



Grand Commander



Elbert L. "Sparkie" Travis

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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.

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Deputy Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

I first want to say how honored I am to be serving as your Deputy Grand Commander this year. I find it amazing how quickly time passes by. It seems like a couple of short years ago that I was just starting in this Grand Line and serving as the Grand Warder. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to serve the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of North Carolina. I have enjoyed traveling the state and meeting many Sir Knights throughout this Grand Jurisdiction. I appreciate all the heartfelt kindness, friendship, and fellowship that I have experienced during my travels thus far.

I want to thank Elbert L "Sparkie" Travis the Right Eminent Grand Commander of North Carolina for asking me to fill in for him, in my home district, at the District 8 meeting in Lenoir, NC. I also want to thank Most Excellent Christopher L. Hall, Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina, and Most Illustrious Craig J. Horton, Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina for offering me words of encouragement and advice before the meeting in Lenoir.

I was honored to get share the Grand Commander's message on brotherly love. I truly believe in the positive impact that the tenet of brotherly love has on our great fraternity. Brotherly love is the first of the three tenets mentioned and explained in the first degree and I believe that this was by design to show its importance in Freemasonry and the world. Brotherly love unites us and sets us apart from other fraternities or organizations.

I want to encourage all Sir Knights to let brotherly love be at the forefront of your daily interactions. I believe that if we as masons continue to practice brotherly love then our relationships with each other and our fraternity will grow stronger. I also believe that if we extend this practice farther and treat everyone how we have been taught to treat our brothers, then our fraternity will start to increase in membership again.

Sir Knights, I hope and pray that you and your families are all safe and healthy. I hope to see you all at summer assembly in Maggie Valley.

Fraternally,

Brandon Lee Penley
Deputy Grand Commander, 2022-2023

York Rite District Meetings

Raleigh – The Official Grand visitations of REGT "Sparkie" Travis, MIGM Craig J. Horton, and MEGHP Christopher L. Hall continued through June. On June 13, the 3rd District hosted the Grand Officers in a well-attended meeting in Wilson.



Wilson 3rd District Meeting, June 13

And on June 7, RE Brandon Penley, Deputy Grand Commander, filled in for REGC Travis for the 8th District meeting in Lenoir.

Brotherly Love prevailed, Fraternalism improved, and Relationships were strengthened by all in attendance!

**Knights in Profile: RE Deputy Grand
Commander Brandon Lee Penley**



VE Brandon Lee Penley

Lenoir – VE Brandon Penley was born in Claremont, NC. He graduated from Western Carolina University in 2010 with a Bachelor’s degree in Construction Management. He graduated with an MBA from UNC Charlotte in 2022. He is currently employed as a Commercial Service Manager at Snider Fleet Solutions Inc.

He was raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason in Riverside Lodge # 606

on June 26th, 2006. He served as Master of Riverside Lodge in 2014, 2017, and 2019. He was made a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Oasis Shrine on November 3, 2006. He was made a Master of the Royal Secret on October 27, 2007, and received the KCCH on November 23, 2013.

He was exalted on February 8, 2008, in Hickory Chapter #60 and served as High Priest in in 2013. He was Greeted a Royal and Select Master on February 9, 2008, in Hickory Council #32 and served as Illustrious Master in 2014. He was dubbed and created a Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple on February 9, 2008, in Hickory Commandery #17 where he subsequently served as Commander in 2013. He served as the District Commander of the 8th District from 2015 to 2021. He is a member of various other affiliated and appendant bodies.

**Wilkes Commandery #40 Welcomes new
Sir Knights to the Order**

North Wilkesboro – Wilkes Commandery #40 conferred the Order of the Temple on Monday, June 27, on Companions Ray Kennedy, Danny Prevette, and Mark Bowers. Grand Sword Bearer Mark Alexander conferred the Order, Brett Huffman from Lenoir Commandery #33 served as Senior Warden,

and Wesley Church, who was knighted earlier this year in March, served as Prelate.



Wilkes Commandery Order of the Temple, June 27

**Plantagenet Commandery #1 Wreath
Laying Ceremony**

Wilmington – On Monday May 30 Plantagenet Commandery #1 participated in a wreath laying ceremony at Wilmington National Ceremony.

In attendance were REPGC James Steele, EPC Isaac Eddins, EPC & PDDGC Douglas Collins, and SK James Franklin.

Important Reminders:

- July 9:** Super Excellent Master Degree, starting at 2:00 PM at Waynesville Lodge at 435 East Marshall Street, Waynesville, dress is business casual.
- July 10 – 12:** NC Grand York Rite Summer Assembly, Maggie Valley. For more information go to the website at <https://mwsite.org/sites/ncgssa/>
- July 15:** Letters from Home Singers tribute to our US Armed Forces at the [Theatre](https://smokymountainarts.com/pec-events/letter-from-home/1657911600) starting at 7:00 PM. Tickets are available at the Smoky Mountain Theatre Box Office at <https://smokymountainarts.com/pec-events/letter-from-home/1657911600> or call (866) 273-4615.
- July 16:** Greensboro York Rite Ice Cream Social, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Whitestone, 700 South Holden Road, Greensboro, NC 27407

