



Grand Commander



Elbert L. "Sparkie" Travis

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We Need Your Help!

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✘ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✘ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

It's a good thing it's not snowing, it's way too hot to be shoveling snow!

Well, for those of you who missed this year's Summer Assembly at Maggie Valley, you missed out on a great event. We opened the time capsule that was buried at the Masonic Marker in 1972. Needless to say, it was full of bits and pieces of news from all over this great land, too numerous to mention here.

During the cooking for our picnic on Sunday we had a surprise guest: a 12-point Elk decided to see if we were cooking one of his cousins. He laid right there in the field behind the cookers until the cooking was complete, then he got up and casually strolled away.



No Elk were harmed during the production of this meal...



...but we were under close supervision nonetheless!

Our director of the children's home, Kevin Otis, gave a great speech at the marker this year. Also Dr. Robert Elsner, Associate Prelate of the Grand Encampment gave another great closing speech on Tuesday morning.

For those of you who have never attended Summer Assembly, you need to go at least one time in your life. I assure you that you will not regret or forget it. This is the one event that brings brother Masons from around the world for a great time in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.

I wish to personally thank the cooking crew for all the hard work they did, and also the ladies who prepared all the "fixins." I would be amiss if I didn't thank all those who stayed behind to clean up afterwards.

On Saturday afternoon we held the Super Excellent Master degree at the Waynesville Masonic lodge. Congratulations to all who attended and received their certificate. This degree is only offered every few years.

The good Lord blessed us with good attendance and a fun filled event. Hope to see all of you there again next year. Oh, almost forgot, we buried another time capsule at the Masonic Marker to be opened in 2072. Good Lord willing, may-be some of our younger brothers will be there to open it. I'm sure planning on being there. Hopefully looking down on the event with my brothers who opened this one.

In closing I'll leave you with these words from the immortal Rev. Billy Graham:

"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil, there is no point."

Fraternally,

Sparkie Travis
Grand Commander



Overlook at Mile-High Gap, Great Smoky Mountains, NC

Winston-Salem Masonic Center to Host Medal of Honor Dinner

Winston-Salem – The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley is honored and pleased to present an evening with Colonel Walter Joseph Marm, Jr (Retired), Medal of Honor Recipient, at a dinner held at the Masonic Center of Winston-Salem, 4537 Country Club Rd, 27104 on Saturday, August 27, 2022. The evening begins with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and multi-course dinner at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Reservations and payment are required in advance and may be placed at:

<https://www.jweventsgroup.com/mohdinner>.

Members of freemasonry and their families, members of the military, active and retired, and friends all are invited to this special evening where we honor our friend Colonel Marm, Jr. Scheduled to bring remarks will be two well-known Scottish Rite brothers, Admiral William G. Sizemore, II, U.S. Navy (Retired) 33° Grand Cross, Grand Executive Director of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, and Major General Thomas L. Wilkerson, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), 33°.

If you have any questions, please contact General Secretary Michael Fischer, 33° at 336-722-1217, or Secretary@WinstonSalemScottishRite.org.

Greensboro York Rite Bodies Host Ice Cream Social at Whitestone

Greensboro – For the first time in two years, the Companions and Sir Knights of the Greensboro York Rite bodies were able to host their annual picnic at Whitestone for the residents. This year, the picnic was swapped out in favor of an ice cream social to help cool everyone off during the hot summer. Besides, who wants to grill in this weather!

Illustrious Master Jeff Martin led the program, arriving early to set up the room along with SK Jody Ferree, EC Jeff Bullington, and a handful of others. About 30 residents shared the visit and enjoyed vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice cream with loads of toppings!

“This was a great success,” says IM Jeff Martin, “and every-one seems to have had a great time. The residents were very thankful for our visit and the time we spent with them.”



Residents enjoyed our visit as well as delicious ice cream with all the toppings.



REPGC Gene Llewellyn and MEPGHP C. Ray Hall enjoying ice cream and fellowship.

Important Reminders:

- Aug 1:** Salisbury York Rite Annual Table Council, starts at 6:00 PM. Proceeds go towards the York Rite Charities.
- Aug 25:** Durham York Rite Annual Picnic, University Lodge 408, Chapel Hill, starts at 5:30 PM
- Aug 27:** Medal of Honor Dinner, Winston-Salem Masonic Center, \$15 per person, Reservation is Required by August 22



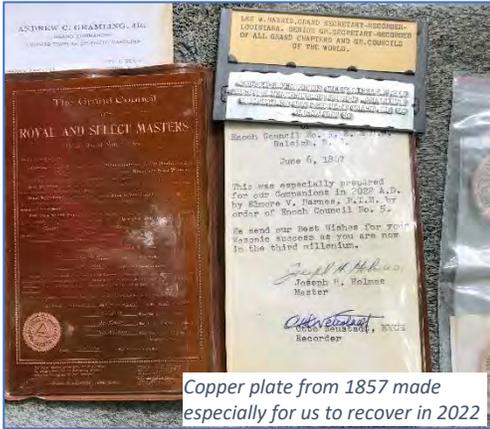
Time Capsule from 1972



Commemorative Sword plaque from 1972



Artifacts from the 1972 Time Capsule



Copper plate from 1857 made especially for us to recover in 2022



A pair of Elks tried to crash the picnic - someone check their dues cards!

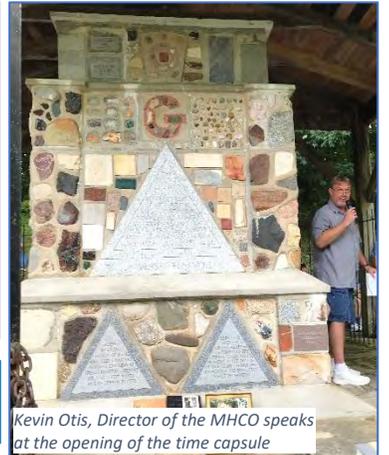


The chest was then placed in the concrete vault by the same companions. As can be seen, this step is being closely watched by (left to right) Comp. J. D. Henderson, P. C. M. and Gr. Lecturer of Tennessee, and M. I. Companions William Ritchie Strittz and T. Troy Wyche, Past Grand Masters of the Grand Council of North Carolina.

Photo pages from the 1972 time capsule ceremony - courtesy of the Greensboro Masonic Museum



With a makeshift Altar in place the G.C. continued in session, and the copper box was placed in the walnut chest, and the lid was closed by Comp. Stuart (left) and Comp. Wright (back to camera).



Kevin Otis, Director of the MHCO speaks at the opening of the time capsule



Russell E. Bridges, PMIGM



Guest speaker Aaron M. Shoemaker, Sovereign Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA addresses the Assembly



Kevin Otis, Director of the MHCO speaks at the opening of the time capsule



Fun, Food & Fellowship at the Summer Assembly Picnic



REGC Sparkie Travis leads the cleanup crew



Monroe Commandery came dressed to party!



Monroe DeMolay chapter joins the festivities at the banquet

Brotherly Love



REGC Travis, MIGM Horton, & MEGHP Hall welcome everyone to the picnic



Relationships



Moonrise over Maggie Valley

Fraternalism