



Grand Commander



Michael M. Hoff

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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 am honored for the privilege of being the newly elected and installed Grand Commander of the Knights Templar on March 18, 2025, in Clemmons, North Carolina. I appreciate everyone's support and prayers on this journey and hope that my devotion to meeting exemplary standards does not fall short. I would like to thank all the Past Grand Commanders of North Carolina that have paved the way for the next Grand Commanders of this great state and thank our installing officers this year, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Fred Whitty, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Russell Bridges, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest Will Chriscoe, and Past Most Illustrious Grand Master D. Allen Surratt.

Congratulations to the Grand High Priest M.E. Rick Patton and the Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, M.I. Ted Inman for their elections as well. M.E. Rick Patton, M.I. Ted Inman, and I have been coordinating with each other to plan our coming year's visits and activities. If you would like to check out any of these upcoming dates and where they take place, please visit our calendar on the website.

This year started off strongly with a visit to the Grand Session of Tennessee on March 23 and 24. I was impressed with the strong commitment they have from other masonic bodies, and I thank them for the exemplary hospitality that they have shown me. I am looking forward to some other upcoming events, starting on April 18 – 20 where I and other Sir Knights will be traveling to Washington D.C. and Arlington, VA, for the Grand Encampment Easter Service. On April 19, at 12:15pm Sir Knights Eddie Gaskins, Jimmy Moore, Ray Casey, and myself will have the honor and privilege of a Public Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington

National Cemetery. We will conclude the weekend at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for the 95th Annual Easter Sunrise Service on April 20. Weather permitting the parade marching up Shooter's Hill of Sir Knights across the United States will step off at 7:40am with service starting at 8:00am.

As we come into May we look forward to visiting Georgia at their Grand Session on the 1st and 2nd in Macon as well as going to York Rite Honors Day on the 3rd at Black Mountain Lodge, located at 105 Rock Church Street, where they will be conferring the chair degrees for the Chapter, Council, and Commandery, as well as the KYCH. I would encourage all Sir Knights to attend as many of these events as you can. Please be on the lookout for other important dates and events in the future.

Finally, Sir Knights as Easter approaches and we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, may His love and grace fill your heart and home. I hope that you and your loved ones have a day filled with joy, peace, and renewed hope.

Fraternally yours,

Michael M. Hoff

Grand Commander

From the Grand Prelate

Calabash – Three days. Three degrees. Three years.

Many people think of Easter in terms of just three days. We remember the Good Friday kangaroo court trial, the flogging, the humiliation, and the story of the brutal death of Jesus on the cross. We reflect on that day of death that succumbed to the silence and secrecy of Holy Saturday's sepulcher. We celebrate the victory over human sin and death, won by the Son of God, whose inflexible faith and fidelity proved God's power and love that raised

Him on that resurrection morning.

Consider how the “three days” of Easter compares to the “three degrees” of Freemasonry. We enter this fraternity, perhaps thinking it is an impossible task. What we have to learn and do sometimes seems to take forever. Yet, from the time we begin our journey as an Entered Apprentice, pass through the doors again as a fellow of the craft, and are raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, it is our faith and fidelity united with God’s power and love at work in our lives that leads us to celebrate nobler deeds and higher achievements.

Now consider how brief three years is compared to a lifetime. For Jesus, it was only about ten percent of his earthly life. His ministry was said to be about three years, but by giving his life for ours, giving his life for our sins, and giving his life in love for all, those three days and three years changed the world forever. They brought hope, healing, and harmony to all who believe in Him and what He did.

As we reflect and draw comparative or symbolic conclusions about all kinds of things happening in our lives now, may it be our primary portion to remember the One who made the most of his time here on Earth. As we reflect on the life Jesus offered of Himself almost 2,000 years ago, let us celebrate what His ten percent and His all continue to provide us today, tomorrow, and forever.



2025 Grand Prelate MW A. Gene Cobb, Past Grand Master (2017)

Let us forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved, and live as God gives us life to offer Him glory, honor, and praise. So, in forgiveness, love, and life, may our faith be fervent and our fidelity inflexible as we remember that Christ has died.

Christ is Risen! Christ will come again! Happy Easter to all!

SK Steve Nixon Awarded Knight Commander of the Temple

North Wilkesboro – On March 20, RE Mark Alexander and SK Scott Brand presented SK Steve Nixon of Wilkes Commandery No. 40 with the Grand Encampment’s Knight Commander of the Temple Award and performed the official ceremony in a private ceremony.



