

# Joel David Ratliff, Sr.

## Biography

Sir Knight Joel David Ratliff, Sr., was born in Dallas Texas on November 15. He was the older of two children of Ruth Spillman and Marshall Ratliff. He graduated from Bryan Adams High School in 1969 and after graduation was selected as the first Dallas Police Cadet for the Dallas Police Department. He graduated from the Dallas Police Academy in 1971 and worked for the Dallas Police department as a patrolman.

Sir Knight Ratliff, Sr. enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1973 and served in law enforcement as a Security Policeman retiring after 20 years. His worldwide assignments included Air Force Bases in Florida, England, Greece, Turkey, Thailand, and Washington DC. He attended El Centro College, Texas Christian College and University of Maryland overseas accumulating over 110 credit hours in Criminal Justice and American History. He also worked as a personal security guard for the director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Star Wars Project. The final assignment of his career was on the security team for Air Force One. After his career in the Air Force he worked for the US Postal Service retiring after 13 years.

Sir Knight Ratliff was made a master mason at Oxon Hill Lodge No. 231, Maryland, on October 28th 1985. His father who was a member of Gibraltar No. 1179, Dallas Texas, raised him to the sublime degree of master mason. He was exalted in Hiram Chapter No. 45, Royal Arch Masons, Front Royal Virginia. He was Knighted August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in Winchester Commandery No. 12, Winchester, Virginia. He served as Worshipful Master in 2009 receiving the Outstanding Worshipful Master award. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 2013, where he also received the Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master Award from the Grand Master. Sir Knight Ratliff, served as High Priest of his Chapter a total of five years. He was also the District Deputy Grand High Priest in 2010 and Worshipful Master of Virginia Research Lodge 1777. In 2015 he served as Eminent Commander of Winchester No. 12 and District Deputy Grand Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Chivalric District in 2009.

He is a member of numerous lodges in Virginia, Maryland and Texas. He is a life member of Almas Shrine in Washington, DC., a charter member of Widows Son R.A. Brazen Pillar Chapter and holds numerous awards and recognition from several Masonic bodies, to include, Knight Commander of the Temple, Demolay Legion of Honor, Daniel Carter Beard Award, Knight York Cross of Honor, Order of the Purple Cross, Samsar Jewel Award (Shrine), Knight Commander Court of Honor (Scottish Rite)

He is married to the former Sandra Jean West. They have a blended family of three daughters and four sons (two Master Masons) and two grandsons and three granddaughters.



# Joel David Ratliff, Sr.

## Masonic Affiliations and Résumé

- Unity Masonic Lodge No. 146 Front Royal Virginia, *Life Member, Worshipful Master 2009*,
- Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg Virginia, *Life Member*
- Spurmont Lodge No.98, Strasburg VA. , *Life Member«AddressBlock»*
- Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, Houston Texas, *Life Member*
- Scottish Rite 32°, Valley of Alexandria Virginia, *Life Member, Unity Lodge Representative*
- Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club, *President- 2008-09*
- Scottish Rite 32°, Valley of Martinsburg, West Virginia, *Life Member (Venerable Master 2012)(Commander of Kadosh 2015 &16)*
- George Washington Assemblage, (Operatives) Deputy “J”, 2015
- Bull Run Quarry Assemblage (Ancient Order of Operative Masons) VI°, Charter Founder, *Founding Clerk, Member*
- Almas Shrine, Washington, D.C., *Life Member*
- Shrine Club, Winchester, Virginia (KENA), (*Elected Vice president 2012.2013. 2014*) *Hospital Transportation Driver* ,Almas Shrine
- Hillbilly Clan No. 133, *Life Member*
- Kosar Shrine, (Louisville KY) *Honorary Member*
- Dr. John Coats Memorial Lodge No.1787, Maryland, *Charter Life Member* (G.L. of MD.)
- Bonnie Blink Daylight Lodge No.1, Maryland, (G.L. of MD.), *Member*
- International Demolay Alumni Assn. Joined Dallas Texas 1963 *Senior Demolay-11/12/92-#E15210, Life Member*
- Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865, Virginia, (various officer positions) (*Charter Founding Life Member*)
- Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777, *Life Member (Elected Junior Deacon. 2013-2014. W.M. 2015-16)*
- Order of the Eastern Star, Front Royal Virginia *Worthy Patron*, 2006-2007,2013-2014, 2010-2011, 2015-16 *Associate Patron* 2011-2013,2014-15
- Scottish Rite Research Society, *Life Member*
- Sword of Bunker Hill, *Life Member* (Falls of the Ohio No.111)
- Order of Old Saratoga, Virginia Council, *Life Member*
- George Washington Masonic Stamp Club, *Life Member*
- Knights Templar, Winchester Commandery No.12, *Commander*, 2006-2007 *D.D.G.C.* 2009-10 Winchester, Virginia, *Life Member*
- Knights Templar, Luray Commandery No.19, Luray, Virginia, *Life Member Commander* 2008-09
- Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, Virginia Chapter, *Elected officer* 2013, (Progressive Line), *Life Member*
- Royal Arch, Hiram No. 45, Front Royal, Virginia, *High Priest* 2006, 07, 08, 09 (*D.D.G.H.P.* 2010-2012) *Life Member*
- Royal Arch, John Dove No. 21 Winchester Virginia, *Past Officer. Treasurer*, 2008-10
- Cryptic Masons, Triangle Council No. 3, Washington, D.C., *Life Member*
- York Rite College No. 161, *Life Member (Preeminent Governor* 2010-2011)
- Royal Order of Scotland, *Life Member*
- Allied Masonic Degrees, Martinsburg Council No. 359 *Sovereign Master* 2010-2011
- Allied Masonic Degrees, Hartley Carmichael Council No.3 *Sovereign Master* 2010-2011
- Grand College of Rites, *Life Member*
- The Commemorative Order of Saint Thomas of Acon, Mountaineer Chapel No. 57, Morgantown, West Virginia, *Elected and Installed Worthy Master 2014-15. Charter Founding Member*

