



## Grand Commander



Scottie W. Cox

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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,

My name is Scottie Cox, and I am your newly installed Grand Commander of Knights Templar. What an honor it is to be elected to serve the Grand Commandery, which has given me so much and enriched my Masonic and personal life. My passion for the craft continues grow, and I am very humbled by the opportunity you have given me to serve in this capacity.

I wanted to take a moment to let you know who I am. I was raised a Master Mason on June 15, 1999, in Stanly Lodge #348 in Albemarle. I served as Master in 2003 and 2007, and have been Treasurer since 2012. I joined the Valley of Charlotte Scottish Rite at the fall reunion in 1999 and was bestowed the KCCH on November 18, 2017.

In 2015, I joined Oasis Shriners at the Spring Ceremonial in Maggie Valley. In 2022, I was appointed to the Divan as Second Ceremonial Master and earlier this year I was installed as Oriental Guide. I had the honor of serving as Captain of The Oasis Patrol in 2022-2023, the oldest Unit in Oasis.

My York Rite journey began when I joined the Salisbury York Rite Bodies and was Knighted on October 30, 2000. I served as High Priest of Salisbury Chapter #20 in 2010, Illustrious Master of Adoniram Council #2 in 2013, and Commander of Salisbury Commandery #13 in 2012. I was bestowed the KYCH at York Rite Honors Day on May 3, 2014. I served as Governor of Western NC York Rite Sovereign College #78 in 2020, and was bestowed The Order of the Purple Cross in 2021. In addition to serving as Grand Commander, I am also serving as Preceptor of Mount of the Holy Cross Tabernacle #1, Order of The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! My first official action as your Grand Commander will be attending the 94th annual Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, which again will be held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on Sunday, March 31, 2024. I am honored to representing North Carolina, along with any Sir Knight who wishes to attend, as we gather as Christians to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

I am truly looking forward to serving you this year as Grand Commander. We all need to work together and keep our passion for the Rite strong to ensure that the North Carolina Grand Commandery continues to move forward.

Happy Easter,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

## The Tomb: An Easter Story

*In all the Biblical accounts, the writers record that the first thing the visitors to the tomb saw was that the huge stone covering the entrance had been rolled away.*

*But suppose we examine what the tomb would say if it could tell its own story. So let us look at The Resurrection according to the Tomb...*

I am a tomb carved into the rock of this hill. I am without fault, have no cracks, and when the stone covers my opening, nothing can enter or leave. I am new and no one has ever been laid to rest in me. I have been specially made for my owner, Joseph of Arimathea.

Passover was yesterday and the beginning of the festival of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. It is a Friday and late in the day, and the Shabbat (Sabbath) is about to begin. This day is also known as the day of preparation, the day that all work is comple-

ted prior to the Sabbath. All work must be finished by sundown. It is the law of the land. There has been a crucifixion on the hill above me. They say the man Jesus was nailed to a cross. The Jewish high priest stated that the man Jesus said that he was the Messiah, the Son of God, and also the King of the Jews. The high priest said that He must die for His blasphemy. So, the man Jesus was crucified, along with two thieves.

It is nearly sundown and my owner, Joseph of Arimathea and a Pharisee named Nicodemus, have come from the crucifixion site bringing the body of the man called Jesus with them. The body was wrapped in such a manner, that if the man were still alive, he could not move. They have placed Him inside me. Because the followers of Jesus feared the high priest, the body was placed inside me because I am very secure. It took many strong men to roll the stone to close the opening. Once the stone has dropped into place, not even fifty men would be able to move the stone to reopen me. To open me the stone would need to be broken into many small pieces and then removed one piece at a time.

The sun has set, and it is now the Sabbath. Guards stand watch outside my stone door. The high priest is afraid that someone will remove the body inside me. The high priest does not realize that I am very secure and that it is not possible to open me without a small army. But the priests are still worried.

The morning of the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath, has arrived. The sun is just barely rising. Wait! What is happening? My stone: it is being rolled away! It is NOT possible; the stone is so heavy and has dropped a foot into a cut out place at my opening to prevent me from being opened. No one on earth can open me! But there is movement inside me. Oh dear, the stone has been removed and I am wide open. It is the man Jesus. He is alive and has rolled the stone away with just a motion of His hand. He walked out of me on His own. A short time later I see there are women standing outside of me and the guards who were watching my door are still frozen with fear, and there is a bright light, what appears to be an angel of the Lord. The angel said to the women, “if you are looking for the man called Jesus, He is not here. He has been raised from the dead. Come see the place where He was laid. Now, go quickly and tell his disciples that He is raised from the dead and that he has gone ahead of you to Galilee.”

