



## Grand Commander



**Elbert L. "Sparkie"  
Travis**

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

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

Grand Commandery Website:  
[www.ncgvorkrite.org/gckt/](http://www.ncgvorkrite.org/gckt/)

### **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

Greetings Sir Knights,

Greetings and a happy new year to you all Sir Knights.

Wow, where has 2022 gone? It seems only yesterday my Grand Comrades and I were planning our district meeting schedules. Now, in a few short weeks, our term in office will be over. There are not enough words to describe the Fraternalism, the Relationships, and the Brotherly Love, I have experienced this past year. The new faces I have seen, old friends I got to see again, and above all, our ability to love each other as brothers should.

As we come together in a few short weeks to once again elect our Grand Line Officers for 2023-24, I look forward to seeing each of you and personally thank you for your support this past year.

Our goal this past year was to make N.C. a 100% life sponsor donor for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. It's with heartfelt sadness that I must report, we failed. Only because there are 2 bodies that are less than 20% life sponsors. They need to step up and become 100%, it only cost \$30.00 to become a life sponsor. That's just \$1 a day for 30 days – less than a soft drink.

On a brighter note, this year we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our children's home in Oxford. If you have never been there, you need to go. You need to see what Masonry in N.C. is really all about. I promise you, once you see for yourself what we are accomplishing there, you will then know and understand, why we do, and what we do, to support this home. "THESE ARE OUR CHILDREN". We are bound by our obligation as Master Masons to aid and support our widows and orphans. Without our support our

children will suffer greatly, maybe even to the point of having no home. And Jesus said:

*"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."*

### **Matthew 19:14**

I encourage each of you, when you see an event being scheduled this year celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, make every effort possible to attend, you will not be disappointed.

This upcoming year already is looking good. Shortly after our Grand Conclave we will be observing our annual Easter Sunrise Service at The George Washington Memorial in Alexandria Va. This is another event, which if you have never attended, you really need to attend. There will be Knight Templars from all over this Great Country in attendance. It's a real thrill to see all these Sir Knights marching up Shooters Hill. Then listening to a great message about our Lord and Savior who died for our sins. In case you missed it, in last month's State message in the Knight Templar magazine, there is info about hotel reservations for this event. [*also reposted this month – Ed.*]

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Grand Conclave in Clemmons, N.C. March 19-21, 2023. Until then I'll leave you with these words from our Lord and Savior:

*"Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."*

### **Hebrews 13:1-2**

Fraternally in Christ,

Sparkie Travis  
Grand Commander

**New NC Tactics Manual Now Available**

**N. Wilkesboro** –Sir Knight Mark Alexander, Grand Instructor-Inspector of NC announced that the new Tactics Manual for the Grand commandery of NC is now available from the Grand York Rite Secretary’s Office.

SK Alexander completed the last of his Schools of the Knight on January 17 in Asheville with the able assistance of SK Sam Henline, Grand Sword Bearer, and District 6 Instructor. Speaking towards the future, he says, “my goal is for the incoming District Instructors to present their own Schools in their Districts for the ensuing year and keep the ball rolling.”

And lastly, SK Alexander was on hand to assist in the installation of the 2023 officers for the North Wilkesboro York Rite Bodies. The new presiding officers are pictured below holding their respective charters: High Priest David Barlow (left), Illustrious Master Frank Blevins (center), and Eminent Commander (Right) Patrick Day.



The 2023 presiding officers for North Wilkesboro York Rite Bodies: High Priest David Barlow (L), Illustrious Master Frank Blevins (C) and Eminent Commander (R) Patrick Day.

**Sir Knight Binh Nguyen Inducted into Joseph Montfort York Rite College**

**New Bern** – Joseph Montfort York Rite College #82 initiated Binh Nguyen as the newest Knight of York. The ceremony was held at the New Bern York Rite Masonic Temple.

The York Rite Sovereign College of North America exists primarily to be of service to the York Rite of Freemasonry. The pre-requisite for membership, which is by invitation only, is good standing in all four

York Rite bodies: Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery or Preceptory (Canada.)

The purpose of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, as set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws, are as follows:

1. To foster a spirit of cooperation and coordination among each of the Bodies of York Rite Masonry.
2. To assist in worthy efforts to improve the ritualistic and dramatic presentation of York Rite work.
3. To conduct an education program in order to inculcate a greater appreciation of the principles, ideals and programs of York Rite Masonry.
4. To strengthen York Rite Masonry in every possible manner.
5. To build up a love of country and to aid and support genuine Patriotism.
6. To reward outstanding service to York Rite Masonry by awards, honors, and other methods of proper recognition.
7. To support Charitable and Benevolent Endeavors of Freemasonry.



