

Masonic Messenger



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

August 2020

Cottage Program Concludes Triumphant!



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

Editor of the Masonic Messenger Daniel P. Bennett (364,154)
 728 Bough Mountain Rd. NW Sugar Valley, GA 30746
 Email: editor@masonicmessenger.com 770-608-6232

Chairman of Publications Brian Coffey (271, 749, 710)

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MASONIC MESSENGER

Vol. 117 August 2020 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

Be on the lookout for changes coming to your Masonic Messenger. The Publications Committee is in discussions with our publisher, Panaprint, to change the publication of the Masonic Messenger from Bimonthly to quarterly; going from 32 to 48 pages. This will result in a cost savings of over \$17,000. A specific date for transition has not been determined. Your Publications Committee is always working to improve your Masonic Messenger and we ask for your input on what you would like to see included in the magazine. Do not hesitate to contact me at coffeybr@gmail.com.

Brian Coffey, Second Grand Steward
Chairman, Publications Committee

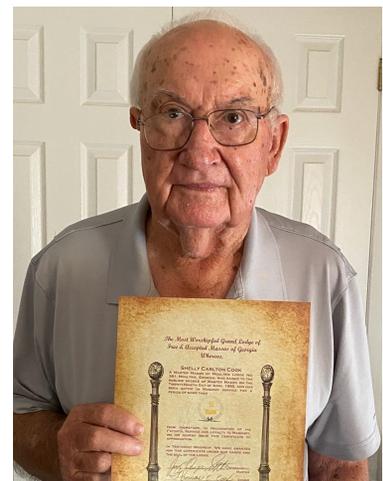
Brethren all,

Please remember to submit your 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, and 75 year awards to the Editor as soon as possible. These can be sent to editor@masonicmessenger.com or 728 Baugh Mountain Rd. NW, Sugar Valley, GA 30746. Please do not send images in text messages as they are difficult to track. When taking the picture of the honored Brother, please be sure to have good lighting and send an image with the awardee only. Images with DDGMs, PGMs, and family are more difficult to edit onto the page. A headshot (generally to the waist) works the best. Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter and please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

The Editor

Great example
of a superb
Awardee image



ILLUSTRIOUS THOMAS LANCELOT REESE, II, 33°

Born: September 19, 1933 – Milledgeville, Georgia

Died: May 27, 2020 -- Milledgeville, Georgia

PASSED TO THE GREAT BEYOND IN HIS EIGHTY SIXTH YEAR

WHEREAS, The Officers and Members in the Valley of Middle Georgia, Orient of Georgia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, desire to record their deepest sorrow at the death of their Masonic Brother, Illustrious Brother Thomas Lancelot Reese, II, 33° who, since June 19, 1976, has served the Scottish Rite, Valley of Middle Georgia in several capacities. Brother Tom in his years contributed greatly to mankind and our country. His zest for life, his accomplishments individually will not soon be forgotten and we are much better for his life here on earth. He was a kind, generous and compassionate Christian friend to many who traveled many miles with him to some remote place to confer degrees or offer assistance. Brother Tom was educated in the public schools of Hancock County, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy. He served from 1959 to 1962 in the United States Army Medical Service Corps, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant. After his discharge in 1962, he was employed in pharmacy, and in 1968, he began a long career with Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, retiring after 30 years as the Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor and Coordinator of the Developmental Disabilities Division Pharmacy. He was a member of several professional organizations, and also served as President of the Milledgeville Rotary Club.

Brother Reese was initiated in Macon Lodge #5 on March 2, 1964, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 16, 1964, and raised as a Master Mason on April 6, 1964. He demitted to Benevolent Lodge #3 in Milledgeville, Georgia on March 2, 1976, serving as Worshipful Master in 1982. He served as a District Deputy to the Grand Master for the Tenth Masonic District for seven years and as Worshipful Master of the Tenth District Masonic Convention in 1990. In 1986, he was awarded the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award. He served as Master of Georgia Lodge of Research in Atlanta in 1994. He was appointed in 1994 as Third Grand Steward of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia by Clyde E. Griffin and he served with distinction as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 2000. While serving as Grand Master, he served as the Host of the Conferences of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America held in Savannah, Georgia in 2000. He was very active in Grand Lodge serving on several Committees until unable to serve. Brother Tom was also a longtime member of Clarence H. Cohen Daylight Lodge #749 in Martinez, Georgia having affiliated with them as a dual and charter member on September 7, 1995.

He joined Constantine Chapter #4, RAM in Macon, Georgia on May 10, 1965, Washington Council #6, in Macon,

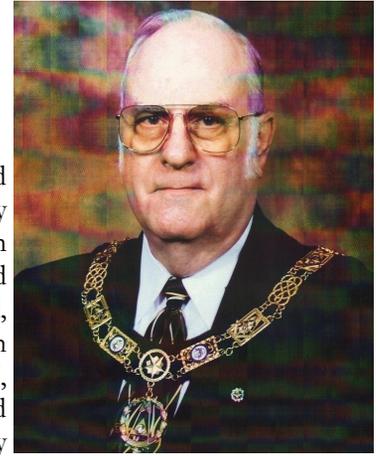
RSM, on May 20, 1965 and St. Omer Commandery #2, KT, in Macon, on June 3, 1965. He demitted from these bodies in April, 1976 and affiliated with Temple Chapter #6, RAM, Georgia Council #4, and Plantagenet Commandery #12, all in Milledgeville, Georgia. He was a past presiding officer of all these bodies and was invited to membership in Georgia Priory #39, Knights of the York Cross of Honour on June 11, 1983. He was very active in the York Rite bodies and was elected to the Grand Chapter line, serving until 1987 when he resigned while serving as Grand King of the Grand Chapter because of family and personal health reasons.

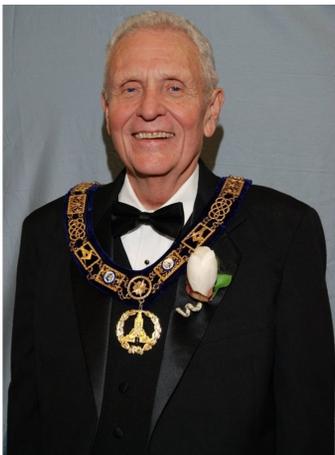
Brother Tom was invited to become a member of many of the Appendant-Honorary Bodies in Georgia and served in a position of leadership in many of them. He became a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on June 19, 1976. He was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 19, 1981, and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on December 2, 1989. He was very active in the Scottish Rite, doing ritualistic work and serving as the Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, in the Valley of Macon for several years. He also did the Lieutenant Grand Commander part in the Georgia Thirty Third Degree team, for several years. Unfortunately, in later years, he was unable to attend in Macon and more so when the Valley moved to Warner Robins, and many of the current Valley members did not know him and his contributions to the Valley.