Everyone has left. The women fled back to tell the disciples what they have seen and heard. The guards have

run away back to the high priest. The next part of this story I was told by the trees. The women were met by none other than Jesus and they fell to their knees and worshiped Him. Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go, tell My brothers to go to Galilee where they will see Me.”

I am the tomb, and this is my story. The man named Jesus was dead and placed inside me and sealed into me where no earthly being could possibly get inside. Two mornings later, I was opened by the hand of Jesus Himself. When the Pharisees came back to me, they claimed that the missing body of Jesus was removed by the disciples. But we know better because the disciples could not and did not remove the stone sealing me closed. Only the hand of Jesus, the Son of God, could have done so with breaking the stone that sealed me closed. We know where the body of Jesus went. Jesus walked out because He is indeed the Son of the living GOD. Jesus has risen! He had risen indeed!

*By Rev. Dr. Bill Hart*

*Pastor of Hickory Mountain Chapel, Pittsboro, NC  
Captain General, Ivanhoe #8, Greensboro, NC*

## Grand York Rite Annual Meeting Recap

**Clemmons** – The 2024 Annual Meeting for the Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina was held March 17 - 19 in Clemmons. New Grand Officers were elected, awards presented, and the per capita increase for the Grand Commandery was passed. The new Grand Officers have scheduled their district meetings and appointed or re-appointed their respective District Officers.



*The Grand Commandery Officers for 2024-2025:*

*Front: (l-r) SKs Ray Casey, Mike Hoff, Scottie Cox, Edward Allen*

*Rear: (l-r) SKs Matt Peeler, Steve Nixon, Mike Pritchard, Marty Spears, Charles Talley, Sam Henline, and Mark Alexander*

Your 2024-2025 Grand Commandery Officers are:

- Grand Commander:** R:E: Scottie W. Cox
- Deputy Grand Commander:** V:E: Michael M. Hoff
- Grand Generalissimo:** E: Raymond B. Casey, Jr.
- Grand Captain General:** E: R. Edward Allen
- Grand Senior Warden:** E: P. Mark Alexander
- Grand Junior Warden:** E: G. Samuel Henline
- Grand Treasurer:** E: John W. Davis, III
- Grand Recorder:** E: D. Allen Surratt
- Grand Standard Bearer:** E: Charles W. Talley, II
- Grand Sword Bearer:** E: Martin J. Spears
- Grand Warder:** E: Michael J. Pritchard
- Grand Prelate:** E: Matthew A. Peeler
- Grand Sentinel:** E: J. Stephen Nixon
- Chief Instructor-Inspector:** E. P. Mark Alexander

Your 2024-2025 Grand Commandery District Officers are:

Dist. No.	District Commander	District Instructor
1	R. Doug Bennett II	Russell L. Scull
2	Michael M. Hoff	Alan T. Mabry
3	R. Edward Allen	Ludwik J. Wodka
4	Michael Shifflet	Brett A. Huffman
5	J. Matthew Kohut	Ken W. Wical
6	Alexander L. Aydlett	G. Samuel Henline
7	Chuck Reed	L. Scott Brand
8	Patrick A. Day	P. Mark Alexander
9	C. Rick Patton	Matthew A. Peeler

The district meetings, are scheduled as follows:

Dist. No.	Date	District Meeting Location & Times
3	08-APR	2501 Nash St. NW, <a href="#">Wilson</a> , NC 27896 6:30 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting
7	15-APR	520 E Franklin St., <a href="#">Monroe</a> , NC 28112 6:30 PM dinner at <a href="#">Hilltop</a> 1602 E Roosevelt Blvd, 7:30 PM meeting
4	13-MAY	105 W. College St., <a href="#">Oxford</a> , NC 27565 6:00 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting
1	20-MAY	1104 Charles St., <a href="#">Greenville</a> , NC 27858 No dinner, 7:30 PM meeting
8	04-JUN	602 Wilkesboro Blvd. NE, <a href="#">Lenoir</a> , NC 28645 6:30 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting
5	12-JUN	230 NW Broad St., <a href="#">Southern Pines</a> , NC 28387 No dinner, 7:00 PM meeting
6	17-JUN	4537 Country Club Rd., <a href="#">Winston-Salem</a> , NC 27104 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting
2	12-AUG	1415 S 17th St., <a href="#">Wilmington</a> , NC 28401 6:00 PM King Solomon's Feast, 7:00 PM meeting
9	16-AUG	435 E Marshall St., <a href="#">Waynesville</a> , NC 28786 (Rescheduled after GYR, times TBD)

The Grand Encampment presented several awards to distinguished Sir Knights at the banquet. The Knight Commander of the Temple was awarded to three Sir Knights: Michael Joseph Pritchard, Christopher Lee Hall, and William Lynn Dill.



