

GRAND COMMANDERY OF GEORGIA  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

*“Sword and Banner”*

Official Newsletter

In Hoc Signo Vinces

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**MARCH 2026**

Sir Knight  
**Daniel C. Ricketts, KCT**  
Grand Commander



**BROTHERHOOD ON THE HIGH SEAS**

The February sun rose gently over the Caribbean as Companions and their families embarked on a memorable journey of fellowship, charity, and Masonic unity aboard the Sky Princess. From February 8–16, 2026, leaders of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia joined together with Companions from across the state for a benefit cruise supporting Royal Arch Research Assistance—an organization dedicated to helping children with speech and language disorders.

At the heart of this remarkable voyage, several distinguished Masonic leaders joined, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Joseph F. Oelgoetz III, including but not limited to Past Grand Master MWB Mark A. Bradley,



Past Grand Master MWB Johnie Garmon, Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander Ditmar Chavez, and Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Judd Wolfe.. Their presence underscored the importance of unity across the York Rite bodies, as they sailed not only in fellowship but in shared purpose.



### **A Historic Opening at Sea.**

**Opened Lat 25.191895/Long -75.089308**

**Closed Lat 25.058562/Long -75.822641**

The cruise began with a truly historic milestone. Aboard the ship, Darley Chapter No. 7 was formally opened in full form on the high seas—an unprecedented event under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Georgia. Companions from across the state gathered in solemn assembly,

marking the first time such a Chapter had been opened and closed in full ceremonial form while at sea. It was a powerful testament to the enduring traditions of Royal Arch Masonry and the adaptability of its sacred work.



## Fellowship across the Waters

The days that followed blended fellowship and adventure. As the ship cruised toward Saint Martin, Companions and their guests shared laughter, meals, and the joy of brotherhood. At the famed Maho Beach, many enjoyed lunch while watching aircraft descend dramatically overhead—a unique and unforgettable experience.





## A Warm welcome in Puerto Rico

One of the most meaningful highlights occurred in San Juan, where ten Companions and their ladies were graciously received by the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico. Hosted by Most Worshipful Grand Master Anibal Rosario Ruiz and Deputy Grand Master Carlos M. Burreto, the group enjoyed a memorable tour and a morning rich in Masonic fellowship. The visit exemplified the universal bond of Freemasonry, transcending borders and cultures.





## Ports of Beauty and Brotherhood

The itinerary included stunning stops in St. Thomas, Sint Maarten, San Juan, and Grand Turk. Each destination offered its own blend of natural beauty—pristine beaches, aqua-blue waters, and vibrant island culture—paired with the ever-present spirit of companionship among the



## **A Voyage with Purpose**

More than a leisure cruise, this journey stood as a testament to the charitable mission of the York Rite Masons of Georgia. Through their participation, attendees supported the vital work of Royal Arch Research Assistance, ensuring that children in need receive life-changing therapy and support.

Under the leadership of men MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz III, the cruise demonstrated how Masonic fellowship can be both joyful and impactful. It was a week of “firsts,” of meaningful connections, and of shared commitment to a noble cause.

As the Sky Princess made its final stop and turned toward home, the sentiment was unanimous: this was not just a trip, but an outstanding event—one that will be remembered as a shining example of unity, charity, and brotherhood on the high seas.

# **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

**April 18**

## **Grand Master's York Rite Class**

**Grand Chapter Building, Macon, GA**

**Register online at [www.YorkRiteofGA.org](http://www.YorkRiteofGA.org)**

**May 1-2**

## **Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgie Annual Communication**

**Grand Chapter Building Macon, GA**

**Register online at [www.YorkRiteofGA.org](http://www.YorkRiteofGA.org)**

**June 12-13**

## **2026 Southeastern York Rite Conference**

**Atlanta, GA**

**Register online at [www.YorkRiteofGA.org](http://www.YorkRiteofGA.org)**



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL YORK RITE FESTIVAL

# MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER'S CLASS

APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Grand Chapter Building  
811 Mulberry Street  
Macon, GA 31201

CLASS HELD IN HONOR OF OUR PRESIDING OFFICERS

- ◆ *Most Worshipful Grand Master William F. Shepard*
- ◆ *Most Excellent Grand High Priest Joseph F. Oelgoetz*
  - ◆ *Most Illustrious Grand Master John C. Miller*
  - ◆ *Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts*

ALL DEGREES & ORDERS OF THE YORK RITE WILL BE CONFERRED

- ◆ *Pre-Registration Requested*
- ◆ *Registration Fee: \$20.00 for All*
- ◆ *Registration: 6:30 AM – 7:30 AM*
- ◆ *Work Begins Promptly at 7:30 AM*



Scan To Register

## THE YORK RITE

◆ *Your Path to "Pure Ancient Masonry"* ◆

For more information contact John Flener [jtflener1@gmail.com](mailto:jtflener1@gmail.com) 229-425-8770

PETITIONS FOR THE YORK RITE AND TO FIND YOUR NEAREST CHAPTER / COUNCIL / COMMANDERY  
VISIT [YORKRITEOFGA.ORG](http://YORKRITEOFGA.ORG)

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MASTER

MOST  
EXCELLENT  
MASTER

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CRYPTIC  
DEGREES

ROYAL  
MASTER

SELECT  
MASTER

SUPER  
EXCELLENT  
MASTER

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