Brother Tom was a longtime Methodist and member of First United Methodist Church in Milledgeville where he served some years as Chairman of the Administrative Board and Sunday School teacher.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the officers and members of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Middle Georgia, hereby give formal expression of its grievous loss in the death of Thomas Lancelot Reese, II, and does hereby note in its records the passing from this life of a man who was esteemed by his associates, loved by his friends and respected by all.

Joe E. Turner, 33° Orient of Georgia Historian





ILLUSTRIOUS BASCOM PALMER MILLS, JR., 33°

Born: November 8, 1933 – Jacksonville, Florida

Died: June 6, 2020 -- Decatur, Georgia

PASSED TO THE GREAT BEYOND IN HIS EIGHTY SIXTH YEAR

WHEREAS, The Officers and Members in the Valley of Columbus, Orient of Georgia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, desire to record their deepest sorrow at the death of their Masonic Brother, Illustrious Bascom Palmer Mills, Jr., 33°

who, since July 19, 1986, has served the Scottish Rite, Valley of Columbus in several capacities. Brother Palmer in his years contributed greatly to mankind and our country. His zest for life, his accomplishments individually will not soon be forgotten and we are much better for his life here on earth. He was a kind, generous and compassionate Christian friend to many.

Brother Mills was educated in the public schools of Jacksonville, Florida, Georgia and graduated from Landon High School. He then attended Mars Hill Junior College in Mars Hill, North Carolina, and graduated from Norfolk College of the Colleges of William and Mary with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He served from 1955 to 1959 in the United States Navy, primarily aboard the U.S.S. Tutuilla, as a Shore Patrol Officer, in the Fifth Naval District Legal Officer and in the Chaplain's Office of Norfolk Naval Base, in Norfolk, Virginia. After his discharge in 1959, he taught school in the Norfolk City School System for five years before moving to Georgia. In 1967 he became the Conventions Manager for Calloway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. He then bought a Snap-On tool business and later a Western Auto store and operated them for several years. He was at various times a member of the Harris County School Board, Vice-Chairman of the Harris County Department of Family and Children Services, President of the Pine Mountain PTA, and active in the Pine Mountain Chamber of Commerce.

Brother Palmer was initiated in Norview Lodge #113 in Norfolk, Virginia on September 1, 1961, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 6, 1961, and raised as a Master Mason on November 16, 1961. He demitted to Chipley Lodge #40 in Pine Mountain, Georgia on October 1, 1974, serving as Worshipful Master in 1980 and secretary for nine years. He served for several years as the District Director of Masonic Education in the Fourth District. In 1999, he served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge for Most Worshipful Grand Master James E. Miller. He had an interesting article titled "Practicing Enochism" in the June, 1999 Masonic Messenger.

He was appointed in 2003 as Third Grand Steward of the

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia by Eli Stafford and he served with distinction as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 2011. It was during his term as Grand Master that the masons of Georgia erected and dedicated a plaque at Warm Springs, Georgia, commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of future President Franklin Delano Roosevelt becoming a mason in Holland Lodge No. 8 in New York in 1911. He was very active in Grand Lodge serving on several Committees until unable to serve.

Brother Mills was also a longtime member of West Georgia Daylight Lodge #760, now James E. Miller Daylight Lodge #760, in Columbus, Georgia having affiliated with them as a dual and charter member on October 28, 2008.

He joined Fort Benning Chapter #73, RAM, Fort Benning Council #73, RSM, and St. Aldemar Commandery #3, KT, all in Columbus, in a one day class on May 23, 1998. He was a past presiding officer of all these bodies and was invited to membership in Georgia Priory #39, Knights of the York Cross of Honour on June 11, 2005.

Brother Palmer was invited to become a member of some of the Appendant-Honorary Bodies in Georgia and enjoyed his memberships in those bodies. He became a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on July 19, 1986. He was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 9, 1995, and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on October 13, 2001. He was active in the Scottish Rite and served as classroom assistant, orator, Master of Kadosh in the Consistory and Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in 2004. Unfortunately, in his later years, he was unable to attend regularly in Columbus, and many of the newer Valley members may not have known him and his contributions to the Valley.

Brother Palmer was a longtime Baptist and member of Woodland Baptist Church in Woodland, Georgia where he served some years as deacon, Sunday School teacher, and led the congregation in singing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the officers and members of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Columbus, hereby give formal expression of its grievous loss in the death of Bascom Palmer Mills, Jr., and does hereby note in its records the passing from this life of a man who was esteemed by his associates, loved by his friends and respected by all.

Joe E. Turner, 33° Orient of Georgia Historian

Cottage Campaign Concludes as a Success to the Work of Georgia Masons

Thanks to Georgia Masons, Lodges, foundations, companies, and individuals who supported the Cottage Campaign which has reached its funding raising goal for the construction of five cottages at our Masonic Home campus in Macon.

The first three cottages, named for Thelma Matthews, Walter W. Matthews, and Tommy and Bernice Irvin are occupied. The fourth cottage is under construction and will be named for Masters Lodge after the brethren made a very generous donation. Donations sufficient to complete the fifth cottage, to be named in honor of MWB Max Meyerhardt, the founder of the Masonic Home, has been secured. Construction will begin soon.

The original building was constructed in 1905. These five cottages will serve our children far into the future as we continue with our mission:

To provide a safe environment

For youth to develop themselves

Physically, mentally, and spiritually.

THANK YOU FOR A DREAM FULFILLED

~Masters Lodge Cottage~



Masonic Home Alumni Association



Love Lives Here

RUTLAND LODGE #298 SHOWS TRUE MEANING OF MASONRY

A few months ago I was honored to visit Rutland Lodge #298 in Macon Georgia to speak about my appreciation of the Masonic Home and the Masons who support it.

During my visit Past Grand Secretary Joe Watson learned that John Outler , who was a member of Rutland many years ago was my Great Uncle. He in turn told the other members and several remembered Uncle John and told stories of what a great Mason he was. He instructed several of them when they were new Masons. In 1974 he was the only Mason to receive the Distinguished Service Medal Award. When he died in 1979 one of the Macon TV Stations announced on the news that Mr. Mason had passed away.

A few weeks later I mentioned to some of the members that our private family cemetery where Uncle John and my Mother and Grandparents as well as several other ancestors are buried was in desperate need of cleaning. In January several men got together and spent a Saturday weeding, cutting limbs, mowing and doing whatever needed to be done to get the cemetery in shape.

This was truly a Labor of Love. The Outler Family would like to express our gratitude to these men for the work they did in honor of our Uncle, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather.

When I am asked what Masons do I simply say Masonry is Love in Action.

