

2026 PROCEEDINGS
THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF GEORGIA
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JOINT PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF GEORGIA

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia convened in a Joint Session on Friday, May 1, 2026. The Grand Secretary/Recorder affirmed that there was a Constitutional number of Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies present to convene the Grand York Rite Bodies. REGC Daniel C. Ricketts declared the 166th Annual Conclave of the Right Eminent Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of the State of Georgia duly convened for the purposes of receiving Distinguished Guests and conducting Joint Grand York Rite Business. MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III declared the 204th Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of the State of Georgia duly convened for the purposes of receiving Distinguished Guests and conducting Joint Grand York Rite Business. MIGM John C. Miller declared the 200th Annual Assembly of the Most Illustrious Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, of the State of Georgia duly convened for the purposes of receiving Distinguished Guests and conducting Joint Grand York Rite Business.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

MEPGHP Joe E. Turner welcomed the following Distinguished Guests:

GEORGIA DIGNITARIES RECOGNIZED

Joe R. Bush, RE Grand King, Georgia; Eminently Distinguished Grand Governor, YRSCNA Jurisdiction of Georgia

Donald C. Combs, MWPGM, Georgia; EG Prelate, Georgia

Johnie M. Garmon, MWPGM, Grand Lodge, Georgia; EG Principle Sojourner, Georgia

Clyde E. Griffin, MWPGM, Georgia; MEPGHP, Georgia; MIPGM, Georgia; REPGC, Georgia; Past Intendant General for the Southern Division of Georgia, Red Cross of Constantine, KCC; and Grand Superintendent for Georgia, Grand Council, Allied Masonic Degrees, USA

Gordon B. Ruthruff, MEPGHP, Michigan

Bobby B. Simmons, MWPGM, Georgia; MEPGHP, Georgia; MIPGM, Georgia; REPGC, Georgia; Past Most Eminent Grand Master General, Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour; VE Grand Fourth Pillar, Grand College of America, HRAKTP; RE Grand Treasurer, Grand Encampment

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS, INT.

Mark A. Bradley, Deputy General Grand High Priest, Southeast Region, General Grand Chapter; MWPGM, Georgia; MEPGHP, Georgia; MIPGM, Georgia

Teko A. Foly, ME General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter

C. Danny Wofford, General Grand Librarian, General Grand Chapter; MWPGM, Georgia; MEPGHP, Georgia; MIPGM, Georgia; REPGC, Georgia

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS, INT.

James W. Bard, RP SE Regional Deputy General Grand Master, General Grand Council; MIPGM, Georgia

Keith Powell, VI Deputy Grand Master, General Grand Council; MEPGHP, Louisiana; MIPGM, Louisiana

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Paul W. Friend, RE SE Department Commander, Grand Encampment; REPGC, Florida; MIPGM, Florida

James C. McGee, RE Grand Captain General, Grand Encampment

GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK

Rev. Charles M. Roberts, Past Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge, NY;
MIPGM, New York; REPGC, New York

GRAND YORK RITE OF ALABAMA

Joel Bryant, MI Grand Master, Grand Council, AL
Sidney R. Cooley, ME Grand High Priest, AL
Nathan Godwin, MI Grand Marshal, Grand Council, AL
J. David Wyatt, Jr., RE Grand Commander, AL

GRAND YORK RITE OF FLORIDA

Michael Lee Bove, Drill Master, Grand Commandery, FL

GRAND YORK RITE OF MICHIGAN

Tom Black, ME Past Grand High Priest, MI
Gordon Ruthruff, ME Past Grand High Priest, MI

GRAND YORK RITE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Bobby Albert, ME Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, SC
John R. Bowker, Grand Secretary-Recorder, SC
James Chubb, MI Grand Master, Grand Council, SC
Jesse C. Kilby, EG Sword Bearer, Grand Commandery, SC
Johnny Bam Martin, VE Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, SC
Jeremy Privette, RIG Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Commandery, SC
Bill Summerville, RE Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, SC

GRAND YORK RITE OF TENNESSE

Clarence L. Crump, RE Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, TN
Justin Huggins, Grand Treasurer, TN
David Lacy, ME Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, TN
Mike Neulander, Grand Chaplain, Grand Council, TN
Terry Plemons, MEG Scribe, Grand Chapter, TN
Tim Sutton, RE Grand Commander, TN

UNITED KINGDOM

Leslie N. Bale, Companion/Sir Knight

HONORARY MEMBERS

Motions were made by RE Companion Joe R. Bush, RE Grand King, Grand Chapter of Georgia, RAM, VI Companion James R. Harris, VI Deputy Grand Master, Grand Council of Georgia, R&SM, and VE Sir Knight William W. Grist, VE Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Georgia, KT, that all out-of-state Distinguished Guests that are not already Honorary Members be made Honorary Members of the three Georgia Grand York Rite Bodies. Seconded and Approved.

REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

GRAND CHAPTER

Companions, it is my sad duty to report that 89 Companions of the Chapter have lain aside their working tools and traveled upon that Level of time to that undiscovered country from whose Bourne no traveler ever returns. Psalms 147:3 reminds us that *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* Revelation 21:4 promises us *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."* While we mourn the loss of our companions, let us rejoice in the knowledge that they no longer have to suffer the ills and imperfections of this secular world. They have earned their celestial rewards and ascended to that

house not made with hands. Let us rejoice in the promise of eternal peace and salvation.

Respectful Submitted: Timothy K. Starling

GRAND COUNCIL

Honoring the Legacy and Service of Our Departed Members

The Grand Council Memorial Report respectfully acknowledges and honors the memory of our distinguished members who have passed away during the past year- Their dedication, service, and commitment to our organization have left an indelible mark on the history and values of our Council.

We remember with gratitude the contributions each member made to our community, reflecting on their achievements and the positive impact they had on both colleagues and the broader society- As we mourn their loss, we also celebrate their lives and legacies, which continue to inspire us all.

Let this report serve not only as a record of remembrance but also as a reminder of our shared responsibility to uphold the standards and traditions they so faithfully embodied. May their memory be a blessing and their example a guiding light for current and future members.

In this spirit of remembrance, we also extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of the 71 Companions who have gone home to be with our Lord. Their loved ones remain in our hearts as we honor the cherished memories and enduring legacies of those we have lost.

Respectfully Submitted: Rusty Cordle

GRAND COMMANDERY

"Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also, may be where I am." (John 14:1-3 NIV)

We have often been reminded of the fact that we are born to die. Mortality has been brought to view, that we might more intently seek an immortality beyond this fleeting life. As this Grand Commandery year comes to a close, it our sad duty to report that 65 of our Companion Sir Knights have been called home to their heavenly reward. Sir Knights we knew and loved. The light of their eyes and their expressions of fraternal greeting have ceased here on this earth. Their swords, vowed to be drawn only in the cause of truth, justice and liberty, rest peacefully in their scabbards, and our arms can no longer shield or protect them. But as they rest in heavenly sleep, we bow our heads in sympathetic sorrow like the martyrs of old and proclaim with jubilation their triumphant faith. The spirits of our departed Sir Knights have entered into the life immortal. We remember their Knightly qualities and commend their spirits unto God. We can confidently dedicate them into the hands of an Eternal Father. Delivered from the limitations of this life, the spirit lives and abides in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ; whose life is the judgment of our works and whose resurrection is the pledge of our immortality. Sir Knights, farewell, and may the sunshine of Heaven's beam be bright upon your reawakening.

Almighty God, we humbly lift our hearts and remember in loving mercy those souls whom we turn over to you. Give unto them the consolation they so need and cause us to look above to the life which lies in your immortality. Lead us by your grace and spirit, to seek those things which make for us our everlasting peace, so that when at last our earthly pilgrimage ends, *"when the silver cord shall be loosed, and the golden bowl be broken,"* you will indeed be Immanuel - God with us. May the lamp of your love dispel the gloom of the dark and may we be enabled by our faith in the Son of Glory to gain admission into the blessed temple above. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted: Rev. Donald C. Combs, Eminent Grand Prelate

REPORT OF THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

I want to thank Almighty God for all His many blessings on me, my family and our Masonic family. I also want to thank Most Excellent Grand High Priest Joe Oelgoetz, Most Illustrious Grand Master John Miller, and Right Eminent Grand Commander Dan Ricketts for appointing me to this committee. I thank all of you who have informed me of those members of our Masonic family who need prayers, updates on their situations and also for information about masonic events around our great state. Also, thank you for your prayers on behalf of the requests that have been made. May God continue to bless you and our Masonic Fraternity.

Respectfully Submitted: Floyd Edmondson

REPORT OF THE GRAND CUSTODIAN OF THE NORTH

Greetings to the Most Excellent High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Officers and Companions:

I am very satisfied to report that there were a couple of schools of instruction. One at Buford, which was well attended, and another for Chapter only in Alpharetta, which was also well attended. There seems to be more interest in getting more Schools of Instruction going as there will be one in Rome later this year on September 12. Hoping for great attendance there.

There have been several times where the degrees were conferred this past year, such as the Covington York Rite Festival, Greater Atlanta York Rite Festival, Seventh District, and The Grand Masters Class. I am very encouraged by the amount of Chapters and Councils stepping up to perform degrees at festivals and in-house as well. If any Chapter or Council needs help performing any degree, don't hesitate to reach out to your Custodians.

Respectfully Submitted: Tyler Pledger and Peter Bard, Grand Custodians of the North

REPORT OF THE GRAND CUSTODIAN OF THE SOUTH

GRAND CHAPTER

I would like to thank our MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III for appointing me to this position and allowing me to serve the craft in this capacity. I would also like to express my thanks to the assistant custodians for their help this year.

This year has been another year of renewal and restoration for the craft as we have continued to meet regularly and confer degrees. I have assisted several chapters in the conferral of the Chapter degrees, but I have not received any requests for instructional help as of the date of this report.

In closing, I would like to extend my thanks to the craft for allowing me to serve you. Companions, stay committed to this Fraternity, the greatest Fraternity on Earth and continue to strive to improve it to the best of your abilities.

Respectfully Submitted: Matthew Sanford, Grand Custodian of the South

GRAND COUNCIL

I would like to thank our MIGM John C. Miller for appointing me to this position and allowing me to serve the craft in this capacity. I would also like to express my thanks to the assistant custodians for their help this year.

This year has seen the craft make strides in our mission to imbue brothers with more light as we gain new members in all bodies of York Rite. I am pleased to report that York Rite lodges and conventions in the southern part of the state continue to meet regularly and confer degrees. I have had the pleasure of assisting several councils in the conferral of the cryptic degrees. As of the date of this report, I have not received any requests for instructional help.

In closing, I would like to extend my thanks to the craft for allowing me to serve you. Companions, stay committed to the Craft and continue to strive to improve it to the best of your abilities.

Respectfully Submitted: Matthew Sanford, Grand Custodian of the South

GRAND COMMANDERY

We have experienced a highly successful year, as evidenced by the number of new York Rite members reported during the administrative inspections.

Numerous individual bodies have demonstrated initiative by conducting their own work, a practice that is both commendable and beneficial to the Craft. The festivals conducted throughout the year have continued to be well attended, and the overall caliber of the work performed has been exceptional.

Furthermore, several Schools of Instruction were conducted throughout the state for the Royal Arch and the Council of Royal and Select Masters. During the course of the administrative inspections, Schools of Instruction were also conducted by the Grand Commander and myself. Attendance at each of these Schools was excellent, and they served to enhance proficiency, consistency, and excellence in the work across the jurisdiction.

The York Rite Masons of Georgia are to be commended and should take great pride in the dedication, effort, and accomplishments demonstrated during the past year.

Respectfully Submitted: Tommy T. Marshall, Grand Custodian of the South

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

GRAND CHAPTER

Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions:

Your Membership Committee respectfully submits the following report for the Grand Chapter of Georgia:

As of December 31, 2025, the Grand Chapter reflects a total membership of 2,436 Companions, representing a net loss of 17 members from the previous year, after accounting for a data adjustment of two Chapters.

During the year, the Chapter experienced positive growth through:

- 74 Exaltations
- 99 Affiliations
- 4 Reinstatements

Total gains amounted to 144 Companions.

However, losses included:

- 31 Demits
- 41 Suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues
- 89 Deaths

Total losses amounted to 161 Companions.

While the net change reflects a slight decrease, the strong number of exaltations and affiliations demonstrates continued interest in Capitular Masonry. The Committee encourages continued focus on:

- Retention through engagement and relevance
- Reduction in suspensions for non-payment of dues
- Strengthening local Chapter visibility and recruitment efforts

Respectfully Submitted: Tyler W. Pledger, Chairman

GRAND COUNCIL

Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions:

Your Membership Committee respectfully submits the following report for the Grand Council of Georgia:

As of December 31, 2025, the Grand Council reports a total membership of 1,915 Companions, reflecting a net loss of 22 members, inclusive of a data adjustment of two Councils.

Membership gains included:

- 76 Greeted
- 43 Affiliations
- 2 Reinstatements

Total gains: 121 Companions

Membership losses included:

- 27 Demits
- 45 Suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues
- 71 Deaths

Total losses: 143 Companions

While losses slightly exceeded gains, the number of new Companions demonstrates continued interest in Cryptic Masonry. The Committee recommends:

- Increased emphasis on member engagement and education
- Proactive follow-up to prevent suspensions
- Strengthening the pathway from Chapter to Council participation

Respectfully Submitted: Tyler W. Pledger, Chairman

GRAND COMMANDERY

Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights:

Your Membership Committee respectfully submits the following report for the Grand Commandery of Georgia:

As of December 31, 2025, the Grand Commandery reports a total membership of 1,702 Sir Knights, reflecting a net loss of 62 members, following a data adjustment of one Commandery.

Membership gains included:

- 93 Knightings
- 45 Affiliations
- 3 Reinstatements

Total gains: 141 Sir Knights

Membership losses included:

- 65 Demits
- 73 Suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues
- 65 Deaths

Total losses: 203 Sir Knights

While the number of Knightings remains strong, the overall decline highlights the need for renewed focus on retention and engagement. The Committee strongly encourages:

- Intentional mentorship of newly Knighted Sir Knights
- Active engagement in Commandery programs and Christian chivalric work
- Reduction in suspensions through early intervention and communication

The future strength of our Commanderies depends not only on recruitment, but on meaningful involvement and purpose.

Respectfully Submitted: Tyler W. Pledger, Chairman

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE GRAND CHAPTER

To the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Royal Arch Masons, the Education and Historical Committee wishes to make the following report:

We offer the following recommendations:

Worshipful Masters are constantly seeking programs for their communications and if requested we need the ability to provide an interesting and informative program on York Rite Masonry. We have numerous well-qualified Companions who are ready and willing to offer assistance.

The Committee recommends that each Chapter have at least two educational programs during the year for the benefit of the Companions. We need to do more than open, read the minutes, and close.

As a Chapter, visit other Chapters to provide extended fellowship, and assistance when needed.

The Committee recommends that each Royal Arch Mason read the paper entitled "A Brief History of the Grand Chapter of Georgia" written by MEPGHP Joe E. Turner. As we look to the future let us take a look at the past and our great tradition of bringing "more light" to Masons.

The Committee is most appreciative of the confidence placed in us by our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III.

Respectfully Submitted: C. Danny Wofford, Chairman; Joe E. Turner; Timothy K. Starling; Jimmy Densmore; and Matthew Sanford

GRAND COUNCIL

To the Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters, the Education and Historical Committee wishes to make the following report:

1. Worshipful Masters are constantly seeking programs for their communications and if requested we need the ability to provide an interesting and informative program on York Rite Masonry. We have numerous well-qualified Companions who are ready and willing to offer assistance.
2. It is recommended that each Companion who has not received the Super Excellent Master Degree make it a point during the year to receive this most impressive and educational Degree. There are normally two or more opportunities across our State each year to receive the Degree. There are no fees or dues, and it is a lifetime membership.
3. The Committee recommends that each Council have at least two educational programs during the year for the benefit of the Companions. We need to do more than open, read the minutes, and close.

The Committee is most appreciative of the confidence placed in us by our Most Illustrious Grand Master, John C. Miller.

Respectfully Submitted: C. Danny Wofford, Chairman; Joe E. Turner; Matthew Sanford; Timothy K. Starling; and Jimmy Densmore

GRAND COMMANDERY

To the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar, the Education and Historical Committee wishes to make the following report:

Sir Knights, please review the following recommendations and requests.

Recommendations and Requests

4. We again request each Commandery in Georgia to prepare a history of the Commandery and submit it to the Committee.
5. That the Sir Knights of Georgia prepare papers on any subject regarding notable Sir Knights, historical or informational topics and forward them to the Committee. These papers could be published for the benefit of York Rite Masonry in Georgia.
6. That consideration is given by Grand Commandery to writing an updated History of Templary in Georgia.
7. The Committee recommends that each Commandery have at least two educational programs during the year for the benefit of the Sir Knights.
8. Visit Symbolic Lodges, first requesting an opportunity to provide educational information on the advantages of York Rite membership.

The Committee wishes to express appreciation to our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Daniel C. Ricketts, for the opportunity to be of service during the year.

Respectfully Submitted: C. Danny Wofford, Chairman; Joe E. Turner; Jimmy Densmore; William E. Cantrell; and Matthew Sanford

REPORT OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Greetings Companions,

Once again, I appreciate the confidence shown by our leaders by re-appointing me to chair this committee for 2025-2026. After several years of being very active and productive, the Long-Range Planning Committee did not meet this year. As there will be a need to assess the results of our work from previous years, I do anticipate that the committee will need to meet to do just that in the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted: James W. Bard, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PATRIOTIC AND CIVIC COMMITTEE

Sir Knights:

On behalf of your Committee on Patriotic & Civic Activities, we submit the following:

Knight Templar Masonry and Patriotism are inseparably linked. During the final act of a new member's Knighting ceremony, the Flag of our Country is not only saluted, but an entire lecture is also given over to it. During the Easter Sunrise trip a wreath is always laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—a stark reminder of those that have given all they had for the freedoms we enjoy (and those we take for granted every day).

While many of our members have served in the various armed forces, there are numerous ways that we can show patriotism and participate in Civic Activities: Volunteering with a community youth group or food bank, stopping to speak to and help the needy we encounter in our daily lives, and voting in local elections. Other examples include marching in parades, going to churches in uniform, and sponsoring a family at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sir Knights, the best way we can demonstrate our Patriotism in the local communities however is to be moral, law abiding, upstanding members of our communities and to follow the command of our Lord Jesus Christ in Mark Chapter 12, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If we are able to do this and only this, our communities will see and feel the impact our commanderies can have.

Respectfully Submitted: Ryan Nealey, Chairman; John Flener; William T. White; and Alessandro Silva

REPORT OF THE MASONIC MESSENGER SUPPLEMENT COMMITTEE

On behalf of the members of this Committee, EC John E. Finch, Jr. and I wish to respectfully express our sincere appreciation to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Joseph F. Oelgoetz III; the Most Illustrious Grand Master, John C. Miller; and the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Daniel C. Ricketts for the confidence reposed in us through our appointment to this Committee.

The Committee is honored to continue performing this important function in service to the Companions and Sir Knights of Georgia. We look forward to promoting and highlighting the many commendable activities of the York Rite throughout the State. Through these efforts, we are afforded a valuable opportunity to present to our Brethren of the Symbolic Lodge the beauty, instruction, and enlightenment that may be attained through participation in the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite.

Publication Coordination

Spring Issue (March): January 10

Summer Issue (June): April 10

Fall Issue (September): July 10

Winter Issue (December): October 10

All submissions should be sent to: jtfleener1@gmail.com

Digital Presence

Due to the limitations of space within the Masonic Messenger, the Committee will continue to utilize digital platforms to further promote the York Rite in Georgia.

We encourage all Companions and Sir Knights to regularly visit the official website to remain informed of current activities and developments.

Official Website: www.yorkriteofga.org

Conclusion

The Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to the duties entrusted to it and will continue its labors to strengthen communication, enhance visibility, and promote the unity and growth of the York Rite in Georgia. We respectfully submit this report and look forward to continued progress in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted: John Flener, Chairman

REPORT OF THE GEORGIA SUPPLEMENT OF THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the members of this Committee, WB Daniel Bennett, EC Thomas Chapman, and I wish to respectfully express our sincere appreciation to the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Daniel C. Ricketts, for the confidence reposed in us through our appointment to this Committee.

It is both an honor and a privilege to provide the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America with regular updates regarding the activities, labors, and accomplishments of the Christian Knights of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. Through this work, we strive to ensure that the efforts of our Commanderies are properly represented and preserved within the broader Templar fraternity.

Publication Access and Format

The monthly state supplement to the Knights Templar Magazine is available exclusively through the online edition, which may be accessed via the official website of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. The Georgia supplement may be found under the 'KT Magazine' tab within the State News section.

Official Website Address: www.usagekt.org

Submission Guidelines

In accordance with updated submission requirements and publication standards, this Committee is actively working to establish a consistent format and timeline to ensure the timely and effective reporting of Georgia Templar activities. We respectfully encourage all Sir Knights and Commanderies to submit reports of Templar and Masonic activities—both past and forthcoming—for inclusion in the supplement. Submissions should be received no later than fifteen (15) days before the end of each month.

All submissions should be directed to: jtfleener1@gmail.com

Conclusion

The Committee remains committed to faithfully discharging the duties entrusted to it and to strengthening communication between the Grand Commandery of Georgia and the Grand Encampment. We look forward to continued improvement in the reporting and visibility of our collective labor.

Respectfully Submitted: John Flener, Chairman

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Line Officers, Sir Knights and Companions

of the Grand Your Rite of Georgia,

Your committee thanks you for the opportunity to maintain our York Rite website.

The Website Committee is dedicated to maintaining and improving the York Rite's online presence to better serve our members and visitors. We recognize that this is an ongoing effort and appreciate the support and input from all Companions and Sir Knights.

The Website Committee is committed to making the website as effective and user-friendly as possible. We appreciate the patience, support, and feedback from everyone as we continue to improve your important resource.

Thank you to all of the companions and Sir Knights that contributed to the websites photo gallery. Thank you to our Grand Secretary Mark Bradley for the documentation and training material provided for our Membership database and it's uses. Please remember to update the membership information for your local York Rite body each month in the York Rite database. The Grand York Rite of Georgia database is only as good as the information that you provide.

Respectfully Submitted: Thomas J. Chapman; Richard T. Petersen; and Mark A. Bradley

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the members of this Committee, MWB Mark A. Bradley, EC Thomas J. Chapman; EC John E. Finch, Jr., WB Rick Hallwood, and I wish to respectfully express our sincere appreciation to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Joseph F. Oelgoetz III; the Most Illustrious Grand Master, John C. Miller; and the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Daniel C. Ricketts for their vision and leadership in establishing this Committee.

Mission of the Committee

To unify and elevate the public image, communication, and outreach of the York Rite in Georgia by promoting its teachings, activities, and Masonic values through coordinated, professional, and consistent public relations efforts.

Current Focus and Progress

The Committee has begun its work toward achieving a unified York Rite identity across the State of Georgia. Central to this effort is the enhancement of both public and Masonic perception of Capitular, Cryptic, and Chivalric Masonry.

Through these efforts, we aim to strengthen the membership pipeline and foster a clearer understanding of the York Rite journey.

We are encouraged to note that both the Grand Chapter and the Grand Commandery have established quarterly newsletters during the present year.

This represents a significant step toward improved communication and coordination among the several bodies of the York Rite.

Recommendations for the Ensuing Year

1. Establishment of a Unified York Rite Newsletter

- That consideration be given to the creation of a single, unified York Rite publication encompassing Chapter, Council, and Commandery, highlighting upcoming events, coverage before, during, and after events, and notable achievements.

2. Development of a Centralized Communication Platform

- An email subscription feature should be established on the official website to allow members and interested Master Masons to receive updates and observe the good works of our Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies.

3. Appointment of Public Relations Representatives

- That each Grand Body appoint a designated Public Relations lead or point of contact for Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery to ensure consistent communication statewide, utilizing the Official Social Media accounts.

4. Creation of Informational and Promotional Materials

- That the Committee develops simple explainer graphics and short informational videos to illustrate the pathway of progression within the York Rite: Blue Lodge → Chapter → Council → Commandery.

Conclusion

The Committee remains committed to its charge and will continue its labors to strengthen communication, improve visibility, and promote the unity of the York Rite in Georgia. We respectfully submit this report and look forward to continued progress in the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted: John Flener, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Your Committee is pleased to report that, as of February 28, 2026, the Grand York Rite of Georgia has 89 Perpetual Members, with a total of \$304,540.95 invested. These funds are invested with Wells Fargo Advisors.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Finance Committee, the Grand Secretary/Recorder, and the Heads of the York Rite Bodies for allowing this investment to continue to grow without withdrawals, thereby maximizing the benefit of compound growth.

The members of the Committee believe that, if this fund is managed properly, it will continue to provide financial stability to the Grand York Rite of Georgia and its constituent Bodies.

Respectfully Submitted: Benjamin W. Polston, II, Chairman; Michael H. Wilson; Mark A. Bradley; and Ryan C. Nealey

REPORT OF THE GRAND CHAPTER BUILDING TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

The Grand Chapter Building Trustees met periodically this year and addressed many issues with our building at 811 Mulberry Street, some ongoing and some new. Most of our previous issues have been addressed, either by repairing them or planning for repairs. The dated electrical wiring and junction boxes in the auditorium required replacement this year. We have also renewed our investigation into an elevator for the building, as well as replacement of the Mulberry Street and rear stoop entrance doors. Updates to follow as we proceed. It is the recommendation of this committee that we return to a building superintendent structure that would allow full-time monitoring and maintenance of our century-old building. This type of building management would include, but not be limited to, regularly scheduled maintenance, facilitating necessary repairs by outside contractors, janitorial services, and lawn care. Unfortunately, the expenses to maintain our beloved Masonic building will never go away. However, with proper management and the continued support of the brethren, companions and sir knights of Georgia, we will move forward in our quest to provide a

comfortable, functioning work environment for both our Grand Lodge of Georgia Administrative Office, as well as our own Grand York Rite Office, while also providing an affordable meeting place for those Masonic organizations in search of the same. This year Ms. Julie Hickman continued in caring for our custodial issues, and we also owe a debt of gratitude to Jason Britt for helping with minor repairs since our last report.

Respectfully Submitted: Mark A. Bradley, Chairman

REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY/RECORDER

REGC Daniel C. Ricketts; MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; MIGM John C. Miller; Grand Line Officers, REPGCs; MEPGHPs; MIPGMs; Distinguished Guests; Companions and Sir Knights: It has been a joy to serve these past seven plus years as your Grand Secretary/Recorder. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve our craft in this meaningful way. To be allowed through your generosity to serve in a role that I love has been rewarding beyond measure. Your Grand York Rite Office has always worked hard to help our local York Rite bodies grow by providing better communications and by being open to feedback from our local and state leaders. With the continued emphasis on shared management of our York Rite database, there has been a broader focus on simplifying the information sharing process. Although this remains an ongoing effort, we have made great strides in membership management and local administration, while improving the way we communicate to our prospective members.

I would like to commend all our secretaries and recorders for stepping forward and accepting a volunteer role in your local bodies that requires more from you than most of us realize. You remain the backbone of our constituent Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies. THANK YOU FOR DOING A GREAT JOB!!! My recommendations as your retiring statewide York Rite counterpart would be to continue your commitment to our York Rite database, diligently working towards getting your bylaws updated, and minimizing our suspensions from non-payment of dues, and our continued focus on recruitment and retention through relevance. Your Grand York Rite Office is blessed to have an Office Manager like Ms. Marla Horton. Working side-by-side with her as we served you has been one of the greatest growth experiences of my life. Her kindness to others is present in everything she does, as she remains the strength of your Georgia Grand York Rite office.

GRAND CHAPTER		GRAND COUNCIL		GRAND COMMANDERY	
Chapters effective 12-31-24	48	Councils effective 12-31-24	46	Commanderies 12-31-24	32
Chapters effective 12-31-25	46	Councils effective 12-31-25	44	Commanderies 12-31-25	31
Data adjustment from 2024	-2	Data Adjustment from 2024	-2	Data Adjustment from 2024	-1
Members effective 12-31-24	2419	Members effective 12-31-24	1937	Members effective 12-31-24	1764
Exalted	74	Greeted	76	Knighted	93
Affiliated	99	Affiliated	43	Affiliated	45
Reinstated	4	Reinstated	2	Reinstated	3
GAIN	144	GAIN	121	GAIN	141
Demitted	31	Demitted	27	Demitted	65
Suspended	41	Suspended	45	Suspended	73
Deceased	89	Deceased	71	Deceased	65
LOSS	-161	LOSS	-143	LOSS	-203
NET GAIN/LOSS	-17	NET GAIN/LOSS	-22	NET GAIN/LOSS	-62
Members 12-31-25	2436	Members 12-31-25	1915	Members 12-31-25	1702

Pray for me as I continue my journey and thank you for letting me be a part of yours.

Respectfully Submitted: Mark A. Bradley, Grand Secretary/Recorder

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; MIGM John C. Miller; REGC Daniel C. Ricketts; Grand York Rite Grand Line Officers; MEPGHPs; MIPGMs; REPGCs; Distinguished Guests; My Companions and Sir Knights All: Thank you for permitting me the honor and privilege of serving as your Grand Treasurer for the past several months.

The years of immense service to the Grand York Rite Bodies by PMEGHP and Grand Treasurer Wade C. Smith cannot be overlooked. I am humbled to follow this giant in Georgia Freemasonry as your Grand Treasurer.

The Grand York Rite Office has continued to operate with the utmost efficiency in this year of change. The twelve-month office management calendar continues to insure seamless operations flow. I express my extreme gratitude to both Mark and Marla for welcoming me into the fold.

Financially, the Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia are in good hands. All accounts are actively monitored, and regular review is made by the Finance Committee. The investment and checking accounts are reflected in the KTEF Trustees Report. One of the big investments made this year was the purchase of the voting system being used at this years' Grand Sessions. This will also provide the opportunity to generate revenue by offering the system for rental. It is my hope that the future of the Georgia Grand York Rite holds continued success with growth in membership and greater contributions to our charities. May God Bless and keep my beloved Georgia Grand York Rite family safe and prosperous for another year.

Your Humble Servant: Matthew R. Astin, Grand Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Past Grand High Priests, Grand Line Officers, Distinguished Guests and Companions All:

Your committee for the Royal Arch Research Assistance Program make the following report. My sincere gratitude goes out to Most Excellent Companion Joseph F. Oelgoetz III, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia for appointing me chairman of the Georgia RARA Committee for 2025. I also want to thank those Friends and Companions whom I am so very honored to serve with: Excellent Companion Tom Chapman, Grand Captain of the Host, and MW & Excellent Companion Johnie Garmon, Grand Principal Sojourner. Thank you both for your help this year, in representing RARA to all the Lodges, Chapters and District Conventions you attended this year.

And none of this would have been possible without the charitable spirit and generous giving by the Companions of Georgia. It is through the continued dedication of this Committee and the efforts of those Companions around the state that we can provide support to the research into the understanding and mitigation of Central Auditory Processing Disorder.

In Georgia, a total of 73 separate contributions were generously given in the name of RARA. Of these 34 were from individual Chapters, 17 from District Conventions, 1 from Grand Chapter, 16 from individual donors, 3 from other Masonic bodies, with \$2,000 raised during the RARA Cruise.

For the year from March 2025 through March 2026, Georgia Royal Arch Masons gave generously for a grand total of \$47,537. There are over 70 jurisdictions that

donate to RARA, so the generosity of the Companions of Georgia have helped keep Georgia in the top 5 in worldwide giving!
On behalf of the Royal Arch Research Assistance Program Committee, we want to thank all the Georgia York Rite Masons for their generous donations and active support of this very worthwhile program during this past year.
Respectfully Submitted: John (Jay) E. Finch, Jr., Chairman; Tom Chapman, and Johnie Garmon

REPORT OF THE CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Greetings to the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Officers and Companions: I am pleased to announce that Georgia had a great year when it came to CMMRF donations! The state donated \$21,443 which means we finished #3 in the world. Companions, I truly cannot thank you enough. Well done! I was pleased to see the Royal Order of Zanzibar come back as well. It is a fun degree and all the proceeds go to CMMRF. Special thank you to Lakewood Council #10 for hosting the event back in October of 2025. Special shout out to Marietta Council #74 (my home Council by the way) as well for hosting a Table Council back in November of 2025 where the proceeds and donations went to CMMRF. It was a great event with a silent auction and a great program as well.
It has been a great year for Georgia. Let us strive to beat these numbers in order to support CMMRF further next year and stay in the top 5 where the great state of Georgia belongs!
Respectfully Submitted: Peter D. Bard

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Right Eminent Grand Commander, and the Companions and Sir Knights of the York Rite Bodies of the State of Georgia. The Finance Committee met on a quarterly basis to review the books and reconcile the checking accounts. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of the hard work given by the Grand Secretary/Recorder, the Grand Treasurer, and the Office Manager. Their excellent record keeping, the presentation of all accounts, and their ability to answer questions made it easy to review all bank statements and accounts in a timely manner. All accounts are current, and the balance accurately reflects available funds.
After much consideration from our Leadership, a budget was determined for the ensuing year. The proposed budget for next year is the result of many hours of hard work to ensure the budget follows our code requiring it to be balanced. The Leadership and the Finance Committee were consulted in the budget preparation. Increased membership will help all York Rite Bodies to stay within our budget. The Finance Committee recommends the principal monies in the investment accounts NOT be touched and all future spending comes from income only. We recommend the proposed budget for the ensuing year be passed.
Respectfully Submitted: Jack J. Bell, Chairman; Keith Hales; Keith Bryant

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

TO: The Most Excellent Grand Chapter, the Most Illustrious Grand Council, and the Right Eminent Grand Commandery of the Grand York Rite of Georgia.

