

TEXAS

# FREEMASON



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**WINTER 2024** 



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# FREEMASON

The Texas Freemason Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Lodges and subscribers. Spring and winter issues are available in print. Summer and fall issues are available in PDF format at https://grandlodgeoftexas.org. Opinions expressed by the editors and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Grand Lodge of Texas Copyright 2024, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

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Please continue to send your articles and Lodge events and news to the Editors of The Texas Freemason Magazine.

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#### Archives

https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine

# A WORD FROM THE **Grand Master**



Brethren,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoy the holiday season with your families and friends.

I have long used many Theodore Roosevelt quotes in my talks and so I thought I would share this one with you all. It has a powerful message, and it has helped me in life and in my Masonic journey. I hope you will appreciate this quote as much as I do and apply it to your own life and Masonic journey. I am asking you to reflect on the words of Theodore Roosevelt.

It is my sincere wish for peace, harmony, and brotherly love to prevail in our lodges and among all Texas Masons.

God Bless The United States of America, God Bless The Great State of Texas, and God Bless each and every one of you!

Tommy & Chapman

Tommy F. Chapman Most Worshipful Grand Master 2024





It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds: who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

- Theodore Roosevelt

#### A WORD FROM THE

# **Deputy Grand Master**



Brethren,

As I reflect on the past months since our Grand Annual Communication in January, I am both humbled and honored by the trust the Brothers of the Grand Lodge of Texas have placed in me as your Deputy Grand Master. It has been a period marked by significant progress in fostering peace, harmony, and unity within our Texas Masonic community.

Throughout this time, we have seen a renewed commitment to the core principles that bind us together—brotherhood, charity, and personal growth. These principles have guided our efforts, reminding us that our impact as Freemasons extends beyond ritual and into the very fabric of our daily lives. It is through genuine fellowship, where we actively engage with one another, that we strengthen our bonds and create lasting positive change. This fellowship, coupled with our dedication to charity, allows us to be a beacon of support and encouragement for all, both within and beyond our fraternity.

Looking to the future, I am excited to announce that we will be placing a greater emphasis on family and community events. Inspired by the work of Past Grand Master Brad Billings, our current Grand Secretary, these initiatives aim to bring our families and communities closer to the heart of Freemasonry. The involvement of our loved ones and the broader community

is essential in enriching our Masonic experience and ensuring that our values are lived out in all aspects of our lives.

In addition, I am pleased to share that the dates for next year's Grandmasters' Conferences have been set. Continuing the tradition established by Grand Master Chapman, these conferences will remain open to all Masons—Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons, as well as friends and family. This inclusivity is a testament to our dedication to unity and the belief that every Brother, regardless of rank or station, has a vital role to play in our collective journey.

As we approach the new year, I am filled with optimism and anticipation. The unity we have fostered over these months is just the beginning, and I look forward to the continued progress we will make together. I am eager to see each of you in just a few short months, at our next Grand Annual Communication in January 2025, as we continue to build on the foundations of peace, harmony, and unity within Texas Masonry.

In brotherhood and service, Raborn L. Reader Deputy Grand Master



## A WORD FROM THE **Grand Secretary**



Brethren.

As we approach the conclusion of another Grand Lodge year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the first year as your Grand Secretary. Each season has brought new responsibilities that I was handling for the first time. While I had the opportunity to observe much of this work while advancing through the Trustee line, overseeing the day-to-day operations has been a unique experience. I am grateful for the support of our Grand Junior Warden, Justin Duty, who has been an invaluable resource during this transition.

We have continued many initiatives started by our former Grand Secretary, most notably the new Membership Card. We hope these new cards will suffice as your permanent membership card, saving the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges collectively between \$20,000 and \$30,000 annually in printing and shipping costs.

We also maintained the traditional Secretary Schools, with over 150 Masons attending one of the three sessions held in Houston, Arlington, and Waco. Brother Jeremy Johnson masterfully led these classes, and new topics were introduced to the curriculum including leadership, conflict resolution, and fellowship.

When the Grand West elected me Grand Secretary, I took it as a call for change. Not just the cosmetic updates you'll notice ... I took it as a call for change. Not just the cosmetic updates you'll notice at the Grand Lodge ... but also in our commitment to advancing long-term projects with the consent of the Trustees.



at the Grand Lodge—like refreshed offices, new paint and blinds, and the official Grand Lodge of Texas store—but also in our commitment to advancing long-term projects with the consent of the Trustees.

One of the key projects for this year was Committee Day, held on Saturday, November 23rd, at the Grand Lodge Building. Both this year and going forward it is an opportunity for all Grand Lodge committee members and those who are interested in how Grand Lodge works to meet in Waco, review current efforts, and discuss upcoming plans. We hope this exercise was informative for those Brothers who attended and that the work accomplished there will pay dividends for our Grand Lodge at the upcoming Annual Communication.

Finally, I encourage you all to join us for the 189th Grand Annual Communication in Waco, from January 16th to the 18th, 2025. Please be aware that there are a

couple of competing conferences scheduled for the same weekend. To assist with accommodations, we have reserved rooms at the Waco Hilton for \$169 per night and the Courtyard Marriott for \$165. Shuttle service from these two hotels will be available to the Grand Lodge and back, hopefully alleviating parking issues. Additionally, we'll have a special guest, Brother Brian Byrd of Kansas, conducting short interviews with attendees during the session. This will be your opportunity to share your Masonic story and be featured in a Grand Lodge of Texas video that will inspire others with your experiences.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely & Fraternally, Bradley S. Billings, **Grand Secretary** 

# **2025 Grand Annual Communication**

## DAY ONE

#### **FIRST SESSION**

Thursday Afternoon January 16, 2025

1:00 p.m. Musical Prelude, W. Michael J. Coté,

**Grand Musician** 

1:30 p.m. Pre-formal Opening Ceremonies,

R. W. Thomas F. Griffin, Past Grand Master,

Presiding

1:45 p.m. Formal Opening Ceremonies,

M.\*. W.\*. Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master,

Presiding

Masonic Service Awards,

M.: W.: Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master

Vanguard Lodges Awards,

M.: W.: Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master

Memorial Service Joseph A. Taylor, Chairman, Committee on Memorials

6:00 p.m. Grand Master's Banquet @ Lee Lockwood

Scottish Rite Library & Museum.