Sir Knights in attendance: Larry Newell, Fred Whitty, Patrick Terry Preeminent Governor, Russell Scull, H Wayne, Fred Kirkland, Charles E. Ponton, Russell Rainear, John J Brown, Warren G. Taylor, Isaac B. Eddins, Sparky Travis, Mike Hoff, Bill Dill, Paul Miller Jr., W, Francis Pugh, Martin Spears, and Binh Nguyen.

This article was contributed by SK Russell L. Scull

**Grand Commandery Plans Trip to Easter Service in Alexandria, VA**

**Raleigh** – The Grand Commandery of NC is making plans for this year’s Easter Sunrise Service in Alexandria, VA for the weekend of April 7-9, 2023. In the past, Sir Knights who wished to participate have driven up separately, booked their own lodging, and met up with other travelers to do sightseeing, dinners, and other get-together activities. The idea this year is to have a central meeting and staging place at one hotel, where we can either stay one night or the whole

weekend, meet up with others to go as a group for activities, and have a place to park and ride together.

Anyone who would like to book a room at a group discount, we are planning on staying at the Holiday Inn Alexandria at Carlyle, located at 2460 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. The group code is **GTK** for rooms at \$129/night and can be reserved at the following website:

[www.holidayinn.com/carlyleva](http://www.holidayinn.com/carlyleva)

Book soon in case rooms run out and we'll see you there! Also, please remember that even if you choose to only stay for a day and not the weekend, or to stay elsewhere, this can serve as a central meeting point to coordinate group activities throughout the weekend.

**Grand York Rite Annual Communication to be held March 19-21, Clemmons, NC**

**Raleigh** – The Grand York Rite bodies of NC are finalizing plans for the annual meeting to be held this March 19 – 21, 2023, in Clemmons, North Carolina at the Village Inn Hotel and Event Center. Registration is now open, and the Grand Secretary has published the agenda, schedule, resolutions for consideration, and nominations for grand offices.

**The deadline to register is February 28, 2023.**

A block of rooms is available until then at the special rate of \$84/night plus tax but after this date availability at this rate is no longer guaranteed. Rooms can be booked at the following link:

[Village Inn Event Center](#)

The high-level schedule of events is as follows:

**Sunday, March 19**

- 2:30pm – Shute Chapel, St. Thomas of Acon
- 5:00pm – Divine Service
- 8:00pm – Ice Cream Social

**Monday, March 20**

- 8:30am – Joint Session
- 10:00am – Grand Commandery Conclave
- 12:00pm – Luncheon (tickets required)
- 1:00pm – Grand Commandery Reconvenes \*
- 1:30pm – Grand Chapter RAC convenes \*
- 3:30pm – Grand Council R&SM convenes \*
- 7:00pm – Annual Banquet (tickets required)

\* Convenes immediately after predecessor adjourns

**Tuesday, March 21**

- 8:30am – Grand Council reconvenes if necessary
- 10:00am – Installation of Officers

Please note that when registering, the ballot registration form should be completed and given to the Credentials Committee at the Annual Meeting, there is no need to mail with the member registration. Also please note that all past presiding officers of your local Chapter, Council and Commandery are eligible to vote in their respective bodies in addition to the three dais officers. Please be sure to note these eligibilities on your ballot registration form.

Any dais officer who is unable to attend, please see your local Secretary/Recorder for proxy information.

**Important Reminders:**

**February 18:** Greensboro York Rite Ham Supper Fundraiser, 4:30-7pm at the Greensboro Masonic Temple, \$8/plate eat-in/takeout

**February 18:** Fayetteville York Rite Bodies presenting the Royal Arch degrees at the Fayetteville Masonic Center as part of their Spring Degree Festival starting at 9:00am (candidates arrive by 8:30am). Council Degrees will be held in March and Chivalric Orders in April, Super-Excellent Degree TBD.

**March 1 & 4:** Greensboro York Rite Bodies hosting their Spring Degree Festival at the Greensboro Masonic Temple. First 3 degrees will be conferred Wednesday, March 1, starting at 7:30pm and the remainder of the degrees and orders will be conferred on Saturday, March 4, starting at 8:00am. Lunch will be provided.



*Order of Malta Degree, Greensboro (2022) with Sir Knights from Ivanhoe #8, High Point #24, and Nazareth #41 Commanderies*