FROM: The Audit Committee

DATE: March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Internal Audit of Financial Accounts and Operational Processes

I. Purpose and Scope

On March 2, 2026, the Audit Committee completed an internal audit of the financial records of the Grand York Rite of Georgia. The primary objective was to ensure the integrity of financial reporting, verify account balances, and evaluate the efficiency of internal fiscal processes.

Of the seven (7) total accounts maintained by the Grand York Rite, the Committee focused its intensive review on the following two primary accounts:

1. Building Account
2. Operating Account

Additionally, the Committee conducted a high-level review of the Investment Accounts to ensure alignment with the organization's long-term financial goals.

II. Audit Findings

Account Accuracy and Balances

The Committee performed a reconciliation of the Building and Operating accounts. Based on our review of bank statements, ledgers, and transaction history:

- Both accounts were found to be in proper balance.
- Financial entries were recorded with a high degree of accuracy.
- The Investment Accounts are being managed in accordance with established oversight protocols.

Process Analysis

The Committee analyzed the internal workflows for:

- Reimbursement Requests: Evaluation of the documentation and approval chain.
- Invoicing and Payments: Review of the timeliness and verification of outgoing payments to vendors.

The processes currently in place are functional; however, the Committee identified opportunities for cost-saving measures and increased administrative efficiency.

III. Recommendations and Administrative Actions

The Audit Committee submitted two primary recommendations based on our findings:

1. Transition to Fee-Free Banking

- Recommendation: To seek a new banking institution or account tier that eliminates monthly maintenance and transaction fees.
- Status: This recommendation is currently being explored. It should be noted that the Grand Secretary/Recorder proactively identified and pushed for this detail prior to the formal committee recommendation, demonstrating commendable fiscal foresight.

2. Vendor Diversification for Refuse Services

- Recommendation: To seek a different vendor for building refuse pickup to potentially lower operational overhead.
- Status: Not Adopted. After an exhaustive search, it was determined that there is a lack of available local vendors to provide competitive alternatives. The current service provider will be retained due to market necessity.

IV. Conclusion

The financial state of the Grand York Rite of Georgia appears stable and the records are being maintained with diligence. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Grand Secretary/Recorder's office for their cooperation and transparency during this process.

Respectfully Submitted: Michael W. Taylor, Chairman

JOINT MEMORIAL

A Joint Memorial/Divine Service was held in the Grand Chapter Temple at 811 Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, at 9:00 AM, Saturday, May 2, 2026. A warm welcome was extended to all in attendance for the Joint York Rite Ceremony of Remembrance for deceased Companions/Sir Knights. Most Excellent Grand High Priest Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III lit the red candle in remembrance of those Chapter Companions who have crossed over the River Jordan. Most Illustrious Grand Master John C. Miller lit the purple candle in remembrance of the Council Companions who have ascended to be with the Holy Father. And Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts lit the white candle in remembrance of those Sir Knights who have ascended this past year.

WAYNE HORACE GARRETT

JUNE 8, 1934 – APRIL 17, 2026

Wayne H. Garrett, 91, of Gainesville passed away on Friday April 17, 2026, at his residence following a period of declining health. Wayne was born in Dawson County on June 8, 1934. He had 6 sisters and 5 brothers. Wayne graduated from Dawson County High School and then attended the University of Georgia for two years. Wayne had been a resident of Hall County for over 50 years. Wayne began a 66-year union by marrying the former Louise E. Slaton of Dawson County on June 30, 1956, and they had two daughters, Denise and Paula. Wayne and Louise had 4 grandchildren, Cory, Suzanne, Megan and Kyle, with 1 great grandson, Calum. Wayne was a devoted and beloved husband, daddy, and grandpa. A U.S. Navy Veteran, having joined in 1952 and discharged in 1955, Wayne served in the Korean War. Following his military service, he began a career with Lockheed Martin in July 1955 and retired from there in 1996. Having accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, Wayne joined and remained an active member of Harmony Baptist Church in Dawson County since 1946, where he served as a Deacon. Wayne was a talented musician who enjoyed playing his mandolin and a man of strong faith who poured his heart into everything he did. Brother Wayne Garrett was raised a Master Mason in Etowah Lodge No 222 in August 1978, following the Garrett family legacy began by his Grandfather R.P. Garrett, who served as a Past Master of Chestatee Lodge No 102, and his mother, Lulu H. Garrett, who served as Worthy Matron of Redwine Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Gainesville. His Masonic journey included serving as Past Master of Etowah Lodge No 222 in 1985 and 2002, High Priest of Allegheny Chapter No 64, RAM, in 1985, Illustrious Master of Zabud Council No

64, R&SM, in 1986, and Eminent Commander of Pilgrim Commandery No 15 in 1985, 1986, and 1997. Excellent Companion Wayne was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Royal Arch Masons, in 2000, and then was elected to serve as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters in 2008. Wayne was a member and Past Governor of Luther G. Palmer York Rite College No 123, where he received the Order of the Purple Cross; Cherokee Rose Priory No 56 Knights York Cross of Honour, serving as Prior in 2009; Fidelities Tabernacle No 77 Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest, serving as Preceptor in 2008; St. Ambrose Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, serving as Sovereign in 2011; Blue Ridge Council Allied Masonic Degrees; Carl F. Lester, Jr. Council Knight Masons; and many others. Brother Wayne was a 32nd Degree Knight Commander Court of Honour, in the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta, where he served for many years on the Stage Crew and in the Robing Room. Noble Wayne was also a member of Yaarab Shriners, having served as President of Lanier Shrine Club. Brother Wayne served as Director of Ritual Work in many of these organizations.

Our Brother Wayne Garrett had a journey that impacted many, both inside and outside of our fraternity. This journey was encapsulated in the 2011 Annual Address of then Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Wade C. Smith, Sr., who we also lost in this York Rite year at the young age of 91, wherein he stated:

"A special thanks is extended to our Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Wayne H. Garrett, who is the best friend anyone could hope to acquire. Although he is a dedicated ritualistic perfectionist he has never the less permitted me to continue to participate with him on his many ritual teams. Most Excellent Grand Sir, you are a superb Ritualistic Scholar and an outstanding friend."

Funeral services were held on Tuesday April 21, 2026, at Bearden Funeral Home Chapel in Dawsonville. Today he is reunited with the love of his life, Ms. Louise, and sitting next to his Savior. But we will miss him here.

Respectfully Submitted: Mark A. Bradley

WADE CLAY SMITH, SR.

November 5, 1933 – July 31, 2025

It becomes my sad duty to answer the roll for Wade Clay Smith, Sr., who can no longer answer for himself. It is our hope and belief that he has gone to a better place, where there is no sickness or sadness. I feel blessed to have known Wade Smith as I did. We traveled many miles throughout this state together. Brother Wade exemplified what it means to be a Mason. He loved every facet of Freemasonry with all his heart.

Brother Wade was the third of eight children born to the union of Grover William and Marjorie Lillian (Gas) Smith in Towns County, Georgia. He married Frances Carol (Pat) Johnson of Spartanburg, South Carolina on June 4, 1955. Wade and Pat three children: Michael Wayne, Wade Clay Junior, and Bertie Lynn – seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Wade left the North Georgia Mountains, February 1, 1951, and joined the U.S. Army. He served in combat in Korea, the Dominican Republic and Viet Nam retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1980. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Silver Star along with numerous other medals and awards. Upon retirement from the military,

he immediately entered public education and served as Teacher, Principal, Director of Services and then eighteen years as Superintendent of a seven-county collaborative Alternative Evening School, an entity which he researched, developed, initiated, and led until retiring in 2007. Brother Smith received his Undergraduate Degree at Benedictine College in Business and Accounting. He obtained a Master of Education Administration Degree from Georgia State University. He also received his EDS degree in Leadership and Administration from the University of Georgia. Additional he earned Doctoral Credits from NOVA University.

BLUE LODGE

Brother Wade began his Masonic career at Nahe Temple #824 in Baumholder, Germany where he was raised a Master Mason August 22, 1960. He served as Worshipful Master at Pyramid Lodge #896 in Vilseck, Germany in 1977. He served as Worshipful Master of Allegheny Lodge #114 in 1990 and 2022 and as Secretary there for 18 years. Wade also was sitting Worshipful Master of Dooley Lodge #367 and a member of their Fellowcraft Team at the time of his death. WB Smith was a Perpetual and Charter member of W.A. Davis DL Lodge #753. He was also a member of Unicoi Lodge #259 and a Perpetual Member of Stephens Lodge # 414. Wade was a Charter Member and Secretary of the Tri-County Widows fund for 10 years. He also was a member of the Georgia Lodge of Research.

GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA

WB Smith served as 9th Masonic District Convention Endowment Fund Representative for 5 years. He served as 9th District Trustee to The Masonic Children's Home from 1993-2003. Wade also served a period as DDGM for District 9B.

GRAN CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS

On September 30, 1995, Companion Smith was exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason in Enotah Chapter #24 RAM. He served as High Priest of that Chapter 1999-2001. He was a member and Secretary of McCay Chapter #114 until it merged with Ellijay Chapter. Companion Wade was past member of Ellijay Chapter #50 RAM. Wade was High Priest for the 9th District Royal Arch Convention and a Past Grand Representative to the Grand Chapter of Arch Masons for the State of Oregon. Most Excellent Companion Smith served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia. Wade also served Grand Secretary/Recorder of the York Rite Bodies of Georgia from 2011 -2019 and was appointed Grand Secretary Emeritus.

GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

IC Wade Smith became a Royal and Select Master on September 30, 1995, in Summit Council #19. He later served as Illustrious Master and Recorder of that council. IC Wade was a Charter Member of Brasstown Council #79, where he served as Illustrious Master in 2002 and subsequently held the position of recorder for that council. Wade was a Life Member of E.L. McConnell Council Royal and Select Masters. MI Smith held the position of Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia. He was Grand Recorder from 2011 to 2019, then he became Grand Recorder Emeritus.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF GEORGIA

ESK Smith was Knighted in Blue Ridge Mountain Commandery #37 September 30, 1995, and served as Commander in 2002. He was Recipient of the Knight Commander of the Temple Award and the Knight Crusaders of the Cross. ESK Wade served as Grand Recorder of Grand Commandery of Georgia from 2011-2019. ESK Smith was serving as Grand Treasurer of Grand Commandery at the time of his death.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

Brother Smith received the 32 Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Leavenworth, Orient of Kansas on September 26, 1970. He Later affiliated with Valley of Atlanta, Orient of Georgia on July 26, 1982. Brother Wade was made a member of KCCH on October 12, 2001. He served as Wise Master of the Atlanta Chapter of Rose Croix and later Coronated as 33 Degree Honorary. Brother Smith served as President of the Georgia Mountain Scottish Rite Association from 1999 - 2001.

GENERALGRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL
MEC Smith was a Life Member, and Past SE Regional Deputy General High Priest. He also was Ambassador for Georgia,

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS INTERNATIONAL
MI Companion Smith was Ambassador for Georgia.

APPENDANT BODIES

Brother Smith was a member Rufus R, White, Red Cross of Constantine, Cherokee Rose Priory #56 Knights York Cross of Honor, Luther B. Palmer #123 York Rite College, Carl F. Lester Knights Masons, and Holy Royal Arch Templar High Priest,

National Sojourners: Charter Member Blood Mountain Chapter #555, past President of Fort Benning Chapter #8. He was a Charter Member the Heroes of '76 of James Leon Davenport Camp and Past President Daniel Morgan Camp. WB Smith's Funeral was held in Blairsville, Georgia where he was given Masonic Rites and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia where he received full military honors.

Rest in peace my brother, you certainly earned and deserve it.

Respectfully Submitted: Johnnie M. Garmon

JAMES EDWARD UNDERWOOD

MARCH 4, 1936 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

PASSED THE FINAL VEIL IN HIS EIGHTY NINTH YEAR

Companion Underwood in his years contributed greatly to mankind and our country. His zest for life, his accomplishments individually, will not soon be forgotten and we are much better for his life here on earth. He was a kind, generous, and compassionate Christian friend to many who traveled many miles with him to some remote place to confer degrees or offer assistance.

Upon graduation from High School, Companion Jim attended Atlanta Business School in Atlanta. He served in the US Army and was a SP4. On August 26, 1961, he married Erika Knierim, a chemistry teacher and skilled musician who could play several instruments. He later worked for many years as the credit manager for SMA Stith Equipment Company in Forest Park, Georgia.

Companion Underwood was initiated in Dooly Lodge No. 367 in Blairsville, Georgia on December 7, 1957, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January

4, 1958, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 1, 1958, serving as Worshipful Master in 1963. He demitted from Dooly Lodge No. 367 on October 10, 1969, and affiliated with Rex Lodge No. 251 at Rex, Georgia on the same date. He was elected Secretary of the Lodge in December 1970 and served eighteen years as Secretary until December 1988.

He was appointed Third Grand Steward by Most Worshipful Grand Master Walter W. Thompson, Sr, and installed on June 7, 1985, at Rex Lodge, and he served with distinction as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 1993.

He was highly active in Grand Lodge serving on several committees, the Educational and Historical Commission from 2004 to 2014, and as a member and chairman of the Appeals and Grievances Committee from 2008 to 2016.

The Grand Lodge Secretary, Brother Ted Hendon, resigned on May 31, 1996, and the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Clyde Griffin, appointed and installed Brother Underwood, PGM on June 1, 1996. Companion Jim retired from the Grand Secretary office on May 31, 2002.

Companion Underwood reaffiliated as a dual member with Dooly Lodge No. 367 in Blairsville on July 2, 1994. He served sixty-seven years in Freemasonry. Companion Jim joined Forest Park Chapter No.75, RAM on October 9, 1972, and served as High Priest in 1977. He demitted to Canton Chapter No. 135 in Canton, Georgia, on February 5, 2013. He joined East Point Council No. 23, RSM, at Hapeville, Georgia on November 11, 1972. He demitted to Tara Council No. 75 on May 11, 1974, and served as Illustrious Master in 1976. He demitted to Canton Council No. 3 in Canton, Georgia on February 5, 2013. He also received the Order of the Secret Vault in 2022

He joined Atlanta Commandery No. 9 in Atlanta, Georgia on May 19, 1973, and transferred to Coeur de Lion Commandery No.4, KT in 1976, shortly after the commandery moved from Atlanta to Forest Park, Georgia. He was Eminent Commander in 1984. He received the Knight Commander of the Temple Award from Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA in 1993

As he was a past presiding officer of all these bodies he was invited to membership in Cherokee Rose Priory No.56, Knights of the York Cross of Honour on October 30, 1985. He was highly active in the York Rite bodies and was elected as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia, RSM in 1985.

Companion Jim was invited to become a member of all the Appendant-Honorary Bodies in Georgia and served in a position of leadership in many of them.

He became a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on March 14, 1980, as a member of the Tracy Welborn O'Neal, (Sr.), 32°, KCCH Class. He was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 18, 1987, and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on November 20, 1993. He was highly active in the Scottish Rite becoming a member of the South Side Scottish Rite Association and serving as President in 1987. He served as Preceptor of the Council of Kadosh in 1999. He was also on the 29th Degree team when that Degree was conferred by the South Side Scottish Rite Association.

Companion Underwood was highly active in and supported the Ladies Masonic organizations: Eastern Star, Amaranth, and White Shrine of Jerusalem. He joined Ellenwood Eastern Star Chapter No. 506 in Rex, Georgia on May 15, 1972, He is

currently a member of Macon Chapter No. 345 in Macon, Georgia and has been a member fifty-three years. He later joined the Amaranth and White Shrine, holding offices in all three at various times. He also served as a board member for the local DeMolay and Rainbow groups that met in Rex, Georgia. Companion Underwood was a longtime Baptist and served the Rock Baptist Church in Rex, Georgia for more than thirty-five years as a Sunday School teacher, chairman of the finance committee and chairman of the board of deacons. He was definitely one of the Pillars of the Church during his years there.

Companion Jim's wife Erika died on November 28, 2021, they having been married sixty years. He is survived by four daughters and seven grandchildren. He is buried at Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Milledgeville, Georgia. Section I Row 15 Site 1062 with his wife Ms. Erika.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the officers and members of all the Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia hereby give formal expression of its grievous loss in the death of our Companion James Edward Underwood and does hereby note in its records the passing from this life of a man who was esteemed by his associates, loved by his friends and respected by all.

Respectfully Submitted: C. Danny Wofford

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL CONCLAVE
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY
OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
HELD IN THE CITY OF MACON
FRIDAY
MAY 1, 2026
A. O. 908**



DANIEL CUTLER RICKETTS
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
2025 - 2026

DANIEL CUTLER RICKETTS

Blue Lodge

8/16/1994 – Entered Apprentice Degree

9/6/1994 – Fellowcraft Degree

9/20/1994 – Master's Degree

Member of Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 and Sylvan Lodge No. 429

Past Master of Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 – 2000

Chapter

1994 – Received and Exalted Cherokee Chapter No. 13

1999 – High Priest of Cherokee Chapter No. 13

2020 – Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter of Georgia

Council

1994 – Royal and Select Master in Marietta Council No. 74

2000 – Illustrious Master of Marietta Council No. 74

2006 – Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Georgia

Commandery

1994 – Orders received at Constantine Commandery No. 26

1998 - Eminent Commander Constantine Commandery No. 26

2025 – Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Georgia

Appendant Bodies

- AASR, Valley of Atlanta
- Knight York Rite Cross of Honor
- Order of High Priesthood
- Order of the Silver Trowel
- Knight Crusader of the Cross
- Royal Order of Scotland
- Knight Masons
- Allied Masonic Degrees
- Red Cross of Constantine
- HRAKTP
- and many others.

ANNUAL CONCLAVE OF THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

The One Hundred Sixty-Sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia was reconvened by Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts at 9:00 AM on Friday, May 1, 2026. Being assured that a quorum was present, the Right Eminent Grand Commander declared the One Hundred Sixty-Sixth Annual Conclave duly convened.

GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICER ROLL CALL

Daniel C. Ricketts (26)	Right Eminent Grand Commander
William W. Grist (37)	Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Ryan C. Nealey (9)	Eminent Grand Generalissimo
Alessandro V. Silva (9)	Eminent Grand Captain General
William T. White (37)	Eminent Grand Senior Warden
John T. Flener, Jr. (42)	Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Rev. Donald C. Combs (7)	Eminent Grand Prelate
Matthew R. Astin (2)	Eminent Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Bradley (31)	Eminent Grand Recorder
Eric S. Tress (40)	Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
Christopher D. Gabor (21)	Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
Tyler W. Pledger (29)	Eminent Grand Warder
John E. Finch, Jr. (26)	Eminent Captain of the Guard
Anthony C. Williams (26)	Eminent Grand Adjutant
Ainsley E. Coley (26)	Eminent Grand Sentinel

*Indicates Absence

LIVING RIGHT EMINENT PAST GRAND COMMANDERS

1996 James B. Phillips (19)	2013 C. Danny Wofford (31)
1998 Bobby B. Simmons (2)	2014 Terry L. Hensley (19)
2003 Clyde E. Griffin (7)	2015 Lloyd J. Leinbaugh (26)
2004 Timothy M. Taylor, Sr. (31)	2015 Joe E. Turner (Hon) (35)
2007 Paul E. Wells (3)	2019 Robert W. Waldron (9/64)
2009 M. George Folendore, Jr. (12)	2020 Mark S. Johnson (22)
2010 Andre E. Lovas (Hon) (11)	2022 Tommy T. Marshall (36)
2011 James E. Stevens (21)	2023 Ditmar W. Chavez (3)
2012 Johnie M. Garmon (37)	2024 Tyler W. Pledger (29)

2025-2026 GRAND COMMANDERY APPOINTMENTS

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Jack Bell, Chair; Keith Hales; and John Finch

Memorial: Donald Combs (Commandery); Tim Starling (Chapter); and Rusty Cordle (Council)

Jurisprudence: William Shepard, Chair; Danny Wofford; Daniel Ricketts; Tommy Marshall; and Tyler Pledger

Charter/ By-Law/ Dispensation: Joe Turner, Chair; Stephen Higgins; and Matthew Sanford

Triennial: Bobby Simmons, Chair; Ryan Nealey; and Tommy Marshall

Education (KTEF, Inc., KTEF Div., & MSM): Clyde Griffin, Chair; Bobby Simmons, Vice Chair; Johnie Garmon; James Stevens; and Ditmar Chavez

Relief: William Grist, Chair; Mark Bradley; Matthew Astin; Tyler Pledger; and Tommy Marshall

KTEF & MSM Eye Trust: William White, Chair; and Ryan Nealey

Patriotic & Civic: Ryan Nealey, Chair; John Flener; William White; and Alessandro Silva

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Grand Commander's Address: Bobby Simmons, Chair; Johnie Garmon; and Lloyd Leinbaugh

Credentials: Bobby Simmons, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell; and Matthew Astin

Holy Land Pilgrimage: Terry Hensley, Chair; Donald Combs; and Gregory Foster
Easter Sunrise Service: John Flener, Chair; William White; Brad Simmons; Tracy Wright; Mark Bradley; and Judd Wolfe
Inspection Reports: William Shepard, Chair; Lloyd Leinbaugh; and Floyd Edmondson
Long Range Planning: James Bard, Chair; Joe Bush; Tyler Pledger; and *All Dais Officers*
Membership: Tyler Pledger, Chair; Ryan Nealey; Matthew Sanford; and Brandon Simmons
Code Revision: Joe Turner, Chair; Ryan Nealey; and William White
Perpetual Membership: Benjamin Polston, Chair; Michael Wilson; Larry Nichols; Mark Bradley; and Matthew Astin
Tactics and Ritual: Daniel Ricketts, Chair; and Tommy Marshall
Education and Historical: Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe Turner; Jimmy Densmore; William Cantrell; and Matthew Sanford
Masonic Messenger Supplement: John Flener, Chair; and John Finch
Editor, Ga. Supplement, KT, Magazine: John Flener, Chair; Daniel Bennett; and Thomas Chapman
Public Relations: John Flener, Chair; Mark Bradley; Thomas Chapman; John Finch; and Rick Hallwood
Web Master: Thomas Chapman, Chair; Richard Petersen; and Mark Bradley
Fraternal Correspondence: Joe Turner, Chair
Entertainment: Mark Bradley, Chair; Judd Wolfe; and William Shepard
Audit: Mike Taylor, Chair; Lloyd Lane; and James Arnold
Grand Custodians of the Work: North: Daniel Ricketts; South: Tommy Marshall
GM York Rite Festival: John Flener, Chair; Daniel Ricketts; Peter Bard; and Matt Sanford
Photographer: Thomas Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; and Robert Tidwell
Parliamentarian: Johnnie Garmon
Sunshine: Floyd Edmondson

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS

To the Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Sir Knights, and Distinguished Guests of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar:

Sir Knights, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome each of you to the 166th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Georgia of Knights Templar. This annual gathering is representative of not only the culmination of a year of dedicated service of the Sir Knights of Georgia, but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to the principles of our Order. This Conclave is to honor the efforts and achievements of this past year, reflecting on the dedication and perseverance that each of you, as Sir Knights has demonstrated. This assembly is both a celebration of our collective accomplishments and a renewal of what unites us in our ongoing pursuit of Templar ideals.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the Brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights present for your commitment and involvement in our ongoing service and initiatives. To our distinguished guests from the Grand Encampment, the Southeastern Department, and other jurisdictions, I extend a cordial welcome on behalf of Georgia and thank you for attending our Annual Conclave.

STATE OF THE ORDER

In the many miles traversed across our great state of Georgia, I have had the pleasure to observe the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our Sir Knights. Our Sir Knights continue to uphold our mission that "Every Christian Mason Should Be a Knight Templar!"

I am pleased to report that we continue to have a steady influx of new Christian Knights who have enlisted under the banner of our Order as we take great pride in welcoming these new Sir Knights. The sustained growth of our constituent Commanderies, and subsequently our Grand Commandery, is fundamental and must remain to be the consistent commitment to our faith, values and beliefs. Our charitable efforts have continued to make a significant impact. Georgia's contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) have remained commendable, and we have upheld our tradition of supporting vision research and aid across Georgia. I am happy to report that Georgia has surged forward to be Number 3 in overall cumulative giving (contributions+trusts+wills) at the latest updated report of the 58th Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign.

I am pleased to report that our commitment to the Holy Land Pilgrimage has not wavered, despite international challenges, and we were able to send 9 ministers to the Holy Land this Templar year. It is rewarding and beneficial for us but more so to these ministers, that they may return to the pulpit, share the Good News and to preach the Gospel having experienced walking where our Lord and Savior walked. Their words of faith will be enriched by seeing what is written in black and white, which is now brought to the full color of life for each of them through this experience.

The Knights Templar Education Foundation of Georgia reviewed and selected 19 worthy students for scholarships to continue their education, and I was honored to attend the presentation of two \$50,000 University Grants, as well as attend the presentation of two \$90,000 Career starter grants for research and further studies at Emory University and Medical College of Georgia.

The Divisional Inspections and Schools of Instruction have proven instrumental in the continued standardization of our operations and the enhancement of organizational proficiency. For the second consecutive year, each Commandery within the state of Georgia was required to conduct its own Tactics Inspection. It is noteworthy to commend the enthusiasm, diligence, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by all participants who approached these inspections with genuine commitment. The dedication exhibited by our Sir Knights in fulfilling their Templar responsibilities reflects both the enduring strength of our Order and the perseverance of its members.

YORK RITE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The York Rite Leadership Development Program, comprising of the six distinct modules that were presented at each of the individual Divisional Administrative Inspections and Schools of Instruction, provided a vital role in further equipping the Sir Knights with advanced knowledge and skills essential for future leadership within our Order. I urge that the opportunity to further enhance education and leadership development continue and expand for the benefit of the Sir Knights, and the entire York Rite.

To sustain the ongoing success of our Order, it is essential not only to continue to recruit new members and Sir Knights but also to actively engage them, provide purpose, knowledge and drive. Thus, ensuring that they are adequately prepared for leadership responsibilities, not only in our Order but for the betterment of the communities that we serve.

GEORGIA PATCH PROGRAM

The success of the Georgia Patch Program has surpassed all expectations. The seal of our Grand Commandery of Georgia is a beautiful symbol that should be celebrated and shown to all as part of our uniform. This patch has renewed the excitement of many Sir Knights across our great state. I urge the adoption of this program and its continued success.

The Garrison #1 Patch has been a great success and has added to the success of our fundraising efforts this past year. I am extremely proud that this program has contributed more than \$10,000 to our charitable efforts this year.

The Ritual Awards that were implemented this year for each of the Orders have generated an excitement not previously seen in many years, and I am pleased that there are many Sir Knights who have taken it upon themselves to renew the memorization and conferral of each of our Orders of Knighthood.

It is my hope that these programs will continue to foster, instill the passion and commitment for all Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, to take great pride in our Order, in the passion of our ritual and in the commitment to our many charities!

NECROLOGY

With heavy hearts, we respectfully acknowledge the passing of several dedicated Sir Knights during this past year. Their dedicated service, valued friendships, and steadfast commitment to our Order is appreciated and will be remembered.

Though they are no longer present with us in body, their influence and legacy endure with everyone they touched. May the Grand Architect of the Universe continue to give comfort to their families, friends and loved ones and grant each of them comfort and peace.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

A leader's effectiveness relies on collaboration. I wish to formally express my appreciation to the Grand Officers and committee members who continue to contribute their time, expertise and talents to advancing the mission of our Grand Commandery of Georgia. Your dedication has been instrumental in sustaining our ongoing achievements, and I am sincerely thankful for your contributions and exemplary performance.

A special word of gratitude and thanks is extended to our Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and dedicated Office Manager. Each of you continues to demonstrate the highest level of commitment to our organization; your work is often hidden and veiled behind the scenes and as such, your efforts go unnoticed and underappreciated. The unwavering dedication that each of you personifies not only ensures the continued smooth operation of our Grand Commandery but also contributes significantly to the individual and collective success of our individual members, our membership and our programs.

We cannot thank you enough for the love and passion that you show for our Grand Commandery and the Sir Knights. Your steadfast support and tireless service are truly the light that brightens the journey and strengthens the bonds within our fraternity.

Thank you!

DISPENSATIONS & INSPECTIONS

All dispensations granted this year were conducted in accordance with Templar Law and have been properly documented in the Grand Recorder's office for reference.

This year's Divisional Inspections continue to show strong participation, with the average conclave attendance exceeding 50 Sir Knights and total attendance surpassing 300 Sir Knights! This reflects the enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication of our Commanderies and Sir Knights. Their focus on improving proficiency in the Tactical and Administrative Inspections demonstrates the shared dedication of all Sir Knights to continuous improvement.

I extend my appreciation to the Sir Knights, Officers, and host Commanderies for all their efforts in creating a welcoming and educational environment.

These Divisional Inspections and Schools of Instruction must continue, and I urge their further expansion in education, ritual practices and instruction that will continue to prove instrumental in promoting consistency and further enhance skill development among our Sir Knights and across our Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Regrettably, Malta Commandery #16 and Crusader Commandery #17, two of our longest-standing Commanderies, were unable to attain fulfillment of both the Administrative and Tactical obligations and requirements.

Consequently, and after much prayer, discussion and reflection, the heartbreaking decision was made that the Charters for Malta Commandery #16 (Valdosta, GA) and Crusader Commandery #17 (Bainbridge, GA) were placed on probation and subsequently arrested.

VISITATIONS & REPRESENTATION

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. During my tenure, I have attended various significant events, that include the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, the Grand Assembly of Georgia International Order of Rainbow for Girls, The Annual Conclave of the Associated Chapters of the Order of DeMolay for the state of Georgia, the Annual Communication of the Eastern Star of Georgia, the Annual Meeting of the Order of Amaranth, the Easter Sunrise Service of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of North America, the Grand York Rite sessions of neighboring states, and numerous Masonic gatherings across Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

I was honored to share with the Presiding Officers of the Grand York Rite of Georgia, the distinct honor and privilege in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC, and humbled beyond words to lay a wreath at the tomb of General George Washington at his home and resting place, Mount Vernon.

It was my pleasure to attend the six Divisional Administrative Inspections and attend the Tactical Schools of Instruction that were scheduled for this year.

I have attended each of the Tactical Inspections across our great state of Georgia apart from three Commanderies due to conflicts but have endeavored to visit these Commanderies on a regular meeting night if possible. At each of these conclaves, I was received and acknowledged with all the rights and privileges due this office and extend my sincere appreciation to each of the Sir Knights of our great state!

These experiences have added to my respect for the fraternity's traditions, highlighted the importance of embracing and in cultivating stronger relationships within the Masonic community.

I have been truly humbled and blessed to represent each of you, the Sir Knights of Georgia in all my travels.

I extend my heartfelt and sincere gratitude to each of you for choosing me to be of service.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

I am pleased to report that our commitment to the Holy Land Pilgrimage remains strong, even amid the several international challenges. This Templar year, we were able to send nine ministers to the Holy Land. This experience is rewarding for us all, but especially for these ministers. They can now return to their pulpits and share the Good News with renewed passion, having walked where our Lord and Savior walked.

CHARITABLE WORKS

Our commitment to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, and the Mollie S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust has furthered our mission of service. Our efforts this year have been realized in part to the celebrating the presentation of two Golden Chalice's; Alexius Commandery #22 and Constantine #26.

The implementation of the Grand Commandery of Georgia Shoulder Patch program has shown to be an immediate success and a sense of pride for all Sir Knights of Georgia to now wear the seal of our Grand Commandery. The successful fundraising driven by the Georgia Garrison #1 patch program, and the Crusader's Cross program have helped lift Georgia to the forefront in giving this year.

Being witness to the impact of shown by our contributions reinforces the value of our collective efforts. I am in awe of each of the Sir Knights and our Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Well done my fellow Sir Knights!

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Each constituent Commandery of Knights Templar continues their efforts to send a Minister to the Holy Land.
2. Each constituent Commandery of Knights Templar continues to raise funds for the Mollie S. Moseley Foundation, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and our other charities.
3. The Patch Program continues and renews the focus on the ritual, tactics to ensure we recruit, renew and reinstate membership across our state.
4. The Divisional Inspections continue with the Schools of Instruction and the Leadership Module program to expand and to further educate our members and most especially, strengthen their sense of purpose in these educational areas.

