

Masonic Messenger



Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons

December 2019

Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia Johnie M. Garmon



**Helping
Solomon's
No. 1
See Page 20**

**Grand Lodge
Officer
Biographies
See Pages 8-12**

“Past Present Future”

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475
 Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary
 at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201
 on your lodge secretary's monthly report.
 The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Johnie M. Garmon (114)
Deputy Grand Master	Jan M. Giddens (33)
Senior Grand Warden	Donald C. Combs (46)
Junior Grand Warden	Michael A. Kessler (216)
Grand Treasurer	Larry W. Nichols (59)
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)
Grand Chaplain	James R. Harris (205, 758)
Grand Marshal	F. Keith Hales (220, 724)
Grand Orator	Clyde E. Griffin (693, 1, 750, 303)
Senior Grand Deacon	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
Junior Grand Deacon	Mark A. Bradley (36)
First Grand Steward	Bill Shepard (717, 214)
Second Grand Steward	Brian Coffey (271, 749, 710)
Third Grand Steward	Tom Bruce (42, 216)
Grand Tyler	William White (114, 597)

Publications

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- October Issue: September 15
- December Issue: November 15

MASONIC MESSENGER

Vol. 113 December 2019 No. 1

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FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER

TYPE or PRINT information requested and mail to the
 Grand Lodge address on the back cover.

Name in Full _____

Lodge Name and Number _____

If you have moved, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE
 TO THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA along with your new address:

Lodge Name and Number _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Brethren, it is your responsibility to make certain your address is current.

Be certain your Lodge secretary has your correct address.

Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary's Office in Macon.

The **Editor of the *Masonic Messenger* DOES NOT** keep a list of addresses.



From the Desk of the Grand Secretary Important Notices

2020 District Conventions

1st District	March 28, 2020	10:00 AM	Savannah @ Landrum Lodge No. 48
2nd District	April 4, 2020	9:00 AM	Albany @ Albany Lodge No. 24
3rd District	March 21, 2020	9:00 AM	Pinehurst @ Millwood Lodge No. 198
4th District	August 15, 2020	9:45 AM	Greenville @ Centralhatchee Lodge No. 403
5th District	September 12, 2020	10:00 AM	Alpharetta @ Roswell Lodge No. 165
6th District	May 2, 2020	9:00 AM	Griffin @ Rutland Lodge No. 298
7th District	May 8 & 9, 2020	9:00 AM	Rome @ Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District	May 16, 2020	9:00 AM	Elberton @ Philomatheia Lodge No. 25
9th District	September 26, 2020	9:00 AM	Marietta @ The Keheley Center Activities Building
10th District	June 13, 2020	10:00 AM	Hephzibah @ Richmond Lodge No. 412
11th District	September 19, 2020	10:00 AM	Waycross @ Waycross Lodge No. 305
12th District	April 18, 2020	9:00 AM	Lyons @ Lyons Lodge No. 49



January 4 Savannah Scottish Rite
 January 11 Atlanta Masonic Center
 January 18 Cherokee Lodge Rome

January 25 Adel Lodge
 February 1 Gainesville Lodge
 February 8 Macon Shrine Building

All Forums will begin with registration at 8AM with the Forum to begin at 9AM.
 Forums will follow the same format as in the past including breakout sessions.

Masonic Leadership Conference 2020

Class of Johnie M. Garmon, GM

"Has your Lodge attended? Are your future leaders ready?"



What: Educate your future leaders
 When: July 10-12, 2020
 Where: Georgia College & State University – Milledgeville
 Who: 2020 Sr Wardens, Jr Wardens, or Sr Deacons

Cost: \$225 on or before March 31st, 2020 / \$250 after

Deadline: April 30, 2020

Open to first 200 that apply and are accepted.

Contact your DDGM or MELD director for more information.

Or reach out to: GA2020MLC@gmail.com

Editor's Note: The following Edict was approved at the 233rd Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia in October.

It is included here for the information of the Brethren of Georgia only. See pg. 7 for the remainder of the results of the Annual Communication



The Grand Lodge of Georgia

Free and Accepted Masons

Macon, Georgia 31201-6779

Van S. McGee
Grand Secretary
811 Mulberry Street

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EDICT NO. 2019-4

TO ALL CONSTITUENT LODGES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS:

I hereby issue this edict, to-wit:

WHEREAS, it has come to my attention that certain Grand Lodge officers or District Deputies to the Grand Master (DDGMs) have been asked to leave meetings of subordinate Lodges; and

WHEREAS, it has come to my attention that at least one District Deputy to the Grand Master has been told he could not speak in a meeting of a subordinate Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Grand Lodge officers are the elected and appointed representatives of the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, District Deputies to the Grand Master are the personal representatives of the Grand Master:

NOW THEREFORE, it is my edict that:

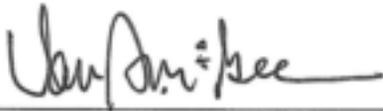
The currently elected or appointed Grand Lodge officers and currently appointed District Deputies to the Grand Master have the right to sit and speak in any meeting of a subordinate lodge, tyled or otherwise, held anywhere in this Grand Jurisdiction at any time and they cannot be excluded from any meeting or prohibited from speaking. Grand Lodge officers and District Deputies to the Grand Master also have the right to observe any Masonic trials or pre-trial conferences.

SO ORDERED and this edict is given under my hand and seal as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Georgia, and under the seal of the said Grand Lodge, this 7th day of October, 2019.



Michael H. Wilson, Grand Master

Attest:



V. S. "Mac" McGee,
Grand Secretary

[SEAL]





GRAND ORATOR'S MESSAGE



Does The Light of Your Life Shine Like It Should?

Edgar M. Land, Grand Orator 2018-2019

It is with mixed emotions we close another year in our great fraternity. We hope overall that everyone felt it was a successful year. The Grand Line Officers run hard all year with hardly any “breathing room” and then the year is over. In the coming days we will all reminisce about the year and discuss the low points and high points. Our main goal should always be to do our best and try to be better than we have been in the past. This leads me to briefly discuss the light of our life. One of my favorite verses of scripture since I was a child is Matthew 5:19 “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.”



Photo by [Rohan Makhecha](#) on [Unsplash](#)

We refer to gaining “light” (or knowledge) in our fraternity from time to time. As each of us attain more knowledge and wisdom we become more mature in the Lord. Everyone should strive to live their lives in such a way so all with whom we come in contact will have positive comments to make about our life. When someone makes a positive comment about our actions, we should always give the Good Lord all the credit since within ourselves, we are nothing. While perfection will never be attained by any of us, we should all strive to live our lives to the fullest so we will have as few regrets as possible.

I am reminded of a story I heard when I was in my early 20's about always being positive. One time a couple had two young boys and one of them was positive about everything while the other one was always negative. Each day the positive thinker would always say positive things while the negative boy was negative about everything. The parents became really worried about the positive boy and discussed how they could keep him from being so positive. That year the positive boy wanted a pony for Christmas so his parents came up with the idea that for Christmas they would fill his stocking with horse manure to see if they could dampen his spirits. When the Christmas gifts were being opened, the positive thinker ran his hand in his stocking and began hollering and shouting, “Oh Boy! There's a pony around here somewhere!” (I never heard the rest of the story, but I am sure the parents found him a pony very soon!)

We all have a purpose in this life and once we find the purpose for which we were created, we need to work on it with a positive mental attitude each day. Remember someone (or maybe more than one) is always watching your life as their mentor and the way you react to negative, as well as positive things, shows them your character and integrity. Will they be better or worse from having followed your “light”? THINK about it.

In Canton Lodge No. 77, there is a posted sign, “If every member of this lodge was just like me, what kind of lodge would this lodge be?” We should ask ourselves this question each day in order to promote Freemasonry and also to keep ourselves in tune with God. Keep your “light” shining. I love each of you!

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2019-6	Limit Debate PASSED
Four Edicts	1. Resigning; 2. Dress; 3. Printing; 4. GL Officers and DDGMs PASSED
2018-10	Grand Lodge meeting place PASSED
2019-1	Homosexual Activity Postpone until 2022 GL Session
2019-4	Homosexual Activity Postpone until 2022 GL Session
Res. 1	Correcting errors in the Code PASSED
2019-5	Committee of Foreign Recognition PASSED
Res. 2	Committee to study recognition of Prince Hall WITHDRAWN
2019-14	No subordinate lodge meetings during Grand Lodge OUT OF ORDER
2019-7	Payment of perpetual member dues PASSED
2019-8	General Welfare meeting time PASSED (As Amended)
2019-9	Per Capita increase FAILED
2019-11	Defining solicitation PASSED
2019-2	Recommenders, 12 months to 6 months FAILED
2019-22	Bramblett Award PASSED
2019-3	No signer has to be a member of the lodge petitioned OUT OF ORDER
2019-12	What is not electioneering PASSED (As Amended)
2019-13	Member of lodge when charter member of new lodge OUT OF ORDER
2019-15	Reporting Masonic offenses by foreign Masons OUT OF ORDER
2019-16	Legality to be in the United States OUT OF ORDER
2019-17	Uniformity in reporting Masonic Offenses OUT OF ORDER
2019-18	Ballot and confer degree at same communication OUT OF ORDER
2019-19	Cipher Code to Lodge OUT OF ORDER
2019-20	Cipher Code to Secretary or Director of Work OUT OF ORDER
2019-21	No reconsideration of bills acted upon for 3 years. OUT OF ORDER

INTRODUCING MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER JOHNIE GARMON MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF ALL MASONS IN GEORGIA



Johnie Michael Garmon was born in Stephens County, Georgia on February 18, 1947. He was educated in Habersham County Schools and graduated from North Habersham High School in 1965. Upon graduation, Most Worshipful Brother

Johnie served three years in the United States Army as an SP5/E5 Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Most Worshipful Brother Garmon then attended Gainesville College and obtained an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice before attending Brenau University. While at Brenau he obtained his Bachelor of Criminal Justice Degree and a Masters in Public Administration. MWB Garmon spent thirty-four years in public service with the Georgia Department of Corrections as a correctional officer, canine handler, probation officer, and facilities manager. He also served for seventeen years as the Chief Magistrate of Union County.