Brenda Lawless Brannon
Secretary/Treasurer
Masonic Home of Georgia Alumni Association



**GRAND
CHAPTER**
Michael H. Sampsell
ME Grand High Priest



**GRAND
COUNCIL**
Ron B. Wolbert
MI Grand Master



**GRAND
COMMANDERY**
Mark S. Johnson
RE Grand Commander

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

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



Michael H Sampsell
ME Grand High Priest



Ron B. Wolbert
MI Grand Master



Mark S. Johnson
RE Grand Commander

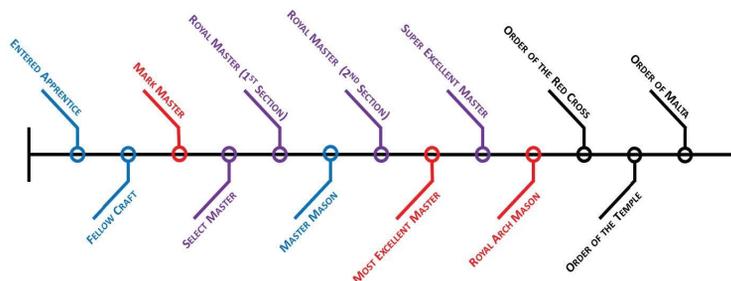
The Grand York Rite Session was held on May 30th as a virtual session due to the pandemic and a new slate of officers was elected. Michael H. Sampsell was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Ron B. Wolbert, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia and Mark S. Johnson, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. Elected to the Chapter line was Jack J. Bell, Excellent Grand Master of the 2nd Veil and Tom Chapman as the Excellent Grand Master of 1st Veil. James R. Harris, Sr. was elected as Illustrious Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Georgia. Ryan C. Nealey was elected as Eminent Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Congratulations to all and we hope for another fantastic year in York Rite Masonry.

Have you ever wondered about the timing of the degrees in Masonry?

The degrees of the York Rite help to complete a Mason's journey to Light. When you complete the Blue Lodge degrees and become a Master Mason, there are many gaps in your Masonic education that you aren't even aware exist. Come join us in the York Rite and like so many before you, have that "light bulb moment" when it all just makes sense. As a wise mentor of mine once said, "After 47 years as a Mason, I never realized that my Masonic journey was incomplete until I received the York Rite degrees."

Chronological Order of Blue Lodge & York Rite Degrees



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/york-rite-by-city.html>

VALLEY OF MIDDLE GEORGIA DOVE SHOOT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2020

\$75 PER SHOOTER *Not Tax Deductible

Registration Starts @ 10:00 AM
Peach County I-75 Exit #142, West on HWY 96

Cash, Check, or Credit Card accepted
Reserve your tickets NOW by calling 478-745-4025
If Office is Closed, call 478-714-2503

ALL CHILDREN UNDER 16 MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION
ALL GEORGIA DNR RULES AND LAWS SHALL APPLY

RAFFLE for a BERETTA shotgun



A300 Outlander Synthetic



1 Ticket for \$5
5 Tickets for \$20
Only 1,000 Tickets will be sold
Drawing to be held at
Dove Shoot @ 1 PM
Do not have to present to win

Proceeds Support:




The Grand Lodge
Of Free and Accepted Masons for the State Of Georgia

Johnie M. Garmon
Grand Master
2019-2020

P.O. Box 1921
Blairsville, GA 30514
E-Mail: jmgarmon2015@outlook.com

We as Masons have adapted to the unprecedented circumstances into which we have been thrust.

The most pressing issue we are facing right now is under what circumstances we will be able to hold the 234th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia on October 27, 2020. Hard decisions are going to have to be made. I assure the brethren that these decisions will be made for the best interest and well-being of the Masons of Georgia.

I have cancelled the Grand Master's Banquet, the picnic at the Farmers Market, and other events. Our regular communication will be for the election of Grand Lodge Officers and their installation, will be held at Al Sihah Shrine building so space is limited. Circumstances have dictated how we can proceed. We must have representation of 25 lodges to meet the quorum requirements of the Masonic Code. I have postponed all Code Bills for the 2020 session, they will be differed to the 2021 annual communication. Bills already submitted do not have to be resubmitted if found to be in proper form and not in conflict with our Masonic Code, as reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee. Brethren, these are very unusual times and require us to move forward and make unusual decisions.

There will be no committee meetings on October 26, the Monday before Grand Lodge, or otherwise. I am asking each committee chairman to make use of whatever platform they choose to conduct such business as required by our Masonic Code and tender their written report to the Grand Secretary, in Word document format, for publication after the session.

Your Grand Lodge Officers met Saturday August 29th and after consultation with them, I have decided the 234th Annual Communication will be held by reservations limited to 150 attendees. The guidelines for the limited session are, Ballot for the elected officers, vote for Masonic Home Trustee's, Board of Relief member's, Budget's (Masonic Home and Grand Lodge), Code Supplement, and EDICT's.

Reservations must be requested by email to gsec@glofga.org and must be received by the Grand Secretary prior to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6th. Each District will have at least 6 slots available. All reservation shall be first-come, first-serve, based on the date and time the email is received by the Grand Secretary. Using email is the fairest way to determine when a request is sent and received. Ties will be broken, if necessary, by date and time sent. The Grand Secretary's Office will track the email reservations received by District and in order received. Slots are available only for Past and Sitting Masters of a Georgia lodge who are members in good standing of a Lodge in that District, and they can only submit a reservation for one Lodge and one District.

If requests exceed 6 for a District, those may be filled, if possible, out of the un-designated (pool) slots. If less than six requests are received for any District by the deadline the additional slots will be deemed abandoned and the unused slots will be available in the general pool. Brethren who request a

reservation will be notified by email if the request is granted on or before Friday, October 9th. If for some unforeseen reason, after receiving confirmation of a reservation, a brother is unable to attend the annual communication, he must notify the Grand Secretary's Office immediately at gsec@glofga.org , so that the slot may be made available to be filled from the waiting list maintained by the Grand Secretary.

There will be **NO** registration forms and no onsite registration. The email requesting a reservation must include the name, Lodge, and District of the Brother to be **valid** and will serve as the registration form. Email registration will be for two weeks, beginning September 22nd at 9:00 a.m. No group reservations are allowed. Each Brother must individually submit an email to gsec@glofga.org, All communications must be by email. The Grand Master's Address Book, including committee reports and budgets, will be distributed by email and will not be available at the door.

Grand Lodge officers' ladies and their invited guests will be admitted for installation on a space available basis.

Temperature checks will be done on everyone attending. No one with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will be admitted. Social distancing of six feet minimum is required, and all attending must wear a mask. If sick, the Brother must stay home or go home.

