

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN

VALLEY OF TAMPA—ORIENT OF FLORIDA

TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

5500 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

TAMPA, FL 33634

(813) 886-0578

MEETS 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

VOLUME 48 No. 4- JULY–AUGUST 2025

WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG



299th Reunion Memorial Class Honoring Illustrious Russell B Glendinning, 33°

1st Row: Illustrious Brothers: Barry D. Hart, 33°, Charles R. Jordan, 33°, Richard A. Vogt, 33°, Kenneth A. Warner, 33°, Stephen B. Jacobson, 33°, Carl E. Gilmore, 33°, S. Gilbert Weisman, 33°, Chuck C. Osborne, 33°, Scott McAlister, 33°, Richard S. Agster, 33°, and James J.T. Blum, 33°

2nd Row Candidates: Jacob C. Carter, Justin B. Crook, Uros M. Davidovic, Jeffrey P. Longo, Raydel Mendez Martinez, William S. Owens, Patrick Paterson, Adam J. Scott, and Arthur M. Southwell

OUR NEXT REUNION IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 & 25, 2025

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°

Chairman

John N. Dragneff, 32°

Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

William C. Klinke, 32° KCCH

Commander - Council of Kadosh

Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH

Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

Tommy F. Tyner, 32° KCCH

Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

James F. Charrette, 32°

Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°

Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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Robert J. Leonard, Sr., 32°

Joseph A. Monday, 32° KCCH

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH

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Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH

Bulletin Editor

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°

It is hard to believe we are already halfway through 2025. It's been an active first six month and the momentum will continue through the rest of this year. On May 3rd and 10th, the Valley of Tampa held it's Spring Reunion in Honor of Ill. Russel B. Glendinning, 33°. For the first time in several years, we conferred 11 Degrees over the two days and welcomed 9 new Masters of the Royal Secret into the Valley of Tampa.

During the last week of May, many of us attended the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida. I would like to congratulate R.:W.: Richard (Rick) Wendling, 32° KCCH, on his election as Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Brother Wendling serves the Valley of Tampa as the Preceptor in the Tampa Consistory, is a Member-At-Large on the Executive Committee, and is the Chairman of the Double Eagle Program. We all wish him much success in the upcoming Masonic Year. We know a number of our members have been appointed to various positions and committees for the Grand Lodge this year and we will be publishing that information as soon as it is received from Grand Lodge.

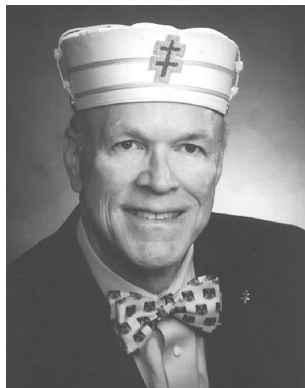
I hope you had the opportunity to attend our meeting on Monday, June 9th, when we celebrated Flag Day. Brother Charles R. Bailey, 32° KCCH, organized an excellent program. I would also like to extend a big thank you to the members of Tampa Bay Chapter No. 252, National Sojourners, for their participation again this year. I always learn something new every time I attend one of their presentations.

Brothers, it is that time of year again when we need to ensure our 2025 dues are paid. Please check your Scottish Rite dues card; if it indicates an expiration date of 2024, please make arrangements to pay this year's dues. If you are unable to write a check at this time, please reach out to the General Secretary. We will do everything we can to assist you in maintaining your membership in the Scottish Rite.

As we are deep into the hot summer months, I hope you can find time to attend our monthly Consistory meetings, which take place on the second Monday of each month, or join one of our Scottish Rite Clubs. Additionally, when you are at your Blue Lodge, please remember to talk with your Brother Masons about the Scottish Rite. Our Fall Reunion is scheduled for October 18th and 25th, so it's never too early to start distributing petitions.

Enjoy your summer!





GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°

The Fall Reunion will be held on two Saturdays in October (the 18th and 25th) and will be named in memory of Illustrious Richard J. Whalen, Sr., 33°. Please talk up the Scottish Rite to your Blue Lodge Brethren who aren't already members of the College of Freemasonry. Get out there and "shake the bushes".

If you are a top line signer on a Brother's petition, you should make every effort to be at the Reunion to support your candidate. As a new Master of the Royal Secret, he may be full of questions about how and why we do the things that we do. Attend the monthly meetings with him and help answer his questions. Be a mentor to him. This will help him "fit in" and aid in member involvement and retention.

