

# North Carolina

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## October Edition

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Dear Sir Knights,

The coming of autumn signals that 2004 is drawing to a close. But there are still many important things left to do before closing out this year. I hope you will go to the polls and exercise your rights as a free American to help elect our governing officials. No matter whom you choose to vote for, I encourage you to let your voice be heard.

Also, two of our most treasured holidays are just around the corner. Thanksgiving, when we take time to thank the Lord for all of our blessings. And Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. I sincerely hope that your Commandery has a Christmas Observance for this most holy holiday. This is a wonderful time to invite friends, family and potential members to come join with you at the celebration on Jesus' birth. Please be sure to attend this event and make it a point to invite someone else to join with you.

Each month I have tried to send a special 'Thank You' to either a group or selected individuals. This month I wish to single out some of the most dedicated and devoted people in the USA. Thank you to all the members of the Military that are serving our country and making the world a safer place. I wish to thank one of our members in particular.

At the Conclave of Durham Commandery on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, a letter from Donald Baker was read to the Sir Knights in attendance. Sir Knight Baker is serving in Iraq and had written to thank the Sir Knights for the goody box that they sent to him. The Durham Bodies had gotten together and filled a box with all kinds of cookies, crackers and the like for Sir Knight Baker. He hopes to be back home with his family soon after the first of the new year. I ask you to join with me in remembering him in our prayers. Thank you Sir Knight Baker for making our country safer.

On August 20, I visited Kingsport TN. to see the inspection of Kingsport Commandery. I was really impressed with the dedication and good ritual work of these Tennessee Sir Knights. Six other members from NC joined with me on this occasion and we were all amazed at everything about the inspection.

Over 40 Sir Knights in uniform were in attendance ( including nine Past Grand Commanders, Jack Ackerd, Grand Commander of Tennessee, and myself). The Commandery was opened in FULL form, distinguished guests were introduced, and the Order of the Temple was conferred. All of this was done without the use of Ritual Books. I would encourage all those in NC who believe that we cannot do the ritualistic work without the use of books go and witness one of these inspections. When we expect more of our members, we get more. Also giving a member something to do will keep him involved and less likely to want to leave our fraternity. If you need some help getting your Commandery up to snuff doing the ritual work, please give myself or Chief Instructor/Inspector Pete Cook a call. We will be happy to assist you.

I am sure that you have heard that Past Grand Master – Past Grand Commander Charles

Cathey lost his wife Ava Jean. Ava Jean had battled poor health for the past few years but was always a fighter. Please keep Brother Charles and his family in your prayers.

Secretaries - Have you made sure that a Huntley Award Form has been submitted to PGC Charles Ray Thomas? The race for the award looks to be close this year. Four or five Commanderies are pressing to take the prize. Make sure your Commandery gets credit for all its work.

By the time you read this, I hope to have finalized a plan to ensure that no York Rite Mason is left without a Commandery. The Mt Airy Bodies surrendered their charter last year and the members were left without membership in a Commandery. Therefore, I am issuing General Order #1 transferring all members of the defunct Commandery to the North Wilkesboro Commandery. Any member of the Mt. Airy Bodies may transfer his membership to another Commandery, but in this way no one will be left without a Commandery.

This year I have been closing many of the meetings I attend with the following poem. I feel the unknown author has hit on one of our major shortcomings. We are quick to criticize a brother but are slow to tell him what a good job he is doing.

### **I WONDER WHY**

Why do we wait until a brothers gone  
To tell him of his worth?

Why do we wait – Why not tell him now  
For he's the finest man on earth

Why do we wait until a brothers gone  
To send him flowers galore?

When a single rose would have meant so much  
If we'd taken it to his door.

Why do we wait until he cannot hear  
The good things we might say,

Why put it off, why not tell him now  
And share in his joy today.

Of course we're busy – that's our excuse  
But why, O why do we wait?

To tell a brother of our love for him  
Until it becomes too late.

Fraternally,

*Kirby Matthews*  
Grand Commander