Tickets required.

W. B. & Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award, M. ∴ Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master

Sam Houston Medal Award,

M.: W.: Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master

William M. Beck Award,

M.: W.: Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master

## **DAY TWO**

#### **SECOND SESSION**

Friday Morning January 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. Opening of the One Hundred Eighty-Ninth

Grand Annual Communication of

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, by M∴ W∴ Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master

11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon and Activity – Lower Level

Noon\* Grand Lodge Called from Labor

Sam Houston Hall of Fame Luncheon

#### THIRD SESSION

Friday Afternoon January 19, 2024

1:00 p.m. Prelude of Percussion Music by

W.: Michael J. Coté, Grand Musician

1:15 p.m. Grand Oration by

R. W. T. Chance Chapman,

**Grand Orator** 

Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas Awards Presentation

2:00 p.m. Grand Lodge called from Refreshment

to Labor

5:00 p.m.\* Grand Lodge Called from Labor

8:30 p.m. Samuel P. Cochran Honorary

DeMolay Chapter. Open to all Master Masons in good standing.

**DAY THREE** 

#### **FOURTH SESSION**

Saturday Morning January 18, 2025

8:00 a.m. Remarks from Masonic Home and School Graduates

8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called from Refreshment to Labor

9:00 a.m. Coffee honoring Kathy Chapman and Loretta Reader in the Lower Level, Grand Lodge Building. All Ladies are invited.

#### FIFTH SESSION

Saturday Afternoon January 20, 2023

1:30 p.m. Musical Prelude

2:00 p.m. Open Installation of Officers

Remarks by the Most Worshipful Grand Master

Closing of Open Installation by Most Worshipful Grand

Grand Lodge Called From Refreshment to Labor

Closing of the One Hundred Eighty-Ninth Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas by the Most Worshipful Grand Master

# ONLINE REGISTRATION

## Register on Grandview

(as in previous years)

Cost: \$25.00



Please use this URL to sign in for registration: https://tx.grandview.systems/users/sign\_in

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the following hotels. Please make your reservations using the URLs below.

#### **Waco Hilton**

113 S University Parks Dr., Waco, TX 76701

1 King Bed Corner Room City or Riverview - \$252.53 1 King 2 Room Pool View Suite W/ Sofa bed - \$195.81 1 King Corner Top Floor - \$185.45 2 Queen Beds Top Floor - \$185.45 1 King Bed with Sofa Deluxe Room - \$175.09

Please use this URL to book your room: https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ actwhhf-mgl25-ce42eb57-2878-422c-a631b59f17c2a7c6/

#### **Courtyard by Marriott Waco**

101 Washington Ave., Waco, TX 76701

**\$165 - \$189** per night

Please use this URL to book your room: https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/ reservation-link.mi?id=1721246312948&key= GRP&app=resvlink

Shuttle service from these Hotels to the Grand Lodge Memorial Temple will be available on Friday and Saturday.



**H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr.** for Grand Junior Warden

#### Tarkington Prairie Lodge No. 498

Raised April 21, 2008 Endowed Member 2008 Junior Warden 2010-2011 Senior Warden 2011-2012 Worshipful Master 2012-2013 Treasurer 2017-Present Golden Trowel 2018

#### Bedias Lodge No. 651

Endowed 2019

#### Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member 2018 Junior Warden, 2023 – 2024

#### **Humble Lodge No.979**

Endowed 2020 Texas Lodge of Research Endowed 2022

#### Washington Lodge No. 18

Endowed 2023

#### Masters Wardens & Secretaries Association

27th Masonic District, President 2015 30th Masonic District 2020

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master 2015 -District 27 District Education Officer, 2018 District Deputy Grand Master 2020 -At Large Grand Pursuivant 2021 Dime-A-Day 2008-Present Sam Houston Hall of Fame, 2015 Patron Grand Lodge Library and Museum, 2018: Gold Seal 2020 Public Education Committee 2020 Present-Chairman Grand Master Conference Regional Coordinator -2021 Texas Masonic Charities Foundation 2021- Present- Board Member Assistant State Coordinator 2023 Special Assignments Committee

# 2023-2024 **Education**

Tarkington High School Graduate 1979

#### Personal / Professional / Civic

Worked at Union Tank Car Co. Area Manager – 1980 - 2010 Retired Roundhouse 2010-Present – Part Time Cleveland Livestock Show – 1991 President 1997

Trinity Valley Exposition – 1991-2015:
Vice President of Grounds and
Logistics 2008-2015
Cleveland FFA Alumni –
Charter Member
Texas FFA Alumni Council - Area IX
Representative 1997-2000
Liberty County Appraisal Review Board
2016-2022: Chairman 2017-2021
Houston Livestock Show Life Member
Ducks Unlimited – Major Sponsor

#### Family

Wife - Sonda Children Brandon, Tiffany



Robert M. Park for Grand Junior Warden

#### Alamo Lodge No. 44 Merit No. 727

Worshipful Master 2018-2019 Secretary 2023-2024

#### Centennial No. 500

Reconstituting charter member Secretary 2023-2024

#### Cibolo No. 151

**Highland Hills No 1373** 

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District 39C - 2020 Civil Law Committee 2022 Chairman 2022-2023 Vice Chairman 2023-Present

#### Education

Texas State University, BA Art History 2007 St. Mary's University School of Law, JD 2011, Summa Cum Laude

