



# *Knighly News*



Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America  
PO Box 594, Highlands, NC 28741  
<http://www.knightmasons.org/>

*Spring 2018*  
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## **MESK William R. Miller** **Great Chief, 2018-2019**

Bill was born in Seattle, and was educated in the public schools of Seattle, Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO, and Sioux City, IA. He received a B.S. in Industrial Administration from Iowa State University, Ames, IA. He retired July 1994 as Facilities Resource Manager, The Boeing Commercial Airplane Co., after a nearly 38-year career. Bill and high school sweetheart Maralyn Edwards were married in 1957. Maralyn graduated from Highline College, Des Moines, WA and is now retired. She is a charter member of Pyramid Chapter, O.E.S., and a majority Rainbow member with the Rainbow Grand Cross of Color. They have a son and daughter, four grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

He is a member of Marine View Presbyterian Church, Association of Washington Generals, and the Boeing Management Association. He served on the Federal Way Foundation Board of Directors, Federal Way School Board, National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network, and Selective Service Local Board No. 12.

He is a Senior DeMolay and now an Emeritus Member of the DeMolay Supreme Council. He enjoyed time as a DeMolay Dad Advisor and Rainbow Dad in his kids' active years.

Bill was made a Mason in 1959. He is now a member of Thornton F. McElroy Lodge No. 302 in Federal Way where he served as Worshipful Master in 1966 and again in 2016. He served as Grand Master of Masons in Washington, 1989-90. Elected a member of the Board of Directors of the National Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children 1988-1994 and president 1992-94.

Great Chief Miller joined Tacoma Scottish Rite in November 1966 where he served as Master of all four Bodies. Elected and crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Washington, October 1993, where he served for twenty years, the final three

as Grand Minister of State. Appointed Substitute Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland in 2014.

Member and past presiding officer of Chapter, Council, Commandery, York Rite College, SRICF College, Royal Ark Mariner, Jesters, and Masonic Order of the Bath.

Bill served as Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine, Grand Master of Grand Master's Council of the Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, USA, and is currently the Great Prior of the Great Priory of the United States, CBCS.

He joined Great Chief's Council No. 0, Knight Masons in 1989 then became a Charter member of Clontarf Council No. 69 where he served as Excellent Chief in 1999. He was appointed Grand Sentinel in the Grand Council advancing line in 2009.

## **2018 Annual Meeting Summary**

The business of the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the USA was conducted on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Crystal City, VA. The Sir Knights were welcomed by MESK Allen Surratt, Great Chief, after the opening of the Grand Council. Great Chief's Council No. 0 was opened by EC Jason C. Varner, who obligated the new members of Council No. 0. The Past Excellent Chiefs of Council No. 0 were assembled in the East and afforded Honors. Grand Council resumed. PEC Varner was presented his PEC certificate and jewel.

The Past Great Chiefs of the Grand Council were assembled and afforded honors. Distinguished guests and heads of national bodies were assembled, recognized and afforded honors. MESK D. Allen Surratt, Great Chief gave his allocution, which was warmly received.

The 2017 Necrology service was conducted by VE Robert Officer, Grand Priest. The budget, ritual and statute revisions were approved as presented. The budget is presented elsewhere in the *Knightly News*. The revised Ritual was at the printers in late March and should be ready to sell late April. It will contain the statute revisions.

Appalachian Council No. 121 received their charter after completing all of the requirements and being recommended by the Charters committee and voted on by the delegates.

The rank of Past Grand Senior Knight was bestowed on W. Berry Rigdon and George Robert Haynes. Thank you both for your service.

MESK William R. Miller and the 2018 Officers were duly elected and installed. Congratulations to ESK David A. Grindle, who was appointed EC of Great Chiefs Council No. 0 for 2018 and to VESK Bryce H. Hildreth who was appointed Grand Sentinel to start at the bottom of the Grand Council line. MESK Miller presented MESK Surratt with his Past Great Chief Certificate and Jewel.

The Grand Council was closed, the Sir Knights departed in Peace and Harmony.



