



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.

Editor: Larry Aydlett
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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope you have all had a wonderful safe Labor Day Holiday. I want to make you aware of some events coming up in the near future. The first is the Order of the Temple which will be conferred at Castle McCulloch, which will be held on September the 13th. The order will start at 5:30 p.m. If you have candidates that you wish to go through at the Castle, the fee is \$100 for the candidates. The Sir Knights who wish to attend and watch the order the fee is \$50. If you know of any brother who wishes to take the Order of the Temple at the Castle, then please have them contact Past Grand Commander Mike Daniels at 336-880-2996. This is a great opportunity for all Sir Knights to see the Order of the Temple in a different setting than the usual lodge room. I hope those who have never witnessed the Order of the Temple at Castle McCulloch will take advantage of this unique opportunity.

The next event will be the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina AF & AM, which will be held on Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30. I would encourage all Sir Knights to plan to attend the annual communication and support our Grand Lodge Officers. The Grand York Rite Bodies have rented a table at Grand Lodge and we need volunteers to work this table. If you plan to attend and would be willing to assist with the table, we will be sending out a signup sheet over the next week and we will also have the signup sheet available at Grand Lodge to fill in any slots not already being worked. This table will be used to promote the York Rite and our charities. We will have brochures about the York Rite for brothers who may have an interest in

becoming a member to take with them and learn about each of the York Rite Bodies. We will have the raffle tickets for the masonic quilt at the table. The raffle will be drawn at the Grand Conclave in March or 2024 and the proceeds will be divided between the York Rite charities.



We will also have these beautiful 2023 NC Grand York Rite-MHCO 150th Anniversary Coins for sale at the table. This coin was graciously designed by Sir Knight & MEGHP Chris Hall. The coins are \$25 each, and only 500 have been made. The proceeds will go to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Thank you, Sir Knight Chris Hall for all of your hard work and dedication to this Project.

The next event I want to bring to your attention is the upcoming Homecoming at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. This is not only the annual Masonic Homecoming Festival, but is a continuation of MHCO's 150th Anniversary celebration. I have asked Past Grand Commander Ludwik Wodka to register us for the parade. I would encourage all Sir Knights to attend and if you have a Class A uniform to come and participate in the parade. If you wish to march in the parade with us then please bring your Class A uniform to this event. The parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday the 14th. The dates for this event will be Friday, October 13, through Sunday, October 15. On Friday the 13th, they will have music, the beginning for the BBQ and other events. On Saturday the 14th, they will have cottage tours, the judging of the BBQ contest, the parade, and various other events. On Sunday, October the 15th,

please join us for the Worship Service and a lunch at the picnic shelter. A complete list of events can be found on the MHC-Oxford website. I hope you will all attend and participate in this wonderful event.

The fourth event is the Christmas Observance to be held at the York Rite Chapel at MHCO on December 10th at 6PM. Please plan to attend and assist with this Christmas Observance and assist with the ceremony of extinguishing the candles. The uniform for this will be the Class A uniform.

Also, if you know of any other upcoming events at your commanderies, then please let me know and I will do my best to attend.

Fraternally in Christ,

Brandon Penley

Grand Commander

Sir Knight Gilbert Curtis Celebrates 50 Years of York Rite Service

North Wilkesboro – On August 21, 2023 Wilkes York Rite Bodies presented Companion and Sir Knight Gilbert Curtis with his 50-year award for Service in the York Rite.



Wilkes #40 EC & District 8 Commander Pat Day presents SK Gilbert Curtis with his 50-year service award, assisted by RE Mark Alexander and MIGM Bill Poteat

The presentation took place in the dining room of North Wilkesboro Lodge #407 and was attended by many of Gilbert's closest family and friends. The

award was presented by the Eminent Commander of Wilkes Commandery #40 and District 8 Commander Pat Day, along with North Wilkesboro Chapter No.78 High Priest David Barlow, Wilkes York Rite Recorder Mark Alexander and the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in NC Bill Poteat.



Sir Knight Gilbert "Gib" Curtis, US Air Force, Retired

Gilbert "Gib" Curtis was born on July 10, 1931, in North Wilkesboro, NC. He first entered the US Army at Ft. Jackson, SC and served his first tour of duty in 1949 at Camp Drake, Tokyo, Japan, and with the First Calvary and 24th Infantry Division in Beppu, Japan. He joined the Air Force in January, 1953, completing basic training Lackland AFB, in Texas and munitions specialist training at Lowry AFB at Denver, Colorado.

