



## Grand Commander



**Elbert L. "Sparkie"  
Travis**

(252) 412-5276

[river-ratl@live.com](mailto:river-ratl@live.com)

The *NC Knightly News* is a monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina. All photos used with permission of their owners who retain all copyrights.

### For Official Information:

D. Allen Surratt  
Grand Secretary/Recorder

6328 Surratt Ctry. Rd.,  
Denton, NC 27239-9080

Office: (336) 857-2394  
Fax: (336) 857-2690  
Mobile: (336) 953-0066

Grand Sec. Email:  
[NCGYR@rtmc.net](mailto:NCGYR@rtmc.net)

Grand Commandery Website:  
[www.ncgorkrite.org/gckkt/](http://www.ncgorkrite.org/gckkt/)

### **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 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✦ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

Editor: Larry Aydlett  
[Larry.aydlett@gmail.com](mailto:Larry.aydlett@gmail.com)

## Grand Commander's Message

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

*II Chronicles 7:14*

Greetings Sir Knights,

Thank you for allowing me to be your Commander this year. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to serve as your Grand Commander this year.

You all are aware of what is happening, not only worldwide but also here at home. Then you know the years ahead, for Masonry, is going to be our greatest challenge we have yet to face.

What has happened to us? Have we forgotten our promise to God to uphold and defend the Christian faith? What has happened to virtue, morality, and brotherly love? Sir Knights, now more than ever, we need to remember the obligations we took.

On Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022, we will be conducting our annual Easter Sunrise service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria Va. In years past this service was conducted at three separate locations, California, Kansas, and Alexandria. This year there will only be one, Alexandria Va.

If you have never attended this service, it's time you did. As a Knights Templar of North Carolina, you are invited to attend – bring your Class "A" uniform minus sword. Just the experience of marching up Shooters Hill with the Commandery of N.C. and Comman-

deries from almost every state in the USA is indescribable.

The highlight of this day will be the Wreath Laying ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. This ceremony is done each year by the Grand Commander of N.C. along with three additional Sir knights of his choice. This is truly, the most unforgettable experience that anyone can ever have the honor of doing.

Sir Knights, we have a lot of work ahead of us in the coming years. Let's not wait until it's too late. Not only do we need new blood to fill our ranks, we need blood that will be dedicated to Templary, and to God. Let's not forget our obligations, nor our promise to God. Let's work for harmony, and peace within our ranks.

I realize the situation of our economy has a lot of us on a tight budget. I also realize the fear of Covid has a lot of you fearful of attending any events. Please, don't use these as an excuse, if in fact, either of these two situations is a real problem for you, so be it. No one is going to ridicule you for it, if someone does, send me their name.

In closing once again, I most humbly thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Commander this year.

Fraternally,

Sparkie Travis  
Grand Commander

## Grand Commandery of North Carolina Officers for 2022-2023

**Clemmons** – The Grand Commandery of North Carolina held its annual elections at the Annual Conclave in Clemmons, NC on March 21. Elected to the office of Grand Commander was current Deputy Grand Commander Elbert L. "Sparkie"

Travis of St. John's Commandery #10, New Bern. The following officers were elected and appointed for 2022-2023:

Grand Commander: Elbert "Sparkie" Travis  
 Deputy Grand Commander: Brandon Penley  
 Grand Generalissimo: Scottie Cox  
 Grand Captain General: Mike Hoff  
 Grand Senior Warden: Ray Casey  
 Grand Junior Warden: Edward Allen  
 Grand Standard Bearer: Mark Alexander  
 Grand Sword Bearer: Sam Henline  
 Grand Warder: Charles Talley  
 Grand Sentinel: Marty Spears  
 Grand Prelate: Alex Ellis  
 Grand Inspector/Instructor: Mark Alexander  
 Grand Editor: Larry Aydlett



Officers of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina for 2022-2023

**From the Editor**

The Grand Commandery of North Carolina held its Annual Conclave on March 20-22 in Clemmons, NC along with the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and even though the theme for the past year as been "For Whom the Bell Tolls" there has been another undercurrent theme that came into bright focus this week and it was UNITY. Every visitor that we welcomed this week has made the same remark, that our bodies get along so well with each other! No fussing, no infighting, no toxic rivalries. We heard one guest after another remark how this was not so in other states, and we should treasure this feeling of unity that we have nurtured here in North Carolina.

