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### ***To the Sir Knights of Texas:***

As we enter the month of September, we are entering what most people consider to be the end of summer. However, September is a special month for Masons as there are many events we should remember. It was on September 1, 1814, when as a prisoner on a British Man of War, Brother Francis Scott Keys wrote the words to our National Anthem on the back of an envelope. How many of us would be able to do this? And, who could forget the acts of terror that occurred on September 11, 2001? These coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States killed over 3 thousand people whose only crimes were that they went to work that day. September 11<sup>th</sup> is officially Patriots Day and World Trade Center Remembrance Day. As for Texans, September has special meaning to us as well. Sam Houston was elected first President of Texas on September 5, 1836. September is also known as National School Success Month. This is important to Texas Masons because Brother Mirabeau B. Lamar, as President of the Republic of Texas, helped to establish the Texas Public School Systems, which Masons still support to this Day. September is also Read-A-New-Book Month. The Grand Lodge of Texas supports this by encouraging Masons all over the state to read to children through the Take Time to Read Program. As you can see, September is not just the end of summer, but is a time to impact our community and our country. Many important events have happened during this month as mentioned before, now we need to make the most of September in 2010.

***I challenge you to make your mark on this month by attending your blue lodges and top lining the petitions of 10 new members.***

### **Membership**

I would like to commend each of you for your efforts to improve our membership, but now is not the time to become complacent, as we should continually be working to increase our numbers. If you think you have done your part for membership, then help someone else do their part for our fraternity.

### **Website**

Sir Knights, we continue to make improvements to our website. We are trying to improve communication around the state. To accomplish this goal, we need your help. Please logon to the website and make suggestions on how to improve the content. We have had several good suggestions so far, but we need more. Please send me your comments. Remember to post your events on the website as well.

### **Festival Announcements**

If you would like your festivals to be posted in the Knight Templar Magazine, please send the information to Jeff Bennett or me 90 days in advance, otherwise I cannot guarantee they will be in the issue.

Sir Knights I have been asked many times what constitutes a good Commandery. I believe there are many answers. I would propose a question for our discussion: what are the qualities of a good Commandery? E-mail me your answers and I will have them posted on the Grand Commandery website. A few rules on your answers; keep the answers focused on the Commanderies, and I reserve the right to choose the answers that will be posted. Good luck Sir Knights, and let us see whose answers are the best!

*Fraternally,*

*W. David Melear,  
Right Eminent Grand Commander*