- Knight Masons, Virginia Council No. 12, *Life Member*
- Knight Masons, Rock of Cashel No. 100 (Virginia) *Elected and Installed Excellent Chief, 2011-12 Charter founding Life Member*
- Knight Masons, Ray Wesley Burgess No.103, and (Louisiana) *Charter founding Honorary life Member*
- Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London England, *Corresponding Member*
- National Sojourners Shenandoah Chapter No. 543, *2009-2013-Secretary (President 2009-10) Life Member*
- Heroes of '76, *Commander 2011-2015*, Carl L. Sitter Camp, Front Royal, VA. *Life Member*
- Knights of York Cross of Honor, (K.Y.C.H.) Rose of Sharon, Priory No. II, *Life Member*
- Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Nova Vita Tabernacle No. LXXIII, *elected officer, progressive line.*
- Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, Saint Polycarp Conclave, *elected officer*
- Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Shenandoah Forest No.150, Martinsburg, W.V., *Member*
- The Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas (Court Master Mason), Radlett, Hertfordshire, England (Province of Hwicce), 2010(*Charter Founding Member for the U.S.A.*)
- Masonic Order of Athelstan, 'Susquehanna Court' No. 74, PA. *Charter Founding Officer.-*
- Masonic Order of Athelstan, 'Duke of Cumberland Court' No. 101, VA. *Charter Founding Officer, Founding Secretary*
- National Association of Masonic Scouters, *Life member*
- Order of the Scarlet Cord (*Presidents Order*) *Cast Member*
- Masonic Order of the Bath, *Life Member*
- Masonic Order of the Corks, *Life Member*
- Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm (M.O.V.P.E.R.), Kallipolis Grotto, Washington, D.C. *Elected Committee Member, Inner Guard, Life Member*
- Royal Ark Mariners, Two- By -Two Lodge No. 15, Moored at Dover Delaware *Life Member ( Only existing Lodge in U.S.)*
- Masonic Society, *Member*
- Grand Commandery of West Virginia, *Honorary Member, 2014*
- Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis (S.R.I.C.F.) Virginia College, IV° *2014*
- Virginia Knight Templar Research Priory No. 1823, *Founding Member*

### \*\*Masonic Honors\*\*

#### \*International Order of DeMolay

- "DeMolay Legion of Honor" Award, (Active Member, Virginia) July 11 , 2015

#### \*Symbolic Lodge

- "Outstanding Worshipful Master Award" From the Grand Lodge of Virginia, November 2009
- "Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master Award" From the Grand Lodge of Virginia 2013
- "Noah J. Hillman Award" For Outstanding Masonic Lodge, from the Grand Lodge of Virginia, November 2009
- "Levy Award 2009"Grand Lodge Blood donor Program
- "Past Master Certificate" Unity Lodge No. 146, December 2009