Most Worshipful Brother Garmon is married to Miss Eva Garmon and together they have four sons, Bobby, Brad, Ben, and Beau who are all Master Masons. Outside of the Masonic Fraternity, Most Worshipful Brother Garmon has served as a baseball coach for Union County Recreational Department as well as a basketball coach. He is a Past President of Blairsville Kiwanis and a Past Member of the Blairsville Lions Club.

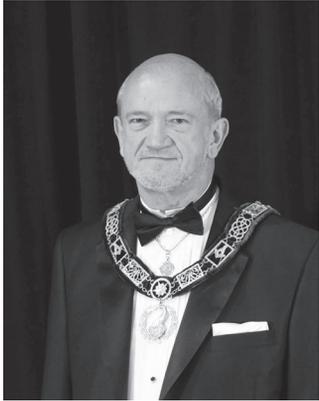
MWB Garmon's Masonic record is as distinguished as that of his life in public service. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Allegheny Lodge No. 114 in 1994 and served as Worshipful Master in 1998 and 2003 and served as Secretary for Allegheny from 2011-2018. He is also a member of WA Davis Daylight Lodge No. 753 and Live Oak Lodge No. 137.

In the York Rite, Most Worshipful Brother Garmon

served as High Priest of Enotah Chapter No. 24 in addition to serving as Secretary and Treasurer. He is a Past High Priest of the Ninth District Royal Arch Convention and a member of the Order of the High Priesthood. He also served as Illustrious Master of Brasstown Council No. 79 and served as its Recorder and Treasurer. He has served as Illustrious Master of the Northeast District Council Convention and is a member of the Order of the Silver Trowel. Most Worshipful Brother Garmon is a member of Blue Ridge Commandery No. 37 and is a Past Commander and Treasurer of that body. In 2012, MWB Garmon served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. He is also a Knight Crusader of the Cross. He is Past Prior of Cherokee Rose Priory KYCH, Past Puissant Sovereign of Rufus R. White Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Preeminent Governor of Luther G. Palmer Chapter York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Past Sovereign Master of Blue Ridge Council No. 377 AMD. He is also a member of Carl F. Lester Council No. 65 Knight Masons, The Royal Order of Scotland, and Georgia College Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (SRICF).

In the Scottish Rite, MWB Garmon has served as Wise Master of Atlanta Chapter Rose Croix, Past Commander of Atlanta Court, Knights Commander of the Court of Honour, President and Secretary of the Georgia Mountain Scottish Rite Association, and is a recipient of the 33^o Inspector General Honorary. He is also a Member of Georgia State Forest No. 181 Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Blood Mountain Chapter No. 555 and Lyman Hall No. 577 National Sojourners and Leon Davenport Camp of the Heroes of '76. He is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Yarrab Shrine Temple in Atlanta Georgia.

Introducing WB Tom Bruce as Third Grand Steward



Brother Tom Bruce was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 13, 1977. In 2010, he affiliated with Tucker Lodge No. 42 in Tucker, Georgia, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2011 and again in 2012. He is also a member of Fulton Lodge No. 216, Atlanta, Georgia, and is a perpetual

member of both Lodges.

Brother Bruce was appointed to serve as District Deputy to the Grand Master in 2012 and reappointed in 2013. In 2014, he was appointed to serve as the Fifth District Leader of the District Deputies to the Grand Master where he served until his appointment to serve as Grand Marshal for the 2017-2018 Grand Lodge year. Afterward, he was appointed as State Chairman of the District Deputies to the Grand Master until his current appointment. Brother Bruce is active in the Fifth Masonic District where he served as District Master in 2016 and is currently a member of the custodian's staff. He has also served as a Trial Commissioner since 2012.

Brother Bruce was elected a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta, in 1978, where he now serves on the Executive Committee, as Almoner since 2014, and on the Third Degree Team. He is a charter member of the Wisdom, Strength, and Brotherhood Club of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction. In 2015, Brother Bruce was invested with the rank and title of Knight Commander Court of Honour. He is an endowed life member of the Valley of Atlanta.

Brother Bruce is an honorary member of several Lodges. He is a subscribing member of the Southern California Research Lodge. He serves on the Grand Lodge IT Committee since 2014, Code Supplement Committee, and Development Committee. He is a life member and Fellow in the Grand College of Rites. He is also a recipient of the Medal of Honor for Distinguished Service to the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Brother Bruce was born and raised in Kentucky. He was commissioned in 1978 as a Kentucky Colonel in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He is not married and currently resides in Metro Atlanta. In 2011, Worshipful Brother Bruce retired from a 37-year career in the transportation industry.



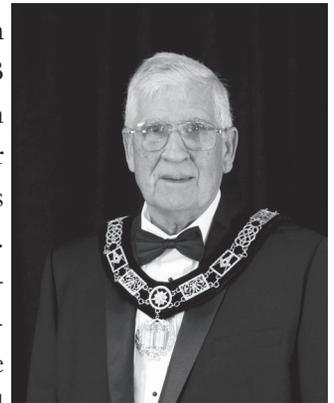
Introducing WB James Harris as 2019-2020 Grand Chaplain

Worshipful Brother James Harris was born December 15, 1948 in Baxley, Georgia. After completing high school, he joined the Army, serving from 1966-1969 as a helicopter pilot and a W2 warrant. Two of these years were served in Vietnam. After leaving the military, WB Harris attended San Diego University from 1971-1972 and obtained an Associates Degree in Accounting before moving to Cape Fear Community College from 1984-1985 and obtaining an Associates Degree in Medical Services.

Worshipful Brother Harris was Initiated, Passed, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Wilmington Lodge No. 319 AF&AM (SC) in 2001. He affiliated with Hickory Flat Lodge No. 205 in 2007. He would serve as Worshipful Master of Hickory Flat Lodge in 2011. WB Harris is a dual member of Georgia Mountain Daylight Lodge No. 758 where he served as

Treasurer from 2008-2019. In the York Rite Bodies, WB Harris has served as High Priest of Canton Chapter R.A.M. in 2011, Illustrious Master of Canton Council No. 3 R&SM in 2012, and Eminent Commander of Amicalola Commandery No. 41. He served as Master of the Third

Veil for the 9th District Royal Arch Convention in 2016. He is also the Junior Warden of Cherokee Council No. 439 AMD and has been invited to membership in Carl F. Lester Council No. 65 Knight Masons, Cherokee Rose Priory No.56 KYCH, and Luther G. Palmer YRC #123 in 2019. Worshipful Brother Harris served with honor as Grand Sentinel for the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Georgia in 2018-2019.



Introducing WB William "Whitey" White as 2019-2020 Grand Tyler



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) William T. "Whitey" White was born in Louisville, MS, attended Mississippi State University, and after several years of working on highly classified military programs, he then joined the US Navy in 1991 to begin his 20+ year career of service. During his military career, "Whitey", was the last Bombardier/

Navigator to reach the "Fleet" in the A-6E Intruder. When that aircraft decommissioned, he did an "exchange tour" flying as a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) in the F-15E Strike Eagle for 3 years. After that tour, "Whitey" separated from the US Navy and crossed over to the GA ANG where he flew the B-1B Lancer at Robins AFB, GA becoming the only person in aviation history to having been rated in those aircraft. After that platform was removed from the Guard, "Whitey" then crossed over to finish his illustrious career flying the E-8C Joint STARS as an Instructor/Evaluator Mission Commander.

During his career, Lt Col White deployed 8 times in support

of Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and operations in Bosnia. After retirement, "Whitey" went to work for (and is still with) SIGMA DEFENSE supporting US Army operations around the world.

His civilian and military education includes a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Mississippi State University, two Master's degrees from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and completion of Air Command and Staff College.

Among the many military awards bestowed upon Lt Col White are multiple military aviation ratings, 32 ribbons for outstanding service to the United States of America and the highest military award given by the State of GA /GA Air National Guard, the Oglethorpe Medal, given to only 2 persons in its history.

Among other awards he has received are the Eagle Scout Rank, Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, Fox News contributor, Lifetime member of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilot Association, the A-6 Intruder Association, the F-14 Tomcat Association, recipient of the ANG Hometown Heroes, but the highest honor he cherishes is that of father of two, husband, and Child of God.



Introducing WB Keith Hales as 2019-2020 Grand Marshal

Worshipful Brother Keith Hales was born January 6, 1959 in Cherokee County. He grew up in Jasper, Georgia, where he graduated from Pickens High School in 1977. He also attended Appalachian Technical College where he received his Microcomputer Degree.

On July 23, 1983 Worshipful Brother Hales married his wife Diane Garland Hales and they have been married 36 years. They have a daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and A. J. Proudfoot and a Grandson Owen. They are members of Sharptop Baptist Church in Jasper. Worshipful Brother Hales retired from Georgia Department of Public Safety, January 1, 2010. During his career he worked several assignments as a State Trooper, such as working the 1996 Olympics, the G8 Summit at Sea Island, Georgia, and serving on the Legislative Security Details at the State Capitol.

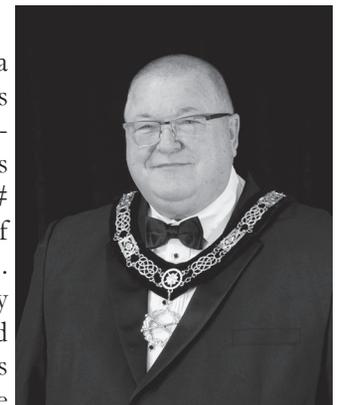
Worshipful Brother Hales is a member of Pickens Star Lodge # 220 and a dual member of Resaca Lodge # 724. He began his Masonic career on September 23, 1980, when he received his Entered Apprentice in Pickens Star Lodge #220. He was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on October 14, 1980 and was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 31, 1980. In 1988 Worshipful Brother Hales served as Master of Pickens Star Lodge #220 and he is the current Secretary. Worshipful Brother Hales is also currently serving as the 9th district representative to the Board of Relief and is currently serving as Secre-

tary.

Worshipful Brother Hales is a Past High Priest of Pickens Chapter #28 Royal Arch Masons. He is Past Illustrious Master in Pickens Council # 55, and Past Commander of Amicalola Commandery #41. He is a member of The Valley of Atlanta Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, in which he is currently a member of the stage

crew and serves as the Bearer of the Black Standard in the Council of Kadosh. He was very honored to receive the KCCH from the Valley of Atlanta.

Worshipful Brother Hales is also a member of Luther G. Palmer York Rite College #123, Cherokee Council # 439 Allied Masonic Degrees, Rufus R. White Conclave Red Cross of Constantine, Cherokee Rose Priory # 56 KYCH. He is a Past Patron of Jasper Chapter # 479 Order of the Eastern Star, serving a term of District Grand Deputy in 2014. He was also honored to serve as Grand Tyler for Most Worshipful Brother Edgar M. Land in 2014. In 2018 he was appointed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander Steve Kirk to serve as the Grand Sentinel for the Grand Commandry of Georgia.



Introducing MWB Clyde Griffin as 2019-2020 Grand Orator



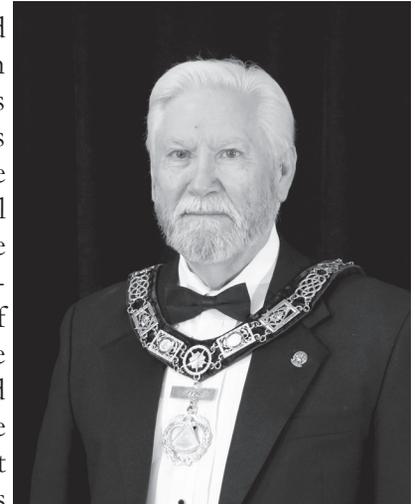
Born October 1, 1945 to Charles and Eunice Griffin in Statesboro, Georgia, Clyde was educated in the public schools of Chatham County and furthered his education at Armstrong State College and ICS earning a degree in Business Management. He served his country in the U.S. Army and Georgia National Guard. In 1966, Clyde and the former Judy Zipperer were united in marriage and have maintained a happy and supportive relationship ever since. They are members of Isle of Hope United Methodist Church where Clyde serves as a Sunday School Teacher, Usher Team Captain, Greeter, and on the Administrative Council.

Clyde began his vocational career in 1964 as he started work with Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company as a Frameman. Future job progressions resulted in promotion to management in 1978. Clyde held many different positions during his thirty-six year span, retiring in 1999 as Area Inventory Manager for Lucent Technologies, formerly AT&T, and never missing a day of work due to illness in all those thirty-six years.

Active in community, church and Masonic affairs, Clyde serves on numerous committees, councils, and local organizational programs in and around the Savannah area. Most days during the week, Clyde can be found at the Scottish Rite office in Savannah where he serves as Personal Representative. His love for the outdoors finds him often on the golf course or out on the waterways in pursuit of his favorite food. Clyde also has a sideline business in his home, a trophy and engraving shop.

Raised as Master Mason in Thunderbolt Lodge No. 693 on October 24, 1972, Clyde served as Worshipful Master in 1978 and as District Master in 1989. Appointed to the Grand Lodge Line also in 1989, Clyde was elected and installed to the highest honor in Masonry, that of Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia in October of 1995. He went on to serve as Master of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in 1999 and presently serves as Treasurer of Coastal Daylight Lodge No. 750 and is also a member of Bryan Lodge No. 303 and Newington Lodge No. 503. Clyde has served as the first District Director of Leadership Development in the First Masonic District, on the Trial Commission and as the Grand Representative to Oklahoma. He has served on the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund Committee, Publications Committee, Ma-

sonic Home Board of Trustees, Youth Council, Appeals and Grievances Committee, Finance Committee, General Welfare Committee and presently serving as Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee and Chairman of the Code Supplement Committee. He has



also served for three years as a member of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. As a member of five Blue Lodges and an honorary member of fifty-eight in-state Lodges and four out-of-state Lodges, Clyde is extremely active and popular in Masonic circles. He is frequently called upon for Masonic Funerals and Installations, as well as speaking engagements at many Lodge functions.

Receiving all the York Rite Degrees and Orders in 1973, Clyde presided as High Priest of both Georgia Chapter No. 3 and the First District Royal Arch Convention twice as Illustrious Master of Georgia Council No. 2 R&SM and as Eminent Commander of Palestine Commandery No. 7, KT, as well as Prior of Georgia Priory No. 39, KYCH. He was installed as Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia in 1987 and began his journey through the Grand Commandery line in 1996 as Eminent Grand Warder, culminating in 2004 as Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Georgia, and was honored to serve as Most Excellent High Priest of Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Georgia in 2013. Having served on the Finance Committee of both the Grand Chapter and Grand Council, Griffin has served as Chairman of Jurisprudence of both Grand Bodies. He is also serving as Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of RAM of Montana, Grand Representative of the Grand Council of R&SM of Texas and Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of KT of Idaho. Griffin now serves as Chairman of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation for Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Transferring his membership from Palmetto York Rite College No. 79 in South Carolina, Griffin became a

charter member of Luther G. Palmer York Rite College No. 123 in Atlanta and was instrumental in the formation of Herman E. Freeman York Rite College No. 186 in Savannah, serving as its first Governor. Clyde served as Grand Governor in Georgia, is a holder of the Purple Cross and is an Associate Regent in the York Rite College of North America. He is Past Sovereign and Past Recorder of Oglethorpe Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine and served as Intendent General - Georgia Southern for ten years and was awarded Knight Commander of Constantine. He is a Past Preceptor of Upper Room Tabernacle No. XLV, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest (HRAKTP) and actively confers the order of priesthood on new members.

Griffin joined the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Savannah in 1978 and has served as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix, and served as member of the Masonic Advisory Council of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction, AASR, elected him to receive the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honor in 1985 and he was coroneted 33° Inspector General Honorary in 1991. He served as General Secretary of the Valley of Savannah for fourteen years and is presently serving as Personal Representative to the SGIG. Clyde serves on both KCCH Investiture and 33° Coronation Casts.

Named by Alee Shriners as the "Shriner of the Year" in 1991, Noble Griffin has also served as President of the Mobile Unit, Ritualistic Divan, Knights of Mecca and Southeastern Ritual Cast Association where he served as Secretary for many years. He is also a member and Past Director of Savannah Court No. 134, Royal Order of Jesters.

Clyde is a charter member, past Sovereign and past Secretary of Georgia Council No. 304, A.M.D. He presently serves as secretary of Savannah Council No. 328, A.M.D. and is also serving as Grand Superintendent in Georgia for Allied Masonic Degrees, U.S.A. He is a Charter Member and holds the VIII Grade in Georgia College and South Georgia College of the Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (SRICF). He is a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and a member of the (SC) Knight Masons and (GA) Knight Masons. He is a member and PGTC of Savannah Forest No. 217, Tall Cedars of Lebanon and presently serving as Scribe. He is a member and Past Worthy Master of Oglethorpe Chapel No. 21, Com-

memorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, U.S.A. He is a member of Great Priory of America-CBCS, Gate of Wisdom Lodge of St. Andrew and presently serving as Senior Warden. He is Past President of Hunter Chapter No. 502 of the National Sojourners and Past Commander of Georgia Hussars Camp of the Heroes of '76.

Clyde has served and continues to serve on the Advisory Council of Cecil Cheves Chapter, Order of DeMolay and as a member of the DeMolay Foundation of Georgia, and has received the DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor Award and the Cross of Honor. Clyde has also served on the Advisory Panel of the Savannah Assembly No. 1, Order of Rainbow for Girls and is a recipient of the Grand Cross of Color Award.

Clyde served as President of the Order of High Priesthood in 2002 and as Thrice Illustrious Master of the Order of the Silver Trowel in 1990 and as Knight Crusader of the East in 2004. He continues to work in each Order when called upon.

Freemasonry Around Georgia



John Snipes receives a donation from the Knights of Solomon Motor Cycle Club in the amount of \$2,150 that they raised from their 6th Annual Ride for the Masonic Home of Georgia.