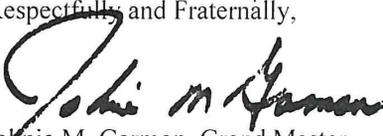
The Grand Secretary's Office will provide the Grand Tyler a list of the registered Past or Sitting Master's. The leaders of the District Deputies to the Grand Master shall assist the Grand Tyler at the doors. Each brother attending will be required to present a current dues card for admission (see MC-311) and to receive ballots, etc. The communication will be held in the Ballroom; at **Al Sihah Shrine Building, 222 Mecca Drive Macon, GA 31205-3147.**

I sincerely ask all Masons to remember our great fraternity, the Grand Lodge Officers, and especially your Deputy Grand Master and me when upon your bended knees in devotion to all Almighty God. I ask for your continued understanding and support as we move into these uncharted waters during the last couple of months in this Masonic year.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as Grand Master. Eva and I have worked to make the best of this situation and have come to the belief; 'we did not cause this pandemic, and we cannot fix it'. Thank you for your continued support and prayers in our behalf.

We need to let our passions grow in our duty to God, Country, Family, Neighbor, and our Fraternity. We remember the definition of Passion which we were admonished to "keep in due bounds". Passion can be good when properly used or cause great evil when used out of "due bounds". Take a moment to look inside and find your PASSION for Masonry. Each of us are very important to the whole, we are nothing alone, but together we are strong and can accomplish great things for our communities.

Respectfully and Fraternally,


Johnnie M. Garmon, Grand Master




The Grand Lodge
Of Free and Accepted Masons for the State Of Georgia

Johnie M. Garmon
Grand Master
2019-2020

P.O. Box 1921
Blairsville, GA 30514
E-Mail: jmgarmon2015@outlook.com

EDICT NO. 2020-1

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

I hereby issue this edict, to-wit:

WHEREAS, in recent weeks our entire nation has suffered under the effects of the coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these sorts of novel viruses and similar emergencies are unpredictable; and

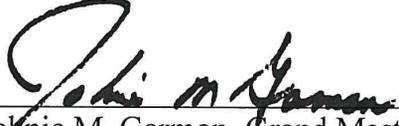
WHEREAS, the practice of social distancing is a recommended or required method to reduce the transmission of disease among everyone and specifically our Brethren; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Fraternity to make every effort to see to it that our Lodge rooms are a safe environment and to protect our Brethren and their families:

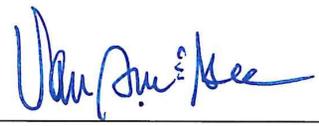
NOW THEREFORE, it is my edict that:

Wherever and whenever a public health or public safety emergency is declared at the national, state, county, or municipal level by lawful authorities or the Grand Master determines, in his sole discretion, that conditions exist which may constitute a public health or public safety emergency effecting the fraternity such that the normal methods of conducting Masonic work are considered inadvisable because of social distancing or otherwise, the Grand Master may issue rulings suspending portions of the ritual, balloting, degree work and examinations.

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 5th day of June 2020.



Johnnie M. Garmon, Grand Master

Attest: 

Van S. McGee,
Grand Secretary

[SEAL]




The Grand Lodge
Of Free and Accepted Masons for the State Of Georgia

Johnie M. Garmon
Grand Master
2019-2020

P.O. Box 1921
Blairsville, GA 30514
E-Mail: jmgarmon2015@outlook.com

EDICT NO. 2020-2

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

I hereby issue this Edict, to-wit:

WHEREAS, Masonic Code Section 12-101 provides a list and descriptions of aprons that can be worn by Georgia Masons; and

WHEREAS, numerous aprons are being worn by Brethren that do not fall under one of the categories set out in Masonic Code Section 12-101; and

WHEREAS, many of those aprons have not been authorized or approved by Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the appearance of uniformity of Masonic regalia is important.

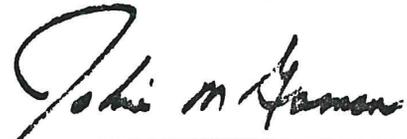
NOW THEREFORE, it is my order that:

All Masonic aprons worn by Georgia Masons, except in concordant or appendant bodies, must come under, and comply with, one of the categories listed in Masonic Code Section 12-101. The Education and Historical Commission **shall not be authorized** to approve any apron not described in the list of aprons set forth in Masonic Code Section 12-101 unless the creation and wearing of such apron has been previously authorized by the Grand Lodge of Georgia pursuant to legislation submitted and approved for the purpose of amending Masonic Code Section 12-101. If Masonic Code 12-101 has been amended, **the Education and Historical Commission shall approve all aprons** proposed to be worn pursuant to said Masonic Code Section before said aprons may be worn.

Any aprons actually in use on the date of this Edict may continue to be used during that apron's lifetime provide it falls under one of the categories set out in Masonic Code Section 12-101.

This Edict shall be read at the next regular meeting of each Lodge.

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 8th. day of July 2020.


Johnie M. Garmon, Grand Master

Attest:



Van S. McGee,
Grand Secretary

[SEAL]




The Grand Lodge
Of Free and Accepted Masons for the State Of Georgia

Johnie M. Garmon
Grand Master
2019-2020

EDICT NO. 2020-3

P.O. Box 1921
Blairsville, GA 30514
E-Mail: jmgarmon2015@outlook.com

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 appears that a situation concerning the administration of the business of our fraternity could create the appearance of a conflict of interest which should always be avoided, and

WHEREAS, the Brethren must be assured that the business of our fraternity is always conducted in the highest ethical manner; and

WHEREAS, rules and guidance for the craft are appropriate:

NOW THEREFORE, it is my edict that:

This edict applies to all Masons subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia a/k/a The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia (hereinafter "Grand Lodge") either as members or visiting Masons in this state.

No Mason, including, but not limited to, Grand Lodge officers and Grand Lodge committee members, or any person or entity related to them (hereinafter "Members"), shall be given any special consideration in business dealings with the Grand Lodge, the Masonic Home of Georgia (hereinafter "Masonic Home"), The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, the Masonic Home Endowment Fund Trustees, the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc. (hereinafter "GMCF") the Board of Relief or related entities all of which are included in any reference to Grand Lodge set forth herein.

Members may not provide goods or services, or otherwise do business with Grand Lodge for profit for which they or any company or individual they represent is to receive payment, except as provided herein, unless said Member is awarded the project following the solicitation of at least three competitive bids for said

goods or services. The requirement for bids for a particular matter or service may be waived by the agreement of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Treasurer. If any one of them is to receive compensation, that officer cannot participate in considering any waiver. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing negotiation with a bidder or bidders to obtain a better price or terms.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the payment of any sum for compensation or expense reimbursement due to a Member as authorized by the Masonic Code or the vote of Grand Lodge. Employees of the Grand Lodge, Grand Lodge officers, and the Masonic Home may draw salaries or compensation as approved. Grand Lodge officers and Grand Lodge committee members may receive payments, including expenses and allowances, authorized by the Masonic Code, or authorized by Grand Lodge in the annual budget or otherwise.

