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### *To the Sir Knights of Texas:*

First and foremost, I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through whom all things are possible, and without whose blessing I would not be here.

Second, I want to thank each of you, the Sir Knights of Texas. You have made my dream come true. Though the words, "Thank You" do not seem adequate, they truly are the words in my heart. You have bestowed an honor on me that I will not take for granted.

We have a lot of work ahead of us this year, and with your assistance and guidance we will accomplish great things.

### **Our theme for this year is Family, Fun, Caring, and Chivalry.**

**Family:** Family is one of our most important tenets. I am speaking not only of our Masonic family, but also of our family at home. I believe in family, and I believe that we should involve our families as much as we can. Becky will tell you that she's done everything "but drink the wine" for our Commandery, and at the age 9  $\frac{3}{4}$ , Rex is helping Granddaddy fill spots during drill practice. Melrose Commandery is successful because of our family, especially our relationship between our Commandery and our Beauceant Assembly. If your Commandery does not have a Beauceant Assembly I suggest that you look into getting one. You can contact the Supreme Assembly who will be happy to get you the needed information.

**Fun:** Those who know me well know I believe in having fun! Don't get me wrong-I know the importance of the solemnity of our ritual and I take that very seriously. However, at our stated conclaves, ritual practices and other events, we must have fun! If our meetings become mundane and boring, no one will want to attend. A little laughter can go a long way.

**Caring:** If we don't care about our Order, why should anyone else? Our ritual is some of the most beautiful in all of Freemasonry. We must care enough to give our candidates the best we have to offer. I think a lot of times we lose our new members, because we didn't care enough to show

them our best work at their knighting. We must care for each other as well-call a Sir Knight you haven't heard from in a while to say "hello".  
**Chivalry:** Chivalry is NOT DEAD- it's just forgotten-and we must bring it back. As Knights Templar we proclaim to be the "best of the best" so we need to start acting like that. We need to be the shining light that we proclaim to be, and continue "to defend Innocent Maidens, Destitute Widows, Helpless Orphans and the Christian Religion." The one thing that sets us apart from other Masonic groups is our profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Let's practice what we preach.

You will notice a lot of changes this year, simply because I don't believe in "we've always done it that way." One change will be the way that we utilize our website. I want to thank Sir Knight Michael Blair for his hard work and devotion to this project. You should be able to find all the information you need on this site. If this website is to be what we want it to be, it will take all of us. Recorders, PLEASE UPDATE your Commandery's site. You can share so much information with this tool. I also encourage you to add photos to the site. Together let's make this the premier Masonic website in Texas. I want to thank my dear friend and Grand Prelate, Sir Knight John Kleinfelder for preparing our Ascension message. You can find it in the Prelate's Chapel on the website ([www.texasyrokite.org](http://www.texasyrokite.org)).

There are five special areas that I want us to focus on this year: Holy Land Pilgrimage, Permanent Endowment Fund, Penny-A-Day Program, Youth Groups, and Beauceant Assemblies. These programs and organizations are so vital to our success, and you will be hearing much more about them in the coming months.

Sir Knights, if your Commandery is having a festival this year, I would be honored to be a part. Contact me with the dates and I will do my best to be there and fill any station you might need. I will also notify the Grand Officers and encourage them to attend as well. Remember that I'm only a phone call or email away.

Sir Knights, again I thank you for this honor. May God continue to bless you and your family, in the same manner that he has blessed mine. I value your friendships and prayers as I begin this incredible journey.

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