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From the Editor

Labor Day – The time has come for us to *Labor* for the *Cause of Templary*. Summer is over and we can get to work!

Labor Day is the first Monday in September. The holiday originated in 1882 and Congress made it a federal holiday in 1894. Traditionally, Labor Day is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer and as “a day off for the work force.”

Forms of celebration include, but are not limited to, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water sports, and public art events. Families with school-age children take it as the last chance to travel before the end of summer. Some teenagers and young adults view it as the last weekend for parties before returning to school. However, of late, schools have begun well before Labor Day, as early as the July 24 in many urban districts. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the season for the National Football League and NCAA College Football. The NCAA usually plays their first games the weekend of Labor Day with the NFL playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day.

To the Sir Knights of Texas:

I want to express my deep appreciation to all those who honored me by your presence at the reception given for me on July 26, 2008. It was well attended, despite several unavoidable conflicts, and I well understand that there were many who would have been present except for more pressing responsibilities. The reception was held in the parlor of the First Baptist Church, Waco, which had been home church for two past Grand Commanders of Texas: Simon Milford Bunn and Harvey C. Byrd, both dear friends to me. A brief program was presented by Sir Knight, Coach Grant Teaff, a deacon in the First Baptist Church and a member of Waco Commandery No. 10. His topic was Attitude, and his comments regarding the difference it makes in all areas of life were well received. My thanks to Grant for his message and for the inspiration he has been to me personally.

Let me encourage renewed diligence in your efforts to increase membership. There are still many brother Masons who need to be informed of the opportunity to gain more light through the York Rite. Many Blue Lodges have grown and now include younger members as a result of the change in age of eligibility. Visits to Blue Lodges are still the most effective way to reach brothers who are prospects for York Rite.

All York Rite bodies planning a Festival are reminded that Thomas F. Griffin, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F.& A. M., has stated that he would be available to confer the Order of the Temple. If you wish to take advantage of this unique opportunity, contact him to correlate your schedule with his. He can be reached through the Grand Lodge, or call him at his residence at 409/296-2796.

In His Service,

William E. Matyastik
Grand Commander

COMING EVENTS

Sep 26/27, 2008

Tarrant County York Rite Festival: Tarrant County will confer the Chapter and Council Degrees and Commandery Orders in festival style. Most Worshipful Thomas F. Griffin, Grand Master, will confer the Order of the Temple. Contact: Jeff Bennett 817-372-3399, or Larry Whitfield 682-557-6166.

Sep 27, 2008

San Antonio York Rite Festival: Chapter 381, Council 14 and Commandery 7 will host a York Rite Festival, Sep 27, 2008. Registration 7 AM, Chapter Degrees 8 AM and Commandery Orders 2 PM. Contact: Gerald Nowatny (210) 222-0133.