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TO THE SIR KNIGHTS OF TEXAS GREETINGS:

Sir Knights and Ladies, the month of March is an important month in the history of Texas. On March 2nd we commemorate the birth of the Republic of Texas. The actions taken by those Texians meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos, who declared their Independence from the Republic of Mexico in 1835, gave birth to the Republic of Texas and eventually a State in the American Union.

We also remember those brave patriots who on March 6, 1835, gave their lives for freedom at the Alamo and commemorate those men who lost their lives at Goliad on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1835.

Thanks to those brave men who served at Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad, Washington-on-the-Brazos, San Jacinto, and the countless wars since 1835, we owe the greatest devotion for the freedoms and liberties we now enjoy.

OBLIGATORY OBSERVANCES

Sir Knights it is not too early to start planning for the four obligatory observances required by our statutes.

Each Commandery is required to hold an Easter, Ascension, Patriotic and Christmas observances each year. Failure to hold one of these observances will disqualify the Commandery for the Merit Award.

All of our obligatory observances may be held as public ceremonies and can be a great opportunity to put your Commandery and Templary before the public.

MEMBERSHIP CITATION CORD PROGRAM

We congratulate the following Sir Knights who have qualified during the past year for the Membership Citation Cord Award.

First Award -White Cord-

For signing petitions of 3 Knightings and/or Reinstatements

- Eddie Ball - DeMolay Commandery No. 20**
- Dan W. Turner - Alexander C. Garrett No. 103**
- Ricky Cox - Weatherford Commandery No. 51**

Show off your membership work by receiving the Citation Cord Award. Full details on the Membership Citation Cord program as well as the application form are available on our website at www.yorkritetexas.org

990N FILING

Commanders and Recorders, if your Commandery is on a calendar year for reporting to the IRS you can now file the 990N E-Postcard for 2016. Filing after May 13, 2017, is considered to be late. Failure to report for three consecutive years can lose your Commandery its' tax exempt status.

MASONIC MEMBERSHIP SOLUTIONS

Recorders you are also reminded that all changes to your member's records must be entered into the Grand Encampment database as soon as it takes place. Failure to do so can mean your members do not receive this magazine on a regular basis.

Yours in Christ,
John C. Elkinton
Grand Commander 2016-2017