His first assignment was at Hunter AFB, as a munitions specialist loading special weapons on B-29s/B-50s. He also worked on B-47s and was selected for a 5-member loading crew at Kirkland AFB, Albuquerque, NM to load experimental weapon on a B-36. As Crew Chief for the 30th ADS Munitions Loading Team, his team took first place honors in the Oct 10-16 worldwide munitions loading competition at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska in 1958 with a spot promotion to Technical Sergeant.

In 1959, at Barksdale AFB, LA, he helped form the 53rd MMS to be assigned at Seymour Johnson AFB in

North Carolina. While at Seymour Johnson (1959-1961) his team attended the 1960 Bomb Comp at Bergstrom AFB in Texas where they took first place on B-52's. In 1963, as Weapons Maintenance Supervisor for the 73rd MMS of the 4158th Strategic Wing at Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska, his team won Best Munitions Maintenance Squadron in the 15th AF & SAC.

He was assigned in 1967 to U Tapao, Thailand to the 4258th Strat Wing, 4258th MMS as shift supervisor and later as branch chief, where he supervised the loading of conventional bombs on B-52's. After completing his tour in Southeast Asia, Sgt Curtis was assigned to 65th MMS in Blytheville, Arkansas as Maintenance Superintendent for a brief time before re-assignment to SAC Headquarters at Offutt for his final tour of duty with MSET. In 1971, SMSGT Curtis received a line number for promotion to CMSGT but chose to retire in July 1971. Among his many awards for service to his country are:

- ★ Bronze Star for service in U Tapao 1968
- ★ Meritorious Service, SAC MSET 1971
- ★ Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters 1958, 1961, 1967
- ★ National Defense Service Medal with Gold Star

Gilbert was made a Royal Arch Mason on October 6, 1973, Greeted a Select Master and Knighted on October 13, 1973 (which is the 666th anniversary of the Papal Bull decree for the Templar heresy charge!)

Married for 46 years to Blanche Anderson Curtis, they have one daughter, Patricia Curtis Brooks. SGT Curtis works part-time for his daughter and son-in-law in their real estate business in Wilkes County, NC. His main interest since retirement has been re-building antique cars into street rods.

This article was contributed by SK Mark Alexander & Patricia Curtis Brooks

Fayetteville York Rite Hosting the Super-Excellent Master Degree

Fayetteville – Companion/Sir Knight James Vance announces the conferral of the Super-Excellent Master degree on Saturday, October 21 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Fayetteville York Rite Temple, located at 2860 Village Drive, Fayetteville, NC.

SK Vance says, “The SEM degree impresses on us the necessity of a faithful fulfillment of our several vows, and the fearless discharge of our respective duties;

and teaches us, by its legends and its ceremonies, that the violation of our solemn vows, as in the instance of the last king of Judah, will not only cause us to forfeit the respect and friendship of our companions, but will also most surely destroy our peace of mind.”

Candidates will receive a lifetime SEM dues card, as well as a SEM certificate, jewel, and ritual book. Lunch will be provided, and a compiled history of the Super-Excellent Master degree will be available in book form for purchase.

All current York Rite members in good standing who have not experienced this degree are encouraged to attend. Attendees are requested to bring their current valid York Rite dues card for admission.

Inquiries or RSVP's may be directed to MI James Vance (james@signetofzerubabel.com) or SK Ken Wical (kenwical@aol.com). Please include the following information when registering:

- Your name as you want it on your certificate
- Your York Rite bodies name & number
- Your address and phone number
- Are you a visitor or candidate

Payment can be accepted at the door for registered attendees or checks mailed to:

**Fayetteville York Rite
P. O. Box 87876
Fayetteville, NC 28304**

Degree admission fee is \$50 per candidate. **Candidates and visitors must RSVP by Saturday, October 7.**

This article was contributed by SK James Vance

Important Reminders:

September 13: Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough, Jamestown, NC

September 29-30: Grand Lodge of NC Annual Communication, Winston-Salem, NC

October 7: Last day to register for the Super-Excellent Degree in Fayetteville.

October 13-15: Annual Homecoming Festival at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

December 10: York Rite Christmas Observance at the York Rite Chapel on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford