

SCOTTISH RITE

of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, USA

THAT WORD: “**REVOLUTION**”

Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° SGIG, Grand Chaplain AASRSJUSA

“**Revolution.**” It conjures up all kinds of thoughts. Obviously, we remember this is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This July 4, our nation will proudly

celebrate two hundred fifty years since we severed ties with a king and created an experiment in freedom unlike any other in the history of the world. Some people, when they hear “revolution” think of a war with suffering, death, and destruction that ushers in poverty to some and wealth to others. Some people might say they want a revolution. We all want to change the world. At least that is what the Beatles’ lyrics suggest.

The revolution of the Earth around the Sun and the tilting of the earth during its orbit contributes to how we understand day and night, the four seasons of the year, and even how we measure what a “year” really is. We joyously welcome this Spring and Summer!

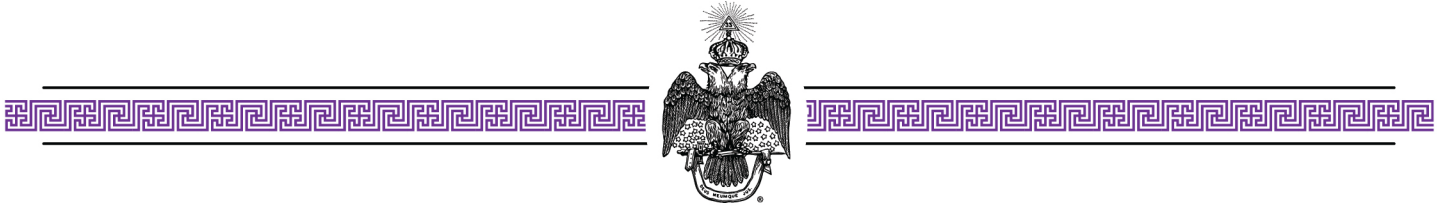
A lot has evolved over the last 250 years. A lot can happen in a year. The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of North Carolina is changing, not because we necessarily want to change. Laws, rules, regulations, culture, and expectations sometimes necessitate discussion of change at the very least. Sometimes, change becomes requirement. Change for change’s sake is never good. **Welcomed change is a revolution that evolves into something better, dare I even say, greater than we ever thought possible.**

Some of the revolution we now experience in Scottish Rite will lead us to change how we support children with speech, hearing, and learning disabilities. Some of the revolution will lead us to explore the difference between development and fundraising. Some of the revolution will include representatives appointed in all one hundred counties of North Carolina to share the message of Scottish Rite in subordinate lodges and to listen to what others need rather than acting like we always know what is best. Some of the revolution will involve our wives and children in what we do in the future. Some of the revolution will lead to initiations of those who are now Masonic Youth. Such a revolution will not be about giving away secrets or violating our vows. It will be about recognition of meeting human needs with the best we have to offer in this season of change.

Can we change the world? If we can help children communicate; promote both philanthropic giving of substantial amounts and make every coin count; reach every geographical point in the fraternity; openly share our love for this fraternity with those in our lives who matter most—our family; and make a difference caring for our Masonic Youth, then yes we can change the world!

Seasons change. Nations change. People change. Everybody can change. **Our revolution now**, as it was 250 years ago, must be for better. **Together, let us change from within such that when future generations hear the word, “revolution,” wise, kind, and benevolent memories will be our legacy.**





THE SUPREME COUNCIL

(MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD)

ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

April 29, 2026

To: The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Orient in North Carolina SJ USA
From: A. Gene Cobb, Jr., Sovereign Grand Inspector General
RE: Joint Reunion August 28-29, 2026 at Greensboro Masonic Temple

Brethren,

History will be made on August 28-29, 2026 in Greensboro, North Carolina as the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry holds the first ever Joint Reunion with the United Supreme Council 33° Prince Hall Affiliation and The Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdictions, USA. Illustrious James H. Upchurch, SGIG and Deputy for the Orient for Prince Hall and I have been working on this historic reunion for years. We are delighted to finally be able to announce it.

This event will be unique in that we will confer degrees 4, 14, 18, and 30 and we will communicate degrees 5-13, 15-17, and 19-29. Those who seek to become members of the Scottish Rite in their respective Valleys will complete degrees 31 and 32 through where they petition. The usual fee for the degrees will be paid by both Scottish Rites. Hotel and incidental expenses are the responsibility of each individual.

There are details still in the works, but with time drawing near, the following information is shared with you so you can help this Reunion be a success.