No Grand Lodge officer should do business with the Grand Lodge or any subordinate Lodge for which he or a related entity receives or is to receive compensation except as allowed by the Masonic Code. Nothing herein shall prohibit a Grand Lodge officer or any other Masons from being reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses he incurs for providing volunteer services.

Masonic Home Trustees, their relatives, and entities they are employed by, represent, or have a financial interest may not receive compensation for products or services provided to the Masonic Home, other than for expenses, unless the requirement for three bids is complied with or waived as herein provided and the contract is approved by the Grand Master.

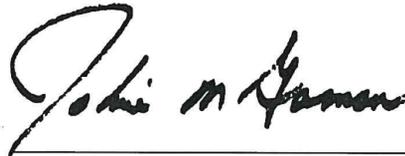
This policy shall not apply to any contract that has actually been signed prior to the date of edict.

Effective immediately, no Grand Lodge committee member can apply to a committee for compensation, other than out-of-pocket expenses, without first resigning from the committee. No member of the Board of Relief may apply for or receive relief administered by that Board of Relief. If a member of the Board of Relief is to seek relief, he must first resign from his position as a member of the Board of Relief and, prior to any payments being made by the Board of Relief, all requests for relief must first go through the subordinate Lodge as required by Masonic Code Section 2-207.

Members shall comply with any conflict of interest policies adopted by Grand Lodge and any board, commission, or committee of Grand Lodge.

It is the duty of the Members, Officers, and Committee Members to carry out the expressed terms reflecting the wishes of the Grand Lodge, to account for all actions and keep the Grand Lodge informed, to be loyal, not to profit, and not to appear to have, or actually have, a conflict of interest.

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 13th day of July, 2020.



Johnie M. Garmon, Grand Master

Attest:



V. S. "Mac" McGee,
Grand Secretary

[SEAL]



Freemasonry Around Georgia



Tyler Horne from Tifton was awarded the Masonic Lodge of Tifton #47 and Tiftarea #745 F&AM Endowed Scholarship from the ABAC Foundation at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. A graduate of Tift County High School, Horne has achieved the level of Eagle Scout. As an incoming freshman biology major, Horne will begin his ABAC career when classes begin for the fall semester.



**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



Haralson county school system is in the process of opening for the school year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the water coolers have been disabled for safety concerns which puts the school system in a position of finding alternate drinking water solutions. They are planning to provide individual bottles of water for the facility and students to drink. Draketown lodge WM learned of this situation and we committed to provide 3 pallets of water to the elementary school nearest our lodge, Buchanan elementary. Principal Coggins expressed his thanks to the Lodge and firefighters and assured us it would help relieve the stress of providing drinking water at the school.



Principal Coggins expressed his thanks to the Lodge and firefighters and assured us it would help relieve the stress of providing drinking water at the school.



Brother Dino de la Hoya, a native of Havana, Cuba was raised in Miami, Florida and Los Angeles, California. He graduated from California State University, Los Angeles in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication and Public Relations. He then lived in Belgium, where he graduated from the Catholic University of Leuven in 2007 with a Master of Arts (cum laude) in Conflict Resolution. He originally served in the United States Navy and returned to service in 2009, obtaining his Second Lieutenant commission through the Army Reserve National Guard, Accelerated Officer Candidate School. Dino's zeal for continuous civic involvement through volunteering and charity exemplify total personal commitment to his community and nation as a whole.

His actions consistently promote the tenets of equal opportunity, and exemplify the diverse strength of our Military, our Nation, and Our Fraternity. As a career Military Officer Brother Dino is a *de facto* Ambassador for Our Fraternity who promotes it where ever he is sent. Recently, Brother Dino sent the Valley of Atlanta, AASR an American Flag that was flown on a combat mission over the skies of Afghanistan. Captain De La Hoya has since been promoted to the rank of Major. The flag was presented by Worshipful Brother Ed Lamour on behalf of Brother de la Hoya.

Several Brethren of Rutland Lodge No. 298 recently banded together to assist in

cleaning up a family cemetery plot in which one of their members was buried. The member was the Great Uncle of Brenda Lawless Brannon, an alumni of the Georgia Masonic Children's Home and the current Secretary/Treasurer of the Alumni Association. See more details on page 7 of this issue.



The Freemason and the Catholic Priesthood

By Worshipful Brother Beau M. Davis, Sr. M.T.S., M.A.

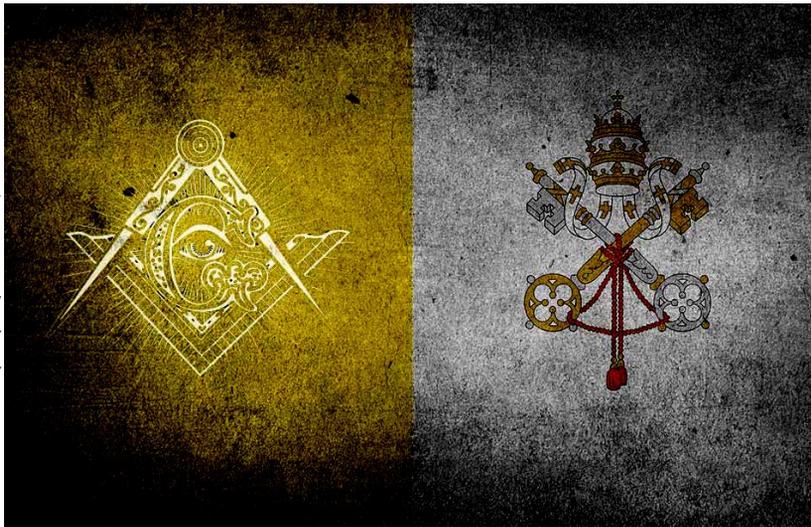
This paper was originally presented to the Georgia Lodge of Research. The Georgia Lodge of Research meets every 5th Friday at the Atlanta Masonic Center. More information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/glor/home>.

Part One of this Article can be found in the June 2020 Issue of the Masonic Messenger.

Apostolic Succession is the Catholic belief that there exists an unbroken line of bishops which has been passed down through the ages by the laying on of hands and reception of the Holy Ghost. This process was instituted by Christ to the Apostles prior to his Ascension in the Gospels. They in turn appointed bishops to succeed them. Saint Irenaeus of Lyons described this process and its indispensable importance in the 2nd century CE:

“Wherefore we must obey the priests of the Church who have succession from the Apostles, as we have shown, who, together with succession in the episcopate, have received the certain mark of truth according to the will of the Father; all others, however, are to be suspected, who separated themselves from the principal succession.”

