

Paul E. Wunsche

R:E: Grand Commander

17120 Theiss Mail Road

Spring, TX 77379

Home: (281) 320-2509

Cell: (281) 814-2614

E: pewunsche@sbcglobal.net



Jeff S. Bennett

Editor, Texas Page

3208 Hyde Park CT

Arlington, TX 76015

Cell: (817)372-3399

Home: (817)466-0343

Email: jeffbairmail@yahoo.com

To the Sir Knights of Texas:

As I have stressed FAMILY and FUN this year, I have a “guest author” for you this month. I hope you will enjoy a look at Texas Templary from a little different point of view.

September is a time of new beginnings for me. As principal of a small private school, I love the excitement of a new school year. All the little faces just beam as they proudly carry in a backpack twice their size, and start their adventure. I always look forward to having all the kids back in the building, and using their energy to spark my own. As I walk down the halls or visit the lunchroom, I can't help but feel the electricity!

One of my favorite “beginning-of-the-year” projects is a writing exercise by my third graders. They read Shel Silverstein's poem *Whatif*, which deals with a child's nightmare of all the things that can go wrong when going back to school. The kids always have a laugh as they read it and imagine the possibilities. Each student then composes his or her own *Whatif*, and they are posted on the bulletin board for all to enjoy. I must admit that this is the one time each year when I read EVERY word on the bulletin board, as they are always so wonderful and creative.

I also find that I think of my own *Whatifs* as I read their poems. I sometimes have those “nightmare” moments before school starts, and I have to remind myself that there are good *Whatifs* as well. We all have many *Whatifs* in our lives which have set us on our paths and made us who we are today. I have all of you, the Knights Templar of Texas, to thank for some of the most wonderful *Whatifs* in my life.

Whatif, my dad had never become a Knight Templar? I would not have known and enjoyed all the involvement my family has shared. I have been to Grand Commandery since I was a teenager, and I have logged many, many miles on the drill floor at Sunday night drill practice for Melrose Commandery. I have typed hundreds of letters, helped serve hundreds of meals, pinned on jewels, straightened and fluffed feathers, and generally had an amazing time enjoying the friends I have through Commandery. I was so honored to be Ladies Chairman for my mom during the 144th Grand Conclave. It was a labor of love, but it was also so much fun!

One of the greatest *Whatifs* in my life involved a certain brand-new Knight Templar, who was attending his first meeting at Melrose Commandery. Paul asked if he could drive me home from the meeting, I said “Yes”, and he has been my Knight in shining armor ever since.

Whatif I had not been at the Lodge that night helping serve dinner? My life might be very different today. When I married Paul, I got a new FAMILY in more than one way. Becoming “Paul's Lady” brought me even closer to the circle of friends we had through Commandery, and it also brought me the opportunity to become a member of the Social Order of the Beauceant. There was no *Whatif* to that decision – I got a petition as a wedding present!

My Beauceant sisters are such an important part of my life, and they have helped me with countless *Whatifs*. They are some of my dearest friends and closest confidants. They have been with me through thick and thin, they have helped raise Rex, and they have shown unending devotion to the Sir Knights of Melrose Commandery. *Whatif* I didn't have my Beauceant sisters? I would have missed out on such a wonderful group of ladies. I can't wait to see all my Beauceant sisters at the end of the month when we travel to California for Supreme Assembly. We are looking forward to the installation of Mrs. John Brogan as our new Supreme Worthy President. Paul is so excited we will have a Texan as Supreme Worthy President at the 159th Grand Conclave!!

Whatif you, the Sir Knights of Texas, had not elected Paul to the Grand Commandery line almost ten years ago? You would not have allowed us one of the most incredible parts of our life together. It has been my joy to travel with him and enjoy the Knights Templar of Texas. I loved your warm hospitality, your CHIVALRY and your CARING. We always felt so welcomed by your Commanderies, as if you had made us part of your FAMILY. I must admit I will miss our Inspection trips. I always had so much FUN exploring little antique shops, seeing your beautiful Lodge buildings, old and new, and learning the history of your cities and towns. Finally, *Whatif* Paul hadn't let me write this article? I would not have the opportunity to say THANK YOU to the most wonderful Sir Knights and ladies in Templary. You have given my family such an amazing opportunity to serve, and you have given my Sir Knight his ultimate dream. I don't have the words to thank you for all the *Whatifs* in my life that you have made possible. *Whatif* I just let you all know that I love you very much and I thank you for everything... Becky

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