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TO THE SIR KNIGHTS OF TEXAS :

As we get into the summer months, we are blessed to enjoy holidays such as **Memorial Day and the 4th of July**. However, **we should never take these days to just be another “day”, or another “holiday”. Rather, these special days are ones that we should be thankful for.** We should always remember the sacrifices that were made by those men and women who have fought so that we can enjoy the freedoms that each of us enjoys. So, while each of us enjoys our summer (and its hot days), family trips and vacations, let us remember those who served so that we can enjoy these times.

Standard Guard

We are taught that the United States flag is always displayed in the East of every Templar Asylum, where it is accorded the position of highest honor. As Sir Knights, **I challenge each Commandery to do more to recognize our beloved flag outside of the Templar Asylum.**

Sir Knight John C. Elkinton, Past Grand Commander, started up a wonderful Standard Guard program, which I have carried forward into this year – with one change. **Rather than only having one Standard Guard, I am looking for each Commandery – or at a minimum – each Templar District, to have its own Standard Guard.** What a wonderful opportunity this is for us to show respect and gratitude to our flag, but to also play a more prominent role in our communities. **The Standard Guard is one that can do flag presentations for special public and private events, other Masonic organizations, parades, and special observances. There are already Standard Guards working in Districts 1, 5, 6, and 8.**

I have heard many great things from those Sir Knights who are participating, but more importantly, they are reporting back on how appreciated and respected it is from the community. **If your Commandery or your District is interested in forming up a Standard Guard please do not hesitate to contact me.**

Family

A special gift to Masons occurs when their son or grandson decides to join the fraternity; even more special is when the father or grandfather takes part in the Degree or Order. **On May 20, the Grand Commandery Officers were invited to Dallas #6 to confer the Order of the Temple upon (now) Sir Knight Cody Jones. Cody is the son of Sir Knight Joe Jones, PC of Dallas #6, and is the current DeMolay Deputy State Master Councilor.** It was a very special and touching moment for all involved, especially when Joe Knighted Cody.

New Commandery

Several of the Grand Commandery Officers were present **on May 25th for a very special occasion, the Chartering of a new Commandery, Terrell No. 115.** It was an honor for myself and all others involved to be a part of this historic evening. There was a great sense of fraternalism, love, and enthusiasm. I encourage all Sir Knights to visit our newest Commandery, and let them know how glad we are to have them!

Top Line Signers

Sir Knights, please also remember that we are continuing the special membership cord program this year. So, as you continue striving to be a top line signer utilize the form that accompanied General Order No. 2 so that you can receive and be recognized with special colored membership cords. These distinctive cords are stylized to recognize you for your hard work and efforts. Please have your Recorder fill out the form and send in to me so that you can receive your cord.

Statewide Makeup School of Instruction

If you are unable to attend your own District school, you can attend any other District School of Instruction during the year.

Statewide Makeup School of Instruction

When: Saturday, August 26th Where: Asylum of Waco Commandery No. 10.

Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the school at 9:00 am. The school will be conducted under the direction of Sir Knight Richard Doss, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander.

If there is ever anything that your Grand Officers can do to assist you or your Commandery, please do not hesitate to contact us - we are here to serve you.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Jack M. Harper II
Grand Commander 2017-2018