#### Personal / Professional / Civic

Partner at Uhl Fitzsimons PLLC, 2011-Present
Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation
Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law 2016-Present
Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio – Member
Board Member Acorn School for Young Children
Board Member San Antonio Scottish Rite Learning Center
Chairman of San Antonio Scottish Rite Library & Museum Corporation

#### Family

Wife - Carly

Daughters - Claire, Cora, Cate





**Keith Reynolds** for Grand Junior Warden

#### Davy Crockett Lodge NO. 1225

Raised - August 26, 1986 **Endowed Member** 

Secretary - 1995-1998 and 2005-2010 Worshipful Master - 1994 and 2017 Golden Trowel Award - 2004 and 2024

Life Member - 2010

#### **Plural and Endowed Memberships**

Rising Star Ranger Lodge No. 429 (Endowed) Secretary, 2022 - present

Point Isabel Lodge No. 33 - member Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 - member

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

District 39 Funeral Master

Class "A" Certificate - 1991-Present

Lifetime Esoteric Certificate Holder

District Instructor - 2010-2017

District Deputy Grand Master 2015-2017

District Deputy Grand Master 2019-2020

Sam Houston Hall of Fame (full member)

Committee on Work 2017-2024 (Chairman 2020 & 2022)

#### **Education**

Thomas Edison High School Angelo State University, San Angelo San Antonio College, San Antonio

#### **Business / Professional**

Washington National Insurance, Life and Disability Insurance - 1982-1988 Reynolds Insurance Agency, Property and Casualty - 1988-1992 - Sold Texas Dept. of Licensing, AC License

Gillit's Duct Cleaning - General Manager - 1992-2008

Gillit's Duct Cleaning - Owner - 2009-2023 - Sold & Retired

Wife, Terri Gwen since - 1979

2 Children - (W. Burt, Wife Ana) & (Michael L., Wife Jessica) 5 Grand Children



**Brad S. Billings** for Grand Secretary

#### Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048

Raised: February 21, 2007 Worshipful Master, 2012 **Endowed Member** 

#### **Texas Lodge of Research**

Worshipful Master, 2015

Full Member

**Endowed Member** 

#### Grapevine Lodge No. 288

Treasurer 2023 **Endowed Member** 

#### J.F. Brumit-Sunshine Lodge No. 341

**Endowed Member** Life Member

#### Crawford Lodge No. 585

**Endowed Member** 

#### Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

**Endowed Member** 

#### Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

**Endowed Member** 

#### Northern Star Lodge No. 377

**Reconstituting Charter Member Endowed Member** 

#### Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450

**Endowed Member** 

#### Tyrian Lodge No. 187

Reconstituting Charter Member **Endowed Member** 

#### Huffman Lodge No. 1428

**Endowed Member** 

#### Blanco Lodge No. 216

**Endowed Member** 

#### Freedom Lodge No. 100

**Endowed Member** 

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

Grand Secretary 2023 - Present Grand Master 2022 Deputy Grand Master 2021

Grand Senior Warden 2020 Grand Junior Warden 2019

Grand Junior Steward 2015

District Deputy Grand Master,

District 64-B 2017

District Education Officer

District 14-E - 2018

Purposes & Policies Committee

2013-2018

Vice-Chairman 2018

Special Assignments Committee 2018

Grand Master's Planning Team 2018 Grand Master's DDGM Training Team 2018

Esoteric B Certificate 2008 - 2013 Esoteric A Certificate 2013 - Present

Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member 2018

Briscoe Workshop Coordinator Districts 14 & 64, 2017, 2018

#### Masters', Wardens', & Secretaries' **Associations**

14th Masonic District of Texas President, 2013

Vice President, 2012

Secretary / Treasurer, 2011

#### **Dallas Masonic Service Bureau**

President - 2019

Vice-President - 2018

#### **Conference of Grand Masters of** North America

Masonic Renewal Committee - Core Member (Grand Lodge of Texas)

#### Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/

Civic Involvement

Grand Secretary - Grand Lodge of

Texas 2023-Present

Compass Christian Church -

member Stephen F. Austin Chapter 6, Sons of the Republic of Texas

**Honorary Member** 

Texas Navy - Admiral

Alcalde de San Antonio

Hidalgo de Bexar

Keys to the cities of Cuidad Juarez,

Chihuahua, Mexico and

Seagraves, Texas

John B. Jones Masonic Rangering

Company - Major

#### Education

Bachelor of Business Administration: Finance Economics and International Business, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, Lubbock,

Texas: 2006 Seagraves High School, Seagraves, Texas

#### Family

Brittany Billings - Wife

Grayson Bexar Billings - Son



Paul D. Underwood for Grand Secretary

Mesquite Lodge No. 928 Raised July 9, 1973

Johnson City Lodge No. 561

Affiliated May 21, 1996 Master 2000-2001 Secretary 2003-2005 Endowed 2000 Golden Trowel 2018 50 Year Service Award

Union Lodge No. 82 Charter Member 2020

Blanco Lodge No. 216

Endowed 2018

Ocean Lodge No. 230

Charter Member 2020 Phoenix Lodge No. 275 Live Oak Lodge No 304

Endowed 2014

San Marcos Lodge No. 342 Endowed 2011

Endowed 2011 Eureka Lodge No. 371

Rambo Lodge No. 426 Golden Trowel 2014

Endowed 2014 Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Azie Lodge No. 601 Whitt Lodge No. 624 Buda Lodge No. 800 Mesquite Lodge No. 928 Emma Lodge No. 931

Park Place Lodge No. 1172 Endowed 2019

Oso Naval Lodge No. 1282

Endowed 2016 Secretary 2014

Richland Hills No. 1348 Endowed 2022

Sunset Lodge No. 1388 Endowed 2016

Wimberley Lodge No. 1445

Endowed 2019

**Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450** Endowed 2020

Fort Worth Stock Show No. 1460 Texas Lodge of Research Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 Grand Lodge of Texas Grand Master 2020

