

North Carolina Section



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GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF NORTH CAROLINA

EDITORIAL COMMENTS:



Companions I now bring you the Spring 2006 Issue of the North Carolina Supplement to the Royal Arch Magazine. Spring brings forth new growth and interest after the winter season. This issue has the message and introduction of our Grand High Priest 2006-2007. An article on "TOGETHER" by

Douglas Lee Soltow, PMIGM, an article from Jay Callaham, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, a message from our Grand Lecturer Dave Milidonis, some pictures, and other items of interest. Please send me your items from your Royal Arch Chapters, and pictures. Gerald

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST BOBBY JOE KITCHEN, 2006--2007



Companions, I'm very honored that I've been elected your Grand High Priest for the term 2006 - 2007. There have been many Grand High Priests before me, and I hope I can accomplish a little of what they have.

I have a couple of goals that I hope to accomplish this year. 1) I hope to have the updated Code and By-Laws out this year. With the help from the Boards and Committees that have been appointed this term we should be able to accomplish this. 2) I hope to establish a District Educational Program, to educate York Rite Masons, Blue Lodge Masons, and non-Masons. I feel that through education this will be the key to

increase our numbers. We not only need to look at the Blue Lodges, but we need to look at non-Masons to find good men to bring into Masonry. Discuss Masonry at every opportunity. Tell your non-Masonic friends about our benevolent causes. You don't have to ask them to join, in fact you can't, but you would be amazed how many times someone will ask you to tell him more about Masonry. When he does, that opens the door to hand him a petition. By increasing the number of members in the Blue Lodges we will increase the numbers to recruit from.

We need to do more to fan the spark of excitement that motivates a man to apply for membership, we should fan that spark into a raging flame of enthusiasm and commitment. Some of us believe that we can do more to maintain the interest of our members so that they become leaders and remain contributors rather than passive dues payers. In fact, Masons who are educated about Freemasonry are generally active Masons who also will attract others to our Order. Uneducated Masons are generally less engaged, lose interest, and gradually drift away from both the Lodge and the Fraternity.

I know that a great many of you have been working long and hard, and that you have a very strong feeling towards your York Rite. If not, you wouldn't be reading this. I need to ask you not to put up your working tools yet, (if you have please pick them back up). I need everybody's help to make this year be the year **WE** start to turn **OUR** York Rite and Masonry in North Carolina around.

These goals can be accomplished, but every Companion is going to have to pitch in to help.

I have one personal goal, and that is to visit every Chapter in North Carolina. I may not be there on a Chapter night, but I will be there. I'm not looking for any big fanfare. I'm from a small Chapter, and I know the problems we have with membership and attendance. Companions, I'm in this Grand Line because of you! I want to help you in any way I can, and at the same time I'll need your help. If we don't work together the job will never get done. Remember this is

“YOUR RITE”

Your Humble Servant,

Bobby Joe Kitchen

BOBBY JOE KITCHEN

Masonic History

Raised in New River Lodge No. 736 on December 20, 1984, Past Master, (1993). Presently serving on several committees, Active in all Lodge degree work

Capitular Masonry

Exalted to the Royal Arch on May 11, 1985, Past High Priest of Onslow Chapter No. 94 (1994). Secretary 1995 to present. Recipient of the Onslow York Rite Distinguished Service Award 1995. Recipient of the New Bern York Rite Distinguished Service Award 1996. District High Priest 1996 to 1999. Recipient of the Order of High Priesthood 1996. Certified Capitular Lecturer Dec. 10, 1996 to Present. Recipient of the North Carolina Royal Arch Metal for Distinguished Service through York Rite and Royal Arch 1997. Appointed Representative of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Germany 1998. Invested with the Knight York Cross of Honour 1999. Past High Priest of Caswell Chapter No. 38 (1999). Perpetual Life Membership to the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International 2003.

CRYPTIC MASONRY

Admitted and Greeted a Royal and Selected Master May 11, 1985. Past Illustrious Master of Onslow Council No. 34 (1995). Recorder Onslow Council No. 34 1995 to present. Recipient of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons Adult Leadership Award 1996. Recipient of Thrice Illustrious Master's

degree 1996. Recipient of the Simmons Jones Baker Award 1998. Active in degree work. Past Illustrious Master of Kinston Council #38 2000-2003-2004.

CHIVALRIC MASONRY.

Received the Order of Knighthood May 11, 1985. Life sponsor Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 1994. Past Commander of St. Paul's Commandery No. 18 Kinston 1998. Knight Crusaders of the Cross 1998. Active in conferring the orders. Past commander of St. John's Commandery No. 10 New Bern, 2000.