Don't forget to make dinner reservations no later than noon the Thursday before the monthly meeting so that we can let the caterer know how many meals to prepare. You can call the office or e-mail our Administrative Assistant:

Trish Warhul:

adminassistant@tampascottishrite.org

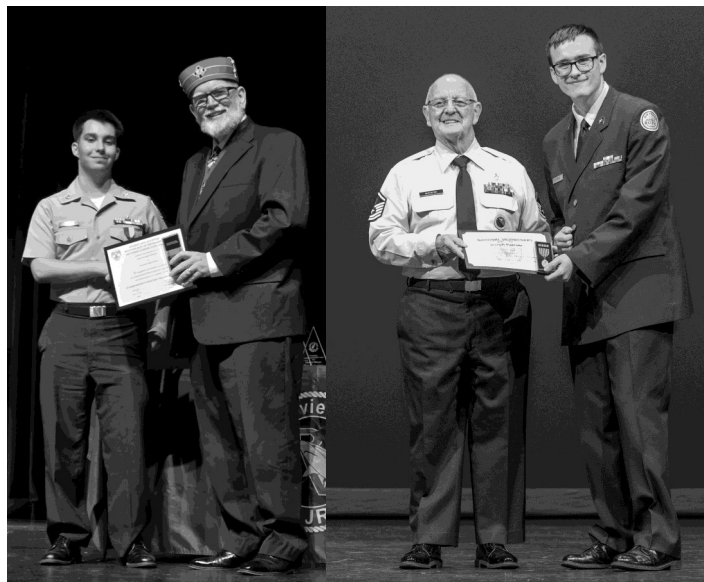


Online Petition QR Code
\$4.77 Additional Fee
By Supreme Council

2025 ROTC/JROTC AWARDS

BOB KERSHNER, 32°, COORDINATOR

We have completed this year's ROTC/JROTC Awards season. There were a total of fifty-six (56) awards processed for fifty-six (56) schools, encompassing ten (10) counties. Special thanks to Brothers Chuck Bailey 32° KCCH, Chase Harrison 32°, Michael Manning 32°, Richard Whitmyer 32° KCCH, and Gregory Wynn 32° KCCH, for their time making presentations. Making a personal presentation to these outstanding cadets that represent the leadership of tomorrow is inspiring. We hope to attract more brothers next year so each award can be personally presented. As the Coordinator for the ROTC/JROTC Award Program, if you want to represent your Scottish Rite, see the best examples of our youth, and be inspired beyond words, it would be my privilege to include your name on next years roster of presenters—please call (813) 689-6529.



Email Addresses

We want you to receive our regular communications, please make sure that the General Secretary's office has your most current email address. Send updates to generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org



This publication acknowledges authority and yields allegiance to the Supreme Council A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of which Illustrious Richard G. Hoover, 33° is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida





MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°

Degrees Prior to Consistory

July

13th Degree
Royal Lodge of
Solomon

August

25th Degree
Knight of the
Brazen Serpent

November

6th Degree
Confidential
Secretary

December

7th Degree
Provost and Judge

Continuing our series on the four bodies of our Scottish Rite Valley, we will look at the Council of Kadosh. The degrees of the Council consist of the 19th through the 30th. They are characterized as primarily philosophic and chivalric, however, there is a great deal of religious or “mystical” content whereby the lessons are conveyed by symbols. Those degrees whose titles are prefaced with “Knight” are just dramas illustrating knightly virtues but are “complex panoramas of mystical symbolism”.

The word “Kadosh” is a Hebrew word usually translated as “holy.” More precisely it means separated. The root of the word Kadosh is Semitic and derives from three consonants K-D-SH. Varied placements of vowels give it many meanings. In Deuteronomy 22:9 “Kadosh” is translated “be defiled” and in Job 36:14 as “unclean”. With Pike the meaning is both positive and negative. There is a Jewish prayer called a Mourner’s Kaddish. It is recited during the period of mourning and each anniversary of the death of a close relative. It conveys the idea of separation as in the separation of the living and the dead.

People who are “holy,” are separated from the rest of humanity. In the Scottish Rite as in all of Masonry, we do not seek to create “holy” men, rather, men who are set apart from the rest of humanity by their exemplary practice of noble virtues in their pursuit of truth.

