

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

State News for July 2022

Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

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HONORS IN THE YORK RITE - INVITATIONAL AND AFFILIATE BODIES

The following brief descriptions describe various bodies affiliated or associated with the York Rite that I prepared a few years ago. Although the first two bodies do not require York Rite membership, I have included them because of their requirement for profession of the Christian faith. Where there is no mention of number of bodies in Alabama, there is only one college, council, etc. (Note – some descriptions were taken from the organization's site, but I failed to note those in the narrative following).

White Shrine of Jerusalem

An Adoptive Masonic organization, the organization was founded in 1894. Membership is limited to Masons, their spouses, and female relatives. Members must profess the Christian faith. Meetings require the presence of a Mason in order to open and transact business. The presiding body is a Shrine, and the presiding female and male officers are a High Priestess and Watchman of Shepherds.

Masonic Rosicrucians

Strictly speaking this invitational body is not a part of the York Rite, as the membership requirements are to be a Master Mason and a Trinitarian Christian. Membership in the College is limited to 72.

Royal Arch Widow's Degree

A "fun" degree intended to honor (and give amusement to) the ladies of Chapter members. May be conferred by any Royal Arch Chapter.

Super Excellent Master

In some jurisdictions, this degree is a part of the Council degrees. In Alabama it is a side degree for any Royal and Select Master. One of the more dramatic York Rite rituals, it may be conferred by any Council.

Order of High Priesthood

A side order of High Priests and Past High Priests of Chapters. Conferred during Grand York Rite Sessions in Alabama.

Order of the Silver Trowel

Another side order, this is for Illustrious Masters and Past Illustrious Masters. Also conferred during the Grand York Rite Session.

Knight Crusaders of the Cross

A third side order for Commanders and Past Commanders of Commanderies, conferred during the Grand York Rite session.

Knights of the York Cross of Honour

One of the more exclusive of the side orders. This is an invitational body. The minimum requirement is to have completed serving as presiding officer of a Lodge, a Chapter, a Council and a Commandery. Not all who have done so are selected however.

Knight Masons of the USA

Another invitational body. This one perpetuates the tradition of Irish or "Green" Masonry. Minimum requirements are to be a member of all York Rite Bodies and to have presided over at least one.

York Rite College

This invitational body's requirements are to be a member of all our York Rite Bodies. Invitations are generally sent to York Rite Masons who have demonstrated leadership or the potential for leadership in their bodies. There are four Colleges in Alabama.

THE BOXES

I have in my hands two boxes
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black,
And all your joys in the gold."
I heeded His words, and in the two boxes
Both my joys and sorrows I store,
But though the gold became heavier each day
The black was as light as before.
With curiosity, I opened the black
I wanted to find out why
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.
I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be."
He smiled a gentle smile at me.
"My child, they're all here with me."
I asked, "God, why give me the boxes,
Why the gold, and the black with the hole?"
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings,
the black is for you to let go."

-- Author Unknown

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