



## Grand Commander



**R: E: Ray Casey, Jr.**

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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

Companions and Sir Knights,

It is indeed my honor to have been elected as your Grand Commander at the 2026 Grand York Rite meeting in Clemmons, NC. What a humbling experience to be allowed to serve our Grand Commandery for the coming year. I have a tall order in following the footsteps of our most recent Past Grand Commander Michael Hoff, who served us with strength and dignity. Thank you “Grandson,” for a wonderful year.

I would like to congratulate M.E. John M. Walston, Jr. on his election as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter and M.I. William L. “Billy” Dill on his election as Grand Master of the Grand Council. I look forward to our serving together this year.

My challenge this year will be to our officers both elected and appointed in our local bodies, Grand bodies and our District Commanders and Instructors. Please make your plans now to attend at least one of the District and Area meetings to hear from your three Grand Presiding Officers as they present their programs for the year.

L. Scott Brand is our editor of the *NC Knightly News*. If you have any news items of interest, please send them to him.

Fraternally,

Ray Casey,  
Grand Commander of North Carolina

## District Meeting Calendar

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	Date/Time	Host	Address
5	April 2 8:00 PM	Fayetteville	2860 Village Dr.
6	April 11 9:00 AM	Salisbury	401 N. Fulton St.
9	April 17 7:30 PM	Waynesville	1409 Ousley Rd.
8	May 5 7:30 PM	Lenoir	602 Wilkesboro Blvd. SE
5	May 6 7:30 PM	Raleigh	9920 Falls of the Neuse Rd.
1	May 9 9:00 AM	Greenville	1104 Charles St.

## Other Important Events

Date	Event
May 1-2	Grand York Rite of Georgia
May 2	York Rite Honors Day (Goldsboro)
May 15-16	Grand York Rite of Mississippi
May 17-20	Grand York Rite of Florida
June 8	Grand Chapter, O.E.S. (Durham)
June 12-13	Southeast York Rite Conference (Atlanta)
June 15	Grand Rainbow Assembly (Greensboro)
July 12-14	Summer Assembly (Maggie Valley)
Aug. 29- Sept. 2	York Rite Triennial (Washington, D.C.)
Sept. 25-26	NC Grand Lodge Annual Meeting
Oct. 5-6	Grand York Rite of Ohio
Oct. 9-10	MHCO Homecoming

**NC Grand York Rite Officers  
Installed for 2026-2027**

The Grand York Rite bodies of North Carolina convened for the annual Grand Conclave session in Clemmons, NC, March 15-17. After welcoming visiting dignitaries and conducting routine business, the following officer slates were elected, appointed, and installed for the respective Grand bodies.

**NC Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons**

- Grand High Priest* – Most Excellent John M. Walston, Jr.
- Grand King* – Right Excellent Joshua A. Bristol
- Grand Scribe* – R:E: Gregory C. Grindstaff
- Grand Treasurer* – M:E: William C. Chriscoe
- Grand Recorder* – R:E: D. Allen Surratt
- Grand Captain of the Host* – R:E: Rory J. Byers
- Grand Principal Sojourner* - R.E. W. Allan Mann
- Grand Royal Arch Captain* – R:E: Alan T. Mabry
- Grand Master of the Third Veil* – R:E: Thomas VanEtten
- Grand Master of the Second Veil* – R:E: John V. H. Barrile
- Grand Master of the First Veil* – R:E: Brandon L. Penley
- Grand Chaplain* – R:E: J. Dustin Purser
- Grand Sentinel* – R:E: Adam K. McCain
- Grand Lecturer* – R:E: L. Scott Brand



MEGHP John Walston and his 2026 Grand Chapter Officers

**NC Grand Council, Royal & Select Masters**

- Grand Master* – Most Illustrious William L. Dill
- Deputy GM* – Right Illustrious Clifford T. Shrewsbury
- Grand PCW* – R:I: A. Larry Aydlett
- Grand Treasurer* – R:I: William C. Chriscoe
- Grand Recorder* – M:I: D. Allen Surratt
- Grand Captain of the Guard* – R:I: Matthew Peeler
- Grand Conductor of the Council* – R:I: Brett A. Huffman
- Grand Steward* – R:I: Edward A. Gaskins
- Grand Chaplain* – R:I: John E. Hill
- Grand Sentinel* – R:I: Arthur B. Romans
- Grand Lecturer* – M:I: Jeffrey E. York
- IGM Aide* – R:I: Dominick P. Giorgianni



MIGM Billy Dill and his 2026 Grand Council Officers

**NC Grand Commandery, Knights Templar**

- Grand Commander*– Right Eminent Raymond B. Casey
- Deputy GC* – Very Eminent R. Edward Allen
- Grand Generalissimo*– Eminent P. Mark Alexander
- Grand Treasurer* – E: William C. Chriscoe
- Grand Recorder* – E: D. Allen Surratt
- Grand Captain General* – E: G. Samuel Henline
- Grand Senior Warden* - E. Charles W. Talley
- Grand Junior Warden* – E: Martin J. Spears
- Grand Standard Bearer* – E: Michael J. Pritchard
- Grand Sword Bearer* – E: Kenneth W. Wical
- Grand Steward* – E: William H. Smith
- Grand Prelate* – E: Aaron Carver
- Grand Sentinel* – E: Michael Orlando
- Grand Instructor/Inspector* – E: P. Mark Alexander



REGC Ray Casey, Jr. and his 2026 Grand Commandery Officers



The NC Grand York Rite 2026 Grand Presiding Officers (L to R): REGC Ray Casey, Jr.; MIGM Billy Dill; MEGHP John Walston, Jr.