Grand Master 2020 Grand Lodge Library & Museum – Board of Directors, Treasurer 2023-2024

Masonic Home & School of Texas –
Board of Directors 2011-2015,
Vice President 2011-2013,
Treasurer 2012-2015
District Deputy Grand Master,
District 52 2008-2009
Masonic Home Graduates Advisory
Committee – Member 2007-2014,
2015-2016, Chairman 2013-2014
Take Time to Read Committee – Member 2013-2014, 2014-20

Take Time to Read Committee - Mem ber 2011-2014, Chairman 2013-2014 Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Connecticut 2018 - Present Sam Houston Hall of Fame -

\$5,000 Patron

Education

Masonic Home & School Graduate 1970

University of North Texas Graduate – BBA, Accounting – 1974 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor – Kambach Management Center 1982

Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, NC - 1983

Personal / Professional/ Civic

Masonic Home & School of Texas -Ward of Hillsboro Lodge No. 196 Resident Student 1962-1970 Masonic Home & School Graduate 1970

Masonic Home Ex-Students Association, President 2009, Vice-President 2008, Treasurer 2007

McCaulay Memorial Masonic Scholarship Fund

President – 2009, Vice-President 2008, Treasurer 2007

Shriners Hospital for Children/Houston - Board of Governors, 2011-2020, Emeritus Status

Bob Bullock - Comptroller of Public Accounts - Auditor/Director 1974-2005 Multistate Tax Commission - Director of Audit and Administration 1988-1991 Underwood Consulting/Auditing -Owner - 2005-2018

Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification - 2005

Family

Widowed - married to Rebecca Cumbie Underwood 50 years Three adult children, ten grandchildren



**Douglas A. Brown** for Committee on Work

Reagan Lodge No.1037

Raised September 20, 2005 Worshipful Master 2010 - 2011 Secretary 2012 - 2015 Endowed Membership 2012

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Membership 2013 Gunsight Lodge No. 838 Charter Membership 2022

**Grand Lodge of Texas** 

Class A Certificate 2009 - Present
District Deputy Grand Master District 30E 2016
District Instructor District 30E 2017 - Present
Retired in 2022

Chemical Plant and Refinery Piping Design Bechtel Corp, KBR, Dow Chemical and Jacobs Engineering

Family

Wife - Leonidas Children - James, Alexandra 2 Grandsons



Cody M. Cockroft for Committee on Work

#### Morton Lodge No. 72

Raised October 22, 2014 Worshipful Master 2017 – 2018 Secretary 2018 – Present Endowed 2021 Golden Trowel 2022

#### Valley Lodge No. 175

Plural Member: May 11, 2019

#### Rosenberg Lodge No. 881

Plural Member July 19, 2016 Worshipful Master 2019-2020 Chaplain 2018-2019; 2021-Present Endowed 2019

#### Sugar Land Lodge No. 1141

Plural Member: July 18, 2022 Senior Deacon: 2024 - Present

#### Texas Lodge of Research

Member

Editor of Occasional Bulletin 2023 - Present

## Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas

Class A Certificate in the Work: 2015 - Present

District Education Officer 2018
District Deputy Grand Master 2019
District Instructor 2020 – Present

District Deputy Grand Master at Large 2023

District Communications Officer 2024

Masonic Education & Service (Volunteer) 2019 - 2020 (Member) 2021 (Chairman) 2022, 2023

Special Assignments Committee 2022, 2023

Grand Master's Planning Team 2023 DDGM Training Team 2023

Grand Master Planning Team 2024

Virtual Treasurer's School (2022 - Present)

William M. Beck Award 2024

#### Master Wardens and Secretaries Association

District No. 108 President 2019 District No. 108 Vice President 2018

#### Education

School, Burnet, Texas 1994
Bachelor of Science Degree, Civil Engineering: Texas A&M University 2000
Master of Engineering, Engineering
Management: University of Texas at
Austin 2006

High School Diploma: Burnet High

#### Personal / Professional / Civic

Texas Masonic Charities Foundation Director 2021, 2nd Vice President 2022, President: 2023 - Present

DeMolay International Imperial Chapter DAD – 2021 – Present (charter advisor) Principal and Vice President of Freese & Nichols, Inc. – Houston, Texas 2007 to Present

Professional Engineer licensed in Texas and Louisiana.

Morton Hall Preservation Society Charter Member 2017, Secretary 2017 - 2023, President 2023 - Present

City of Burnet Historical Commission 2005 – 2007

Kingsland Baptist Church Sunday School Teacher for 1st – 6th grade children 2009 – PresentLife Group Leader/mentor for 10th – 12th grade young men 2021 – Present

Youth Misson Leader (domestic and international)

#### Family

Wife - Kina

Children - Brendan, Quinlan, Kullen, Tristan. Ethan



**David W. Matzas** for Committee on Work

#### C.F. Spencer Lodge No. 1384

Raised May 23, 2005 Worshipful Master 2009 - 2010 Treasurer 2011 - Present Golden Trowel 2015

#### Anson Jones Lodge No. 1416

Plural Member - 2010

#### Lone Star Lodge No. 660

Plural Member - 2014

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

A Certificate 2007 - Present District Deputy Grand Master 2021 District Instructor 2013 - Present

#### Education

Texas Tech University, Veterinary Medicine 1976 - 1979 Aviation Flight & Mechanical School 1979 - 1981 Private Pilots License 1979 - 1991

#### Personal / Professional / Civic

General Motors Fixed Advisory Board
General Motors Warehouse Council
Beck & Masten Buick GMC
Parts director 2004 - Present
Bill Heard Chevrolet 1999 - 2004
West Point Parts Center 1990 - 1999
Lions Club of Pearland
Rainbow Assembly Pearland Board Member