- Grand Lodge of Virginia, *District 3 Blood Coordinator 2010-2012*
- Unity Lodge No. 146, *Lodge Blood Coordinator 2009- 2012*
- Grand Lodge of Virginia, *Elected District Deputy Grand Master, 3<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District for 2012-13*
- Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Boy Scouts of America) *Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award, 2010*
- Grand Lodge of Maryland, *“Gold Solomon’s Builder Award’* (Over 21 first-line Symbolic Lodge Petitions signed, to include 3, who later became Master of their Lodge) 1985-1991
- Unity Lodge No. 146 *“Certificate of Appreciation”- 2008, Chairman Widows Committee, Membership Committee*
- Grand Lodge of Virginia *“Citation of Achievement” Courses I-II-III*
- Grand Lodge of Virginia Appointment. *“The Grand Representative of Virginia to the United Grand Lodge of Germany” December 2013*

### **\*Knights Templar**

Grand Warder, Elected by Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2011

Grand Sword Bearer, Elected by Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2012

Grand Standard Bearer, Elected By Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2013

Grand Senior Warden, Elected By Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2014

Grand Captain General, Elected By Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2015

Grand Generalissimo, Elected by Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2016

Deputy Grand Commander, Elected 2017

Grand Commander, Elected 2018

Grand Sentinel, Appointed by Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2008

District Deputy Grand Commander, 4<sup>th</sup> Chivalric District, 2009-10 Grand Commandery of Virginia

Chairman, Membership Committee, Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2010

Chairman, Grand Commandery of Virginia Templar History Committee, 2008

Member, Drill Team Committee, Grand Commandery of Virginia, 2011

- *“Crusading Knight of Siloam”* award, Grand Commandery of Virginia 2007
- *‘Grand Masters Club’*, Knight Templar Eye Foundation (over \$1,000 donation to the Knight Templar eye Foundation, Grand Encampment Jewel)

- 'Baldwin- Brown', Pin + one Diamond (\$350 donation)
- Scarlet Recruitment Shoulder Cord (over 15 first line signers)
- Grand Encampment, Grand Masters Award "Pro Merito" (Medal) 2011
- Grand Encampment, Knight Commander of the Temple (K.C.T.) Medal 2014

Grand Commandery of Virginia Appointment, "Grand Representative of Virginia to the Grand Commandery of New Mexico" 2009

Commander, Winchester No. 12 Commandery, 2006

- Wooding Trophy, Harris Trophy, and Pamplin Trophy
- Ivan Clayton "Pat" Myers Award, Magna Cum Laude, 2006

Commander, Luray No. 19 Commandery, 2008

- Ivan Clayton "Pat" Myers Award, Cum Laude 2008,
- "Achievement Award" Grand Commandery of Virginia- 2009
- Grand Commandery of Virginia Leadership Courses I-II

### \*Royal Arch

Hiram Chapter No. 45 High Priest 2005-2009

- "Robert Claiborne Wilson Award" 2009 Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia
- District Deputy Grand High Priest, 15<sup>th</sup> Capitular District, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia 2010-2011
- Grand Line Grand Senior Steward, Appointee 2011-2012
- Grand Line Grand Junior Steward, Appointee 2014-2015
- Grand Chapter Citation of Achievement- Leadership Program
- Grand Chapter Appointment, "The Grand Representative of Virginia to the Grand Chapter of Vermont" 2013
- Grand High Priest Appointment- Chairman, Grand Chapter Committee on Stewards and Arrangements (2013)
- Grand Chapter, "Super Excellent Master Degree" Cast member, Annually at Grand Chapter convocation

### \*York Rite College of North America

Past Governor 2010-2011, While Governor, Spencer Award College Nomination, 119 Points (Highest score in Colleges History) Awarded "Honor College" By the Sovereign York Rite College of North America, also awarded the "Edward R. Saunders Jr., Award for Excellence" By Virginia Sovereign College (1<sup>st</sup> time awarded to this college)

- “Athelstan Nobility” 2008
- York Rite College of North America “Gold Award” November 2, 2011
- Order of the Purple Cross (OPC) Elected August 2012, Awarded May 2013
- “Companion Adept of the Temple” 4 June 2013

### \*Allied Masonic Degrees

Installed Sovereign Master 2009

Past Sovereign Master 2009

- \*Knight Commander of the Red Branch of Erie
- Man at Arms of the Red Branch of Erie

Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 15 (Two by Two) (Delaware)

- Elevated November 10, 2012

#### AMD Degrees Received

“Worshipful Commander Noah”

