

FOR MORE LIGHT GO YORK RITE

ALL THE WAY IN ONE DAY

YORK RITE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2009

Henderson and Lancaster Streets
Fort Worth, Texas

HONORING

Right Eminent W. L. "Bill" Blanks
Past Grand Commander
Knights Templar of Texas

Sponsored by

Tarrant County York Rite Association
&
TEXAS CHAPTER 362 & TEXAS COUNCIL 321
Purposes and Aims
Advancement of York Rite Masonry

Mutual Understanding and Cooperation
Among Participating Bodies

W. L. “Bill” Blanks

William Lee “Bill” Blanks was born at San Angelo, Texas



on August 6, 1925, the son of William Henry and Emma Lee Banks. He grew up in West Texas where his father was a rancher. He graduated from Iraan High School in Iraan, Texas, where he was active in sports and 4-H Clubs. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 in the South Pacific. On March 20, 1948 he married Ann Reed of Granbury, Texas. They reside at 5112 South Drive in Fort Worth. They are active members of Central Christian

Church in Fort Worth, where he serves as Elder Emeritus. In 1962 he founded the firm of Blanks Welding Supply and continued as an active partner until his retirement in 1997.

He was raised a Master Mason in Granbury Lodge No. 392 on January 21, 1952. He affiliated with Southside Lodge No. 1114, Fort Worth, on June 10, 1974 where he served as Master in 1980-81. In 1982, he served as Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 64-D of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M. 1980-1981. He received the Golden Trowel Award in 1994.

He was exalted as Royal Arch Mason in Polytechnic Chapter No. 404 on October 24, 1959. He affiliated with Southside Chapter No. 378 on March 27, 1974, where he served as High Priest in 1976-1977. In 2000 he served District Deputy Grand High Priest. He is a recipient of the cornerstone Award.

He was greeted a Royal and Select Master in Polytechnic Council No. 336 on November 5, 1959. He affiliated with Southside Council no. 315 on March 27, 1974 served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1976-1977. In 1996 he served as District Deputy Grand Master. He received the Cryptic Triangle Award in May, 2000. He was knighted in Southside Commandery No. 83 on September 17, 1960. He served as Commander in 1971, and served several years as Instructor. He served on the District 6 Templar Instruction Committee from 1973 until 1977. He has been a Life Member of the Knights Templar Eve Foundation since 1968. He is a dual member of Worth Commandery No. 19. He served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas in 1983-1984. He received

the Knight Commander of the Temple Award in 1997 from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and the Excalibur Award from Southside Commandery No. 83 in 1997.

Brother Blanks received his Scottish Rite Degrees in Dallas on April 24, 1960, and transferred to the Fort Worth Consistory as a Charter Member on November 26, 1973. He was honored in 1977 by becoming a Knight Commander Court of Honor of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Bodies. In 1983 he was coroneted 33rd Degree Inspector General Honorary.

He is a member of Moslah Temple Shrine.

He served as Governor of Trinity York College No. 154 in 1997. He received the Order of the Purple Cross in 1994 and the Gold Honor Award.

In 1998 he served as Sovereign of St. Timothy Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine.

In 1990 he served as Preceptor of Our Redeemer Tabernacle No. IX, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests.

He is a member of the Order of High Priesthood, Super Excellent Master's Degree, Order of Silver Trowel, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, Royal Order of Scotland, Honorary Legion of Honor, Order of DeMolay, Worth Shamrock Council No. 54, Robert Bruce Brannon Council No. 270, Honorary member of Gen. William J. Worth Chapter No. 463, National Sojourners, Inc. and Cowpens Camp Heroes of '76. Brother Blanks is a member of South Fort Worth Chapter 835, Order of the Eastern Star and served as Worth Patron in 1980-81, 1981-82, 1985-86, 1988-89, 1991-92, 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS ----- 6:00 P. M.
Candidate Sign-in (R. E. Bob Collier) ----- 6:00 to 6:45 P.M.
(includes collection of money / Verify paperwork)
Invocation -----V. E. & V. I. Eldon Brooks 6:45 P. M.
Introductions -----James Kirkpatrick
Pledge to the United States Flag
>Mark Master – Haltom City-Riverside
(Kirby Rudisill Degree Master). ----- 7:30 P.M.

>Past Master - Ft. Worth / Southside-Poly Chapters
(Hobie Henderson - Degree Master) ----- 8:45 P. M.

>Most Excellent Master – Arlington Chapter
(J Kirkpatrick – Degree Master) ----- 9:45 P.M.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - 7:00 AM

Breakfast ----- 7:00 A.M.
Candidate Sign-in (R. E. Bob Collier) --7:00 to 7:45 A.M.
includes collection of money / Verify Candidate paperwork
Invocation -----V. E. & V. I. Eldon Brooks
>Royal Arch Degree – Ridglea Chapter
(Jim Manley – Degree Master) ----- 8:00: A.M.
>Royal Masters Degree: Texas Council
(Mel Hagood – Degree Master) ----- 10:00 A. M.
>Select Master - Tarrant Council
(Joe Orona – Degree Master) -----10:45 A.M.

FESTIVAL HONOREE PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES --- R. E. Tom Snyder (PGC)
Introductions
Tribute to Honoree -----R. E. Doug Mitchell (PGC)
Response ----- R. E. W. L. (Bill) Blanks

York Rite Festival

HONOREE PROGRAM

September 12, 2009

Breakfast ----- 7:00 A. M. - 8:00 A. M.
Registration ----- 7:30 A. M – 8:15 A. M.
Opening Ceremonies----- 8:15 A. M.
Invocation-----V. E. and V; I. Eldon Brooks
Presentation of Colors ----- Southside Commandery No. 83
Tribute to Flag----- P.C. James Kirkpatrick
Introductions -----P.C. James Kirkpatrick
Degree Conferrals
Program – Honoring R. E. William L. “Bill” Blanks 11:30 A. M.
Master of Ceremonies -----R. E. Tom Snyder
Introductions
Tribute to Honoree -----R. E. Douglas Mitchell
Response -----R. E. William L. Blanks

Lunch (Floor 3M) -----12:30 P. M

LUNCH

Lunch -----12:00 to 12:45 P.M
Candidate Sign-in (R. E. Bob Collier)--. 12:00 to 12:45 P.M.
(includes collection of money / Verify Candidate paperwork)

COMMANDERY ORDERS

Illustrious Order of Red Cross
Arlington Commandery ----- 1:00 P. M.
Order of Malta – Worth Commandery ----- 2:15 P. M.
Order of the Temple - Southside Commandery
(PGC Tom Snyder conferring). ----- 4:30 P.M.
Closing ----- 6:30 P.M.

YORK RITE GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Chapter Officers

Most Excellent Grand High Priest ----- Douglas Collins
Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest - Robert Melear (Deceased)
Right Excellent Grand King ----- Timothy Michael La Vergne, Sr.
Right Excellent Grand Scribe ----- G. Clay Smith
Right Excellent Grand Treasurer----- Ken Cooley
Right Excellent Grand Secretary ----- Orville L. O'Neill

Grand Council Officers

Most Illustrious Grand Master ----- J. Weldon Clampitte
Most Illustrious Deputy Grand Master ----- Larry G. Canada
Most Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work -- Jim Manley
Most Illustrious Grand Treasurer ----- Ken Cooley
Most Illustrious Grand Secretary - -----Orville L. O'Neill
17th District Deputy Grand High Priest -----R. E. Bob Collier