

W. David Melear

R:E: Grand Commander

7 Thunderbird
Canyon, TX 79015
Home: (806) 655-3821
Cell: (806) 236-6104
E: meleard@clearwire.net
E: meleard@gmail.com



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 many of you may know November is a very important month for our country and our fraternity. Many people in the United States believe that it is the start of the Christmas shopping season, but to the Knights Templar of Texas, most of our Commanderies will be holding their elections during this month. I encourage each of you to elect the most qualified officers for your Commanderies.

Membership

Continue to work on membership; every new member is important, so please make sure they understand how important they are to us. Please make sure you are contacting your district membership chairman with the details of your festivals and regular conferrals. If they are not responding back to you send me an e-mail and I will contact them personally.

Grand Commandery Membership Committee

Louis Hopkins Dist. 1
Hunter Schappaugh Dist. 3
Juan Garcia Pena Jr. Dist. 4
Kenneth Miller Dist. 6
Ted D. Hennis, Chairman Dist. 8

Richard Gaiser Dist. 2
Everett Buster Williams Dist. 4
James G. Dougherty Dist. 5
William F. Trogdon Dist. 7
A. Frank Berkley Dist. 9

Please log on to the Grand Commandery Website www.texasorkrite.org for their contact information. If you are unsure which district you are in, you can find that information on the website. If you are just unsure, please feel free to contact the Membership Committee Chairman or you can just e-mail me your information. If anyone would like to share ideas on how to recruit new members and keep them interested, please send this information to the Committee Chairman.

Long Range Planning Committee

We are pleased to announce the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas' new Long Range Planning Committee. This committee will help to create long range goals to help The Grand Commandery of Texas in the areas of membership and finance, and to help The Grand Commandery of Texas strive to achieve our vision and that of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America. I will provide more information on the committee, and its members in my column for next month.

Thanksgiving

The following is the Proclamation made by President George Washington proclaiming the first official Thanksgiving Day. While there were Thanksgiving observances in America both before and after Washington's proclamation, this represents the first to be so designated by the new national government.

General Thanksgiving
By the PRESIDENT of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favour; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a DAY OF PUBLICK THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"¹

NOW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY of NOVEMBER next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed;-- for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enable to establish Constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted;-- for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge;-- and, in general, for all the great and various favours which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions;-- to enable us all, whether in publick or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us); and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

GIVEN under my hand, at the city of New-York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.^{2,3}

(signed) G. Washington

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving,
W. David Melear
W. David Melear,
Right Eminent Grand Commander

- 1.) <http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/firsts/thanksgiving/>
- 2.) <http://www.leaderu.com/humanities/washington-thanksgiving.html>
- 3.) The Massachusetts Centinel, Wednesday, October 14, 1789