5. Encourage each of our Commanderies and Sir Knights to identify, schedule, and attend public ceremonies in uniform so that we may raise awareness of our Order and our charities.
6. That the Grand Commandery of Georgia continue its mission of making "Every Christian Mason a Knights Templar," and ensure that as such, we are a guiding light for all.

APPRECIATION & FINAL THOUGHTS

First and foremost, I give thanks to Almighty God for His guidance, strength, and blessings throughout this year. Without His divine providence, none of our work would be possible.

To my fellow Sir Knights, thank you for your dedication, hospitality, and support. The friendships I have built and the experiences I have shared with you will remain with me always.

To Constantine Commandery #26, words cannot express my gratitude for your assistance, support and dedication. This year has been a success due to each of you that helped in so many ways. I am indebted to each of you.

To my family, especially my beloved wife Stephanie, my 3 daughters Madison, Sydney and Leslie; my sons Mason, Jackson, my bonus sons and daughters, my beautiful and handsome grandchildren; your unwavering support, assistance and most especially, your understanding of my many absences, have been my foundation throughout this journey.

As I conclude my tenure as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the great state of Georgia, I humbly reflect on this past year with immeasurable gratitude. Though my time in this role is at an end, my commitment to our Order and to the Grand Commandery of Georgia remains steadfast. I have no doubt that those who follow will continue to build upon our efforts, ensuring that the Grand Commandery of Georgia remains a beacon of Christian Knighthood.

As I depart, I leave you with these words:

"With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable." – General George Washington, 1783

"Remember my fellow Sir Knights – Be the Crusader in all that you do, remember to always be curious and never judgmental!" – REGC Daniel C. Ricketts, 2026

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit lead guide and direct each of our paths, bless each of you and guide the Grand Commandery of Georgia in the years to come.

Fraternally and Knightly: Daniel C. Ricketts, Right Eminent Grand Commander

ADDENDUM

To the Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Sir Knights, and Distinguished Guests of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar:

I am pleased to offer the following addendum to the Grand Commander's

Address found in the preliminary report.

The countless miles and fellowship shared with so many as I represented each of the Sir Knights of Georgia are experiences, I am thankful for and deeply cherish.

The fellowship and unity within our Order are priceless, and I would not trade them for anything.

Being chosen as your representative has filled me with honor, joy, and humble gratitude. The trust you reposed in me is deeply meaningful. My sincere hope and prayer are that I have exceeded your expectations in service and leadership. The lessons of true Leadership are of the greatest importance; the fellowship of our great Order is paramount and the true reason for us all in our Order. I hope that this has been seen, learned and conveyed in the Leadership Modules, the Schools of Instruction and the return of being present in our Asylums to witness to individual Commandery inspections. Much work is to be done, yet we have come so far, and we must pledge not to look back!

To support our ongoing progress and inspire future leaders, I offer these practical recommendations:

- Attend all Schools of Instruction to strengthen your understanding and skills. Bring pride in our ritual, our ceremonies and our heritage.
- Mentor new members, sharing your knowledge and fostering their growth within the Order.
- Participate actively in Commandery inspections, your own and travel to assist others, to uphold our standards and traditions.
- Embody and promote the values taught in the Leadership Modules—integrity, service, humility, and unity.
- Be present regularly within your Asylum, encouraging presence and involvement among your fellow Sir Knights.

There are those who claim our Order is faltering or that the York Rite in Georgia or even the Southeast is lost. To this, I ask us all to stand together and proclaim with unwavering conviction: We are here, we are strong, and we will not be dismissed or ignored. Our unity and our commitment are our greatest strengths. As this year concludes, I urge every Grand Officer and Sir Knight, who has the desire and aspiration to be a true leader - embrace these recommendations. The bar has been set, the standard and expectation are clear, and the sacrifice is profoundly greater than words can express. The path of our success is before you all and as such, you are urged to follow in the footsteps of those who have led by example and continue to uphold the noble traditions of our Order.

That bar, that standard, that expectation, and most especially that sacrifice I am reminding you is not what a mortal man has set, nor could in any lifetime but by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Now Sir Knights, more than ever, let us strive to live up to His divine example.

Sir Knights, govern yourselves accordingly!

Be curious, Not Judgmental!!!

Always remember to Be the Crusader!

Faternally and Knightly: Daniel C. Ricketts, Right Eminent Grand Commander

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS

To the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Officers, and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Georgia Knights Templar.

Your committee joins with our Grand Commander in welcoming all Sir Knights to the 166TH Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. We welcome all out-of-state guests, in-state guests, and dignitaries. You indeed honor us

with your presence. We thank our host Commandery, Constantine #26, for all the hospitality and kindness extended to the visitors and members of this conclave. We fully agree that the State of the Order of our Grand Commandery is in excellent condition. We deeply regret also that we lost two Commanders. Our hopes are that we can rebuild York Rite in this area. The Divisional inspections were well done and accomplished several tasks including the inspections, school of instruction, and standardized the uniform work across the state. We agree Tactics inspections should be done at each Commandery, and the training should continue. Congratulations for the second year in a row for accomplishing this task. Our Grand Commandery set the standard in sending Ministers to the Holy Land and we're very proud we are sending nine this year. We hope Commanderies will work together by sharing the cost and send a Minister next year. We are thankful for the Sir Knights supporting the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Mollie Moseley Foundation Trust. Awarding 19 scholarships and the two grants is an outstanding way to accomplish the reason for the Foundation at its beginning. Presenting two Golden Chalices is outstanding. Congratulations to Alexius Commandery and Constantine Commandery. The marketing for our charities by our Grand Commander, his officers and the Sir Knights is outstanding, we salute each of you. Our uniform tells who we are and what we represent, so we agree to keep wearing the uniform. Our membership is growing due to hard work and demonstration of our faith in our mission. We are very proud of knighting more Sir Knights last year and the growth in many areas. We welcome all new members and let us keep them by making them apart in all that we do.

The Necrology report always brings sadness for our loss of Sir Knights but let us turn the coin and remember all the great times shared with them and thank God for the wonderful memories. Our relationship with Sir Knight Wade Smith set an example for us to follow.

Your Choice of the Appointed Officers, Grand Inspecting Officers, and Committee Members was well done, they took their responsibilities serious, and their performances were outstanding. We are grateful for their services. Well done, Sir Knights.

Your travels took you many places representing our Grand Commandery and the time and miles help build relationships and witness how others manage their affairs. We hope that your memories will last forever and be treasured in your heart.

We are thankful for supporting the Easter Sunrise Service. We hope the growth of Sir Knights and their lady's participation will increase as they witness this beautiful event as we celebrate Easter.

Our forefathers set up the Knight Templar Educational Foundation and we are very thankful. The management of these funds are outstanding by contributing to research at Emory University and Medical College of Georgia, scholarships and assist in sending Ministers to the Holy Land.

Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel Ricketts, you have served the Grand Commandery of Georgia with honor and set a high standard for us to follow. Your actions have demonstrated love, enjoyment, and happiness for each of us. We ask for God's blessing upon you and hope the memories will be last forever

as you continue to serve. The wonderful support from your family, we agree was your foundation and we thank each of them.

I appreciate you for being my friend and I know your dad is looking down from heaven saying, "WELL DONE, MY SON!"

Respectfully Submitted: Bobby B. Simmons, Chairman; Johnie Garmon;
and Lloyd Leinbaugh

REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia.

We, your Committee on Jurisprudence, report there were two (2) Bills submitted to the committee to amend the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia.

Code Bill No. 1

A BILL, to provide for an amendment of the Elections by amending Article IV, of the Business, Elections Section, Section 6, Elections Section of the 2022 Grand Commandery Code of Georgia relating to nominations from the floor.

The Committee on Jurisprudence finds this Bill is in proper form and not in conflict with any other section of the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations.

Code Bill No. 2

A BILL, to provide for an amendment of the Templar Uniform by amending Section I, of the TEMPLAR UNIFORM, Section, 17. Sleeve Ornaments of the 2022 Grand Commandery Code of Georgia adding the provision for a Shoulder Patch.

The Committee on Jurisprudence finds this Bill is in proper form and not in conflict with any other section of the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations.

We are pleased to report all the Orders and Dispensations issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander and the office of the Grand Recorder were in strict accordance with the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of the State of Georgia.

The Committee wishes to thank the Right Eminent Grand Commander for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; C. Danny Wofford;
Tommy T. Marshall; Daniel C. Ricketts; Tyler W. Pledger

REPORT OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND EDICTS COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Bills, Resolutions and Edicts wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee has reviewed two Bills presented for consideration at this Grand Conclave and HIGHLY recommends they be adopted: They have been reviewed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar who stated "There is nothing in this proposal that will conflict with any GEKT statute" and by our own Jurisprudence Committee who finds them in proper format:

Bill No. 1 amends Article IV Section 6 by allowing nominations from the floor for any vacancies in the Grand Officer line. Any candidate must meet the requirements of Code Section 2 and may not nominate himself nor may any current Grand Commandery line officer nominate a candidate. This bill is effective upon adoption.

Bill No. 2 amends the Templar Uniform Section of the code to provide for a shoulder patch to be worn on the left shoulder and additional crescents added for honors and other distinctions as deemed appropriate. This bill is effective upon adoption. This bill codifies General Order No. 3 issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander on May 3, 2025.

Your Committee has reviewed two Resolution issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander, both issued March 2, 2026 to arrest the charter of Malta Commandery No. 16 at Valdosta and to arrest the charter of Crusader Commandery No. 17 at Bainbridge. These were necessary actions and your Committee recommends their adoption.

Your Committee has determined that General Orders issued by The Right Eminent Grand Commander do not come under the purview of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF CHARTER & BY-LAWS & DISPENSATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia:

Your committee on Charters and By-Laws and Dispensations wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee has received a complete revision of the ByLaws of Alexius Commandery No. 22. Your Committee recommends approval as submitted. Your Committee has received a complete revision of the ByLaws of Waycross Commandery No. 36. Your Committee recommends approval as submitted. YOUR 2023 COMMITTEE examined a complete revision of the bylaws of Coastal Plain Commandery No. 42 and asked for several changes, which have not been received. Your Committee is pleased to report these Bylaws will be finalized very soon.

This committee has reviewed all dispensations issued by the Right Eminent Grand Commander and they are of routine nature and meet with our approval. Almost all were to receive and ballot at a regular conclave.

Your Committee notes that St. Paul Commandery No. 5 at Albany was consolidated with Coastal Plain Commandery No. 42 at Tifton on June 4, 2025. Your Committee notes with sadness that the Charters of Malta Commandery No. 16 at Valdosta and Crusader Commandery No. 17 at Bainbridge were arrested for cause on March 2, 2026 and the current members issued demits that they may affiliate with a commandery of their choosing.

This Committee has received no requests for new Commandery charters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: St. Omer Commandery No. 2 175 years on September 17, 2025 Douglasville Commandery No. 40 50 years,

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Stephen C. Higgins;
and T. Matthew Sanford

REPORT OF CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Code Revision wishes to make the following report:

The May 2, 2025 Commandery Code is available from the Grand Recorder's office.

The 2025 code is placed on the Grand York Rite website as a PDF file and SHOULD BE updated annually after each Grand Conclave session so that a current copy is always available for use by any member.

The Code will be reprinted every third year with all amendments and changes. I will be submitting at least one amendment to the Code at the 2027 annual Conclave to change the requirement that a Sir Knight be at least THREE years behind in dues before suspension to TWO years.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Ryan C. Nealey;
and William T. White

REPORT OF FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of the State of Georgia:

Your Foreign Correspondent wishes to make the following report:

No out of state or foreign proceedings have been received for review. I do not know if any Grand Jurisdictions even send proceedings to other states anymore. No requests for recognition from other Grand Commanderies have been received to my knowledge.

I do receive the Knight Templar magazine and occasional newsletters from other states and I note with interest activities going on in other states.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Sir Knights of Georgia, it is once again my pleasure to report that the state of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) is thriving due to your hard work, contributions, and fundraisers. The mission of the KTEF is to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. There is a video on the Grand York Rite of Georgia website regarding all the positive impacts we are having on our community, our families, and our lodges, through the partnership with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). Donations to the Mollie S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. continue to aid in bringing vision care to rural Georgia. Even today, of the 159 Georgia counties, 52 lack adequate vision services and this is where your contributions are making a difference right here at home. We have learned over past decades that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that we have had fewer and fewer children with strabismus (crossed eyes) to treat. Our research dollars have helped develop new, non-surgical treatments for this problem, and additional research and endowment programs are all being funded as well by your faithful and continued support. Every donation you make, raise, or work towards will assist in making a tremendous difference in the lives of children by helping the Foundation to fulfill its mission. There are the 50 United States and 16 additional countries that fund the KTEF and, as a Georgian, I could not be more proud to announce that the STATE of Georgia ranks NINTH (9th), up from 15th just this time last year of all members, donating MORE than some of the other countries.

Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight. Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed; research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, THANK YOU!

REPORT OF THE EASTER SUNRISE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the members of the committee, EGSW William White, EGC Brad Simmons, WB Tracy Wright, MWB Mark Bradley, and PMIGM Judd Wolfe, we would like to thank Right Eminent Grand Commander Daniel C. Ricketts for the opportunity to serve on the Easter Sunrise Service Committee. We were truly humbled to serve on the committee. After discussions, the committee and REGC Ricketts recognized that this year presented the Grand Commandery of Georgia with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit our Nation's Capital city during this historic 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. The Committee worked with the REGC to include in this trip events celebrating the semi-quincentennial of the United States of America.

26 Sir Knights, Spouses, and guests participated in the 2026 Grand Commander's Easter Sunrise Trip.

After arriving in our nation's capital, we gathered for a welcome reception followed by a private moonlight trolley tour of our National Mall and Monuments. On Thursday, we traveled to Gettysburg, PA, where we were treated to a private tour by a National Park Ranger of the home of our 34th president of the United States, Dwight D Eisenhower. Next stop was the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor's Center, followed by lunch and camaraderie overlooking the Gettysburg Battlefield, one of the major turning points in the Civil War. We then continued with a visit to the Friend-to-Friend Masonic Memorial, which depicts the "Armistead-Bingham incident."

That evening, we traveled to Ford's Theatre to take in an "insightful, vibrant and humorous take on our founding fathers' determination to do the right thing for their fledgling nation" – the production 1776 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Friday was a free day for everyone to explore our nation's capital and enjoy the 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival and take in several of the America 250 exhibits and events. That evening, several of us gathered for camaraderie and a one-of-a-kind Colonial Dining. Gadsby's Tavern was known as a mecca for the first five presidents of the United States: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and John Monroe.

We began Saturday with a trip to Mount Vernon. After a solemn ceremony, MEGHP Oelgoetz, III, REGC Ricketts, and Grand Master Shepard laid a wreath at the tomb of General, President, and Brother George Washington. A brother who was "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," from the eulogy written by Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. We were then treated to a private tour of the Mansion. In celebration of America 250, we were able to see the newly reopened Washington's Bedchamber and the brand-new Patriots Path. Afterwards, we again broke bread and enjoyed fellowship with lunch at Mount Vernon Inn.

Saturday afternoon, we gathered at Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After a moving ceremony with solemn remembrance, MEGHP Oelgoetz, III, MIGM Miller, REGC Rickets, and Grand Master Shepard paused to remember and honor our brave men and women who "laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom," a quote from the Bugsby letter from President Abraham Lincoln.

After a solemn and patriotic-filled day, we gathered with fellow Christian Knights and their guests at the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar Annual Banquet for an evening of fraternal camaraderie.

On Sunday morning, your York Right representatives from the great state of Georgia, along with our Grand Master, participated in the parade up Shooter's Hill to the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and participated in the 96th Annual Grand Encampment Easter Observance honoring our Lord and Savior, the One Living God.

Respectfully Submitted: John Flener, Chairman

REPORT OF THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

To: The RE Grand Commander, RE Past Grand Commanders, Knights Templar Education Foundation Committee, Inc., the Grand Commandery Officers, and the Grand Commandery of Georgia:

It is indeed an honor and great pleasure to serve and be a part of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee. We thank our Right Eminent Grand Commander for this appointment.

As Chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, I submit the following report:

Minister's for 2026 Holy Land Pilgrimage are as follows:

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Commandery Sponsored By</u>
Rev. Robert Dale Kitchen	Arnold De Troye No. 31
Rev. Kirk Nicholas Broxton, Sr.	Atlanta No. 9
Rev. Willis Peek	Coeur De Lion No. 4
Rev. Murphy Dodd Hagen	Douglasville No. 40
Rev. Paul A. Bennett	Pilgrim No. 15
Rev. Kevin Wilhite	St. Bernard No. 25
Rev. Bobby Bowers	St. Johns No. 19
Rev. Steve A. Johnson	St. Omer No. 2
Rev. Christopher W. Shurtz	St. Bernard No. 25

Rev Steve Johnson, sponsored by St Omer Commandery No 2, was not able to participate as a winter storm caused a cancellation of his flight to Newark New Jersey, which was the point of departure. We pray that he can make the trip at a future time.

As Israel has been in a time of devastation and unrest for the last couple of years and are working toward a peaceful conclusion with Hamas, let us continue our prayers for a peaceful solution. So, that Isreal can once again be the joyful Country and Nation that they can be, and to welcoming all that want to come to visit the Holy Land of promise. As I stated in 2024, Israel seems to be the place that most of the world wants to control. Please continue in prayer for the wellbeing of the Israelis', all inhabitants, and the land of Israel.

In our biblical studies, we see that ever since God gave the land to Israel, people after people have been trying to run Israel out of the land, declaring that the land

isn't Israel's. But, in the end, God himself, will fight the fight for His chosen people.

Respectfully Submitted: Rev. Terry L. Hensley, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION RETURNS

To the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the State of Georgia. This Committee has reviewed the annual inspection reports of the 30 Commanderies of the State for the Templar Year 2025-2026, and we submit the following report.

Inspections were divided between administrative and tactics and conducted as follows:

Grand Commander	1
Past Grand Commanders	9
Grand Line Officers	14
Past Commanders	6

FULL FORM OPENINGS:

The number of full form openings for this inspection year was 221.

ATTENDANCE:

The average attendance at conclaves is 10.

DUES STATUS:

Reports show 128 members were in arrears for one year. In arrears for two years were 76 and in arrears for three years 10.

Number of Commanderies	Amount Charged for the orders
1	\$300.00
1	\$200.00
4	\$150.00
1	\$140.00
1	\$135.00
6	\$130.00
1	\$127.00
3	\$125.00
1	\$121.00
1	\$105.00
5	\$100.00
1	\$95.00
1	\$90.00
2	\$85.00
1	\$55.00

CASH

The total reported cash in treasuries was \$471,308.00

The general condition for each commandery, rated as follows:

Excellent: (100-91)

1,2,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,14,15,19,21,25,26,29,30,31,36,37,41,42,73

Very Good: (90,81) 40,12,22,33

Good: (80-71) 38

Fair: (70-0) 16,17,11

Respectfully Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; Lloyd J. Leinbaugh; and Floyd E. Edmondson

REPORT OF THE TACTICS AND RITUAL COMMITTEE

To the Grand Commandery Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery of the State of Georgia:

The Tactics and Ritual Committee has continued to work diligently with the Grand Commandery Officers and the Sir Knights of our great State of Georgia as to the revised Manual of Asylum Ceremonies throughout the past Templar year. We continue to receive questions and positive feedback from the 2022 revision. Many Sir Knights have expressed appreciation of the clearer instructions on ceremonial procedures, while some requested additional clarification on uniform requirements at the Schools of Instruction and individual Tactics Inspections this past year.

The Tactics and Ritual Committee has found that several Sir Knights still possess outdated copies of the Manual of Asylum Ceremonies. However, the number of outdated manuals identified at inspections decreased immensely compared to last year, reflecting improved communication and distribution efforts.

The Custodians of the North and the South continue to inform all Sir Knights of Georgia that the manual is available in digital format, as well as in a physical copy for a nominal fee from the office of the Grand Recorder.

The revised Manual of Asylum Ceremonies has been presented at each of the six Divisional Inspections this past year, where it continues to be well received. These divisional inspections and Schools of Instruction provide Sir Knights with a comprehensive guide to opening a Commandery in both Open and Closed Inspections, the Manual of the Sword and other important instructions. The feedback and discussion at each event are beneficial and instructive to all who attend and we urge that these Schools of Instruction continue in the future. All requests for clarification, instruction, or other matters were referred to the Grand Custodian of the North or South and were handled expeditiously and appropriately. The continued success of our tactics and rituals will only be furthered with the assistance of all Sir Knights and the renewed interest in informed instruction of our forms and ceremonies.

Respectfully Submitted: Daniel C. Ricketts, Chairman; Tommy T. Marshall; and Mark Johnson

REPORT OF THE TRIENNIAL COMMITTEE

The 70th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment will be held August 15-18, 2027, at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, 2500 N Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. Drill Competition will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2027, in the hotel convention center. This hotel is located across from Bob Hope Airport (Hollywood Burbank Airport). More information will be on the Grand Encampment website when the registration opens. I expect registration will be available beginning January 1, 2027.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation BOD will meet August 12-13 immediately preceding the GEKT. Mark your calendar, let's have a good group of Sir Knights and Ladies from Georgia.

Respectfully Submitted: Bobby B. Simmons, Chairman

In Memoriam



This Memorial is affectionately

Inscribed to the memory of

All Sir Knights of Georgia

And those of Sister Jurisdictions who have

Departed this life during the past

Templar Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election was held and the following officers were elected:

Ryan C. Nealey (9)	Right Eminent Grand Commander
William W. Grist (37)	Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Alessandro V. Silva (9)	Eminent Grand Generalissimo
William T. White (37)	Eminent Grand Captain General
John T. Flener, Jr. (42)	Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Eric S. Tress (40)	Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Rev. Donald C. Combs (7)	Eminent Grand Prelate
Matthew R. Astin (2)	Eminent Grand Treasurer
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (3)	Eminent Grand Recorder
Christopher D. Gabor (21)	Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
Mark A. Bradley (31)	Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
Judd J. Wolfe (31)	Eminent Grand Warder

OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The REGC made the following Appointments: P. Brian Kelley (38) Eminent Grand Captain of the Guard; Craig J. Leifeld (9), Eminent Grand Sentinel; and Daniel P. Bennett (19), Eminent Grand Adjutant.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The newly elected officers were duly installed on Saturday, May 2, 2026 by RE Robert Waldron, Installing Grand Commander, RE Daniel C. Ricketts, Grand Marshal, and RE Tyler W. Pledger, Prelate.

2026-2027 GRAND COMMANDERY APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Jack J. Bell, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Howard Maddox

Memorial: Donald C. Combs; Beau M. Davis, James W. Bard

Jurisprudence: William F. Shepard, Chair; C. Danny Wofford; Daniel C. Ricketts

Charter/ By-Law/ Dispensation: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Stephen C. Higgins; Matthew Sanford

Triennial: Bobby B. Simmons, Chair; Ryan Nealey; Tommy T. Marshall

KTEF, Inc., KTEF Div., & MSM Trustees: Clyde E. Griffin, Chair; Bobby B.

Simmons, Vice Chair; Tyler W. Pledger; James E. Stevens; Ditmar W. Chavez

Relief: Mark A. Bradley, Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin; Tyler W. Pledger

KTEF & MSM Presenters: William T. White, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; Eric S. Tress

Patriotic & Civic: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; William T. White; Alessandro Silva

Grand Commander's Address: Bobby B. Simmons, Chair; Johnnie M. Garmon; Lloyd J. Leinbaugh

Credentials: Matthew R. Astin, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell; Dennis C. Simpson; Mark A. Bradley

Holy Land Pilgrimage: Terry L. Hensley, Chair; Donald C. Combs; Gregory B. Foster

Easter Sunrise Service: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; William T. White; Brad Simmons; Tracy Wright; Judd Wolfe

Inspection Reports: William F. Shepard, Chair; Lloyd J. Leinbaugh; Floyd E. Edmondson

Long Range Planning: Tyler W. Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Michael Hamlin

Membership: Tyler Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Brandon P. Simmons

Code Revision: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; William T. White

Perpetual Membership: Benjamin W. Polston, II, Chair; Michael H. Wilson; Mark A. Bradley; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin

Tactics and Ritual: Daniel C. Ricketts, Chair; Tommy T. Marshall; Tyler W. Pledger

Education and Historical: C. Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe E. Turner; Jimmy Densmore; Matthew Sanford; Timothy K. Starling

Masonic Messenger Supplement: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; John E. Finch

Editor, Ga. Supplement, KT, Magazine: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Daniel

Bennett; Thomas J. Chapman

Public Relations: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Rick Hallwood

Web Master: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Richard T. Petersen; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III

Fraternal Correspondence: Joe E. Turner, Chair

Entertainment: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Judd Wolfe

Audit: Mike Taylor, Chair; Lloyd R. Lane; James D. Arnold

Grand Custodians of the Work: North: Daniel C. Ricketts; South: Matthew Sanford

GM York Rite Festival: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Daniel C. Ricketts; Peter D. Bard; Matt Sanford; Joey Jackson

Photographer: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; Robert W. Tidwell

Parliamentarian: Johnie M. Garmon

Sunshine: Floyd E. Edmondson

**GRAND COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER
RYAN C. NEALEY**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1

This Order shall be read at the head of the Commandery lines in each Commandery at the next Stated Conclave and shall be made a part of the minutes thereof.

TO: Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders and Constituent Commanderies. Greetings:

BE IT HEREBY ORDERED: That during the 2026-2027 Grand Commandery Year, the Grand Commandery of Georgia shall be organized into two Corps. The First Corps shall contain Divisions One, Two, and Three and the Second Corps shall contain Divisions Four, Five, and Six.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the First Corps shall be assigned to the Eminent Grand Generalissimo and the Second Corps shall be assigned to the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That each Division will have a Grand Commandery Officer assigned as Division Commander. The Division Commander assignments are as follows:

- Division One: Judd J. Wolfe
- Division Two: Mark A. Bradley
- Division Three: Christopher D. Gabor
- Division Four: Eric S. Tress
- Division Five: John T. Flener, Jr.
- Division Six: William T. White

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Commanderies will be assigned to Divisions as follows:

FIRST CORPS:

First Division: Judd J. Wolfe

with the following serving as Division Grand Liaison Officers:

Joe Futch (30)

Howard L. Maddox (42)

Second Division: Mark A. Bradley

with the following serving as Division Grand Liaison Officers:

Robert Brooks (7)

James R. Bennett (36)

Third Division: Christopher D. Gabor

with the following serving as Division Grand Liaison Officers:

Jerry H. Purvis (2)

Baron Conklin (3)

SECOND CORPS:

Fourth Division: Eric S. Tress

with the following serving as Division Grand Liaison Officers:

Jackson Fussell (4)

Keith Bryant (26)

Fifth Division: John T. Flener, Jr.

with the following serving as Division Grand Liaison Officers:

Nathan Wade (41)

John Mull (8)

Sixth Division: William T. White

with the following serving as Division Grand Liaison Officers:

Dale B. Cliett (1)

Bill Garrison (31)

Brad Johnson (25)

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Corps Commanders will command, assist, and supervise their respective Divisions.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Division Commanders shall:

- Maintain direct communication with the Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Corps Commander and the Eminent Grand Recorder's Office with respect to each Commandery in his Division, as to ritual, opening, tactics, armory, regalia, programs, and/or any special needs or assistance
- Visit each Commandery in his respective Division as often as needed, but at least once during the Commandery year;
- Represent the Grand Commander when requested to do so.
- Promote programs of involvement that will enhance Templary.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Grand Commandery Officers, exclusive of the Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Adjutant, and Grand Sentinel will submit to the Grand Recorder's office an annual report of all visitations made and activities engaged upon for the Grand Commandery no later than April 15, 2027.

GRAND LIAISON OFFICERS

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That Grand Liaison Officers are appointed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander. The Grand Liaison Officers will report to and represent the Grand Commander and or the Division Commander while on

official business and will be afforded the respect and honors due a Grand Commandery Officer. Each Grand Liaison Officer will make one Official Visit to their Respective Commanderies in the Templar Year, assist the Division Commander in coordinating the Annual Inspections of their Respective Commanderies and attend the Grand Commandery Conclave. The Grand Liaison Officers shall wear a red and green shoulder cord as recognition of their office.

INSPECTIONS

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That all Commanderies shall be inspected by March 1, 2027. Each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on a date and time selected by the Eminent Commander, for the purpose of participating in their Annual Tactics Inspection. This Inspection shall be held in accordance with the Tactics and Customs of this Grand Jurisdiction and shall include a full uniform Tactics Inspection by their assigned Grand Liaison Officer, serving as the Grand Inspecting Officer. The Eminent Commander shall see that each Sir Knight, in the line, is in full uniform in accordance with the Grand Commandery Code and the Grand Encampment Constitution. The uniform symbolizes us as the Christian Soldiers within the Masonic Fraternity and we should each take personal pride in wearing it as a statement of who we are and what we represent. The assigned Grand Liaison Officer shall submit to the Grand Recorder a full report of the Tactics Inspection within ten (10) days of said inspection using the 2026-27 Commandery Tactics Inspection Report form. All outdated Inspection Report forms will be rejected. The failure of a Commandery to not have the Tactical Inspection completed by March 1 of the calendar year, will receive an "Incomplete" Tactical Inspection Report. If a Commandery receives an "Incomplete" Tactical Inspection Report for two (2) consecutive years, that Commandery will be liable to the Grand Commandery of Georgia Code Article III, Section 13.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That each Eminent Commander shall assemble the Sir Knights of his Commandery, on the assigned Divisional Conclave Date and at the assigned time, for the purpose of participating in their respective Annual Divisional Conclave. The Divisional Conclave shall include a Tactics and Ritual School of Instruction facilitated by the appropriate Grand Commandery Custodians. Also at the Annual Divisional Conclave, each Recorder shall furnish their assigned Grand Inspecting Officer such information that will enable him to answer all questions on the Administrative Inspection Form. The completed Administrative Inspection Form shall then be forwarded to the Grand Recorder within ten (10) days after said Administrative Inspection. All assigned Grand Inspecting Officers MUST use the current Administrative Inspection Report form. All outdated Inspection Report forms will be rejected. The failure of a Commandery to not have the Administrative Inspection completed by March 1 of the calendar year, will receive an "Incomplete" Administrative Inspection Report. If a Commandery receives an "Incomplete" Administrative Inspection Report for two (2) consecutive years, that Commandery will be liable to the Grand Commandery of Georgia Code Article III, Section 13.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That as per the Grand Commandery Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations that the Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery will be bonded, unless the Commandery By-laws require more

than one signature on a voucher or check before any monies are disbursed. The Grand Inspecting Officer shall verify if either method is in order

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That written proof of the last audit, showing date audited and a current copy of tax form 990 shall be provided to the Grand Inspecting Officer at the Divisional Conclave.

CHARITIES

It is my hope and prayer that each Sir Knight, within this Grand Jurisdiction, shall continue to contribute to our charities as liberally as his ability permits. Let us continue our efforts to support the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc., the Molly S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust of Georgia, Inc., and the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. I would like for every Commandery in Georgia to work toward the goal of sending a minister to the Holy Land. I know it is difficult for some Commanderies to accomplish this feat alone. I, therefore, encourage each Commandery that cannot individually sponsor a Minister to partner with another Commandery(s) and jointly send a minister to the Holy Land. Our goal is for our Grand Commandery to send a total of 10 ministers to the Holy Land in 2027. I also would like for each Commandery to once again become 100% Life Sponsors of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. The Grand Commandery of Georgia was the first state to accomplish this task and need to get back to that level of participation. We have been challenged to achieve a 200% Life Sponsorship rate, and I hope you all will participate.

FESTIVALS

All Commanderies participating in York Rite Festivals, where all the York Rite Degrees/Orders are conferred, are encouraged to confer the Templar Orders on a separate date when possible. I encourage the full conferral of the Templar Orders. We rob much from our candidates and ourselves when we exemplify the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta in short form. When the Templar Orders are conferred, all candidates should be appropriately dressed in coat and tie.

COMMITTEES

The successful completion of our many projects rests solely on the dedicated work of the members appointed to the various Committees. I have appointed those Sir Knights that I feel will excel in the tasks at hand. Your knowledge, experience and dedication to the Order have afforded you this important trust. Please exercise due diligence in the Committees to which you have been assigned.

ASYLUM IMPROVEMENT

Every Sir Knight should take pride in the appearance and condition of his Asylum. Therefore, I encourage each Commandery to plan and complete at least one improvement project during the coming year. This may include organizing a workday for cleaning and maintenance, restoring and organizing degree paraphernalia, or making a concerted effort to ensure members are properly uniformed. These are only suggestions, and each Commandery is encouraged to select a project best suited to its needs. I firmly believe that when members work together toward improving their Commandery, the entire organization benefits and prospers.

Respectfully ordered on this the 11th day of May in the year of our Lord 2026.

