



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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Grand Commander's Message

Let brotherly love continue, be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained Angels, unawares.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Greetings Sir Knights,

I trust you and yours had a most wonderful and glorious Easter Sunday. The Easter sunrise service, held each year at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, was well attended this year. There were Sir Knights from across the USA in attendance. North Carolina had 10 Sir Knights present. For those of you who have never attended this beautiful service, you are missing out on a great event celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

This year was made even more memorable by the laying of a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier by myself and three other Sir Knights from N.C. following the sunrise service. I must add that this beautiful wreath was hand made by my Lady and dearest friend, Denise, who accompanied us. Yes, indeed Christ the Lord has risen today, Hallelujah!

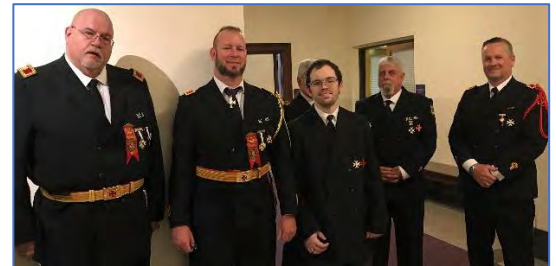
The year ahead is going to be filled with opportunities to meet and chat with Sir Knights, not only from N.C., but from across these beautiful states of ours and even from the UK, Romania, and Austria. I highly encourage all of you when given the opportunity to be at a Masonic event, by all means do so, I assure you that you will not regret it. Remember our theme this year, Fraternity, Relationships, and Brotherly Love.

Fraternally,

Sparkie Travis
Grand Commander

NC Knights Templar Attend the Easter Sunrise Service in Alexandria, VA

Alexandria, VA – Several Sir Knights from around the state made the trip to Alexandria, Virginia over the Easter weekend to take part in the annual Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



NC Sir Knights preparing for the march into the theatre

Making the journey northward were RE District Commander James Steele, REGC Sparkie Travis, PGC Fred Whitty, PGM William Dill, Grand Standard Bearer Mark Alexander, Grand Sword Bearer Sam Henline, Grand Sentinel Martin Spears, Eminent District Commanders Doug Bennett and Larry Aydlett, and Sir Knight Matthew Holland, along with REGC Travis's Lady, Denise Rickman.



Grand Encampment Officer and Grand Commanders at the Easter Sunrise Service

The morning was almost perfect, but it was determined to be just a bit too chilly to march up Shooter's Hill, so the procession was held indoors from the great hall into the theatre inside the memorial. The Grand Encampment Line marched into the theatre followed by Grand Commanders from several states, and then Sir

Knights from all over the nation marching in unity.

An inspiring program was performed by members of the Grand Encampment with accompaniment from members of the Social Order of the Beauceant and the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia.

It was truly a beautiful way to spend Easter Sunday!

Grand Commander Lays Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Arlington, VA – Following the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Easter Sunday, a contingent of Sir Knights representing the Grand Commandery of North Carolina traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



The memorial wreath that REGC Travis presented was handmade by Ms. Denise Rickman

We met two Prince Hall brethren who had traveled from Fidelity Lodge #10 in San Diego to also lay a wreath. We were pleased to share the event with our fellow travelers and brothers from the west coast of our great Republic!



North Carolina Grand Commandery Knights and brothers from Fidelity #10 PHA in San Diego enjoying fellowship and brotherhood.



One of the Tomb Guards keeping watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

REGC Sparky Travis’s Lady, Denise Rickman, hand made the wreath herself, and it was carefully transported up to the Capital area by the Sir Knights and Ms. Rickman.

REGC Travis, along with PGM William Dill, Grand Sentinel Martin Spears, and District Commander Doug Bennett formed a procession and officially presented the wreath to the Tomb Guardians, who laid the wreath before the Tomb while Taps was played by a bugler nearby.



REGC Sparky Travis, PGM William Dill, Grand Sentinel Martin Spears and District Commander Doug Bennett present the memorial wreath.

There was Silence and Respect from all in attendance.



The Grand Commander and Sir Knights at the wreath laying ceremony

The Sentinel's Creed

*My dedication to this sacred duty
is total and whole-hearted.*

*In the responsibility bestowed on me
never will I falter.*

*And with dignity and perseverance
my standard will remain perfection.*

*Through the years of diligence and praise
and the discomfort of the elements,*

*I will walk my tour in humble reverence
to the best of my ability.*

*It is he who commands the respect I protect,
his bravery that made us so proud.*

*Surrounded by well meaning crowds by day,
alone in the thoughtful peace of night,
this soldier will in honored glory rest
under my eternal vigilance.*

- Simon 1971

(Written in stone at the door of the Tomb Guard Quarters)

Grand Commandery of North Carolina District Meetings for 2022-2023

Clemmons – The Grand Commandery of North Carolina, in conjunction with the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, has published its schedule for the district meetings in each region for the 2022-2023 term.

The District Meetings are scheduled as follows:

#	Date	Meal	Meeting	Host Body
2	12-Apr	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	New Bern
1	13-Apr	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Washington
5	4-May	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Raleigh
4	9-May	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Oxford
6	16-May	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Winston-Salem
8	7-Jun	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Lenoir
3	13-Jun	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Wilson
9	17-Jun	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Waynesville
7	20-Jun	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Monroe

Sir Knights are encouraged to attend these meetings in your local area, Commandery Officers especially.

York Rite District #1 Meeting

Washington – The Washington York Rite Bodies hosted the Official Grand visitations of S.K. "Sparkie" Travis, M.I. Craig J. Horton, and M.E. Christopher L. Hall. The evening started with an excellently prepared lasagna meal. Our presiding Grand Officers spoke to the 2022-2023 theme of Fraternalism, Relationships, and Brotherly Love to the Sir Knights and Companions in attendance. The remarks of the evening were shared with 23 Companions and Sir Knights.



Grand Officers and Members of District 1 York Rite bodies

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

Wilkes #40 Order of the Temple

North Wilkesboro – Wilkes Commandery #40 conferred the Order of the Temple on April 12th and created Carl R. Brantley, Stoney Greene, and Wesley Church members of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple.

Grand Standard Bearer Mark Alexander conferred the Order. Past Grand Commander Ludwik Wodka acted as Captain General. Grand Sword Bearer Sam Henline acted as Senior Warden. Past Most Excellent High Priest Tom Bridges acted as Standard Bearer.



New SKs Carl R. Brantley, Stoney Greene, and Wesley Church with the Sir Knights of Wilkes #40 and the Grand Commandery

This article was contributed to the NC Knightly News by Grand Standard Bearer Mark Alexander, of Wilkes #40 in North Wilkesboro, NC.

Knights in Profile:
Sir Knight Carl R. Brantley

Sir Knight Carl R. Brantley grew up in rural Indiana. Carl was a professional wrestler for 15 years, touring with Ivan and Nikita Koloff, using the handle Vladimir Koloff, first with WCW in Atlanta, GA, and later with the World Wrestling Federation, now known as World Wrestling Entertainment. He has traveled extensively around the world in his career. Today, he breeds and raises exhibition show poultry in Wilkesboro, and now serves as a Show Judge for exhibition poultry group competitions globally.

His grandfather, John Stafford Stebbins, was a high school principal, and a Master Mason, 33rd Scottish Rite, and Shriner, whose home lodge was Eaton #606 in Eaton, IN (later merged with Anthony Lodge in Albany, IN). Carl was inspired as a child by the way his grandfather worked to help his community, school, church, and family, and exemplified those high principles that Masons aspire to uphold. Carl performed many times during his professional career at

Masonic and Shrine venues, even visiting children at the local Shrine Hospitals, but it took a long time to make the connection between the places he was visiting and Masonry. Once Carl made the connection between his grandfather and Masonry, he was inspired to ask WB Steven Russell of North Wilkesboro Lodge #407 the prescribed question to follow in his grandfather’s masonic footsteps.

He was initiated in January 2020, right before COVID hit, and then raised in August 2021, once activities resumed. He is a member of Liberty Lodge #45 in Wilkesboro and Wilkes Commandery #40 in North Wilkesboro. On June 2, Liberty Lodge will be hosting a district-wide fellowship dinner, and Carl will be cooking Ribeye and New York Strip steaks, with all proceeds going to the Oxford Orphanage.

“Masonry to me is all about giving back to the community, even including the hard work and sweat equity that people may notice afterward but may not recognize who did the work,” Carl says. “It’s not about recognition, it’s about results – making a positive impact for others, especially our future generations.”



The Sir Knights are brave because Vladimir Koloff is on THEIR side!

Important Reminders:

- May 4:** District #5 Meeting, 7:30 PM at the Wake County Shrine Club, Raleigh, meal at 6:30 PM
- May 9:** District #4 Meeting, 7 PM at Oxford Lodge, Oxford, meal at 6 PM
- May 11:** Nazareth #41 Divine Ascension Service, 7 PM at Southern Pines Lodge, Southern Pines, meal at 6:30 PM – **RSVP to EC Trent Carter by May 4**
- May 14:** Raleigh York Rite Degree Festival, 8 AM
- May 16:** District #6 Meeting, 7 PM at Winston-Salem Masonic Center, Winston-Salem, meal at 6 PM