Sir Knights, I wholeheartedly concur! We truly love each other as brothers, companions, and fellow Knights. We trade good-natured banter between us,

and it is well founded in a true respect for each other and with brotherly love. Our guests are right, and we should recognize and cherish what we have built and continue to nurture here in North Carolina, year after year.

We can be the example for others to follow, and it costs us nothing more than what we are already doing. While disagreements exist and always will in some fashion, we know that we are all better when we are united in purpose.

Besides, we have more noble contentions 'round here: College Hoops!

Fraternally,

Larry Aydlett, Editor

**Knight Templar Cross of Honor Awarded to MW Mack Sigmon and EC Trent Carter**

**Clemmons** – This year's Grand York Rite Annual Conclave was the first time the bodies have been able to assemble in-person in over two years. It was the perfect opportunity for PGC Mike Daniels and REGC Ludwik Wodka to make their final awards presentations for their respective terms.

The Knight Templar Cross of Honor is awarded, as per the Grand Encampment website, *"for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."*

Only one can be presented per state per year. Since the last two Annual conclaves were either canceled (2020) or virtual (2021) it was vital that both recipients be honored in person for their extraordinary contributions to the Grand Commandery of North Carolina.

SK and MW Dwight MacLauchlin "Mack" Sigmon, the 166<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina (2018-2019) and SK D. Trent Carter, Eminent Commander of Nazareth #41, were awarded the Knight Templar Cross of Honor by PGC Mike Daniels and REGC Ludwik Wodka, respectively.



MW Dwight MacLauchlin "Mack" Sigmon, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina

MW Sigmon was awarded his KTCH during the during the Grand Commandery's Annual Conclave on Monday. EC Carter was presented with his KTCH at the banquet that evening. RE Deputy Grand Master Jeffrey A. Bolstad and RE District Commander James Steele were present and assisted in the presentations.



SK D. Trent Carter, Eminent Commander of Nazareth #41

The Grand Commandery offers its sincere thanks to these two Sir Knights for all their hard work and dedication to Templary in North Carolina.

### Grand Commandery Awards Presented at Annual Conclave Banquet

**Clemmons** – At the annual banquet that followed the completion of the Grand York Rite Annual Conclave, PGC Mike Daniels and REGC Ludwik Wodka presented several awards to outstanding Sir Knights and guests.

The North Carolina Merit Award was presented to SK Doug Bennett of Calvary #25.

The Companion of the Temple was awarded to Julie York and Debra Horton, wives of MIGM Jeff York and RIDGM Craig Horton, respectively. This award may be given to any man or woman "for service to the order, the fraternity, the community, or mankind."

The Knight Commander of the Temple was presented to Sir Knights Elbert L. Travis of St. John's #10, and to SKs Edward Allen and Alex Ellis, both of Mt. Lebanon #7. This award is given "for service to the order, the fraternity, the community, or mankind."



Photos from the KTCH Presentations at the Annual Conclave

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation Awards**  
**Sword of Merit to EC Trent Carter**

**Southern Pines** – Sir Knight Trent Carter, Eminent Commander of the newly inaugurated Nazareth Commandery #41, was awarded the Sword of Merit by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for his generous donation of \$25,000. PGC Mike Daniels presented SK Carter with his sword at their February stated meeting in Southern Pines.

The Foundation’s website states that, “Since its inception, the Foundation has expended over \$156 million on research, patient care, and education. Research grants totaling in excess of \$28 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics.”



