



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, safe, and healthy holiday season. I, along with several other Grand Commandery Officers, had the privilege of attending the installation of the officers of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina on December 3, in Duck, NC. I want to congratulate Sir Knight Don Kehler on being installed as Grand Master for 2024. I also want to congratulate the Grand Sentinel of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina, Sir Knight John David Cashion, on being installed as the Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Congratulations to all of our Grand Lodge officers. Thank you for willingness to serve and what you do for freemasonry. I hope that all Sir Knights will do their best to support our Grand Lodge officers in 2024.

I want to thank all of the Commanderies that held Christmas Observances. The Christmas Observance is one of the few opportunities that we as Sir Knights have to open the doors of our commanderies to our family and friends. It is our chance as Sir Knights to show the people who support us and are most important to us what we stand for and believe in. I had the privilege of attending the Christmas Observance held by Salisbury Commandery #13. I also had the privilege along with several other Grand Commandery officers of attending and participating in the Christmas Observance held in the York Rite Chapel at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Both of these events were well attended by Sir Knights as well as guests. I want to thank all Sir Knights who participated in Christmas Observance this year. You each make a positive impact on your commanderies and the Grand Commandery of North Carolina. I hope you will all continue to

participate in these important events going forward. I encourage all Sir Knights who have not been to a Christmas Observance to attend next year. This is not only a way to show our friends and families what our values are, but also a way for us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.



REGC Brandon Penley and Officers of the Grand Commandery of NC in Oxford.

The year for our local commanderies ended on December 31. I hope that all of our recorders were able to have all of the information such as new members, demits, suspensions, and deaths updated in the Masonic Membership Solutions database by midnight on December 31. I encourage each recorder to start filling out the year-end reports and to submit them to the Grand Recorder as soon as possible. Please remember that these are due to the Grand Recorder along with the per capita payment by January 31. I hope that each Commandery will have these submitted before the deadline.

In closing, I want to say thank you to each and every Sir Knight in North Carolina. Your continued support allows us to continue the important work that each Commandery and the Grand Commandery does each year. It allows us to support the eye foundation and to send ministers to the holy land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. I know with the support of our Sir Knights that 2024 will be a great year for Freemasonry and the Grand Commandery of North Carolina. Thank you again for all you do.

Fraternally in Christ,

Brandon Penley

Grand Commander

Salisbury Commandery #13 Hosts Grand Commander for Christmas Observance

Salisbury – Salisbury Commandery #13 held their annual Christmas Observance on December 4 at the Salisbury Masonic Temple. A delicious meal was provided by Eminent Commander Jonathan Black.



SK Sam Henline was awarded Mason of the Year by the Salisbury York Rite Bodies.

SK Sam Henline was presented Salisbury York Rite Mason of the Year. Attending notables were REGC Brandon Penley, Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of North Carolina, and Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander SK Scottie Cox.

REGC Penley was presented a commemorative, custom etched crystal decanter. This was presented by the NC Grand Commandery Officers and Salisbury Commandery for the exceptional leadership REGC Penley has shown during his term of office.

The guest speaker was Honorable Beth Dixon, Chief District Court Judge in Rowan County, who spoke about the meaning of Christmas and children. She also gave the Christmas story from the book of Luke. EC Jonathan Black then led the assembly in songs, and the Grand Encampment message and the Grand Master's response were read.

REGC Penley gave his Christmas message, then EC Jonathan Black led the assembled Sir Knights in the traditional toasts. A great time was had by all, and this year's attendance was triple last year's numbers. Salisbury is moving forward by leaps and bounds, and 2024 is looking very promising.

This article was contributed by SK Sam Henline

Ivanhoe Commandery #8 Starts New Christmas Observance Tradition

Greensboro – A new tradition was added to this year's Christmas Observance by Ivanhoe Commandery #8 in Greensboro. Each year, the traditional toasts are recited for all to hear, and one of those toasts reads,

"To the Knights of today, the men and women of our Armed Forces, who stand guard around the world in defense of our Liberty and the American Way of Life. May our Savior be their Shield, and the Light of Truth be their sword."

To further commemorate the sacrifice of our fallen veterans in defense of our American Republic, an extra table was set up in the center of the dining hall, with an American flag, Holy Bible, and a single lit candle.



In commemoration of our fallen veterans.

This candle was lit from the table upstairs in the lodge from the 11th candle in the traditional toasts, which is the position from which the above toast is traditionally read. This candle was then carried by SK Victor Gallimore from the lodge, at the head of the procession of Sir Knights and guests to the dining hall and placed on the empty table to commemorate and honor the sacrifice that each generation must be willing to give to preserve Liberty for all.

Important Reminders:

January 10: Nazareth #41 Installation of Officers, starting at 7:00 PM at the Southern Pines Lodge #484, 230 NW Broad St. Southern Pines.

February 10: Ham Supper Fundraiser for the York Rite Charities at the Greensboro Masonic Temple, 426 W. Market St. Greensboro, from 2-7:30PM.