#### Family

Wife - LuAnn

Children - Sam, Curt, Amy, Steve

Grand Children - Andi, Jesse, Nikko, Kali, Ally

Son-in Law - Jesse Daughter-in-Law - Traci



**John R. Clements** for Masonic Home and School Board

#### Greenville Lodge No. 335

Raised August 8, 1993 Secretary 2005 - 2006 Worshipful Master 1998 - 1999 Endowment Member 1998 -1999

#### **Masters Wardens and Secretary's Association**

District 8 President 2004 - 2005

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master 1999 - 2000 District Education Officer 1999 Grand Junior Stewart 2000 - 2001 2001 Planning Team

2002 Planning Team

2002 DDGM Training Team

2006 Planning Team

Masonic Membership Chairman 2001 Masonic Education and Service: 2004

Diboll United Methodist Church, Diboll, Texas

Masonic Home and School Board of Trustees 2007 - Present President of Masonic Home and School 2016 - Present

#### Personal/Professional / Civic

Bachelor's Degree Texas A&M Commerce 1988

Master of Education Texas A&M Commerce 2002

Public Education Teacher of Mathematics, and Administrator
Retired from Public Education

City of Diboll Zoning and Planning Commission Member



**Gregory M. Wright** for Masonic Home and School Board

#### Fort Worth Lodge No 148

Raised August 2014 Worshipful Master 2017 Endowed Member 2016

#### Masters', Wardens' & Secretaries' Association - Masonic District 64

President 2020 Vice President 2019 Secretary/treasurer 2017-18

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master 2020 Masonic District No 64A Grand Photographer 2022

Texas Masonic History Committee 2022-present

Memorials Committee 2021

Grand Ambassador Gand Lodge of Baja California, MX- 2022 to present

#### Education

Bachelor of Business Administration

Finance / Accounting

University of North Texas - 2004

Personal / Professional / Civic

Engle Martin Insurance Adjusters -Executive General Adjuster Board of Directors New Horizons Home for Children 2022-present Board of Directors Education Without Borders 2006-2016

University of North Texas Real Estate Alumni Board of Directors 2010-2014

#### Family

Wife - Angela Wright

Children - Madelyn, Amelia, Ana, Austin





**Corey M. Harris** for Library and Museum Board

#### Arlington Lodge No. 438

Raised 5/31/2012.

Worshipful Master 2017-2018

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Member 2015

#### Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Member 2017

Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member 2020

#### Hillcrest Lodge No. 1318

Member 2020

#### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master 64-D -2021

Grand Tiler - 2022

Grand Master Planning Team 2021

Grand Master Planning Team 2022

Grand Representative MW GL of Prince Hall Masons 2022

District Communications Officer 64-D - 2018

Sam Houston Hall of Fame Full Member - 2018

Esoteric "Class A" Certificate 2019 - Present

Texas History Committee - Vice Chair - 2021

Real Estate Committee - Chairman - 2022

#### **Education**

University of Texas at Arlington

Bachelor of Science - Philosophy - 2011

#### Personal / Professional/ Civic

Dream City Realty - Realtor, Associate Broker

Arlington Board of Realtors -Secretary Treasurer 2023

Arlington Board of Realtors - President Elect 2024

Arlington Board of Realtors - Realtor of the Year -2022

Texas Association Realtors - Texas Real Estate Political Action Committee - State Regional Trustee for (Region 3 – Johnson and Tarrant Counties)

**Greater Arlington Lions Club** 

Member 2011-Present, President 2016, Treasurer 2015-Present.

Citizens Environmental committee City of Arlington (Council appointment) - 2021- Present

Arlington Mayor Jim Ross's Real Estate Advisory Council (Mayor appointed) - 2021 - Present.

Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce

#### **Family**

Wife- Christina Harris

Children- Luke, Lizzy, Zander

# Summary of Resolutions

2025 proposed resolutions to be considered at the 189th Grand Annual Communication.

View the complete list of resolutions at the link below:

https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/2025-ac





# GRAND MASTER'S ME GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

# Sour Lake Lodge No. 1002 Officer Installation – Friday 28, June 2024

Congratulations to Brother Travis Kitchens, Worshipful Master of Sour Lake Lodge No. 1002, and the Officers on their installation.



Most Worshipful Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master of Texas Masons presiding as the Installing Officer.



A beautiful, personalized gavel presented to the 2024 Worshipful Master of Sour Lake Lodge No. 1002, Brother Travis Kitchens.

Sour Lake is the oldest town in Hardin County, located at the intersection of state highways 105 and 326, and first established when Stephen Jackson was granted 4,428 acres. It was originally called "Sour Lake Springs" for the mineral springs that fed the nearby lake. Indians had long been making use of the mineral waters, and by 1850 Sour Lake boasted a hotel and reputation for being a health resort. Early entrepreneurs even bottled the water and sold it. Sam Houston was a frequent visitor!

Sour Lake became a boomtown with the discovery of oil in 1901. It is known as the birthplace of Texaco, as the Texas Company (Texaco's former corporate name) is one of three major oil companies that can trace its origins to the oilfields here. By 1948, the Sour Lake oilfield had produced about ninety million barrels



Introducing Brother Travis Kitchens, Worshipful Master of Sour Lake Lodge No. 1002, 2024.

of oil. Today the Sour Lake oilfield is the oldest continuously-producing oilfield in the world! Sour Lake is also home to the highly sought after Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District, which serves parts of both Hardin and Jefferson Counties.

## Silsbee Lodge No. 927 Officer Installation - Monday July 1, 2024

Congratulations to Brother James Raglin, Worshipful Master of Silsbee Lodge No. 927, and the Officers on their installation.



From Left to Right - Sir Knights Steve Phillips, Mykal Murrell and Ken Shifflett presenting the Flag of the United States of America. These and other Sir Knights from both Port Arthur Commandery No. 73, and Beaumont Commandery No. 38 have performed more than 20 Flag presentations in 2024. Contact your local Commandery if you wish to have a Flag presentation at a special event.