*The KTEF Sword of Merit, presented to SK Trent Carter, Eminent Commander of Nazareth #41*

SK Carter’s generous donation demonstrates the noblest principles of charity! For more information on how you can donate, visit the website at:

<https://www.ktef.org>

You can also read the official press release at the KTEF website at:

<https://www.ktef.org/news/2022/2/15/knights-templar-eye-foundation-sword-of-merit-presented-to-sir-knight-d-trent-carte>

**Brothers and Sir Knights Volunteer to Help With the Coast Guard Marathon**

**Elizabeth City** – Elizabeth City hosted the inaugural running of the Coast Guard 5K, Half and Full Marathon with approximately 1200 runners.

The Elizabeth City York Rite Bodies along with Brothers from Widow’s Son Lodge #75, as well as the neighborhood of William Drive manned Water station #7 together.



*Water Station #7 manned by members of the Elizabeth City York Rite Bodies and Widows Son Lodge #75*



The Coast Guard Marathon is one of the qualifying Marathons for the coveted Boston Marathon. The course included running the streets of Historic Elizabeth City, through the Coast Guard Base and a turnaround at the TCOM Blimp Hangar built for service during WWII.

The Sir Knights and Brethren manning Water Station # 7 saw approximately 250 runners that traveled from all across the United States and elsewhere.



Thirsty Marathon runners stop by Water Station #7

The Sir Knights and Brethren were thanked by the City and the Coast Guard for supporting this event by volunteering and their desire to run.



Friends, neighbors, brothers, and Sir Knights worked together to help make the marathon a success

This article was contributed to the NC Knightly News by SK Russell Scull, Eminent Commander of Griggs #14 in Elizabeth City, NC.

### Ivanhoe #8 Welcomes Six New Sir Knights

On March 5, Ivanhoe #8 completed its spring degree festival, which saw six new members knighted. Sir Knights from Nazareth #41, Raleigh #4, Wilkes #40, and High Point #24 provided support for Ivanhoe in the conferral of the Commandery Orders.



REGC Ludwik Wodka and other Sir Knights at the conferral of the Order of the Temple in Greensboro, NC on March 5, 2022



## Tool of Crucifixion An Easter Poem By Scotty Bare

*If the hammer could talk, I'd imagine it'd say,  
"I wish I'd have hid  
when I woke up that day."*

*If nails could shed tears, I'd imagine for  
three, enough shed to cause rust for eternity.*

*If wood could have walked, I'd imagine two  
did, just as the hammer and woke up then hid.*

*If cat of nine tails had eyes that could see, I'd  
image them closed til it was set free.*

*If whipping posts had hands, I'd imagine its  
chains would have been removed  
to end all the pain.*

*If tools had a voice, I'd imagine a roar, "our  
work was quite joyful, but not anymore."*

*"Our duty is torture", I'd imagine they'd  
claim, "for those that are evil  
and that man cannot tame."*

*"Something is different", I'd imagine they'd  
write, "why this man refuses  
to put up a fight."*

*Anguish, I'd imagine, they'd be at this death,  
as this innocent man took his last breath.*

*If tools had a conscience, I'd imagine the  
thought, "why into this plan  
we're sadly now brought."*

*If tools had a soul, I'd imagine they'd know,  
that they had accomplished  
God's ultimate goal.*

This Easter poem was written by SK Scotty Bare, of Wilkes #40. He is a member of Liberty Lodge #45 in Wilkesboro, where he was raised in the Fall of 2019. He was knighted on May 5th of 2021 in Salisbury.



SK Scotty Bare of Wilkes #40

Scotty says that being a Mason and a Knight Templar is essential to his core beliefs as a Christian Man.

“My Christian faith is extremely important in my life, accepting Christ as my Savior as a ten-year-old boy in October of 1991” he says in a recent interview.

“I have a beautiful wife of eleven years and two wonderful boys, ages four and soon to be six. I’m an active member in our church, leading the music and serving as a deacon. I currently am employed as a Field Engineer at my county’s local telephone company. It’s an honor to have my writing included in this magazine and my desire is that the words would provide a deep thought for each reader.”