1. Our **Summer Orient Advisory Retreat will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m.** in the Blue Lodge of the Greensboro Masonic Temple and end around 5:30 p.m.
2. A **banquet for candidates** with a Social Time around 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at the Temple—unless we have so many candidates we have to move the location.
3. **Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.** August 29. The **Fourth Degree begins at 9:00 a.m.** A box lunch will be available for a cost for attendees. We hope to conclude our work by 5:00 p.m. on August 29.

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact the Valley Secretary who will coordinate with me. Look for details of this historic reunion regarding how to petition, how to register, what to do about hotels soon at nscottishrite.org. We hope to see you and lots of candidates in Greensboro!

Most cordially,


 Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in North Carolina 

MEMORIAL DAY 2026

Ill. Johnny Surlles, 33°, Secretary Valley of New Bern

On the 25th of May this year we gather not for the usual celebration in the usual sense, but for remembrance. Memorial Day is a sacred pause in the rhythm of our lives – a moment when we collectively step back from our routines to honor those who gave everything so that we might enjoy all the freedoms we have today. It is easy, in the busyness of modern life, to let this day pass by as just another long weekend. But that would be to miss its profound meaning. Memorial Day is not about the start of summer. It is about sacrifice, the highest sacrifice. It is about courage. It is about men and women who answered a call greater than themselves—and who never returned home. We are here because of them. We are here because at some point in our nation's history, someone stood in harm's way so that others could stand in peace. Let us reflect on the weight of that sacrifice. Across generations from the earliest days of our republic to the present, Americans have stepped forward to defend ideals that are both simple and extraordinary: liberty, justice, and the belief that all people deserve the chance to live freely. These ideas are not self-sustaining. They require protection. They require vigilance, and as history has shown they sometimes require the ultimate price. Think for a moment about what that truly means. It means a young man or woman saying goodbye to their family, perhaps believing they will return, perhaps knowing deep down that they may not. It means missed birthdays, empty seats at dinner tables, and futures left unrealized. It means parents who outlive their children. It means spouses who carry on alone. It means children who grow up with stories instead of memories. When we say, "they gave their lives," those words can feel distant, almost abstract. But behind every one of those lives is a story—rich, personal, and deeply human. They were not just soldiers, they were sons and daughters, friends and neighbors, teachers, students, dreamers, they laughed, they hoped and planned for tomorrow. And yet they put all that on the line and chose to serve. Memorial Day asks us not only to remember their sacrifice, but to understand its meaning. Why did they serve. They served because they believed in something

larger than themselves. They believed that freedom matters, not just for themselves, but for others. They believed some principles are worth defending, even at great personal cost. And they believed in America and the generations that would follow them. Memorial Day reminds us that freedom is not free. It requires the ultimate sacrifice. It reminds us that the rights we enjoy were secured by those who were willing to risk and ultimately give everything. It is simply not enough to say thank you, though gratitude is essential. Memorial Day calls us to something deeper. It calls us to live in a way that honors those who served. It means striving to be worthy of their sacrifice. It means treating one another with respect and dignity even when we disagree. It means engaging in our communities, participating in our democracy, and working to build a society that reflects the ideals they fought to protect. It means remembering that freedom carries responsibility. There is a powerful phrase often associated with Memorial Day: "We will never forget". But remembering is not just about looking backward. It is also about looking forward. We can't take our freedoms for granted. We as Masons have an advantage. We talk and study how to be a good person every day. **As Scottish Rite Masons we dive deeper into what makes us better men.** It's what we do. The men and women we honor did not see themselves as heroes. They were simply ordinary people who made extraordinary choices. They did not seek recognition or glory, they simply did what that thought was right. How do we ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten? We tell their stories. We teach our children about the meaning of this day. We visit memorials and cemeteries. We live lives that reflect the values they fought to defend. There is a quiet strength in remembrance. It does not demand attention or seek applause. It reminds us of who we are and what we stand for. Let us remember from the Rose Croix. **"Your duty is not to be better than your neighbor but to be better than yourself. The more you have the more you owe to those who need your assistance."** To those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, we remember you, we honor you, and we will strive to be worthy of your sacrifice and "We will never forget".

God Bless America



ORIENT OF
**NORTH CAROLINA
SCOTTISH RITE**
VALLEY OF NEW BERN

**BROTHER LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARRY SANDERS, 33°
RECOGNIZED BY SCOUTING AMERICA FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE**

In ceremonies conducted on 15 FEB 2026 in Greenville, NC, Valley of New Bern Brother Lt Col Sanders, 33° was recognized by the East Carolina Council of Scouting America with the 60 Year Veteran Award. The citation accompanying the award and signed by Roger Krone, President and CEO of Scouting America, reads in part, as follows:

“Congratulations on dedicating 60 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America. Your years of service have demonstrated a deep commitment to serving youth, families and communities and you have our deepest thanks and respect.

