

# Texas Grand Commander's Message

## Grand Commander's Message - July 2003

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By the time you read this, the 1st Annual Grand Commander's Cruise will be history. We sailed on May 18 from Galveston for Key West, FL, then to George Town in the Grand Cayman Islands to Cozumel, and finally back to Galveston on the 25th. Hopefully, this will continue and become one of the highlights of each Grand Commander's year. I apologize for the lack of advertising of the trip. We had to make concessions for Grand Encampment, and our own mid-year meeting, and all of the other activities of summer. By the time we had it all sorted out, there was no time to let many Sir Knights know about the trip.

I ask each of you to examine your attitude. What is your attitude toward Masonry as a whole and Templar Masonry in particular? This is what Charles Swindoll had to say regarding attitude: "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of 'attitude' on life." ATTITUDE to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, or what other people think, say, or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home...a Commandery. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the ATTITUDE we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing that we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our ATTITUDE. I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And, so it is with you...you are in charge of your attitude.

Please examine your attitude. Are you helping to create interest in our fraternity and the philanthropies that we sponsor, or are we being fatalistic and detrimental? Remember those ten little two-letter words, IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME. Also, if every Knight were a Knight like me, what sort of Commandery would my Commandery be? In order to attract Masons to Templar Masonry, we must exhibit an ATTITUDE which is attractive to others. Preach Templar Masonry, then practice what you preach. Our numbers will then return to their proper place in Grand Encampment.

Masons say -- 2B1-Ask 1. Christian Masons must say -- Ask 1-2B1.

Yours in the faith,  
James P. Smith  
Grand Commander