16 Sir Knights received the Knight Commander Zerubbabel award for 2017.

Joe Gilbert Broce .....	Fort Andrew Lewis	81	Elbert C. Jackson, Jr. ....	Joel W. Frampton, Jr.	85
Frank L. Blades, Sr. ....	Southern New Jersey	11	Raymond E. Mielke.....	Crown 'n' Cork	44
Harland Thomassen .....	Minnesota	34	Richard Smith.....	Gaelic	60
Brandon Scott Yarbrough ...	Crowned Martyrs	120	Steven A. Duncan.....	Irish	67
Ralph Burks Taylor.....	Ezra	89	Richard Kent Wright .....	St. Clair	75
Jerry L. Hanson.....	Tralee	41	Charles L. Hollinger .....	Space Coast	32
Bufford H. Litteral .....	Highland	104	Justin Rory Byers .....	Appalachian	121
Robert B. Malwitz.....	Gateway to the West	5	John David Cashion.....	St. Patrick's in America	1

### New Grand Scribe

RESK J. David Cashion was elected Grand Scribe at the 2018 Annual Meeting. We thank RESK E. Randy Spradling, KCZ, Past Grand Scribe, for his dedication and service to our Grand Council, we wish him continued success in his future endeavors.



J. David Cashion lives in Highlands, NC where he continues teaching Vocational and Industrial Arts Education at Highlands School and attends Highlands United Methodist Church. He is a graduate of Western Carolina University. Dave joined Blue Ridge Lodge No. 435 in 1998 and traded coaching High School athletics in for coaching candidates. After serving as Master in 2005, he has been serving as secretary of not only Blue Ridge Lodge, but several other masonic bodies including Glenville Lodge, North Carolina Court No. 73 Masonic Order of Athelstan, Waynesville York Rite and Scribe for Appalachian Council No. 121 Knight Masons. Dave has also served as Master in Glenville Lodge No. 551, presided over both Waynesville and Franklin York Rite bodies,

KYGCH in North Carolina, Past Illustrious Grand Master in NC, Past Sovereign Master of Waynesville AMD, Past President of NC AMD Assoc., Deputy Prior of Lily of the Valley No. 1 KYCH, KCCH in the Valley of Asheville Scottish Rite, Past Commander of Kadosh, Past Patron Highlands Chapter No. 281 Eastern Star and Past District Deputy of the Star. Those are the highlights.

Dave is married to Sabrina Cashion, with one son and two grandchildren. His free time is spent playing with the grandchildren.

Please take note of the new Grand Scribe's contact information:

J. David Cashion, Grand Scribe  
PO Box 594  
Highlands, NC 28741  
828-342-0334  
[cashionjd@yahoo.com](mailto:cashionjd@yahoo.com)

### 50 Year Commemorative Coins



This past year, MESK Surratt commissioned a 50-year Commemorative Coin celebrating 50 years of Knight Masonry in the USA! In Washington D.C. on February 18, 1967, the Grand Council of Knight Masons in the U.S.A. was formed.

The coin is 2" across and 3mm thick. For \$10.00, you may still purchase a coin commemorating this event. Make your check or money order payable to the Grand Council of Knight Masons USA. Sorry, no PayPal. Forward your check to the address below!

Russell E. Bridges  
3957 Conservation Camp Road  
Valdese, NC 28690

## Appointments



Knight Bryce B. Hildreth was appointed Very Excellent Grand Sentinel. Bio not available at time of printing.

Sir Knight David Grindle was appointed Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council No. 0. David is an Endowed Member of St Andrews Lodge No. 619 of Springfield, Ohio – Raised on December 30, 1974 by Teikoku Lodge No. 19 in Okinawa City, Okinawa as a courtesy for St. Andrews Lodge. He is also a Life Member and Past Master of Capital City Lodge No. 93, Boise, Idaho and also a Life Member of Acacia Lodge No. 118, Ontario, Oregon.

He is a PHP of Boise Chapter No. 3, Past Grand Secretary/Treasurer and Past Grand High Priest (2009-2010) of Idaho. He is a PM of Idaho Council No. 1, Past Grand Recorder/Treasurer and Past Grand Master (2005) of Idaho. Some folks may recognize our cousin from his involvement in the General Grand

Council, including Past General Grand Recorder (2008-2017) and currently serving as General Grand Master (2017-2020). Dave is also a PC of Idaho Commandery No. 1, Past Grand Recorder/Treasurer and Past Grand Commander (2007) of Idaho. Knight Grindle has many other Masonic affiliations and titles too numerous to mention.

He was born July 2, 1946 in Springfield, Ohio to Donald Edward Grindle and Geraldine Lou (Rolston) Grindle, graduated Shawnee High School, Springfield, Clark County, Ohio in 1964. He attended General Motors Institute (Kettering University), Flint, Michigan from 1964 to 1966, studying Electrical Engineering, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, Math Major/Physics Minor, and Boston University receiving his Master of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems in 1980.

David worked for International Business Machine in Poughkeepsie, New York as a Hardware Test Programmer in 1968. He retired in 1988 as a Major in the U.S. Air Force after 20 years with over 2,100 flying hours, stationed mostly in the Western U.S., Pacific and Europe.

He additionally retired after 16 years as an Information Technology Systems Integration Analyst



with the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Sir Knight Grindle married Karen Gwen Schooler Frank in September 2001 and they have three grown children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is a member of Eagle Idaho United Methodist Church and a member of Community United Methodist Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho and still participates in the choir.



**2018 Grand Council Officers**

- SK William R. Miller.....M.E. Great Chief
- SK Joseph S. Crociata.....R.E. Deputy Great Chief
- SK J. David Cashion ..... R.E. Grand Scribe
- SK Kevin B Sample ..... R.E. Grand Treasurer
- SK Robert B. Maynard .....R.E. Grand Senior Knight
- SK Martin R. Trent ..... R.E. Grand Junior Knight
- SK James R. Elliott.....V.E. Grand Senior Warden
- SK James E. Winzenreid..... Grand Junior Warden
- SK Robert G. Officer ..... V.E. Grand Director of Ceremonies
- SK Lloyd J. Leinbaugh ..... V.E. Grand Priest
- SK Russell E. Bridges..... V.E. Grand Steward
- SK Bryce B. Hildreth..... V.E. Grand Sentinel
- SK Chris M. Jessen, PGSK.....V.E Grand Musician

## Grand Superintendents

California .....	Russ Morgan - (North)
.....	Thomas R. Derby - (South)
Florida .....	John I. Gray - (North)
.....	Steven Q. Steele - Florida (South)
Kentucky/West Virginia .....	Bufford Litteral
Missouri .....	William G. Snyder
New Jersey .....	John D. Barnes
North Carolina .....	W. Berry Rigdon (West)
.....	Tony Arnett (East)
Northwest Territory .....	Joseph W. MacIntyre
Ohio .....	R. Daniel Cogley
Pennsylvania .....	Raymond G. Bagely
Tennessee .....	Casey Lee Hood (West)
.....	Terry L. Plemons (East)
Texas .....	John C. Elkinton (Southwest)
.....	Jack M. Harper, II (Central)
.....	Richard Gaiser (Northeast)
Virginia .....	Jeffrey G. Burcham

## Approved Changes to the Constitution

The Grand Council approved membership service awards which will be manufactured and available for purchase from the Grand Scribe. Full details will be available in the 2017-2018 Proceedings. Specifically approved: The Grand Council authorizes the wearing of a 25-year membership service award as is currently in use in Ireland. Veteran Sir Knights with 40 or 50 years of continuous membership may be distinguished by the placement of a bar with the Sir Knight's years of membership denoted, centered on the ribbon. The jewel and bars are available for purchase through the Grand Council office.

The jewel description will be included in the Jewels and Clothing descriptions:

### 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARD JEWEL

Green equilateral triangle (each side 3/4-inch) centered on a pierced gold star (1-7/8-inch diameter) with three gold equilateral triangles concentrically inset into green field, with gold "25" at apex, on which are superimposed the crossed Sword and Trowel. Suspended from a ribbon, a minimum of 1-1/4 inches wide and 2-1/2 inches in length from the bottom of the ribbon bar to the top of the jump ring, with the Grand Council colours Red, Green, Blue, and Red, each separated by gold colour. Worn to the right of the Green Jewel, or between the Green and Red Jewels. Veteran Sir Knights with 40 or 50 years of continuous membership may be distinguished by the placement of a bar with the Sir Knight's years of membership denoted, centered on the ribbon.

## **Approved Changes to Informational Instructions in the Ritual Book (Not changes in Ritual)**

**Item 1 – Council Officers:** Page iii lists the Scribe/Treasurer as an optional combination. At the Annual Meeting in 2014, the combining of the offices of Scribe and Treasurer was prohibited by a Constitutional revision and a deletion from the Universal By-Laws form; all Councils were informed of this in 2015. The following is found in the list of Officers of a Council of Knight Masons on that page:

Scribe/Treasurer ..... \*Scribe/Treas

\* If both Offices are filled by the same Sir Knight

These two lines should be deleted from page iii in the next Ritual printing.

**Item 2 – Dress for Council Meetings:** Page iv, Paragraph 1 contains a brief description of the proper attire for a Knight Mason, when the meeting is in a Masonic facility: “When meeting in a Masonic facility, Officers should be attired in Tuxedos. When possible, all Sir Knights should wear a Knight Mason’s apron, a Sword with a red scabbard and red Sword belt, a Knight Mason’s sash and a Knight Mason’s Jewel. At the discretion of the Excellent Chief, Chapter or Council Robes may be worn for the Knight of the Sword and Knight of the East Degrees.”

The Dress Code, as written, was superseded in 2016 when the following Decision was approved by Grand Council at the 2016 Annual Meeting, on approval of the Great Chief’s Allocution: “Councils who hold their meetings before 5 PM, during daylight hours, may elect to have their Officers wear either tuxedos or dark suits with white collared shirts and the tie of the Order, in addition to the appropriate regalia of rank in the Order. In order to encourage uniformity of dress, the Council should specify the appropriate attire for the meeting in their Council notices.”

The proposed amendment makes the following recommendation: Separate the first sentence from the remainder of the paragraph, add new language into a new paragraph which would read as follows (additions underlined): “When meeting in a Masonic facility, Officers should be attired in Tuxedos. However, Councils who hold their meetings before 5 PM, during daylight hours, may elect to have their Officers wear either tuxedos or dark suits with white collared shirts and the tie of the Order, in addition to the appropriate regalia of rank in the Order. In order to encourage uniformity of dress, the Council should specify the appropriate attire for the meeting in their Council notices. When possible, all Sir Knights should wear a Knight Mason’s apron, a Sword with a red scabbard and red Sword belt, a Knight Mason’s sash and a Knight Mason’s Jewel. At the discretion of the Excellent Chief, Chapter or Council Robes may be worn for the Knight of the Sword and Knight of the East Degrees.”

**Item 3 – Placement of the Emblems on the Roll of the Law:** (edited for publication purposes so as to not actually disclose ritual in this document) The Trowel and the Sword will be crossed on the Roll of the Law. The specific wording will be published in the 2018 Revision of the Grand Council Ritual.



## Approved 2018 Grand Council Budget

### INCOME

1000 Income:1001 Misc Membership Fees	\$	342.00
1000 Income:1002 Knighting Fees @ \$15.00	\$	5,250.00
1000 Income:1003 Permanent Life Membership @ \$10.00	\$	3,500.00
1000 Income:1004 Investment Fund Transfer	\$	26,375.00
1000 Income:1006 Investment Income Life Mbr Fund	\$	5,569.00
1000 Income:1007 Sale of Goods Sold Net Proceeds	\$	1,500.00
1000 Income:1099 Late Fees, KCZ, Donations	\$	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>43,536.00</b>

### EXPENSES

2000 Honorarium and Salaries:2001 Great Chief Honorarium	\$	4,000.00
2000 Honorarium and Salaries:2002 Grand Scribe Honorarium	\$	4,000.00
2000 Honorarium and Salaries:2003 Grand Treasurer Honorarium	\$	500.00
2000 Honorarium and Salaries:2004 Casual Labor for Scribe Assistance	\$	500.00
2100 Charity Donations:2101 Great Chief Discretionary	\$	1,250.00
2100 Charity Donations:2102 Grand Council Contribution	\$	1,250.00
2200 Office Expenses:2201 Printing, Postage & Mailing	\$	14,700.00
2200 Office Expenses:2202 Supplies	\$	500.00
2200 Office Expenses:2203 Advertising	\$	400.00
2200 Other Expenses:2205 Membership Database Build	\$	7,500.00
2200 Office Expenses:2299 Mail Box Rental	\$	180.00
2300 Other Expenses:2301 Office Equipment	\$	-
2300 Other Expenses:2302 Insurance	\$	326.00
2300 Other Expenses:2303 Grand Council Regalia	\$	350.00
2300 Other Expenses:2304 Grand Session	\$	3,500.00
2300 Other Expenses:2305 Xfer to Life Membership Fund	\$	4,130.00
2300 Other Expenses:2306 Accounting Firm	\$	450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>43,536.00</b>

**Net Difference:** \$ -

### Masonic Membership Solutions

*The Grand Council of Knight Masons* will be establishing a new membership database using the Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) system. The new system when complete will provide access by each Council Scribe who will manage their own membership records in real time. We will be working with each of you to provide training and support throughout the process. For Councils who have Scribes who are not so technically savvy, Excellent Chiefs will need to appoint an assistant (Information Technology (IT) Representative) to the Scribe who will assist the Scribe in entering and maintaining electronic membership records for their council.

In order to gather the necessary membership information in preparation of building the new database, the Grand Scribe will be sending out a spreadsheet that will need to be completed by Council Scribes and returned to our office as soon as possible. The spreadsheet will collect necessary information the Grand Council does not currently have on each member. We understand that past efforts may have been made to correct the membership records we have. We appreciate your understanding of this project and look forward to working with you to complete this effort as quickly as possible.

## Counsel from the Councils

***Kansas Council No. 53*** reports that it is coming back!!!! We went through a few years of dormancy, followed by a slow recovery by some very persistent members, and two moves. We have gone from about 95 active members in 2014, to about 65 members in 2017 when we invited one Companion, to 58 on our rolls today after receiving one new Companion. The good news is we will receive one confirmed invitee at our next meeting and we have three more invitations sent!

We are planning a picnic in August that should bring out more of our members. We often have only eleven or twelve show up for a Saturday afternoon, but that is 19% of the active rolls. Now we need to work on the other 81%, and the Scribe is actively doing just that!”

[Daniel G. Anderson](#), Scribe, Kansas Council No. 53

***Northern New Jersey Council No. 10*** is scheduled to celebrate Irish heritage, included a special program of Irish Dancing during the dinner hour at their upcoming November 2018 meeting. The meeting is to be held at Pantagis Renaissance in Scotch Plains, NJ.

[Mike L. Canavan](#), Scribe, Northern New Jersey Council No. 10

## Newsletter Submissions

Councils are encouraged to submit news articles about anything they feel is newsworthy to the new editor, [Kevin B. Sample](#) ([kevin.sample63@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.sample63@gmail.com)) for inclusion in the next edition of the *Knightly News*.

In the future editions we will try to catch you up on all the goings-on over the past few years since the *Knightly News* was last published in 2012. We’ve been away for a while, but now we are back! Previous versions of the *Knightly News* can be found on our web site.

Remember to Like us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [web site](#) for additional information.

The 2019 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City @ Reagan National Airport.

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