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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

The month of November begins the holiday season for all of us – a special season of traditions.

At my house, Thanksgiving is a big day. I find myself doing lots of yard work and getting everything spruced up for company. Becky and Betty Carole are cleaning and cooking for our family, and Rex has the never-ending task of cleaning his room. We always have our family for a wonderful meal, cooked with love, and all the fun that goes along with a house full of kids. We eat way too much, laugh and enjoy each other, and then settle in to watch the Aggies beat tu. Thanksgiving is a great day! Thanksgiving is also a time to reflect on all the things we are most thankful for. For me it is simple. I thank God every day for Becky and Rex, and I also thank him for allowing me to serve you, the Sir Knights of Texas. I believe the Grand Commandery is a fraternity of tradition, and I have big shoes to fill as I walk in the footsteps of men like our own Sir Knight James D. Berry and Oklahoma's Sir Knight James C. Taylor. These men exemplified Templary, and will be sorely missed.

November is also a month when we traditionally take a day to thank those men and women who have served our great country so that you and I have the freedom to enjoy our holiday traditions. I hope that each Commandery will reserve a special moment at you November stated conclave to honor those veterans who have served with pride. I encourage you to present your veterans with the bar approved for wear on our uniform. Do not forget to honor our ladies who have served as well. We may not be able to present them with a bar, but a flower and an introduction at your conclave would certainly be appropriate. Thanks to our veterans, my family can worship without fear, Rex can attend a public school for his education, and we have a choice and a voice in our government. Our military has a great tradition and we must always remember that we will “never forget”. From the bottom of my heart, I say “thank you” to my dad, and those others who have served our country.

November brings us to a traditional time in our Commanderies as well – the annual election of officers. I encourage every one of you to attend

your stated Conclave this month and take part in this election. We have a duty to vote when our country elects new officials, and we are charged with the same duty to our Commandery. I encourage you to take an active part in insuring that your Commandery will be in good hands. Help these new officers recognize the traditions that keep your Commandery strong. Expect great things from them. Help them learn their work. Encourage and support them in their endeavors during the year. Our Texas Commanderies have a great tradition of conferring the Orders with pride and proficiency. This is one tradition I do not ever want us to lose. Our inspections are vital to keeping our Commanderies strong. However, our Commanderies are only as strong as our officers. If you are an officer, ask yourself if you are upholding the traditions of your Commandery. Are you giving you best to the other Sir Knights who are depending on you? Are you making a commitment of service to Templary? Any Sir Knight can fill an office. It takes an extraordinary Sir Knight to truly be an officer.

As elections approach, please remember that Grand Encampment law prohibits being a dais officer in more than one Commandery, and the Texas Statutes and Regulations prohibit any Sir Knight from holding an elected office in more than one Commandery.

Sir Knights, I hope you will take time this November to reflect on those traditions that are special to you and your family. Remember to support those traditional charities of our Grand Commandery (Holy Land Pilgrimage, Permanent Endowment Fund, Penny-A-Day) and enjoy some of our new “traditions” as you do your holiday shopping using Goodsearch.com and Amazon.com.

Enjoy some time this fall to soak up the traditions of the season. Show our veterans how much you CARE when you honor them on November 11th. Remember your Knightly CHIVALRY as you stand in the grocery store line to purchase the one thing Becky forgot for her recipe. Keep your FAMILY traditions strong, and never forget how important we are to each other. And finally, enjoy the magic of your children and grandchildren as they pull the wishbone and ask why they can't have jellybeans for dinner like Snoopy. Be thankful for all the FUN you have, and for those you love the most.

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