A rare picture of the man behind the camera, caught in front of the camera. Brother Charles Broussard, Grand Photographer being installed as the Treasurer at Silsbee Lodge No. 927 - Gotcha Brother Charles!



Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight, Kenneth Shifflett being installed as the Secretary at Silsbee Lodge No. 927.

Silsbee is at the junction of U.S. Highway 96, State Highway 327, and Farm roads 92 and 418, twenty miles north of Beaumont in eastern Hardin County. Its origins can be traced to the Gulf, Beaumont, and Kansas City Railway, which reached the site in 1894. A project of John Henry Kirby, the railroad was intended to open East Texas forest lands to the timber industry. The Texas Pine Land Association, also managed by Kirby, established a logging camp and then a sawmill at the site of Silsbee after the railroad was completed. The growing community was first called Mill Town but was soon renamed Silsbee in recognition of one of Kirby's East Coast partners, Nathan D. Silsbee.

The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe system bought Kirby's Gulf, Beaumont and Kansas City line and built mechanical shops and a roundhouse in Silsbee in 1901. It also extended a fifty-mile line to the Trinity River, thus giving access to still more East Texas forests. In 1902 the Kirby Lumber Company took control of the Silsbee sawmill, which had been leased to the Industrial Lumber Company. By 1907 the mill, rebuilt after a 1904 fire, was producing over twelve million board feet per year.

Independent of the Kirby interests, the South Silsbee Townsite Company was formed in 1906. South Silsbee was renamed Woodrow after President Woodrow Wilson and was home for many of the town's railroad workers. Woodrow had its own post office from 1913 to 1918. Another small community, Red Cut, was also laid out in the late 1900s. The separate communities gradually became part of Silsbee proper. The Silsbee Ice, Light, and Power Corporation received the right to supply electricity to patrons in Silsbee in 1921, when the town was defined to include residents of Silsbee, Old Town, South Silsbee or Woodrow, and Red Cut.

In 1936 a major oilfield was discovered north of Silsbee. Another large field was found west of town in 1941. The most productive of the wells had produced a cumulative total of more than twenty-three million barrels of crude oil by 1984. Silsbee also became a center for the area's truck and fruit farmers. The Kirby Lumber Company's consolidation at its huge new plant in Silsbee, completed in 1955, further solidified the local economy. The oil, railroad, timber, and agricultural resources provided residents with a diversified economic base. The Silsbee Bee, a weekly newspaper, has served the area since 1919. The town's population, set at 162 in 1904, was 2,525 in 1941 and had risen to 7,684 by 1980. Roughly one-third of these residents were Black. In 1990 the population was 6,368. The population was 6,393 in 2000.

### Tucker Lodge No. 297 Officer Installation - Wednesday July 3, 2024

Congratulations to Brother Rudy Perales, Worshipful Master of Tucker Lodge No. 297, and the Officers on their installation.



Most Worshipful Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master of Texas Masons presiding as the Installing Officer.



From Left to Right. Brother Rudy Perales, Worshipful Master of Tucker Lodge No. 297. Most Worshipful Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master of Texas as Installing Officer, and Brother Sean Saunders, Past Master as Installing Marshal.



## Lumberton Lodge No. 1430 Officer Installation - Saturday July 6, 2024

Congratulations to Brother Robert Martin, Worshipful Master of Lumberton Lodge No. 1430, and the Officers on their installation.



Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight, Kenneth Shifflett being installed as the Secretary at Silsbee Lodge No. 927.



Introducing Brother Robert Martin, Worshipful Master of Lumberton Lodge No. 1430, 2024.



From Left to Right - Sir Knights Steve Phillips, and Ken Shifflett presenting the Flag of the United States of America. Thank you to all the Texas Sir Knights that present the Flags at our special occasions.

Lumberton is a city in Hardin County, Texas, United States. Lumberton is the home of Village Creek State Park. The city is part of the Beaumont–Port Arthur metropolitan area. The town was established as a stop on the Gulf, Beaumont and Kansas City Railway that was built through the area in the year 1894.



The 2024 installed Lumberton Lodge No. 1430 Officers with Most Worshipful Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master of Texas.

Serving the local sawmills and lumber camps, the post office was established at Lumberton in 1909. In the year 1914, the post office was relocated to the Fletcher site nearby, which was a major sawmill until the mid-1920s. After the closure of the sawmill at Fletcher, the area remained populated and became part of the city of Lumberton when it was incorporated in 1973.

On October 6th,on his 100th birthday and surrounded by his Brothers in Masonry, Brother Donald G. Courtney, of Fairbanks Lodge No. 1363, received his 75 Year Service Award from Grand Master Tommy F. Chapman.





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The Directors of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation are pleased to report that the Texas Masons' giving, and the Foundation's successful investment governance has resulted in our ability to increase the matching grants for the Scholarship Program by 25% in 2025. The First-year Texas Honorarium Program was a hit, and as a result, we doubled the match from 2024!

## \*Scholarship Matching Goal => \$1,250

We need your help. Let us strive to continue our charitable nature through March 2025 to increase the Foundation's ability to surpass its Scholarship matching goal.

