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### ***Greetings to the Sir Knights of Texas:***

By now, many of you are preparing to celebrate your patriotic observance, and more importantly, the Independence of this great nation. During this important time of the year, I would like you to remember that throughout the history of the United States of America many Freemasons were involved in the ideals that helped form this great nation. The history of Freemasonry and the history of this country are very clearly interwoven. The following is a short list of some well known Masonic Presidents:

George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Gerald Ford.

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, the number nine<sup>1</sup> is usually accepted as the absolute minimum of Freemasons who signed the Declaration. Clearly, 13 of the 39 who signed the Constitution were members of Masonic Lodges<sup>2</sup>. Of the others, absolute proof has not been found. The year 1717 is important in England, as local Masonic Lodges created a system whereby they sent representatives to a body called the Grand Lodge, which governed them all. The Grand Lodge then elected its own Grand Master. The experiment, which began in the United States in 1788, is one in which states send their representatives to a Congress. And if Brother Alexander Hamilton had prevailed, the Congress would be electing the President of the United States<sup>3</sup>. A number of authorities report that General George Washington's staff looked like a Masonic convention. The list of American Masons in Washington's service included many of his Generals. Other revolutionary heroes included Patrick Henry, Nathan Hale, and John Paul Jones, just to name a few<sup>4</sup>.

The implementation of our democratic ideals are continuing while our servicemen and women serve in harm's way in the military preserving those same ideals that our founding fathers sought in the founding of the United States of America.

Freemasons have always played an integral role by ensuring the foundation of a successful and productive nation. Sir Knights if we want this to continue, it is up to each of us. Each of you must do your part in ensuring that we continue to play an integral role in the future.

This can be done in many ways by working in your local governments, Lodges, Commanderies, and other civic organizations. But the most important way any of us can contribute to our cause is to recruit new members. Without new members we will not succeed. But remember the charge in your E. A. Degree, and be careful not to recommend anyone who will not conform to our fraternity.

If any of your Commanderies are in need of a patriotic program, please visit the Grand Commandery website.

### **Membership**

Sir Knights, festivals are being organized all over the state, and while this is great for our organization, but please do not stop. We must be diligent in our efforts to increase our membership. Even the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment has issued a challenge to the Grand Commandery of Texas, saying that someday he hoped we would be able to compete with Ohio for the most Sir Knights in the Grand Encampment. Sir Knights this is a challenge we must accept and we must complete. No state should ever beat Texas in membership. Please remember to stay in touch with the Membership Committee.

### **Grand Commandery Website**

Sir Knights we continue to make improvements to you website, please visit and make recommendations. We would like the site to be the center point of news and communication for our state. Recorders, you will be able to update your Commandery Officers on the website, please take advantage of this option and help us keep our records up to date.

Sir Knights, Masonry is a family event to me. When I joined I was welcomed into a family that I could have never imagined, and everyday I thank God that I made the decision to complete the petition my father gave me. For almost twenty years I had the honor to call him both my father and my brother. I will never forget this. I wish that everyone could experience this sense of pride and honor. We may not be the only Masonic organization that holds to a Christian belief. We are, in my opinion, as the Knight Templars of old were to the crusaders; the Vanguard of the Masonic Orders in Christian beliefs. Every Christian Mason and every Christian Man should be a Knight Templar.

*Fraternally,*

***W. David Melear,***  
***Right Eminent Grand Commander***

1. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Masonic Signers of the Declaration of Independence
2. Masonic Membership of the Signers of the Constitution of the United States, published by the Masonic Service Association, and written by Bro. Ronald E. Heaton
3. Decision in Philadelphia, by Christopher and James Collier
4. George Washington's Masonic Generals, by Madison C. Peters