

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



S.K. Arthur W. Stauff, K.T.C.H., R.E. Grand Commander
Email: artstauff@gmail.com Telephone: (203) 518-1570

S.K. Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., R.E. Past Dept. Cdr., Editor
Email: tsirimokos@comcast.net Telephone: (603) 759-6071

September 2025

Come September, children return to school, grownups to work, and the brain to the head.
— Roger Rosenblatt

Sir Knights,

As this is written, the prospect of October baseball in Boston appears bright, particularly after the *Red Sox* took three of four from the Evil Empire in the Bronx.

The first weekend of August your editor attended the Annual Assembly of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America in Raleigh, North Carolina where he was pleased to see Sir Knight Earl W. Cole, Jr., K.C.T., K.T.C.H., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, receive the Order of the Purple Cross and be made an Associate Regent of the Sovereign College. Sir Knight Cole's Purple Cross ring was presented by no less than Sir Knight Lawrence E. Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, who was enlisted for the purpose, much to his delight. Two other Sir Knights from the Granite State were elected to receive the Order of the Purple Cross at the next General Assembly. Their identities will be revealed in due course.



Left: Companion Knight Earl W. Cole, Jr., O.P.C., with your editor. Right: Enjoying a celebratory libation with Brother William "Sandy" Karstens, IV, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Vermont and Regent of the Sovereign College.

All Companions and Sir Knights are reminded of the Northeastern York Rite Conference Friday and Saturday, September 5 and 6, next, in the Crowne Plaza Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany, New York. General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council meet Friday and the Grand Encampment meets Saturday. Our Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Paul C. Smith, is one of the organizers, so it is sure to be a quality event. The Conference flyer is at <https://www.ggcrami.org/regionalconferences>. You can also register online at <https://ggcramipay.org/northeast>.

Unlike in past years, there will be no Leadership Training offered at the Conference. The program has been substantially revamped. Further program information concerning the program can be found at <https://yorkriteleadership.org/home/about/>.

The New Hampshire Masonic Unity Picnic will take place Sunday, September 14, next, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Wellington State Park, Bristol, on the shore of beautiful Newfound Lake. This is a wonderful event open to all members of our Masonic organizations, our families, and friends. We can enjoy fresh air, great fellowship, and a delicious cookout for a nominal cost of only \$5:00 per person (children 11 years and under are free). The Grand Commandery has been requested to assist with food preparation, serving, and cleanup. Any Sir Knight who can lend a hand is requested to contact Sir Knight Peter J. Noddin, (207) 745-1103, Petef86a@yahoo.com, for further information and instructions. Thank you for your support. Registration and payment for the event are due no later than September 5, next.

Looking ahead, there are several important dates to keep in mind, including the following:

November 11, 2025 Veterans Day Parade in Manchester;

December 7, 2025 Grand Commandery Christmas Observance in Manchester;

February 21, 2026 Illustrious Order of the Red Cross in Portsmouth;

March 21, 2026 Order of Malta in Concord; and

June 23, 2026 Order of the Temple and Bicentennial Observance in Manchester.

Please mark your calendars accordingly. Additional details will be published closer to the events.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Sir Knight Andrew Jackson, K.T.C.H., Past Right Eminent Honorary Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire, July 23, last, in Hackensack, New Jersey. Sir Knight Jackson was a member of, and headed, each of the York Rite Bodies in Manchester. He was Past Excellent High Priest of Mount Horeb Chapter No. 11 and Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Adoniram Council No. 3. He was Knighted in 1982 in Trinity Commandery No. 1, serving as Eminent Commander in 1986 and 1987. He served the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire, at various times, as Eminent Grand Sword Bearer and Eminent Grand Sentinel. He was elected Very Eminent Preceptor of Palestine Tabernacle XLI, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, in 2005. As Grand Commander, your editor was pleased to award him the Knight Templar Cross of Honor in 2003.

Raised in Washington Lodge No. 61 in 1980, Sir Knight Jackson received the Major General John Sullivan Medal in Bronze from the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in 2004. He served Washington Lodge as Chaplain and was elected Honorary Past Master in 2006. He was a member of John Harris Council No. 458, Allied Maonic Degrees, Scenic Council No. 37, Knight Masons, Bektash Shrine and Ruth Chapter No. 16, Order of the Eastern Star. Sir Knight Jackson was an aficionado of grand opera and your editor and Lady Virginia attended

many productions of the Opera League of New Hampshire at the Palace Theater with him and his Lady, Marie, who predeceased him.



S.K. Andrew Jackson, K.T.C.H., 1927-2025

This month the Grand Commander's Officers Call will be held online Sunday, September 7, at 8:00 p.m. The monthly Commandery drill session will be Friday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m., in Concord.

Courteously,

Thomas X. Tsirimokos

Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., P.G.C., P.D.C.
Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars>