

The Supreme Council

MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

A. GENE COBB, JR., 33°
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL
IN NORTH CAROLINA



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

2058 SAYBROOKE LANE NW
CALABASH, NC 28467
CELL: 919-671-4960
E-MAIL: agcobb@nccumc.org

ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A.

November 19, 2023

Brethren all:

What a joyous Honors Weekend we had in Wilmington! Now, please take time to pause, reflect, and remember the ways we have been blessed and search for ways to extend a helping hand for those less fortunate than we are. Our faith in a benevolent God who loves us more than any mortal is capable of comprehending always gives us hope for a better day. Love for God and one another must remain constant and with it, sacrifices and responses that help meet the needs of others as well as us. We are blessed when we balance faith and works. So are others. And we are thankful!

We are entering a “religious” season—a season of light and love! This fraternity strives to bring people together without imposing our individual or institutional will over anyone. Of our own free will and accord, we make decisions that bless our own lives and the lives of others, like each of you did in Wilmington over the weekend and a young boy named Corben did for me today on the telephone. Make choices that are a grateful response to the God who loves us all and gives us such freedom. Help others do the same because God will sort it all out. Be thankful!

Even in what seems like the most divided “political” environment we may have ever witnessed, the red, white, and blue of our flag is still there reminding us of who we are as Scottish Rite Masons. We are blessed to be citizens of what is still the greatest nation on Earth. God will sort it all out. Be thankful!




Whatever a person’s faith may be, it must begin, and it will end with trust in God. No institution or individual has ultimate authority and power. Freemasonry embraces bringing people together as the brotherhood of man, under the fatherhood of God. Our sense of balance extends beyond faith and works. It welcomes brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Freemasonry is a fraternity. We are not a religion or a political party as some people falsely claim. We look to our own religious backgrounds to be the foundation of who we are. We look to our political beliefs to build a better society. We look to Scottish Rite Freemasonry to help us keep it all in balance. God will sort it all out. Be thankful!

Long ago, the wisest Master I have ever known advised an inquisitor how to keep life holy. He said, “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.” Be not distracted by divisive demeanor, language, or actions of any kind that would cause harm or attempt to break the fragile bonds of free thought given to us by our Creator who set the world into motion and called it, “good.” God will sort it all. Be thankful!

As we enter this holy season, let us remember, “Our duty is not to be better than the brethren, but to be better than ourselves.” Throughout this season of gratitude and holiness, may we North Carolinians, let us remember “Esse quam videri,” or “to be rather than seem.” God made all of us. God is still at work among us. What we will become is not by the word of any human or institution, but by our loving Creator who was, is, and will sort it all out. Be thankful!

With a joyous and holy season wish and prayer for all, I am,


Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in North Carolina