



Letter from the East



Hello, Brethren! My name is Michael "Mike" Carson and I have been elected as your 2025 Worshipful Master for Kenly Lodge #257. This letter serves as my introduction to each of you, members of Kenly #257, as many of you do not know who I am, my background, or how I became a part of the Kenly Lodge.

I would like to start out by saying that I am looking forward to this year and the exciting things we will work to accomplish with the help of all our members.

My personal journey; I am from Pennsylvania where I lived and graduated from High School. After high school, I joined the United States Marines where I specialized in radio communications during my tour. Upon being Honorably Discharged from the Marines, I moved to North Carolina and began my journey as a law enforcement officer. From 1993 to 2024, I worked for the Smithfield Police Department and the Johnston County Sheriff's Office. I did have a break from 2006 to 2011 when I took a position with an overseas company where I was deployed to Iraq and worked as a mentor to the Iraqi Police Services. I am currently retired as a Deputy Sheriff Captain from the Johnston County Sheriff's Office and currently working as an adjunct professor at Johnston Community College in the two-year Criminal Justice Degree program.

I am married to Tracey Boykin Carson (Brother Chip Boykin's daughter). We have four (4) adult children and one (1) grandchild.

My educational journey; I hold a Bachelor's Degree from Campbell University and a Master's Degree from Liberty University.

My Masonic journey; I started my journey several decades ago with Granite Lodge #191, but at the time I realized that I was doing it for the wrong reason and put it on hold. In 2019, I approached Brother Chip Boykin to inquire about activating my journey and on February 4, 2020 I was initiated an Entered Apprentice by Kenly Lodge #257, passed on July 21, 2020 as a Fellow Craft (Outdoor), and raised as a Master Mason on September 1, 2020 (Outdoor) all in agreement with Granite Lodge #191. I was accepted as a member of Kenly Lodge #257 and demitted from Granite Lodge #191. NOTE: The (Outdoor) means those degrees were held outside due to COVID- 19.

Again, this letter is to introduce myself to each member of Kenly Lodge #257 and it is not intended to boast. It is my hope that as we move forward this year, I get to either speak with each of you or to actually meet with you in person. I will leave my contact information at the conclusion of this letter for anyone who wishes to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas on what they would like to



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see. I understand everyone has their own schedule and home situation which is why I do want to say that we will not push anyone to do something or participate in something that brings stress or strain on them. It is not to say that you will not be asked to assist in some shape, fashion, or form and when that time comes, please do not hesitate to open up and let us know if you are unable to assist or participate, we will understand.

As Master, I have set goals for 2025 and these goals are not just my goals, but goals for our lodge to accomplish in order to increase our footprint in many different arenas. These goals may have originated with me, from information I have compiled over the last several years, but I have received input and support from our Senior Warden, Ryan West, and our Junior Warden, Rob Thomas along with several others. These goals, and an event calendar, will be introduced to the lodge for discussion at our January 21st Stated Communication(7:30PM) and again at our February 4th Stated Communication with a dinner(6:30PM meal and 7:30PM meeting). My apologies if you receive this letter after one of, or both, dates. It is our hope we can get as many members who can attend and want to have input, to please come and join us!

Some of the topics/initiatives; engage all lodge members, Lion & Pillar, Masonic education, lodge appearance(interior and exterior), fundraisers, community involvement, open houses, travel, and ritual work.

I hope this letter finds you well and I look forward to serving each of you as Master of Kenly Lodge #257.

Fraternally,

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Worshipful Master 2025
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