The Council Degrees are designed to further explore the moral, political, and religious lessons found in the Lodge and the Chapter. The Council Degrees attempt to explain why morality and the practice of virtue are indispensable to a Mason. The political lessons within the Council explain why intolerance, superstition, and bigotry are the special enemies of human freedom.

In between the chivalric and philosophical degrees are the four strictly religious degrees—23rd through 26th. These degrees seek to explain as clearly as possible the nature of Deity and His relationship with mankind. These degrees are also called the “Mystery Degrees.” The 23rd Degree is an illustration of the Lesser Mysteries, knowledge that all may know. The 24th Degree teaches the mysteries of the Hebraic faith, the 25th, those of Islam, and the 26th, those of Christianity. There is an essential unity in these Degrees teaching that which is to be found in all faiths.

To understand and accept the arguments presented in the Council Degrees is to begin developing a rational, coherent, and consistent philosophy—the first step in making a good man a better man. The word “begin” is stressed because the development of such a philosophy is a life-long pursuit. But, developing our philosophy is not enough. We must make real in action the virtues learned.

We will exemplify the 13th Degree, Royal Lodge of Solomon prior to our Consistory meeting in July; followed by the 25th Degree, Knight of the Brazen Serpent prior to our August meeting. Our next reunion is scheduled for October 18th and 25th, where we plan to exemplify seven degrees each day. We hope all that can, will attend and increase your Masonic knowledge, as well as continue to develop your own Masonic philosophy.





PRELATE

Steven Silvers, 32° KCCH

“The word of the Lord came to Solomon: “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.””

1 Kings 6:11-12

“Then Solomon began to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.”

2 Chronicles 3:1

As Masons, we become very familiar with the building of King Solomon’s Temple in the second section of the 3rd Degree when we are Raised as Master Masons in the Blue Lodge. In the Scottish Rite Thirteenth and Fourteenth Degrees, we explore the completion of the Temple and the search for the Lost Word. These degrees emphasize spiritual enlightenment and the sacred geometry of the Temple.

In the Fifteenth & Sixteenth Degrees, we dramatize the return of the Jewish people from Babylonian exile and the rebuilding of the Second Temple under Zerubbabel’s leadership. These Degrees highlight themes of perseverance, faith, and moral courage in the face of adversity. The symbolic arc from the building of the First Temple to the reconstruction of the Second Temple, mirrors the Masonic journey. From aspiration and loss, to restoration and enlightenment. It is a powerful narrative that resonates with the Scottish Rite’s emphasis on moral and spiritual rebuilding. The Scottish Rite’s connection to the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem is not just historical. It is deeply symbolic, forming a spiritual and philosophical backbone for many of our degrees.

You might ask yourself, what is the significance of the building and destruction of the two Temples during this time of year? The reason that we reflect on the two Temples now, is because during July or August (specific date varies), the Jewish people observe Tisha B’ Av. Tisha B’ Av is the Jewish day of mourning the destruction of both the First and Second Temples. The First Temple was built by Solomon, which fell to the Babylonians in 586 BCE,

while the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. This solemn day involves fasting and reflecting on tragedies faced by the Jewish people, emphasizing themes of loss, resilience, and hope for redemption.

Scottish Rite Masons in the Valley of Tampa must now face the recent loss of two of our esteemed members and beloved Past Grand Masters: Most Worshipful Louie King and Most Worshipful Don Cowart. We find ourselves looking for the courage and resiliency in the face of this adversity. As we move forward, we must have faith in the Lord, that they now live forever in peace with Him. Let us now possess the moral courage to remember the friendships and Brotherhood we shared, while we each continue to persevere in our own journeys toward truth, education, and personal enlightenment.



SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

NORTH PINELLAS

IHOP

40489 US 19N

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Phone: (727) 403-6511

2nd Tuesday every month at 11:30 a.m.

PINELLAS PARK

Masonic Home of Florida

3201 1st St. NE

St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Phone: (727) 243-7355

2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

SARASOTA

Sahib Shriners - Sahara Room

(July location TBA)

600 N. Beneva Road

Sarasota, FL 34232

2nd Friday every month at 11:30 a.m.

Scottish Rite Club Building

240 S. Tuttle Ave.

Sarasota, FL 34237

1st Wednesday in Feb., April, Oct. & Nov. at 6:00 p.m.

TAMPA

Village Inn

215 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

Tampa, FL 33609

Phone: (813) 368-3878

4th Wednesday every month at 12:00 p.m.