#### **TXMCF Directors**

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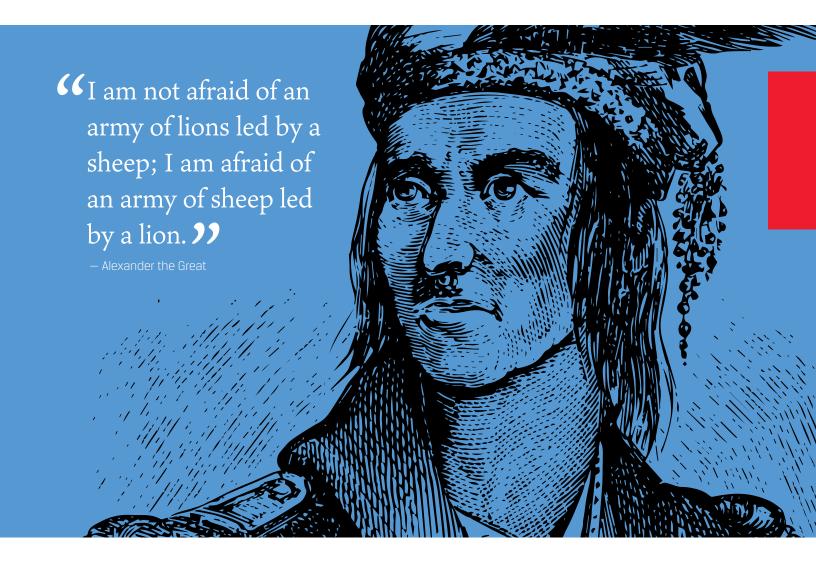
Community Grant \$250 Match

Applications Window January 1, 2025 -March 31, 2025

## **Two Award Options**

- 1: ACH Transfer (preferred)

  Matching Funds will be
  deposited within 10 days
  of close of month the
  application was received
- 2: Paper checks may take up to 45 days, and must be deposited by June 1, 2025 (or they will be forfeited)



# An Unexpected Vision from an Unlikely Source

Part 2 in a Series By Nathan Giesenschlag, Staff Writer

man of controversy during his lifetime, Andrew Jackson remains controversial to the present time. Nothing, excepting perhaps his slave owning, is as contentious as his opinions and policies about the Indian tribes within the United States. It was an Indian uprising that brought Jackson and his Tennessee militia (also known as the Volunteers) into the War of 1812. This story with many surprising twists and ghoulish turns forever changed the face of the southern United States and opened the door to settlement in Texas.

Tenskwatawa never came to Texas. Tenskwatawa means "The Prophet" and he lived much of his adult life in the Indiana Territory. He was Shawnee and he lived in the shadow of a much more prominent brother, Tecumseh. By 1805, Tenskwatawa's life lay in shambles. He suffered from alcoholism, diabetes, a wife so difficult that other

Shawnee men said Tenskwatawa was henpecked, and mediocrity as a medicine man. Most galling of all: he was one-eyed. Tenskwatawa did not lose his eye in battle or through a daring do, but because of his ineptness with bow and arrow. He shot his own eye out. His tribesmen did not call him Tenskwatawa—that name came after the revelation—initially they called him Lalawethika. Lalawethika means "loudmouth."

In April 1805, the loudmouth fell into a trance. The trance was so convincing his tribesmen thought he was dead, and they prepared the body for burial and began building a coffin. At that moment, Tenskwatawa woke up. He informed his startled tribesmen that he had a vision and met the Great Spirit (the Native American God). Other revelations followed that fleshed out a strategy of Indian renewal and rebirth. The visions called for the abandonment of European dress and drink. More omi-

Tecumseh, physically, was everything that Tenskwatawa was not. Tecumseh's robust physical appearance enhanced a speaking ability few could match.

nously, the divine plan also called for the eradication and driving of the English-speaking peoples back into the Atlantic Ocean, thereby reversing two hundred plus years of European settlement. One of the most vociferous evangelists of this prophecy was Tenskwatawa's brother, Tecumseh.

Tecumseh, physically, was everything that Tenskwatawa was not. Tecumseh's robust physical appearance enhanced a speaking ability few could match. One might liken him to the Marvel comic hero Captain America. He drew men and women to him. He preached his brother's prophecy far and wide. To the astonishment of American settlers in Indiana and Kentucky, Tecumseh seemed to be everywhere at once. When he spoke, he preached race war. It was in this time that Tecumseh spread the prophecy to a part of the Creek Indian Nation. In 1811, Tecumseh cried out to the Creeks: "Let the white race perish! They seize your land; they corrupt your women; they trample on the bones of your dead! Back whence they came, upon a trail of blood, they must be driven! Back—aye, back to the great water whose accursed waves brought them to our shores! Burn their dwellings—destroy their stock—slay their wives and children, that the very breed may perish." As the Bible says and is true, "all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Tecumseh died at the Battle of the Thames in Canada in October of 1813. He was killed—at least purportedly—by a Freemason and future vice president, Richard M. Johnson. During Johnson's vice-presidential campaign in 1836 his supporters chanted the following slogan: "Rumpsey Dumpsey, Rumpsey Dumpsey, Colonel Johnson killed Tecumseh."

Tenskwatawa met a different fate. As his prophecy spread, he, too, preached reform and retribution, but in November of 1811, he would run into a mixed force of Indiana militia and regular army led by Indiana territorial governor William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe in northwest Indiana territory. Informed by advanced scouts that Americans—called Long Knives by some of Tenskwatawa's warriors approached the fortifications at Tippecanoe, The Prophet's warriors demanded a plan to deal with this imminent threat.

The young braves wanted battle. Though cloaked with the aura of a divine seer due to his one eye and the visions promising a reckoning, Tenskwatawa was not a natural warrior like his brother Tecumseh. Reluctantly, The Prophet retired to his tent to commune with the Great Spirit and conjure up a strategy. He emerged with another prophecy: the Great Spirit would render the Long Knives lethargic and their bullets ineffective on an exceedingly dark night if—and this was the linchpin of t he new revelation—these warriors killed Governor Harrison. The night was dark and cold, but the rest of Tenskwatawa's vision erred. Harrison's men did not slumber, and their bullets hit their marks. The Indian attack failed, and the Battle of Tippecanoe was lost. When the defeated warriors asked why the Great Spirit withheld his blessing, Tenskwatawa blamed his wife for being "ritually impure," which negated his prophetic word. He would die in obscurity and disrepute in 1836, far from Indiana. Meanwhile, Governor Harrison used his military success to further his political career by assuming the mantle of "Old Tippecanoe." A losing Whig candidate for president in 1836, Harrison ran as an anti-mason. He won the presidency in 1840 as the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" candidate with a slogan of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too!". His presidency was short lived due to a bout of pneumonia, which felled Harrison thirty days into his presidential term.

