



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,

July was a very active month for the Grand Commander, attending Lodge, York Rite and Appendant Body meetings. Some of the highlights were:

Great Smokies Assembly of York Rite Masons at Maggie Valley NC July 11-14, with the conferral of the Knight Masons Degrees by NC York Rite Councils on Saturday, July 11th. Registration and Cookout Sunday, July 12th; Summer Assembly convened on Monday July 13th at Waynesville Lodge with the welcome by Gilbert Bailey, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Additional speakers were A. Gene Cobb, Past Grand Master, SGIG for North Carolina, and Grand Chaplain for the Supreme Grand Council of the AASRSMJ; Mark A. Bradley, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia; and Dr. E. Oscar Alleyne, Past Junior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of New York and Senior Grand Warden, Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees USA, who gave the Masonic Marker Address.

The Banquet was held at the Maggie Valley Club and Resort and was a sold-out event. The highlight for your Grand Commander and PGHP was presenting the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International Ephraim Kirby Award to William Curtis Chriscoe, PGHP and current Grand Treasurer of the NC York Rite.



PGHP Will Chriscoe (R) receives the Ephraim Kirby Award from PGHP Berry Rigdon (L) and PGHP Ray Casey (C)

H. Bart Henderson, Past Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Texas, and Most Eminent Grand Master General, Convent General KYCH, was our Tuesday July 14th speaker. What a wonderful experience for all in attendance and I look forward to our 2027 Summer Assembly.

I had the distinct honor of attending the North Carolina DeMolay Conclave in Winston-Salem on July 25th, and bringing greetings from the Grand Commandery of North Carolina.



REGC Ray Casey with DeMolay Leadership at the NC DeMolay Conclave



REGC Ray Casey, Jr. addresses the NC DeMolay Conclave

I also had the honor to attend the stated conclave of St. Johns Commandery No. 10 in New Bern, on July 28th to discuss the KTEF. North Carolina placed 4th out of 64 jurisdictions in the 58th Annual Voluntary Campaign with \$114,690.82.

St. Johns No. 10 received their seal for achieving \$10 or more per member. I am happy to report that St Johns No. 10 placed FIRST in the state with a total contribution

of \$49,551, with an Active Member Per Capita Average of \$321.76. Congratulations and well done.



REGC Ray Casey presents the Annual Voluntary Campaign seal to EC Russ Jones of St. Johns #10

In your service,

Ray Casey

Right Eminent Grand Commander,
Grand Commandery of NC

NC Grand Commandery to Confer Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough

Jamestown – The Grand Commandery of North Carolina is sponsoring a special conferral of the Order of the Temple on Monday, October 13 starting at 3:50PM. This will be a special fundraiser event benefitting the Grand Commandery's charity: The Knights Templar Education Foundation.

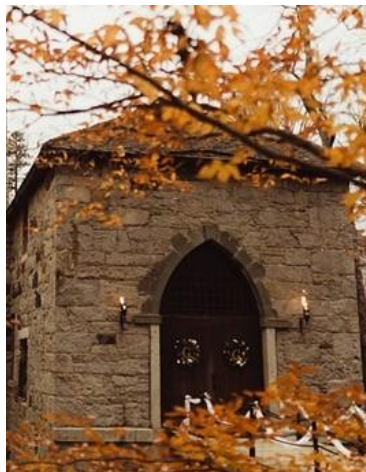
This is a rare opportunity to experience the solemn and majestic ceremonies of the Order of the Temple in an authentic atmosphere.

Our aim is to give our candidates the experience and prestige they deserve and the gravity and grandeur that the

conferral of the Order demands. We would like invite you to join us in this celebration, and would be honored if you would attend.

All Knights Templar are welcome and cordially invited to share this memorable occasion. We will have some special items on display and some brief remarks from our leaders, past and present.

Commanderies conferring their Orders are encouraged to complete the Orders of the Red Cross and Malta, and then register any candidates interested in participating in this special conferral prior to the deadline, Friday, September 25, 2026.



Please send payments and any RSVPs for banquet attendees to:

*Grand Commandery of NC
c/o 2026 Castle Degree
3902 David Street
Archdale, NC 27263*

Parking for Candidates, Guests, and Families is available at the upper parking lot next to the Crystal

Ballroom. Registration will be in the Crystal Ballroom.

Candidates are requested to arrive in time to check in and report to the Queen's Chamber under the Main Hall no later than 3:00PM for orientation. Families may gather in the Crystal Ballroom by 6:00PM and are requested to remain there until the completion of the degree.

The event will begin at 3:50PM with the opening of the Grand Commandery and reception of distinguished guests, followed by the conferral of the Order of the Temple. After the Order is complete, we will proceed to the Crystal Ballroom for the Public Knighting and banquet.

Registration and fees are available for three options:

- Candidate + Public Knighting (\$100)
- Commandery Guest - Non Cast Member (\$50)
- Commandery Guest + Public Knighting (\$85)

Space is limited for both candidates and guests and is open to members of Grand Commanderies recognized by the Grand Commandery of North Carolina.

If you have questions, please contact me directly at 336.880.2996 (call or text), or mdanielus@yahoo.com.

