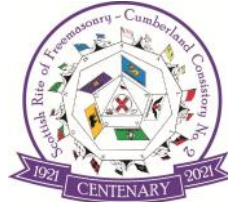


The Perfect Elu

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, S. J.
Valley of Cumberland Orient of Maryland



**Newsletter
Volume 44
Number 2**

Fall 2025

Bro. William Smallwood Firey Celebrates 75 Years of Service to the Scottish Rite

Personal Representative Jamey S. Hill recently paid a visit to Brother William S. Firey to present an award recognizing his 75 years of membership in the Scottish Rite. Brother Firey shared his appreciation for the recognition by his Scottish Rite brethren and that he was blessed to be in such good health and sound mind. His son, Ross, said that Brother Firey has been adamant about his desire to remain a member in good standing. We encourage every member, regardless of their age and level of participation to share their wishes regarding membership in their Blue Lodge and other Masonic bodies with family



members to avoid unwanted breaks in membership.

Valley Calendar of Events	2
Personal Representative's Message "Celebrating Service & Dedication"	3
Spring 2025 Class Photo Spring Ritualistic Champion Fall 2025 Conferral Info	4
Knights of St. Andrew Updates Scottish Rite JROTC Medals	5
Ali Ghan Shriners 100th Anniversary Kirkin' of the Tartans Kid Walk Kid Talk	6
10th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt A Day in the Big Apple—Bus Trip	7
Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Scramble	8
Orient of Maryland Honors Day Fall Capping & Feast of Tishri	9
20th Annual Robert Burns Night	10

Want to receive the Perfect Elu and other updates in your inbox??
Sign up at
www.cumberlandscottishrite.org

Cumberland Scottish Rite meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm. It's YOUR Scottish Rite and we would like to see you there and fellowship with YOUR Brothers,they would like to see you

Valley of Cumberland Holds Ceremony of Lights to Honor Departed Brethren

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite gathered in solemn remembrance for the annual Ceremony of Lights, a moving tribute honoring the memory of Brethren who passed away in 2025. The ceremony reflected the enduring light of fraternity and faith, even in the face of loss. This year's observance paid tribute to six dedicated members of the Valley: Billy B. Bruck, 32°, Darrin M. Hott, 32°, Steven D. Eaton, 32°, Robert E. Engelbach, 32° KCCH, Donald M. Maloof, 32°, and James A. Hott, 32°. The ceremony was led by Wise Master Samuel J. Lane, 33°, with assistance from cast members Robin L. Summerfield, 33°; Mark E. Lathrop, 32°; Timothy E. Friend, 32°; Lawrence P. Hartz, 32°; Mark R. Pelletier, 32°; Stephen J. Gray, 32°; Michael W. Kerns, 32° KCCH; James E. Arnold, 32°; Richard E. Haines, 32°; Secretary-Emeritus Jerome F. Robinette, 33°, and Personal Representative Jamey S. Hill, 33°. Mark Weatherholt, 32° KCCH sang a moving rendition of The Lord's Prayer.



The Valley will continue its commitment to remembrance with the Feast of Tishri, scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., where members who have passed since the April ceremony will be honored. In addition to these annual memorial observances, the Valley ensures that every Brother's legacy endures through the Memorial Patio in front of the Cumberland Masonic Temple, where the names of all departed members are permanently inscribed. The Ceremony of Lights stands as a reminder of the eternal bond of brotherhood and the light that each member brings to the Scottish Rite.

Valley of Cumberland Upcoming Events

Complete Calendar for 2025 at cumberlandscottishrite.org/calendar-2

SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday, September 1	Labor Day – No meeting	
Tuesday, September 2	Visitation to Meyersdale Lodge No. 554	7:00 pm
Saturday, September 13	Kid Walk/Kid Talk – Children's League	10:00 am
Saturday, September 13	Cumberland Heritage Days/Temple Tours	10:00 am
Saturday, September 13	MacMillan Pipe Band Concert	5:00 pm
Monday, September 15	Degree Rehearsal 32 nd Degree (no KSA)	6:30 pm
Monday, September 15	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Sunday, September 21	Degree Rehearsal – 14, 30 & 32 (with KSA)	1:00/2:00/3:00 pm
Monday, September 29	Knights of St. Andrew Business Meeting & Rehearsal	7:30 pm