AFFILIATED BODIES

Member of Joseph Montfort Council No. 108, Allied Masonic Degrees. Past Sovereign Master 108, (1995,1999, 2002,2003). Recipient Degree of Excellent Master 1995 (AMD). Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr 1995 (AMD). Order of St. Patrick 1998 (AMD). Order of the Garter, 1999 (AMD). Royal Order of Kamehmeha 2000, (AMD). Order of Secret Monitor or Brotherhood of David & Jonathan 2000, (AMD). Order of the Thistle 2000, (AMD). Bestowed the Rank: Worshipful Commander Noah of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree 2000, (AMD). Red Branch of Eri and Appendant orders 2000, (AMD). The Holy Order of Wisdom 2001, (AMD). The Royal Order of the Rock 2002, (AMD). Knight of the Masonic Order of the Bath 2004, (AMD.) Order of Knight of Constantinople 2004, (AMD). Member of the North Carolina College, Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, 1999. Jurisdictional Associate Bethel Guardian of the Carolinas 1997-1999. Past Excellent Chief SENCLand council No. 42 Knight Masons, (1999-2000). Active in degree work in Knight Masons. Officer of Joseph Montfort York Rite Sovereign College No, 82, Active in degree work in York Rite College. Member of Ancient and Accepted Scottish rite, Valley of Wilmington. Recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor 2004. Member of National Sojourners, Inc. North Carolina Chapter #97 and Piedmont Chapter #504.

“TOGETHER”

Douglas Lee Soltow, PMIGM

Companions & Sir Knights,

How good and pleasant it is to be able to speak on the theme “Together”. What an appropriate theme to talk about. It is indeed an honor and challenge to serve as the General Grand Ambassador to North Carolina for Cryptic Masons International. Surely, each of you must also feel it to be a challenge serving in your respective positions.

Together – An Adverb, meaning (In) or into one group, mass, or Body and regarded jointly; in time or what is happening or going on. (Noun – Togetherness) All the Bodies of York Rite Freemasonry in North Carolina have a strong belief in “Unity” and have practiced this virtue for many years. Working together for the betterment of all Freemasonry, but more especially York Rite Freemasonry. Our leaders urge all of its members not to look for great things unless they are willing to contribute to the cause. However, we do promise to dedicate ourselves to do everything possible to improve and build all Royal Arch Chapters, Councils of Royal & Select Masters, and Commanderies of Knight Templar's throughout all districts, State, Southeastern Jurisdiction and elsewhere in the United States and Foreign countries that will hear our voices of togetherness.

During my term (2003-2004) as your Most Illustrious Grand Master the theme for the year in North Carolina was "Accentuate the Positives". Not a word of any negative nature is to be sent out to the craft on any subject. The three Grand presiding Officers of North Carolina have agreed, as in (We) three did agree in Peace, Love and Unity to travel to each of the (31) York Rite bodies as a group, mass, or body and to be regarded jointly. Also, to attend as many Out-of-State visitations possible to spread the word "Together" or "Unity" and to "Accentuate the Positives" through the use of the three "C's (Commitment, Communications and Charity).

We truly believe that our fraternity of freemasonry is the best institution to which any of us can belong. As your Ambassador to North Carolina for the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International it becomes my duty to let you know that we are here to help make your duties easier by working together with each other to improve Freemasonry in General and York Rite Masonry in particular. Together, we can make our Fraternity prosper and grow. Yes, "Together, We Can Make a Difference". Douglas Lee Soltow, PMIGM

General Grand Ambassador to North Carolina
General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International

RITUAL EDUCATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Dave Milidonis, Grand Lecturer

Once again, here come The Da Vinci Code)

If you haven't heard yet, Dan Brown's best-selling novel, The Da Vinci Code, copyright 2003, has been made into a movie, directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks. Dan Brown's book has been on the best seller list from the very first day it was published and it is still at the top of the list. Ron Howard's movie, based on the novel, is scheduled for release on May 19, 2006 and it is sure to draw a crowd to the theaters in your area. If you haven't read the book, I highly recommend it and I intend to attend its premier at my local theater. My reasons are three-fold. First, I like Tom Hanks and look forward to seeing how he portrays Robert Langdon, the hero of the story. Second, I enjoyed reading the novel, as fictitious as it was, and look forward to the screen adaptation. Third, as a York Rite Mason, I feel compelled to watch the movie in order to further enlighten new applicants. You see, in recent years, following each release of a well-received novel or movie in any way related to Freemasonry, there has been a distinct spike in the number of new applicants knocking at Blue Lodge doors. This was true with the release of the book; it was true with the release of the movie, National Treasure; it was true with the release of the movie, Kingdom of Heaven, and I am convinced that it will be true with the release of the movie, The Da Vinci Code. Although the book has been out for several years, the movie will attract a larger audience and we can expect further knocks at our doors. Why is this? Well, it seems that anything related to the legends of the Knights Templar continues to be very popular among many segments of the population and this latest movie will only serve to increase the popularity of those legends once more. Over the last three years, I have coached perhaps as many as 15 brothers at the Blue Lodge level, and virtually all of them had read the book before becoming Masons and cite it as one of the reason they joined Masonry. Again, virtually all of them entered the York Rite immediately after being raised for reasons that could only be traced as their longing to see the ritual and compare it to the legends they had read about. I can also say this: Many of the men who took their degrees and orders in our York Rite body came up to me afterwards and stated that their experience in