(l-r) SK Scott Brand, SK Steve Dixon, RE Mark Alexander of Wilkes #40

Grand York Rite Officers Elected for 2025-2026

Clemmons – On March 17, 2025, the Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina elected officers for the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery for the 2025-2026 term. These officers were installed on March 18 by REPGC Fred Witty, MEPGHP Will Chriscoe, PMIGM Russel Bridges, and PMIGM Allen Surratt. The grand officers are:

NC Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

Grand High Priest: ME C. Rick Patton
 Grand King: RE John M. Walston, Jr.
 Grand Scribe: RE Joshua A. Bristol
 Grand Captain of the Host: RE Gregory Grindstaff
 Grand Principal Sojourner: RE Rory J. Byers
 Grand Royal Arch Captain: RE W. Alan Mann
 Grand Master Third Veil: RE Alan T. Mabry
 Grand Master Second Veil: RE Thomas VanEtten, Sr.
 Grand Master First Veil: RE John V. H. Barrile, Jr.
 Grand Chaplain: RE Joseph L. Pegram
 Grand Sentinel: RE Walter E. Hitch
 Grand Lecturer: RE William T. Highsmith, Jr.



2025-2026 Grand Officers of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina

NC Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters

Grand Master: MI Ted D. Inman, Jr.
 Deputy Grand Master: RI William L. Dill
 Grand Principal Conductor of the Work: RI Clifford T. Shrewsbury
 Grand Captain of the Guard: RI Alexander L. Aydlett
 Grand Conductor of the Council: RI Matthew A. Peeler
 Grand Steward: RI Brett A. Huffman
 Grand Chaplain: RI Jerry Hoglen
 Grand Sentinel: RI B. Eugene Canter
 Grand Lecturer: RI Jeffrey E. York



2025-2026 Grand Officers of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina

NC Grand Commandery

Grand Commander: RE Michael M. Hoff
 Deputy Grand Commander: VE Raymond B. Casey, Jr.
 Grand Generalissimo: E R. Edward Allen
 Grand Captain General: E P. Mark Alexander
 Grand Senior Warden: E G. Samuel Henline
 Grand Junior Warden: E Charles W. Talley, II
 Grand Standard Bearer: E Martin J. Spears
 Grand Sword Bearer: E Michael J. Pritchard
 Grand Warder: E Kenneth W. Wical
 Grand Prelate: E A. Gene Cobb
 Grand Sentinel: E Jimmy Moore
 Chief Instructor-Inspector: E P. Mark Alexander

Grand Treasurer: John W. Davis, III
 Grand Secretary: D. Allen Surratt



2025-2026 Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina

Grand York Rite District Meeting Calendar

Clemmons – The Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina has scheduled this year's District Meetings.

Note that some meetings have been scheduled for Saturday mornings to better accommodate travel across the state.

Sir Knights are encouraged to attend these meetings wherever possible. As meal information becomes available, RSVPs may be requested.

DISTRICT	HOST	DATE	TIME
District 9	Waynesville	Friday, May 16, 2025	7:30 PM
District 8	N. Wilkesboro	Saturday, May 17, 2025	9:00 AM
District 4	Durham	Thursday, June 5, 2025	7:30 PM
District 5	Fayetteville	Saturday, July 19, 2025	9:00 AM
District 7	Charlotte	Tuesday, August 5, 2025	7:30 PM
District 6	Greensboro	Wednesday, August 6, 2025	7:30 PM
District 2	New Bern	Saturday, September 6, 2025	9:00 AM
District 1	Washington	Tuesday, September 23, 2025	7:30 PM
District 3	Goldsboro	Thursday, October 2, 2025	7:30 PM

Important Reminders:

April 4 & 5: Charlotte and Monroe York Rite Bodies Spring Festival, at the Monroe Temple, Monroe, NC

April 7: Salisbury York Rite Order of the Temple and Public Knighting, starting at 7:00PM, Dinner at 6:00PM

April 18 – 20: 95th Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service, at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria, VA, parade steps off at 7:40AM on April 20

April 26: Deadline for receiving petitions and checks for York Rite Honors Day. Send to:
 GRAND YORK. RITE
 6328 Surratt Ctry. Rd.,
 Denton, NC 27239-9080

May 3: York Rite Honors Day, starting at 8:00AM, at Black Mountain Lodge, 105 Rock Church Street, Black Mountain, NC, Lunch \$15

May 24: Fayetteville Commandery Orders, starting at 8:00AM at the Fayetteville Masonic Temple, Fayetteville, NC

June 7: Raleigh York Rite Commandery Orders, starting at 8:00AM, at JJ Crowder Lodge, Raleigh, NC

2025 – 2026 GRAND OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Right Eminent Grand Commander
Michael M. Hoff



Very Eminent Deputy Grand
Commander Raymond B. Casey, Jr.



Eminent Grand Generalissimo
R. Edward Allen



Eminent Grand Captain General
P. Mark Alexander



Eminent Grand Senior Warden
G. Samuel Henline



Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Charles W. Talley, II



Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
Martin J. Spears



Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
Michael J. Pritchard



Eminent Grand Warden
Kenneth W. Wical



Eminent Grand Prelate
PGM A. Gene Cobb, KYGCH



Eminent Grand Sentinel
Jimmy Moore



Eminent Chief Instructor-Inspector
P. Mark Alexander