

Sir Knight Dale A. Olson
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Dale Allen Olson was born in Wheeling WV on June 22nd, 1958, to Jacqueline Rose and Samuel Nelson Olson. He is a native of Benwood, WV. He graduated from John Marshall High School in 1976 and West Virginia University in 1980. Dale attended West Virginia University on an AFROTC Pilot academic scholarship. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from WVU, and a Master of Business Administration in Strategic Leadership. He served as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1980 until 2009 and retired with over 28 years of service in the USAF, West Virginia Air National Guard and USAF Reserves. During his time in the military, he served as a pilot, Instructor pilot and simulator instructor/evaluator in multiple aircraft including the T-37, T-38, T-41, and numerous versions of the C-130 to include the HC, MC and JC-130. His primary duties while on active duty were as an instructor pilot in Combat Search and Rescue and Special Operations.

Dale is a graduate of the USAF Instructor Pilot School, Squadron Officers College, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the National Search and Rescue School. He holds over twenty-five military awards and decorations as well as the Charles M. Holland Leadership Trophy and the Society of American Military Engineers academic medal.

He and his HC-130 crew were on scene the day of the Challenger explosion and flew multiple sorties in support of the Search and Rescue operation. Dale and his crew were recognized for their efforts by NASA Administrator James Fletcher and Associate Administrator for Space Flight Richard Truly. They also received the Meritorious Service ribbon from the United States Coast Guard for their actions during the mission.

Dale is a retired Delta Airlines Captain. He joined Delta in March of 1989 and retired as a Captain in September of 2020 in his 32nd year of service to Delta. He holds Captains Type Ratings in the L-382, B-737, 757, 767 and 777. He has accumulated 22,000 flying hours in twenty-five types of fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

Since April of 2017 Dale has been serving as an adjunct professor of Aerospace Engineering in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at his Alma Mater, West Virginia University. He teaches MEA 370, Aviation Ground School. MAE 370 is a preparation course for the FAA private Pilot's examination.

Dale is married to the former Ms. Diana Bishop of Brooklyn, NY. Dale and Diana have been married for over 36 years and they have one son, Alan, who resides in Wheeling WV. Alan was the inspection candidate for Dale's Blue Lodge inspection in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Dale loves music and is an accomplished musician in both voice and trumpet. He was selected as a two time All-State, All-American and WV state champion musician. He still serves as a volunteer bugle and trumpet player participating in both Bugles Across America and Taps Across America. Both of these organizations provide musicians to play "Taps" at veterans funerals. He was also a member of the Valley of Cincinnati Cathedral Choir for 10 years.

Dale has been flying for over four decades and still enjoys flying as a member of the West Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. He serves as a Cadet Orientation Pilot, AFROTC Cadet Orientation Pilot and a Mission pilot. In addition to his flying duties, he serves as the Deputy Commander for Cadets in the Wheeling Composite Squadron.

Sir Knight Olson was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in July 2006 in JB Covert Lodge # 437. He served the lodge in every officer position until being elected and installed as Worshipful Master in 2014.

His Other Masonic affiliations include York Rite memberships, where he is a Past High Priest of Batavia Chapter # 112, Past Illustrious Master of John H. Campbell Council #147, and Past Commander of Covert Commandery # 43. He is a member of Ohio Priory #18, Past Governor of Miami Valley York Rite College #193, St. Columban Conclave Red Cross of Constantine, Allied Masonic Degrees, and St Thomas of Acon.

He is a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Cincinnati and served in the officer line of Dalcho Council Princes of Jerusalem.

SK Olson's Masonic honors and awards include:

JB Covert # 437 Mason of the Year

6th Masonic District Worshipful Master of the Year.

1st Masonic District Ritual Award

4th Capitular District RAM of Ohio High Priest of the Year

4th Capitular District RAM of Ohio District Education Officer

4th Capitular District RAM of Ohio Workhorse Award

Grand High Priest Award

Grand High Priest Ritual Award

3rd Division CTA Sir Knight of the Year

Grand Commandery of Ohio Ritual Competition Award

Knight of the York Grand Cross of Honour, one quadrant

Knight Commander of the Temple

Order of the Purple Cross

DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor

Sir Knight Olson served as a Grand Aide to SK Thomas Gault in 2014. He served as 3rd Division Commander from 2017-2019. He was appointed Grand Standard Bearer by REGC Ronald L Vicars in 2016. He was elected Grand Junior Warden in 2017, Grand Senior Warden in 2018, Grand Captain General in 2019, Grand Generalissimo in 2020 and as Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander in 2021. SK Olson was installed as Right Eminent Grand Commander at the Grand Commandery Conclave in Sandusky Ohio on October 8th, 2022.