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Grand Recorder
of the State of Georgia

Ryan C. Nealey
Right Eminent Grand Commander
of the State of Georgia

GRAND COMMANDERY ADJOURNED

There being no further business, Eminent Sir Knight Ryan C. Nealey, Right Eminent Grand Commander, adjourned the Grand Commandery of Georgia until the next Annual Conclave.

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Grand Recorder



Ryan C. Nealey
Grand Commander

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE KNIGHT CRUSADERS OF THE CROSS
MACON, GEORGIA – FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026**

The Annual Conclave of the Knight Crusaders of the Cross was held in the Grand Chapter Building in Macon, Georgia with the following Officers in their respective stations:

Tommy T. Marshall (36)
Raymond G. Laird (25)
Tyler W. Pledger (29)
Daniel C. Ricketts (26)
Jack J. Bell (9)
Ryan C. Nealey (9)
Judd J. Wolfe (31)
Mark A. Bradley (31)

Knight Crusader of the East
Knight Crusader of the West
Knight Crusader of the South
Knight Crusader of the North
Knight Crusader of the Holy Cross
Knight Crusader of the Asylum
Knight Crusader of the Temple
Knight Crusader Rec-Treasurer

LIVING PAST KNIGHT CRUSADERS OF THE EAST

2003 Clyde E. Griffin (7)
2007 Joe E. Turner (35)
2010 Timothy M. Taylor (31)
2011 M. George Folendore, Jr. (12)
2014 Lloyd J. Leinbaugh (26)
2015 C. Danny Wofford (31)
2016 Paul E. Wells (3)
2017 Mark S. Johnson (22)

2018 James E. Stevens (21)
2019 Mark A. Bradley (31)
2020 Mark A. Bradley (31)
2022 Benjamin W. Polston, II (25)
2023 Floyd E. Edmondson (41)
2024 Jan M. Giddens (26)
2025 William F. Shepard (21)
2026 Tommy T. Marshall (36)

CONFERRAL TEAM

Floyd E. Edmondson (37)
Edward C. Barclay (15)
Mark S. Johnson (22)
Jan M. Giddens (04)
Benjamin W. Polston, II (25)
Tommy T. Marshall (36)
James E. Stevens (21)

Knight Crusader of the East
Knight Crusader of the West
Knight Crusader of the South
Knight Crusader of the North
Knight Crusader of the Holy Cross
Knight Crusader of the Asylum
Knight Crusader of the Temple

CANDIDATES

Robert A. McDowell (1)
James M. Nichols (29)

David Simmons (42)
Darold Vissering (25)

2026-2027 OFFICERS

A motion by the Nominating Committee was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the following Officers be elected and installed:

Tyler W. Pledger (29)	Knight Crusader of the East
Daniel C. Ricketts (26)	Knight Crusader of the West
Jack J. Bell (9)	Knight Crusader of the South
Ryan C. Nealey (9)	Knight Crusader of the North
Judd J. Wolfe (31)	Knight Crusader of the Holy Cross
John T. Flener (42)	Knight Crusader of the Asylum
Christopher D. Gabor (21)	Knight Crusader of the Temple
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (3)	Knight Crusader Treasurer/Recorder

The Officers were installed by Eminent Sir Knight Benjamin W. Polston, III.

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III	Tyler W. Pledger
Knight Crusader Recorder-Treasurer	Knight Crusader of the East

GRAND YORK RITE BANQUET

On Friday, May 1, 2026, a banquet was held at Marriot Macon City Center in Macon, Georgia in honor of the 2025-2026 Grand York Rite of Georgia Grand Line Officers. The following Grand Commandery awards were presented:

COMPANION OF THE TEMPLE AWARD

REGC Daniel C. Ricketts, REPGC Bobby B. Simmons, Grand Captain General, GE KT USA, James McGee, and SE Department Commander Paul Friend presented the Companion of the Temple Award to Ladies Eva Garmon, Stephanie Ricketts, Cheryle Shepard, and Marla Horton.

KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE TEMPLE AWARD

REGC Ricketts and REPGC Simmons presented the Knight Commander of the Temple Award to Sir Knights John T. Flener and Tyler W. Pledger.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR AWARD

During the Grand Commandery Business Session, the Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award was presented to Kevin Deverell.

PRESENTATION TO THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

Grand Captain General, GE KT USA, McGee, and SE Department Commander Friend presented REGC Daniel C. Ricketts with a plaque and lapel pin, designating him a permanent voting member of Grand Encampment.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF THE YEAR AWARD

During the Grand Commandery Business Session, the Grand Commandery of the Year Award was presented to St. Bernard Commandery No. 25.

GOLDEN SPUR AWARD

During the Grand Commandery Business Session, the Golden Spur Award was presented to Blue Ridge Mountain Commandery No. 37.

RECIPIENTS OF THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME
*1965	Preston Y. Luther (2)	*1972	James C. Bentley, Jr. (16)
*1966	Ira R. Huffaker (4)	1973	Dannie L. Reed (35)
*1967	William M. Drinnon (2)	*1974	Joel M. Hammond (24)
*1968	Graydon W. Kitchens (4)	*1975	George H. Balentine (33)
*1999	Otis Medley (02)	*1976	Aaron E. Cole (26)
*1970	T. Malcolm Gray (24)	*1977	George C. King (5)
*1971	Ross F. Mainor (2)	*1978	Dave H. Keever (31)

*1979 S. Talmadge Lord (8)
 *1980 Joseph P. Suttles (4)
 *1981 Fermor R. Hargrove, Jr. (12)
 *1982 Jack O. Smith (41)
 *1983 William M. Hutcheson (4)
 *1984 Rufus R. White (19)
 *1985 J. Sheffield Thompson (40)
 *1986 Virlyn Y. Jones (14)
 1987 C. Danny Wofford (31)
 *1988 H. Clayton Garrett (15)
 *1989 Otis. B. Turner (35)
 *1990 Lewis H. Keith (9)
 *1991 Walter A. Walker (2)
 *1992 J. Walter Cowart (7)
 *1993 John S. Perry (4)
 1994 A. Wayne Norton (33)
 *1995 Reed S. Britt, Jr. (31)
 *1996 Henry L. Stonecypher (33)
 1997 Gary D. Lemmons (19)
 *1998 Bobby L. Massey (41)
 *1999 Otis Medley (2)
 *2000 Roy R. Jackson, Sr. (42)
 2001 Wallace D. Mays (5)
 2001 Robert L. Gill (36)
 2002 Austin E. Pearce (21)
 * Indicates death ** Indicates demitted

*2003 James E. Miller (3)
 *2004 Carl W. Dohn (2) **
 2005 Emory L. Morris (29)
 *2006 R. Lowman Oglesby (9)
 **2007 Craig A. Haggas (3)
 2008 Lloyd J. Leinbaugh (26)
 2009 John T. Holt (9)
 *2010 James T. Farmer (35)
 2011 Robert W. Tidwell (4)
 2012 Mark S. Johnson (35)
 2013 Benjamin W. Polston, II (25)
 2014 Mark A. Bradley (31)
 2015 William F. Shepard (21)
 2016 James W. Tate (3)
 2017 John I. Haggas (3)
 2018 Raymond G. Laird (25)
 2019 William R. Kayma (9)
 *2020 James C. Huffman, III (10)
 2021 Floyd E. Edmondson (37)
 2022 Gary A. Palmer (4)
 2023 Joey D. Crews (36)
 2024 Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (3)
 2025 Eric S. Tress (40)
 2026 Kevin Deverell (19)

RECIPIENTS OF THE KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE TEMPLE

*12-1-92 James E. Moseley (35)
 *4-2-93 James W. Coward (7)
 *4-2-93 Wilford H. Hall (19)
 *4-2-93 Willie P. Hammond (35)
 *4-2-93 William M. Hutcheson (4)
 *4-2-93 James W. Register (3)
 *4-2-92 William M. Roach, Sr. (21)
 *4-2-93 Joseph P. Suttles (4)
 *4-27-93 Ted H. Hendon (9)
 *4-27-93 Lee D. Holcomb (40)
 *4-27-93 Carl F. Lester, Jr. (9)
 *4-27-93 John S. Perry (4)
 4-27-93 James E. Underwood (4)
 7-20-93 Clyde E. Griffin (7)
 *7-20-93 C. Johnson, Jr. (20)
 *7-20-93 James E. Miller (3)
 *7-20-93 Shepherd G. Pryor, III (9)
 *7-20-93 Emmett A. Rogers (12)
 *7-20-93 Hugh L. Smith (24)
 *1-26-95 Clarence E. Horne (4)
 *1-26-95 Roy R. Jackson, Sr. (42)
 *1-26-95 Raymond E. Keen (27)
 1-26-95 Gary D. Lemmons (19)

1-26-95 Dannie L. Reed (35)
 *10-13-95 Billy F. Adams (8)
 *10-13-95 Joseph C. Billingsley (2)
 *10-13-95 Jack Cluck (1)
 *10-13-95 Edward Helton (15)
 *10-13-95 Roy H. Homans (21)
 *10-13-95 Robert H. Kines, Jr. (12)
 *10-13-95 Charles R. Maffett (3)
 *10-13-95 William D. Miles (9)
 *10-13-95 Lloyd C. Odom (10)
 *10-13-95 Charles L. Taylor, Jr. (33)
 10-13-95 Hugh F. Watson (26)
 *9-15-97 John B. Allen (15)
 *9-15-97 James C. Bentley, Jr. (16)
 *9-15-97 Thomas L. Blanton (8)
 *9-15-97 John P. Bohanan (41)
 *9-15-97 Grady T. Bozeman (41)
 *9-15-97 Reed S. Britt, Jr. (31)
 *9-15-97 Steven V. Carter (36)
 *9-15-97 Jim F. Dickerson (21)
 9-15-97 Vernon W. Evans (36)
 *9-15-97 Earl D. Harris (25)
 *9-15-97 Henry G. Keith, Sr. (9)
 *9-15-97 Alexander Loo (1)

*9-15-97 Samuel B. Owens (36)
 9-15-97 James B. Phillips (19)
 9-15-97 James W. Seymour (14)
 9-15-97 Bobby B. Simmons (2)
 *9-15-97 Charles D. Strickland (25)
 9-15-97 Timothy M. Taylor (31)
 *9-15-97 Bobby J. Townsend (9)
 *4-7-98 Charles W. Martin (3)
 *4-7-98 Charles C. White, Jr. (3)
 *5-1-00 Henry L. Stonecypher (33)
 5-1-00 C. Danny Wofford (31)
 *2-6-03 Eli A. Stafford (7)
 2-6-03 Paul E. Wells (3)
 *5-2-04 Freddie R. Jackson (2)
 5-2-04 James E. Jennings, Jr. (19)
 *5-1-05 Jack L. Hepner (7)
 5-1-05 James T. Ingram (41)
 *4-30-06 Ernest A. Forthman (24)
 *4-30-06 Ruben Martinez (4)
 5-6-07 Alfred J. Clark (14)
 5-6-07 Wayne H. Garrett (15)
 5-4-08 Merrill G. Folendore, Jr. (12)
 5-4-08 Robert L. Gill (36)
 5-4-08 Joe E. Turner (35)
 5-6-08 Andre E. Lovas (11)
 *5-6-09 Phillip H. Floyd (31)
 5-6-09 Johnnie M. Garmon (37)
 *5-6-09 Jeff W. Hodges, Jr. (9)
 *5-6-09 Emmett R. Johns (2)
 5-4-10 Terry L. Hensley (19)
 5-4-10 James E. Stevens (21)
 *5-1-11 Charles M. Ellis (29)
 5-1-11 William F. Shepard (21)
 *5-1-11 John A. Wages (25)
 5-3-12 Benjamin W. Polston, II (25)
 5-3-12 Wade C. Smith, Sr. (37)
 5-5-13 Mark A. Bradley (31)

* Indicates Death

** Indicates Suspension

*** Indicates Dimit

RECIPIENTS OF THE COMPANION OF THE TEMPLE AWARD

*2001 Mollie S. Moseley
 2001 Frances Dohn
 *2002 Mildred Spradley
 *2004 Loyce Price
 *2006 Dr. Fleetwood Maddox
 2008 Rebecca Taylor
 2008 Nora Wells
 *2010 Fae Suttles
 2012 Barbara Townsend

*5-5-13 Steve A. Kirk (41)
 *5-4-14 Story A. Tate (31)
 5-4-14 Ernest A. McCorkle (7)
 5-1-15 Leonard A. Davis (11)
 5-1-15 John A. Minnich (02)
 5-1-16 Lloyd J. Leinbaugh (26)
 *5-1-16 Charles R. Beasley (04)
 5-1-16 Robert L. Head, Jr. (03)
 *4-30-17 Doyle R. Hatfield (3)
 **4-30-17 Brandon S. Yarbrough (35)
 4-30-17 Bruce D. Mann (17)
 4-30-17 Wallace D. Mays (5)
 *5-7-18 Drewey W. Hendry, Sr. (25)
 5-7-18 Jerry D. Moss (38)
 5-7-19 Brit T. Massey (41)
 5-7-19 Robert W. Tidwell (4)
 5-7-19 Roy H. Miller, Jr. (10)
 5-7-19 Bruce H. McNall (7)
 5-7-19 J. Walter McCannon, Jr. (14)
 5-30-20 Tommy T. Marshall (36)
 5-30-20 Floyd E. Edmondson (37)
 *5-15-21 Carl J. Gamel (40)
 5-15-21 Emmet R. McCall, Sr. (40)
 5-14-22 Lanier S. Dasher, Jr. (4)
 5-14-22 Kevin R. Deverell (19)
 5-14-22 Michael L. Hamlin (2)
 5-14-22 James D. Reese (7)
 5-6-23 Jerry H. Purvis, Jr. (2)
 5-3-24 Bobby C. Lord (2)
 5-3-24 Ditmar W. Chavez (3)
 5-3-24 Larry T. Croy (22)
 5-2-25 Daniel C. Ricketts (26)
 5-2-25 Ryan C. Nealey (9)
 5-1-26 John T. Flener, Jr. (42)
 5-1-26 Tyler W. Pledger (29)

2014 Judy Griffin
 2016 Terry Westbrook
 2016 Helen Leinbaugh
 2016 Gay Bradley
 2018 Nancy Simmons
 *2018 Liz Miller
 2019 Brenda Gill
 2019 Sherri Kirk
 2020 Barbara Tate

2020 Charlene Huffman
 2021 Halli Stevens
 2021 Lorene Carter
 2021 Karen Johnson
 2022 Carole Odom
 2022 Faye Phillips
 *2022 Betty Beasley
 2022 Sheila Hensley
 2023 Brenda Marshall
 2023 Barbara Bozeman

2023 Betty Holcomb
 2024 Joy Wolfe
 2024 Bobbie Chavez
 2025 Donna Buterbaugh
 2025 Erin Pledger
 2026 Eva Garmon
 2026 Stephanie Ricketts
 2026 Cheryl Shepherd
 2026 Marla Horton

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT 2026

David J. Kussman
 Jeffrey A. Bolstad
 Jack M. Harper
 James C. McGee
 David W. Studley
 Lawrence E. Tucker
 Paul W. Friend

R. E. Grand Master
 R. E. Deputy Grand Master
 R.E. Grand Generalissimo
 R.E. Grand Captain General
 R.E. Grand Treasurer
 R.E. Grand Recorder
 R.E. S.E. Department Commander

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF GEORGIA FROM ITS ORGANIZATION ON APRIL 25, 1860

DATE	NAME	DECEASED	DATE	NAME	DECEASED
1860-67	William T. Gould (G01)	7/18/1882	1914	William F. Bowe (G01)	08/25/1932
1868-69	Thomas W. Chandler (4)	5/11/1890	1915	Benjamin F. Hardeman (14)	08/31/1924
1870-71	George S. Obeare (2)	12/23/1888	1916	Robert L. Wyily (17)	06/03/1944
1872	Allen S. Cutts (5)	3/17/1896	1917	John W. Murrell (4)	01/14/1959
1873	William H. Tuller (4)	11/26/1880	1918	Frederick W. Clarke (7)	10/20/1934
1874	Samuel P. Hamilton (7)	06/21/1899	1919	Alva C. Atkins, Sr. (13)	05/02/1933
1875	George T. Anderson (4)	04/04/1901	1920	James C. Watts (8)	02/03/1931
1876	Thomas Hardeman, Jr. (2)	03/07/1891	1921	Charles A. McAlister (2)	12/15/1951
1877-78	William J. Pollard (1)	06/08/1899	1922	Thomas D. Ridley (19)	07/24/1934
1879	Charles R. Armstrong (2)	11/01/1893	1923	William G. Meador (15)	10/12/1953
1880	William D. Luckie (4)	04/23/1885	1924	Harry S. Jones (12)	03/27/1945
1881-82	William S. Rockwell (7)	09/20/1909	1925	Perry L. Blackshear (9)	07/22/1974
1883-84	William B. Young (1)	11/12/1916	1926	John B. Russell (20)	01/20/1955
1885-86	Thomas Ballantyne(7)	04/24/1903	1927	Edward B. Cohen (14)	02/24/1937
1887	Charles T. Watson (4)	05/09/1913	1928	Charles S. Wood (7)	02/16/1941
1888	James L. Fleming (1)	12/12/1926	1929	Charles L. Bailey (G01)	02/26/1945
1889-90	Azariah G. Howard (4)	01/26/1893	1930	Early H. Johnson (3)	09/06/1947
1891	Richard J. Nunn (7)	06/29/1910	1931	Thomas C. Law (4)	05/04/1962
1892	George W. McElhaney (3)	09/15/1893	1932	Lunie J. Brock (23)	03/28/1968
1893	Washington P. Baldwin (2)	12/13/1919	1933	Ralph J. Hancock (26)	06/18/1937
1894	Alsop P. Woodward (4)	03/17/1915	1934	William J. Penn, Jr. (24)	07/30/1959
1895	Joseph K. Orr, Sr. (3)	09/18/1938	1935	Edgar D. Kenyon (15)	11/07/1981
1896	William H. Fleming (1)	06/09/1944	1936	Charles R. McCord, Sr. (2)	03/22/1938
1897	Charles M. Wiley (2)	02/25/1927	1937	Francis C. Jones (30)	02/09/1942
1898	Almeron W. Walton (8)	10/28/1929	1938	James C. Newton (22)	06/06/1970
1899	Julius L. Brown (4)	09/04/1910	1939	Watts B. Powell, Sr. (13)	11/12/1945
1900	Thomas E. Fletcher, Sr. (6)	01/07/1925	1940	John P. Stephens (G01)	02/19/1976
1901	Ernest A. Cutts (7)	03/02/1927	1941	Frank B. Willingham (6)	06/12/1955
1902	Frank O. Miller (10)	03/17/1937	1942	Bolling S. DuBose (14)	11/06/1973
1903	George B. Whiteside (3)	03/10/1920	1943	Walter F. Wells, Sr. (4)	11/07/1947
1904	William Schweigert (1)	10/24/1939	1944	Joseph A. Moore (12)	09/04/1972
1905	Robert B. Barron (2)	10/02/1915	1945	David L. Paulk, Sr. (20)	04/22/1979
1906	John J. Seay (8)	08/17/1916	1946	Lawrence C. Petri (3)	11/05/1977
1907	John R. Dickey (9)	06/14/1939	1947	William A. Sims (9)	11/24/1952
1908	Luther P. Stephens (4)	03/18/1925	1948	Arthur W. Goodin (16)	12/21/1975
1909	Alpheus B. Simmons (7)	02/11/1915	1949	Samuel M. Alsip (27)	05/10/1977
1910	Joseph C. Greenfield (9)	12/20/1920	1950	William S. Ray (7)	06/04/1966
1911	George D. Case(12)	06/12/1922	1951	Charles W. Pidcock, Jr. (28)	01/16/1961
1912	Frederick T. Petri (3)	07/26/1928	1952	Walter M. Housch (29)	12/23/1965
1913	Augustus G. Miller (5)	07/13/1931	1953	David W. Wells (10)	03/04/1973

1954	Joseph W. Neal (3)	11/19/1960	1991	Lee D. Holcomb (40)	04/21/2009
1955	James R. Belflower, Sr. (20)	10/07/1981	1992	William M. Roach Sr. (21)	10/21/1999
1956	Lee A. Green(4)	04/13/1984	1993	Charles L. Taylor, Jr. (33)	09/05/2010
1957	Cody O. James (31)	06/08/1965	1994	Billy F. Adams [Hon] (8)	10/09/2019
1958	Emmett A. Rogers (12)	06/24/2001	1994	Hugh L. Smith (24)	03/01/1995
1959	William A. Patat (33)	12/10/1977	1995	William M. Hutcheson (4)	03/25/2010
1960	William C. Sanders (13)	07/25/1985	1995	Lloyd C. Odom (10)	07/29/2009
1961	Carl F. Lester, Jr. (9)	02/04/1996	1996	James B. Phillips (19)	
1962	William T. Bateman (10)	07/19/1964	1997	Steven V. Carter (36)	11/11/2017
1963	Floyd L. Reynolds (34)	01/20/1969	1998	Bobby B. Simmons (2)	
1964	Lonzo Pope (24)	06/23/1991	1999	Clarence E. Home (4)	10/05/2018
1965	James C. Slaughter (21)	09/10/1977	2000	Grady T. Bozeman (41)	05/10/2007
1966	James E. Moseley (35)	02-10-2017	2001	Charles R. Maffett [Hon] (3)	01/10/2007
1967	Douglas H. Tidwell (4)	10/30/1969	2001	James C. Bentley, Jr. (16)	02/20/2021
1968	William J. Mobley (7)	07/21/1981	2002	Earl D. Harris (25)	07/23/2002
1969	Thomas J. Jones (14)	08/06/1976	2002	Bobby J. Townsend (9)	09/20/2014
1970	Shepherd G. Pryor, III (9)	05/07/2003	2003	Clyde E. Griffin (7)	
1971	Chester M. Cameron Sr. (16)	03/01/1983	2004	Timothy M. Taylor, Sr. (31)	
1972	Rufus C. Johnson, Jr. (20)	04/07/2000	2005	Charles B. Stephens (26)	(Resigned)
1973	James W. Register (3)	04/24/1999	2006	Ernest A. Forthman (24)	12/09/2008
1974	George E. Jones (10)	08/27/1993	2007	Paul E. Wells (3)	
1975	Clinton O. Morris (38)	04/07/1990	2008	Jeff W. Hodges, Jr. (9)	10/26/2011
1976	Charles R. McCord, Jr. (2)	06/12/1978	2009	Merrill G. Folendore, Jr. (12)	
1976	Smith W. Brown [Hon] (2)	10/14/1981	2010	Andre E. Lovas [Hon] (11)	
1976	Joseph C. Billingsley (2)	06/28/2006	2010	Charles M. Ellis (29)	
1977	William J. Clarke (31)	09/22/1993	2011	James E. Stevens (21)	
1978	Joseph R. Richardson (8)	01/27/1990	2012	Johnie M. Garmon (37)	
1979	Ralph C. James [Hon] (14)	06/14/1989	2013	C. Danny Wofford (31)	
1979	John M. McClurd, Sr. (21)	04/17/2001	2014	Terry L. Hensley (26)	
1980	George C. Rogers (26)	12/21/1989	2015	Lloyd J. Leinbaugh (26)	
1981	Jack Cluck (G01)	04/15/2002	2015	Joe E. Turner (35)	
1982	Willie P. Hammond (35)	09/01/2011	2016	Doyle R. Hatfield (3)	09/13/2013
1983	George M. Davenport, Jr. (5)	09/01/2005	2017	Drewery W. Hendry (25)	02/02/2021
1984	*Robert E. Hughes (24) (Susp. 12/2001)		2018	Steve A. Kirk (41)	10/17/2019
1985	John W. Halliday, Jr. (14) (Susp. 6/2008)		2019	Robert W. Waldron (25)	
1986	Joseph P. Suttles (4)	09/11/2019	2019	Brandon S. Yarbrough (35) (Suspended)	
1987	Edward Helton (15)	08/22/2021	2020	Mark S. Johnson (22)	
1988	Robert H. Kines, Jr. (12)	02/08/1999	2021	Carl J. Gamel (40)	12/22/2022
1989	Wilford H. Hall (19)	07/20/2014	2022	Tommy T. Marshall (36)	
1990	John C. Kaufman [Hon] (21)	11/09/1993	2023	Ditmar W. Chavez (3)	
1990	Ted H. Hendon (9)	04/27/2007	2024	Tyler W. Pledger (29)	
1991	Horace L. Whitlock [Hon] (2)	12/01/1992	2025	Daniel C. Ricketts (26)	

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS

1. Georgia: Arthur D. Dickerson
2. St. Omer: Matthew R. Astin;
Thomas D. Bell; Michael L. Hamlin;
Jerry H. Purvis, Jr.; Bobby B. Simmons
3. St. Aldemar: Ditmar W. Chavez;
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Timothy K. Starling
4. Coeur de Lion: Nathan L. Mason;
James T. House
7. Palestine: Donald C. Combs
8. Rome: Walter D. Waddell, Jr.;
John M. Tripp; John A. Mull
9. Atlanta: Jack J. Bell; Ryan C. Nealey;
Alessandro V. Silva
10. Ivanhoe:
11. Tancred: Andre E. Lovas
12. Plantagenet:
14. Godfrey de Bouillon:
Charles D. Humphrey
15. Pilgrim:
19. St. John's: Kevin R. Deverell;
Jerry M. Hardigree; James B. Phillips
21. St. Elmo: Charles E. Taylor;
Richard J. Corwin, Jr.; Ernest E. Ricks;
Christopher D. Gabor

22. Alexius: Mark S. Johnson;
Samuel K. Lowder; Monte M. McDonald;
25. St. Bernard: Raymond G. Laird;
William M. Jones
26. Constantine: James W. Bard;
Daniel C. Ricketts
John C. Miller; John E. Finch, Jr.
29. Charles Martel: Tyler W. Pledger;
Tracy D. Wright; James M. Nichols
31. Arnold de Troye: Joe R. Bush;
Judd J. Wolfe; Mark A. Bradley;
Michael J. Etheridge; C. Danny Wofford;
William P. Garrison
33. Philemon: Michael R. Sosebee
36. Waycross: C. Hendry Howard, Jr.;
Tommy T. Marshall; James R. Bennett;
Matthew Sanford
37. Blue Ridge Mountain:
Floyd E. Edmondson; William W. Grist;
Johnie M. Garmon; Brandon P. Simmons;
Edgar M. Land; Danny L. Russell;
Richard L. Tanner; William T. White
38. DeKalb: Brian Kelley
40. Douglasville: Eric S. Tress

41 Amicalola: Keith Hales;
James R. Harris, Sr.; Stephen C. Higgins;
Timothy Ingram
42. Coastal Plain: Howard L. Maddox;

Jeremy W. Hobbs;
John T. Flener, Jr.; Tony D. Morris
73. Ft. Benning: Harry E. Ross

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

1. Georgia: Robert A. McDowell
2. St. Omer:
3. St. Aldemar:
4. Coeur De Lion:
7. Palestine:
8. Rome:
9. Atlanta: Jonathan Yam
10. Ivanhoe:
11. Tancred:
12. Plantagenet:
14. Godfrey De Bouillon:
15. Pilgrim:
19. St. John's:
21. St. Elmo: Brandon A. Jones
22. Alexius:

25. St. Bernard: Steven Horton; Bradley Johnson
26. Constantine: Peter D. Bard; Lyle T. Chadwick
29. Charles Martel:
31. Arnold De Troye:
33. Philemon:
36. Waycross:
37. Blue Ridge Mountain:
38. Dekalb:
40. Douglasville: Phillip J. Spake
41. Amicalola: Charles A. Maheu
42. Coastal Plain: David W. Simmons
73 Ft. Benning: Jacob A. Robideaux ; Bayardo Rayes

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTH
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
HELD IN THE CITY OF MACON
FRIDAY
MAY 1, 2026
A. INV. 2556**



JOSEPH FRANCIS OELGOETZ, III
MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST
2025-2026

JOSEPH FRANCIS OELGOETZ, III

PERSONAL

Joseph Francis Oelgoetz, III was born on April 13, 1956, in Columbus, Ohio to Joseph Francis Oelgoetz, Jr. and Joan Jordan Bright. He was the oldest of four children, brothers David Michael Oelgoetz (passed April 28, 2010), Timothy James Oelgoetz of Moultrie, Georgia; and a sister Mary Ann Oelgoetz-Meltzer of Northville, Michigan. He graduated from Worthington High School (outside of Columbus, Ohio) in 1974 where he was a member of the lacrosse team and served as Captain his senior year.

He attended The Ohio State University where he graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. While at Ohio State he was a member and four-year letter winner on the varsity lacrosse team. He was voted Captain by his teammates his senior year. That same year the Buckeyes won the conference championship with a record of 14-1. He was named to the All-Conference Team during his Sophomore (Honorable Mention), Junior (Honorable Mention) and Senior (First Team) years.

He began his career in Consumer Product Management at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. While in Cincinnati he received his Master of Business Administration from Xavier University on May 4, 1984. He held positions at Eveready Battery Company, Ralston Purina, Sentry Safes, and more recently, with Charbroil LLC (Columbus, Georgia) where he retired from in 2024. He married his love, Karen Lee Ivey on January 21, 1995. The union brought together two families with a son, Eric Joseph Oelgoetz and a stepdaughter Jennifer Conley Williams. Karen and Joe have a granddaughter, Larkin Williams.

MASONIC

Joseph Francis Oelgoetz, III began his Masonic journey at Wakan-Hubbard Lodge No. 154 of Penfield, New York by being Initiated an Entered Apprentice on February 23, 1998, Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 23, 1998, Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 27, 1998. He served as the Master of Wakan Hubbard Lodge No. 154 during the 2003/2004 Masonic year. He served as Assistant Grand Lecturer for the Monroe District from 2004 – 2006.

In the York Rite, he was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Hiram Chapter No. 62 of Rochester, New York on October 10, 1998, and served as High Priest for 2005 & 2006. He served as Assistant Grand Lecturer for the 13th Capitular District from 2008 through 2009. He served as District Deputy Grand High Priest for the 13th Capitular District of New York in 2012/2013.

He was greeted a Select Master in Doric Council No. 19 of Rochester, New York on March 15, 2000. He served as Illustrious Master for the years 2005/2006. He was Knighted as a Knight Templar in Cyrene-Monroe Commandery No. 12 on December 1, 2001, and served as Commander in 2007/2008; 2008/2009; and 2009/2010. He served as Zone Commander for Zone 11 from 2009 - 2011, where he received Zone Commander of the Year in 2011.

In the Scottish Rite, he was made a 32^o Degree Mason in the Valley of Rochester, New York (Northern Jurisdiction) on November 21, 1998. He served as the presiding officer for the Council of Princes of Jerusalem, and as the First Lieutenant Commander of the Consistory.

He moved to Columbus, Georgia in 2013 where he affiliated with Columbian Lodge No. 7. He served as Master of the Lodge during the 2017 & 2018 Masonic Years. He served as District Deputy to the Grand Master for Sub-District 4A from 2018 – 2020. He served through the chairs of the 4th Masonic District and was installed as Master for the 2022/2023 year. He has also served on the following Grand Lodge Committees: General Welfare, Membership, and Finance Committee.

He affiliated with Darley Chapter No, 7, Royal Arch Masons of Columbus, Georgia on December 12, 2014, where he first served as High Priest for the 2014/2015 Capitular Year. He served as 4th Royal Arch District Convention High Priest from 2022 – 2025.

He was bestowed with the General Grand Chapter International – Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze, by Most Excellent Companion John Henry Johnson on May 7, 2022.

He affiliated with Hope Council No. H04, Royal & Select Masters of Columbus, Georgia on December 12, 2013, where he served as Illustrious Master for the years 2014-2016. He served as the Midwest District Illustrious Master during the year 2021-2022.

He affiliated with Saint Aldemar Commandery No. 3, of Columbus, Georgia, on January 6, 2015. He served in all the chairs and was installed Commander for the March 5, 2017 - 2018. He also served as Commander during the years, 2023-2024. He served as Grand Sentinel for Most Eminent Sir Knight Ditmar W. Chavez for the Templar Year of May 6, 2023 – May 4, 2024. He was honored to receive the Knight Templar Cross of Honor on May 3, 2024.

He affiliated with the Valley of Columbus, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (Southern Jurisdiction) of Columbus, Georgia on December 20, 2014. He served as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection from December 21, 2019, to December 18, 2020. He served as the Personal Representative to the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of Georgia from June 18, 2021, to June 24, 2024. He is currently serving as the Valley's General Secretary.

He received the Knight Commander Court of Honor on October 3, 2015. He was coronated a 33^o Inspector General Honorary on August 22, 2023.

He belongs to many of the appendant orders of Freemasonry such as York Rite College (serving as Governor in 2010), Red Cross of Constantine (serving as Puissant Sovereign in 2022), Knight of York Cross of Honor, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest (serving as Preceptor in 2022), Allied Masonic Degrees (served as Sovereign Master in 2021), Knight Masons (served as Excellent Chief in 2023), Commemorative Order of Saint Thomas of Akon, and Masonic Order of Athelstan (serving as Worshipful Master 2025-2026).