Knights Commander of the Temple (l-r) Michael Pritchard, Christopher Hall, and William Dill

The Grand Encampment's Knight Templar Cross of Honor was presented to SK John David Cashion.



SK David Cashion was awarded the Knight Templar Cross of Honor by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA

Also at the banquet, the drawing for the York Rite Quilt was held, capping a long and successful cam-

paigned to raise funds for our York Rite charities. The drawing winner was Robbie Chason of Morning Star Lodge No. 85 in Nashville, NC.



The York Rite Quilt was delivered to the winner, Robbie Chason at his lodge, Morning Star No. 85 in Nashville

Lastly, it was announced that North Carolina has been realigned from the Mid-Atlantic region into the Southeastern Region. This change will be made official concurrent with the 69<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conclave this August taking place in Salt Lake City, UT.

For the past three years, REPGC James Steele has proudly served as the Mid-Atlantic Department Commander. On behalf of a grateful Grand Commandery of North Carolina, we salute SK Steele and thank him for his continued, exemplary service to Templary.

### Charlotte Temple Vandalized

**Charlotte** – On the morning of Saturday, March 16, it was discovered that someone had broken the glass of the front door to the Charlotte Masonic Temple with a brick taken from the flower garden at the front entrance. Inside, it was discovered that the Temple interior had been ransacked with numerous items in the Temple damaged, destroyed, or missing. Large glass displays cases with ancient masonic items on display including several Masonic Gnomes were broken, and these items taken out and smashed. Wooden chairs on the second level were thrown down on tables in the lobby and portraits of Past Grand Officers slashed and smashed. Investigators also discovered many working swords and Knight Templar Swords missing and that file drawers and books in the Masonic Library turned over or thrown on the floor. Lamps and tables in the

library were broken or turned over. There were many valuable items left behind in the Temple such as a 50-inch TV, computer, printer, and kitchen and dining items of value which were not taken or damaged. Based on the fact that electronics and other secular items of value were not taken, it appeared that there was a concerted effort to damage or destroy items specifically related to Masonry.

SK Ron Whitener, Secretary for the Charlotte York Rite Bodies said, “earlier in the week, we had found a large envelope that had been placed in our outside mailbox (not mailed) containing 154 typewritten pages with very detailed descriptions of quotes from several Masonic Orders comparing these quotes to biblical quotations. We’re not sure if the envelope and expressions in the manifesto were related to this break-in, but as a Fraternity we must remain on guard and diligent to protect our property and keep our Order secure.”

Local and Federal law enforcement teams are currently investigating the incident, potentially as a hate crime. Commanderies are reminded to be aware of the security of their buildings and surroundings, and are encouraged to report any unusual activities to the proper authorities as soon as they occur.

### Important Reminders:

- April 5-6:** Joint York Rite Degree Festival with Charlotte and Monroe bodies. Starts at 5:00PM on Friday in Charlotte, 8:00AM on Saturday in Monroe. Light refreshments both days and lunch served on Saturday.
- April 8:** District 3 meeting at Mount Lebanon lodge in Wilson, starting at 7:30PM, dinner at 6:30PM.
- April 12-13:** District 8 Degree festival, April 12 at Hibriten lodge starting at 5:00PM for Chapter degrees, and April 13th starting at 7:30AM at North Wilkesboro 407 for Council degrees and Commandery Orders.
- April 15:** District 7 meeting at the Monroe Masonic Temple in Monroe, starting at 7:30PM. Dinner separately at 6:30PM at the Hilltop Fish Fare restaurant.
- May 4:** York Rite Honors Day at the Monroe Masonic Temple in Monroe, starting at 8:00AM. Lunch at the Temple, cost is \$20 per person. Petitions must arrive no later than April 26 to the Grand Secretary, and fees must accompany petitions.