You’re among the volunteer heroes on whom Scouting is built. Thanks to you, countless young people have become caring and responsible citizens. That’s a contribution only a select few can match....”

Brother Lt Col Sanders, 33° became a Cub Scout in 1951 as a member of Pack 361, Ellicott City, Maryland. During a Scouting career that extends over 6 decades, he served in 6 Councils (Baltimore, MD; Tewksbury, MA; Beaver Creek, OH; Las Vegas, NV; Burke, VA; and Chocowinity, NC), as a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, District Commissioner, and District Chairman. Two Councils have recognized his work with their District Award of Merit. He served as a member of the Wood Badge 1981 training staff in Utah; received specialized training at Philmont Scout Ranch; and was a 1982 recipient of the Silver Beaver Award

from the Boulder Dam Council (now the Las Vegas Area Council) in Las Vegas, NV where one of his legacy programs continues as an annual event --- the WEBELOS WACKY RACE. He has served as a staff member for three national Jamborees; the 1985 Diamond Jubilee National Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill; the 100th Anniversary of Scouting BSA National Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill in 2010; and the inaugural Jamboree at the new Bechtel Reserve property in West Virginia in 2013. In 2010, he became a life member of the National Association of Masonic Scouters and was presented the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic



Award from the Grand Lodge of Virginia on July 9, 2013. More recently, he completed his Seabadge as a member of the Sea Scouts. In the East Carolina Council, he has provided leadership for the Pamlico Sea Base Committee for over 12 years, served as District Chair for the Blackbeard District for 5 years, and now serves as the East Carolina Council Vice President for Strategic Planning.

Brother Lt Col Sanders, 33°, in addition to his long time service in the Scottish Rite also served as National Sojourners President in 2010-2011 with the theme DUTY-HONOR-COUNTRY.



ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF RALEIGH



FATHER...SONS...BROTHERS

The 2026 Spring Reunion of the Valley of Raleigh was a remarkable and memorable occasion, highlighted by fellowship, tradition, and the strengthening of Masonic bonds. The Reunion welcomed eleven candidates into the Scottish Rite, each taking important steps in their Masonic journey. Among them, one family stood out in a truly special way—the Bull family, whose shared experience made the event especially meaningful.

John Bull, alongside his three sons—Camden, Devon, and Rhyelan—participated together, **embodying the very essence of unity and legacy within Freemasonry**. Their journey began at JJ Crowder Lodge #743, where all four were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in a memorable ceremony. The occasion was made even more significant by the presence of North Carolina Grand Master Steve Norris and Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, whose leadership and support underscored the importance of the moment.

At the Valley of Raleigh Spring Reunion, the Bull family continued their shared path, advancing their knowledge and deepening their commitment to the principles of the Scottish Rite. With Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, SGIG, also in attendance, the reunion served as a powerful reminder of the enduring values of brotherhood, service, and personal growth.

Moments like these reflect the heart of Freemasonry—where generations come together, not only as family by blood, but as brothers by choice. Moments like these reflect the heart of Freemasonry—where generations come together, not only as family by blood, but as brothers by choice.

Father...Sons...Brothers

Kevin Puckett, 32°, PM



Personal Representative

David Wicker, 33°, PGM

Susan Wicker

We welcome you to the
Scottish Rite

Valley Secretary

Don Butto, 33°

Join the Valley of Raleigh

OCTOBER 31

CALL

**SECRETARY'S
OFFICE**

919 795 8505

RALEIGHSCOTTISHRITE.ORG

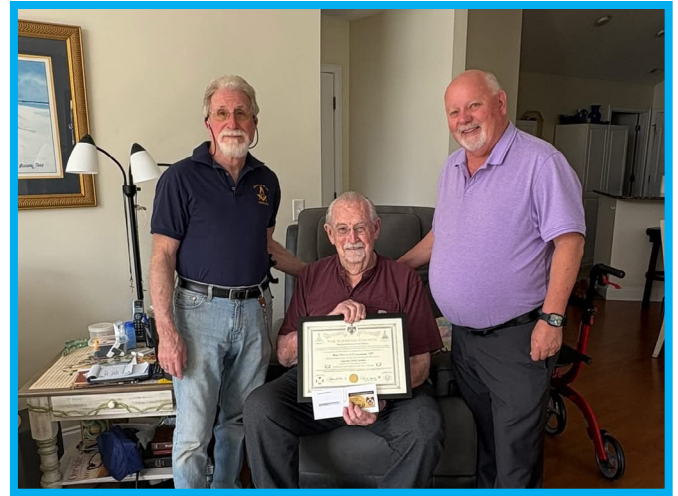


ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE

50 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS



From Left to Right: Orient PR- Russell Bridges, 50 year member- John W. Couch, and Asheville Personal Representative- Rick Patton