He was elected as the Grand Master of the First Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia on May 7, 2018. On May 2, 2025, he was elected by the Companions of Georgia to serve as Grand High Priest. He was installed as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia on May 3, 2025, by Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest William Shepard.

**ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND CHAPTER,
ROYAL ARCH MASONS, OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

The Two Hundred and Fourth Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of the State of Georgia was opened at 10:30 AM on Friday, May 1, 2026 with Most Excellent Grand High Priest Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III presiding and with all other Grand Chapter Officers present and in their respective stations. Being assured by the Grand Secretary that a quorum was present, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest declared the Two Hundred and Fourth Annual Convocation duly convened.

GRAND CHAPTER OFFICER ROLL CALL

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (7)	Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Joe R. Bush (49)	Right Excellent Grand King
Jack J. Bell (162)	Excellent Grand Scribe
Matthew R. Astin (4)	Right Excellent Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Bradley (84)	Right Excellent Grand Secretary
Timothy K. Starling (7)	Excellent Grand Chaplain
Thomas J. Chapman (66)	Excellent Grand Captain of the Host
Johnie M. Garmon (24)	Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner
John E. Finch, Jr. (13)	Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain
Matthew Sanford (9)	Excellent Grand Master, 3 rd Veil
Brandon P. Simmons (150)	Excellent Grand Master, 2 nd Veil
William J. Etheridge (84)	Excellent Grand Master, 1 st Veil
Ditmar W. Chavez (7)	Excellent Grand Sentinel

LIVING PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS

1988 William E. Cantrell (144)	2016 William F. Shepard (66)
1995 Joe E. Turner (10)	2017 Mark A. Bradley (84)
2002 A. Joseph Clark (K01)	2018 Stephen C. Higgins (135)
2005 Hugh F. Watson (13)	2018 Gary D. Lemmons (61)
2006 Robert L. Gill (9)	2019 James W. Tate (73)
2009 C. Danny Wofford (84)	2019 Andre E. Lovas (34)
2010 J. Timothy Ingram (28)	2021 John H. Johnson (47)
2012 J. Edward Jennings, Jr. (80)	2022 C. Hendry Howard (9)
2013 Clyde E. Griffin (03)	2023 Walter D. Waddell, Jr. (14)
2014 Michael H. Wilson (71)	2024 Joey E. Jackson (59)

2025-2026 GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Custodians of the Work: North: Tyler Pledger; South: Matthew Sanford and Joey Jackson

Assistant Custodians: Peter Bard and Mike Etheridge

MEGHP Address: William Shepard, Chair; Hugh Watson; and John Henry Johnson

Finance: Jack Bell, Chair; Keith Hales; and Keith Bryant

Memorial: Donald Combs; Robert Cordle; and Timothy Starling

Jurisprudence: William Shepard, Chair; Danny Wofford; and Andrew Lane
Charters/By-Laws/Dispensations: Joe Turner, Chair; Stephen Higgins; and Matthew Sanford

Foreign Correspondent: Joe Turner

Credentials: Bobby Simmons, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell; Matthew Astin

Auditing: Mike Taylor; Lloyd Lane; James Arnold

R. A. R. A.: John Finch, Chair; Thomas Chapman; Johnnie Garmon
Building Trustees: Mark Bradley, Chair; Michael Wilson; Hugh Watson;
 William Shepard; Jack Bell; Matthew Sanford
Entertainment: Mark Bradley, Chair; Judd Wolfe
Educational/Historical: Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe Turner; Timothy Starling;
 Jimmy Densmore; and Matthew Sanford
Long Range Planning: James Bard, Chair; Joe Bush; Tyler Pledger;
 and Jim Harris
Public Relations: John Flener, Chair; Mark Bradley; Rick Hallwood
Membership: Tyler Pledger Chair; James Bard; Brandon Simmons
Perpetual Memberships: Benjamin Polston, Chair; Larry Nichols;
 Michael Wilson; Mark Bradley; and Matthew Astin
Code Revision: Joe Turner, Chair; Ryan Nealey; and William White
Masonic Messenger Supplement: John Flener, Chair; and John Finch
Web Master: Thomas Chapman, Chair; Richard Peterson; and Mark Bradley
Grand Master Y.R. Festival: John Flener, Chair; Daniel Ricketts; Peter Bard;
 and Joey Jackson
Photographer: Thomas Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; and Robert Tidwell
Parliamentarian: Johnnie Garmon
Fundraising: Keith Hales, Chair; and John Flener
Sunshine: Floyd Edmondson

2025-2026 GRAND CHAPTER DISTRICT GRAND DEPUTIES

Stephen C. Higgins (135)	Chair	John W. Beckum (160)	7 th
Jimmy L. Hires, Jr. (135)	1 st /11 th	J. Walter McCannon (25)	8 th
Howard L. Maddox (47)	2 nd /3 rd /11 th	Jeffrey L. Anderson (71)	8 th
Robert M. Grant, Sr. (11/73)	4 th	David M. Wellman (135)	9 th
Baron L. Conklin (73)	4 th	William Garrison (48)	9 th
Eric S. Tress (50/142)	5 th	Danny L. Russell (150)	9 th
Robert E. Soderstrom (155)	5 th	Michael Schaefer (120)	10 th
Samuel K. Lowder (27)	6 th	Rusty Bennett (9)	11 th
R. Cris Lynch (80)	7 th	Sherman D. Rankin (18)	12 th
Phillip J. Spake (142)	7 th		

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS

It is with a deep sense of honor and a deep feeling of humility that I was elected on the 203rd annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia to the position of Grand High Priest on Friday, May 2, 2025. I was then honored to be installed as the 156th Grand High Priest by Most Excellent Companion William F. Shepard as the installing Grand High Priest; Most Excellent John Henry Johnson as the installing Grand Captain of the Host; and Most Excellent Companion Bobby B. Simmons as the installing Grand Chaplain. I cannot thank these esteemed Companions enough for the honor they have given me as the installing team, and most importantly, as dear friends. I thank the GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF HEAVEN AND EARTH for the Blessing and the Guidance he has given me with this opportunity to preside over the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Great State of Georgia this past year. I thank my wife Karen, who has supported me on this journey. She is my rock, my love and my partner through life. I thank Ms. Marla Horton, of the Georgia York Rite Office, for the assistance she has gladly provided when I

needed it. I cannot thank enough a man, a Mason whom I look up to. He has whispered wise counsel and guidance during this journey. He is a mentor and a dear friend, Most Worshipful Mark A. Bradley.

I thank my fellow Grand Chapter Officers. I am so very proud to be counted among these fine men and Masons. You, my Friends, BELIEVE in what you are doing for Freemasonry in general and Royal Arch Masonry in particular. I have watched your dedication to the Craft over these many years that I have had the honor to serve with each of you. And I can say is: well done, good and faithful servants. As long as the good LORD provides me with life, I am here for each of you. I will have your backs.

In May of 2018, a man I highly respect, Most Worshipful Bobby Simmons, nominated me into the position of Grand Master of the First Veil. Thank you, sir. I want to thank my traveling Companion, Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez. I enjoyed our travels all over Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Thank you, my Friend.

I have had the honor of traveling this great State of Georgia. I have traveled from the mountains in the North, to the marshes in the South, from the Savannah River and Great Atlantic Ocean in the East., and to the "West Coast of Georgia" along the Chattahoochee River. I have seen beautiful Masonic edifices, I have been in beautiful Lodge and Chapter rooms, temples to Freemasonry, places of quiet contemplation, and halls of laughter and good fellowship. Places we can all be proud of.

But I submit to you, the most important elements I have come in contact with, the most important Jewels we have in Royal Arch Masonry. Are the living monuments, the Companions of this great jurisdiction. It is YOU, the Companions of Georgia. So, I thank YOU, for allowing me to serve YOU, these past twelve months. I thank YOU for your dedication and love of Royal Arch Masonry. I thank YOU for keeping the flame of our dear Craft alive.

THEME

My theme for the year (2025-2026) is: BELIEVE.

This simple yet profound term resonates in our souls, challenging us to look within, seeking faith in something greater than ourselves, in our shared journey as ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

First, and foremost, BELIEVE in GOD - THE SUPREME HIGH PRIEST OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. In these uncertain times, when the weight of the world often presses down on our shoulders, we must turn our gaze upwards. Believing in God is to embrace a force that nurtures hope in the darkest hours and offers a light that guides us on our most daunting paths. It's in the stillness of prayer, in the rustle of leaves outside, in that brief moment of serenity after chaos, that we find reassurance.

When we believe, we cultivate a relationship rooted in trust and love. We open our hearts to the possibility of grace, allowing our faith to fuel our actions—actions that can inspire and uplift others. In every challenge we face, let us remember, we are not alone. We are swept forward by a divine belief that propels us into greatness, basking in the wisdom of the ages, navigating with a compass only faith provides.

Next, BELIEVE in our CRAFT—The Act of Union of 1813 of the United Grand Lodge of England states: "Pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and

no more, those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.” Thus, BELIEVE in the craft not just in the specifics of the Act of Union that established Royal Arch Masonry, but in the broad, inclusive sense. Together, as one collective spirit, we are bound not merely by our written tenets and code but by a common aspiration to foster connection across the vast seas of humanity. Brotherhood lives not only in moments of celebration but also in our shared struggles and triumphs. Let us celebrate the CRAFT we forge through kindness, compassion, and solidarity. Letting each other know that, against adversities of the external kind, we support each other. To connect and uplift one another, to believe that together, we can thrive, even when the road is rough. The bonds we share find strength in mutual belief, and that belief creates a tapestry of hope and purpose. When we believe in our shared cause, the possible becomes tangible, and dreams shift into reality. Let us take to heart scripture from our sacred book: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Lastly, I urge you to BELIEVE in YOURSELVES. Each of us has within a reservoir of potential waiting to be unleashed. Far too often, we tend to doubt our abilities, focusing on shortcomings instead of our unique gifts. But just as a pearl is formed from grit, we too must understand that adversity shapes us into who we are meant to be.

BELIEVE that your voice matters, that your vision can spark change, and that one bold step forward has the power to inspire legions. You carry the courage, ambition, and creativity to leave an indelible mark upon this world—a world waiting deeply for your contributions. Your journey is singular, but your impact can be universal.

As we weave together the threads of belief in GOD, in the CRAFT, and in OURSELVES, we create a tapestry that can withstand life's challenges. When you stand before the mirror, embrace every facet of who you are; believe that through faith and community, you are part of something grander.

So, “BELIEVE”. Believe in divine purpose. Believe in the ties that bind us and Believe in the boundless potential that lies within each and every one of us.

Together, let us carry this ember of belief forward, lighting the way for both ourselves and the generations that follow.

Let me leave you with this charge: Walk Uprightly in your Several Stations before God and Man, be a man of Integrity, of good Character. A man of Honesty and of Truth. A man of Honor and of Duty. A man of Compassion and of Kindness. And a Man of Love and of Humility. For what does the LORD require of us, but to Act Justly, to Love Mercy and to walk Humbly with our God...BELIEVE....

GRAND CHAPTER VISITATIONS – OUTSIDE OF GEORGIA

Grand York Rite Sessions of Florida: From May 18 – 21, 2025 I attended the Grand York Rite Sessions of Florida. It was a worthwhile visitation. I and our Grand Sentinel were welcomed and treated with fraternal courtesy. A program that was presented has potential benefit to our Grand Chapter in Georgia. The program is their “Signet” program. It is very similar to the Scottish Rite’s Double Headed Eagle Award. It is a program to encourage member retainment. Like the Double Headed Eagle program, a participant receives a neck jewel where added elements can be earned by achieving higher levels of points. Points are

earned by attending local Royal Arch Chapter meetings, District Conventions, volunteer opportunities, etc. I believe that this is a program that has merit. Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky: From September 16 – 17, 2025 in Lexington, Kentucky, I represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky. I reconnected with wonderful Companions from Kentucky. Specifically, I reconnected with Most Excellent William (Bill) Riggs, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky and the Secretary of the Royal Arch Research Assistance charity. I also connected with Most Excellent Gregory Raque, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky. It was a wonderful experience. I was also honored by being granted an Honorary Membership of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky.

Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England: On November 12, 2025, London, England, I, along with Excellent Companion Brandon (Brad) P. Simmons, Grand Master of the Second Veil, represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England. We were welcomed and treated extremely well. We were one of two outside contingents. The other being the Grand First Principle of Hungary, Most Excellent Companion Matthew Seamus Conlan.

We were announced and then processed into the Grand Chapter Assembly (held in the Grand Lodge Room at Freemasons Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London, England). I had the honor of leading the contingent in. The companions applauded as we processed in and we were led to seats on the dais. The Pro Grand First Principle, once again, recognized us during the business of the convocation.

Upon conclusion of the convocation we were led into the Grand Masters study, where we were offered refreshment (white wine or sherry) and we met and had conversation with the Pro Grand First Principle, Most Excellent Companion Jonathan Spence, DL (Deputy Lieutenant), Second Grand Principle, Right Excellent and Sir David Wootton, and Third Grand Principle, Right Excellent Gareth Jones, OBE. After a time, we were led to a reception of the Grand Superintendents, where we met several of the Provencal Officers.

Finally, we went to a luncheon/festive board where I had the distinct honor of sitting to the right of the Pro Grand First Principle. Both the Second and Third Grand Principles and other Distinguished Masons were at my table. During the course of dinner we, the outside jurisdiction dignitaries, were called upon to “take” wine with the Pro Grand First Principle. Truly, a once in a lifetime experience.

This allocation was turned into the Grand Secretary by March 1, 2026, so the MEGHP Address Committee had sufficient time to review. After this date I plan to attend the following Grand Chapter Convocations:

- Alabama Grand York Rite Sessions: February 27 – 28th, 2026, to be held at Prattville, Alabama.
- South Carolina York Rite Sessions: March 8 – 10th, 2026, to be held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

- North Carolina York Rite Session: March 15 – 17th, 2026, to be held at Clemmons, North Carolina
- Tennessee York Rite Session: March 22 – 23rd, 2026, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee.

GEORGIA ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER VISITATION

Waycross Chapter No. 9: On May 24, 2025, I visited Waycross Chapter No. 9, Royal Arch Masons, where they performed the Degrees of the Royal Arch. They exultated nine (9) new Royal Arch Masons. Excellent work. The team from Ellijay (and northern Georgia) performed the Mark Master Mason Degree. The members of Waycross Chapter No. 9 with assistance from members of Tifton Chapter No. 47 performed the Pass Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Degrees. Excellent work.

Jesup Chapter No. 70: On June 9, 2025, I was received by the Companions of Jesup Chapter No. 70 in Ludowici, Georgia.

Fort Benning Chapter No. 73: On July 7, 2025, I visited and was received at Fort Benning Chapter No. 73, Royal Arch Masons in Columbus, Georgia.

Dave H. Keever Chapter No. 49: On July 8, 2025, I visited and was received by the Companions of Dave H. Keever Chapter No. 49, Royal Arch Masons.

Alpharetta Chapter No. 162/ Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155/Roswell Chapter No. 155: On July 16, 2025, I visited Alpharetta Chapter No. 162 together with Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155, and Roswell Chapter No. 74 at Alpharetta Lodge Building, 194 Milton Avenue, Alpharetta, Georgia. There were four other Grand Officers present. Excellent Companion Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, and Right Excellent Joe Bush, Grand King. Lakewood Chapter No. 27: On July 24, 2025, I visited Lakewood Chapter No. 27, in Lovejoy, Georgia. Most Excellent Joe Turner and his Lady Cheryle had our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, and myself to their home prior to the meeting for dinner. We shared this refreshment with several members and their ladies of Lakewood Chapter No. 27. It was a wonderful time. Tifton Chapter No. 47: On August 14, 2025, I visited Tifton Chapter No. 47, in Tifton, Georgia. It was a great meeting and wonderful fellowship. I was presented with an honorary membership to the Chapter. So very honored and touched by this kind gesture.

Chickamauga Chapter No. 99: On September 8, 2025, I had the pleasure of participating in Chickamauga Chapter No. 99 Royal Arch Masons and Wagner Council No. 24, Royal & Select Masters Family night. Along with Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia we brought greetings from our York Right organizations. We also bore witness to the presentation of the Grand Master of Royal & Select Master's apron of Most Illustrious Harry Copeland, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia for the Year 1969 – 1970, by his family. Excellent Companion Tracy Wright gave a enlightening presentation on history of York Rite Masonry in the Chickamauga area during the early 1920s. It was a great York Rite night.

Mt. Zion Chapter No. 16: On September 22, 2025, had the pleasure, along with Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel, visited Mt. Zion Chapter No. 16 at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Met for a great repast and fellowship at

the Mellow Mushroom restaurant, prior to the convocation. The High Priest, Excellent Companion Joe Bradley, provided and excellent presentation on the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees. Most Illustrious Ryan Nealy presented the hidden secrets (grips and words) of these two degrees. There were three additional Grand Line Officers, besides or Grand Sentinel, present: R.E. Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, E. Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, and E. Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. There were three District Grand Deputies present, as well: E. Eric Tress, E. Philip Spake, and E. Mitchell Trip. I was kindly presented the Chapter's Penney. Great night of Royal Arch Masonry. Wilford H. Hall No. 80: On November 17, 2025, I had the pleasure of visiting the Companions of Wilford H. Hall No. 80, Royal Arch Masons located in Dalton, Georgia. I was accompanied by Right Excellent Joe Bush, Grand King. I was well received and I spoke on the new programs that the Grand Chapter is instituting, such as the "Poker Chop" program, and Golden Keystone Award. I also spoke on Royal Arch Research Assistance program. Finally, I delivered my talk on "Believe". Great evening of Royal Arch Masonry.

Oliver Chapter No. 25 – One hundred & Seventy Fifth Anniversary Celebration: On November 18, 2025 I attended the 175th Anniversary of Oliver Chapter No. 25, located in Elberton, Georgia. It was well attended and a wonderful celebration of the Journey that the Companions through the many years have taken in establishing Royal Arch Masonry in Northeast Georgia. I gave the keynote speech and spoke on how longevity is an indication of something good and special. And that the Companions of Oliver Chapter No. 25, over the many Years, believed in the Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth, the Craft and in Themselves. I was honored to be accompanied by Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe and Excellent Companion (Most Worshipful) Johnie Garmon. Grand Principle Sojourner. I was extremely moved and honored when the Chapter presented me with a beautiful wooden Keystone that commemorated this August event.

Ellijay Chapter No. 150: On November 22, 2025, I attended the open convocation of Ellijay Chapter No. 150, Royal Arch Masons in Ellijay, Georgia. I had the honor of installing the officers for the 2025-2026 year. I was assisted by Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Mark A. Bradley, who served as the Grand Captain of the Host, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez as the Grand Chaplain. I also was honored to present 50 Year Royal Arch Award to Most Illustrious Floyd E. Edmondson and Companion David J. Pierce. Additionally, I bestowed the Distinguished Golden Keystone Award for his exemplary service to Royal Arch Masonry and his service as the Sunshine Chairman. A duty he performs with kindness and a sympathetic ear to those of our Craft that are going through difficult or joyous times. Grand Chapter officers that attended were Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Most Excellent Mark A. Bradley, Grand Secretary, and Excellent Brandon Simmons, Grand Master of the Second Veil. We were honored to have three past Grand High Priests in attendance: Most Excellent James T. (Tim) Ingram (2010), Most Excellent Mark A. Bradley (2017) and Most Excellent Stephen C. Higgins (2018). We were also honored to have two past Grand Masters in attendance Most Worshipful Edgar M. Land (2014) and Most Worshipful Mark A. Bradley (2025).

Constantine Chapter No. 4: Along with our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, I had the honor of visiting Constantine Chapter No. 4 at the Grand Chapter building in Macon. I opened the convocation in ample form. I recognized all of the other Grand Chapter Officers that were in attendance: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Right Excellent Matthew Astin, Grand Treasurer, Excellent Matthew Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel. I was honored to install the Officers for the ensuing year. I was assisted by Right Excellent Jack Bell who acted as the Grand Captain of the Host, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez who acted as Grand Chaplain. I closed the Chapter in due form. It was a great night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Tifton Chapter No. 47: Was honored to be invited to install the Officers of Tifton Chapter No. 47 on the evening of December 11, 2025. I was assisted by Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel as Grand Captain of the Host, and Most Excellent Bobby Simmons as Chaplain. It was a privilege to install Excellent Companion David Simmons as High Priest for 2025. As a past Illustrious Master of a Council, I was asked to install the Officers of Tifton Council No. 58. I was assisted by Most Worshipful Bobby Simmons as Chaplain and Right Eminent Ditmar Chavez as Marshal. Illustrious Companion David Simmons was installed into the Oriental Chair. A great night of York Rite Masonry.

Rome Chapter No. 26: Was honored to be invited to install the Officers of Rome Chapter No. 26, Royal Arch Masons on December 15, 2026. Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe acted as the Grand Captain of the Host. I had the privilege to assist in the presentation of a Past High Priest's apron to outgoing High Priest, Excellent Companion John A. Mull. Our District Grand Deputies, Excellent Companion Mitchell Trip, Assistant Chairman of the District Grand Deputies, and Excellent Companion Phillip Spake were in attendance. Had the pleasure to sit in Chapter and Council with Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia. Great York Rite night.

Taylor Chapter No. 48: I attended the regular convocation of Taylor Chapter No. 48, Royal Arch Masons on Monday, January 12, 2026, in Buford, Georgia. I commended the Excellent High Priest and all the Companions on their effort in opening the Chapter in full form. The convocation evolved into a town meeting, of sorts, and was wonderful. I was honored to be accompanied at this convocation from the following dignitaries: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, Most Excellent Companion Steven Higgins, Past Grand High Priest and Ambassador to Georgia from the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and Worshipful Wiley Q. Forrester, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia. Excellent Companion Jay Finch spoke on Royal Arch Research Assistance and along with me, presented a \$500.00 level recognition to the Excellent High Priest on behalf of the Chapter. Excellent High Priest suggested that the Grand Chapter consider recognition (possibly the Golden Keystone Award) possibility for all Companions, not just the new members. Wonderful evening of Royal Arch Masonry.

Winder Chapter No. 84: I attended the regular convocation of Winder Chapter No. 84 on Monday, January 19, 2026. Of note, the Chapter opened in full form and they voted on two candidates. This is a thriving Chapter and is composed of dedicated Royal Arch Masons. I was very honored to have had Most Worshipful/Most Excellent C. Danny Wolford escort me into the Chapter and introduce me to the Companions. The following Grand Chapter Officers were in attendance: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil; and Excellent Companion Bill Garrison, District Grand Deputy. It was a wonderful night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Alpharetta Chapter No. 162/ Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155/Roswell Chapter No. 155: On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, I attended the regular convocation of Alpharetta Chapter No. 62 and Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155, where they held a School of Instruction. This was taught by Right Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. It focused on Opening a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, receiving the Grand High Priest, and Balloting. It was well done. Honored to have the following Grand Chapter Officers in attendance: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, and Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. Great night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Keystone Chapter No. K01: On Tuesday evening, February 3, 2026, I attended Keystone Chapter No. K01 of Athens, Georgia. The convocation was well attended as the Companions exalted seven (7) new Royal Arch Masons. The Chapter performed the Royal Arch Degree and the work was outstanding. In attendance with me was Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil; and Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel. I had the honor of presenting the Distinguished Golden Keystone Award to Most Excellent Companion (and Most Worshipful Brother) Edwards Jennings for his outstanding service to Freemasonry in general, and Royal Arch Masonry in particular. Keystone Chapter No. K01 has experienced an incredible transformation in just over the last six months. They were on the verge of turning in the Chapter, but with hard work and a never give-up attitude they have become a very healthy Chapter – performing their own Degrees, opening in full form, and enjoying many Companions at their Convocations. It was an outstanding night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Additional Chapters to be visited after March 1, 2026:

- Dallas Chapter No. 142 on April 7, 2026
- Augusta Chapter No. A01 on April 13, 2026
- Douglasville Chapter No. 50 on April 16, 2026

ROYAL ARCH DISTRICT CONVENTION VISITATION

8th ROYAL ARCH MASON CONVENTION: It was an honor and pleasure to have attended the 8th Royal Arch District Convention Table Chapter. This event was opened (Oliver Chapter No. 25, Royal Arch Masons/8th Royal Arch Masons District Convention, in due form, by the District Officers. I had the honor of installing the new District Officers. E.: Johnie Garmon served as Grand Captain of the Host and E.: Matthew Sanford served as Chaplain.

I was accompanied, with great joy, many of the Grand Chapter Officers: E.: Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, E.: Matthew Sanford, Grand Master of the Third Veil, E.: Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, E.: Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principle Sojourner, R.: E.: Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, and R.: E.: Joe Bush, Grand King.

Presentations were made on RARA (by E.: Jay Finch), Mark Master Mason Program (by R.: E.: Jack Bell). I presented both Poker Chip and Golden Keystone programs. I also announced the RARA/Grand Chapter Cruise. Great fellowship was had by all.

SOUTH GEORGIA ROYAL ARCH CONVENTION: It was an honor and privilege to have attended the South Georgia Royal Arch Mason of Georgia Convention on July 12, 2025, in Ludowici, Georgia where Jesup Chapter No. 70, Royal Arch Masons hosted. The District Master being Excellent Companion James Arnold. This District Convention was well attended by all Chapters of the District and included four Past Grand High Priests. Great Royal Arch Masonry and fellowship was had by all.

4TH DISTRICT ROYAL ARCH CONVENTION: On October 11, 2025, I attended the 4th Royal Arch District Convention held at Greenville, Georgia. It was a homecoming, as this is my District. And in fact, I, at the time of opening the Chapter/District, was the District High Priest. It was a wonderful turn-out with over 20 Royal Arch Masons attending. Two important events occurred. 1. The district voted affirmatively to maintain the 4th District Royal Arch Convention (as there was a tabled motion to disband the District Convention); 2. I had the honor to present Excellent Companion Harold Culpepper with his 50-year apron/award. I also was honored with the following Grand Chapter Officers in attendance: Right Excellent Joe Bush, Grand King, Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Excellent Michael Ehtheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel. Additionally, we were graced to have Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia and Right Eminent Daniel C. Ricketts, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia.

2ND DISTRICT ROYAL ARCH MASON CONVENTION: On January 10, 2026, I attended the 123rd annual 2nd District Royal Arch Mason Convention, hosted by J. M. Rushing Chapter No. 23, in Thomasville, Georgia. It was well attended by both Tifton Chapter No. 47 and J. M. Rushing Chapter No. 23. Unfortunately, there was no Companion from Bainbridge Chapter No. 94 in attendance. It was well attended by Grand Chapter Officers. The following were in attendance: Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Timothy K. Starling, Grand Chaplain, Excellent Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principle Sojourner, Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Excellent Matthew Sanford, Grand Master of the Third Veil, and Excellent Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel. I had the honor of installing the officers of the 2nd District for the ensuing year, and a great treat – installing Excellent John Flener as High Priest of the 2nd District for 2026. Excellent Companion Jay Finch spoke on RARA. I spoke on several programs such as the poker chip, Mark Master Mason, and Golden Keystone Award programs. I ended the convention with words on my theme – BELIEVE.

Additional Royal Arch of Georgia District Conventions to be visited after March 1, 2026:

- 7th District Royal Arch Convention, March 7, 2026, to be held at Marietta, Georgia
- 9th District Royal Arch Convention, March 14, 2026, to be held at Blairsville, Georgia
- Greater Atlanta District Royal Arch Convention, March 28, 2026, to be held at Atlanta, Georgia
- 10th District Royal Arch Convention, March 28, 2026, to be held at Milledgeville, Georgia

OTHER ACCTIVITES

DeMolay Masquerade Ball: I had the pleasure, along with my wife Karen, to attend the DeMolay Masquerade Ball on the evening of May 3, 2025. It was quite enjoyable and a great cause.

Georgia Priory No. 39, Knights of the York Cross of Honor: On June 7, 2025, at Benevolent Lodge No. 3, Milledgeville, Georgia I participated in the reception of Knights into the Georgia Priory No. 39, Knights of the York Cross of Honor. I presented the Royal Arch lecture.

Grand Chapter of Eastern Star: On June 12, 2025, I brought greetings from the Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons to the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star in Macon, Georgia. My speech was an abbreviated talk on my them, BELIEVE. Presented the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron my coin. I was joined on the dias by the Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, the Right Eminent Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia, and the Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia.

Southeastern York Rite Conference: From June 13-14, 2025, I attended the Southeastern York Rite Conference at the Sonesta Airport Hotel in Atlanta. My review of Georgia Royal Arch consisted of:

- Establishment of an Officer Manual
- The establishment of Code outlining the requirement of a Letter of Intent supplied to the Grand York Office by January 1st from all Companions wishing to run for Grand office.
- Our achievement of reaching a net increase in membership during the 2024/2025 Royal Arch Year. Due mainly to our Mark Master Mason Program.
- Announced the First ever RARA/Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia's Cruise to occur from February 8-16, 2026.

Additionally, I presented new membership programs of the Poker Chip – used as a conversation starter with potential candidates. And the Gold Keystone program to get new Royal Arch Masons ingrained into their local Chapters.

Imperial Shriners International: On June 29, 2025, at the Public Opening Session of the Imperial Shriners International, I had the honor of speaking and bringing greetings from the Companions and Sir Knights of the York Rite of Georgia to the Nobles, Ladies and guests present, and especially to Imperial Potentate Richard G. Burke and Lady Judy Burke. On the dais with me, representing the York Rite

of Georgia, was Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, and Eminent Sir Knight Michael H. Sampsell, Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia.

Valley of Atlanta, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite: On July 3, 2025, I attended the Valley of Atlanta, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. A momentous occasion where Illustrious James D. Cole, 33°, Grand Commander of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite and Illustrious Walter F. Wheeler, 33°, Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite were both present. First ever meeting of both Grand Commanders in the Orient of Georgia. I, as the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia, along with Most Illustrious John C. Miller as the Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters were recognized. DeMolay State Session: On July 11, 2025, I had the honor of bringing greetings from the Royal Arch Companions of Georgia to DeMolay State Session during their Honors night in Cochran, Georgia. It was a fun-filled evening.

Maggie Valley – York Rite of North Carolina Summer Session: On Sunday, July 13 to Tuesday, July 15, 2025, I attended the York Rite of North Carolina Summer Session at Maggie Valley, North Carolina. I, along with Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel, represented Georgia in this multi-jurisdictional event. The high point of the session was our visitation to the Masonic Marker during the Great Smokey Mountains.

Allied Masonic Degrees Georgia State Ingathering: On Saturday, July 19, 2025, I attended the Allied Masonic Degrees Georgia ingathering at Tyrian Lodge No. 111 in Warner Robins, Georgia. I had the honor of speaking on behalf of the York Rite of Georgia.

Alabama Knight Templar Gala: On Saturday evening, July 26, 2025, Karen and I attended the Alabama Knight Templar Gala, held at the Marriott Resort in Prattville, Alabama, for the support of the Holy Land Pilgrimage and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. We were part of a strong Georgia contingent that included Excellent Companion (and Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia) Ditmar Chavez and his lady Bobby, Right Eminent Sir Knight Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Georgia, and Lady Stephanie), Right Eminent Sir Knight Tyler Pledger, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia and his Lady Erin, and Right Eminent Tommy Marshall, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia, and Lady Brenda.

Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56, Knight of York Cross of Honor: On Thursday, July 29, 2025, I attended Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56 at the Atlanta Masonic Center for their investiture of new Knights of York Cross of Honor. I attended this with Excellent Companion Jonas Barlow, who was inducted.

Knight Templar Division III Inspection: On Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Tyrian Lodge No. 111 in Warner Robins, Georgia I had the honor to be the Inspecting Officer for Ivanhoe Commandery No. 10 for the School of Instruction. Inspected both the Commandery's Recorder & Treasurer books as well as their floor work/ritual work. Thank you, Grand Commander for giving me this great honor.

The York Rite Sovereign College of North America: I had the privilege of representing the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the sixty-

eighth York Rite Sovereign College of North America's General Assembly held in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was a true honor to be present at the presenting of the Order of the Purple Cross to such dedicated and deserving Georgia York Rite Masons: Edward Barclay, OPC, Michael John Etheridge, OPC, Howard Lester Maddox, OPC, and Sherman Dwayne Rankin, OPC.

4th District Masonic Convention: On August 16, 2025, I attended the 4th District Masonic Convention at Greenville Lodge No. 321 in Greenville, Georgia. I was there in support of our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, and in support of the 4th District Masonic Convention as a Past Master of that convention.

Biannual Session of the Supreme Council Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of Freemasonry: From August 16 – 19, 2025 I represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the Biannual Session of the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of Freemasonry in Washington DC.

Blue Ridge Lodge No. 67: As part of my visit to the Rock Quarry Degrees, I was invited to participate in Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley's visit to Blue Ridge Lodge No. 67 on Friday, August 22, 2025. I was in attendance with our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Ditmar Chavez. The Grand Master asked if I would escort him into the Lodge and introduce him to the entire Lodge and all in attendance. A true honor.

