



T.J. Henwood, PGHP, Editor

P.O. Box 6681
501-413-8181

Sherwood, AR 72124-6681
chiknstik@gmail.com

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Published Quarterly



Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Ancel Ray Matthew, Jr.
2025-2026



Looking Back - Moving Forward

Greetings Companions, from the
Grand Chapter:

As the year draws to an end and my time as your Grand High Priest is just around the corner. I can't thank the companions enough for this great Honor. Though its been a good year I think every Grand High Priest is always glad to pass the responsibility onto his successor, I had a lot of big plans for the year, probably to many to try an get done in a year.

A wise man told me to concentrate on one thing to try and get done and your will be a success. We have a traveling Grand Royal Arch that I hope Travels the State for years to come.

Grand High Priest

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I would like to think that our Theme " Spread the Word about York Rite Masonry " made a difference. We have finished the year with a positive membership in this day an time in Masonry that is a " Grand Plus ". I had hoped to visit every chapter in the state, not sure I will that. I have made multiple visits to Chapters that were doing degree work, I thank it is always a plus if the Grand High Priest can be present at the making of a new Royal Arch Mason, it truly gives them a sense of worth. I still thank that a Fundraiser Jewel is a good Idea, Will Teeter designed one, I say Thank You , Will. As Christmas is close upon us, let us remember the reason for the season, We celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with Family, Friends and Companions. As I close with my last insert as your Grand High Priest, I want to send out a special Thanks to these Companions that have supported me with Advice and Friendship though out my year, always willing to travel with me. My Grand Line Officers, these Past Grand High Priest's Steven Gregory, Michael Lockhart, Randy Gilless, T.J. Henwood, Troy Cole, Grand Secretary Thomas Flowers and our Grand Commander David Ponder. I SAY THANK YOU..

To all of my Companions, I say Thank You.

Fraternally,

A. Ray Matthew, Jr.
Grand High Priest, 2025 - 26



Traveling Royal Arch - Update



The Arkansas Traveling Royal Arch is now (as of this writing) at Union Chapter #2.

The Arch may be claimed by attending the Stated meeting of the Chapter who has possession.



Grand York Rite Sessions - 2026

March 13, 14, 2026

Delta Hotel, Little Rock-West 201 S. Shackelford Rd.
Little Rock, AR

Tentative Schedules - Subject to Change

Thursday, March 12:

3:00pm - 6:00pm Registration
6:00pm Pasta Buffet (Must be pre-registered.)

Friday, March 13:

6:30 am Open Breakfast (Ticket required)
7:15am AR Order of Sword & Trowel (members only)
Following AR Past Commanders Assn. (members only)
7:15am - 8:30am Registration Continues
(No Registration during Sessions)
8:00 am Joint Opening & Reception of Distinguished
Guests (Open)
9:00am Joint Memorial (Open)
Joint Business Session #1 (Members only)
9:30am Opening of Grand Chapter, RAM of Arkansas
11:45 am Grand Chapter called from Labor to Refreshment
12 Noon Open Luncheon (Ticket required)
AR York Rite College Business Mtg (following)
1:30 pm Opening of Grand Council, R & SM of Arkansas
4:30 pm Grand Council Called to Refreshment
6:30 pm Grand York Rite Banquet & Aweards
*Men-KT Uniform w/o sword or chapeau, Tuxedo
or Dark Suit - Ladies-street length dress/suit-
formal optional*

Saturday, March 14:

6:30 am Open Breakfast (ticket required)
Following Albert Pike Priory KYCH (members only)
7:30 am-8:00 am Registration continues
8:00 am Opening, Grand Commandery
Knights Templar of Arkansas
10:45 am Grand Commandery called to Refreshment
11:00 am Joint Installation of Grand York Rite Officers
(open) (Closing of all AR Grand York Rite)

Most Illustrious Grand Master

Troy W. Cole

2025-2026



News From the 9th Arch

Greetings to all Companions of the Councils and all York Rite Masons:

I want to thank all the Companions that made this past year a success. The festival in Little Rock for this year was a huge success. We are seeing growth all around the state from Mountain Home to Texarkana; way to go to Arkansas York Rite Council.

I would like to thank my Grand Line for all the help you have given me this past year and for a job well done, I could not have done my job without you, so thank you again for all your help. If you have any of my lapel pins left over that you cannot sell please turn them in to me or the Grand Secretary Thomas Flowers.

I want to draw you attention to the date of March 13 and 14 the Grand Yorkrite session, need to make your Reservations at the Delta Inn on Shackford and Markham in Little Rock, AR. Also make sure you contact Thomas Flowers the Grand Secretary to make your reservations to attend the Grand York Rite session.

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MIGM - 9th Arch

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Companies, if you are voted in the top 3 chairs of the Council it is your job and duty to attend the Grand Sessions. I hope to see all the top Officers of all the Council there at the Grand Session.

Now I want to thank my wife Evelene who has been by my side and has allowed me to travel around the State. I don't know what I would do without her; she has been a joy in my life.

Again, thanks to everybody that has been by my side this past year - you know who you are. Thank you.

Fraternally yours,

Troy W. Cole, MIGM 2025-26



The New Year Begins



The new officers of Ananias Chapter #156; Saul of Tarsus Council #83, and Robert de Sable Commandery #39, some with their ladies, taking leadership of their Bodies in Damascus. (T.J. Henwood, PGHP, PMIGM, and PGC(H) was Installing Officer.)

At right: The Sir Knights of Hugh de Payens Commandery #1 Gather around the Triangle for their Christmas observance.



Tidings From the North



2 out of 3 ion a day. Mtn. Home Chapter #43 and North Central Council #82 conferred both the Chapter and Council Degrees on Saturday, November 27, 2025. Several Companions from the Jonesboro bodies assisted..