Daylite Lodge No. 125

Dual Qualified Brethren Wanted

First Year Dues Free

Meet 3rd Wednesday of the month

10:30AM – Noon

201 Masonic Place

Peachtree City, GA 30269

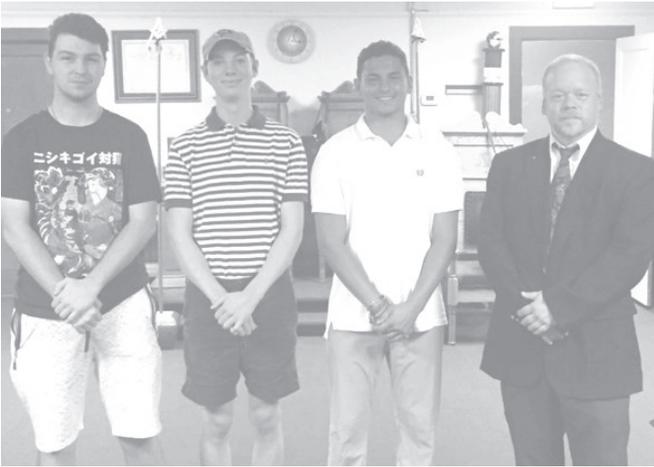
www.masonpost.com/ga/daylite125



Grayson Lodge #549 F&AM, donated \$500 to Grayson Elementary School in support of the School lunch program. Shown here is WB David Burk who presented the check on behalf of the Lodge.



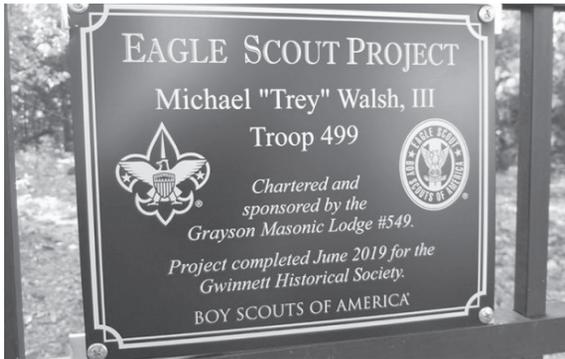
Eating dinner at the lodge is a way to fellowship and a way to meet new people wanting to join our Fraternity. On a regular meeting night, Flowery Branch #212 had the pleasure of eating dinner with the Dixons. Deputy Blane Dixon died in the line of duty and left behind a wife, two young sons, mother and father and two brothers. A few of our lodge members knew the family were able to meet this very close family unit. We look forward to hosting many more 2nd Tuesday family dinner meeting nights. Pictured below is the Dixon family with Worshipful Master Gary Day.



Cornelia Masonic Lodge # 92, F&AM presented \$1000.00 scholarships to three seniors from Habersham Central High School. The three recipients are from left: Jacob Abbott, Justin Williams and Caden Quiles. Pictured with them is Thomas Mark McCoy, Master of Cornelia Masonic Lodge #92, F&AM. We wish them great success.



Worshipful Master Larry Joe Bennett of Ocoee Lodge No. 201 in Morganton Georgia, presents a check for \$501 to Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Johnie M. Garmon for the Children's Home



Grayson Lodge #549 has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop for over 50 years now. WB Jack Wade was instrumental in the formation of this troop and served as its Scout Master for many years. One of the boys, Michael “Trey” Walsh, III, on his Eagle Project chose to clean up an abandoned cemetery in a residential area. It was grown over and in great disrepair. With help from the Lodge he restored the cemetery. Afterwards, in a special ceremony, a plaque was placed on the fence that surrounds it. The money left over from the project was donated to the Gwinnett County Historical Society.



On Sunday September 8,2019 the Young Men from Treutlen County Trail Life Group , Treutlen County Emergency Response Personnel , City of Soperton Officials, Harmony Lodge #405, and Woodmen of the World. Remember the events of September 11. 2001 and dedicated a new Flag Pole and Flag at Harmony Lodge #405.

The “Grand Lodge of Georgia” Store is now online at <https://av8rstuff.com/GLofGAindex.html>

While many items are from the “Kids Store” (we’re working in partnership with them), we are also going to be offering many new and unique items for our many Masons in Georgia to show their pride, leading their friends and neighbors to inquire as to what a Freemason is and what we’re all about. We are excited about the new outlet we Georgia Masons have to obtain the items we want.

You can also find the link on the Grand Lodge of Georgia website or can contact “Whitey” White (478-997-1011) or Ivy Smith (478-731-6050)

From Worshipful Brother Lloyd Bowen

Dear Brother Secretaries,

Each lodge individually is required to file at least one annual return with the Internal Revenue Service each and every year since 2007. If your lodge had less than \$50,000 in Gross receipts for 2019 it is required to file a 990-N on-line.

If your lodge has more than \$50,000 in Gross receipts you are required to file either a 990-EZ or a 990, you should consult a Certified Public Accountant for this. The 990 series is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after your year end, May 15th for calendar year ends.

A copy of Forms 990 should be mailed to Georgia Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 740395, Atlanta GA 30374-0395, if you file the 990-N then File a copy of the receipt received from the IRS for the e-Postcard along with a brief statement as to why there is no paper return should be mailed to Georgia. If your lodge pays you or any individual more than \$600 per year for services then you are required to file a form 1099 for each such individual and a 1096 transmittal to summaries all the 1099s.

If your lodge has set up payroll then W-2s, W3 and 940 annual and quarterly 941 are required. The costs for late filing can be quite sever, please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly. The appropriate code section in the Masonic code is 7-113

7-113. Form 990 to Grand Lodge by June 30.—Each Subordinate Lodge, by and through its Worshipful Master, shall send a copy of any and all required Federal Tax Returns (including, without limitation, Forms 990, 990-N, 1099s, W-3s, etc.) to the Office of the Grand Secretary within ten (10) days of the time that the same is required to be filed for each year hereafter.

Also required is Sales Tax for the state of Georgia for special events, such as Dunk Tank fundraisers at Fairs of Circuses, BBQ fundraisers, etc. are reported on the State of Georgia's "MISCELLANEOUS SALES EVENT" FORM Rev. (04.14.16) you can get this form on line at this address <https://dor.georgia.gov/documents/fs-32-miscellaneous-events> These sales taxes are due to be mailed within 3 days of the event. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,

Lloyd R Bowen, Chairman
Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM
Tax Committee





In June 2018, DeMolay International entered its centennial year, celebrating 100 years of positive and moral influence for young men in their formative years. Based on the seven cardinal virtues of filial love, reverence, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism, membership in DeMolay provides a safe, worthwhile program where young men may excel into the successful leaders of the next generation.

Founded in Kansas City, Missouri in 1919, DeMolay International (formerly the DeMolay Council and the Order of DeMolay) enriches the lives of its members by providing a fun-filled program which develops key life skills such as public speaking, budgeting, fundraising, collaboration and event planning. Under the mentorship of certified adult volunteers, every DeMolay member is encouraged to develop at his own pace, making his own unique DeMolay experience.

DeMolay counts among its alumni a multitude of gentlemen who transformed the lessons and examples from their DeMolay experience into the foundation for their success in their personal or professional lives. A select few are enshrined in our International Hall of Fame.

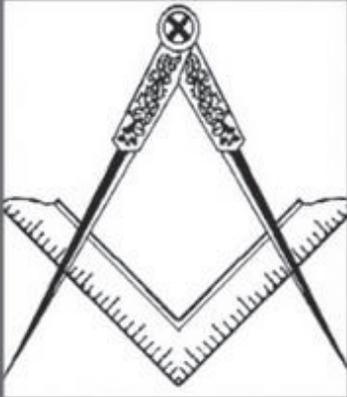
While the DeMolay International centennial celebration will be held in June 2019, these coming months are dedicated to the enhanced promotion of the organization's tenets and influence as a way to entice a new generation of youth to seek leadership opportunities such as those offered through the DeMolay program.

DeMolay... Tomorrow's Leaders, Today!

About DeMolay

DeMolay International is a community-based organization for young men, ages 12 to 21. DeMolay members learn life skills, responsibility and cooperation by working together to plan and carry out their customized program of social, sports and community service activities. Adult volunteers act as role models and advisors. Since 1919, DeMolay International has encouraged more than a million young men to become leaders of character, including many successful businessmen, public servants, entertainers and athletes. For more information on DeMolay International, please visit www.demolay.org or www.beademolay.org.

NOW IS THE TIME



*To take your
3° to the 32°*



**for a one time special pricing of \$100
during the Spring 2020 Reunions**

BECOME A PART OF HELPING CHILDREN WITH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES. JOIN THE COLLEGE OF FREEMASONRY!

Valley of Albany - Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2020

Valley of Atlanta - April 4 and 18, 2020

Valley of Augusta - To be Announced

Valley of Middle GA - April 17 and 25, 2020

Valley of Columbus - May 15 and 16, 2020

Valley of Savannah - April 18, 2020

Further your Masonic Light starting today by turning in your Petition to the Valley nearest you. Special pricing available at any Scottish Rite Valley in the Orient of Georgia for the 2020 Spring Reunions only.



**GRAND
CHAPTER**
James W. Tate
ME Grand High Priest



**GRAND
COUNCIL**
Ryan C. Nealey
MI Grand Master



**GRAND
COMMANDERY**
Brandon S. Yarbrough
RE Grand Commander

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

Editor: Michael H. Sampsell Email: mike@thesampsell.com
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCES IN THE COMMANDERY

As an organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of the Christian religion, the Grand Commandery of Georgia holds a number of religious observances throughout the year. One of these observances is the Christmas Observance which is held at multiple sites in the state. These are either held jointly among a group of Commanderies in a regional area or independently at various subordinate Asylums at the local level.



There are a variety of ways that this Observance can be held but consistent themes throughout them are reverence, honor and solemnity which are the foundation of these celebrations. These celebrations include a combination of Scripture, lessons, prayer, music and various toasts to honor the leaders and exemplary figures in our Masonic bodies as well as celebrating the Christmas season. The celebrations are openly held and give a great opportunity to fellowship and pray with other Sir Knights and their families. They also give a platform to promote our Knight Templar organization to Brother Masons and their families as well as the general public.