“Master of Tyre”

“Order of Knight of Constantinople”

“Installed Master of Saint Lawrence the Martyr”

“Worthy Supreme Ruler, Order of the Secret Monitor”

### \*Scottish Rite

Elected Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (K.C.C.H) (W.V.) invested September 19, 2015

Awarded “Red Glengary” by Knights of St. Andrew” 11 Dec. 2015

Valley of Martinsburg, Orient of West Virginia, A. & A. S. R. (S.J.) Elected Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection 2011-2012

Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia- Completed Master Craftsman I Program

Valley of Martinsburg, Orient of West Virginia- Various appointed offices in the lodges of Rose Croix, Kadosh and Consistory, Completed - Master Craftsman II Program

Valley Of Martinsburg, Orient of West Virginia, Completed- Master Craftsman III Program

Knights of Saint Andrew, Charter Member, Knighted-Alexandria Virginia

### \* Knight Masons

Rock of Cashel No. 100, Elected and Installed Excellent Chief Founding member and officer 2011-2012

Elected Honorary Member of John Wesley Burgess Council No.103, Alexandria Louisiana

### \*Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

Elected First Pillar, 2013 in progressive line. (5<sup>th</sup> Pillar, 2015-16, 6<sup>th</sup> Pillar, 2016-17, 7<sup>th</sup> Pillar, 2017-18)

### \*A.A.O.N.O.M.S. (SHRINE)

Samsar Jewel Award- with Scimitar, Crescent, Red Bar, Yellow Bar, Emerald Star (Driving and Petitions, Service to the shrine)

Awarded February 21, 2013 by Potentate of KENA Shrine.

## **\*The Operatives (The Worshipful Society of Free Masons)**

Appointed V° and VI°, February 13, 2012

Appointed "Deputy J." *For the United States of America Region* June 2013,14,15,16

Elected Founder Clerk for Bull Run Quarry Assemblage, 2012 and reelected 2013

Great Footing Corner Stone Award 2015

## **\*Masonic Order of Athelstan (Court Master Masons)**

Elected Worthy Master 2017-2018, Court No. 101

Charter Founding officer, Susquehanna No. 74, Allentown, PA., Appointed officer "Burgh" 2011-14

Charter Founding officer, Secretary, 2014 "Duke of Cumberland Court" No. 101, Winchester, VA.

"Passed Master" degree (Honor) 2014

## **Widows Sons Masonic Motorcycle Association (Brazen Pillars Chapter)**

Founding Life Member, July 15, 2015, Trustee, (2001 Harley- Davidson Sportster 1200 Custom and 2018 Harley-Davidson Street Glide Special, Milwaukee 8)

## **Other Interests:**

- Main Street Baptist Church, Luray Virginia
- U.S. Air Force Association, Life Member.
- Sons of Confederate Veterans, Life Member, *War Service Medal*
- Cabell Camp No.1313, S.C.V. Dallas Texas, Life Member
- Descendents of Confederate Veterans (Texas)
- National Rifle Association, Life Member.
- Boy Scouts of America Troop # 261, Committee Member, Scout.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1860, Life Member.
- Charter and Life Member, *Brazen Pillars Chapter, Widows Sons, Masonic Riders Assn.*
- Honorary "Kentucky Colonel" By The Governor of Kentucky
- Past Master (3 year term) Freegardeners Chapter, Bluebell No.8, Strasburg Virginia (The only U.S. Chapter in existence) Charter of Scotland
- Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) (S.C.U.B.A. Diver) Advanced open Water Diver, Search and Recovery (over 30 recoveries) (Life Member).
- National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) Master Diver (life Member).
- Masonic Book Collector, Over 2000 Volumes dating from early 1700's to present.
- Collector of Masonic Ephemera

## **My Personal Information**

Joel David Ratliff, Sr.

757 Point Rd., Bentonville, VA. (Near Limeton VA. 7 miles south of Front Royal, VA., close to Skyline Drive)

67 Years young

USAF Retired, 20 years' service, Disabled Veteran

US Postal Service, Retired, 13 years service

Born, Raised and Educated in Dallas, Texas, *Bryan Adams High School class of 1969*

College-110 credit hours U.of MD. Police Administration (overseas)

Dallas, Texas Police Academy, Class No. 110, D.P.D.