going through the degrees and orders was far more enlightening and intriguing than they ever imagined after having read Dan Brown's novel. They had found that Truth was far more life-changing than fiction. And this small, anecdotal segment of our population has led me to conclude that becoming more knowledgeable of our ritual, more conversant about its symbols and allegories, and more versed in its developmental history is the single key to unlocking the mysteries of membership in our York Rite. If you are not certified in our ritual, you should be. It is an essential step in understanding why we exist. If you are not coaching at your home lodge, you should be. It is the first chance you will have to begin the young apprentice's education in the York Rite itself. I am wholly convinced that if every York Rite Mason was also a coach in his Blue Lodge, then our membership would equal that of the Blue Lodge applicants, each and every year. There is a direct and definitive link between the men who join the York Rite and the man who was their coach at the Blue Lodge level.

What does it take to do this? Not much, really. Learn, or re-learn, your catechisms. Study the relationship between our chapter degrees and the first three degrees. Enough has been written about that relationship by so many noted Masonic scholars, that there should be very little question these days about how well-connected the Royal Arch Chapter is to the Blue Lodge. Study the Temple Orders and their specific connections to the Royal Arch. There, too, is a direct connection between the legend of the Royal Arch and the Order of the Temple. Finally, take that new lodge Entered Apprentice by the hand and walk him through his catechisms, with an eye always kept on the significance of the final education work being completed in our York Rite.

Make it a point this year, perhaps starting as soon as May 19, 2006, to visit your lodge and talk about the York Rite to everyone there. Get involved once more in your own York Rite Degree festivals and conferrals. When that new Entered Apprentice, or Fellowcraft, or Master Mason asks you if you saw The Da Vinci Code and what you thought about it, take the time to sit down with him and tell him all you can about the mysteries he will discover by experiencing our degrees and orders first-hand. Through you, he will discover that the movie and book are far less intriguing and even less mysterious than the truth of our rituals. I have no reservation about telling any candidate, "If you liked The Da Vinci Code, then you will absolutely love the York Rite. There you will certainly discover that Truth is far more interesting than fiction. Why don't you join us and discover it for yourself."

Fraternally, Dave Milidonis

Grand Lecturer, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina
Certified Instructor, GCofNC, Certified Lecturer, GRACofNC
Certified Lecturer, GLofAF&AMofNC

The below email was sent prior to Christmas by the Author,
but first time for publication.-GWR

GOOD DAY BRETHREN.

Jay Callaham, PMIGM

Merry Christmas to all York Rite Brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights!

I made some rounds recently, to visit the Salisbury Bodies last Monday (Dec 5) where I, along with Right Eminent Grand Commander Mikeal, had the privilege of helping out with their conferral of the Order of the Temple, to High Point on Tuesday, to the Greensboro Bodies' Christmas Observance on Wednesday, and to the Winston Salem Bodies Christmas Observance on Sunday.

I got to thinking. Everyone there seemed to have a good time with the good fellowship that makes Masonry worthwhile. In the York Rite, we're all Christians (or more than 99% anyway) and most of us take our Templar Masonry seriously and are proud of the title "Knights Templar."

We need to toot our own horns louder and more frequently! Most of the faces I saw at those meetings were the same folks I see at all area York Rite functions. We do a lot of talking about "what to do" to attract more members. All of our conversation - - including THIS correspondence - goes to our own selves. We are the choir preaching to the choir. It's time for the choir to stop preaching and start SINGING!

Templar Masonry is the ONE place in Freemasonry where we can, quite literally, put CHRISTIAN Masonry on public view. We can fly in the face of our detractors who say "there's no place for Jesus Christ in the Lodge." We can showcase Masonry to the masses while proving that we have a special place for Christ in the York Rite.

How - you ask?

