

SK Paul W. Friend

R.E. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER SOUTHEASTERN DEPARTMENT, AL, FL, GA, MS, TN, SC, AND NC, SK Paul W. Friend was born on October 14, 1963, in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. When he was nine years old, he moved to Martin County, Florida with his mother and brother. He grew up in Stuart, Florida and in 1982 he graduated from Martin County High School. After High School he was a mechanic in various fields, from auto mechanic to precious sheet metal mechanic for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, in 1995 SK Friend changed direction and became an insurance agent for the next 27 years. Then God called on him Sept 2021 to become the Pastor of Salerno Southern Methodist Church in Stuart, FL. Which is the church he is still currently serving as the Pastor. He is married to Judy and among them they have three sons, three daughters, and eleven grandchildren.

SK Friend begins his Masonic journey in Acacia Lodge No. 163 F&AM in Stuart, Florida. He was raised on June 20th, 1985, and served his lodge as Worshipful Master in the years 1990, 2002, and 2003. He also has served his lodge as Treasurer for five years and has served the lodge as Secretary from 2005-2023 for a total of nineteen years. SK Friend was District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Florida in 1998, and he has served on many Grand Lodge committees, namely the Grand Master's coordinating committee as state chairman for ten years.

SK Friend joined the Valley of Lake Worth, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite on May 17, 1986, and served on many committees and degrees. He was Director of Work from 2005-2011. He received his 33rd degree on November 14, 2009, in Tampa, Florida.

SK Friend was Exalted in Joppa Chapter No. 28 RAM on April 19, 1986. He was Excellent High Priest in 1988-1989, and 2004. He was District Deputy Grand High Priest in 1989. He is a holder of the General Grand Chapter Bronze Distinguish Services Award in 2006. SK Friend was Greeted in Tyrian Council No. 36 R&SM on April 19th, 1986, and served as Illustrious Master in 1989. He served as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Florida for 1996-1997. SK Friend was Knighted in St. Lucie Commandery No. 17 KT, on April 19, 1986. He was Eminent Commander in 1991-1993, and 1998 and was District Deputy Grand Commander in 1993. He received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor in 2004. He served the Grand Commandery of Florida as Grand Commander in 2014-2015. He has served on the Grand Encampment Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee since 2018. He was appointed the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign Chairman for the years 2022-2024. Other York Rite membership includes Florida Priory No. 60, Past Prior (2014), John Bridges Phelps York Rite College No. 31, Past Governor (1997), holder of the Order of the Purple Cross, (1999), Deputy Grand Governor for Florida 2023-present, Labarum Conclave Red Cross of Constantine, Puissant Sovereign (2017), Space Coast Council No. 32, Knight Masons, Grand Master's Council No. A, Allied Masonic Degrees, St. Thomas of Acon Crusader Chapel No. 65, Past Worthy Master (2015), King of Kings No. XXV Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest, (Preceptor 2024), Order of Holy Wisdom,

Other Masonic membership includes Amara Shrine Temple, Ziba Grotto, Unity Chapter No. OES, (Worthy Patron eight times) Royal Order of Scotland. Jupiter-Tequesta Chapter Order of DeMolay, Chapter Advisor since 2007, Invested with the Legion of Honor 2014.

SK Friend was appointed and installed as the Department Commander for the Southeastern Department at the 69th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America on August 21, 2024.