Regards,

Michael Daniels
Past Grand Commander
Knights Templar of North Carolina

North Carolina York Rite Celebrates 89th Annual Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley



RWDGM Gilbert Bailey

York Rite Masons from North Carolina and beyond gathered for Summer Assembly last month, from June 12th through the 14th, in Maggie Valley. Attendees enjoyed a wide range of activities, from formal addresses by Masonic dignitaries, to fun events like the Señor Smooth “degree” and whitewater rafting.

Following a cookout on the 12th, with excellent fellowship and delicious food enjoyed by a crowd of nearly 200, the formal session convened on Monday the 13th. Following introductions by PMIGM and current Junior Grand Deacon, Dave Cashion, the York Rite members in attendance were treated to the highest caliber of inspiring Masonic speakers, including Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of

North Carolina, Gilbert Bailey; Past Grand Master and current SGIG of the Orient of North Carolina, A. Gene Cobb; and Past Grand Master of Georgia, Mark Bradley.

On Monday afternoon the brethren were Past Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Warden, Grand Council AMD, who Brother Alleyne overcame the logistical round” from the standpoint of one side of the an informative and inspiring message to the afternoon threatened heavy storms, but the upon those gathered around for the address - long enough for the proceedings to be duly



Oscar Alleyne at the Masonic Marker

treated to an exposition by E. Oscar Alleyne, Lodge of New York and current Senior Grand delivered the Masonic Marker address. challenges of addressing an audience “in the Marker, and behind a barrier, as he delivered assembled Brethren. The weather that Supreme Architect was surely smiling down for the weather turned from foul to fair just completed.

A delicious banquet was served at the Maggie Valley Club & Resort on Monday night, with an impressive array of tropic/Hawaiian shirts on display among the attendees. Tom Bridges, PMEGHP, conducted a very successful auction, raising nearly \$1000 for the Masonic Marker Fund. As noted by our REGC above, PMEGHP and current Grand Treasurer Will Chriscoe was formally presented with the Ephraim Kirby award at the banquet. The Ephraim Kirby Award is given only once per year, by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, in recognition of continuing and outstanding service to the Craft. Only past Grand presiding officers are eligible, and must be nominated by their state Grand Chapter. All in attendance gave Companion Will a hearty round of applause for this well-deserved recognition.



PMIGM Russell Bridges moderates



Our Summer Assembly Home Base

Maggie Valley Summer Assembly (continued from page 3)

Part of the official Masonic business of this year's Summer Assembly was a Knight Masons Festival, put on as a collective effort. As the above photo illustrates, the degrees were very well attended by "Cousins" from across the state, and even beyond. The event was particularly noteworthy for having several Grand Council officers present, including this year's Great Chief, MESK Russell Bridges; and was rendered doubly special by the presentation of a very special award. Cousin and Sir Knight David Cashion (pictured above, fourth from the left) was formally presented with the regalia of an Honorary Past Great Chief, in recognition of exceptional service to Knight Masonry. The degrees went off smoothly, and all present agreed it was a great event not only for ritual work but also for Knight Masons fellowship.

Of course, Summer Assembly is not all about degree work and Masonic talks. It's an opportunity for fun as well, and along those lines, SK Mark Alexander's whitewater rafting trip has become a favorite Maggie Valley tradition. An intrepid group of some 25-odd Brothers and guests ventured out in dubious weather conditions to go rafting down the Lower Nantahala. Despite a couple mishaps, involving brethren who enjoyed an "immersive" experience in the river itself, a great time was had by all, with beautiful scenery and exciting rafting.



The Rafting Group, with Expedition Leader P. Mark "Rock Star" Alexander (front row, far L)



North Carolina York Rite Bodies Welcome New Members

Wilkes Commandery No. 40 in North Wilkesboro continued its “slow roll” approach to degree work in July, welcoming new member Jason Winters, Sr. to the first two Commandery Orders. On July 20th, they conferred the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross in full form, followed by the Order of Malta on July 31st. The Order of the Temple is scheduled for Monday, 8/31.



Wilkes Commandery #40 – Red Cross conferral



Wilkes Commandery #40 – Order of Malta conferral

At their July Stated, the members of Wilkes Commandery also welcomed SK James Pearson to their ranks, bestowing an honorary membership in all the North Wilkesboro York Rite bodies upon him in recognition of his frequent participation and tireless assistance with their work.



James Pearson (R) with (acting) Eminent Commander Bill Coggin (L)



Wesley Church, James Pearson, Bill Coggin, and Mark Alexander

The Charlotte York Rite bodies continue to grow as well. On July 25th, Charlotte Chapter #39, R.A.M. conferred the Chapter degrees upon three new Companions: Zach Campbell, Jerry Handy, and Kenneth Lambert. Charlotte is also following a version of the “slow roll” approach, separating the York Rite degrees into mini- Chapter, Council, and Commandery Festivals over the course of four months or so. This year the new method is already proving successful, as two of the three members of the last class have already begun to participate in earnest, both having taken roles in the recent degree work and both also having begun to attend the Charlotte York Rite discussion group.



The Charlotte York Rite 'Summer Class' (kneeling, L to R): Zach Campbell, Kenneth Lambert, and Jerry Handy