

# Knight Templar, North Carolina Supplement

DENNIS MIKEAL

Grand Commander, 2005-2006

August 2005

Editor: Kirby Matthews, GC.

P.O. Box 004. Denton, NC 27239

(336) 859-5344

e-mail: Kirby@minutemansupply.com

## GRAND COMMMDER'S MESSAGE

As I sat on the patio of the Music Road Hotel, felt the cool breeze on my face and talked with friends, I felt the great satisfaction of a job well done. The Southeastern York Rite Conference of 2005 was a great success. North Carolina was represented by twenty-three York Rite Masons. All four dais officers and our Grand Recorder were there to support me in addition to four Past Grand Commanders; Gerald Ringler, David Hargett, Jr., Gene Lewellyn, Kirby Matthews; and my Grand Warder, FL Dale Davis. Thank you, Sir Knights.

My wife, Judy, enjoyed the Ladies' Brunch and the opportunity to visit with friends she doesn't seem to see often enough. We, as York Rite Masons, need to remember to thank the ladies for the support they give us; without that support, it would be very hard for us to accomplish anything.

The District Meeting in Greenville was attended by a record number (45) of Companions and Sir Knights. As always, Ron, Dan, and I received a very warm welcome and enjoyed another delicious meal. The hospitality we are always shown means a great deal.

The Crown Jewel of the June events was St. John's Day, Saturday, June 25, 2005. The weather was as perfect as a June day could be. There was a cool breeze blowing through the huge trees as the parade ended on the campus of Oxford Masonic Home for Children. I don't know who enjoyed the parade the most, those of us who took part in it, or those who were watching it. There were twelve Sir Knights who marched in the parade, and I want to thank them for their support.

Judy toured the cottage that had open house. This particular cottage houses eight girls from ages twelve to sixteen. The house parents had actually volunteered to have the open house because they are proud of their girls and the way they keep the cottage clean and neat. As one enters the cottage, the living area is to the right with a television surrounded by sofas and chairs with seating for at least sixteen. Along the back outside wall are three computer desks with computers, and there was a piano at each end of the room on this same wall. The kitchen was to the left with plenty of cabinet space and a long counter that divided it from the dining area. There was one long table for eight and a round table with four chairs that could accommodate at least two more chairs.

'lb the right of the living area is the bathroom for the alternate parents. The room for them is not large. It contained a queen-sized bed and a dresser, and a crib—the housemother said the last alternates had a baby and she had ordered the crib for it. Outside this room is the housemother's office which is kept locked at all times to protect the privacy of the girls.

The girls' rooms have a twin bed, a desk with chair, and a dresser. The girls are permitted to decorate the rooms as they choose, and the rooms reflect their individual personalities.

Each girl is required to do her own laundry each week, and they are assigned times to do it. The girls also help the housemother cook all the meals. If the girls want spending money, they have jobs in the cottage, elsewhere on campus, or even off campus. If they don't have a job, they don't get extra money.

The quarters for the house parents include two bedrooms, a kitchen, and living area. The parents are on duty for twenty days, then are off duty for ten days. They are allowed to leave if they choose to in their off time, but these parents have a ten-year-old daughter who goes to school in Oxford, so if they travel, it's when school is out.

When asked about qualifications for being house parents, Judy was told that the husband has a degree in psychology and the mother just has a great love for children which is what matters most. There are also counselors on campus for any of the children who need them.

After school ended for the year, all the children were given tests to determine if they needed extra help during summer vacation. Ten of the children will be tutored this summer.

We can be proud of the Masonic Home for Children, and we need to be generous with our donations.

Remember our troops in your prayers. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Respectfully and Fraternally,  
Dennis K. Mikeal, Grand Commander

Dear Sir Knight:

I have been approached by many of you wanting to know where to get a uniform at a reasonable price. I have found that the best price on a black suit that will be usable as a Knight Thmplar uniform is at Mayo's Clothing in Sumter, SC. They can be reached at (803) 773-2262.

The cost for the suit is around \$120, and it includes your Commandery number on the pocket, sleeve crosses, and velcro for shoulder boards.

If you are looking for Past Commander shoulder boards, please give me a call. I have a few sets at \$35.00 per pair. These are first come, first serve.

Our approved summer uniform is available from Milford Commandery in MA. The total cost for a Sir Knight uniform is \$125. Check out our NC York Rite website to download an order form, or contact me and I will send you one.

I am asking all Recorders to send me information on your fall festivals, so I can post it here in the Knight Thmpiar magazine.

Salisbury will be holding our festival September 19, October 3, October 17, and October 31. All courtesy candidates are welcome.

Fraternally,  
Kirby Matthews, RG.C., KCT