TRI-COUNTY


Lake Wales Masonic Lodge No. 242

660 S. 9th St.

Lake Wales, FL 33853


Phone: (863) 528-6191

4th Wed. Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.

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Day 3 **PUERTO COSTA MAYA, MEXICO**

Day 4 **COZUMEL, MEXICO**


Day 5 **CRUISING**


Day 6 **TAMPA, FLORIDA**


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Biography of Tali Atala

Most Worshipful Grand Master 2025

Most Worshipful Tali Atala was born in Lima, Peru. He attended Saint John's Preparatory High School in Danvers, Massachusetts. He graduated in 1968. Thereafter moving to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he attended the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Textile Management in 1972.

M.:W.: Atala worked in the Textile Industry until 1994. Thereafter pursuing a career as a Real Estate investor and owner to this day.

In 1974, M.:W.: Atala received the Three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry at Biscayne Bay Lodge No. 124 and holds plural memberships with Oleeta West-Dade Lodge No. 145; Hialeah-Opa Locka Lodge No. 391; Hurricane Lodge No. 401; and Village Lodge No. 315 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2010.

He has served on the following Grand Lodge Committees: Grand Master's Charity Zone 10 Chairman in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010; Masonic Education Zone 10 Chairman in 2013 and 2014; Jurisprudence Committee in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021; Sub-Committee on Foreign Relations in 2020 and 2021; the Corporate Board of Directors in 2022-2025; Endowment and Procurement Committee in 2022; and Finance and Accounts Committee Chairman in 2023.

He was appointed as District Deputy Grand Master of the 34th Masonic District by M.:W.: Steven P. Boring in 2015; he served as W.: Junior Grand Steward in 2016 for M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson; and as W.: Senior Grand Steward in 2019. In 2024, he was appointed Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Lebanon.

M.:W.: Atala is a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Miami, where he served as Master of Kadosh in 2009 and Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix in 2013. He is also a York Rite Mason in the Miami York Rite Bodies, Jericho Chapter No. 10, R. A. M., Adoniram Council No. 10, R. & S. M., and Miami Commandery No. 13, K. T. He is a Past Governor of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Everglades York Rite College No. 149 in Miami, and afterwards was honored with the Order of the Purple Cross. He is a Member of Mahi Shriners in Miami, serving as President of the Past Masters Unit in 2011. He is Past Monarch of the Mi-Am-I Grotto afterwards serving for eight years in the Grand Line of Grottoes International and being elected Grand Monarch in 2020. He is a member of The Royal Order of Scotland, Maxwell Clan. He is a Lifetime member of the Masters and Wardens Association of Miami-Dade County serving as Chairman in 2012. He served as Worshipful Master of Memorial Lodge No. 27 from 2011 to 2022.

M.:W.: Atala was elected and served as Junior Grand Warden in 2022; Senior Grand Warden in 2023; Deputy Grand Master in 2024; and Installed Most Worshipful Grand Master on May 28, 2025. He and his wife Angie reside in Miami, Florida.

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Tampa, FL 33634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Scottish Rite Bulletin
Volume 48 No. 4
July—August 2025

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IN MEMORIAM

“Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea, but such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound and foam, when that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home. Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark; for tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.” – Tennyson

Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH
06/06/25 age 75
Valrico, FL

Robert W. Goodin, 32°
02/28/25 age 87
Tampa, FL

Jeffery W. Gruber, 32°
05/20/20 age 63
Tampa, FL

Ralph E. Harshbarger, 32°
05/28/17 age 91
Winter Springs, FL

James R. Kidd, 32°
03/26/25 age 86
Apopka, FL

Ronald G. Patton, 32°
03/06/25 age 90
Griggsville, IL

Tomas H. Ratner, 32°
11/15/24 age 85
St. Petersburg, FL

Armond C. Sutherland, 32°
03/22/24 age 96
Winter Haven, FL

William A. Taylor, 32° KCCH
04/05/24 age 81
Las Vegas, NV

James E. Thomas, 32°
01/06/23 age 92
Montverde, FL

Daniel S. Tibbetts, 32°
11/19/24 age 62
Sarasota, FL

James B. Vanders, 32°
12/11/20 age 93
Tampa, FL

William F. Wyllie, 32° KCCH
06/06/25 age 86
Lakeland, FL

Charles Zirpiades, 32°
04/19/24 age 95
West Palm Beach, FL