

THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF NORTH CAROLINA

State News for OCTOBER, 2021



Grand Commander



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Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope this message finds you all well. We are now heading into the month of October, and Commandery meetings across the state are in full swing.

I feel it is my responsibility to address the “elephant in the room” regarding the Grand

Encampment. As many of you are aware, there is a good deal of controversy taking place regarding the recent decisions of the Grand Master of Grand Encampment. Statements and counterstatements are being issued on an almost daily basis regarding this. Official documentation has been posted to the Grand Encampment website from the Grand Master explaining his position, while his opponents have been responding on social media, websites, and so forth. In some cases, passions have exceeded the bounds circumscribed by the Compasses.

Regardless of your opinion of the matter, Sir Knights, it is of utmost importance that we conduct ourselves with dignity and decorum. Each of you individually and every day has the opportunity to represent the best of the ideals and principles that Templary stands for. Bring no disgrace upon our Order and chose your words wisely when discussing the matter. This situation needs to be handled properly, legally, and within the appropriate forums. Please reach out me or the Grand Recorder, Allen Surratt, directly if you have any further questions.

There is yet another joyless subject I need to address, COVID-19. On September 19, I began to notice symptoms and promptly got tested. The following day I was informed that I had tested positive for the virus. Fortunately for me, the symptoms have been very mild, but I was forced to stay home in quarantine. As a result, I was unable to attend Grand

Lodge and the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference. This was deeply disappointing to me as representing the Knights Templar of North Carolina—which is to say, all of you—at events like these is one of the most gratifying aspects of this position. I hope to be clear of this situation in time to participate in the conferral of the Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough on October 6. I deeply appreciate all of the calls, messages, and prayers I have received during this time. Please remember to do your part to mitigate the spread of this scourge that continues to upend our lives and the world around us.

Fraternally,

Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Commander

Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund Drives

Final preparations are under way for the conferral of the Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough in Jamestown, NC, on Wednesday, October 6, hosted by Ivanhoe Commandery #8 from Greensboro, in conjunction with several other volunteers from across the state. We will be knighting 30 new Sir Knights this evening, and all proceeds from this event benefit the Holy Land Pilgrimage fund.



In addition to the Castle Degree event, the "Jerusalem Jewel" is still available for purchase. This is a beautiful and impressive jewel designed for and by NC Grand Commandery folks. The Jerusalem Jewel will be awarded to those who contribute \$500.00 or more to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and is officially authorized to wear as part of your Templar Uniform.

The proceeds for both charity drives will go directly to our Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and will help send pastors to the Holy Land! If you haven't talked to a pastor we've sent, please find one. Their story may change your life.

Local News:

Fayetteville – Palestine Commandery #20 will be hosting a special event at 6:00 PM on November 13 at the Fayetteville Masonic Center, 2860 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC. Sir Knight Scott Wolter, a forensic geologist, will present a special lecture with historical and archaeological evidence of Templars in North America from the 12th Century and onwards. He will also be accompanied by guest speaker and author Janet Wolter, and both will be available for a book signing afterward. This event is a local fundraiser to help the commandery with building repairs. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/scott-wolter-knights-templar-in-america-before-columbus-tickets-170151426497>.

Raleigh – On August 28 and September 11, the Raleigh York Rite Bodies held their Fall Degree Festival. There was a great turnout and several new Sir Knights received their Chapter, Council and Commandery degrees. Special thanks to several Sir Knights from Durham, Oxford, Salisbury, and Greensboro Commanderies who answered the call to help with the degrees and orders.



Raleigh Commandery Degree Team and New Sir Knights

North Wilkesboro – Wilkes Commandery #40 will be conferring the Order of the Temple on November 15 at North Wilkesboro Masonic Lodge #407, located at 203 Temple Street in North Wilkesboro. This will be the first time in at least 20 years that the Commandery has conferred the Order. Eminent Commander Mark Alexander, also the Grand Sword Bearer for the Grand Commandery of NC, will be leading the event, with REGC Ludwik Wodka serving as Captain General and also knighting the new Sir Knights. Grand Warder Sam Henline will serve as Senior Warden. A meal will be served at 6pm and the degree begins at 7pm. Wilkes Commandery will also hold its first Christmas Observance program in many years On December 20th. This will be a public program and will start with a meal at 6pm with the program starting at around 7:15pm.

Important Dates to Remember:

October 6: Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough, Jamestown, NC

Coming Soon:

November:

Southern Pines Veterans Day Parade

December:

December 18: NC Templary Bicentennial (Wilmington / Fayetteville)

Wilmington Christmas Parade

YOUR Local Christmas Observance Events – start planning NOW!

We Need Your Help!

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News! Submissions must be received by the first of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor. Space is limited, and submissions may be altered to fit.

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