

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gordon Kent Elkins was born November 27, 1943, in Greenville, South Carolina, one of three children of the late Addie W. Elkins and Earl K. Elkins. He attended public school in Greenville and was graduated from Greenville Senior High School. He attended the University of South Carolina for one year and transferred his studies to Furman University in Greenville. He attended night classes while working as a Trainee with the South Carolina National Bank. He entered the United States Army in 1965 and graduated from the United States Army Finance School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana. Kent served with the Thirteenth Army Finance Disbursement Section in Qui Nhon, Vietnam in 1966 and completed his service career in January 1968, after serving with the Finance Company at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington.

Kent is married to the former Linda Carole Galway of Greenville, South Carolina. They have two children, Leslie Anne Elkins/Buss of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Brian Kent of Florence, South Carolina. Kent and Linda are members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Greenville where Kent has served as Secretary of the Board of Deacons and a member of the Usher Committee.

In 1968, Kent entered the insurance business in Greenville as an independent agent with the James H. Woodside Company. He graduated from the Maryland Insurance School in 1969 and completed the course of study with the Insurance Institute of America in 1976. In 1978, Kent joined the Shelby Mutual Insurance Company and held the position of Field Marketing Manager in South Carolina. In 1984, after completing the course of study and successfully passing the required examinations, he obtained the professional designation of CIC and became a member of the National Society of Certified Insurance Counselors. In 1986, Kent became associated with the American Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Charleston, SC, as a marketing representative. In 1989, after Hurricane Hugo, this company was forced to sell and Kent joined Nobel Insurance Company of Columbia, SC. In January 2000, Kent started Keystone Insurance Services and performs property inspections and audits for several insurance companies throughout the Southeast.

A charter member of the Golden Strip Sertoma Club, Kent served as club Secretary for one year during which time he received the club's GEM award for work within the organization. In 1977, he was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Wade Hampton-Taylor's Jaycees for service to his community and fellowmen.

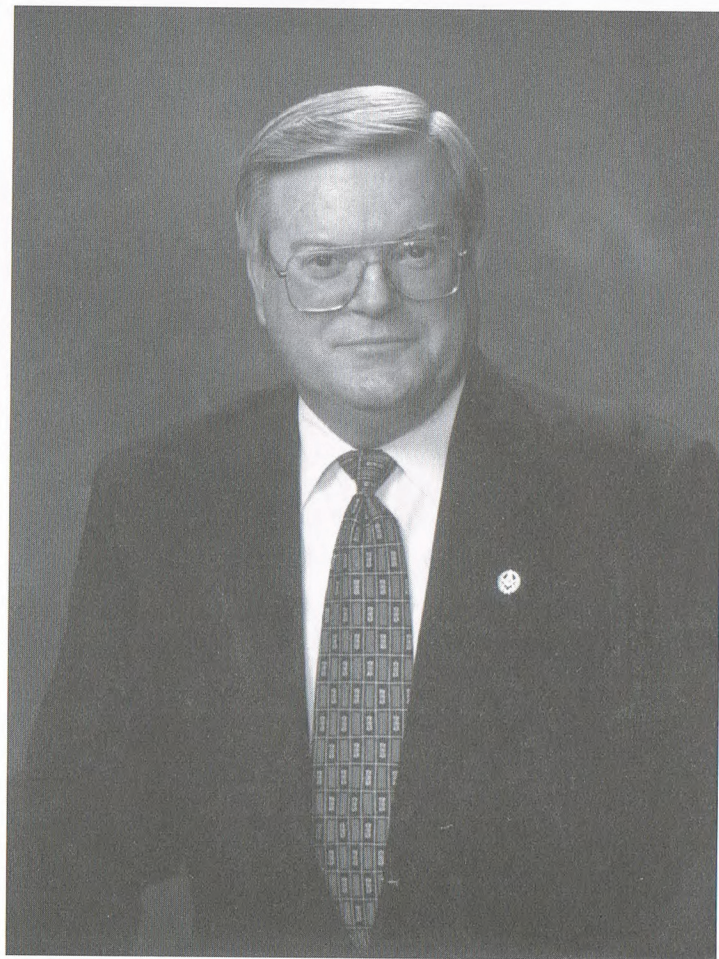
Kent was raised a Master Mason on November 28, 1968 in Walden Lodge Number 274, Greenville, SC and served as Worshipful Master in 1975 and 1997. Kent is currently serving Walden Lodge as Tiler. He was appointed Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in 1979 and District Deputy Grand Master for the 18th District in 1982-83. In 1997 Kent was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of AFM in SC. In 1998 he was elected Senior Grand Warden, and was elected Deputy Grand Master in 1999. In April of 2001, Kent was honored by the Craft in SC by being elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons in South Carolina, the highest office within this Grand Jurisdiction.

He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Cyrus Chapter Number 22, in Greenville in October 1971 serving as High Priest in 1977. He served as District Deputy Grand High Priest, 3rd District, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of SC in 1978-79, and served as Grand Master of the 3rd Veil in 1981-82. In 1982 he was elected Grand Scribe, Grand King in 1983, Deputy Grand High Priest in 1984, and Most Excellent Grand High Priest in 1985.