*Certified State of Texas Law Enforcement Officer.*

State of Florida Police Academy, *Certified State of Florida Police Officer*

United States Air Force

Security Police, Law Enforcement, (*Master Badge*) Secretary of Defence Badge, *Armed forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Good Conduct With Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Medal with Bronze Star, Air Force Humanitarian Service Medal, Short Tour overseas Award with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster (BOLC), Long Tour overseas award with Two BOLC's, Air Force Longevity Award with Three BOLC's, Outstanding Unit Award with 'Valor' Device and Two BOLC's, Expert Marksman award with Bronze Star, Outstanding NCO Award, And other Foreign Country Awards*

U.S.A.F. Assignments to; Florida, Thailand, England, Greece, Turkey, Germany, (8 1/2 years overseas Service)  
Temporary Duty Assignments (T.D.Y.) Worldwide, Bolling AFB D.C., Andrews AFB, MD. – General Officers Aide (Security), *Special Aircraft Security, Air Force 1*

*Initiated, Passed and Raised to Master Mason*

*At Oxon Hill Lodge No. 231, Maryland, (G.L. of MD.)*

*E.A. July 1, 1985 - F.C. September 9, 1985 - M.M. October 28, 1985*

### Family History

5<sup>th</sup> Generation Master Mason, dating back to before the American Civil War.

Both Great Grandfathers fought for the Confederate States of America (Texas and Missouri). One Great Uncle (Maternal, Spillman) was killed at the Battle of Atlanta (Kennesaw Mountain). My Paternal Great, Great Grandfather (Ratliff, and family) (Cherokee Indian, 1830 Census of the tribe in North West Alabama) was on the 1835 "Trail of Tears" from Alabama to Oklahoma. The Ratliff family moved to Texas before the Civil war.

My Mother's family emigrated from England (*Documented to 1100, Sir William Espileman, Knight, Second Crusade*) to Jamestown, Virginia (1608) and survived the "Starving time", to later settle in Westmoreland County, next door to Augustine Washington, (Relation of George), (Records in Westmoreland Co. Courthouse). The Spillmans were American Soldiers in the Revolution. They migrated through Virginia, by wagon, to Missouri, (belonged to a Lodge in Bolivar, MO.) were caught there during The Civil War (C.S.A. - Shiloh-Corinth-luka- Vicksburg- Kennesaw Mtn.) and eventually settled outside Dallas, Texas (Town of Vickery) after the war.

My Father, Marshall J. Ratliff, (Gibraltar Lodge No. 1179, Dallas, Texas) served in WWII in the U.S. Army, Pacific Theatre, and was in the invasion of the Mariana Islands (Saipan-Tinian- others). He was discharged after the war and became a police officer in Dallas, Texas from 1947 until his retirement in 1977. He then became a Deputy Sherriff for Dallas County, Texas until his Death in 1991. My Mother was a 50 year (+) member of the Order of the Eastern Star. One of my great joys in Masonry was that of my Father raising me to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree in lodge at Oxon Hill Maryland in 1985.

### Immediate Family

My Bride – Sandra (Sandy) J. (West) Ratliff

Born in Saltville, VA.

Raised in Johnson City TN.

*U.S.A.F. Retired -Service Overseas (Germany) and Special Duty, Logistics, Air Force 1 & 2*

She is currently with the U.S. Postal Service, Delaplane, VA.

Married, September 11, 1989

- SuZu Court #21, *Past High Priestess*, Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America – 1993-1994
- Unity Chapter #112, Camp Springs MD - *Worthy Matron*
- Front Royal Chapter #6 - *Worthy Matron* 2005-2006, 2010-2011, 2013-2014, 2015- 2016 (100<sup>th</sup> anniversary), *Associate Matron* 2011-2012, 2014-15, *Head Page to Grand Worthy Matron* 2017-18
- *O.E.S. Grand Representative to New Brunswick, Canada-2010-2011*



- Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Front Royal, Virginia- *Member*
- Fredericksburg VA., Assembly No. 266, Social Order of the Beauceant, *President-2012 & 2018 ( appointed grand officer 2013)*
- Received “Companion of the Temple Award” 2014, from Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
- Baldwin Brown Fellow, Grand Commandery of Virginia

Blended family, 3 Daughters, 3 Sons (2 active Master Masons belonging to Unity Lodge No.146, raised at age 18, one was P.H.P. John Dove R.A. Chapter) and 2 Grandsons, (ages 11&12) 1 Granddaughter (age 6 years.) 2 Twin Granddaughter (age 4 Years)

Joel David Ratliff, Sr.