

Thomas W. Snyder
R.E. Grand Commander

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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

It seems just yesterday that I was nervous about the upcoming election for the position of Grand Sentinel in the Grand Commandery of Texas. I was fortunate to have been elected, and grateful for the honor of being able to serve as a Grand Officer. Linda and I received a warm welcome into the Grand Commandery family - - a family that still resounds today with open arms and a continued love for Christianity. This was the beginning of a long journey across the great State visiting and inspecting Commanderies; but most of all, it was an opportunity to meet the Sir Knights who were wielding their sword for the cause of Knighthood.

As the 155th Grand Conclave is upon us, the end of my journey as a Grand Officer is in sight. This year, we lost two past Grand Commanders - - Thomas C. Yantis, PGC, KCT and Donald L. Smith, PGC, KCT. The legacies they left behind will have a lasting impression on the Grand Commandery of Texas. We continued the Dale Miller Award this year recognizing a Commandery in each Templar district that made the most favorable impression on the candidate during the conferral of the Order of the Temple at the annual inspection. The winners of the Award will be recognized at the Annual Banquet on April 19th at the Grand Conclave. It is my sincere desire that the Dale Miller Award will become a permanent award.

Our crops have been planted, nurtured and harvested. As discussed before, we must plant the seeds of York Rite Masonry with every newly raised Master Mason in order that they may have the opportunity to be knighted into an Order that is founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. Simply put, seeds can't grow without water. Our goal this year was to remain committed to nurturing each new Sir Knight in his new undertakings and ensure that he became active in his Commandery. I hope that your harvest was plentiful, and that you and your Commandery are now sowing the seeds for next year's crop.

I wish to express a heartfelt thank you to my General Chairman and all the committee members, who will help hold the Grand Conclave, to all the Grand Officers whose friendship I cherish and who serve the Grand Commandery so well, and especially to the Sir Knights of Districts One and Six for their support, faith, help and friendship.

My wife and best friend, Linda, who has traveled along the journey with me, is my anchor and support. I cannot begin to express my gratitude and appreciation for all she has done the past ten years - and, for what she is doing to prepare for this Grand Conclave. Our journey together began some thirty years ago and has been filled with love and joy, and I want to say Thank You for your support and dedication.

Sir Knights, you bestowed upon me the greatest privilege and honor that was within your power to bestow. That act produced a debt which I will not be able to repay, and the rest of my life will be in service to that debt. I have not the words to explain the fullness of my heart, but until I do, my fraternal love for you is best explained by: ***God Bless You and God Bless the Grand Commandery of Texas!***

And now to Jason Pierce for his yeoman service as Editor of the Texas Insert this year -- Thank you Sir Knight and friend, well done and much appreciated!

Fraternally Yours,

Thomas W. Snyder
Grand Commander

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5** **San Antonio York Rite Festival**
San Antonio Scottish Rite Building Downtown
Registration 7am; Degrees 8am
Contact: Nelson Dunn at 210-222-0133
- April 12** **Fort Worth Chapter / Council 150/100 Celebration**
Scottish Rite Temple
1100 Henderson Street
Fort Worth, TX
Begins at 3pm
Contact: David Gardner at ddgardner10@charter.net
- May 16 & 17** **Greenville York Rite Festival**
2615 Stonewall
Greenville, TX
May 16 - - Registration & Refreshments at 6pm
May 17 - - Registration & Refreshments at 7am
Contact: Robert Pierce at 903-455-6750