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R.E. Grand Commander

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*Territory is but the body of a nation. The people who inhabit its hills and valleys are its soul, its spirit, its life.*

*~~ James A. Garfield, 20<sup>th</sup> President of the United States*

#### To the Sir Knights of Texas:

Born in 1831 in northeastern Ohio near the shores of Lake Erie, James A. Garfield drove canal boats in order that he could earn enough money to obtain a college education. Loosing his father at the age of two, Garfield graduate from Williams College in Massachusetts in 1856. Having served in the military, Garfield was elected to serve in Congress in 1862. In 1864, Garfield, at the age of 33, was raised a Master Mason in Columbus Ohio. He later became a Knight Templar. As the last of the log cabin Presidents, James A. Garfield attacked political corruption and won back for the Presidency a measure of prestige it had lost during the Reconstruction Period.

We observe two very important holidays during this time of year - Memorial Day and Independence Day. With the invention of cell phones and the internet, we sometimes loose focus of the true meaning of each of these observances. For it is more than hot dogs and fireworks - - Memorial Day is a time to remember those who have served in our armed forces, especially those that have sacrificed their life for this land of the free and home of the brave. Independence Day celebrates the birth of this nation and marks our separation from the British empire. President Garfield so eloquently described the United States as more than a national body; it's the people who inhabit its hills and valleys that are truly the nation's soul, spirit and life.

Likewise, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas is more than just a group of men who gather to exchange stories or drink coffee. Grand Commandery is about YOU - - you make up its soul, spirit and life. I encourage each Knight Templar to get active in your local Commandery - - volunteer to learn a part in a degree or to be an officer.

As I have mentioned before, Templary will prosper if we endeavor to support and exemplify its precepts and ideals. Remember to make it your personal goal to attend each meeting and activity of your local Commandery. Plant the seed of Templary in your local community, because we must all work together in order for Christian Masonry to succeed.

As you enjoy the hotdogs and firework displays this year, remember to reflect upon the true reason for these observances. Lastly, Linda and I invite you and your lady to attend the 155<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave that will be held in Farmers Branch on April 18 to 21, 2008. Thank you Sir Knights of Texas for all that you do for Templar Masonry.

In His name,

Thomas W. Snyder  
Grand Commander

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>July 20 &amp; 21</b>   | <b>Denton York Rite Festival</b><br>Stanfield Masonic Lodge<br>316 West Highland Street, Denton, TX<br>July 20: Meal at 5:30pm; Degree at 6:30pm<br>July 21: Breakfast at 7:00am; Degrees at 8:00am<br>Contact: Clarence Laney 214-226-0124   |
| <b>August 11 &amp; 18</b> | <b>McKinney York Rite Festival</b><br>St. Johns Masonic Lodge<br>215 ½ N. Kentucky St., McKinney, Texas<br>August 11: Breakfast at 7:00am; Degrees at 8:00am<br>August 18: Breakfast at 7:00am; Degrees at 8:00am<br>Contact: C. Louis Hopkins 972-784-8691                         |
| <b>August 11 &amp; 18</b> | <b>Chapter &amp; Council School of Instruction</b><br>Fort Worth Masonic Temple, Chapter & Council Room<br>1100 Henderson Street, Fort Worth, Texas<br>Breakfast at 7:00am and School at 8:00am both days<br>Conducted by RE / RI Eldon Brooks<br>Contract: Jim Fester 817-229-0333 |
| <b>August 25</b>          | <b>San Jacinto Chapter No. 7 &amp; Huntsville Council No. 7</b><br>Chapter and Council Degrees<br>1030 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, Huntsville, TX 77340<br>Begins at 8:30am<br>Contact: R.L. Sieckmann, Jr.   |