



## Grand Commander



**Elbert L. "Sparkie"  
Travis**

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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

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope this finds you full and happy after your Thanksgiving dinner.

I know we all have a great deal to be thankful for. But how many of us have stopped to think about those who have nothing, and yet are very thankful for what little they do have? Do we, as Christians, ever stop to think about our brothers and sisters who are living in the streets, cold, hungry, no shelter, just a cold piece of concrete to sleep on?

Yes, there are soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and a few handouts from passersby who think they are really helping by giving a few dollars. All of these are great, but they need more. They need understanding, and guidance. They need help in finding their way back, most of all they need to know they are still human. They need to know that they still have a place in God's plan.

Some will say, if there is a God, why does He let his happen? God didn't let it happen - we did. We did by not listening when we heard their cry for help, when they lost their jobs, when they lost their spouse or children. We saw the pain, we saw the struggles, we saw the emptiness, yet we did nothing. Oh yeah, we sent cards of sympathy, we sent food, we gave words of condolences. Yet we still stood by and watched them as they slowly sank into that state of mind which eventually removed all hope from them.

In God's holy book, **Deuteronomy 10:19:**

*"Love ye therefore the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."*

My Brothers, remember our obligations we took as we became Masons. Brotherly Love: that's what it's all about. It's not about giving money, or

worldly possessions, it's about understanding, caring, it's about helping them to find their way back, and most important, make sure that they know that God loves them, and all they have to do is ask Him.

Sir Knights, as Christmas is drawing near, I humbly pray that you let your hearts be open to all that may need your love.

Speaking of Christmas, the children's Christmas observance program is coming up on Sunday, December 11. I hope you can join us there at the York Rite Chapel on campus of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford at 1800 hrs.

I'll leave you now with the words of St. Paul to Timothy:

*"Let brotherly love continue, Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."*

### **Hebrews 13:1-2**

Fraternalism, Relations, Brotherly Love.

That's what it's all about!

Fraternally in Christ,

Sparkie Travis  
Grand Commander

## A Christmas Message from the Grand Prelate

Christmas is coming! More important than the outward preparation is the preparation of our hearts.

The Advent season is a beautiful reminder to prepare our hearts as we prepare our homes. - to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. At the beginning of this week, we lit the first of the four candles in our Advent wreath: the candle of Hope.

Is your heart filled with hope? Do you have a confident expectation of tomorrow? What happens when the road ahead is filled with loss, and stress weighs your shoulders down? When confident expecta-

tions for tomorrow dwindle, what can you do? How can you walk in hope when you feel hopeless inside?

In one word, the answer to confident expectation is "JESUS" — the Jesus of Christmas.

Hope in Jesus comes from more than just a belief that he was once a baby in a manger. This hope in him has been called "an anchor for the soul." It is something deep within that secures you through the storms of life. Putting your hope in Jesus will give you these four things.

Hope for Help

We are invited to come to him and confidently ask for help. **Hebrews 4:16** tells us:

*"to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in our time of need."*

Hope to Overcome

Things that leave one feeling powerless and hopeless come in many forms. With Christ's strength you can overcome great obstacles, and faith in Jesus gives hope and help to overcome:

*"...and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith."*

**1 John 5:4**

Hope for Power

Sometimes in life we find ourselves with a task that simply looks too big for us. We do not just need a cup of God's strength added to our own; rather, we need his strength in us to do what we need to do. He will give it!

*"My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

Seeing our weakness as the entry point of God's strength gives access to his power!

Hope for Eternity

When we put our faith and hope in Jesus, it not only gives us help, strength, and power for where we walk today, but it also gives us hope for life after death. It is a confident expectation of the ultimate "tomorrow."

The God of Hope sent his Son to be our Savior. He is only one prayer away. If you want the confident expectation of his strength and wisdom in your today and his

help and hope for your tomorrow, you need only ask so that you may overflow with hope.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

**Romans 15:13**

May the hope of Advent be with you through the holiday season and always.

Peace, joy, and love, Sir Knights!

Alex Ellis  
Grand Prelate

*SK Ellis is Pastor of Davis Grove Baptist Church in Saratoga, NC.*

**Nazareth #41 Sir Knights March in Veterans Day Parade**

**Southern Pines** – On Saturday, November 5, 2022, the Sir Knights of Nazareth Commandery #41 led the Veterans Parade for the Town of Southern Pines, NC.



*EC Trent Carter, Recorder George Kress, and Generalissimo Tony Myers lead the parade for the Southern Pines Veterans Day celebration.*

**9<sup>th</sup> District School of the Knight Rescheduled to January 17, 2023**

**Wilkesboro** – Mark Alexander, Grand Instructor/Inspector for the Grand Commandery of NC has rescheduled the 9<sup>th</sup> District's School of the Knight to Tuesday, January 17, 2023, starting at 7:00 p.m.

The school will be hosted by Cyrene #5 at the Asheville Masonic Temple, located at 80 Broadway Street in Asheville. All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend, in uniform if possible, and if possible, bring swords – extra swords will be provided just in case.

## Nazareth #41 Hosts Order of the Temple Degree at Castle McCullough

**Jamestown** – On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, ten new Sir Knights, representing the Salisbury, Monroe, Ivanhoe, and Nazareth Commanderies, were created in the conferral of the Order of the Temple at the beautiful grounds of Castle McCullough.



