



## 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

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

I'm sad to say that my term as your Grand Commander is nearly at an end. It has certainly been a great and informative year for me, meeting new friends, seeing old friends, and traveling over this great state of ours. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my co-pilot, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has been with me since my Masonic journey began on May 7, 2007. He alone is responsible for my being here today as your Commanding Officer. Yes, there were others who helped me along my journey but, it was He who introduced me to them.

Thank you, Jesus.

On February 11, I had the honor of attending the kickoff dinner at the MHCO celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hosted by the Scottish Rite Masons of N.C. If you were not in attendance, then you really missed out on a great event. I'm very proud to say that this event was "SOLD OUT!" The cafeteria at the Home was magically transformed from a dining room for the kids, into a 5-Star Hotel Ballroom.



*Cake served to commemorate 150 years of MHCO*

Both the silent and live auctions were a success, raising over \$11,000 for the children's home. A big thank you to Sir Knight Johnny Surles for his great job of conducting the live auction.



*SK Johnny Surles conducts the charity auction while SK & PGM Speed Hallman assists.*

Our guest speaker for the evening was none other than Admiral Bill Sizemore, one of the co-founders of the "Top Gun" school of the US Navy.

As my term comes to an end, I wish to thank Larry Aydlett for his great work as our editor for the NC newsletter, and more especially for reminding me to submit my monthly report. Larry has done an excellent job of keeping me on track this year. Also, a heartfelt thank you to all my Grand Line Officers: you guys have been a real pleasure to work with this past year. Good luck and God speed in your endeavors as Grand Line Officers. I have no doubt that each of you, in turn, will make a great leader as Grand Commander of N.C.

PLEASE do not forget our Easter Sunrise service in Alexandria, VA, at the George Washington Memorial on April 9, 2023. Also, our annual wreath laying ceremony will be on that same weekend.

Finally, Sir Knights, I'll leave you with these words from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

*"Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."*

## **2 Corinthians 13:11**

Fraternally in Christ,

Sparkie Travis

Grand Commander

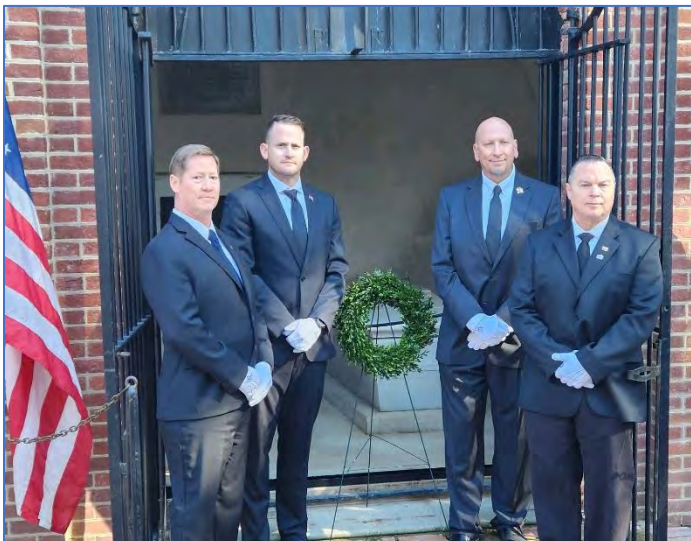
**Nazareth #41 Visits Washington, DC for GWMM Centennial Celebration**

**Southern Pines** - Early Sunday morning, February 19th, several members of Nazareth #41 and guests boarded a train for Alexandria, VA, arriving safely later that day. Monday morning, the group toured the Scottish Rite House of The Temple, home of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction. After the tour they returned to the hotel to get ready for the parade through historic Alexandria, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Following the parade, they watched the re-enactment of the Laying of the Cornerstone.



Members of the Grand Lodge of NC and Nazareth Commandery #41 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial

Tuesday morning, the group boarded a bus for a trip to Mount Vernon, where they were given a small group tour of the Home and Grounds. They were then given the Honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of George Washington, followed by Lunch on the grounds.



Sir Knights of Nazareth #41 laying a wreath at George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, VA.

Later Tuesday afternoon the group boarded a train for Southern Pines and after several delays due to malfunctioning equipment, they arrived home at 12:15 am Wednesday morning.

*This article was contributed by SK George Kress, Secretary/Recorder of Nazareth #41*

**Greensboro York Rite Raises Money for York Rite Charities**

**Greensboro** – The Greensboro York Rite Bodies marked yet another milestone on the road to the return of normal life post-COVID with the return of their annual Ham Supper Fundraiser on Saturday, February 18 at the Greensboro Masonic Center. The team of cooks were ably assisted by the young ladies of Greensboro Assembly #23 of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, who helped greet and serve the guests.



PEC Jeff Bullington and his wife (L) made the baked apples and biscuits while SK Jody Ferree (R) cooked the ham and made red-eye gravy.

In a nod to the ongoing concerns regarding COVID, the bodies tried something new this year: pickups and deliveries of pre-ordered meals. The residents at Whitestone took advantage of this new service as well as our in-house dining hospitality, as did several members of the public, including our law enforcement friends and brothers.



Guests enjoyed the ham supper and raised funds for our Charities.

SK and High Priest Jody Ferree, who organized and led this year's fundraiser said, "we considered this year's fundraiser to be a trial run of how we can adapt

to the ‘new normal’ and continue to raise money for our charities, as well as have a great time as a group doing so. I’m happy to see that this event is returning to Greensboro, and I’m looking forward to even better participation next year!”



Members of Eagle Lodge #19 in Hillsborough drove in to enjoy dinner and contribute to the cause.

Secretary/Recorder Hugh McLaurin reports that as of February 25, the bodies have raised approximately \$700 with more outstanding donations arriving daily. The proceeds are going to our 4 major York Rite Charities: Royal Arch Research Assistance, Cryptic Masons Medical Research, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund.

**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 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 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 and district officers. Please be sure to note these eligibilities on your ballot registration form when you arrive to register. Any dais officer who is unable to attend, please see your local Secretary-Recorder for proxy information.

**Important Reminders:**

**March 1 & 4:** Greensboro York Rite Bodies hosting their Spring Degree Festival at the Greensboro Masonic Temple. First three degrees will be conferred on 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.

**March 31 & April 1:** District 8 Degree Festival, starting at 6:00pm on March 31 at Hibriten Lodge in Lenoir, resuming at 7:30am on April 1 at the Hickory Masonic Temple.

**April 9:** Easter Sunrise service in Alexandria, VA at the George Washington Memorial.

**April 17:** Bethlehem #29 hosts the annual Easter Candlelight celebration, starting at 7:30pm at the Greenville Masonic Temple, 1104 Charles Street, Greenville.