The Catholic churches believe that this laying on of hands conveys the very essence which contains the necessities of the Church. Without Apostolic Succession there are no bishops; without bishops there are no sacraments; without sacraments there is no Church; and without the Church there is no salvation. Protestant faiths argue either that true Apostolic Succession lies in continuity of teaching (Calvinists and Lutherans) or in function of the office of bishop



(Methodists), or they reject the concept altogether (Restorationists); but the Catholic faith holds that in their rejection of Apostolic Succession and acting outside of it that Protestants are not fully Christian.

The recipient of Apostolic Succession and transmission of it is limiting in its scope. Saint Paul describes the qualities of a bishop in his letter to Saint Titus:

“For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.”

In addition to this, the Catholic churches maintain additional standards; including that a bishop must be first ordained a deacon and a priest in Apostolic Succession. Derivation from the faith, from proper form of ordination (the laying on of hands and conveyance of the Holy Ghost), from proper intention (to make a bishop in Apostolic Succession), or from the proper substance (a man who is ordained in Apostolic Succession) severs the line of Apostolic Succession. In practice, the ordination of women, abandonment of traditional morality, adoption of heretical beliefs, and rejection of the efficacy of the sacrament of ordination itself have all been historic reasons to declare Apostolic

Succession invalid and severed. Lutherans and Methodists believe that any minister can ordain and thus reject the exclusivity of ordination to bishops. Calvinists believe that the sacraments themselves do not convey the grace to make a bishop. Nestorians, Donatists, Cathars, Arians, and Monophysites all embraced what the Church declared to be heresy, and thus their rejection of Christ was said to sever their lines. Episcopalians and most Old Catholics embraced the ordination of women, and that severed their lines. Those churches are, by the bulk of Catholic churches, declared to have abandoned their succession and ability to make true deacons, priests, and bishops.

The system of *Regular* Freemasonry is similarly demanding in its perpetuation. All regular masons were made masons in a regular lodge of masons. While the information is out there for anyone to repeat the ceremonies which we hold sacred, doing so does not make one a mason: only regular masons can make new regular masons. Someone who feels like they are masons in their heart, someone who has learned masonry through reading about it, or someone made a mason in a clandestine lodge are never considered to be real masons. Furthermore, a regular lodge (acting as proper minister) not only cannot make a mason out of unacceptable candidates (invalid substance), but attempting to do so makes it a clandestine and irregular lodge: attempting to violate the rules severs its legitimacy. The greatest schism of note in Freemasonry is that between Continental Freemasonry and the Anglo-American system due to the former's acceptance of atheists. The latter considers all atheists, women, slaves, immoral men, or the insane to be unable to receive the degrees. Initiating, passing, or raising someone of one of these categories does not make a legitimate mason, but instead makes the lodge so doing illegitimate. Therefore, the Grand Orient of Europe were abandoned as clandestine and remain so to this day.

There are grand lodges which consist solely of women. There are so-called "Co-masonry" grand lodges which treat women and men both as brothers equally. Some grand lodges are perceived to have been founded out of order and so have been declared to be irregular. At

any rate, just because someone dons an apron and repeats our obligations does not make them a mason. While those outside of our system might recognize each other as masons, we will never do so. They have lost their *Masonic* Apostolic Succession (if they even had it to begin with).

While there are undoubtedly multiple origins to our Order, the plainest and most recent is the Anglican branch of the Catholic Church. Among so many others, its influences brought us from mere stoneworkers to the system of morality and brotherhood which we enjoy today. While we may not all hold to the shared faith of the first English speculative masons, their influence has a lasting, indispensable importance: that the mere lessons and levels of membership in operative Freemasonry are, through the transference of the faith of those first speculative masons, elevated to something sacred and worth protecting.

Footnotes:

- i. Ignatius of Antioch. *Letter to the Smyrnaeans*. Chapter 8. Translated by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. From *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1. Edited by Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe. Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1885. Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight. Available from <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0109.htm>.
- ii. Vincent of Lerins. *Commonitory*. Chapter 2. Translated by C.A. Heurtley. From *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Second Series, Vol. 11. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1894. Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight. Available from <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3506.htm>.
- iii. *Masonic Manual of the Grand Lodge of Georgia*. Volume 1. Eleventh Edition. Macon, GA: Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia, 1999. Page 118.
- iv. *Ibid.* 119
- vi. *Ibid.* 119
- vii. Irenaeus. *Against Heresies*. Book 4, Chapter 26, section 2. Translated by Alexander Roberts and William Rambaut. From *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1. Edited by Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe. Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1885. Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight. Available from <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0103424.htm>.
- viii. Titus 1:7-9 RSV

“Masonic Revival”

By Ronny D. Lanham, PM
Harlem Lodge No. 276



COMMENTARY

In 1830, during a six-week debate between Senators Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, and Robert Y. Hayne of South Carolina, over a wide range of topics, Webster addressed the Senate.

Mr. President - When the mariner has been tossed for many days in thick weather, and on an unknown sea, he naturally avails himself of the first pause in the storm, the earliest glance of the sun, to take his latitude, and ascertain how far the elements have driven him from his true course. Let us imitate this prudence, and, before we float farther on the waves of this debate, refer to the point from which we departed, that we may at least be able to conjecture where we now are. I ask for the reading of the resolution before the Senate

More than ever, this should be our greatest consideration as a fraternity. During the current tempest, we should take advantage of the opportunity to, thoughtfully and truthfully assess our condition and chart a new course. When this storm subsides and normal Lodge activities resume, we should identify our objective and each and all of us, with a renewed sense of purpose and vigor, lower our oars into the rough seas and paddle in that direction.

Our greatest concern as a fraternity is the loss of position on the list of priority of modern men. There seems to be too many allurements, which are promoted with precision by professionals. Freemasonry has always been sold by the good examples of our brethren and the fruits of their labors. Lodge Attendance has, for the most part, depended on the same things. Current social attitudes, allurements and habits have taken great tolls on the Craft. In our present society of inflated egos, cheap entertainment and toys have won the day and more and more, leisure has become the norm.

Fatigue has plagued our old Craftsmen and few are willing to step into the quarries and assume the responsibility and burden of acquiring and finishing the building stones of our future. Freemasonry is not alone in this dilemma. Most, if not all, once great organizations suffer from being relegated to a diminished priority in the lives of their members.