By DOING SOMETHING!! I have for years promoted the idea of creating Templar color guards for parades. It only takes THREE Sir Knights in uniform to make a color guard - one carrying a flag and two with swords. More Knights - more and different flags! I fully understand and appreciate that many of our more elderly members simply cannot get out and march in a parade - but I'm just as sure that if we really tried, we could get at least THREE in good enough physical condition to march in a parade. Even if we took just one man from each body in a district, we should be able to come up with THAT! That is one positive step we can take.

We need to promote our Christmas Observances. We need to have ambassadors in every Lodge to let people know when these observances are happening and to invite other Masons, families, friends, non-Masons, and showcase a Christian ceremony in our Lodges. I was amused at the beautiful setup in Winston-Salem where they had tables set up in the shape of a cross to hold the glasses for the traditional toasts. The crux of the cross was lit by 7 candles - in a Jewish Menorah! Above the Eminent Commander's chair in the East was a representation of the Star of David and behind him a Double-Headed Eagle (long the symbol of the Orthodox Romanov dynasty of Russia, as well as the Kadosh degree of the Scottish Rite). There was PLENTY of room for Christianity in the Lodge, while still showing respect for the beliefs of others. Our Christmas Observances are what Masonry is all about - the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. We should promote the observances in the community as a whole, not just among fellow York Rite Masons. Take out a couple of newspaper ads to promote them. Ask for public service announcements on local TV and Radio stations (they have to do a certain number of them to keep their licenses).

The bottom line is that we're doing good things, we just need to get the word out louder and more often. We need to do more and maybe (GASP!!) something different to start the choir singing. Something to think about.

Again, Sir Knights, MERRY CHRISTMAS, and may we all have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Jay Callaham, Knight York Grand Cross Honour
Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters
of North Carolina, District Commander, District No. 6 Grand Commandery
Knights Templar in North Carolina,

WHY, WHY, WHY ?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough? Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle? Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection? Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him? Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"? If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes? Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white? Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, "It's all right?" Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, "That hurt, you stupid idiot?"

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

And my FAVORITE.....

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

FROM YOUR GENERAL GRAND AMBASSADOR TO NORTH CAROLINA

General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International

Douglas L. Soltow, February 20, 2006

Companions All,

This writing is in hopes of finding you and your families doing well and being blessed by the Great Creator of the Universe. Unfortunately we are still at war with other nations who believe in hatred, greed and genocide as a foreign relations platform for world dominion. Being a part of a fraternity that promotes the principles of Freemasonry reinforces my reasons to fight for our rights and beliefs in our nation. We are blessed that we were born in a country which recognizes free speech and gives its many varying nationalities the right to practice freedom of religion of choice. During this time of unrest in our world, keep our soldiers, sailors, and airmen in your blessings and prayers. A special thanks to those Veterans of the past who helped keep our country free from oppression.

On a lighter note, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to thank all the companions for their support and assistance during my travels through the Grand Council line and allowing me to serve you as the Most Illustrious Grand

Master of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina (2003-2004). I especially want to thank those companions who serve on the Grand Lectureship Board and Most Illustrious Grand Master Dan Critcher for their vote of confidence by appointing me to be the Grand Lecturer for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in North Carolina. (2005-2006) It is especially good to be able to look out at the companions from a different perspective while they are doing their degree work and Opening and Closing of their councils. I find most councils completing their opening and closing of the councils in good order. Keep up the good work. If you need help do not hesitate to call anyone on the Lectureship Board or myself. We will be more than happy to assist wherever possible.

It is a great deal of pleasure to announce my appointment to the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International as the General Grand Ambassador to North Carolina. It is my delight to work with and for the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International for the promotion of all Councils in membership and fund raisings to aid and support our charities. If I can be of assistance to you, please advise. How pleasing it would be to see everyone working together completing our work. Your opinions and our commitment to build a strong and viable Council are of the greatest importance to the craft. Attend you council meetings, become involved in making your council the best in the state. Through your efforts and attendance membership will increase and will insure a success for you council. May God delight to be with and Bless you and your family always.

Fraternally I am, Douglas L. Soltow, General Grand Ambassador
General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International

Goldsboro York Rite

presents the details of the Holy Land pilgrimage to The Reverend Blane Smith of Dudley Christian Church after the worship service on Sunday, 31 December 2005.



Front row left to right - Don Beaman, Past Commander - Reverend Blane Smith, Dudley Christian Church, Paul Brown, Past Grand

Commander, the Presenter of the Holy Land Pilgrimage and Ken Whichard 3rd District Commander.

Back row left to right - George Wolfskeil, Past Commander - Fred Scott, Recorder - Carl Dever, Senior Warden and T. Roland Jackson, Jr., 3rd District Instructor/Inspector.