, Texas, not only to commemorate this anniversary, but to confer the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple; then, as a special treat, a specialized team of ritualist's will confer some of the Templar Degrees of the Scottish Rite, in vignette form; ending the day with the DeMolay Initiatory Degree, the DeMolay Degree and Fourth Section. The idea is to show the close relationship that Templary shares with the Scottish Rite and DeMolay, and how we can work together for the betterment of Freemasonry. We also encourage you to **bring your York Rite candidates for this special conferral**, so they too, can see the Scottish Rite Degree vignettes, as well as the DeMolay Degrees, so they might see that they can join or participate with these other incredible Masonic organizations. The day will begin with registration at 8:00 am, at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum, and the Order of the Red Cross will begin at 9:00 am. At some point, we will enjoy a catered lunch, there at the Museum's banquet room. Put this date in your calendar and plan on being there with us! PRE-Registration Forms are on the Grand Commandery website.

**Easter Observance** – This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 20, 2014, and there are three Grand Encampment Easter Observances in the U.S., in Alexandria, VA; Kansas City, MO; and Los Angeles, CA. If you have never attended one of these events, you have truly missed something special, particularly the one in Alexandria, VA. Besides all of the sights in nearby Washington, D.C., the Templar march up the hill, where the George Washington Masonic Memorial is located, is something to behold, with all of the Templar's marching in-step, in full uniform! And to watch as our Grand Master, David Dixon Goodwin, places a Templar wreath at the 'Tomb of the Unknowns', surrounded by the Sir Knights, in uniform, is very impressive! There are several of us that are planning on attending the Easter Observance in Alexandria, VA, as a Texas contingency; I hope that you too, will give this consideration and join us there!

**A Toast!** – I hope that you will utilize the new Grand Commandery Wine, "The Fifth Libation", at your next Order of the Temple knighting, or your next Festive Board, or Table Lodge, or at your family dinner table... Not too dry, not too sweet, but just right, and it can be enjoyed with all foods! The Order Form is located on the Grand Commandery website... Order yours today!

Each of us encounters disappointment; I for one, was very glad to see 2013 (a year filled with several disappointments) get behind me, and to begin 2014 in a more positive position; Albert Einstein said: **"Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow!"** Don't allow disappointment to slow you down, it's going to occur; Surround yourself with positive thinking and rise above it!

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**161<sup>st</sup> Grand Conclave** – Put April 25-28, 2014 into your calendar and make plans to be at the Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery, which will take place in Houston, at the Marriott Westchase Hotel. All events will occur at the hotel, so once you arrive, you will not have to leave until it's over; Also, we chose this hotel because of its convenient location, comfortable rooms and very good food. There will be several opportunities for you and your Commandery to participate, Drill Teams, Ritual Teams (Six-Man Teams this year), York Rite College meeting, KYCH meeting, Knights Preceptor meeting, Awards Banquet, Divine Service, Reception/Luncheon/GLoT San Jacinto Observance, Business Session and the election and installation of the new corps of Grand Officers! I hope you will join us in April, and take part in your Grand Commandery. Details for registration are on the Grand Commandery website, and will include some perks for you to stay at the headquarter hotel for all three nights, so plan on staying there with us!

**CHANGE?** – Sometimes, this five letter word is treated like a FOUR letter word, because most people fear it; it takes them out of their sphere of comfort and into the realm of the 'uncertain'. During last year's York Rite Conferences, Very Excellent Past Grand High Priest Tommy Chapman briefly discussed this, as is Most Excellent GHP Reese Harrison this year... Companion Chapman used a saying that went like this: **"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got!"** Think about this for a moment each day... If you are consistently encountering contrary issues or can't get the results you desire, consider CHANGING the way you approach or handle them. Albert Einstein said many things, but two of his sayings had stayed with me: **"The definition of Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over and over, and expecting a different result."**; and **"A person who never makes a mistake, has never tried anything new!"** What I'm suggesting to you is, if your Commandery is floundering and your membership is nowhere close to where it needs to be, you must consider making some changes, or you will continue the 'death-spiral' you're currently experiencing; it's like rearranging the deck chairs on the "Titanic", it may look nice, but your eventuality is the same! I'm asking **YOU** to be the difference, be the spark that ignites the fire in your Commandery, CHANGing your path to one of a positive nature... Embrace Greatness, **Be The One!**

**From our Darkest Hours, Comes our Bravest Actions...** - In the not too distant past, I had the opportunity to visit with a group of Sir Knights, to discuss the forfeiture of their charter (they hadn't been meeting for some time, nor observing their obligatory meetings, and nothing seemed to be going right for them); during the meeting, several questions were posed "What do we need to do?", "How can we build our membership?", "How can we raise money?", and several other, very important questions were asked, discussed, and answered. Out of this meeting came a specific plan with room for adjustments, a new corps of officers, a revised meeting schedule, and a new, positive outlook for their future... It may sound a little trite, but it reminded me of Brother Winston Churchill's "Finest Hour" speech, when, in 1940, Britain faced an ominous Nazi foe, and his speeches, particularly this one, gave the British an inspiration (though nearly alone in the war at that time and awaiting the impending Battle of Britain) to 'Fight On'!... This small group of officers and members stepped up to the challenge, accepted the mantle of LEADERSHIP and are doing well, and I am very proud of them!

– Don't be afraid of greatness, step up to the challenge and promote Templary!

**+ H. Bart Henderson + Grand Commander + 2013-2014 +  
"Do right, and risk the consequences!" - Brother Sam Houston**

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