



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

Your Grand Commander finally had a slower month in September for travel. I had the pleasure of attending the Commandery meeting for the Raleigh York Rite bodies on September 2, where I had the honor of presenting and explaining the General Grand Council Ephraim Kirby award to PGHP William

Chriscoe.



REGC Ray Casey (R) recognizes Will Chriscoe (L), PGHP and Ephraim Kirby award recipient

I also visited the Commandery meeting of Goldsboro York Rite bodies on September 3, where I presented the KTEF Voluntary Campaign Seal for their contribution during the 58th Campaign, to Commander Michael Gurkin.



REGC Ray Casey (L) presents the KTEF Seal to SK Michael Gurkin, EC of Goldsboro Commandery #26

I attended several Eastern Star meetings including September 12 in Kinston, and September 22 in Goldsboro. I attended Home Lodge No. 613 on September 14, in Fremont NC; and Wayne Lodge No. 112 on September 21, to participate in their awards night.



Our REGC at Awards Night for Wayne Lodge #112

I also attended the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of NC September 24 - 26, representing the Grand Commandery of NC.

Important dates to remember this month:
-Homecoming at MHCO on October 10, with the Grand Commandery marching in the parade. All Sir Knights are invited to join us and please wear your class A uniform including Chapeau and sword belt.
-Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough, at Jamestown NC on October 13. This will be a rare opportunity to experience the solemn and majestic ceremonies in an authentic atmosphere. (Dress: Class A uniform, Chapeau, Belt and Sword.) The parade will start at 10:00 AM; please be at the Home by 9:00 AM for transportation to the parade route.

I want to remind all Sir Knights that we are now at the start of our 59th KTEF Voluntary Campaign and encourage all of our Sir Knights and their Commanderies to donate to this very worthwhile charity.

Yours in Faith,
Ray Casey, Jr., REGC of North Carolina

NC York Rite Bodies Welcome New Members

Salisbury

On September 12, the Salisbury York Rite bodies conferred the Chapter and Council degrees, as well as the first two Commandery Orders, on a class of four candidates.



Companions Larry Hill, Gerald Howell, Dalton Jordan, and William Parrish were welcomed to the York Rite in an excellent conferral by the officers of Salisbury Chapter #20, Adoniram Council #2, and Salisbury Commandery #13. The ritual work was presented in a one-day Festival that took the candidates of the class up through the Order of Malta.

This approach will allow the candidates the option of receiving the Order of the Temple either at Castle McCullough in Jamestown on October 13, or in Salisbury on November 2.

The Companions in attendance were honored by the presence of two prominent York Rite members. MIPGM and NC York Rite Grand Recorder Allen Surratt was in attendance, and conferred the two Council degrees.



Will Fulbright, PMIGM Allen Surratt, and Andy Foust (L to R) ably portraying the Illustrious Grand Council

An additional treat for the class of new Salisbury York Rite members was a visit from Most Worshipful Steve Norris, Grand Master of Masons for North Carolina, who attended the Chapter degrees and generously distributed several of his commemorative lapel pins.



*MW Steve Norris with the cast and candidates
(photo courtesy of Companion Sam Henline)*

All present agreed it was a day of fine York Rite fellowship and degree work, and extended a hearty welcome to the four new Salisbury members.

Charlotte

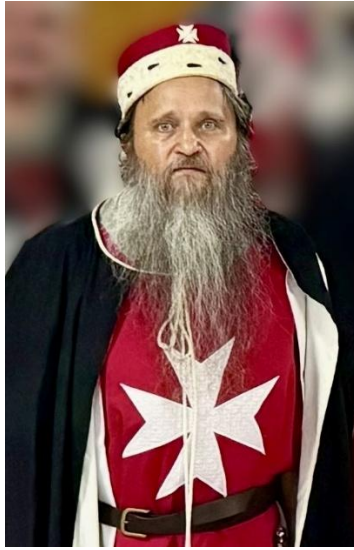
The Charlotte York Rite Bodies have also qualified two candidates from their "Summer Class" for the upcoming Castle Degree.

This "Summer Class" began the degrees in July with a dedicated Chapter Festival, followed by a Council Festival in September. Most recently they received the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, and the Order of Malta. Both candidates are eagerly looking forward to the Castle Degree, with five members planning to attend in support of their Knighting.



*Charlotte Commandery #2, Order of Malta:
Cast and Candidates*

Commandery Funeral Service Held for David Barlow



Sir Knight David Barlow (2/2/67 – 6/29/26)

At their stated communication on September 20, Wilkes Commandery #40 conducted the formal Commandery funeral service for dearly departed Brother and Sir Knight David Barlow, who laid down his sword and ascended to the celestial Asylum above on June 29.

The moving and profound service was led by SK Mark Alexander, Grand Generalissimo of NC, supported by an honor guard of Knights; and featured both a musical program and a slideshow of images commemorating SK David and his participation in Masonry. The reverent prayers, and the solemn commemoration of the sword and evergreen cross, served both to commit David's eternal spirit to the care of his Lord and Savior, and to remind the Sir Knights present of their own continuing duties as custodians of our living Templar heritage.

As a testament to David's contributions to the Wilkes York Rite, his ritual costume was displayed throughout the ceremony. Afterwards it was formally retired and placed in a quiet alcove, where it will be preserved in perpetuity along with a special commemorative plaque commissioned by his Companions. In this way, even though SK David has gone on to his eternal reward, his memory will live on among them.



SK Barlow's usual York Rite ritual costume on display at the service



The Honor Guard for SK David's funeral service, at attention

Sir Knight David Barlow Commandery Memorial Service (continued)



The Commandery Funeral Service cast at Wilkes Commandery #40

The cast for the funeral service was as follows:

Commander - Mark Alexander

Captain General - Wesley Church

Prelate - Robert Doyle

Senior Warden - Scott Brand

Junior Warden - Jerry Davis

Honor Guard:

Steve Nixon

Raymond Hayes

Gary Miller

Brandon Absher

Bill Coggin

Rob Dull



SK David's customary York Rite regalia, now officially retired



The commemorative plaque honoring SK David