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday, October 5	Degree Rehearsal – 30 and 32 (with KSA)	1:00/2:00/3:00 pm
Monday, October 6	Degree Rehearsal – 14 th Degree	6:30 pm
Monday, October 6	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Saturday, October 11	Orient of Maryland Honours Day, Baltimore	All Day
Monday, October 20	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Consistory	7:30 pm
Friday, October 24	Setup for Conferral	10:00 am & 5:00 pm
Saturday, October 25	SR 186 th Conferral & Reunion	Registration 7:30 am
	Lodge of Perfection Opens	8:30 am
	Confer 4, 9 (?), 14, 18, 30 & 32 Degrees (One Day Class)	
Monday, October 27	KSA Meeting – Initiation	7:30 pm

NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday, November 1	10 th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt, Addison, PA	All Day
Monday, November 3	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection (8) Nominations for all Bodies 2026	7:30 pm
Saturday, November 8	A Day in the Big Apple—Bus Trip to Support Cumberland Masonic Temple	5:00 am
Monday, November 17	Visitation to Columbia Lodge No. 58	7:30 pm

NOTE: Annual Meeting of Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation To Be Scheduled

Sunday, November 23	Feast of Tishri & Fall Capping (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)	2:00 pm
Monday, November 24	KSA Annual Communication & Festival of St. Andrew	5:30 pm

DECEMBER 2025

Monday, December 1	Lodge of Perfection – Election of Officers Adopt 2026 Consolidated Calendar	7:30 pm
Tuesday, December 2	Scottish Rite Social Club Holiday Party – Stonecroft Manor	6:00 pm
Monday, December 15	Officer Orientation & Installation Rehearsal	6:00 pm

Celebrating Service and Dedication in our Valley

BY: ILL. JAMEY S. HILL, 33°, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SGIG OF MARYLAND



Hail Brethren,

It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Strawberry Night and preparing to “go dark” for the summer. Suddenly, and spectacularly, autumn has arrived and our labors in the quarry of Masonry begin anew. Where does the time go?

As the season turns, the business of our Craft returns in earnest. Preparing for Honors Day is, without a doubt, one of the most challenging tasks for this Personal Representative. So many dedicated men contribute daily to the success of the Valley of Cumberland. I wish we could properly recognize them all, but we cannot. Were we welcoming 50 new members a year, Honors Day would look very different. With our Valley spanning three counties and eleven Blue Lodges across Western Maryland, determining Honors is no simple matter.

Yet, as Masons, we are taught: *“As some must of necessity rule and teach, so others must of course learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty.”* Our duty, Brethren, is to be happy in a Brother’s preferment.

This year, the Valley of Cumberland will proudly recognize the following new Honormen:

- Inspector General Honorary, 33°
 - Hon. Brent Lewis, Garrett County
 - Hon. Mark Weatherholt, Allegany County
- Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH)
 - David Gornall, Allegany County
 - Eugene “Wimp” Holland, Garrett County
 - James B. Kalbflesh, Washington County
 - Mark Lathrop, Allegany County

As Personal Representative, I often find my duties akin to those of a Grand Inspector. In July, I had the distinct honor of visiting Bro. Jim Linaburg of East Gate Lodge on behalf of MWGM Randall L. Watson to present his **Sixty-Year certificate and pin**. Many of you will remember Jim and his late brother Charlie, who together ran C&J Cycle in Cresaptown. As a young man who couldn’t stay out of the carburetor, I can say they both looked after me in more ways than one. Only later did I learn they were Freemasons, men who kept their community together and the young boys out of too much trouble. It was a joy to visit Bro. Jim and see him receive well-deserved recognition after so many years. Moments like these remind us what makes Freemasonry truly worthwhile.

Autumn also brought the opportunity to honor Bro. William Firey with his **Seventy-Five Year membership certificate and plaque**, presented at his home in LaVale. In addition, **Fifty-Year certificates** were recently presented to Bro. Bill Lewis, Bro. George DeHaven, and Dr. Terry Williams. Each was deeply appreciative of the recognition for a life well lived in service to the Craft. (And as for Bro. DeHaven—retirement must be going well; we could hardly catch him at home long enough to accept his award!)

Brethren, our fall calendar is full, and I encourage you to join us for fellowship, recognition, and the continuation of our labors. It remains my great honor to serve as the Valley of Cumberland’s Personal Representative to the SGIG. Truly, I have never served among a finer group of men and women.

Fraternally,
 Jamey S. Hill
 Personal Representative, Valley of Cumberland

Valley of Cumberland Growing in Numbers and Striving for Excellence Fall One-Day Class Set for October 25

The Valley of Cumberland conducted its 185th Conferral and Reunion and presented Scottish Rite rings and prayer caps to eight new members as part of the Spring Convocation. The Spring 2025 Conferral and Reunion were dedicated to Hon. Roger P. Douglas, 32° KCCH, of Friendship Lodge No. 84 who passed away on May 8, 2024.

