



**TAU TIMES**  
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**A PUBLICATION OF THE  
GRAND ROYAL ARCH  
CHAPTER OF THE STATE OF  
ILLINOIS**

## Steaks, Service, and Steve's Signature Sizzle!



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Grand Chapter conducted a Steak Fry for the RAMCF held at Villa Park Lodge. With over 60 attendees, the RAMCF was able to raise over \$1,000 for the cause! The steaks and sides were delicious!



# Steak Fry Cont'd

Although this event was certainly a team event, there are definitely some specific “thank-you’s” that should be given. Firstly, Villa Park Lodge deserves its praise for supplying us with the venue.

DDGHP Steve Devries and Comp. Chris Nygren of Keystone Chapter for being our “head chefs” for the night. With Special guest Sous Chef E. Comp Tommy Boyle! EGRAC Marty Kwilosz was instrumental in the coordination of this event. We also appreciate EGM3V Dustin Rees for driving all over Villa Park for last minute supplies in his awesome red jacket.

Also, we would like to extend a huge shoutout to Top Fuel Saloon of Braidwood for donating a keg of their very own “Lug Wrench Lager!” The keg was tenderly couriered by our very own EGPS Isaac Orr. It was the perfect refreshment to pair with this amazing fellowship.

Also a special thanks to MEGHP Danny Gaddis who stepped in on several roles like registration to give the volunteers breaks to enjoy their own steak meals and spend times with their families who came to support.





# EDUCATION CORNER

In... RA. and Mark rituals...the Candidate is made to cross a bridge, generally of a shaky and decrepit condition. We are reminded in L.C. Wimber's ***Folk Lore in the English and Scottish Ballads*** that the symbolism of crossing the bridge goes back into the ancient mysteries. The Mohammedans held that the road to Paradise included a bridge laid over the midst of Hell, a bridge finer than a hair and sharper than the edge of a sword and beset with briars and hooked thorns which would offer no impediment to the good but would entangle the wicked, who, missing their footing, would fall headlong into Hell. The Magi, a priestly caste of the Medes and Persians, taught that, on the last day, all mankind will be obliged to pass a straight bridge in the midst of which will be angels who will require of every one a strict account of his actions, while the Jews speak of the Bridge of Hell, no broader than a thread, from which the idolaters will fall into perdition. Folklore contains many references to such bridges.

Freemasons' Book of the Royal Arch

Bernard E. Jones





## ***CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT***

### ***Fox River Chapter No. 14 – Royal Arch Masons of Geneva, IL***

Fox River Chapter No. 14 in Geneva, Illinois is a vibrant and active group within Royal Arch Masonry, committed to strengthening its membership through community outreach and meaningful engagement. A proud tradition of the Chapter is its annual donation to the Geneva School District, helping provide essential supplies for students in need. They also sponsor a scholarship program for local high school seniors, rewarding students who demonstrate strong community involvement. When they're not making a positive impact in local education, the Companions of Chapter 14 enjoy camaraderie through unique outings—like their annual trip to the Turkey Testicle Festival in Huntley, IL, held the day before Thanksgiving. (Yes, that's a real event—and if you're interested, they've got room in the car for next year!)

Fox River Chapter No. 14 combines service, tradition, and good humor—true to the spirit of Royal Arch Masonry.

# ***Why We Celebrate Memorial Day***

Each year on the last Monday of May, Americans pause to honor the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Memorial Day is more than just the unofficial start of summer—it is a solemn day of remembrance, rooted in deep respect for those who gave their lives so that we may continue to live in freedom. From the fields of Gettysburg to the sands of Iwo Jima, from Korea to the mountains of Afghanistan, we remember the courage and devotion of those who stood in defense of our country.

Originally known as Decoration Day following the Civil War, this sacred tradition began as a way for communities to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers, flags, and tributes. Over time, it has grown into a national observance, uniting Americans across all walks of life in gratitude for those who laid down their lives for the cause of liberty. It is a time for us to reflect not only on their sacrifice but also on the values they fought to protect—freedom, unity, and justice for all.

As Royal Arch Masons and as proud Americans, let us take this opportunity to remember our fallen heroes with reverence and dignity. May we honor their memory by living lives of service, standing firm in our principles, and cherishing the blessings of liberty that their sacrifices have secured. On this Memorial Day, we bow our heads in humble thanks and raise our flags in proud remembrance.





**PHOTOS FROM LINCOLN PARK CHAPTER NO.  
177'S RECENT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS  
WHICH TOOK PLACE AFTER  
THEIR ANNUAL MEETING WITH  
MEGHP DANNY GADDIS AS THE INSTALLING  
OFFICER!**





**ILLINOIS YORK RITE  
GRAND SESSIONS  
JULY 17–19, 2025  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois Convocation**

*Companion Danny L. Gaddis, Most Excellent Grand High Priest*  
Thursday, July 17, 2025

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Illinois Assembly**

*Companion Billy J. McIntyre, Most Illustrious Grand Master*  
Friday, July 18, 2025

**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois Conclave**

*Sir Knight Jamie A. Emery, KTCH., Right Eminent Grand Commander*  
Saturday, July 19, 2025

**Knight of the York Cross of Honour, Priory No. 11**

*Knight Benjamin R. Gates, Eminent Prior*  
Saturday, July 29, 2025

All room reservations for the  
Abraham Lincoln Hotel, a Double Tree by Hilton, 701 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL

Must be made online using the following link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/2025grandyorkritesession/>

**Group Rate: \$125.00 plus tax**

**Discount Code is GYR**

Room Reservation Deadline: July 1, 2025

(after this date, rooms revert to standard/public rates)

# Upcoming Events

- 7/16–7/19 – York Rite Grand Sessions
  - Abraham Lincoln Springfield Hotel

## HAVE A NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION?

Write an email to [IOrr@ram-il.org](mailto:IOrr@ram-il.org) and [MKwilosz@ram-il.org](mailto:MKwilosz@ram-il.org) with your suggestion and we will work it into our future newsletters!