



## Grand Commander



**Brandon Penley**

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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

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope you have all had a wonderful month. Your Grand Commandery Officers visited Elizabeth City on May 19. I want to thank all who attended the district meeting in Elizabeth City. I also want to thank our brothers in Elizabeth City for the excellent meal they provided.

The upcoming visits will be held Hickory on June 14, and Asheville on June 20. I want to thank all who have attended the district meetings so far this year. I want to encourage each Sir Knight to try to attend the remaining district visits if possible. I would also encourage you to let your Grand Commandery officers know of any upcoming festivals, events, or Christmas Observances that you may already know the dates for, so that we may try to get the events on our calendars as soon as possible.

I am currently writing this article on Memorial Day. This is a holiday; it is a time to gather with friends and family. It is often viewed as an extra day off from work, a day at the lake, or a day to have a cookout. I know a lot of us have our family traditions for almost every holiday. I hope you are all safe and enjoying continuing those traditions, but I hope you all remember the reason for this holiday. Memorial Day is a time to pay our respect and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for our great country. Without that sacrifice many of us would not be where we are today. We would not have the country we have. I am sure that some of our Sir Knights have lost family members, friends, or known someone who lost their life serving our nation. To those of you who have personally known someone who has

lost their lives while serving our country, I would like to extend my condolences to you and your loved ones. I would also like you to know that they are not forgotten.

The next thing that I want to talk about is the upcoming flag day on June 14. This day commemorates the day the United States flag was adopted. This year we celebrate the 246<sup>th</sup> year since the flag was adopted by resolution of the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

June 14 was established as Flag Day by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and later was established as National Flag Day by an Act of Congress on August 3, 1949. While this is not a federal holiday, many states have adopted National Flag Day as a state holiday. The design of the flag was thirteen alternating red and white stripes, with thirteen white stars in a blue field representing a new constellation. While the number and arrangement of the stars have changed several times throughout the years to the current number of 50 stars, the design of the flag remains unchanged. The current version of the United States Flag was adopted in July of 1960 and is the longest-used version of the flag. As masons in the United States, we are one of the few organizations that still recite the Pledge of Allegiance before every meeting. I hope and pray the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, or see the flag of our country, that you will take a moment to reflect upon the history of our flag and what it represents. June 14 also serves as another important day: the birthday of the United States Army. To those who have served or are currently serving in the United States Army, I want to thank you for your service to the United States of America.

Fraternally in Christ,

Brandon Penley

Grand Commander



**86<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons**

**Maggie Valley** – The Grand York Rite bodies of North Carolina have finalized plans and programs for the 2023 Summer Assembly in the Great Smoky Mountains. The festivities begin on Saturday, July 9, and conclude Tuesday, July 12.

Sir Knight Mark Alexander will be organizing a whitewater rafting trip early morning on Sunday July 9. For details, contact him at (336) 984-9980, or [cenobile13@hotmail.com](mailto:cenobile13@hotmail.com).

This year, we are proud to be hosting as our special guest, Clifton Truman Daniels, the oldest grandson of President Harry S. Truman, who is Honorary Chairman of the Truman Library Institute, Secretary of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, writer & lecturer on the Truman presidency, and currently portraying his grandfather in the stage show, *Give 'Em Hell Harry*.



*Editor: I wonder if these two dignitaries will join us for the cookout again this year!*

Registration and full information on events can be found on the Summer Assembly website at <https://mwsite.org/sites/ncgssa>. Registration is \$20 (men only) and attendees to both the Summer Assembly and the Banquet Monday night must complete their [registration](#) with payment by June 20 to the Grand Secretary.

Below is a summary of the events that are planned:

**Saturday, July 8**

**10:00 AM** – Putt-Putt Contest at Fantasy Golf next to the Castlewood Motel in Maggie Valley, open to adults and children. Registration fee: \$5 per person.

**2:00 PM** – Order Knight of York, at Waynesville Lodge #259 at 435 East Marshall Street, Waynesville, dress is business casual.

**Sunday, July 9**

**10:30 AM** – Church Service, [First Baptist Church of Maggie Valley](#)

**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** – Registration & Cookout, Maggie Valley Community Pavilion at 3987 Soco Rd. Maggie Valley, NC.

**Monday, July 10**

**9:00 AM** – Summer Assembly convenes at the Haywood Community College Student Center Auditorium, located at 185 Frelander Drive, Clyde, NC.

**12:00 PM** – Summer Assembly adjourns for lunch and travel to the Masonic Marker.

**3:00 PM** – Masonic Marker Address, at the Masonic Marker at Black Camp Gap. Access to the marker is from the Blue Ridge Parkway, exiting at Wolf Laurel Gap onto Heintooga Road, then onto the parking area at [Black Camp Gap](#).

**7:00 PM** – Banquet & Entertainment at the Maggie Valley Club and Resort, 1819 Country Club Drive, Maggie Valley, NC, \$60 per person, and children under 12 are \$20 each.

**Tuesday, July 11**

**9:00 AM** – Summer Assembly reconvenes. Special guest: Joseph S. Crociata, PGM of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia, ME Past Great Chief of the Grand Council of Knight Masons USA.

**12:00 PM** – Summer Assembly adjourns.

**Important Reminders:**

**June 3:** Raleigh #4 conferral of the Order of the Temple, JJ Crowder Lodge, Raleigh, 8:00am.

**June 14:** Hickory York Rite hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> District’s meeting, 7:30pm, dinner at 6:30pm

**June 20:** Asheville York Rite hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> District’s meeting, 7:00pm, Cornerstone Restaurant

**June 20:** Deadline for registration for the 2023 Summer Assembly