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**SIR KNIGHT RUSSELL W. SANDERS PASSES AWAY**



Sir Knight Russell Winston Sanders, 88, died March 9, 2013 at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center in Palmer due to complications of a stroke.

A Masonic Service was held at 6pm on Friday, March 22, 2013 at Alaskan Heritage Memorial Chapel, 1015 Check St. in Wasilla. His ashes will be scattered on Pioneer Peak.

Russell was born August 21, 1924 in Camilla, GA. He served in the US Army from December 1940 - October 1944. He retired from the Civil Service. He was honored by the Alaska State Legislature on April 10, 2010 for his volunteerism.

Russell was a wonderful friend to anyone in need. He gave all he had to anyone who needed him; from his work with the Shriners and the Masons to the stranger on the street whom he thought might be in need. He helped many people; too numerous to list.

He was a loving husband to his wife of 23 years and was a wonderful caretaker and provider. Russell loved with his whole heart. He will be truly missed by his family and many friends. He was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, active member of the Scottish Rite, Charter member of Mat-Su Valley York Rite Masons, and Noble of Al Aska Shriners. He was a past Master of Matanuska Lodge #7, F & AM as well as a past Worthy Patron of the Order of Eastern Star.

Russell enjoyed fishing and many other outdoor activities. He will probably be most remembered for his never ending desire to be wherever needed to help get things done

Russell is survived by his wife Bette Stratton of Palmer; step mother Carlene Sanders of Wasilla; sisters Marjorie Hubbard & family of Palmer, Tanya Kotrys & family of Sun City, Arizona; step sisters Linda Morey of Casa Grande, Arizona, Juanita Hembree of Kansas; step brother Larry Hembree of Anchorage; and step daughter Linda Terry of Eagle River; and numerous nieces and nephews & great nieces & nephews.

Preceded in death by mother Annie Bell Palmer; father James C. Sanders; brothers Eddie Sanders; James T. Sanders; sisters Gloria Hughes and Eugenia Sanders. Arrangements were with Alaskan Heritage Memorial Chapel & Crematory

I would like to encourage all Sir Knights to submit articles, letters, pictures, or comments for inclusion in this supplement. Articles need to be submitted to me by the 25th of the month for the next issue (May25th for July issue).

**2013 ALASKA GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS**

The Alaska Grand York Rite Sessions were held in Fairbanks during an amazing period of beautiful Alaskan winter/early spring weather. Mother Nature smiled upon the event and provided balmy temperatures with one day even reaching 31 degrees. The Sessions were hosted by the Fairbanks Masons in their nice new Masonic Temple located at the corner of 8th and Noble Streets.

Sessions were attended by many visiting dignitaries from outside our state. Sir Knight Steven L. Guffy, Right Eminent Northwest Department Commander represented the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America; Sir Knight Milton "Sid" Roberts, Right Puissant Deputy General Grand Master and Sir Knight Bryan Bechler, Northwest Deputy General Grand Master represented the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International.

SK Lee O. Seagondollar, Right Eminent Grand Commander, delivered his allocution and thanked the many members of the Grand Commandery who assisted him in representing the state of Alaska in other jurisdictions when he himself was not able to travel because of unforeseen family concerns.

The Conclave was a great success largely due to the efforts of SK Johnny Johnson who made the arrangements for the meals, hotel and use of the Temple.

The following new Grand Commandery Officers were elected and appointed:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| SK Johnnie L. Wallace    | Right Eminent Grand Commander       |
| SK David Worel           | Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander |
| SK Alvin S. Kelley       | Eminent Grand Generalissimo         |
| SK Dennis N. Oakland     | Eminent Grand Captain General       |
| SK David A. Hunt         | Eminent Grand Recorder/Treasurer    |
| SK Dale S. Cain          | Eminent Grand Prelate               |
| SK Steven Steele         | Eminent Grand Senior Warden         |
| SK Theodore Hutchinson   | Eminent Grand Junior Warden         |
| SK Jack R. Newell        | Eminent Grand Standard Bearer       |
| SK Jimmie R. McGoldrick  | Eminent Grand Sword Bearer          |
| SK Monte Ervin           | Eminent Grand Warder                |
| SK Mitchell L. Coulthard | Eminent Grand Sentinel              |