These Christmas Observances are one of the hallmarks of Templary and guide us on the path of the defense of the Christian religion. As Christians, we are taught to place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Redeemer and are also taught to share that Faith with all who are within shouting distance from the distant foothills to the top of the mountain. We hope that you and your family will take the opportunity to share this great season with other Knights Templar and be sure to include your friends and neighbors throughout your community.

Check with your local York Rite bodies to find out where and when the Commandery in your area will be celebrating their Christmas Observance and take the time to join in the Celebration!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARK BRADLEY, GRAND SECRETARY/RECORDER AT THE YORK RITE OFFICE @ (478) 742-2557

PETITION FOR YORK RITE BODIES
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf>

GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE
www.yorkriteofga.org

FIND YOUR CLOSEST YORK RITE:
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/grand-york-rite/york-rite-by-city.html>

YAARAB SHRINE NEWS

Having Fun - Helping Kids

Like and follow us on facebook or visit [www.yaarabshrine.net]

Upcoming Events

Yaarab Shrine
400 E Ponce de Leon Ave
Atlanta, GA 30308

Children's Christmas Party

December 7, 2019
This event is open to children and families of Masons and Shriners. Hang out with Santa and friends. Go to Yaarab web site for exact time. www.yaarabshrine.net

Imperial Session 2024/25

Enter a drawing to win a limited edition Henry Golden Boy .22 S/L/LR Rifle #81 Tickets are \$100 - the drawing is December 4, 2019. Contact the business office for tickets at 404-872-5818. All proceeds support the Imperial Session in Atlanta.

Election Day and Reception

January 4, 2020

Circus Kick-off

January 11, 2020

Valentine's Day Party

February 14, 2020



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

To learn how to refer a child, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org or call the patient referral line at 800-237-5055 in the U.S., or 800-361-7256 in Canada.

Yaarab Shrine's
Annual Children's Christmas Party
Saturday, December 7th, 2019 - 12 noon till 3pm
Gene Bracewell Auditorium
Games, Clowns, Moonwalk, Photos with Santa
Gifts for the kids, Lunch and Refreshments
Nobles tell your Lodge about this event. Everyone is invited.
Ladies will be wrapping toys on Friday Dec. 6th at 10:00 am
If you are interested in helping, come to the activities building
Chairman: Jerry Brookshire 706-878-0647

The Imperial Potentate's Program



MASONIC RELATIONS

As part of the Masonic family of organizations, Shriners International supports Masonic efforts, and works closely with fellow Masons in a variety of ways. Here are just a few examples from the past year.

Contact 404-872-5818 for any additional information.

Contact John Law for membership questions. 404-414-6379

Helping Historic *Solomon's Lodge No. 1*

January 20, 2016 and January 21, 2016, Tidewater Preservation LLC conducted an inspection of the Cotton Exchange in Savannah, Georgia. The Cotton Exchange is a four story, iron, brick and terra cotta masonry, and timber framed building. The building was designed by Bostonian architect, William Gibbons Preston. His design won out in a competition participated in by eleven architects. The Cotton Exchange is believed to be one of a few structures that were built over a public road. The Savannah Cotton Exchange building was completed in 1886, during the era when Savannah ranked first as a cotton seaport on the Atlantic and second in the world. The Cotton Exchange was the center of activity in the staple which dominated this city's economic life before its evolution into a leading industrial seaport.

Upon inspection of the building, it was notice there was a significant drop between the spandrel beams that run across the building. The outside beams, identified as Columns A and D in relation to the inner beams, Columns B and C, a significant difference exists to almost 2 ½ inches, which has caused the remainder of the spandrels to exhibit a twisting action, which has caused significant damage to the existing terra cotta façade. There is severe cracking at a number of locations in the south brick and terra cotta façade. The majority of this damage is a direct result of the settling of columns B and C under the front of the building. It appears that the spandrel beams are effectively trying to act as moment resisting members, but as brick masonry, are unable to do so. As a result, in what would be negative moment regions or tension zones, the spandrel beams have pulled the masonry of the columns apart, delaminating them internally with fractures running all the way to the surface. This is seen at the first and second floor spandrel beams. The base of the arch over the entrance is showing signs of fracture, apparently due to excessively high compression stresses on the inside face of the intrados (the arch of the curve). Several of the original remaining balusters at the roof level are split, perhaps as a result of embedded iron expansion. The copper flashing around the building, in particular at the third floor and roof lines, is in relatively poor condition. Many of the seams are broken and appear to be leaking water into the terra cotta and/or brick masonry.

The members of Solomon's Lodge # 1 Free and Accepted Masons have set up a GoFundMe page for the sole purpose of

20 / December 2019

obtaining the necessary funding to fund this renovation project. The link is: <https://www.gofundme.com/savannah-cotton-exchange-renovation>.

With 215 active members, Solomon's does not have the resources available to effectively fund this project without outside assistance. We are writing this article to the Masonic Messenger to get the word out to the masonic members of Georgia and to other jurisdictions. If every Mason in the United States were to contribute just \$5.00, we could fund this project.

The Lodge has also looked at other options. We have reached out to various foundations, the National Historical Society and others but have not had any luck in securing funding for the project. Estimates have been placed at \$750,000 on a low side and \$1.5M on the high side. Tidewater Preservation has recommended that we look at techniques for stopping the settlement of Columns 1B and 1C with the hopes of stopping the entrapped stresses on the façade. This building has contributed significantly to the history of Savannah and the world. It is our hope to be able to save this wonderful building and the history associated to it for future generations to enjoy. Would you consider helping us?



The Common Gavel

By Brother Tim Henry, 32°



“RIDING WITH RAZ”

A 1965 powder blue long wheelbase Chevy sat in the driveway beneath an old pine tree, it smelled of cigarettes and sweat. South Georgia in the summer is tough with no A/C. My Granddaddy and I went everywhere in that old truck, fishing, to pay bills, visit relatives, and drive up town. We came to Atlanta twice in my memory. I stood beside him, and my sister and Granny sat in the seat. He never drove on the expressway. It was always two lane roads and the back way. That old blue truck was their only transportation, it took them to church and the field wherever the calling it was the way they got there. We got a call one afternoon to come over to the experiment farm and pick up some corn. I remember jumping up on the seat with Granny and Granddaddy and heading out to Chula. We pulled off onto an old dirt road and found my Uncle in a field of corn and they started picking. I cannot imagine now how much of a pain in the rear end I must have been. Two older people trying to get up food for the winter, but they never let me feel it.

That old blue truck was great. It did everything. It was where I learned about my kin folks. We would pass a house and he would say this or that person lives there, they are your whatever, cousin, etc. It helped me to feel connected. One of my favorite memories was getting off the school bus at home and there sat “ole blue” in the driveway. My Grandparents had driven up from Tifton to Douglasville, all back roads. I reflect on that now and wonder how many stops they must have taken in that old truck. The day before they were to head back home, my Granny was playing in the creek with my sister and me. We were chasing lizards and stacking rocks when Granny had an idea! Tifton is sandy and they don’t have rocks, so Granny thought that she would like to haul some home to line the driveway entrance where they lived. I tore out of the house to get Granddaddy and “ole blue.” I jumped in the back and bounced our way to the creek. Granny and my sister had already made a good pile of rocks and He backed up to that pile. He never argued with Granny. He would usually just say an easy word or phrase to get his point across.

He had emphysema and could only walk very short distances, so loading rocks was out of the question. Granny started piling them in like a squirrel in winter and he just sat and watched his truck take the load. Finally, he rose

from the stump he was sitting on and said “Irene that ain’t pine straw you’re loading.” Granny stopped loading and we all piled in and headed to the house.

When he passed away “ole blue” just sat in the yard. I was in my early teens and staying with Granny for the summer. I could see how much it hurt her to see the old truck just sit. I would go out and sit in it and smell the years of adventures we had and miss him more and more. I called my Dad and told him that someone had stopped and asked about the truck. Looking back, I had no idea what it cost in insurance, etc. for a truck to just sit and sit. Granny had never driven and she would never sit behind the wheel, so she and Dad agreed selling it would be best.

She and I sat on the porch that day as “ole blue” drove out of our lives. I wonder now if it was as hard on her then as it is for me now.

We are currently practicing for an EA Degree. We will remember the fun that will be had that night. We will laugh and carry on and share in a memory with that soon-to-be Brother. I find myself getting anxious when the time approaches for the Master Mason Degree. I start to wonder what they will do. Will they drive out of our Lodge forever, or will they come regularly and let us build memories together like I did when I was riding with Raz. My hope is we build those memories, that we welcome and absorb them, encourage and embrace a newly obligated Brother. We are the cab of that old truck, memories, stories and reflections can be stored within our hallways and Lodge rooms. Some of those memories will be the smell of bar-b-que, fried chicken and the like. Laughter over a pencil and not knowing what time it is. The memories are rich and full of Brotherly Love and Compassion. Standing by the family of a Brother who reached the finish and knowing with certainty we will see them again.

I miss that old truck; I miss the man that drove it more. I take comfort in the love that he shared with me standing in the seat with my arm around the neck of the man that loved me like NO other.



“Whatever happens tonight, make sure you listen”

Masonic Stories and Memories and Fraternity

“**W**hatever happens tonight, make sure you listen” At the time, I wasn’t sure what this meant. In the moments leading up to me receiving my Entered Apprentice degree, I heard these same words over and over again. Fergus #135 is composed of men that I look up to greatly, so I took this advice to heart. I have tried to take those words of wisdom and apply them to other areas as well. Throughout this journey of becoming a Mason, the things that I have cherished the most have been the stories told and the lessons learned. The simple things in life are often the things that carry the most weight, and lessons learned are some of the only things we get to take with us.