Rock Quarry Degrees: On August 23, 2025, I, along with our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Ditmar Chavez, attended the Rock Quarry Degrees on top of a mountain near Morganton, Georgia. We enjoyed a nice lunch at around 3:00pm at "The Spring", then attended the Masonic opening and the Master Mason Degree in the Rock Quarry later that evening.

Orient of Georgia, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Knight Commander Court of Honor Investiture: I was honored to serve as the Grand Standard Bearer in the Investiture team for the Orient of Georgia, Scottish Rite's Investiture of Knight Commander Court of Honor recipients in Savannah, Georgia on September 5-6, 2025.

Georgia Court of Athelstan, No. 13: While attending the Georgia Court of Athelstan No. 13 on September 13, 2025, at the Grand Chapter Building in Macon, Georgia I was honored by being presented to the Court as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia. A true honor. I was also installed as Worshipful Master for the year 2025-2026.

Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta – Feast of Tishri & York Rite Recognition: On October 2, 2025, I, along with six Grand Chapter Officers attended the Feast of Tishri of the Valley of Atlanta, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. I brought greetings and appreciation for the invitation and recognition from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia. I spoke briefly on the meaning of Tishri to Royal Arch Masons. I was honored to have in attendance with me: Right Worshipful Joe Bush, Grand King; Right Worshipful Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principal Sojourner; Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Excellent Brandon Simmons, Grand Master of the Second Veil; and Excellent Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. Great Night of both Rites of Freemasonry.

Orient of Georgia of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Coronation of the Inspector General Honorary 33°: On October 3-4, 2025, I attended the Orient of Georgia's Coronation of those Brothers of Georgia who received the Inspector General Honorary, 33 Degree. This was held in Atlanta. Friday night was a wonderful repast at the Petite Violet Restaurant, and the Coronation was held at the Atlanta Masonic Center. With a banquet at Yaarab Shrine Center. It was an honor to attend for all new Inspector General Honorary's, but most of all for Illustrious Brother William Block, 33° of Columbus, Georgia.

Deputy Grand Master's Boil: Lady Karen and I attended Right Worshipful William (Bill) F. Shepard's Boil (Roast) on the evening of October 11, 2025, in Brunswick, Georgia. It was a delightful evening, catching up with Brothers/Companions and their wives, as well as enjoying a very delicious Low Country Boil dinner. It was great to support R.W. Bill Shepard, a wonderful Man and Mason.

Saint Aldemar No. 3/Ft. Benning No. 73 Knights Templar Tactics Inspection: On October 20, 2025, I had the honor of participating in the joint Tactical Inspection of Saint Aldemar Commandery No. 3 and Fort Benning Commandery No. 73 as the Junior Warden. Our inspecting officer was Sir Knight John Flener, Grand Junior Warden. Additionally, the Grand Commander, Right Eminent Daniel C. Ricketts, was present. Both congratulated us on a job well done.

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia: On October 27-29, 2025, I attended the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia. I represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia and was honored to be asked by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, to provide the response for the in-state dignitaries. There is a wonderful since of brotherhood between our Grand Lodge on the appendant bodies. It was an honor and a privilege to represent Royal Arch Masonry at my Grand Lodge.

Marietta Council No. 74, Royal & Select Masters Table Council: On Friday, November 14, 2025, I attend the table council of Marietta Council No. 74, Royal & Select Masters. Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, Right Eminent Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia and Most Worshipful Mark A. Bradley, Past Grand Master of Masons of Georgia were also in attendance. We were recognized and the fellowship was great. Most Worshipful Bradley gave a talk on "Heros" and was well received.

Red Cross of Constantine Georgia Gathering: On Saturday, November 15, 2025, the Intendant Generals, M.W. Ben Polston, Intendant General, North Georgia, and M. W. Donald Combs, Intendant General, South Georgia held the annual gathering of Georgia Conclaves at Tyrian Lodge No. 111, Warner Robins, Georgia. All the Orders of the Red Cross of Constantine were conferred upon those Knight Companions/Candidates that were qualified. Muscogee Conclave (Columbus, Georgia) performed the College of Viceroy's Order. I had the honor of performing the office of Most Eminent Viceroy for that conferral of the Order. Rose Hill Lodge No. 484: I was honored to be asked to install the Officers of Rose Hill Lodge No. 484 on Sunday, December 14, 2025. Worshipful Brother Steve Smith, a member of my Chapter – Darley Chapter No. 7 – was installed as Worshipful Master. I was assisted by Worshipful Brother Phil Harris, who served as Marshal.

Scottish Rite, Valley of Savannah: On January 24, 2026, I represented and brought greetings from the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia to the members, ladies, families and guest of the Valley of Savannah Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite on the event of their Dedication of Monuments. Those monuments dedicated were the two guardian Sphinxes, Jachin and Boaz, paver garden, and gazebo. I was accompanied by Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel. The Master of Ceremonies was Most Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Donald Combs, 33°, Personal Representative of the Valley of Savannah, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. Others that brought greetings were Most Worshipful Brother William Shepard, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia, Illustrious Brother Gene Cobb, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General of North Carolina and acting SGIG of Georgia, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Right Eminent Daniel C. Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia, and Illustrious Brother Michael J. Broom, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in South Carolina, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia/RARA Cruise: February 8 – 16, 2026 the first ever Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia held a cruise on the Sky Princess. The cruise toured Saint Thomas, Virgin Island, Saint Martin, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Grand Turk. The highlights of the cruise, in terms of Freemasonry, were the opening of Darley Chapter No. 7, Royal Arch Masons, while at sea. The Chapter was opened at 11:13 am at Latitude 25° 11' North; Longitude 75° 05' West at 160 feet above sea level. I want to thank the following Companions who attended: Right Excellent Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia, who served as King, upon the high seas; Excellent Companion Wiley Gammon, who served as Secretary upon the high seas; Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, who served as Captain of the Host upon the high seas; Most Worshipful and Excellent Companion Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principal Sojourner, who served as Principal Sojourner upon the high seas; Excellent Matthew Sanford, Grand Master of the 3rd Veil, who served as Royal Arch Captain upon the high seas; Most Worshipful and Most Excellent Mark Bradley, Grand Secretary, who served as Master of the 3rd Veil upon the high seas; Most Illustrious Companion Judd Wolfe, Past Grand Illustrious Master of the Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, who served as the Master of the 2nd Veil upon the high seas; Excellent Dale Cliett, who served as Master of the 1st Veil upon the high seas; and Right Eminent and Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel, who served as Sentinel upon the high seas.

Additionally, while touring San Juan, Puerto Rico, our group visited the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Puerto Rico. Our hosts were Most Worshipful Brother Anibal Rosario Ruiz, Grand Master of Masons in Puerto Rico, Right Worshipful Brother Carlos M. Barreto, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Puerto Rico and several other Brethren of Puerto Rico. The Grand Lodge building, very beautiful, boasts a York Rite Lodge Room, Scottish Rite Lodge Room, and the Grand Lodge room. Beautiful murals depicting the three Degrees of Freemasonry. It was truly a wonderful time of Masonic fellowship between two great jurisdictions.

There were a total of fourteen couples (including eleven Royal Arch Masons) that attended the cruise. A contribution (yet to be determined) will be made to the Royal Arch Research Assistance program due to participation in this cruise. Great event for Royal Arch Masonry.

INDICATED ACTIONS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CRAFT

1. Investigate the Grand Chapter of Florida's Signet Program for possible use in Royal Arch Masonry of Georgia. It appears to be a great retention program.
2. Continue the Monthly (or go to quarterly) Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Newsletter. This program would have to be executed by either the current Grand High Priest or a Newsletter committee. Grand Secretary would not have the time to provide this.
3. Recommend that future Grand High Priests try to attend the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England. As this is part of the United Grand Lodge of England, which is the mother Lodge of Freemasonry, it provides exposure to the Grand Chapter of Georgia and insight for the individual attending.
4. There are those Companions that have had a lifelong dedication to Royal Arch Masonry. Whether working in the quarries at the local level, the State level, and/or the National level recognition for long term dedication should be given. During my visitations to other jurisdictions, I have seen different forms of lifetime achievement recognition. Thus, I recommend (and will put forth a bill) to establish a Georgia Royal Arch Lifetime Achievement award.
5. Recommend continuing with the Golden Keystone Award. Expand this so that any Georgia Royal Arch Mason may receive the recognition of this award once the requirements are met to receive the award.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS

To the Right Excellent Grand King, Grand Chapter Officers, Past Grand High Priests, and Companions of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia, the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address is honored to make the following report:

We wish to acknowledge the unswerving support of our Grand High Priest by Lady Karen, the First Lady of Royal Arch Masonry. Her support, we are sure, made his journey more memorable.

We wish to join the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in thanking the Grand Secretary, Most Excellent Companion Mark Bradley and Marla Horton for their service, their hard work should never go unnoticed, their efforts make it easy for the rest of us.

We join the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in thanking the Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter for their support and service. We complement our Most Excellent Grand High Priest on his appointment of the two "appointed" Grand Officers...Excellent Companion Timothy K. Starling, Right Excellent Reverend Grand Chaplain, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Excellent Grand Sentinel. These two great companions have added much to our Grand Chapter this year. We join the Most Excellent High Priest in his appreciation and acknowledgment of the unity the Grand Chapter Officers, our Grand Chapter in good hands for many years to come.

We commend the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in seeking advice and guidance from those who have traveled this way before, the Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests. We especially acknowledge Most Excellent Companion Bobby Blackman Simmons, for having faith in Most Excellent Companion Joseph f. Oelgoetz, III and nominating him for the office of Excellent Grand Master of the First Veil and starting him on this journey.

We acknowledge the travels of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest this year. Our Grand Hight Priest made many visits both in state and out of state, even across the ocean to England and we appreciate the distinguished way he has represented our Grand Chapter and the Royal Masons of Georgia in his journeys.

We applaud the theme of the Grand High Priest and the Grand Chapter this year; Believe. Believe in God, Believe in our Craft, and Believe in Ourselves.

We appreciate the support our Most Excellent Grand High Priest has provided to the Royal Arch Research Assistance program. Through his support and the efforts of Jay Finch, Thomas J. Chapman, and Johnie M. Garmon, we continue to be strong and leading supporters of this great work.

We acknowledge and agree with the recommendations of the Grand High Priest for the betterment of the craft.

Now as our Most Excellent Companion Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III lays down the gavel of the Grand Chapter, we are assured that his service to our great fraternity is not ended. Soon the time will come for him to rise again to deeds of even more exalted usefulness.

Fraternally Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; Hugh F. Watson;
and John Henry Johnson

REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Companions of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Georgia:

We, your committee on Jurisprudence, report that no Bill to amend the Royal Arch Code was referred to the committee for consideration at this Annual Convocation.

One Resolution was submitted for consideration at this annual Grand Convocation.

The Committee found the resolution in proper form and not in conflict with any section of the code.

We are pleased to report that all decisions rendered by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and all dispensations issued from the office of the Grand Secretary were in strict accordance with the Royal Arch Masonic Code of Georgia.

We your committee wishes to thank the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Fraternally Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; C. Danny Wofford;
and F. Andrew Lane Jr.

REPORT OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND EDICTS COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Bills, Resolutions and Edicts wishes to make the following report:

The Grand High Priest submitted a bill in October 2025, to add a new Section to Code Section 2.7 to provide for a Lifetime Achievement Award and how it is determined. Your Committee recommends this Bill be adopted.

Your Committee has reviewed one Resolution issued by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest: Issued March 5, 2026 to arrest the charter of Valdosta - Zerubbabel Chapter No. 107 at Valdosta. This was a necessary action and your Committee recommends its adoption.

Your Committee has reviewed two Edicts issued by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and recommend they be adopted:

Edict No. 1 issued May 12, 2025 to require a candidate for the degrees to be accompanied by at least one Recommender unless the degrees are conferred in the candidate's home chapter.

Edict No. 2 issued May 12, 2025 to allow District Grand Deputies to present Years of Service Awards to include FIFTY YEARS and higher awards.

If Approved, these Two Edicts will be added to the 2025 Grand Chapter Code in their appropriate Sections.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF CHARTER, BY-LAWS & DISPENSATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Charters, By-Laws and Dispensations wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee has received a rewrite of the bylaws of:

Waycross Chapter No. 9, Lakewood Chapter No. 27, Tifton Chapter No. 47, Douglasville Chapter No. 50 and Dallas Chapter No. 142.

Your Committee recommends approval as submitted and amended.

Your Committee is aware of ByLaw changes for Fort Benning Chapter No. 73 that were submitted to the Grand Secretary's Office in October and returned by him as not in proper format. THESE CHANGES NEED TO BE SUBMITTED IN FORMAT SOON IF YOU ARE USING THOSE CHANGES!

Your Committee has received a rewrite of the bylaws of Enotah Chapter No. 24.

Your committee returned them for multiple corrections on January 25, 2026 and has heard nothing.

Your Committee received a rewrite of the bylaws of Taylor Chapter No. 48. Your Committee approved them on January 25, 2026 and then they submitted a revision again which is not approved and was returned for corrections on March 13, 2026.

This committee has reviewed all dispensations issued by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and they are of a routine nature and meet with our approval. Almost all were to receive and ballot at a regular convocation or meet on a different night. We congratulate our Most Excellent Grand High Priest on opening Darley Chapter No. 7 Royal Arch Masons on the High Seas in a boat on February 10, 2026. (Under Dispensation of Course!!!!) Several Grand Chapter officers attended this historic meeting.

Your Committee notes with sadness that William J. Penn, Jr. Chapter No. 15 at Albany was consolidated with Tifton Chapter No. 47 at Tifton on June 4, 2025.

We also note that Adoniram Chapter No. 41 at Cedartown was consolidated with Rome Chapter No. 26 at Rome on November 11, 2025.

Your Committee also notes with sadness that the Charter of Valdosta – Zerubbabel Chapter No. 107 at Valdosta was arrested for cause on March 5, 2026 and the current members issued demits that they may affiliate with a chapter of their choosing.

This Committee notes that dispensation No. 19 was issued on April 8, 2025 to form a new chapter in McCaysville, Georgia. Your committee has reviewed the Bylaws of this chapter and returned them for further corrections on January 25, 2026. Your Committee recommends that a charter be granted for McCay Chapter No. 114 (the old chapter number) but the ByLaws have to be fixed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Pickens No. 28 80 years, Silver Shoals No. 14 moved from Pleasant to Cumming 75 years ago. Moon Chapter No. 142 was changed to Dallas 142 65 years ago

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Stephen C. Higgins;
T. Matthew Sanford

REPORT OF CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Code Revision wishes to make the following report:

The May 2, 2025 Royal Arch Mason Code is available from the Grand Secretary's office.

The 2025 code is placed on the Grand York Rite website as a PDF file and SHOULD BE updated annually after each Grand Convocation session so that a current copy is always available for use by any member.

The Code will be reprinted every third year with all amendments and changes.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Ryan C. Nealey;
and William T. White

REPORT OF FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your Foreign Correspondent wishes to make the following report:

I have received no out of state or foreign proceedings for review. I do not know if any Grand Jurisdictions even send proceedings to other states anymore and most states do not put them online.

I do receive the General Grand Chapter Newsletters and a couple of states newsletters and I note with interest activities going on in other states. I also get the Royal Arch Mason magazine and find items of interest included in those pages.

No requests for recognition from other Grand Chapters have been received to my knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

In Memoriam



This Memorial is affectionately

Inscribed to the memory of

All Companions of Georgia

And those of Sister Jurisdictions who have

Departed this life during the past

Capitular Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election was held and the following officers were elected:

Joe R. Bush (49)	Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Jack J. Bell (162)	Right Excellent Grand King
Thomas J. Chapman (66)	Right Excellent Grand Scribe
Matthew R. Astin (4)	Right Excellent Grand Treasurer
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (7)	Right Excellent Grand Secretary
Johnnie M. Garmon (24)	Excellent Grand Captain of the Host
John E. Finch, Jr. (13)	Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner
Matthew Sanford (9)	Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain
Brandon P. Simmons	Excellent Grand Master, 3 rd Veil
Michael J. Etheridge (84)	Excellent Grand Master, 2 nd Veil
Jerry H. Purvis, Jr. (13)	Excellent Grand Master, 1 st Veil

OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The MEGHP announced the following appointments: Beau M. Davis (49), Chaplain; and Thomas R. Conn (49), Sentinel.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The newly elected officers were duly installed on Saturday, May 2, 2026 by Right Worshipful Brother Clyde E. Griffin.

2026-2027 GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Custodians of the Work: North: Tyler W. Pledger and Peter Bard

South: Matthew Sanford and Joey E. Jackson

Assistant Custodian: Mike Etheridge

MEGHP Address: William F. Shepard, Chair; Hugh F. Watson; John H. Johnson

Finance: Jack J. Bell, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Matthew R. Astin

Memorial: Donald C. Combs, Beau M. Davis, James W. Bard

Jurisprudence: William F. Shepard, Chair; C. Danny Wofford; Daniel C. Ricketts

Charters/By-Laws/Dispensations: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Stephen C. Higgins;

Matthew Sanford

Foreign Correspondent: Joe E. Turner

Credentials: Matthew R. Astin, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell;

Dennis C. Simpson; Mark A. Bradley

Auditing: Mike Taylor; Lloyd R. Lane; James D. Arnold

R. A. R. A.: John E. Finch, Chair; Thomas J. Chapman, Johnnie M. Garmon

Building Trustees: Mark A. Bradley, Chair; Michael H. Wilson;

William F. Shepard; Jack J. Bell; Matthew Sanford; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III

Entertainment: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Judd Wolfe

Educational/Historical: C. Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe E. Turner;

Timothy K. Starling; Jimmy Densmore; Matthew Sanford

Long Range Planning: Tyler W. Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Michael Hamlin

Public Relations: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III;

Rick Hallwood

Membership: Tyler Pledger Chair; James Bard; Brandon P. Simmons

Perpetual Memberships: Benjamin W. Polston, II, Chair; Mark A. Bradley;

Michael H. Wilson; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin

Code Revision: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; William White

Masonic Messenger Supplement: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; John E. Finch

Web Master: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Richard T. Peterson;
 Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Grand Master Y.R. Festival: John T. Flener, Jr, Chair; Daniel C. Ricketts;
 Peter Bard; Joey E. Jackson; Matt Sanford
Photographer: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; Robert W. Tidwell
Parliamentarian: Johnie M. Garmon
Fundraising: John T. Flener, Jr, Chair; Jack J. Bell
Sunshine: Floyd Edmondson

2026-2027 DISTRICT GRAND DEPUTY ASSIGNMENTS

Mitch Tripp (26)	Chair	Lyle T. Chadwick (13)	7 th
Brandon Jones (70)	1 st	Craig S. Faulkner (25)	8 th
Howard L. Maddox (47)	2 nd /3 rd	Jeffrey L. Anderson (71)	8 th
Robert M. Grant, Sr. (11/73)	4 th	David M. Wellman (135)	9 th
Baron L. Conklin (73)	4 th	William Garrison (48)	9 th
Robert E. Soderstrom (155)	5 th	Michael R. Sosebee (21)	9 th
Anthony C. Williams (13/16)	5 th	Danny L. Russell (150)	9 th
Samuel K. Lowder (27)	6 th	Michael Schaefer (120)	10 th
Jerry M. Hardigree (80)	7 th	Rusty Bennett (9)	11 th
Phillip J. Spake (142)	7 th	Sherman D. Rankin (18)	12 th

MINUTES ADOPTED

A motion was made, seconded and adopted that the minutes of the 204th Annual Convocation be adopted, printed and distributed.

TIME OF NEXT ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The 205th Annual Convocation will be held in the Grand Chapter Building in Macon, Georgia on Friday, May 7, 2027.

TIME OF NEXT GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER TRIENNIAL

The 75th Triennial will be held in September of 2026 in Washington D.C.

GRAND CHAPTER CLOSED

Most Excellent Grand Companion Joe R. Bush, MEGHP, declared the 204th Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of the State of Georgia closed in due and ample form.

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
 EG Secretary



Joe R. Bush
 Most Excellent
 Grand High Priest

PROCEEDINGS OF THE C. DANNY WOFFORD HOLY ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD MACON, GEORGIA – FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priests of the State of Georgia was opened in due form in the Grand Chapter Building in Macon, Georgia on May 1, 2026 to receive those companions that desired more Masonic light by being anointed, consecrated, and set apart to the C. Danny Wofford Holy Order of High Priesthood. The following Officers were in their respective stations:

Joey E. Jackson	Excellent President
C. Hendry Howard	Excellent Vice President
Benjamin W. Polston, II	Excellent Master of Ceremonies
Mark A. Bradley	Excellent Recorder-Treasurer
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III	Excellent Chaplain
Jack J. Bell	Excellent Conductor

Mark S. Johnson	Excellent Herald
Joe R. Bush	Excellent Steward
Walter D. Waddell, Jr.	Excellent Sentinel

LIVING PAST PRESIDENTS

1986 C. Brantley Morgan	2015 Mark A. Bradley
1990 William E. Cantrell	2016 Michael H. Wilson
1995 James W. Seymour (Demit)	2017 Edward C. Barclay
1996 Andre E. Lovas	2019 William F. Shepard
1997 J. Edward Jennings, Jr.	2020 William F. Shepard
1998 C. Danny Wofford	2022 James W. Tate
2002 Clyde E. Griffin	2024 Stephen C. Higgins
2009 J. Timothy Ingram	2025 Joey E. Jackson
2013 F. Andrew Lane, Jr.	2026 Joey E. Jackson
2014 Michael R. Sosebee	

CONFERRAL TEAM

Benjamin W. Polston, II	Excellent President
Stephen C. Higgins	Excellent Master of Ceremonies
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III	Excellent Chaplain
Edward C. Barclay	Excellent Conductor
Judd J. Wolfe	Excellent Herald
Floyd E. Edmondson	Excellent Steward
John H. Johnson	Excellent Sentinel

CANDIDATES

Thomas W. Bloodworth, Jr. (27)	James M. Nichols, Jr. (99)
Lyle T. Chadwick (13)	Rossie Ross (73)
Nicholas A. Dunn (72)	David W. Simmons (47)
Mark D. Griffis (49)	Dennis C. Simpson (4)
Cecil S. Horton, II (71)	Michael W. Taylor (160)
Robert A. McDowell (A01)	Anthony C. Williams (16)

2026-2027 OFFICERS

A motion by the Nominating Committee was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the following officers be elected and installed:

C. Hendry Howard	Excellent President
Benjamin W. Polston, II	Excellent Vice President
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III	Excellent Master of Ceremonies
Mark A. Bradley	Excellent Secretary-Treasurer
Jack J. Bell	Excellent Chaplain
Mark S. Johnson	Excellent Conductor
Joe R. Bush	Excellent Herald
Walter D. Waddell, Jr.	Excellent Steward
Judd J. Wolfe	Excellent Sentinel

The officers were installed by ME Companion John Henry Johnson.

ATTEST:

Mark A. Bradley	C. Hendry Howard
Excellent Secretary-Treasurer	Excellent President

GRAND YORK RITE BANQUET

On Friday, May 1, 2026, a banquet was held at Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia in honor of the 2025-2026 Grand York Rite of Georgia Grand Line Officers. The following Grand Chapter awards were presented:

SWEETHEART AWARD

MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III and General Grand High Priest Teko A. Foly presented Sweetheart Awards to Ladies Julie Hickman and Susan Combs.

EPHRAIM KIRBY AWARD

During the Grand Chapter Business Session, the Ephraim Kirby Award was presented to Most Excellent Companion John Henry Johnson.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

MEGHP Oelgoetz and General Grand High Priest Foly presented the General Grand Chapter Bronze Medal to Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez.

PRESENTATION TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST

General Grand High Priest Foly presented MEGHP Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III with a plaque and lapel pin, designating him a permanent voting member of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, Int.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

During the Grand Chapter Business Session, the Chapter of the Year Award was presented to Keystone Chapter No. K01.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

During the Grand Chapter Business Session, a Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Most Excellent Companions C. Danny Wofford, Clyde E. Griffin, and Joe E. Turner.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

During the Grand Chapter Business Session, a Certificate of Merit was presented to Ellijay Chapter No. 150.

CHARTER PRESENTATION

During the Grand Chapter Business Session, a charter was presented to McCay Chapter No. 114.

RECIPIENTS OF THE EPHRAIM KIRBY AWARD

*2014 J. Benny Allen (64 & 24)	2018 Joe E. Turner (27)
2015 Wade C. Smith (24)	2019 J. Timothy Ingram (28)
2015 Clyde E. Griffin (A03)	2020 William F. Shepard (66)
*2015 Edward Helton (64)	2021 Michael H. Wilson (71)
2016 C. Danny Wofford (84)	2022 Mark A. Bradley (84)
*2016 Wayne H. Garrett (64)	2023 Hugh F. Watson (13)
2017 Robert L. Gill (9)	2024 Johnie M. Garmon (24)
*2017 Joseph P. Suttles (155)	2025 Benjamin W. Polston, II (71)
2018 Floyd E. Edmondson (150)	2026 John Henry Johnson (47)

* Indicates Death

RECIPIENTS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

*1952 Ottis B. Turner (10)	*1961 T. S. Wells, Sr. (85)
*1953 Robert Wiley Beall (55)	*1962 Walter M. Housch (99)
*1954 Fermor R. Hargrove, Sr. (6)	*1963 Graydon W. Kitchens (122)
*1955 Thomas E. Gaines (136)	*1964 Ralph Saye (K01)
*1956 Ezekiel K. Clifton (3)	*1965 Richard S. Sagar (49)
*1957 W. Tom Bateman (18)	*1966 James W. Davis (77)
*1958 Edward P. Hitaffer (73)	*1967 Charles H. Davis (4)
**1959 Merrill D. Payton (15)	*1968 John B. Hubert, Jr. (112)
*1960 L. Guy Hughes (144)	*1969 Ernest F. Campbell (70)

*1970 C. Dowing Pate (107)	*1999 Russell L. Baker (47)
*1971 Preston Y. Luther (4)	2000 J. Edward Jennings, Jr. (80)
*1972 J. Sheffield Thompson (37)	*2001 William L. Montgomery (73)
*1973 George T. Buchan (66)	2002 Stephen C. Higgins (135)
*1974 Clyde C. Brown (83)	*2003 William H. McDaniel (K01)
*1975 Dave H. Keever (49)	2004 William F. Shepard (66)
*1976 Benjamin R. Martin, Jr. (121)	2005 James D. Davis (11)
*1977 Oliver H. Sheppard (158)	2006 Johnie M. Garmon (24)
*1978 Charles W. Eaton (154)	*2007 Kerry J. Buchan (G03)
*1979 Grady T. Bozeman (28)	2008 A. Wayne Norton (21)
*1980 Joseph P. Suttles (37)	2009 Lloyd J. Leinbaugh (13)
*1981 Robert E. Taylor (4)	*2010 G. Everett Cox (160)
*1982 Oran G. Moore (79)	*2011 Phillip H. Floyd (48)
*1983 Willie P. Hammond (72)	2012 Leonard A. Davis (11)
*1984 Lee D. Holcomb (50)	2013 Edward C. Barclay (14)
*1985 Lewis H. Keith (27)	2014 Bruce A. McNall (G03)
1986 C. Danny Wofford (84)	2015 Benjamin W. Polston, II (71)
*1987 David B. Dukes (70)	2016 Ronald H. Wallace (24)
**1988 Kenneth R. Smith (144)	2017 James E. Stevens (66)
*1989 Minor C. Shadburn (144)	2018 Judd J. Wolfe (48)
*1990 William J. Bird (70)	2019 Robert W. Tidwell (75)
***1991 Lawrence E. Anderson (22)	2020 John H. Johnson (47)
*1992 William H. Lewis (107)	2021 John E. Finch, (13)
*1993 Edward C. Davis (122)	2022 Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (7)
*1994 W. George Bean (49)	2023 John A. Minnich (4)
*1995 James E. Salter (75)	2024 J. Walter McCannon, Jr. (25)
*1996 Rudolph Fuglaar (119)	2025 Robert A. Brooks (G03)
*1997 George Utiss, Sr. (66)	2026 Ditmar W. Chavez (3)
1998 Robert L. Gill (9)	

* Indicates Death ** Indicates Suspension *** Indicates Dimit

RECIPIENTS OF THE SWEETHEART AWARD

2010 Josie Bentley	2014 Liz Miller	2017 Gay Bradley
2010 Loyce Price	2014 Nora Wells	2017 Emmie Sampsell
2010 Margaret Lovas	2015 Brenda Gill	2017 Lynne Hatfield
2010 Pat Smith	2015 Carol McDonald	2017 Karen Johnson
2010 Rebecca Taylor	2015 Jane Wilson	2017 Cheryle Turner
2012 Anna Montgomery	2015 Joan Head	2018 Sheila Ingram
2012 Cheryle Shepard	2015 Sharon Bailey	2018 Joy Wolfe
2012 Halli Stevens	2015 Sheila Hensley	2018 Judy Nichols
2012 Jana Watson	2015 Susan Pope	2018 Nancy Rich
2012 Marilyn Yeary	2015 Tammie Polston	2018 Kay Higgins
2012 Ruth Wellman	2016 Barbara Edmondson	2018 Terry Massaro
2013 Erica Matheny	2016 Buffi Peacock	2018 Jeanette Hendry
2013 Glenda Porter	2016 Debbie Lemmons	2018 Benigna Haggas
2014 Barbara Bozeman	2016 Helen Leinbaugh	2019 Sherri Kirk
2014 Fae Suttles	2016 Laine Bolton	2019 Angi Harris
2014 Judy Griffin	2017 Eva Garmon	2019 Barbara Tate
2014 Lily Stafford	2017 Marla Horton	2019 Nancy Simmons

1929	William B. Graham (12)	07-02-1931	1976	Charlie O. Murphy (155)	11-21-1992
1930	Charles L. Bass (93)	12-29-1937	1977	Marvin E. Oldham (K01)	08-13-2000
1930	Josiah T. Clarke (Hon.) (2)	05-13-1950	1978	H. Grady Keith (27)	05-28-2022
1931	Charles Percival Taylor (155)	01-14-1934	1979	John Benny Allen (64)	10-24-2017
1932	Joseph A. Moore (6)	09-04-1972	1980	Felix Gersten (7) 06-10-1993	
1933	Charles R. McCord (4)	03-22-1938	1981	Rufus C. Johnson, Jr. (52)	04-07-2000
1934	John B. Russell (32)	01-20-1955	1982	James T. Stanley (98)	05-02-1991
1935	N. H. Ballard (Hon) (66)	02-19-1936	1983	William M. Hutcheson (16)	03-25-2010
1935	Francis A. Johnson (97)	03-31-1940	1984	C. Downing Pate (Hon.) (107)	10-25-1997
1936	B. Palmer Axson (G03)	05-23-1943	1984	Bobby Joe Townsend (83)	09-20-2014
1937	Newman N. Johnson (22)	11-03-1972	1985	Grady T. Bozeman (28)	05-10-2007
1938	Paul H. Ponder (158)	11-23-1967	1986	Steven V. Carter (90)	11-11-2017
1938	P.T. McCutchen (Hon.) (34)	03-27-1947	1987	J. Walter Cowart (G03)	09-11-2001
1939	Jack G. Standifer (44)	11-20-1972	1988	William E. Cantrell (144)	
1940	Thomas W. Sewell (34)	6-25-1966	1989	P. Woodrow Houston (44)	06-30-1994
1941	J. Warner Neal (7)	11-19-1960	1990	George E. Jones (18)	08-27-1993
1942	John W. Riley (6)	01-06-1949	1991	James E. Miller (73)	04-21-2013
1943	E. Paul Newhard (62)	05-16-1963	1992	John S. Perry (75)	09-04-1995
1944	J. Tillman Morgan (74)	09-20-1969	1993	Ernest J. Gaines (49)	11-23-1995
1945	Bartis E. Goodman (16)	01-09-1959	1994	Ruben Martinez (75)	03-28-2021
1946	Emanuel W. Rhoden (91)	10-20-1962	1995	Joe E. Turner (10)	
1947	W. Furman King (G03)	11-07-1950	1996	William J. Bird (70)	02-15-2016
1948	Daniel W. Locklin (K01)	10-09-1988	1997	William Henry Lewis (107)	06-07-1998
1949	James R. Belflower (47)	10-07-1981	1999	Joseph P. Suttles (37)	09-11-2019
1950	John W. Ball, Jr. (112)	03-09-1958	1999	Wilford H. Hall (80)	07-12-2014
1951	William J. Penn, Jr. (15)	07-30-1959	2000	Wayne H. Garrett (64)	04-17-2026
1951	Arthur T. Harrison (66)	11-29-1954	2000	Ted H. Hendon (Hon.) (50)	04-27-2007
1952	Thomas C. Sanders (155)	11-27-1974	2001	William D. Miles (16)	03-04-2017
1953	David L. Paulk (32)	04-23-1979	2002	Earl D. Harris (Hon.) (71)	07-23-2002
1954	John H. Haddock (4)	03-03-1981	2002	A. Joseph Clark (K01)	
1955	J. Willard Register (7)	04-24-1999	2003	Eli A. Stafford (G03)	02-22-2007
1956	Cecil F. Hall (33)	11-01-1979	2004	Emmett R. Johns (4)	10-15-2021
1957	Austin P. Phillips (94)	03-18-1981	2005	Hugh F. Watson (13)	
1958	Lyndon S. Patterson (10)	05-07-1958	2006	Robert L. Gill (9)	
1958	Jay D. Barton (2)	03-09-1981	2007	Charles L. Taylor, Jr. (21)	09-05-2010
1959	Harry M. Stanley, Jr. (119)	07-24-1992	2008	Drew W. Hendry, Sr. (63)	02-02-2021
1960	Raymond E. Keen (30)	08-06-1999	2009	C. Danny Wofford (84)	
1961	James C. Newton (54)	06-06-1970	2009	Wade C. Smith (24)	07-31-2025
1961	G. Hice Gilbert (149)	08-19-1985	2010	J. Timothy Ingram (28)	
1962	E. Alton Rogers (6)	06-24-2001	2011	William L. Montgomery (73)	11-13-2020
1963	Ralph C. James (158)	06-14-1989	2012	Jimmy T. Porter (79)	11-29-2015
1964	Charles H. Bush (131)	12-20-1969	2012	James C. Bentley, Jr. (Hon) (107)	02-20-2021
1965	James M. Head (63)	03-11-1999	2013	Clyde E. Griffin (G03)	
1966	Joseph R. Richardson (26)	01-27-1990	2014	Michael H. Wilson (71)	
1967	James E. Moseley (10)	02-10-2017	2015	James T. Farmer (10)	03-06-2016
1967	Merrill D. Payton (15)	02-12-1997	2016	William F. Shepard (66)	
1968	Ira R. Huffaker (16)	05-21-1973	2017	Mark A. Bradley (84)	
1969	Thomas J. Brake, Jr. (10)	09-24-1971	2018	Stephen C. Higgins (135)	
1970	Herman E. Freeman (G03)	08-01-1984	2019	James W. Tate (73)	
1971	Graydon W. Kitchens (122)	08-12-1987	2021	John H. Johnson (47)	
1972	John M. McClurd, Sr. (66)	04-17-2001	2022	C. Hendry Howard (9)	
1973	William M. Drinnon (4)	02-03-1987	2023	Walter D. Waddell, Jr. (14)	
1974	Richard S. Sagar (98)	12-11-2013	2024	Joey E. Jackson (59)	
1975	J. Lewis Lester (87)	05-26-2009	2025	Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (7)	