From Left to Right: Mike Ogus 50-Year member - Roy H. Creasman, and Asheville Personal Representative - Rick Patton.

250TH CELEBRATION EVENTS

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|--|
| May 9-10 | Cherry Point Air Show, MCAS, Processional honoring military of all eras, American 250 Event, Cherry Point, NC | Jun 14 | Flag Day Ceremony, Union Park Point, New Bern, NC |
| May 17 | Abner Nash Grave Marking, New Bern, NC | June 20 | Liberty Point Resolves (252), Local DAR/SAR, Phoenix #8, Fayetteville, NC |
| May 20 | Mecklenburg Resolves (252) Charlotte | July 4 | Declaration of Independence 250 Anniversary, Statewide Recognition by NC Lodges |
| May 25 | Memorial Day Ceremonies, New Bern National Cemetery | Jul 4 | Unanimity Lodge Degree, Chowan Co Courthouse, Edenton, NC |
| June | New Bern Gazette Published | Jul 25 | America 250 Parade and Event, Aurora, NC |
| June 30 | Fayetteville Reading | Aug 1 | Halifax Reading Declaration of Independence MW Cornelius Harnett, Past DPGM |
| July 1 | Pitt County Reading | | |
| Jun3 | Historic Flag Presentation, National Sojourners, Havelock, NC | | |



ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM



Congratulations to Illustrious Brother William “Bobby” Adams, 33°, who was recently presented with his 25-Year Scottish Rite Service Award. Well-done Brother, and thank-you for all you do for the Scottish Rite, as well as all of Freemasonry.

High Country Scottish Rite Club



Congratulations to Brother David Longworth, 32°, who has been selected to represent our Valley and attend the Scottish Rite Fellows Event in August at the House of the Temple. Well-done Brother.

USA 250TH ANNIVERSARY FAMILY PICNIC – SAVE THE DATE JUNE 28

Come join us for a family picnic event to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States! Sunday, June 28, 2026, at the Masonic Center of Winston-Salem. Thank-you to Brother Homer Dearmin, 32°, for organizing this event, more info to come



Congratulations to Brother Michael Brooks, 32° KCCH on renewing his membership in the Acacia Guild. Well-done Brother, and thank-you for continuing to support the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry



ORIENT OF
NORTH CAROLINA
SCOTTISH RITE
VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

Ill. Thomas Pope Jr., 33°, Personal Representative

The Valley of Fayetteville has logged seven reunions since receiving Letters Temporary to operate in 2023, and the ensuing charters for a Lodge of Perfection and Chapter Rose Croix.

**SEVEN TIMES, THE VALLEY HAS PERFORMED THE 4TH DEGREE,
SECRET MASTER.**

Make that eight now, as the Valley took the degree on the road for the first time. The Valley's team journeyed to Charlotte on April 10 to participate in the Rite Works Conference held at the Hilton University Place.

In addition to being out of its home base in the Fayetteville Masonic Center, the Valley's team was asked to perform the degree – the purpose of an initiative for which the Valley was invited called “Rite on the Road.”

**THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE 4TH CAST IN ACTION WILL BE
AT FAYETTEVILLE'S FALL REUNION, SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 19 WITH A
9 A.M. START.**

The Valley has also scheduled dates for its 2027 reunions – Feb. 27 and Sept. 18.



Fayetteville's 4th Degree team in Charlotte for the Rite Works Conference was comprised of, from left: Thomas Pope, Personal Representative/Director of the Work; Kenny Bell; Chris Donahue; James Pugsley; Ken Wical; Nelson Sanchez; Joe Ferrand; Mike Noack; John Frazier, and Jonathan Strange.



ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

WILMINGTON WELCOMES NEWEST MASTERS OF THE ROYAL SECRET

Matt Moore, 32° KCCH

The Valley of Wilmington is pleased to welcome our newest Masters of the Royal Secret: Jacob Lee Burton, 32°; Clayton Nathaniel Cartner, 32°; Thomas Edward Jones, 32°; Benjamin James Preston; and receiving their Council and Consistory degrees from the Valley of Fayetteville: Joseph Duane Gilliam, Jr., 32°; Gregory Stanley Hester, 32°; and Russell “Rusty” Kenneth Toutant, 32°.