Now would be a good time for us to question the fraternity is germane or holds any value to the modern-day individual. It seems that our society has lost its focus on the universal dominion of biblical principles, mainly because of so many conflicting messages. Our renewal and re-direction are not society's responsibility, but ours, yours and mine. If progress is to be realized, it is up to us. Leaders of our Craft stand at the threshold of a monumental opportunity to assess our position and to realign our course toward a future refuge to all good men who seek truth. We speak of Masonic Light. That light is Truth and it shines from the ages and is never changed and is never without great value to mankind. In our crusade toward progress, we stand, with truth in closed volumes and in our modernistic arrogance, refuse to make it the tip of our spear. We reject the notion that truth is eternal and unchanging. Truth and God's great law, Love have have not grown distant, but we have grown distant from them.

In seeking a worth objective, let us call upon the dusty words of our founders. We are aware that without a great challenge, there can be no great accomplishments. Take a moment to imagine the magnificence of our opportunity. We have been placed here in this time to answer the call to order and service. What should the new Mason look like? He should be a true reflection of our doctrine, charges and obligations. Truth should be the light that we bear and should be our identity. There has never been a time when truth didn't matter. We teach that God is Love. My bible doesn't say that part of Him is Love or that he is partly Love. "God is Love". We should seek to grow closer to Him. Perhaps we should adopt His law. Perhaps it will endear us to Him. So, we have Truth and Love as guiding principles. Our ancient Brethren taught and sought to practice these principles. Our Order was established by men who lived those principles. The fraternity flourished and their doctrine influenced the building of great societies and dynasties. It might have been no accident that our losses have come as we closed and put away those founding creeds as if they were outdated. In our search for significance in the lives of men and man, maybe it is time that we re-focus on those.

Following this period of Lodge inactivity, this might be a practical strategy for our re-engagement. In this time of confusion and Lodge inactivity, let us take advantage of the quiet times, afforded by quarantine and develop ideas and plans to overcome the inertia of rest and resume activities with new energies. Our strategies should include the use of Webster's idea of recalling our origin and resist the notion that modern man has a peculiar intellectual advantage over our fraternal founders.

During studies of ancient manuscripts, scrolls and other writings and interpretations, some Hebrew biblical authorities contended that our "expert" religious scholars seem to have made certain mistakes in their translations. Misinterpretations of single words radically change the meanings of verses and commandments. Jews have known, for some time, that the commandment that reads: "Thou shalt not KILL", should read: "Thou shalt not MURDER". This is a great difference to one who is hungry, for in order to eat, he almost necessarily has to KILL something. The one that I have chosen to discuss is the one that reads: "Thou shalt not TAKE the name of the Lord thy God in vain". I grew up believing that it simply means that we are not to use His Name in statements of condemnation or "cussing", like G-- D---. During a discussion between two Jewish Rabbis and a Christian theologian, it was stated that a proper interpretation should read: "Thou shalt not CARRY the name of the Lord thy God in vain". The operative word is CARRY and means that one should never commit unholy acts in the Lord's name. If deeds are represented to be in His name and has elements of corruption, the perpetrators shall not prosper, but suffer disastrous outcomes. Upon hearing this, my thoughts turned to our Gentle Craft and the steady demise that has been our decades-long experience. Freemasonry claims to be a noble order, erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saints John. We, ritualistically implore His presence, aid and blessings upon all of our endeavors. We wear an emblem with the letter G in the center. We fashion our Lodges after the original Holy Temple. All that we do and say is "in His Name". "In Thy Name we have assembled and in Thy Name we desire to proceed in all our doings".

My concern is that as Freemasons, we project to society, an image of having a Godly nature, engaged in virtuous activities. (Children's Homes, Hospitals, eye and diabetes research, etc.) On a regular basis, threats of charges are made because of ignoble acts. We see and

hear of transgressions that are ignored because of politics, social or family connections. We see news reports of crimes committed by members of the Craft. The profane witness to these reports do not know that the orientation of the offender was not given in the Lodge. Nowhere in our teachings does Freemasonry make room for any indecency. The public should know that by his actions. The Pastor of a local Baptist church was asked why he never spoke on the evils of Freemasonry. He said that he could answer the question with two words and he called a Mason's name. This Brother had lived his life in such a manner as to leave no room to criticize the influences that he had chosen to follow.

We were asked: "What come ye here to do?" Our answer indicated that we were aware that our passions needed to be subdued and that we knew that we were not perfect. We need steady and constant improvement and will until we reach perfection, which is unattainable in this life. In our search for perspective, directions, planning and revival, let us rededicate our lives and our Lodges to noble and virtuous deeds. Let us always be Gentlemen. Let us treat all men as brothers. Let us strive not to be better than our Brother but better than ourselves. Let's welcome constructive, principled guidance from our Brothers and resist jealousy, hatred, ambition, avarice, lust and anger. All of our ills as a fraternity could be cured by our Lodges delivering to each man that to which he is entitled as a candidate and a Mason. He has paid initiation fees as are established by the petitioned Lodge. The Lodge has an obligation to render whatever assistance required to help that Brother become a Master Mason. If we were all so qualified and governed and truly seek and practice according to God's will and assistance, we would prosper and grow the Lodges and ourselves as individuals.

How would it sound to say that we are not to practice our teachings but to use them to serve as rites of passage? How would our lectures, prayers, obligations and charges sound? It seems axiomatic that our original creed must be our restart point when this pandemic is over. Let's strive to practice what we preach, realizing that we each need support from God and our Brothers. Forty-nine years ago, my greatest ambition was to BE a Master Mason. Now, my greatest ambition is STILL to BE a Master Mason.



COMMENTARY

WHAT MASONRY LOOKED LIKE THIS YEAR!

By Richard and Sharon Bailey

Meetings – not attended

Handshakes – not shook

Hugs – not felt

Conversations - not said

Fellowships – not shared

New friends – not made

It's so unfair to spend 9 years planning for "Your Year" then Covid-19 takes it away from you. There is no way to go back and do over. It's gone.

Grand Master Johnie and First Lady Eva Garmon we have missed "Your Year" as much as you have. This should have been "Your Year" to enjoy what you have worked so long to get. All the travel and places you have not been allowed to go and see. So many events you have missed, so many events we have missed. It hurts our hearts that this has happened during your time at the helm. It's just plain unfair. Know you both are loved and cared about very much.

Lodges closed. Hard decisions had to be made and you were strong enough to make them. You did the right thing to keep everyone safe under your leadership. You are to be commended for stepping up and doing the right thing. When you reopened the lodges

you did so with limitations, again keeping everyone safe.

When you have strong leaders at the top then no matter what happens around you, you will come out on top. Grand Master Johnie you are such a leader. Your love for your masonic brethren comes through loud and clear.

What does the future look like in Masonry? Who knows? Hopefully soon they will find a cure or vaccine to take away all the uncertainty. Then Masons being Masons will get back to business as usual.

Meetings, Handshakes, Hugs, Conversations, Fellowship and New Friends.

That's what I'm talking about.