PAST HIGH PRIESTS

A01. Augusta: Arthur D. Dickerson

K01: Keystone: John L. Padgett;
Henry Van Tweedell

03. Georgia: Clyde E. Griffin;
Donald C. Combs

04. Constantine: Matthew R. Astin;
Michael L. Hamlin; Bobby B. Simmons;
Thomas D. Bell; Jerry H. Purvis, Jr.

06. Temple:

07. Darley: Joseph E. Oelgoetz, III;
Timothy K. Starling; Ditmar W. Chavez

09. Waycross: Matthew Sanford;

James R. Bennett; C. Hendry Howard, Jr.;
Tommy T. Marshall

11. St. John's: Robert M. Grant

13. Cherokee: Peter D. Bard;

James W. Bard; John E. Finch, Jr.;
Daniel C. Ricketts; Sudhanshu H. Shukla

14. Silver Shoals: Walter D. Waddell, Jr.

16. Mt. Zion: Ryan C. Nealey;

Alessandro V. Silva

18. Austin:

21. Toccoa: Michael R. Sosebee

24. Enotah: William T. White;

Johnie M. Garmon; Kerry R. Rittenhouse

25. Oliver:

26. Rome: John A. Mull

27. Lakewood: Joe E. Turner;
Monte M. McDonald

28. Pickens: Keith Hales; Timothy Ingram

- 34. Newnan:** Andre E. Lovas
47. Tifton: John H. Johnson;
 Jeremy W. Hobbs; John T. Flener, Jr.
 Tony D. Morris
48. Taylor: Judd J. Wolfe; William P. Garrison
49. Dave H. Keever: Brian Kelley;
 Beau M. Davis
50. Douglasville: Phillip J. Spake
59. Statesboro:
61. Kellogg: James B. Phillips
66. Brunswick: James E. Stevens;
 Charles E. Taylor; Christopher D. Gabor;
 Richard J. Corwin, Jr.; Ernest E. Ricks
70. Jesup: Brandon A. Jones; John C. Mock
71. Covington: Raymond G. Laird;
 William M. Jones
72. Fayette County: Mark S. Johnson
73. Fort Benning: Baron L. Conklin;
 Harry E. Ross; Bayardo Reyes;
 Jacob A. Robideaux; Robert M. Grant
- 80. Wilford H. Hall:** Jerry M. Hardigree;
 Kevin R. Deverell
84. Winder: Mark A. Bradley;
 Michael J. Etheridge
87. Austell: Lloyd J. Leinbaugh; O. C.
 Grounds, Jr.
94. Bainbridge:
99. Chickamauga: Tyler W. Pledger;
 Tracy D. Wright
114. McCay:
135. Canton: James R. Harris, Sr.;
 Stephen C. Higgins; Charles A. Maheu;
 David M. Wellman; Steven G. Harris
142. Dallas: Eric S. Tress
150. Ellijay: Floyd E. Edmondson;
 Brandon P. Simmons; Richard L. Tanner;
 Danny L. Russell
160. Smyrna: Robert R. Cordle; John C. Miller
162. Alpharetta: Jack J. Bell

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS

- K01 Keystone:**
A01 Augusta:
03 Georgia:
04 Constantine:
06 Temple:
07 Darley:
09 Waycross:
11 St. John's:
13 Cherokee: Lyle T. Chadwick; Ainsley Coley
14 Silver Shoals:
16 Mt. Zion: Anthony C. Williams
18 Austin:
21 Toccoa:
23 J.M. Rushin:
24 Enotah:
25 Oliver:
26 Rome:
27 Lakewood:
28 Pickens:
34 Newnan: Andre Lovas
47 Tifton: David W. Simmons; Charlie Spray
48 Taylor:
49 Dave H. Keever:
50 Douglasville:
59 Statesboro:
61 Kellogg:
64 Alleghaney:
66 Brunswick:
70 Jesup:
71 Covington: Steven Horton; Bradley
 Johnson; Danny Roberts
72 Fayetteville: Nicholas Dunn
73 Fort Benning: Rossie Ross
77 Sardis:
80 Wilford H. Hall:
84 Winder: Jagger Phillips
87 Austell:
94 Bainbridge:
99 Chickamauga:
120 Hubert:
135 Canton:
142 Dallas:
150 Ellijay:
155 Mt. Horeb: Jonathan Yam
160 Smyrna:
162 Alpharetta:

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TWO HUNDRETH
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL
OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
HELD IN THE CITY OF MACON
FRIDAY
MAY 1, 2026
A. DEP. 3026**



JOHN C. MILLER
MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER
2025-2026

JOHN CARLTON MILLER

John C. Miller was born on November 20, 1964, in Tampa, Florida. He is a proud United States Marine Corps veteran and has been married to his wife, Jennifer of Marietta, Georgia, for 38 years.

John has been a faithful member of Gracelife Church of God for over 39 years, where he serves as a Deacon. He has lived in the Marietta/Kennesaw, Georgia area for nearly four decades and remains deeply rooted in both his church and local community.

Professionally, John has an extensive background in consumer finance, mortgage underwriting, and financial services. Above all, Jesus Christ is the center of his life. He values faith, family, and personal growth, and is committed to helping others, maintaining discipline, and living a life grounded in honesty, integrity, and purpose.

MASONIC EXPERIENCE

John is an active and dedicated member of numerous Masonic bodies, including:

- Mableton Lodge No. 171
- Smyrna Chapter No. 160, Royal Arch Masons
- Order of the High Priest, Royal Arch Masons
- G. Everett Cox Council No. 60, Royal and Select Masters
- Order of the Silver Trowel, Royal and Select Masters
- Constantine Commandery No. 26, Knights Templar
- Order of the Knight Crusader of the Cross
- Knight Masons, Carl Lester Jr. Council No. 65
- York Rite College
- Red Cross of Constantine
- Royal Order of Scotland
- KYCH Cherokee Rose Priory
- Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD), North Atlanta Council No. 313
- Order of St. Thomas of Acon
- Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta (Robing Room)
- Yaarab Shrine, Atlanta
- Knights of Mecca
- Cobb County Masonic Convention
- Grand College of Rites of the United States of America
- Cobb County Scottish Rite Association

Additional honors and affiliated orders include:

- Order of the Bath
- Order of the Cork
- Order of the Gordian Knot
- Order of the Scarlet Cord (I–IV)
- Royal Order of Zanzibar
- Super Excellent Master, Royal and Select Masters

John currently serves in the following roles:

- Secretary, Mableton Lodge No. 171
- District MELD Director, 7C
- 3rd Steward, Cobb County Convention
- Most Illustrious Grand Master (MIGM) of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters
- High Priest, 7th District Royal Arch Convention
- Robing Room Staff, Valley of Atlanta Scottish Rite
- Secretary / Treasurer Cobb County Scottish Rite Association
- Sovereign Master, AMD North Atlanta Council No. 313

John has earned numerous distinctions throughout his Masonic journey, including:

- Graduate, Southeastern York Rite Leadership Conference (2019)
- Graduate, MELD Conference (2016)
- Past Master (PM), Mableton Lodge No. 171 (2013)
- Past High Priest (PHP), Smyrna Chapter No. 160 (2013)
- Past Illustrious Master (PIM), G. Everett Cox Council No. 60 (2014)
- Past Eminent Commander (PEC), Constantine Commandery No. 26 (2024)
- Past Illustrious Master, 7th District Council Convention (2023)
- Meritorious Service award Constantine Commandery No. 26 (2025)

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND COUNCIL,
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS, OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

The Two Hundredth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, of the State of Georgia was reconvened by Most Illustrious Grand Master John C. Miller at 1:30 PM on Friday, May 1, 2026. The opening prayer was offered by MI Robert R. Cordle, Illustrious Grand Chaplain. Being assured that a quorum was present, the Most Illustrious Grand Master declared the Two Hundredth Annual Assembly duly convened.

GRAND COUNCIL OFFICER ROLL CALL

John C. Miller (60)	Most Illustrious Grand Master
James R. Harris, Sr. (3)	Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
James D. Arnold (70)	Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of Work
Matthew R. Astin (6)	Illustrious Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Bradley (77)	Illustrious Grand Recorder
Robert R. Cordle (60)	Illustrious Grand Chaplain
F. Keith Hales (55)	Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
Michael L. Hamlin (6)	Illustrious Grand Conductor of Council
Peter D. Bard (74)	Illustrious Grand Marshal
Richard L. Tanner (19)	Illustrious Grand Steward
John W. Beckum (60)	Illustrious Grand Sentinel

LIVING MOST ILLUSTRIOUS PAST GRAND MASTERS

1985 James E. Underwood (75)	2003 Alvin R. Davis (64) (Affil RI)
1987 Clyde E. Griffin (2)	2006 Daniel C. Ricketts (74)
1988 C. Danny Wofford (77)	2007 Rodney A. Couch (42)
1990 Gary D. Lemmons (61)	2012 Mark S. Johnson (66)
1998 J. Edward Jennings, Jr. (36)	2013 F. Andrew Lane, Jr. (29)

2014 Charles E. Taylor (16)	2021 James W. Bard (74)
2015 Floyd E. Edmondson (19)	2022 Robert R. Cordle (60)
2016 Benjamin W. Polston, II (41)	2022 Bobby B. Simmons, Hon. (6)
2017 John I. Haggas (4)	2023 Judd J. Wolfe (65)
2019 Joe E. Turner, Hon. (10)	2024 Timothy K. Starling (H04)
2019 Ryan C. Nealey (13)	2024 Mark A. Bradley, Hon. (84)
2020 Ronald B. Wolbert (02)	

2025-2026 GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASIGNMENTS

Custodians of the Work: North: Tyler Pledger; South: Matthew Sanford and Joey Jackson

Assistant Custodians: Peter Bard and Mike Etheridge

MIGM Address: William Shepard, Chair; Hugh Watson; and John Henry Johnson

Finance: Jack Bell, Chair; Keith Hales; and Keith Bryant

Memorial: Donald Combs; Robert Cordle; and Timothy Starling

Jurisprudence: William Shepard, Chair; Danny Wofford; and Andrew Lane

Charters/By-Laws/Dispensations: Joe Turner, Chair; Stephen Higgins; and Matthew Sanford

Foreign Correspondent: Joe Turner

Credentials: Bobby Simmons, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell; and Matthew Astin

Auditing: Mike Taylor, Chair; Lloyd Lane; and James Arnold

CMMRF: Peter Bard; Sudhanshu Shukla; Mike Taylor; James Arnold; Keith Bryant; and Joe Bradley

Entertainment: Mark Bradley, Chair; and Judd Wolfe

Educational/Historical: Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe Turner; Timothy Starling; Jimmy Densmore; and Matthew Sanford

Long Range Planning: James Bard, Chair; Joe Bush; Tyler Pledger; and Jim Harris

Public Relations: John Flener, Chair; Mark Bradley; and Rick Hallwood

Membership: Tyler Pledger Chair; James Bard; and Brandon Simmons

Perpetual Memberships: Benjamin Polston, Chair; Larry Nichols; Michael Wilson; Mark Bradley; and Matthew Astin

Code Revision: Joe Turner, Chair; Ryan Nealey; and William White

Masonic Messenger Supplement: John Flener, Chair; and John Finch

Web Master: Thomas Chapman, Chair; Richard Peterson; and Mark Bradley

Grand Master Y.R. Festival: Michael Sampsell, Chair; Daniel Ricketts; Peter Bard; and Joey E. Jackson

Photographer: Thomas Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; and Robert Tidwell

Parliamentarian: Johnie Garmon

Fundraising: Keith Hales, Chair; and John Flener

Sunshine: Floyd Edmondson

2025-2026 GRAND COUNCIL DISTRICT GRAND DEPUTIES

Stephen C. Higgins (3/84)	Chair	Samuel K. Lowder (10)	6 th
Jimmy L. Hires, Jr. (2)	1 st /11 th	R. Cris Lynch (36)	7 th
Howard L. Maddox (58)	2 nd /3 rd /11 th	Phillip J. Spake (29)	7 th
Robert M. Grant, Sr. (62/73)	4 th	John W. Beckum (60)	7 th
Baron L. Conklin (73)	4 th	J. Walter McCannon (25)	8 th
Eric S. Tress (29/37)	5 th	Jeffrey L. Anderson (41)	8 th
Robert E. Soderstrom (33)	5 th	David M. Wellman (3)	9 th

William Garrison (65)	9 th	Rusty Bennett (9)	11 th
Danny L. Russell (19)	9 th	Sherman D. Rankin (35)	12 th
Michael Schaefer (120)	10 th		

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

To all Companions of the Great State of Georgia, Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters, and to my family and friends, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Most Illustrious Grand Master for 2025-2026. It has been an honor of a lifetime to serve in this capacity, and it is something that I will remember for the rest of my life.

"Put on the Whole Armor of God"

VISITATION

During this last year, I have visited Blue Lodges, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Yaraab Shrine and Appendant Masonic Bodies, Councils, Chapters, Commanderies, the Valley of Atlanta Scottish Rite. At every event, I was received with open arms and the utmost hospitality. Immediately after installation, I had the opportunity to speak with the Ladies of the Social Order of the Beauceant. It was a great honor to be asked by MIPGM Floyd Edmondson to attend his 50-year Award Ceremony at Summit Council's annual meeting.

I have had the opportunity to visit the following:

Covington 41
 HC Rigdon 35
 Jesup 70
 Washington 6
 Walker 24
 Calhoun 6
 Pickens 55
 Walton C. Griffin 36
 Rome 15
 Winder 77
 Jason Burr 13
 Canton 3
 Sardis 53
 Western 29
 Summit 19
 NT Pirkle 65
 Tifton 58
 Douglasville 37
 Alpharetta 54
 Lakewood 10
 Waycross Festival
 Marietta 74
 Smyrna 60
 7th Masonic District Convention
 State Assembly of the Eastern Star
 Rainbow State Assembly
 Annual Assembly of the DeMolay
 Southwest Georgia Council Convention
 7th District Council Convention
 9th District Council Convention

AMD State Assembly
Red Cross of Constantine St Assembly
MELD Conference
Royal Order of Scotland
Masonic Week in DC
Grand Council at Grand Lodge
AMD Masonic Week in DC
Greater Atlanta Council Convention
Cobb County Convention
Annual Assembly Order of the Amaranth
Easter Sunrise of DC

DISPENSATIONS

A few dispensations were made this year, including one to move a Council Charter to have a joint Council meeting between Councils.

CMMRF

It was a great year for CMMRF. I would like to take a moment and thank and commend Illustrious Companion Peter Bard for serving as the CMMRF Chairman Committee and the rest of the CMMRF committee for their hard work this past year. Please refer to the CMMRF report for our year end results. I would like to thank all the Companions and Councils who have contributed to CMMRF. It was you who made this year a success. Georgia did an outstanding job this year.

STATE OF THE CRAFT

As I traveled this great state, Companions reminded me and thanked me for having the courage to speak my heart and proclaim, "Put on the Full Armor of God." The state of your craft is alive and work is being done in the quarry. New members are enthusiastic and yearning for more light. As I see the future leaders in this great state of Georgia, I am very pleased. We are blessed with talented young men. It's not the quantity but the quality.

APPOINTMENTS

It was an honor for me to make the following appointments for my year: MIPGM Rusty Cordle as Ill Grand Chaplain, and John Billy Beckum as Ill Grand Sentinel. I would like to thank these companions for serving this year and thank them for being my traveling companions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPRECIATION

First, I would like to give my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ all the thanks and glory for giving me health for a great year. My Masonic father Rusty Cordle for having confidence and trust in me. I love you brother!!! PMWGM Jan Giddens for proposing my name and having confidence in me thank you!! I love you, Jan! Next, I want to thank the Companions of the Great State of Georgia for electing me to this line seven years ago. Thank you, G. Everett Cox Council # 60, for your support. Brother Cox, I hope I've made you proud! Thank you to my home lodge, Mableton Lodge No. 171.

I would be especially remiss if I did not thank my loving wife, Jennifer, for her support and reminding me that I need to get out of the way and let God be God. Our faith, love, hard work, and dedication to Jesus has brought us through 38 years of marriage! I love you sweetheart from the bottom of my heart. I could not have done this without you. And of course, Buddy, our dog for teaching me the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. If you don't know the story, just ask.

Past Grand Commander Bobby Joe Townsend for signing many of my petitions and who was a member of Mableton Lodge No. 171. PEGC Townsend, I hope we made you proud.

A big thank you to MIPGM Floyd Edmondson, MWPGM Edgar Land, MWPGM Ben Polston and these great leaders are the reasons why I am here today. To MWGM Mark Bradley, your leadership and organizational skills are the best on the planet, thank you for your gentle and firm guiding hand. You make Tampa proud my Friend. You, sir, are the example for the rest of us to follow.

To all my companions, my mentors, my leaders, my crusaders, and to my friends: thank you for being so much a part of my life.

Remember to *"Put of the Whole Armor of God."* I love you all.

John C. Miller, Most Illustrious Grand Master

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

"Put on the whole Armor of God"

To the Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Grand Council Officers, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master's and Companions of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia. The Committee on the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address is honored to make the following report:

We join with our Most Illustrious Grand Master in welcoming all guests and members to the two hundred Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Georgia. We pray that this Grand Assembly will be enjoyed by all present.

We acknowledge the travels of our Most Illustrious Grand Master this year, and we appreciate the distinguished way he has represented our Grand Council and the Royal and Select Masters of Georgia in his journeys.

We acknowledge the dispensations and decisions that our Most Illustrious Grand Master has had to make this year and applaud his leadership in all issues.

We join the Most Illustrious Grand Master to thank the Grand Officers of this Grand Council for their support and service. We complement our Most Illustrious Grand Master on his appointment of the two "appointed" Grand Officers...Most Illustrious Companion Robert R. Cordle, Right Illustrious Reverend Grand Chaplain, and Illustrious Companion John W. Beckum, Illustrious Grand Sentinel. These two great companions have added much to our Grand Council this year.

We join the Most Illustrious Grand Master in his appreciation and acknowledgment of the unity the Grand Council Officers, our Grand Council is in good hands for many years to come.

We commend the Most Illustrious Grand Master in seeking advice and guidance from those who have traveled this way before, the Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters. We especially acknowledge Illustrious Companion Jan Giddens, for having faith in Most Illustrious Companion Miller and nominating him for the office of Illustrious Grand Steward and starting him on this journey.

We appreciate the support First Lady Jennifer has given to our Most Illustrious Grand Master. We are sure she has made his journey more memorable.

We appreciate the support our Most Illustrious Grand Master has provided to the CMMRF program. Through his support and the efforts of Peter Bard and all the committee, we continue to be strong and leading supporters of this great work.

We wish to join the Most Illustrious Grand Master in thanking the Grand Secretary, Most Illustrious Companion Mark Bradley and Marla Horton for their

service, their hard work should never go unnoticed, their efforts make it easy for the rest of us.

Now as our Most Illustrious Grand Master, John C. Miller, lays down the gavel of the Grand Council, we are assured that his service to our great fraternity is not ended. Soon the time will come for him to rise again to deeds of even more exalted usefulness.

Fraternally Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; Hugh F. Watson;
and John Henry Johnson

REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Officers and Companions of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the State of Georgia:
We your Committee on Jurisprudence report that no bill was submitted to the Committee to amend the Constitution Section of the Grand Council Code of Georgia.

We are pleased to report that all decisions rendered by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and all dispensation issued from the office of the Grand Recorder in his behalf were in strict accordance with Royal and Select Masters Masonic Code of Georgia.

One Resolutions was submitted for consideration at this annual Grand Assembly. The Jurisprudence Committee finds the Resolution in proper form and not in conflict with any section of the Code.

We your committee wishes to thank the Most Illustrious Grand Master for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Fraternally Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; C. Danny Wofford;
and F. Andrew Lane, Jr.

REPORT OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND EDICTS COMMITTEE

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Bills, Resolutions and Edicts wishes to make the following report:

No Bills have been submitted to alter or amend the 2025 Grand Council Code.

Your Committee has reviewed one Resolution issued by the Most Illustrious Grand Master: Issued March 5, 2026 to arrest the charter of A. W. Goodin Council No. 28 at Valdosta. This was a necessary action and your Committee recommends its adoption.

Your Committee has reviewed two Edicts issued by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and recommend they be adopted:

Edict No. 1 issued May 12, 2025 to require a candidate for the degrees to be accompanied by at least one Recommender unless the degrees are conferred in the candidate's home council.

Edict No. 2 issued May 12, 2025 to allow District Grand Deputies to present Years of Service Awards to include FIFTY YEARS and higher awards.

If Approved, these Two Edicts will be added to the 2025 Grand Council Code in their appropriate Sections.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF CHARTER, BY-LAWS & DISPENSATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Charters, By-Laws and Dispensations wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee does not seem to have ever received a signed approval copy of the Bylaws of Silver Shoals Council No. 84 that was chartered in 2023.

Your Committee has received a rewrite of the bylaws of

Lakewood Council No. 10, Western Council No. 29, Waycross Council No. 30, Douglasville Council No. 37 and Tifton Council No. 58.

Your Committee recommends approval as submitted.

Your Committee is aware of ByLaw changes for Fort Benning Council No. 73 that were submitted to the Grand Recorder's Office in October and returned by him as not in proper format. These changes need to be submitted in format soon if you are using those changes.

Your Committee received a rewrite of the bylaws of N. T. Pirkle Council No. 65.

Your Committee is working with the Council to get the necessary corrections done.

Your Committee has received a rewrite of the bylaws of Brasstown Council No. 79. Your Committee returned them for multiple corrections on January 25, 2026 and has heard nothing further.

This committee has reviewed all dispensations issued by the Most Illustrious Grand Master and they are of a routine nature and meet with our approval.

Almost all were to receive and ballot at a regular assembly or meet on a different night.

Your Committee notes with sadness that Hugh L. Smith Council No. 7 at Albany was consolidated with Tifton Council No. 58 at Tifton on June 4, 2025. We also note that Piedmont Council No. 56 at Cedartown was consolidated with Rome Council No. 15 at Rome on November 11, 2025

Your Committee notes with sadness that the Charter of A.W. Goodin Council No. 28 at Valdosta was arrested for cause on March 5, 2026 and the current members issued demits that they may affiliate with a council of their choosing.

This Committee has received no requests for new Council charters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Grand Council of Georgia 200 YEARS formed May 2, 1826 in Louisville, Georgia. Waycross Council No. 30 and Sardis Council 53, 70 years, Hiram Council No 62 40 years. On a sad note, the charters of SIXTEEN Councils were declared forfeited on April 27, 1926, 100, years ago!. Cryptic Masonry was not a high priority.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Stephen C. Higgins; and T. Matthew Sanford

REPORT OF CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Code Revision wishes to make the following report:

The May 2, 2025, Royal and Select Masters Code is available from the Grand Recorder's office.

The 2025 code is placed on the Grand York Rite website as a PDF file and SHOULD BE updated annually after each Grand Assembly session so that a current copy is always available for use by any member.

The Code will be reprinted every third year with all amendments and changes. I will be presenting several code changes at the 2027 Grand Assembly to fix a couple of conflicts in the Code.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Ryan C. Nealey;
and William T. White

REPORT OF FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Georgia:

Your Foreign Correspondent wishes to make the following report:

No out of state or foreign proceedings have been received for review. I do not know if any Grand Jurisdictions even send proceedings to other states anymore.

I do receive the General Grand Council Newsletters and a couple of state council newsletters and I note with interest activities going on in other states.

No requests for recognition from other Grand Councils have been received to my knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

In Memoriam



This Memorial is affectionately

Inscribed to the memory of

All Companions of Georgia

And those of Sister Jurisdictions who have

Departed this life during the past

Cryptic Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election was held and the following officers were elected:

James R. Harris, Sr. (3)	Most Illustrious Grand Master
James D. Arnold (70)	Very Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
Keith Hales (55)	Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of Work
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (H04)	Right Illustrious Grand Recorder
Matthew R. Astin (6)	Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
Michael L. Hamlin (6)	Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard
Peter D. Bard (74)	Illustrious Grand Conductor of the Council
Richard L. Tanner (19)	Illustrious Grand Marshal
Ainsley E. Coley (74)	Illustrious Grand Steward

OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The MIGM made the following appointments: James W. Bard (74), Grand Chaplain; and Stephen C. Higgins (3), Grand Sentinel.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The newly elected officers were duly installed on Saturday, May 2, 2026 by Most Illustrious Companion Floyd E. Edmondson.

2026-2027 GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Custodians of the Work: North: Tyler W. Pledger and Peter Bard

South: Matthew Sanford and Joey E. Jackson

Assistant Custodian: Mike Etheridge

MIGM Address: William F. Shepard, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Robert R. Cordle

Finance: Jack J. Bell, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Howard Maddox

Memorial: Donald C. Combs, Beau M. Davis, James W. Bard

Jurisprudence: William F. Shepard, Chair; C. Danny Wofford; Daniel C. Ricketts

Charters/By-Laws/Dispensations: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Stephen C. Higgins;

Matthew Sanford

Foreign Correspondent: Joe E. Turner

Credentials: Matthew R. Astin, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell;

Dennis C. Simpson; Mark A. Bradley

Auditing: Mike Taylor; Lloyd R. Lane; James D. Arnold

CMMRF: Peter Bard, Sudhanshu Shukla, Mike Taylor, Jim Arnold, Keith Bryant, Joe Bradley

Entertainment: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Judd Wolfe

Educational/Historical: C. Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe E. Turner;

Timothy K. Starling; Jimmy Densmore; Matthew Sanford

Long Range Planning: Tyler W. Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Michael Hamlin

Public Relations: John T. Flener, Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Rick Hallwood

Membership: Tyler Pledger Chair; James Bard; Brandon P. Simmons

Perpetual Memberships: Benjamin W. Polston, II, Chair; Mark A. Bradley;

Michael H. Wilson; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin

Code Revision: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; William White

Masonic Messenger Supplement: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; John E. Finch

Web Master: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Richard T. Peterson;

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III

Grand Master Y.R. Festival: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Daniel C. Ricketts;

Peter Bard; Joey E. Jackson; Matthew Sanford

Photographer: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; Robert W. Tidwell

Parliamentarian: Johnie M. Garmon

Fundraising: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Jack J. Bell

Sunshine: Floyd Edmondson

2026-2027 DISTRICT GRAND DEPUTY ASSIGNMENTS

Mitch Tripp (15)	Chair	Lyle T. Chadwick (74)	7 th
Brandon Jones (70)	1 st	Craig S. Faulkner (25)	8 th
Howard L. Maddox (58)	2 nd /3 rd	Jeffrey L. Anderson (41)	8 th
Robert M. Grant, Sr. (62/73)	4 th	David M. Wellman (3)	9 th
Baron L. Conklin (73)	4 th	William Garrison (65)	9 th
Robert E. Soderstrom (33)	5 th	Michael R. Sosebee (40)	9 th
Anthony C. Williams (13/74)	5 th	Danny L. Russell (19)	9 th
Samuel K. Lowder (10)	6 th	Michael Schaefer (78)	10 th
Jerry M. Hardigree (36)	7 th	Rusty Bennett (30)	11 th
Phillip J. Spake (29/37)	7 th	Sherman D. Rankin (35)	12 th

TIME OF NEXT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The 201st Annual Assembly will be held in the Grand Chapter Building in Macon, Georgia on Friday, May 7, 2027.

MINUTES ADOPTED

The Grand Recorder made a motion that was seconded and adopted that the proceedings of the 200th Annual Assembly be approved, printed, and distributed.

GRAND COUNCIL CLOSES

There being no further business, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Georgia was closed in due form.

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Grand Recorder



James R. Harris, Sr.
Most Illustrious Grand Master

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLYDE E. GRIFFIN ORDER OF THE SILVER TROWEL MACON, GEORGIA – FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

The Assembly of the Grand Council, Order of the Silver Trowel, of the State of Georgia was opened in the Grand York Rite Building in Macon, Georgia on Friday, May 1, 2026 with the following Officers present and in their respective stations:

Mark S. Johnson	Thrice Illustrious Master
Judd J. Wolfe	Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden
Robert R. Cordle	Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden
Mark A. Bradley	Thrice Illustrious Recorder-Treasurer
Michael J. Etheridge	Thrice Illustrious Steward
Peter D. Bard	Thrice Illustrious Sentinel
Edward Barclay	Thrice Illustrious Chaplain

LIVING PAST THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS

1986 C. Danny Wofford	2007 A. Joseph Clark
1990 Clyde E. Griffin	2009 M. George Folendore, Jr.
1991 Dannie L. Reed	2010 William E. Cantrell
1993 Gary D. Lemmons	2011 C. Michael Ellis
1996 Lanier S. Dasher	2014 Alan P. Pryor
2001 Bobby B. Simmons	2015 Paul E. Wells
2006 J. Edward Jennings, Jr.	2016 F. Andrew Lane, Jr.
	2017 Charles E. Taylor

2018 Benjamin W. Polston, II
2019 James W. Bard
2020 James W. Bard
2021 Donald C. Combs
2022 Floyd E. Edmondson

2023 William F. Shepard
2024 Mark A. Bradley
2025 Ryan C. Nealey
2026 Mark S. Johnson

CONFERRAL TEAM

Michael L. Hamlin
C. Hendry Howard
Richard Corwin
Matthew Sanford
Edward C. Barclay

Thrice Illustrious Master
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden
Thrice Illustrious Steward
Thrice Illustrious Sentinel

CANDIDATES

Thomas W. Bloodworth, Jr. (10)
Nicholas A. Dunn (66)
Mark D. Griffis (44)
Cecil S. Horton, II (41)
Robert A. McDowell (A01)
James M. Nichols, Jr. (24)

Rossie Ross (73)
David W. Simmons (56)
Dennis C. Simpson (6)
Jason D. Spencer (77)
Michael W. Taylor (60)
Anthony C. Williams (13)

2026-2027 OFFICERS

A motion by the Nominating Committee was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the following officers be elected and installed:

Judd J. Wolfe
Robert R. Cordle
Michael J. Etheridge
Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Peter D. Bard
Edward Barclay
Michael L. Hamlin

Thrice Illustrious Master
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden
Thrice Illustrious Recorder-Treasurer
Thrice Illustrious Steward
Thrice Illustrious Sentinel
Thrice Illustrious Chaplain

The officers were installed by Most Illustrious Companion Mark A. Bradley.