One of Scotty’s favorite quotes from the Bible is Proverbs 18:15 which says,

*“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.”*



## An Easter Message From Alex H. Ellis, Grand Prelate

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

*“Jesus said to her, **“Mary!”** She turned and said to him in Hebrew, **“Rabbouni,”** which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, **“Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”** Mary of Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord,”** and what he told her.”*

John 20:16-20

Today, we share a joy, a joy of wonder, a joy that comes from within, because Christ is Risen! Today, we share the same joy of the disciples to whom Mary Magdalene had brought the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen, and she has seen Him.

This joy of resurrection starts from a personal encounter with risen Christ. What does it take for Mary Magdalene’s tears to give way to Easter joy? Nothing less than meeting the risen Christ. Meeting the risen Savior Himself! Even this is not so straightforward. Jesus appears to her, but Mary doesn’t recognize Him. But then, Jesus calls her name, Mary. She turns, and now when she looks; her world is transformed. Before her is no gardener, but the resurrected Christ, alive and free from death. Around her is no tomb of lifeless rock, but the living Savior who calls her out of darkness and into a marvelous light. After encountering the risen Jesus Mary Magdalene obeys the Lord’s command to tell the news of the resurrection to the disciples.

The same joy is experienced by the disciples on the road to Emmaus. This personal encounter with the risen Lord gives them courage and strength to run back to the disciples and tell them what happened on the way and how they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

On Easter morning what we celebrate is that Christ has overcome sin and evil and death. There is forgiveness and hope and new life even from the very rock bottom of suffering and despair. And so, the Easter gospel is not only about life from death, but also about this encounter Mary has with the resurrected Christ. Jesus

is raised, but then He also meets us. And not merely as a dazzling figure we do not recognize, Jesus meets us – calls our name, opens our eyes, and invites us to see.

The risen Christ wants us to experience the joy of encountering Him and living for Christ and not for self—the joy of being liberated from the sins which trap us in self-centeredness and discover the blessing of Christ’s self-giving love. No matter what may be happening in our lives, we can still experience spiritual joy through the love of God and living the way God made us to live, which is for self-giving love.

The Easter gospel is not just about new life, but new life that comes to us. Not just Christ raised from the dead, but the risen Christ meeting us and calling our names. Easter is an encounter, a call and a summons. Go and tell what you have seen and heard. Christ is alive, and more than that He has sought us out and called us by name.

Whatever our doubts and our fears, whatever our failures and betrayals, whatever the wounds we try to protect – today is a new day. We are all to become witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus. We are called to bring that ‘ray’ of the light of the Resurrection into the various human situations: into those happy ones, rendering them more beautiful, and into those sorrowful situations, bringing serenity and hope.”

We know how the poor need help. We know how the sick need healing, how the oppressed need justice, how the grieving need comfort. We know how the spiritual life needs exercise, with daily prayer, meditation, study, and the companionship of kindred, seeking souls. Being people of the resurrection, graced with this knowledge, it is our calling to talk to people on the road and announce the Good News of the risen Christ to them.

During this period of contemplating Christ’s mercy, we are reminded that Jesus not only preached mercy, but He put into action works of mercy as He assisted the poor, consoled the lonely and outcast, relieved suffering and affliction and taught the ignorant. No one person can give what they do not have, thus each one of us must know Christ personally. We need to know Him personally so that we can go out and proclaim Him to every person we encounter.

Today is our time of joy and renewed evangelical spirit to proclaim the Good News of the risen Christ to others. Our communities should become places to encounter the living Christ! This is what Christ is inviting us to do! This is the day that the Lord has made, let us exalt and rejoice in it. This is the calling to each of us, so we may bring this joy of encountering the risen Christ to others.

Will we be able to share this personal encounter with the risen Christ with our families, our friends, and people we encounter in our daily lives? Let us experience this Easter morning joy and let us radiate this joy in our lives. Let the Mercy of Christ shine in our lives and deeds!

My fervent prayer is that our Resurrected and Living Lord may bestow His peace and grace upon you and your loved ones, all upon all of the Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



### Important Reminders:

**April 17:** Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia

**April 17, 1:15PM:** NC Grand Commandery laying of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery