

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



To all Knights Templar in Virginia

With profound sadness, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia announces the passing of Sir Knight Roy Braxton Henderson, Jr., Past Grand Commander of Virginia, who served this Grand Jurisdiction with distinction during the 2017–2018 Templar year.

Known to generations of Brothers and Sir Knights simply as R.B., his life was firmly rooted in the mountains and communities of Southwest Virginia. Born November 26, 1955, and a native of Saltville, Virginia, he built a life centered upon family, faith, community, and service. He and his wife, Marlene, were married in 1981 and raised their daughter, Megan. His commitment to his hometown could be seen not only in his Masonic labors, but also through his service to his church, the Town of Saltville, and the organizations that worked to preserve and strengthen the community he called home.

Knighthood in 1985 as a member of Lynn Commandery No. 9, he twice served as its Eminent Commander and later served as District Deputy Grand Commander. Beginning his progression through the elected Grand Commandery line in 2010, he faithfully advanced through its stations until being elected Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia in 2017. His service was recognized with the Charles A. Grice Meritorious Award and the distinction of Knight Commander of the Temple, among numerous other honors.

The offices R.B. held tell only part of his story. His Masonic record spans decades because service was not something he reserved for a particular year, title, or station. Whether the work was local or statewide, prominent or largely unseen, he remained engaged in the life of the fraternity and in the communities around him. His was a record built over time, one meeting, one responsibility, and one act of service after another.

We join the Henderson family, the Sir Knights of Lynn Commandery No. 9, and all who knew R.B. in mourning his passing and giving thanks for the years we were privileged to share with him.

May the memory of his friendship remain close to us and may the example of his long and faithful service continue in those who follow after him.

“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

It is ordered that the charters in our Subordinate Commanderies be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that this order be read in the east of the Asylum, spread upon the minutes, and a cross of faith performed by the Knights present.



Michael T. Huff
Grand Commander

Attest: *David R. Conner*

David R. Conner
Grand Recorder