As for a story that has stuck with me lately - the setting is Fergus Lodge in Loganville. We are known for our BBQ and Brunswick Stew at Fergus, and the cooking of said stew is an all night affair. It’s about 9pm, and I’m sitting by the fire with two brothers - Marty Shellnutt and Brad Johnson. As the smoke rolls around and the flames continue to dance, they begin to tell me a story of old. One night, like many others before, they were tending the fire and listening to the wind blow. As they both are nodding in and out of sleep, they notice that the pole barn has begun to smoke for an entirely different reason - one of the embers has lodged itself between 2 pieces of wood and has began to burn.



“Marty, is the roof on fire?” Brad says from a slumber.

“Yep” replied Marty.

Without missing a beat, Brad grabs a water hose to extinguish the blaze.

The roof has since been changed to metal, but we still have that burnt board hanging up near our pot room to this day. I would have never even noticed it if I didn’t know the story behind it.

The only reason I know the story, is because I was spending time with brothers. Trying to listen and learn something from those who have been around longer than I have. As Masons, we are taught that Brotherly Love unites us. With as fast paced as this world is today, sometimes we just need to slow down, tell a few stories, and laugh amongst brothers.

COMMENTARY

Our First Lady Ms. Jane Wilson

She walks into the Children's Home. The kids get excited. Ms. Jane is here. Ms. Jane is here. She has such a warm inviting way about her the kids naturally feel comfortable to spend time with her. They carry on conversations just like longtime friends. Every child there she knows their name and something about them. They share with her and she shares with them. She has a genuine interest in every aspect of their lives.



First Lady Jane Wilson with Curtis Anderson, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Masonic Home and her husband Past Grand Master Michael H. Wilson.

I first remember watching her sitting on the front porch of the home with the kids all around her. Laughing and talking. You could see the love between them. Honest real love and a sincere care for each other.

She worked hard refurbishing the foyer at the home. It's much nicer now. It gives you a warm welcoming feeling when you walk into that room.

She not only cares about the children but the staff also. She knows all their names and takes an interest in what they do. She makes sure to speak to everyone there. That in itself means a lot.

One of her big passions are the new cottages being built. The Cottage Campaign has been an ongoing project of hers. She has worked tirelessly. She has cared for and dedicated herself to the cottages being completed. She helped pick out furnishings for the cottages. Making a real home for the children

Her hard work didn't stop there.

Her First Lady project this year was to help grow the Children's Garden and that in turn secured monies for The Cottage Campaign.

I'm sure she has been active in other activities concerning the Children's Home that I know nothing about. She is deserving of our many thanks for all she has done.

Her year as First Lady is about to be over but her impact on the Children's Home and most of all the children who live there will be felt for many, many years to come. It has been my good fortune to get to know Jane Wilson. She is an inspiration to us all. She has set an example of a TRUE MASON'S WIFE.

Sharon D. Bailey

COMMENTARY

“The Character of a Mason” By WB Randy Hazan, PM Fulton Lodge No. 216

The other day one of my clients noticed my ring and asked, “How long have you been a Mason?” Several answers popped into my head before I gave him a number of years – “almost twenty-seven years.” Our ensuing discussion, and some recent comments I heard a Mason that I highly respect make, got me to thinking about the “Character of a Mason.”

I began reflecting on my Masonic journey:

“My Brother: I present you with the Lambskin, or white leather Apron, which is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason.”

The first time I heard those words was well over 25 years ago at my initiation as a very new Entered Apprentice Mason.

I heard them again as I attended other Entered Apprentice Degrees and I heard them again at a Masonic funeral: *“This apron of cloth represents the Lambskin or white leather apron which is an emblem of innocence and the distinguished badge of a Mason.” ... “By it we are reminded of that faithfulness, purity of life and rectitude of conduct which we should strive to exemplify.” ...*

I began pondering the ‘badge of a Mason.’ When I started thinking of badges, of course the famous line came to mind from the movie “Treasure of the Sierra Madre:”

“Badges, we ain’t got no badges, we don’t need no badges I don’t have to show you any stinkin’ badges.”

Maybe we don’t need no badges. But then I remembered the honor bestowed upon me when I

was presented the apron that was the badge of my office after being elected and installed as Master of my lodge.

All of these references to badges seemed to point to character and I began to find a number of references to it.

From the Charge at Opening:

... “let us act with a dignity becoming the high moral character of our venerable institution.” ...

From the Charity Lecture:

... “For we are but the stewards of God’s unlimited bounty, wherefore, we should regard every human creature who has the character of a man, and bears the same image of the Divinity as you do, our brother, and one who has a just claim upon our kindness.” ...

From the Northeast Corner Lecture:

... “And just as the qualities of a good physical cornerstone are the squareness of its surface, its cubical form, and the fine materials of which it is composed, so, also, the qualities of a perfect spiritual cornerstone are the squareness of your actions, your stability and your integrity of character....”

From the Fellowcraft Charge at Passing:

... “Your past behavior and regular deportment have merited the honor which we have now conferred; and in your new character it is expected that you will conform to the principles of the Order, by steadily persevering in the practice of every commendable virtue....”

From the Master Mason Charge at Raising:

“BADGES, WE AIN’T
GOT NO BADGES,
WE DON’T NEED NO
BADGES I DON’T
HAVE TO SHOW
YOU ANY STINKIN’
BADGES.”

... *“You are now bound by duty, honor, and gratitude, to be faithful to your trust; to support the dignity of your character on every occasion; and to enforce, by precept and example, obedience to the tenets of the Order....”*

... *“Your virtue, honor and reputation are concerned in supporting with dignity the character you now bear....”*

These references to ‘character’ all have the common thread that it relates to how we act toward others and how we represent the Fraternity of Free Masonry.

The explanation of the square as a tool in Free Masonry with the initial explanation of its use: “to square our actions” and later “to square our actions toward all mankind” led me to thinking about some of the things that I love about our wonderful fraternity:

I remember one of the first things that I thought was very cool was that we say the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting.

I had the opportunity to fellowship with and learn from men I would probably otherwise never have gotten to know.

We accept men of all faiths and we say a nondenominational prayer at every meeting.

We accept all good men.

My thinking brought me around to a line from a song by Rodney Crowell that says: *“When you’re staring at injustice, may you never bite your tongue.”*

I have bitten my tongue long enough and find that I must now speak out.

I have heard Mason’s that I respect make derogatory or demeaning remarks of people who are not of their color or religion. **This is unacceptable.**

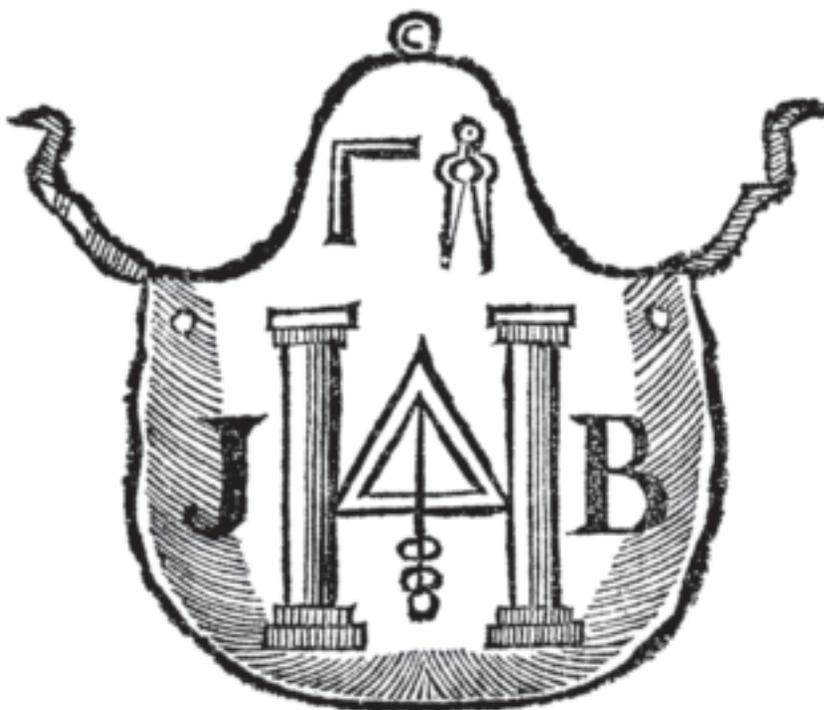
I frequently go to lodges where the

prayers are not nondenominational. While this is incorrect it is forgivable as it is what the lodge has customarily done. For those in the fraternity who aspire to teach others, **it is wrong.**

Also, I have been in places that are not Masonic in nature and heard men that are Mason’s say things that to me are offensive to the very tenets of the order. I am not a big social media person but on the few occasion that I have looked around I have seen some disturbing comments and posts that bring me back to the admonition that “we should be in the character of Masons at all times” not just in the lodge and not just when we are wearing our “badges.”

I offer my words as council and comfort and without hostility but encourage each man to remember the tenets of the fraternity to which we belong and love and to examine your behaviors and attitudes. Will your life be as pure and spotless as the white apron that was presented to you at initiation and is to be deposited on your coffin at your death? Mine is not, but I am working on it.

Maybe we do need those stinking badges.



“Veterans Corner” by Worshipful Brother Rick Conn, MSA

Did you serve on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975? If yes, you may have had contact with Agent Orange, an herbicide used to clear trees and plants during the war. We refer to this as *a presumption of contact*. Find out if you can get disability compensation and other benefits for illnesses we believe are caused by Agent Orange.

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. This is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The law was signed on June 25, 2019, and takes effect on January 1, 2020.

Here is information for you to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to file a claim. If we denied your claim in the past, you can file a new claim based on this change in law.

Can I get disability benefits from VA? You may be able to get disability benefits if the below descriptions are true for you. This must be true:

You have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange (called a presumptive disease)

And at least one of these must also be true. Your military record must show that between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you:

Were aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or served on a vessel not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia (as detailed in Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019) Review the list of diseases related to Agent Orange

Who’s covered? Veterans, and Qualified dependents

What kind of benefits can I get? Health care, Compensation (payments), and An Agent Orange Registry health exam

How do I get these benefits? You’ll need to file a claim for disability compensation and submit your evidence (supporting documents).

If you have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange You won’t need to show that the problem started during—or got worse because of—your military service. This is because we believe that certain diseases are the result of exposure to herbicides. We refer to these as presumptive diseases.

If you have an illness that’s not on the list of Agent Orange-related diseases, but you believe was caused by Agent Orange You’ll need to: 1) Provide scientific and medical evidence that the condition is related to exposure to Agent Orange, or Show that the problem started during—or got worse because of—your military service. Scientific proof may include an article from a medical journal or a published research study.

What if I’m a Blue Water Navy Veteran, and VA denied my claim in the past? If we denied your claim because we determined that your disability wasn’t caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, you can file a new claim based on the change in law. In certain cases, if we approve your claim, we’ll pay you back to the date when you submitted your original claim. We refer to this as retroactive payment. If you have more questions about this change in law, please read the fact sheet on Blue Water Navy Veterans and Agent Orange (PDF).

What if I need help filing my claim? You can get help in one of these ways:

Call 800-827-1000 or TTY 800-877-8339, or go to your nearest VA regional benefit office, or get help from a trained professional trusted to help with VA-related claims.

All veterans please check on this and see if you are qualified and file for compensation or treatment. It can affect you in ways you can only imagine. There are many VSO’s that can assist you in your claims. Contact me and I will try to steer you to the right one that can take your file to the BVA.



Georgia CHIP Communication Corner

By Worshipful Brother Cabot Rohrer

Congratulations to the Masons of Georgia, families and dozens of volunteers from every district in our great state that have supported the Georgia Child Identification Program in 2019. This has been a great year of ID's performed and a year to be so proud of. A year long track record of reaching new goals for the number of events held. Throughout 2019, our events held within our Districts resulted in a cumulative total of 122,052 ID Kits and over 1,500 events since the inception of our program.

Congratulations to our District 11 Director, Worshipful Brother John Shaw for earning and accepting the award on behalf of District 11 for the most ID's completed in 2019! See the included picture of your GACHIP Team!



Throughout the year, our District Directors have held events at a number of new venues, such as Day Care Centers, Back to School and City Fairs are becoming a fantastic opportunity to meet the families of children and through working with the local administration setting up family days and GACHIP Events. We also welcome to our GACHIP Statewide Team: Brother Jeff Ozburn for District 8, Brother Keith Nelson for District 3 and Brother Mike Rentz for District 2. Our Brother Bob Mount will be taking the lead as the District 7 Director and thank you to Worshipful Brother Jamie Watkins for his enthusiastic leadership of District 7.

Let us reflect on some great accomplishments in 2019. These are accomplishments that all Masons and their families should be proud of. We all know that 'people' make it happen. It is the volunteering of time, traveling to deliver equipment, circulating brochures and sharing the good news of GACHIP that are the vital ingredients of such a worthwhile charity of the Grand Lodge. Yes, people like you, your families and your friends facilitating events, meeting families, and going through the process of ID'ing children is what makes us proud of what we do. Congratulations to the Masons of Georgia, families and dozens of volunteers from the snow covered mountains in North Georgia to the shining sea in South Georgia.

As our Brother Masons in Georgia, your District Directors have a number of promotional materials to present to the community through your Lodges from pins to Brochures.

Also we continue to receive, at no cost to the program, laptops donated through the generosity of a local company in Columbus Georgia. Through their benevolent gift, the program has saved tens of thousands of dollars and we have ensured that the active districts in the program have the required equipment inventory for their events.

Throughout 2019, our Worshipful Brother Harold Culpepper continues to replace and upgrade the equipment for each district. Let us not forget that we would never be successful without the undying enthusiasm and management of our supplies by Worshipful Brother Associate Director Steven Fishman and operational support by Associate Director Richard Gibson. We are so indebted to our Brother Russ Cooke for his expert website work throughout the year and his speedy reply in addressing issues.

It is with the highest level of gratitude that we call out and thank our District Directors and their teams: David Pollett, Darryl Moye, Craig Knowlton, Michael Bowman, Bob Mount, Mike Rentz, Joel Turpin, David Winkler, John Shaw, Keith Nelson, Jeff Ozburn and Walter Ashby. They are the TRUE unsung Masonic Heroes of the GACHIP Program who have traveled hundreds of miles across their districts, maintained and delivered equipment, worked events, organized volunteers and who best emulates our Grand Master's mission for 2019: "Making A Difference". And we do "Make A Difference" for each family that participates in the GACHIP program by ID'ing these children. We work so hard to give families a tool that we pray they never have to use! However, the tool is there should it be needed in an emergency.

I encourage each of you to contact your GACHIP District Directors today and join our winning TEAM! As you know Together Everyone Achieves More! We have an army of expertise to successfully assist you. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your 2019 State Director and meeting so many of you throughout our great state. I hope that you, my Brethren, will place support for the GACHIP Program at the top of your 2020 Lodge priority list. GACHIP is one of our most visible charities and a great opportunity for your Lodges to provide a lasting community outreach. Happy Holiday to each of you and your families. Best wishes for grand CACHIP Program in 2020!

50 Year Awards



Robert S. Glore
Clarksville Lodge #325



Bill Dickert
Caledonia Lodge #121



Jerry Tracy
Caledonia Lodge #121



Thomas E. Cagle
Coosa Lodge #622



Hubert Barker
Beulah Lodge #50



Lamar Egbert Richards, Hugh Benning Boling, Ralph William Perry, Marvin Lanier Orr
Lafayette Lodge #44



Edward Stone
Chipley Lodge #40



Hoke Askew
Chipley Lodge #40



John Henson Jr.
Chipley Lodge #40



Roy Michael Byrd
East Point Lodge #288



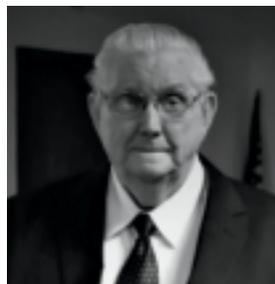
John C. Hunt, Jr.
Mableton Lodge #171



Dale A. Fleming,
Atlanta Peachtree
Lodge #59



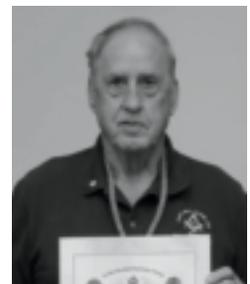
William H. Dotson
Solomon's Lodge #1



Lewis E. Oglesby
Swainsboro Lodge #244



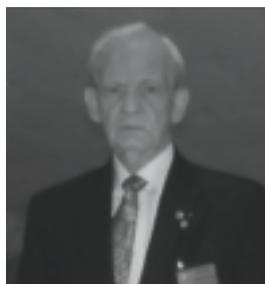
Robert E. Phillips
Zerubbabel Lodge #15



Jimmy Tippens
Flint Hill Lodge #371



Wayne Whitmire
Gainsville Lodge #219



John Woroschinski
Gainsville Lodge #219



Charlie Holcomb
Gainsville Lodge #219



Gary Adams
Yonah Lodge #382



Willie J. Thomas
Hapeville Lodge #590



William O. Boen, Sr.
Ancient Landmark
Lodge #231



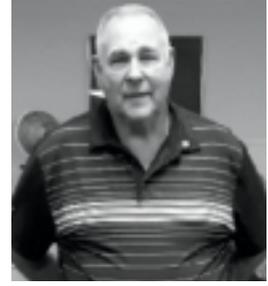
Lawrence F. Dorsey
Jasper Lodge #50



Russell Frank Pool
Jasper Lodge #50



H. Leroy Brown
Hapeville Lodge #590



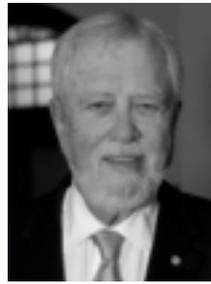
Benny J. Clark
Laurens Lodge #75



Harvey Hamby
Eton Lodge #509



Jimmy L. Comer
College Park Lodge #454



Gary C. Hart
Solomon's Lodge #1



Charles W. Williams
Solomon's Lodge #1



John J. Sheley, Jr.
Solomon's Lodge #1



William S. Gustin
Solomon's Lodge #1



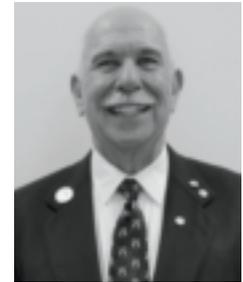
Jerold E. Woods, Jr.
Solomon's Lodge #1



Donald P. Frazier
Solomon's Lodge #1



Paul D. Hooten
Ringgold Lodge #90



J.D. Mitchell
Battle Hill Lodge #523



Edward Hoover
R.T. Turner Lodge #116



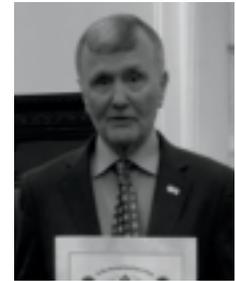
James E. Stephens
Fayetteville Lodge #711