During the convocation, Richard Haines, 32° was named Ritualistic Champion for Spring 2025 for his outstanding performance in the role of Expert in the 14th Degree. Haines joined the 14th Degree in the Spring of 2023 following the passing of longtime cast member James Snider, 33° and he has worked hard to memorize and perform the part of Expert. The Valley of Cumberland initiated the Ritualistic Champion Award in Fall 2017 as part of the Valley Membership Achievement



Members of the 185th Cumberland Scottish Rite Class with Honormen and Recommenders.
Front Row: Jerome F. Robinette, 33°; Robert A. West, 32°; Gary D. Ziegler, 32°; Richard M. Sine, 32°; Joseph A. Hughes, 32°; and Ed Kave, 32° KCCH.
Back Row: SGIG Marlin L. Mills, 33°; Kodjo C. Agbeckponou, 32°; Gary W. Trail, III, 32°; Matthew V. Palguta, 32°; Marco R. Cardenas Pareja, 32°; and Christopher Y. Dillard, 32°.



Spring 2025 Ritualistic Champion Bro. Richard E. Haines, 32° with his wife Betty.

Program in order to recognize members who achieve excellence in Scottish Rite Ritual. Honorees are selected following each conferral.

The Valley will hold its 186th Conferral and Reunion on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at the Cumberland Masonic Temple beginning with light refreshments at 7:30 am. We look forward to welcoming a new class of members to the Valley. Petitions are available at cumberlandsctishrite.org, in the Temple lobby, or by contacting the Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield at info@cumberlandsctishrite.org or 301-729-2491.

Scottish Rite Petition Now Available Online

Do you know a Master Mason interested in pursuing further light in Masonry? Encourage him to join the Scottish Rite!

All Master Masons who have been found proficient in the catechism of the 3rd Degree are eligible for membership.

Petitions are available in the lobby of the Cumberland Masonic Temple and online at <https://bit.ly/CumberlandSRPetition> or by using the QR code shown here.



Knights of St. Andrew Announces Annual Festival of St. Andrew

The Cumberland Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew welcome Brothers Mark Pelletier, Matthew Hunt, and Gary Trail, III to its ranks at its Spring communication. The

Chapter's Annual Communication is scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:30 pm followed immediately by the annual Festival of St. Andrew, which features a menu of wild game prepared by Knights of the Chapter. The Festival of St. Andrew is a stag event that is free and open to Scottish Rite members and guests. However, the event is limited to thirty attendees and reservations are required.

Registration is available online at cumberlandscothshrite.org.



The Knights of the Chapter are shown here following the initiation of new members Mark Pelletier and Matthew Hunt. Standing L to R: Jamey Hill, Jamie Summerfield, Mark Weatherholt, Sam Lane, Michael Kerns, Pelletier, Chris Ackerman, Venerable Master Brett Bean, Mark Lathrop, Hunt, Dwight Metcalf, Ronald Martin-Minnich, Richard Haines, James Arnold, and Gary Trail. Kneeling: Timothy Friend and Stephen Gray.

Interested in Joining the Ranks of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew?

Membership in the Knights of St. Andrew is open to all 32° Scottish Rite Masons. Knights assist on various committees in the Valley, participate in parades or civic activities, promote fundraising events, and aid in special events. Their flexibility and enthusiasm make the Knights of St. Andrew one of the Valley's most active and desirable organizations. It is an excellent way to nurture and develop future leaders as they learn their organizational and leadership skills, explore the inner structures of their Scottish Rite Centers, and thus gain a deeper admiration for our Order and Brethren who work in Freemasonry as a whole. The next conferral and initiation of new Knights is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Petitions are available in the Temple foyer or can be downloaded online at cumberlandscothshrite.org/ksa-membership.

2025 Scottish Rite JROTC Medal Recipients

The Cumberland Scottish Rite presented the Scottish Rite JROTC Medal to two Garrett County JROTC cadets in 2025. Cadet Lt. Col. Jorjaray Beane of the Southern Garrett High School Rams Squadron and Cadet Col.



Kambria Kyle of the Northern Garrett High School Huskies Squadron each received the medal and certificate along with a small financial award to support their educational pursuits. Cadet Kyle, pictured here with Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield and Venerable Master Jamie Summerfield, reported to the United States Military Academy at West Point in June. She is the first person, male or female, in the history of Northern Garrett to accept an appointment to West Point.