*Castle McCullough is particularly beautiful in autumn, and it was a perfect day for the event.*



*Grand Sword Bearer Sam Henline served as bridge guard to the entrance of the castle, ably assisted by SK Alex Wilson of Ivanhoe #8.*

PGC's Mike Daniels and Ludwik Wodka, along with PGHP Will Chriscoe and PMIGM Jeff York welcomed our distinguished guests from the Grand York Rite of South Carolina: MIGM Robert M. Saverance, Grand Generalissimo Michael D. Keen, and REGC Victor D. Phillips.

Our Mid-Atlantic District Commander, James B. Steele, was also present and assisted EC Trent Carter in cutting a beautiful Templar Banner cake specially prepared for the occasion by SK Gerry Todd of Piedmont #6 in Winston-Salem.



*EC Carter and RECD Steele cut the cake at the reception after the degree in the Crystal Ballroom.*

After the degree, family and friends joined the new Sir Knights and degree cast and crew at the Crystal Ballroom for refreshments and a special presentation. REGC Mike Daniels, assisted by SK's Alex Wilson, Larry Aydlett, and Sam Henline, performed a special ceremony for the new Sir Knights: The Public Knighting Ceremony, where family and friends could witness a modernized and abbreviated representation of the ancient oath of knighthood from the Middle Ages similar to one the original Knights Templar may have taken, all dressed in period regalia.



The Public Knighting Ceremony Team, with REDC Steele and EC Carter

In addition to the newly created Sir Knights, SK Paul Woodruff also participated to renew his zeal and fidelity to the Order as a Sir Knight.



Sir Knights and Squires: (L-R) Sam, Sam, Paul, Alex, and Max



Our newest Squires and future Sir Knights (we hope!) Max and Sam Woodruff

Also participating were two newly created “Squires” for the occasion: Max and Sam Woodruff, ages 9 and 8 respectively, of Booneville Elementary School in Booneville, NC, who were very excited to be able to stand beside their proud father as “members” of chivalry.



Sam is ready to go, but we think he has a bit more growing to do before the helm will fit!



Another view of Castle McCullough from the hilltop on a beautiful autumn afternoon. (Photo courtesy of Danny Martin)

**Grand Instructor-Inspector Declares the 2022-2023 District Schools of the Knight Have Been A Success**

Grand Instructor-Inspector Mark Alexander is pleased to report that as of November, eight of the nine York Rite Districts have completed a School of the Knight Instruction program. The final stop will be Asheville York Rite on January 17, 2023.

Mark further reports: “As Chief Instructor/Inspector, I feel these programs have planted the seed for Commanderies to start in giving our opening ceremonies the honor and decorum they deserve. I feel as though we have revived a lost art. Most Commanderies I visited had never seen a full form opening performed and some had 20-to-30-year members. I feel now that Commanderies have seen it performed that it doesn't seem as daunting to them as it may have looked in the old Tactics manual. The new Tactics manual (hopefully available soon!) lays out only the basic movements and formations needed for a full form opening. So far, I have heard nothing but praise, so I feel we are on the right track!”



SKs Sam Henline, Marty Spears, and Mark Alexander at the New Bern School of the Knight.

SK Alexander would like to especially thank Sir Knights Sam Henline (Grand Sword Bearer) and Matthew Peeler (Past Eminent Commander of Salisbury #13) for accompanying him on most of these journeys around our beautiful state. His hope is for the

upcoming District Instructors for 2023 to keep this program going and deliver it to their Districts in 2023 so we can keep the ball rolling.

Mark also says, “I would like to wish all Companions, Sir Knights, Brethren and your families a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you soon.”

One important administrative note: SK Alexander would also like to remind all District Inspectors to have their district inspection reports completed and turned in to him before the last day of January 2023.

**Important Reminders:**

- December 4:** Cyrene #5 Christmas Observance, 3PM at the Asheville Masonic Center.
- December 5:** Salisbury #13 Christmas Observance, 7:30PM at the Salisbury Masonic Center.
- December 7:** Ivanhoe #8 Christmas Observance, 7:30PM at the Greensboro Masonic Temple.
- December 7:** Palestine #20 Christmas Observance, 7PM at the Fayetteville Masonic Center.
- December 8:** Plantagenet #1 Christmas Observance, 7:30PM, dinner 6:30PM at the Orient Lodge, Wilmington.
- December 10:** Raleigh #4 Christmas Observance, 5PM at J.J. Crowder Lodge, Raleigh.
- December 11:** St. Johns #10 Christmas Observance, 5PM at the New Bern Masonic Temple.
- December 11:** Grand Commandery conducts the annual Christmas program to be held at the York Rite Chapel at the Oxford Orphanage starting at 6PM.
- December 14:** Nazareth #41 Christmas Observance and Officers Installation, 7PM at the Southern Pines Lodge.
- December 15:** Wilkes #40 Order of Malta degree conferral, 6:30PM at the N. Wilkesboro Lodge
- December 18:** Charlotte #2 Christmas Observance, 2PM at the Charlotte Masonic Temple.
- December 19:** Wilkes #40 Christmas Observance, 6PM at the N. Wilkesboro Lodge
- January 17:** Cyrene #5 hosting the District School of the Knight, 7PM at the N. Wilkesboro Lodge.