



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.

Editor: Larry Aydlett

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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and I extend wishes for a very Happy New Year. 2024 was a wonderful year for NC York Rite Masonry and I am rest assured that 2025 will continue that trend.

December was a special time for me as I was able to celebrate the birth of Our Savior on three very special occasions. On December 2, I attended the annual Christmas Observance of my home Commandery, Salisbury #13, and had the honor of presenting the Christmas Toast to the Grand Master and his response as well as my Christmas Message.

There is nothing like celebrating faith with fellow Christian Knights. On December 15, I had the honor and privilege of participating in the Christmas Observance at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

All the Sir Knights present processed in to the hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers." I then led an abbreviated Christmas Observance including a reading of the Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 1, verses 18-25. Then, Pastor Beckie Bishop read from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 2-20. The York Rite Choir then sang several beautiful Christmas hymns under the direction of Pastor Bishop.

A memorial service was then held for the remembrance of all our fallen Masonic Brothers and Sister of this past year. Pastor Bishop then led a moving Candlelight Service, then after the benediction, everyone gathered at the Administrator's home for some wonderful desserts.

I want to personally thank all the Grand Line Officers who attended, as well as the Sir Knights from the Oxford and Durham Commanderies. Also, a special thank you to our MHCO Administrator Kevin Otis for his tireless efforts in providing and

promoting a safe, nurturing home for children and young adults in need with opportunities to maximize their potential.

The next night, December 16, your Grand Officers held the last District meeting hosted by Bethlehem Commandery #29 in Greenville, which was also their Christmas Observance. After remarks from Grand High Priest Hugh McLaurin, Deputy Grand Master Ted Inman, Jr. and myself, all enjoyed a moving Christmas Observance led by the Sir Knights of Greenville. It is very evident that North Carolina York Rite Masons have a Passion for the Craft.

Please continue to keep everyone impacted by disaster in your thoughts and prayers, especially our brothers and sisters in Western North Carolina, and say a personal prayer for all our fallen Brothers and Sisters who became Heaven's newest angels.

Fraternally yours,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

From the Editor

Mebane – Happy New Year, Sir Knights! Now that the year-end festivities are complete, we can look forward to the new year and the fun we have planned. It sounds like it's far away, but in reality, our Annual Grand York Rite is right on the horizon. We will be gathering together at the Village Inn in Clemmons from March 16 – 18. All dais officers and past presiding officers are strongly encouraged to attend, as each of you has a vote and therefore a voice in our proceedings. If any of your local commandery's dais officers are unable to attend, please be sure to designate a proxy who can attend in their place.

Also, if you are reading this newsletter, please take a moment to thank your local secretary! Our Secretary/Recorders have a thankless job keeping all the records of the bodies straight, communicating with all their local members, reporting up to the

Grand bodies and also with yours truly to share stories and pictures and also to let me know of future events. And remember, if you would like to share an article, please feel free to send along to me at the email listed in the masthead on the front page of each newsletter. We are always interested in hearing about the great works going on at the local bodies including special events, fundraisers, festivals, and public ceremonies. Please share your best ideas!

Charlotte Christmas Observance and Awards Presentation

Charlotte – The Charlotte York Rite bodies hosted their annual Christmas Observance on Sunday, December 8, at the Charlotte York Rite Temple. There were 30 guests present including Sir Knights and their families. Sir Knights in sharp uniforms offered the traditional York Rite Christmas toast, and the Commandery honored the ladies for their faithful support and keeping the home fires aglow while their loved ones served the York Rite. A delicious fellowship dinner was cooked and donated by the renowned presidential chef for Presidents Bush and Obama, Roberto Mondoza and his family. The Mondoza Family prepared and served the meal as a gift to the Charlotte York Rite.



Charlotte #2 Temple Room set up for the Christmas Observance

The Temple Room was decorated in full York Rite regalia, with a beautiful Christmas tree, and the tables were set for a presidential-style meal. Christmas greetings were shared by all and a Christmas story was told of letting go of a pearl necklace that led to receiving the gifts of a father’s love. Members were recognized for their achievements of 25- and 50-years’ service to the York Rite and eleven of the

newest members were acknowledged. The afternoon was completed by presenting the Ladies a “She Loves Me” Gnome by Thomas Clark to place in their home as a reminder of how important her support is to the Sir Knights. A special York Rite Merit award and Jewel was presented to Eminent Commander Michael Mangum for his countless acts of service, dedication, and commitment to the future and needs of the Charlotte York Rite. The members of the Monroe York Rite Bodies were recognized and thanked for their attendance and for always being a part of the Charlotte York Rite Family. This auspicious event was closed with a Christmas prayer and Blessing.

This article was contributed by SK Ron Whitener, Secretary for the Charlotte York Rite Bodies.

North Wilkesboro and Lenoir Christmas Observance and Awards Presentation

North Wilkesboro – Wilkes #40 and Lenoir #33 held their annual Christmas Observance on December 16 at North Wilkesboro Masonic Lodge. A meal was prepared by Sir Knight Robert Doyle. Sir Knight Patrick Day served as Eminent Commander and was assisted by Eminent Sir Knight Mark Alexander and Eminent Sir Knight Gary Miller. Sir Knight and Reverend Doctor William Hart delivered the Christmas message and served as Excellent Prelate. The Reverend Doctor Susan Pillsbury-Taylor provided the music.



Awards presented to distinguished brothers, Sir Knights and community leaders at the Wilkes/Lenoir Christmas Observance.

Brother and Sheriff Chris Shew, Sir Knight and EMT J.B. Absher, and Fire Chief Ernest Russell were presented the Grand Council First Responder awards. Sir Knights Wesley Church and Frank Byrd received Meritorious Service Awards.

This article was contributed by SK Pat Day, picture by SK Mark Alexander

Important Reminders:

January 30: Deadline for District Instructors to send their annual inspection forms to the Grand Instructor-Inspector. They can be delivered by email to cenobite13@hotmail.com or by mail to:

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