Edwin H. Culver
Landrum Lodge #48



Robert E. Falligant Jr.
Landrum Lodge #48



Harry L. Wells Jr.
Landrum Lodge #48



Oliver T. Anchors Jr.
Landrum Lodge #48



Oliver C. Grounds, Jr.
Latham Lodge #12



Leslie H. Faulkner
Ancient York Lodge #127



Roy E. Barnes
Latham Lodge #12



Dan A. Duvall
Western Lodge #91



Charles Young
Buchanan Lodge #78



Ray Tant
Buchanan Lodge #78



John R. Simmons
Trion Lodge #160



Arthur B. Eanes
Coweta Lodge #60



Lester L. Cantrell
Canton Lodge #77



Larry J. Addis
Gordon Springs
Lodge #463



Ray M. Leonard
Gordon Springs
Lodge #463



John T. Blewett
Springfield Lodge #440

60 Year Awards



William G. Cox
Coweta Lodge #60



Waymon H. Yearwood
Chappell Lodge #511
55 Years



Andre E. Lovas
Palmetto Lodge #74



Kenneth M. Strickland
Bartlett Lodge #139



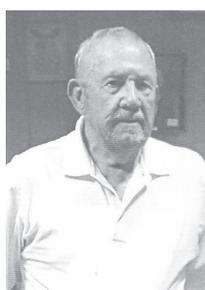
Joseph D. Ethridge, Sr.
Bartlett Lodge #139



Charles H. Huss
Solomon's Lodge #1



John H. Pigott
Landrum Lodge #48



Charles T. Turner
Villa Rica Lodge #72

65 Year Awards



Jack W Tuten, Sr.
Guyton Lodge #428



Jullian Whatley
Fickling Lodge #129



Joel E. Burns
Panthersville Lodge #543

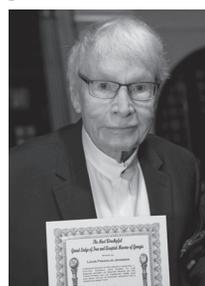
70 Year Awards



Russell L. Mathuss
Kennesaw Lodge #33



Roland B. Reagan
Philologia Lodge #178



Louis F. Johnson
Solomon's Lodge #1

In Memoriam

Members Reported Deceased from September 28, to November 30, 2019

Name:	Lodge No.	Name:	Lodge No.	Name:	Lodge No.
JOHNSON, LOUIS FRANKLIN	1	LEGGETT, WOODROW LEO	182	PATTEN, WILLIAM DONALD	434
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COGGINS, WILLIAM THOMAS	14	WHITAKER, JAMES WHITE	185	BARNETT, WILLIAM GERALD	444
PHILLIPS, RAYMOND BOYD	24	TURMAN, THOMAS GORDON	185	LEWIS, VALLEE MAURICE	444
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CHAPMAN, JOHN MILTON	27	DEAN, GEORGE WASHINGTON	195	BRITT, JAMES ANDREW	449
BEXLEY, HARRY	41	BUFFIN, REMBERT	195	BROWN, DUANE HOUGHTON	449
SEVALL, JOSEPH ROY III	41	SCOTT, JERRY MICHEAL	202	CHAMBERS, JAMES WALTER JR.	454
EVANS, MICHAEL WAYNE	44	BOWMAN, TONY EUGENE	204	STAMEY, DONALD EUGENE	455
SNIPES, DONALD RAY	46	HEAD, JERALD BYCE	212	COX, JESSE ADAM	455
BASS, WILLIAM LEROY	47	HERBERT, SAMUEL WARREN	217	COUTURE, RAYMOND DONAT	476
HALL, JOHN ROLLEN	47	KIRK, STEVE ALTON	220	ALLEN, CLARENCE LEE	489
NANNEY, RUDY CLEVELAND	49	TEAGUE, JAMES THOMAS	220	WHEAT, RALPH WILLARD	509
GORE, WILLIAM VETO	53	PRATHER, E. W.	221	GODFREY, DONALD WAYNE	513
WETTSTEIN, LEE EUGENE	54	THOMAS, BARNEY EDWARD	235	WATKINS, SANSON LEROY	534
BECK, CLAUDE BROOKINS	58	SMITH, THOMAS JEFFERSON	255	AGAN, DON ANTHONY	537
SMALLWOOD, SAMUEL ARLIS	60	ADAMS, KENNETH RAY	256	DAILEY, WALTER DONALD	543
MORRIS, CLYDE MACK JR.	77	DELAY, JAMES LONG	288	BROWN, RUFUS JOHNSON	544
BARDEN, BILLY JOE	92	DRESSLER, JAMES BOYCE	288	THOMPSON, JAMES OSCAR JR.	544
CRUMLEY, GENERAL MARDY	92	JONES, ALVIN ASHER JR.	288	WOODALL, EUGENE HARRY	544
UMBEHANT, DAVID LEE	92	BRANDON, AARON SPENCER	288	STEPHENS, CHARLES ALFRED	549
DEMORE, PARRIS ROBERTS	97	PARRIS, ROBERT WAYNE SR.	288	WORLEY, CHARLES CRAIG	564
TURNER, ROBERT EDWIN	97	GILLHAM, LESLIE MERLE JR.	289	HANSARD, DANNY ALEC	572
MAYHUE, ROBERT WALLACE	99	FERNANDER, BRIAN LEE	289	PARKER, ALBERT CONLEY	586
HOLMES, JAMES D.	111	DAVIS, REUBEN GLEN JR.	292	HAYES, GERALD MILTON	590
HALL, RODNEY LAVERN	111	MASSEY, ROBERT LEE	294	HOGUE, ELMER COSTLEY JR.	590
CHASTAIN, EDWARD EUGENE	113	FLETCHER, CONNIE CARROLL	295	PEARSON, HENRY THOMAS	590
DECKER, BILLY MARVIN	114	COWART, WADE GARDNER	295	CALHOUN, WILLIAM MORGAN	591
DREW, LAWTON DANIEL	116	COLLINS, MARION NEWTON	298	BROCK, WILLIAM EARNEST	591
HAMBOR, JOSEPH JOHN	116	CHEEK, RICHARD LARRY	304	FITZGERALD, GEORGE HORACE	622
MEINEN, ROBERT WALTER	116	RIGGINS, REUBEN VANCE	321	SHAW, HORACE STEVEN	622
WILSON, JASPER	126	WILLIAMS, JAMES RANDALL	322	STINSON, CALVIN THEODORE	622
BOWEN, GLEN DOUGLAS	131	PECKINS, RALPHY AUBREY	325	RUTLEDGE, KENNETH GLEEN	644
THOMPSON, BRUCE ESKA	135	NITZSCHE, EDWARD R.	367	DAVIS, ROY	663
CLARKE, TERRY LEE	139	VINES, LAWRENCE WILLSON	371	HOLLAND, GARY DALE	677
WALDEN, ROBERT LEROY	144	ROSE, JOHN ABRAM JR.	382	CLEMENTS, JOHN AARON	677
THOMAS, ALFORD VI	158	WHITE, LEONARD EUGENE	405	DOZIER, ROBERT DELANO JR.	677
OXFORD, ROY ALVIN	171	JENNINGS, JOHN CARMEN JR.	412	DOZIER, ROBERT DELANO	677
GARY, JACK EMORY	173	KNIGHT, GLENN CALVIN	421	DUDLEY, EARNEST PIERCE	677
JOHNSON, OTIS HART	178	PATTERSON, CHARLES EDWARD	428	DYE, JAMES HAROLD	677

In Memoriam

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tember 28, to November 30, 2019**

Name:	Lodge No.	
HAMBRICK, WILLIAM HERMAN	677	PARKS, BURL ERCELL 591, 265
HOOVER, JOHNNIE CYRUS JR.	677	TURNER, JOE LYNN 65, 753
MCCASLAN, RUDOLPH AHRON	677	ADAMS, BILLY FRED 66, 751
SEEBECK, HORST HEINBICH	677	LANCE, WILLIAM DENNIS 679, 758
SEIGLER, JOSEPH MORGAN	677	KELLEY, ROBERT ALLEN 42
BAURS, DUANE ELWOOD	677	
SPENCE, JAMES DONALD	679	
MACKEY, DANNY LEE	680	
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OWENS, HARRY EVERETT	693	
SHADBURN, LEWIS FRANKLIN	694	
RAINES, STEVE CURTIS	704	
THOMPSON, GEORGE JIMMY	709	
VANCONEY, BENEDICT MICHAEL	709	
MEREDITH, BENJAMIN THOMAS JR.	709	
BOGOSLAWSKY, CARL MARSHALL	710	
BETSILL, ALEX BRYANT SR.	711	
PYE, HOYT WILLIAM	711	
CHAPMAN, WILLIAM RALPH	715	
SHIRLEY, GEORGE LEONARD JR.	717	
KINKEAD, JOHN OLIVER	718	
LYNES, JAMES CONNER	722	
RAMSEY, JAMES WILLIAM	728	
WASHINGTON, HARVEY RAYMOND	730	
LITTLE, EDWARD EARL	742	
ETHRIDGE, DOUGLAS HUBERT JR.	743	
TURNER, JOE LYNN	753	
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CASSADY, BRANDON DARAN	129, 586	
COLE, RONALD STACY	131, 433	
BELK, JAMES MURRY	153, 742	
DAVIS, REUBEN GLEN SR.	259, 414	
THOMPSON, SAMUEL CHARLES SR.	294, 158	