## The Resurrection and the Christian Hope

Sir Knights,

I pray this message finds you well as we enter into the time of Easter. Easter is not a sentiment, nor is it about a rabbit leaving eggs. The resurrection of Christ is the heart of the Christian faith (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). The resurrection was Jesus Christ taking the throne in His deity (Romans 1:4). God dwelt among men (John 1:14). According to Scripture, He emptied Himself to be with us (Philippians 2:6–8). The resurrection is not a simple claim that God raised a good man. Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1; Colossians 2:9). Upon His resurrection, we receive the promise of being made a new creation through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Paul states it best in 1 Corinthians 15:12–19:

*Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection from the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty, and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom in fact He did not raise up, if in fact the dead did not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen, and if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

For you read the words of Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16), my brothers, that even our order is meaningless and a waste of our time if Christ is not risen. But because He is risen, everything changes. Knowing that Christ has risen places every one of us in the position to respond to the gospel—not by ceremony, but by faith and repentance (Acts

20:21). Scripture tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12), not to earn it, but because it has been given by grace (Ephesians 2:8–9).

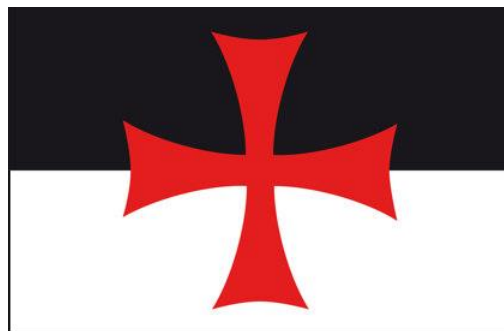
We must understand something about all of our “good works.” Isaiah 64:6 states, *But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...* No man is justified by his own works before God (Romans 3:20), for *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23).

Upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we know that His death on the cross was the sufficient blood sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:26–28). Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). Because of this, the call is clear: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9). And further, *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved* (Romans 10:9–10).

In conclusion, my brothers, make sure that your oath to Christ is not ceremonial (Matthew 15:8). His death was not ceremonial. His resurrection was not ceremonial. In this season, search your hearts (2 Corinthians 13:5) and ensure that your salvation is not ceremonial, but rooted in true faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christ is risen, He is risen indeed (Luke 24:6).

*This article was contributed by SK Aaron Carver, Grand Prelate*



## NC York Rite District Officers, 2026-2027

The following have been duly appointed by the Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and Grand Commander, to serve their respective districts for the current term.

### **District Grand Chapter Officers**

<u>District</u>	<u>District Deputy Grand High Priest</u>	<u>District Deputy Grand Lecturer</u>
1	Christopher A. Carrow	W. Francis Pugh
2	Charles E. Ponton	Russell M. Rainear
3	R. Edward Allen	Alex H. Ellis
4	M. Chad Martin	Donald W. Butto, Jr.
5	Mel C. Minton, III	W. Andrew Adams
6	R. Andrew Foust	Joshua R. Mueller
7	William "Bill" Mosley	John V. H. Barrile, Jr.
8	David L. Brandon	Brett A. Huffman
9	Gregory C. Grindstaff	P. Mark Alexander

### **District Grand Council Officers**

<u>District</u>	<u>District Master</u>	<u>District Lecturer</u>
1	Paul Miller	Stephen Natale
2	Binh Nguyen	Russell M. Rainear
3	Ludwik Wodka	Donald B. Street
4	Michael D. Walker	Jonathon W. Walker
5	James Vance	Luigi Ammons
6	R. Andrew Foust	Matthew Peeler
7	William "Bill" Mosley	L. Scott Brand
8	Michael Fisher	Brett A. Huffman
9	Derek Cheek	Russell Bridges

### **District Grand Commandery Officers**

<u>District</u>	<u>District Commander</u>	<u>District Instructor/Inspector</u>
1	Doug Bennett	Stephen Natale
2	Russell Rainear	Mike Hoff
3	R. Edward Allen	Ludwik Wodka
4	Michael Shifflett	Brett A. Huffman
5	Matthew Kohut	Francis Anson
6	Larry Aydlett	G. Samuel Henline
7	Charles "Chuck" Reed	L. Scott Brand
8	Gary Miller	P. Mark Alexander
9	Rick Patton	Brandon Penley