To be eligible to receive the Scottish Rite JROTC Award, the Cadet must have: contributed the most among cadets on campus to encourage and demonstrate Americanism by deeds or conduct during participation in extracurricular activities or community projects; demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class; and demonstrated outstanding leadership by exhibiting qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship, and patriotism.

The Cumberland Scottish Rite is proud to participate in the Scottish Rite JROTC Program for High Schools in partnership with the JROTC program leadership at Northern Garrett High School and Southern Garrett High School. Other high school JROTC programs within the Valley of Cumberland are encouraged to contact Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield at (301) 729-2491.

Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite Congratulates Ali Ghan Shriners on Their 100th Anniversary

The Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite extends its warmest congratulations to the Ali Ghan Shriners as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary in 2025. For a century, the Ali Ghan Shriners have stood as a proud beacon of fellowship, philanthropy, and service in Western Maryland and beyond.

A Century of Celebration

In 2025, Ali Ghan Shriners marked their centennial with a series of memorable events that reflected both their rich history and their ongoing commitment to the community. The festivities included a Centennial Gala at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club, where members, families, and friends gathered to honor the legacy of their fraternity; and a community open house showcasing the history of the Shrine in Allegany County. Special programs and recognition were also given to Past Potentates and longtime members who helped shape the organization across its hundred-year journey.

A Legacy of Achievement

Since its charter in 1925, the Ali Ghan Shrine has played a vital role in the civic and fraternal life of the region. Over the decades, the Shriners have brought joy to families through parades, circuses, and community events, while also raising countless dollars in support of their charitable mission. The club has also served as a gathering place for fellowship, strengthening bonds among Masons and their families across generations.

A Shared Spirit of Brotherhood

The Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite is proud to salute the Ali Ghan Shriners on this momentous milestone. As our fraternal brothers, their century of service reflects the highest ideals of Masonry—charity, fellowship, and commitment to community. We look forward to seeing the Ali Ghan Shriners continue their work for the next hundred years, carrying their bright torch of service into the future.



Ali Ghan Potentate Andrew Cope, 32° with Valley of Cumberland Secretary-Registrar Robin Summerfield.

23rd Annual Kid Walk / Kid Talk

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Allegany County Health Department

Registration 9:30 am

Walk 10:00 am



Join the fun and help support The Children's League!

Register your team - Participate - Support

The walk draws people together in a healthy activity for a worthy cause—raising funds to help support The Children's League free services for children.

Face Painting - Activities - Games - Surprise Guests

Visit with friends from the

Cumberland Police and Fire Department

See the "MRAP" and Firetruck

For Information call The Children's League

301-759-5200



The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew with members of Emmanuel Episcopal Parish at the 2025 Kirkin' of the Tartans. Pictured L to R: Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield, Emmanuel members David Townsend and Bishop In-Residence Rev. Dr. Martin Townsend, SGIG Personal Representative Jamey Hill, and Senior Warden Richard Haines.

10th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt to Support RiteCare

BY: HON. WILLIAM R. ZIMMER HILL, 32° KCCH



On November 1, the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation will host the 10th Annual Masonic bird hunt to benefit four Scottish Rite Children's Speech Language Clinics in Western Maryland and West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

Chip Zimmer, (KCCH), founder of the hunt, explained the thought behind the idea. "We wanted to offer a fun and recreational event that was unique and appealed to a different Masonic audience, while at the same time recognizing our Masonic Heritage (Davy Crockett was a Freemason)."

The first hunt was held in 2017 at Quail Hollow Hunting Preserve in Berkely Springs, WV. In 2022, it was moved to OnPoint Hunting Preserve in Addison, PA. Nearly 100 shooters have joined in the fun and competition. Prizes have ranged. from bottles of Bird Dog Whiskey (The Davy Crockett) Best Shooter Award), to frozen turkeys (Best Team Award) to chicken livers (The Bent Barrel Award). In 2018 Capt. Sydney Church-Stenger (USA) became our first female shooter.

Personal Representative, Jamey Hill, 33° credited Zimmer, "Chip is the reason that we're entering our 10th year. The men liked it and it's a fun way to support the clinics. That we could raise some money toward our Scottish Rite charity made it a perfect combination!" In 9 years, nearly \$10,000 has been raised to support

the Rite Care clinics."

