



## 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. On Tuesday, February 6, I along with several other Sir Knights traveled to Crystal City, VA, for the 2024 Masonic Week which was held from February 7 to February 11. This was a great week, and we had a large attendance of brothers from North Carolina. If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to do so in the future. I believe that every Sir Knight can find something to enjoy by attending this event.

On Wednesday, February 7, I along with Sir Knights Carl Richard Patton, Joshua Aaron Bristol, and William Thomas Bridges Jr. went to the Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This was a very humbling experience, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in this wreath laying. I want to thank each of the Sir Knights who went with me for their willingness to participate in laying this wreath. I also want to thank Sir Knight Sam Henline's mother Betty for designing the wreath for the Grand Commandery.

On Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9, I will be attending the Grand Conclave of South Carolina. Please do not forget about our Grand Conclave coming up on March 17, 18, and 19 in Clemmons, NC. Please come out and support your grand line officers.

I find it hard to believe that this is the last article that I will be writing as your Grand Commander. I want to thank each of you for the trust you showed in me when you elected me to the Grand Commandery line and each year after until you elected me as your Grand Commander. I have had a great time serving you this year. Thank you all for the kind words and support you have

given along the way. Serving as your Grand Commander has been the opportunity of a lifetime and the highlight of my masonic journey. Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart.

Fraternally in Christ,

Brandon Penley

Grand Commander

## Grand York Rite Annual Meeting Scheduled for March 17-19 in Clemmons, NC

**Denton** – The 2024 Annual Meeting for the Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina has been scheduled for March 17 - 19 to be held at the [Village Inn Hotel and Event Center](#), located at [6205 Ramada Drive](#) in Clemmons, NC.

The Meeting Schedule is as follows:

### Sunday, March 17:

5:00PM – Divine Service, Lexington / Monroe Room (All are encouraged to attend)

8:00 – 9:30PM – Reception & Ice Cream Social, Salem/North Room (Open to all in attendance)

### Monday, March 18:

8:30AM – Opening of Joint Session and Reception of Distinguished Guests, Lexington/Monroe Room

10:00AM – Grand Chapter of RAM

12:00PM – Men's Luncheon (ticket req'd) North Room, Ladies Luncheon (ticket req'd) Salem Room

1:00PM – Grand Chapter Reconvenes (if necessary)

1:30PM – Grand Council R&SM

3:30PM – Grand Commandery KT

7:00PM – Annual Banquet (ticket req'd) Lexington / Monroe Room

9:00PM – Saratoga Degree (location TBD)

- 1:00PM – Grand Chapter Reconvenes (if necessary)
- 1:30PM – Grand Council R&SM
- 3:30PM – Grand Commandery KT
- 7:00PM – Annual Banquet (ticket req'd) Lexington / Monroe Room
- 9:00PM – Saratoga Degree (location TBD)

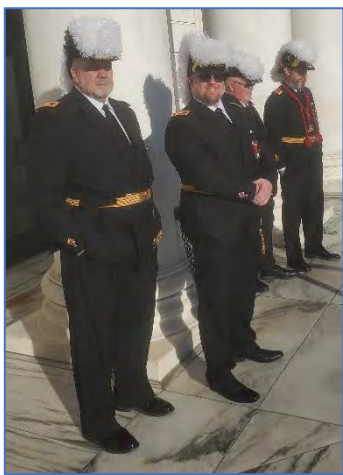
**Tuesday, March 19:**

- 8:30AM – Grand Commandery Reconvenes (if necessary), Lexington / Monroe
- 10:00AM – Joint Installation of Officers  
(Meeting rooms are subject to change)

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.

**Grand Commander Leads Delegation to Arlington National Cemetery to Lay Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**



Arlington, VA – REGC Brandon Penley led a delegation representing the Grand Commandery of North Carolina to the Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Accompanying the Grand Commander for the ceremony were Brandon Penley, Josh Bristol, Tom Bridges and Rick Patton.



SK Mark Alexander was the photographer for the occasion. SK Sam Henline’s mother made the wreath that was laid at the tomb.



*A beautiful day at Arlington Cemetery to reflect on the sacrifices made to protect our Republic and the blessings of Liberty we enjoy.*



*The Tomb is guarded day and night in all weather by faithful guards.*

While the delegation was in the area, they had the opportunity to meet Sovereign Grand Commander James Cole of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC.



*(L-R) Tom Bridges, Josh Bristol, Mark Alexander, James Cole, Tom Patton, Brandon Penley at the Scottish Rite’s House of the Temple in Washington, DC.*

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## **New Instructor Certification Forms** **Available from the Grand Commandery**

**North Wilkesboro** – SK Mark Alexander, Grand Instructor-Inspector and Junior Grand Warden for the Grand Commandery, has published updated electronic forms for candidates to become Certified Instructors. There are three separate forms, one for each of the Orders. They can be completed in any order, and you have one year to complete all three from the time you start your first certification.

The forms can be downloaded from the North Carolina Grand Commandery website, using the following links:

[Order of the Red Cross](#)

[Order of Malta](#)

[Order of the Temple](#)

Completed forms can be emailed directly to the Grand Instructor-Inspector. A certificate and jewel will be presented to each successful candidate who completes all three Orders. The jewel can be worn on the uniform and qualifies as a Meritorious jewel in order of precedence, per uniform regulations.

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### **Important Reminders:**

**March 17-19:** The 2024 Annual Meeting for the Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina at the [Village Inn Hotel and Event Center](#), located at [6205 Ramada Drive](#) in Clemmons, NC.

**March 23:** *Rescheduled* Ham Supper Fundraiser for the York Rite Charities at the Greensboro Masonic Temple, 426 W. Market St. Greensboro, from 4:30-7:00PM, \$8 per plate, eat-in/takeout.

**March 31:** The 94th Annual Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, will again be held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA. Parade steps off at 7:40AM, service begins inside the memorial at 8:00AM.

**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.