The prophecy lived on in the Creek Nation with the believing heart of William Weatherford. As you might wonder, how does a leader of an American Indian tribe have the name William Weatherford? Therein lies the next twist of the tale: many of the men and women in the Creek Nation had mixed ancestry; many who claimed to be White had mixed ancestry as well; and Weatherford was of mixed lineage too. In 1813, as the Red Stick faction of the Creek Nation went on the warpath, it was not William Weatherford who led them; he now identified as Chief Red Eagle. Red Eagle led the attack on Ft. Mims in the swamps and brackish draws near the Alabama River in today's Alabama.

Ft. Mims was nothing to brag about; it was just a wooden stockade, yet it offered a modicum of protection against marauding Indians and other bandits. Commanded by a complacent officer, Maj. Daniel Beasley, the residents of Ft. Mims followed his lackadaisical lead, despite warnings that the Red Sticks had their war paint on. The attack came around the noon hour on August 30, 1813. Caught by surprise, the settlers resisted but were overrun, and the Red Sticks carried out the assault with a ghoulish ferocity that shocked the western states. This event drove Tennesseans and other western Americans to summon Andrew Jackson and crush the Red Stick Creek Indians. Jackson's moment of glory had arrived. Alas, Jackson hovered near death with a bullet in his left shoulder.

To be continued....

# Etienne Morin, From the French Rite to the Scottish Rite

By Jame's C. "Chris" Williams IV, Staff Writer



nyone with a keen interest in Scottish Rite Masonry and its early beginnings will be treated in this book to an interesting and informative look at the journeys and labors of Etienne (Stephen) Morin whose work, as quoted in the book "was the driving force which ultimately led to the creation of the Scottish Rite."

In this extensively researched and well put together book entitled, "Etienne Morin, From the French Rite to the Scottish Rite," Authors Arturo DeHoyos 33° Grand Cross, and Joseph Wages 32° Valley of Dallas, have mapped the early beginnings of Morin's Elus Parfaits and his Order of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, which is the origin of the "Lodge of Perfection."

By 1750, Morin's system was a total of ten degrees bearing the name Elu Parfait (Perfect Elect).

Being a fan of history and especially Masonic history, this book was a treasure chest of Masonic history with respect to the Scottish Rite. Due to the Haitian revolutions many of the early records were lost, but Brothers DeHoyos and Wages have done an excellent job digging up most of what is available and much that was thought to have been lost.

In its four hundred plus pages, there is something to pique every Mason's tastes. Besides the history and travels and creating and constituting Lodges in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the Caribbean including Jamaica, and also in France and in New Orleans, and other locations, it offers a peek behind the curtain of what Masonic ritual looked like at that time as well as the text of original official and personal correspondences of the time.

The "Complete Corpus of Masonry," all the ritual work and ceremonies first adopted in 1774 and 1788 including the higher degrees adopted in 1801 by the Grand Lodge of France comprises close to three hundred pages of the book and a reading of it gives one a sense of where our present ceremonies evolved from.

This part of the book kept me reading and rereading for some time. There are many lessons to be learned in reading the words of these rituals as well as an increased awareness of the intended meanings of much of our own familiar work.

The last section of the book contains copies of documents and correspondence between Lodges and between Lodges and the Grand Lodge of France as well as personal letters sent and received by Morin and others during the period from 1763 to 1770.





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Reading through the many documents, some of the things that stand out the most, are the concerns by the Lodges about the lack of uniformity in the ritual work, the question of lodges being legally constituted and chartered, and the authenticity of the Brothers claiming to hold authority from the Grand Lodge of France to manage and regulate the Lodges. Their confusion and even aggravation is readily seen in their words and eloquent writing styles of the time.

This book should be in the personal library of every Mason and especially every Scottish Rite Mason. Your journey towards more light should definitely include Etienne Morin, From the French Rite to the Scottish Rite.



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**Painful Medical Condition, Felt Like a Burden** 

George, age 81, moves slowly some days. On other days, he just doesn't feel well enough to visit with his friends at Texas Masonic Retirement Community.

"I have rheumatoid arthritis. Some days the pain just won't let up." says George.

Then he adds, "Living here, they check on me all the time. I don't have to worry about making doctor appointments, getting to the doctor, or having prescriptions filled. The staff here does all that for me. It's a huge relief."

"I don't feel like a burden to my family anymore. It's not just the help with medical care. Food, things to do, rent, clothes, personal needs—I don't have to worry about any of it."

George grew up in San Antonio and became a member of Triune Lodge #15 in December 1978 joining his stepfather, stepbrother, and uncle.

With 45 years as an active Mason and his status as a Texas Master Mason, George qualifies to live in a private room at TMRC and enjoy all the benefits offered at no charge for the rest of his life.

Today he says, "When I was younger, I didn't realize how much TMRC had to offer a guy like me. If I have a problem, they are very caring. It's a good place for me to be."



"When I was
younger, like in
this black and
white picture,
I didn't realize
how much TMRC
had to offer a guy
like me. If I have a
problem, they are
very caring."

- George

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"It's a huge relief to live at TMRC. I don't have to worry about anything."

 George with his Triune Lodge life membership certificate

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100% of your generous donation to the No Mason Left Behind Project 2025 goes to our permanent endowment.

Questions? We're glad to visit with you. Contact us at 817-275-2893 or Info@YourTMRC.org.

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## **TEXAS FREEMASON**

The Grand Lodge of Texas 715 Columbus Ave Waco, TX 76701



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