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Illustrious Recorder-Treasurer

Judd J. Wolfe
Illustrious Master

GRAND YORK RITE BANQUET

On Friday, May 1, 2026, a banquet was held at Macon Marriott City Center in Macon, Georgia in honor of the 2025-2026 Grand York Rite of Georgia Grand Line Officers. The following Grand Council awards were presented:

LADY OF THE COUNCIL AWARD

MIGM John C. Miller, RPPGDGM Keith Powell, and James W. Bard presented the Lady of the Council Award to Ladies Jennifer Miller and Kat Beckum.

YOUTH ADVOCATE AWARD

MIGM Miller presented the Youth Advocate Award to Mickey Phillips.

CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

During the Grand Council Business Sessions, the Cryptic Mason of the Year Award was presented to Illustrious Companion Danny Russell.

COLLEGE OF PRESERVATION AWARD

Georgia Dean of the College of Preservation James W. Bard presented the College of Preservation Award to Illustrious Companions John C. Miller and Andre E. Lovas.

PRESENTATION TO THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER
 RPPGDGM Powell presented MIGM John C. Miller with a plaque and lapel pin, designating him a permanent voting member of the General Grand Council.

COUNCIL OF THE YEAR AWARD

During the Grand Council Business Sessions, the Council of the Year Award was presented to Summit Council No. 19.

TEN-PERCENT GAIN CERTIFICATES

During the Grand Council Business Sessions, Ten-Percent Gain Certificates were presented to Summit Council No. 19, Elbert Council No. 25, Western Council No. 29, Jesup Council No. 70, and Brasstown Council No. 79.

RECIPIENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF PRESERVATION AWARD

2016 F. Andrew Lane (#251)	2021 Ronald B. Wolbert
2016 Floyd E. Edmondson (#253)	2022 Wade C. Smith, Sr.
2016 Charles E. Taylor (#239)	2022 Rodney A. Couch
2017 Bobby B. Simmons (#379)	2022 James W. Bard
2017 Benjamin W. Polston, II (#381)	2022 Mark A. Bradley
2017 C. Danny Wofford (#382)	2023 Robert R. Cordle
2017 Clyde E. Griffin (#383)	2023 Wayne Garrett
2018 John I. Haggas (#12514)	2024 Mark S. Johnson
2018 Gary D. Lemmons (#441)	2024 Judd J. Wolfe
2019 Larry C. Bennett (55)	2024 Joe E. Turner
2019 J. Edward Jennings, Jr. (36)	2025 Timothy K. Starling
2020 Tommy L. Blanton	2026 John C. Miller
2020 Ryan C. Nealey	2026 Andre E. Lovas
2021 Daniel C. Ricketts	

RECIPIENTS OF THE CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

*1975 Luther G. Palmer (33)	*1999 Grady T. Bozeman (55)
1976 Lavern A. Kistler (7)	*2000 Bobby Massey (55)
*1977 J. Sheffield Thompson (23)	*2001 Charles E. Hanenkrat (49)
*1978 Willis R. Bettis (74)	2002 James Timothy Ingram (55)
*1979 Graydon W. Kitchens (33)	*2003 Kerry J. Buchan (2)
1980 Billy E. Collins (55)	2004 Brent Griffin (57)
*1981 Wilford H. Hall (36)	2005 Ernest A. McCorkle (2)
*1982 Eddie F. Forrester (33)	*2006 Phillip H. Floyd (77)
*1983 George T. Poole (4)	*2007 Lloyd D. Caldwell (36)
*1984 Homer Tyre (16)	*2008 Alexander Loo (A01)
*1985 William L. Boynton (7)	2009 Floyd E. Edmondson (19)
*1986 Ruben Martinez (75)	2010 Cornelius H. Howard (30)
*1987 Phillip H. Jackson (62)	2011 Benjamin W. Polston, II (41)
*1988 Willie P. Hammond (8)	*2012 Edward V. Massaro (74)
**1989 Ronald B. Kilgore (77)	2013 Andrew D. Rodgers (10)
*1990 James W. Cowart (2)	2015 Kevin L. Miller (16)
1991 James B. Phillips (61)	2016 Richard J. Hallwood (60)
*1992 Joseph P. Suttles (33)	2017 Michael H. Wilson (41)
***1993 Donald R. McKinney (60)	*2018 Doyle R. Hatfield (H04)
*1994 John B. Modling (13)	2019 Tyler W. Pledger (24)
*1995 Russell L. Baker, Sr (58)	2020 Jack J. Bell
1996 William S. Cleland (76)	2021 James W. Bard
1997 Peter E. Dean (42)	2022 Michael J. Etheridge
1998 Bill G. Messer (5)	2023 Michael Hamlin

2024 Roger W. Buterbaugh

2026 Danny Russell

2025 Peter D. Bard

* Indicates Death ** Indicates Suspension *** Indicates Demit

RECIPIENTS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL ADULT YOUTH AWARD

*1984 Thomas R. Chadwick (16)	2006 Frank L. Stevens (16)
*1985 Richard J. O'Keefe (7)	2007 William F. Hardison (2)
1986 Andre E. Lovas (76)	2008 James W. Bard (74)
*1987 Homer Chapman (H04)	2009 Mrs. Tina Brady
*1988 Jack L. Hepner (2)	2010 Charles E. Reed (7)
1989 Henry V. Tweedell (42)	2011 Dana E. Schwarz (74)
*1990 Floyd Cox (76)	2012 James W. Stovall
**1991 Leo F. Bowersox, Jr. (7)	2013 Nathan L. Mason (23)
*1992 Oliver Grantham (13)	2014 E. C. Kelley (55)
1993 John Pigott (2)	*2015 Joseph W. Watson (6)
*1994 Titus F. Rodgers (H04)	2016 James W. Stovall
1995 William R. Carver (13)	2017 Andrew D. Bass (14)
1996 Ronald J. Tomazin (2)	2018 Torrey O. Knight (H04)
**1997 John Terry Dixon (11)	2019 Angi Harris
*1998 James Y. Wilson, Jr. (23)	2020 Gena Kelley
1999 David L. Canaday (33)	2021 Michael W. Canada
2000 Mrs. Martha Hardison - Rainbow	2022 Victor J. Somers
2001 Marc Bohn - DeMolay	2023 Mark Griffis
2002 Burton E. Jones (24)	2024 Kim Marie May
2003 Larry M. Griggers (26)	2025 Torrey O. Knight
*2004 Julius K. Moody (2)	2026 Mickey Phillips
**2005 Thomas W. Tinley, III (A01)	

* Indicates Death ** Indicates Suspension *** Indicates Demit

RECIPIENTS OF THE LADY OF THE COUNCIL AWARD

2006 Marguerite Zeigler-Buchan	2017 Deborah Jones	2019 Kay Higgins
2007 Becky Couch	2017 Beth Hyde	2019 Eva Garmon
2008 Judy Griffin	2017 Marla Horton	2020 Becky Ann Wolbert
2010 Josie Bentley	2017 Pat Schwarz	2020 Paula Berry
2010 Pat Smith	2017 Pat Glass	2020 Barbara Tate
2013 Karen Johnson	2017 Lisa Batt	2021 Ruth Nash
2015 Cheryl Shepard	2017 Debbie Lemmons	2021 Shirley Tyner
2015 Susan Pope	2017 Cheryl Turner	2021 Emmie Sampsell
2015 Sheila Hensley	2017 Roda Wofford	2022 Elizabeth Finch
2015 Jane Wilson	2017 Brenda Gill	2022 Linda Harris
2015 Ruth Wellman	2017 Nancy Simmons	2022 Brenda Cordle
2015 Ericka Matheny	2017 Fae Suttles	2023 Margo Giddens
2016 Barbara Edmondson	2017 Margaret Lovas	2023 Jennifer Bryant
2016 Margie Lane	2017 Sharon Jennings	2024 Joy Wolfe
2016 Hilda Parks	2018 Benigna Haggas	2024 Carla Etheridge
2016 Diane Nealey	2018 Gay Bradley	2024 Linda Gammon
2016 Barbara Land	2018 Jeanette Hendry	2024 JoLynn Para-Garrison
2017 Tammie Polston	2018 Nora Wells	2024 Bobbie Chavez
2017 Lynne Hatfield	2018 Helen Leinbaugh	2025 Erin Pledger
	2019 Sherri Kirk	2026 Jennifer Miller
	2019 Judy Nichols	2026 Kat Beckum

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS 2026

William G. Snyder	General Grand Master
W. Keith Powell	General Grand Deputy Master
David Grindle	General Grand Principle Conductor of the Work
Charles A. McCollum	General Grand Treasurer
Mark E. Irwin	General Grand Recorder
Mark Megee	Assistant General Grand Treasurer
R. Sean Gardiner	Assistant General Grand Recorder
E. Jeffrey Craig	General Grand Chaplain
Charles M. Roberts	Assistant General Grand Chaplain
Jeffery York	Assistant General Grand Chaplain
David Witt	General Grand Captain of the Guard
Corey Curtiss	General Grand Conductor of the Council
Brian Dimatteo	General Grand Steward
Robert G. Davis	General Grand Orator
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.	General Grand Lecturer
John Bridgegroom	General Grand Marshal
James W. Bard	Southeast Regional Deputy General Grand Master

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FROM ITS ORGANIZATION ON 5-2-1826

DATE	NAME	DECEASED	DATE	NAME	DECEASED
1826-29	Burkett D. Thompson (A01)	5-21-1829	1925	Clarence H. Andrew (6)	08-20-1930
1829-30	Isaac T. Cushing (G04)	1846?	1926	William S. Richardson (13)	12-24-1934
1830-41			1927	Nathaniel H. Ballard (16)	02-09-1936
1841-44	Daniel Hook (A01)	7-27-1870	1928	John T. Waldrop (8)	05-19-1931
1845-46	William T. Gould (A01)	7-18-1882	1929	Thos. H. Jeffries [Hon] (13)	11-06-1948
1847-47	Albon Chase (5)	7-9-1867	1929	Frank O. Miller (9)	03-17-1937
1850-52	Benjamin B. Russell (A01)	2-16-1889	1930	Jack G. Standifer (39)	11-20-1972
1853-55	Philip T. Schley (4)	8-31-1862	1931	Orlando C. Long (13)	10-26-1937
1856-62	Philip T. Schley (2)	8-31-1862	1932	Chas. W. Pidcock, Jr. (14)	01-16-1961
1862-68	Stephen D. Heard (A01)	11-18-1875	1933	Walter Frank Wells (23)	11-07-1947
1869	Joseph E. Wells (6)	12-11-1887	1934	W. Furman King (2)	11-07-1950
1870-76	Robert M. Smith (5)	2-01-1879	1935	Hugh W. Taylor (17)	05-18-1966
1877	William A. Graham (22)	2-24-1904	1936	Vivian O. Kimsey (21)	09-20-1966
1878-81	Charles R. Armstrong (6)	11-01-1893	1937	Byron L. Milling (13)	10-28-1958
1882-88	Christopher F. Lewis (A01)	5-21-1902	1938	Wm. Jeff. Aldridge (29)	03-14-1964
1889-97	Henry C. Burr (8)	3-15-1901	1939	James D. Owens (6)	10-05-1961
1898-99	Orlando McLendon (18)	9-26-1899	1940	John F. Hatfield (14)	08-13-1958
1899-01	William A. Davis (6)	1-19-1907	1941	John Orson Smith (38)	11-23-1968
1902	Julius L. Brown (13)	9-04-1910	1942	John B. Russell (59)	01-20-1955
1903	Robert L. Colding (1)	10-21-1927	1943	Lloyd C. Pritchard (3)	10-09-1982
1904	Joseph C. Greenfield (13)	12-20-1920	1944	Ray O. Schill (23)	06-12-1975
1905	Linton W. Burkett (6)	1-10-1925	1945	John P. Weisiger (13)	01-08-1971
1906	Thomas F. Moody (20)	1-14-1927	1946	Manning M. Quattlebaum (2)	12-29-1959
1907	William H. Nurnberger (A01)	9-26-1923	1947	David L. Paulk (59)	04-22-1979
1908	John C. Postell (2)	06-19-1919	1948	Joseph A. Moor (G04)	09-04-1972
1909	John R. Wilkinson (13)	04-07-1915	1949	Charles E. Powers (H04)	08-07-1977
1910	John C. Harmon (30)	04-11-1921	1950	James R. Belflower (58)	10-07-1981
1911	J. Ben Roberts (13)	08-30-1917	1951	J. Tillman Morgan (48)	09-20-1969
1912	Alvin E. Sansburn (15)	10-29-1924	1952	William J. Penn, Jr. (7)	07-30-1959
1913	Joe P. Bowdoin (27)	08-07-1942	1952	Clifford E. Franklin (14)	03-16-1967
1914	B. Palmer Axson (2)	05-23-1943	1952	James P. Flynn (33)	09-29-1957
1915-16	William A. Sims (13)	11-24-1952	1953	Harold L. Walters (74)	12-01-1960
1917	Max Meyerhardt (15)	03-02-1923	1954	W. Reddick (14)	03-03-1970
1918	Charles L. Bass (19)	02-29-1937	1955	Corliss H. Edwards, Sr. (6)	10-22-1992
1919	Augustus G. Miller (20)	07-13-1931	1956	William J. Mobley (2)	07-21-1981
1920	Henry S. Colding (2)	10-26-1925	1957	Charles C. Moon, Sr. (32)	07-31-1966
1921	W. Paul Martin (27)	05-16-1962	1958	Fermor R. Hargrove, Sr. (G04)	03-20-1969
1922	Early H. Johnson (H04)	09-06-1947	1959	Walker Rush Camp (9)	01-15-1974
1923	Pleasant T. McCutchen (18)	03-27-1947	1960	Lonzo Pope (7)	06-23-1991
1924	James W. Taylor [Hon] (18)	12-15-1925	1961	John T. Sessions (13)	01-19-1971
1924	Edgar A. McHan [Hon] (6)	07-12-1928	1962	Ottis Brewer Turner (8)	02-10-1999
1924	Francis A. Johnson (23)	03-31-1940	1963	Herman E. Freeman (2)	08-01-1984

1964	Grady Eugene Wilkins (26)	09-12-1979	1998	Wm. M. Hutcheson (Hon.) (13)	03-26-2010
1965	T. Evans Gates (6)	12-30-1987	1998	J. Edward Jennings, Jr. (36)	
1966	Jay D. Barton (A01)	03-09-1981	1999	Ted H. Hendon (37)	04-20-2007
1967	James E. Moseley (8)	02-10-2017	2000	Thomas L. Blanton (49)	04-27-2024
1967	Harry P. Boyd (43)	04-06-1990	2001	Joseph P. Suttles (Hon.) (33)	09-11-2019
1968	Austin P. Phillips (38)	03-18-1981	2001	Ruben Martinez (75)	03-28-2021
1969	Harry E. Copelan (69)	01-15-1999	2002	Earl D. Harris (Hon.) (41)	07-23-2002
1970	John W. Sisk (13)	08-01-1996	2002	John P. Bohanan (3)	09-11-2019
1971	Harold C. Duncan (30)	02-12-1996	2003	Grady T. Bozeman (Hon.) (55)	05-10-2007
1972	Femor R. Hargrove, Jr (G04)	04-06-2012	2003	Alvin R. Davis, Jr. (Affil.) (64)	
1973	David S. Lemons (10)	05-23-2003	2003	Jack Lee Hepner (G02)	12-04-2010
1974	Hayden M. Carmichael (46)	01-09-1993	2004	Eli A. Stafford (Hon.) (G02)	12-22-2007
1975	Oswald H. King, Jr. (39)	06-21-2013	2004	Benjamin L. Johnson (33)	01-10-2022
1976	Rupert Queen (19)	11-03-2005	2005	W. Larry Hicks (13)	04-26-2016
1977	Lee D. Holcomb (37)	04-21-2009	2006	Wilford Henry Hall [Hon] (36)	07-20-2014
1978	Clyde C. Brown (13)	10-25-1997	2006	Daniel C. Ricketts (74)	
1979	Bobbie L. Byrd (52)	03-10-2017	2007	Rodney A. Couch (42)	
1980	Rufus R. White (36)	12-31-1993	2008	Wayne H. Garrett (64)	04-17-2026
1981	Luther G. Palmer (33)	06-11-1987	2009	James C. Bentley, Jr. (20)	02-20-2021
1982	Charles. L. Taylor, Jr. (40)	09-05-2010	2011	Harry B. Allen (3)	01-10-2024
1983	Roy H. Homans (16)	06-28-1998	2012	Mark S. Johnson (66)	
1984	Hugh L. Smith (7)	03-01-1995	2013	F. Andrew Lane, Jr. (29)	
1985	Howard W. VanScoy, Jr. (6)	05-11-2019	2014	Charles E. Taylor (16)	
1985	James E. Underwood (75)		2015	Floyd E. Edmondson (19)	
1986	J. Willard Register (H04)	04-24-1999	2016	Benjamin W. Polston, II (41)	
1987	Clyde E. Griffin (G02)		2017	John I. Haggas (4)	12-27-2023
1988	C. Danny Wofford (77)		2018	Larry C. Bennett (55)	
1989	Ralph C. James (42)	06-14-1989	2019	Ryan C. Nealey (13)	
1989	Raymond E. Keen (26)	08-06-1999	2020	Ronald B. Wolbert (2)	
1990	Gary D. Lemmons (61)		2021	Bobby B. Simmons (6) (Hon)	
1991	Thomas R. Gaines (6)	08-18-2013	2021	James W. Bard (74)	
1992	John A. Morse (13)	12-08-1994	2022	Robert R. Cordle (60)	
1992	J. Eugene Lowry (13)	02-25-2014	2023	Judd J. Wolfe (65)	
1993	Charles R. Maffett (73)	01-10-2007	2024	Mark A. Bradley, Hon. (77)	
1994	Willie P. Hammond (8)	09-01-2011	2024	Timothy K. Starling (H04)	
1995	Buford M. Brand (19)	03-10-2002	2025	John C. Miller (60)	
1996	Roy R. Jackson (58)	11-06-2007			
1997	J. Richard Jones (53)	08-03-2018			

PAST ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS

A01. Adoniram: Arthur D. Dickerson
G02. Georgia: Donald C. Combs
03. Canton: Steven G. Harris;
James R. Harris, Sr.; Stephen C. Higgins;
David M. Wellman
G04. Georgia:
H04. Hope: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III;
Ditmar W. Chavez
06. Washington: Matthew R. Astin;
Michael L. Hamlin; Bobby B. Simmons;
Thomas D. Bell; Jerry H. Purvis, Jr.
10. Lakewood: Joe E. Turner; Monte M.
McDonald; Thomas N. Carder; Larry T. Croy
13. Jason Burr: Alessandro V. Silva;
Ryan C. Nealey
15. Rome: John A. Mull
16. Ballard: James E. Stevens; Christopher
D. Gabor; Charles E. Taylor; Ernest E. Ricks
19. Summit: Floyd E. Edmondson;
Edgar M. Land; Brandon P. Simmons;
Richard L. Tanner; Danny L. Russell
24. Walker: Tyler W. Pledger; Tracy D. Wright
25. Elbert:
29. Western: Eric S. Tress
30. Waycross: Matthew Sanford;

James R. Bennett; Tommy T. Marshall;
C. Hendry Howard, Jr.
35. H. C. Rigdon:
36. Walton C. Griffin: Jerry M. Hardigree;
Kevin R. Deverell
37. Douglasville: Phillip J. Spake
40. E. L. McConnell: Michael R. Sosebee
41. Covington: Raymond G. Laird;
William M. Jones
44. Gwinnett: Brian Kelley; Beau M. Davis
47. Austell: Lloyd J. Leinbaugh;
O. C. Grounds, Jr.
53. Sardis: Thomas B. McCrary;
Paul A. Kimpel
54. Alpharetta: Jack J. Bell
55. Pickens: Keith Hales;
Walter D. Waddell, Jr.; Timothy Ingram
58. Tifton: Jeremy W. Hobbs;
John H. Johnson; John T. Flener, Jr.;
Tony D. Morris
60. G. Everett Cox: Robert R. Cordle;
John C. Miller
61. Calhoun:
62. Hiram: Andre E. Lovas
65. N.T. Pirkle: Judd J. Wolfe;

William P. Garrison

66. Fayette County: Mark S. Johnson

70. Jesup: Brandon A. Jones; John C. Mock

73. Fort Benning: Baron L. Conklin;

Harry E. Ross; Bayardo Reyes;

Jacob A. Robideaux; Robert M. Grant, Sr.

74. Marietta: James W. Bard; Peter D. Bard;

Ainsley E. Coley; John E. Finch, Jr.;

Daniel C. Ricketts; Sudhanshu H. Shukla

77. Winder: Mark A. Bradley;

Michael J. Etheridge

78. Warrenton:

79. Brasstown: Johnie M. Garmon;

William T. White; Kerry R. Rittenhouse

83. Covenant:

84. Silver Shoals:

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS

A01. Adoniram:

G02. Georgia:

03. Canton: Charles A. Maheu

G04. Georgia:

H04. Hope:

06. Washington:

07. Hugh L. Smith:

08. Griffin:

10. Lakewood:

13. Jason Burr: Anthony C. Williams

15. Rome:

16. Ballard:

18. Graydon W. Kitchens:

19. Summit: Danny L. Russell

20. Hunter:

24. Walker:

25. Elbert:

29. Western:

30. Waycross:

33. Euclid: Jonathan Yam

35. H. C. Rigdon:

36. Walton C. Griffin:

37. Douglasville: Phillip J. Spake

38. George H. Fields:

40. E. L. McConnell:

41. Covington: Steven Horton; Bradley Johnson;

Danny Roberts

44. Gwinnett:

46. Statesboro:

47. Austell:

53. Sardis:

54. Alpharetta:

55. Pickens:

56. Piedmont:

58. Tifton: David Simmons; Charlie Spray

60. G. Everett Cox: John C. Miller

61. Calhoun:

62. Hiram: Andre E. Lovas

64. Zabud:

65. N.T. Pirkle:

66. Fayetteville: Nicholas Dunn

70. Jesup:

73. Fort Benning:

74. Marietta: Lyle T. Chadwick

77. Winder: Jagger Phillips

78. Warrenton:

79. Brasstown: Kevin Warren

84. Silver Shoals:

**MASONIC CALENDAR
ANCIENT CRAFT MASONS**

Commence their era with the creation of the world, calling it Anno Lucius (A.L.), "In the year of light."

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Date from the year the second temple was commenced by Zerubbabel, Anno Inventionis (A.Inv.), "In the year of the discovery."

ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD

Dates from the year of the blessing of Abraham by the High Priest Melchizedek, Anno Benefacionis (A.B.), "The year of the blessing."

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

Date from the year in which the Temple of Solomon was completed, Anno Depositionis (A.Dep.), "In the year of deposit."

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Commence the era with the organization of the Order. Anno Ordinis, (A.O.), "In the year of the Order."

RULES FOR MASONIC DATES IN 2026

Ancient Craft Masons

Add 4000 years to the Common Era. Thus: $2026 + 4000 = 6026$

Royal Arch Masons

Add 530 years to the Common Era. Thus: $2026 + 530 = 2556$

Order of High Priesthood

Add 1913 years to the Common Era. Thus: $2026 + 1913 = 3939$

Royal and Select Masters

Add 1000 years to the Common Era. Thus: $2026 + 1000 = 3026$

Knights Templar

From the Christian era take 1118. Thus: $2026 - 1118 = 908$

**GRAND CHAPTER OF GEORGIA ROYAL ARCH MASONS
FINANCIAL REPORT**

Hill, Wingate & James, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

2451 Ingleside Avenue Macon, Georgia 31204

(478) 745-5200 - Fax (478) 745-5658

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

Member Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

**GRAND CHAPTER OF GEORGIA ROYAL ARCH MASONS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
CONSOLIDATED**

December 31, 2025

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Checking accounts	\$ 152,513.79
Investments, at cost	<u>735,682.58</u>
Total current assets	888,196.37

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Building improvements	232,811.92
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(40,370.29)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>192,441.63</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,080,638.00</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payroll taxes payable	\$ <u>84.00</u>
Total current liabilities	84.00

NET ASSETS

Net assets without donor restrictions	1,075,136.71
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u>5,417.29</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,080,554.00</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND

NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,080,638.00</u>
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GENERAL FUND

12 Months ended
December 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Dividend income	\$ 16,241.66
Per capita income	153,032.71
Rituals and miscellaneous income	12,030.78
Other income	14,409.78
Building income	0.00
Interest income	444.67
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	63,420.58
Long-term capital gain distributions	<u>3,620.48</u>
Net support and revenue	263,200.66
Total unrestricted support, revenue	

and net assets released from donor restrictions	263,200.66
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Awards	400.00
Conference expense	13,565.40
DeMolay	100.00
Dues – General Grand Chapter	7,305.00
North Carolina Summer Assembly	100.00
Rainbow	100.00
Rituals and other printed material	1,513.97
Travel	<u>16,838.28</u>
Total program expenses	39,922.65
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES	
Bank service charges	47.46
Charitable contributions	729.00
Investment fees	6,615.56
Depreciation expense	0.00
Insurance	0.00
Legal and professional expense	1,495.00
Management fee-payroll and taxes	90,455.41
Office supplies and expense	15,260.50
Printing	4,319.42
Rent	11,890.00
Repairs and maintenance	0.00
Utilities	<u>2,774.51</u>
Total management and general expenses	133,586.86
Total expenses	<u>173,509.51</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	89,691.15
NET ASSETS, beginning	<u>572,394.94</u>
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$ 662,086.09</u>

BUILDING FUND

12 Months ended
December 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Dividend income	\$ 4,015.01
Per capita income	0.00
Rituals and miscellaneous income	1,300.00
Other income	0.00
Building income	50,480.00
Interest income	0.16
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	10,416.76
Long-term capital gain distributions	<u>1,016.77</u>
Net support and revenue	67,228.70
Total unrestricted support, revenue and net assets released from donor restrictions	67,228.70

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Awards	0.00
Conference expense	0.00
DeMolay	0.00
Dues – General Grand Chapter	0.00
North Carolina Summer Assembly	0.00
Rainbow	0.00
Rituals and other printed material	0.00
Travel	<u>0.00</u>
Total program expenses	0.00

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Bank service charges	10.00
Charitable contributions	19,000.00
Investment fees	1,442.01
Depreciation expense	5,820.30
Insurance	15,568.71
Legal and professional expense	3,000.00
Management fee-payroll and taxes	0.00
Office supplies and expense	100.00
Printing	0.00
Rent	0.00
Repairs and maintenance	26,283.38
Utilities	<u>19,959.40</u>
Total management and general expenses	91,183.80
Total expenses	<u>91,183.80</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	(23,955.10)
NET ASSETS, beginning	<u>442,423.01</u>
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$ 418,467.91</u>

CONSOLIDATED

12 Months ended
December 21, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Dividend income	\$ 20,256.67
Per capita income	153,032.71
Rituals and miscellaneous income	13,330.78
Other income	14,409.78
Building income	50,480.00
Interest income	444.83
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	73,837.34
Long-term capital gain distributions	<u>4,637.25</u>
Net support and revenue	330,429.36
Total unrestricted support, revenue and net assets released from donor restrictions	330,429.36

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Awards	400.00
Conference expense	13,565.40
DeMolay	100.00
Dues – General Grand Chapter	7,305.00
North Carolina Summer Assembly	100.00
Rainbow	100.00
Rituals and other printed material	1,513.97
Travel	<u>16,838.28</u>
Total program expenses	39,922.65

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Bank service charges	57.46
Charitable contributions	19,729.00
Investment fees	8,057.57
Depreciation expense	5,820.30
Insurance	15,568.71
Legal and professional expense	4,495.00
Management fee-payroll and taxes	90,455.41
Office supplies and expense	15,360.50
Printing	4,319.42
Rent	11,890.00
Repairs and maintenance	26,283.38
Utilities	<u>22,733.91</u>
Total management and general expenses	224,770.66
Total expenses	<u>264,693.31</u>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	65,736.05
NET ASSETS, beginning	<u>1,014,817.95</u>
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$1,080,554.00</u>

**GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2025**

ASSETS**CURRENT ASSETS**

Truist Bank-operating	\$ 9,986.30
Wells Fargo-investments, at cost	<u>55,166.62</u>
Total current assets	<u>65,152.92</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 65,152.92</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**NET ASSETS**

Net assets without donor restrictions	<u>65,152.92</u>
Total net assets	<u>65,152.92</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 65,152.92</u>

12 Months ended
December 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Dividend income	\$ 1,176.20
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	963.55
Per capita income	51,958.21
Rituals and miscellaneous income	1,125.00
Interest income	<u>68.89</u>
Net support and revenue	55,291.85

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Awards	845.00
Conference expense	623.40
DeMolay	100.00
Dues-General Grand Council	4,177.50
Grand Chapter expense	20,000.00
Other charitable donations	100.00
Rainbow	100.00
Travel	<u>4,455.13</u>
Total program expenses	30,401.03

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL

Bank service charges	45.00
Building expense	8,776.00
Investment fee	341.66
Legal and professional expense	<u>1,495.00</u>
Total management and general expenses	<u>10,657.66</u>
Total expenses	<u>41,058.69</u>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT

DONOR RESTRICTIONS	14,233.16
NET ASSETS, beginning	<u>50,919.76</u>
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$ 65,152.92</u>

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2025

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Truist Bank-operating	\$ 8,309.49
Investments, at cost	<u>594,452.04</u>
Total current assets	602,761.53

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Leasehold improvements	28,019.95
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,464.37)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>19,555.58</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 622,317.11</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS

Net assets without donor restrictions	<u>622,317.11</u>
Total net assets	<u>622,317.11</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND	
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 622,317.11</u>

12 Months ended
December 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Dividend income	\$ 19,107.46
Long-term capital gain distributions	5,551.18
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	94,479.96
Per capita income	69,980.90
Rituals and miscellaneous income	<u>1,575.00</u>
Net support and revenue	190,694.50

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Awards	1,634.52
Conference expense	300.00
DeMolay	100.00
Grand Encampment per capita expense	16,977.15
Other charitable donations	100.00
Rainbow	100.00
Rituals and other printed material	3,737.80
Travel	<u>5,402.29</u>
Total program expenses	28,351.76

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Bank service charges	45.00
Building expense	7,644.00
Depreciation expense	700.50
Investment fee	7,734.89
Legal and professional expense	1,495.00
Management fee-payroll and taxes	<u>37,370.00</u>
Total management and general expenses	<u>54,989.39</u>
Total expenses	<u>83,341.15</u>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT

DONOR RESTRICTIONS	107,353.35
NET ASSETS, beginning	<u>514,963.76</u>
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$ 622,317.11</u>

MOLLIE S. MOSELEY EYE FOUNDATION TRUST OF GA, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2025

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Charles Schwab-investments, at cost	\$ <u>923,544.86</u>
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Total current assets	<u>923,544.86</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 923,544.86</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS	
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$ <u>923,544.86</u>
Total net assets	<u>923,544.86</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND	
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 923,544.86</u>

12 Months ended
December 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Dividend income	\$ 35,002.70
Interest income	1.69
Long-term capital gain distributions	10,177.27
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	174,067.29
Contributions	30,678.20
Other income	<u>31,136.00</u>
Net support and revenue	281,063.15

PROGRAM EXPENSES

K. T. Eye Foundation	<u>49,062.00</u>
Total program expenses	49,062.00

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Investment fee	<u>6,591.21</u>
Total management and general expenses	<u>6,591.21</u>
Total expenses	<u>55,653.21</u>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT

DONOR RESTRICTIONS	225,409.94
NET ASSETS, beginning	698,134.92
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$ 923,544.86</u>

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2025

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Truist Bank-operating	\$ 8,609.58
Charles Schwab-investments, at cost	<u>5,254,850.81</u>
Total current assets	5,263,460.39

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Equipment	<u>8,511.17</u>
Net property and equipment	8,511.17

OTHER ASSETS

Note receivable-Grand Chapter of GA	<u>60,000.00</u>
Total other assets	<u>60,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 5,331,971.56</u>

<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
NET ASSETS	
Net assets without donor restrictions	<u>5,331,971.56</u>
Total net assets	5,331,971.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND	
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 5,331,971.56</u>

12 Months ended
December 31, 2025

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Dividend income	\$ 166,760.83
Interest income	695.01
Long-term capital gain distributions	50,998.11
Other income	47,139.05
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	<u>1,595,637.46</u>
Net support and revenue	1,861,230.46
Restrictions satisfied by payments	
-Holyland Pilgrimage	<u>15,258.00</u>
Total unrestricted support, revenue and net assets released from restrictions	1,876,488.46

PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Holyland pilgrimage expense	23,403.98
Research grants and donations	120,000.00
Scholarship Awards	<u>33,000.00</u>
Total program expenses	176,403.98

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES	
Bank service charges	96.00
Gifts and donations	1,750.00
Insurance	17,000.00
Investment fees	34,860.30
Legal and professional expense	<u>2,990.00</u>
Total management and general expenses	<u>56,696.30</u>
Total expenses	<u>233,100.28</u>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT	
DONOR RESTRICTIONS	1,643,388.18
NET ASSETS, beginning	<u>3,688,583.38</u>
NET ASSETS, ending	<u>\$ 5,331,971.56</u>