Each group of four or five shooters has a guide, dog, and birds - pheasant, chukar and quail. The cost is \$185, a portion of which is tax deductible. Contact Rob Elliott at 724-984-1484 for details. RSVP at cumberlandscottishrite.org.

All masons and friends are welcome to join in the fun!



A Day in the Big Apple

**"Do Your Own Thing"
Day Trip to New York City**

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Spend 8 exciting hours in the Big Apple—shopping, sightseeing, dining, or simply soaking in the energy of New York City—**your day, your way!**

Coach Bus Departs Cumberland, MD at 5:00 AM
(Returns the same evening)

Price Per Person: \$125
Includes comfortable round-trip transportation only.

Don't miss this chance for a **stress-free, one-day adventure** in America's most iconic city!

Proceeds support The Cumberland Masonic Temple Capital Projects Fund

Reserve your seat today—spaces are limited!

Get your tickets at <https://DayintheBigApple.eventbrite.com>

Or reserve by phone at 301-729-2491



4th Annual
Debbie Friend
Memorial Golf Scramble

Sponsored by The Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation

Oakland Golf Club
Saturday, September 20, 2025
Rain Date Saturday, September 27, 2025
18 Hole Scramble

\$400 per Team (Foursome) or \$100 per Player • Lunch Included
9:00 am Registration • 10:30 am Tee Time

Sponsorship Opportunities

- ♦ Hole Sponsor—\$100
- ♦ Friend of RiteCare—\$250
- ♦ SILVER Sponsor—\$1000 (Includes Team Registration)
- ♦ GOLD Sponsor—\$3000 (Includes Team Registration)
- ♦ PLATINUM Sponsor—\$5000 (Includes Team Registration)

Purchase a Sponsorship or Register a Team Online at
cumberlandsctishrite.org

For more info contact
Jason Finch at 301-616-6500 or Brent Lewis at 301-501-3130

Proceeds Support



cumberlandsctishrite.org

2025 Honors Day Banquet and Bus Transportation Reservations

The Cumberland Scottish Rite has arranged for bus transportation to attend the Maryland Scottish Rite Honors Day on Saturday, October 11, 2025. The bus will depart from the Park & Ride located at Naves Crossroads near I-68 Exit 46 at 9:00 am and return at approximately 10:30 pm.

Reservations are required. The total fee for bus transportation and Honors Banquet is \$105/person payable by cash, check, or credit card on the bus. There is no charge for honoree and one guest. The fee to attend the **OPTIONAL Ladies Program** at the Colonnade Hotel from noon – 2:00 pm is \$30/person. Honoree's Lady—*No Charge*.



Use the QR Code shown here or visit <https://bit.ly/2025honorsdaybus> to RSVP and view the complete schedule for Honors Day. Reservations may also be made by contacting the Valley Secretary at 301-729-2491.

SCAN ME

Fall Capping and Feast of Tishri



The Valley of Cumberland Fall Ring and Capping Presentation and Service Awards will take place on **Sunday, November 23rd at 2:00 pm** followed by the Feast of Tishri at the Cumberland Masonic Temple. All members of the Valley of Cumberland are encouraged to attend to welcome our newest members and their families, celebrate the service of longtime members, and remember those brethren who have passed from our rolls to the celestial lodge above since the spring.

By observing the Feast of Tishri, Scottish Rite Masons share the fraternal spirit and reaffirm our dedication to human concord and the brotherhood of all men. As Brothers, we resolve to build, as King Solomon did, peace for all mankind. We pray blessings upon you and hope to be honored with your presence. We hope all our brethren will try to attend these combined ceremonies to honor our departed brethren, honor the service of our longtime members, and extend a hand of friendship to our newest members.

The Feast of Tishri is free for new members and their presenter, service award honorees, children age 12 and under, and DeMolay members. The cost of dinner is \$15 for all other attendees. RSVP online at cumberlandsctishrite.org or by completing and returning the registration form below.

Fall Capping and Feast of Tishri Dinner Reservation

Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 2:00 pm - Masonic Temple, Greene Street

>>NOTE CHANGE OF DATE<<

Complete and return the form below with payment to:

Cumberland Scottish Rite, 15 Greene Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

Tickets available online at cumberlandsctishrite.org

Name / Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ # Tickets @ \$15.00/person _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

Cumberland Scottish Rite Bodies
15 Greene Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cumberland, MD
Permit #932



The 20th Annual Robert Burns Night

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Masonic Temple

Greene Street, Cumberland

Featuring
Traditional Scottish Fare, Toasts, and Music

Ticket Sales begin September 25, 2025 at cumberlandscottishrite.org