These brothers took immediate interest in the degrees and have already been very active in the work of the Scottish Rite. We hope to see these brethren in the quarries!



WILMINGTON FALL REUNION TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF KENNETH G. JONES, 33°

Matt Moore, 32° KCCH

As many already know, a change in the Statutes of the Supreme Council has made it possible for valleys to name reunions in honor of living brethren. As a result, the Valley of Wilmington is honored to announce that this Fall Reunion will be named in honor of Illustrious Brother Kenneth Grant Jones, 33°.

If you received your degrees at the Valley of Wilmington in the past 50 years, chances are Brother Kenneth conferred your 14th degree. He is also involved in other Lodge of Perfection Degrees.

He was initiated, passed and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at Mingo Lodge no. 206 in October of 1974. In November of that same year, he received the Scottish Rite Degrees. He served as Master of Mingo Lodge in 1982.

According to Kenneth, about a year after he became a Master of the Royal Secret, Brother Norwood Parker handed him the script for the 14th degree and proclaimed, “you are now the Venerable Master for the 14th Degree. You will be on stage at the next reunion”. Brother Kenneth took the role and has been on stage ever since.

We are naming the Fall Reunion after Kenneth for his unwavering and dedicated service to the Valley of Wilmington for fifty years. We hope that it may encourage others to labor in the quarries with us in the Valley and continue our work as Scottish Rite Masons.





ORIENT OF
**NORTH CAROLINA
SCOTTISH RITE**
VALLEY OF GREENSBORO

**TAYLOR PRESIDED
OVER ALL BODIES IN
GREENSBORO**

Jason F. Hicks, 32°

Brother Tim Taylor, 32° KCCH was recognized with the rare distinction for presiding over all of the Greensboro Valley's bodies. He was presented with a certificate recognizing this accomplishment by Personal Representative Shaun Bradshaw, 33°



Photo taken by Jason F. Hicks 32°

**VALLEY HOLDS
ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL**

Jason F. Hicks, 32°

AT THE MARCH MEETING,

THE VALLEY OBSERVED THE CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL.

The Valley honored the memories of:

James Michael Bowen

Ray McFayden Comer

Joseph Nicholas Deich

Billie Farrell Grady

Billy Wayne Hammer

Frederick Bruce Hicks, Jr.

Bobby Eugene Hill

Phillip Pulliam Hocket

Adge Albert Phillips

Franklin Delano Plaster



ORIENT OF
NORTH CAROLINA
SCOTTISH RITE
VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE

**MW AND ILLUSTRIOUS
MACK SIGMON, 33°
RECEIVES 50-YEAR CAP
IN CHARLOTTE**

Charlotte, NC – Freemasons gathered in Charlotte to celebrate Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother Dwight “Mack” Sigmon, 33°, as he received his prestigious 50-year cap. A dedicated Mason raised in 1975 at Catawba Lodge #248 and former Grand Master of North Carolina, Sigmon’s milestone honors five decades of exemplary service, leadership, and brotherly love.





ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF FRANKLIN

JOIN THE SCOTTISH RITE

IGNITE YOUR MASONIC JOURNEY WITH THE SCOTTISH RITE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA!

Brother, if you're a Master Mason seeking deeper light, profound brotherhood, and transformative degrees that elevate your Craft experience, the Scottish Rite Orient of North Carolina is calling you to ascend. Here, you'll explore the timeless mysteries through captivating 4th–32nd degree rituals, forge unbreakable bonds with like-minded Masons across the state, and contribute to philanthropic endeavors that uplift communities—from childhood language disorders programs to educational scholarships. This isn't just an appendant body; it's the pinnacle of Masonic enlightenment where philosophy, history, and personal growth converge in spectacular reunions and valleys alive with purpose.

JOIN THE FUTURE - SHAPE THE LEGACY OF THE SCOTTISH RITE IN 2026 AND BEYOND!

The Orient of North Carolina is evolving, and your passion is the spark we need to build an even brighter tomorrow. By joining now, you step into a dynamic future of innovative programming, statewide collaborations, and leadership opportunities that will define Scottish Rite Masonry for generations. Don't just witness the evolution—be the architect. Petition today and join the future of fellowship, enlightenment, and impact!



Practice night for the 2026 Spring Reunion!