In October 1971, he was greeted as A Select Master in Alpha Council Number 10, Greenville, and served as Illustrious Master in 1977. Kent is also a recipient of the Adult Leadership Award of the General Grand Council Of Cryptic Masons International.

Kent was dubbed and created a Knight Templar in Greenville Commandery Number 4 on October 25, 1971, and elected Eminent Commander in 1977. He served the Grand Commandery of SC as Grand Warder in 1979.

Kent was initiated into the Order of DeMolay in 1959. After serving as Master Counselor of Greenville Chapter he held the office State Master Counselor of the Palmetto DeMolay Association in 1963. He earned the Representative DeMolay Designation, the Degree of



**G. KENT ELKINS**  
*Grand Master*

Chevalier, and the Distinguished Service Award. In 1974, he was awarded the Active DeMolay Legion of Honor and in 1977, the Cross of Honor. In 1978, he was elected State Dad of the Palmetto DeMolay Association and was awarded the Guild of the Leather Apron. Kent has served as Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Greenville Chapter Order of DeMolay and as a member of the Greenville Assembly of the Order of Rainbow for Girls. Kent has also served as Dean of the South Carolina Legion of Honor Preceptory. The Palmetto DeMolay Association has instituted the G. Kent Elkins Distinguished Service Award for Senior DeMolays who remain active in the Order. Kent has also been elected as an Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. Kent is very proud of the fact that his son Brian also served DeMolay as State Master Counselor and his daughter Leslie was the Chapter Sweetheart of the Greenville Chapter. His wife, Linda, was also a member of the Greenville Assembly of Rainbow for Girls.

Kent is a member of the Greenville Scottish Rite Bodies and serves on the Board of Directors of the Scottish Rite Foundation of S. C., Inc. Kent is active in the ritualistic work of the Scottish Rite and has been coroneted a 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Other Honors and Masonic Affiliations:

1. Past Knight Crusader of the East - Knight Crusaders of the Cross of S.C.
2. Past Most Excellent President - Grand Convention of Anointed High Priests of S.C.
3. Past Excellent Chief - S.C. Council #20, Knight Masons
4. Life Sponsor of the Royal Arch Research Assistance Program
5. Past Chairman of Royal Arch Research Assistance for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in S.C.
6. Life Sponsor Knight Templar Eye Foundation
7. Past Grand Steward and Past Grand Priest of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America and current Grand Director of Ceremonies.
8. Past Very Eminent Preceptor- Cana Tabernacle No.XLIX. Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.
9. Puissant Sovereign of Carolina Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders.
10. Member of Hejaz Temple. AAONMS
11. Past Director of Hejaz Ritualistic Divan
12. Member of Hejaz Past Masters Unit
13. Honorary Member: Recovery Lodge # 31, Greenville; Cowpens Lodge #210, Cowpens, S.C.; Inman Lodge #201, Inman, SC; Taylors Lodge #345, Taylors, S.C., Williamston Lodge #24, Williamston, SC; Clinton Lodge #3, Abbeville, Council #166, Allied Masonic Degrees
14. Charter Secretary and Past Installed Sovereign of Joel R. Poinsett
15. Member of Charleston Chapter #28, National Sojourners
16. Member of Moultrie Camp #28, Heroes of '76. Charleston
17. Member of Monaghan-Poinsettia Court #17, Order of the Amaranth
18. Member of South Carolina Masonic Research Society
19. Member of the Scottish Rite Masonic Research Society
20. Received the Red Branch of Eri from Grand Council Allied Masonic
21. Past Chairman of the Board: Greenville Masonic Temple Company Degrees and currently serving as Temple Building Manager, Past Secretary of Greenville Masonic Temple Company
22. Chief Adept, IX of the South Carolina Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis
23. Past Grand Governor of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in SC
24. Recipient of the Order of the Purple Cross, York Rite Sovereign College of North America
25. Received the Knight York Cross of Honor and the Knight York Grand Cross of Honor
26. Knight Commander of the Temple, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America
27. Past President of the Past Masters Club. 18th Masonic District
28. Past Sovereign of Piedmont York Rite College
29. Member of the Royal Order of Scotland
30. Grand Masters Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner
31. Order of the Secret Monitor
32. Order of Knight of Constantinople
33. Order of Excellent Master
34. Grand Representative to the United Grand Lodge of England

## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

*Two Hundred Sixty-Fifth Annual  
Communication*

OF THE

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free Masons  
of South Carolina  
**GREENVILLE**

April 25 and 26, A.L. 6002, A.D. 2002

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PRESIDING

M.W. BRO. G. KENT ELKINS  
Grand Master

ELECTED

M.W. BRO. G. KENT ELKINS, Grand Master  
Greenville

M.W. BRO. G. RAY MARSH, P.G.M., Grand Secretary  
Columbia

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