"Your Year" will be a year to remember. It's definitely been different.

VETERANS CORNER

BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER RICK CONN

Health care delivery begins under new VA contract

ATLANTA — Today marks the beginning of community health care delivery to our local Veterans under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contract awarded to Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc., part of UnitedHealth Group, Inc.

“The new Community Care Network (CCN) contract awards reflect our ongoing commitment to increasing Veterans access to care,” said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie, “and were designed based on feedback from Veterans and other stakeholders.” “We are confident it will greatly improve care coordination for Veterans here in our area and improve the timeliness of payments to our local community providers,” said Atlanta VA Health Care System Director Ann Brown.

TriWest Health Care Alliance has been managing VA’s community care network in the area and will fully transition responsibility to Optum over the next 30 days. VA community providers contracted by TriWest will not be automatically enrolled in CCN, so they will be required to sign up with Optum to continue providing services to Veterans under CCN.

VA’s new community care network is made up of six regions. Region 3 includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. VA is deploying this new network in phases to ensure continuity of care coordination. Veterans will continue to receive care from their current community providers during the transition. The new network serves as the direct link between VA and local health care providers providing an industry-standard contract vehicle for VA to purchase care. Optum will manage the network and process claims for payment to local providers on behalf of VA.

For those that shop on base commissaries, the rising commissary prices are hurting junior enlisted families, said an Air Force tech sergeant, who asked senior leaders if financial relief could be provided to military families because of these and other increased costs worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic. “My grocery costs have gone up, and some junior enlisted families on one income have mentioned things are getting pretty tight,” the tech sergeant stated, in a town hall question 28 MAY to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Mark Milley, and Senior Enlisted Adviser to the Chairman Ramon Colon-Lopez. The tech sergeant stated commissary prices have gone up significantly. “A cheap pound of ground beef has gone from \$2.30 a pound to almost \$6,” said the airman, stationed at Fort Meade, Md.

Commissary officials note grocery prices have gone up across the country, not just in commissaries, and say latest calculations through March show a continued overall global savings of 24.2 percent, compared to stores outside the gate. Some commissaries began limiting meat quantities on 1 MAY in anticipation of national shortages. The tech sergeant asked if

officials would consider steps such as increasing the Basic Allowance for Subsistence or a temporary increase in the cost of living allowance for higher cost areas in the continental U.S.

Colon-Lopez said the financial impact of COVID-19 “has not been overlooked at any stage of this pandemic response by the department. “We have mechanisms to plus up the ability for families, especially those families that are out of work, to be able to sustain the feeding and care of their families,” Colon-Lopez said. But as far as BAS, pay raises and other monetary benefits, these are negotiated during every budget cycle, he said. “I’m sure the impacts of COVID and the pandemic on the increasing [cost of] goods will be reflected in future National Defense Authorization Act reviews.”

The CONUS Cost of Living Allowance in place before COVID-19 affects approximately 20,000 service members in 16 military housing areas and 31 other counties in the continental U.S. It’s designed to help offset higher prices in the highest cost locations in CONUS. Commissary officials don’t release information about pricing, and how much prices have increased during the pandemic, said Kevin Robinson, spokesman for the Defense Commissary Agency. Commissaries are stocked with products made by many of the same manufacturers that stock local civilian grocery stores. “The pandemic has currently caused supply issues of fresh beef, pork and poultry products, and demand has driven the price up for all retailers. Commissaries are not insulated from these pricing fluctuations,” Robinson said. “Throughout this pandemic the commissary team is working aggressively with its suppliers on a daily basis on pricing of products.”

According to the April Consumer Price Index, released 12 MAY by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, grocery prices in the U.S. rose 2.6 percent in April, compared to March, the highest increase since 1974. The CPI reported that the increase was broad-based, affecting all major grocery store food groups. But prices for meats, poultry, fish and eggs increased the most, rising 4.3 percent. Prices for cereals and bakery products increased by 2.9 percent – the largest increase ever, according to the CPI. While prices have increased temporarily across the board, commissaries have still maintained their required level of savings in comparison to local grocery stores outside the gate, Robinson said.

From the source (given below) the Overall global savings at the end of March was 24.2 percent, compared to prices of stores outside the installation. That includes the overseas stores. For commissaries in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii, the savings calculation was 20.7 percent, compared to stores outside the gate. Savings percentages for commissaries are calculated quarterly; savings calculations for April are not available. Commissaries are mandated by Congress to maintain an overall global savings of 23.7 percent. [Source: Military Times | Karen Jowers | June 1, 2020]

UPDATE FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND AGENT ORANGE

From 1972 to 1982, approximately 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force Reserve personnel trained and worked on C-123 aircraft that were previously used to spray herbicides, including Agent Orange, in Vietnam.

Some Air Force Reservists who were crew members on C-123 Provider aircraft, formerly used to spray Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, have raised health concerns about exposure to residual amounts of herbicides on plane surfaces.

Responding to these concerns, VA asked the Health and Medicine Division (HMD) (formally known as the Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study possible exposure and increase in adverse health effects in C-123 crew members.



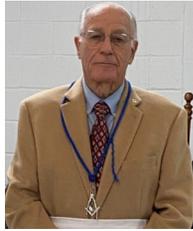
HMD released its report, [Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft](#), Jan. 9, 2015. According to the report, from 1972 to 1982, approximately 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force Reserve personnel trained and worked on C-123 aircraft that previously had been used to spray herbicides, including Agent Orange, in Vietnam. Those aircraft were used for military airlift, medical transport, and cargo transport operations in the United States and internationally.

HMD found that Reservists who served as flight crew (pilot, navigator, flight engineer, and loadmaster), ground maintenance crew, and aero-medical personnel had regular contact with the aircraft, and would have experienced some exposure to chemicals from herbicide residue. The report determined that it is possible that this exposure contributed to some adverse health effects.

TCDD, the toxic substance in Agent Orange, may be inhaled as an aerosol or ingested by contaminated food or water or from hand-to-mouth transfer. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Air Force used C-123 aircraft to spray Agent Orange to clear jungles that provided enemy cover in Vietnam. At the end of the spraying campaign in 1971, the remaining C-123 planes were reassigned to reserve units in the U.S. for routine cargo and medical evacuation missions spanning the next 10 years.

C-123 Airplanes and the Agent Orange Registry. Veterans (including Reservists) who state that they flew on or worked on a C-123 aircraft between 1969 and 1986 are eligible for the Agent Orange Registry.

50 Year Awards



Lamoye Starnes
Middle Georgia DL #756



Doug Johnson
Philomatheia Lodge #25



Robert Messer
Riverdale Lodge #709



Delmer F. Watson
Ducktown Lodge #572



Bill S. Prather
Emerson Lodge #738



Dewey Bradley
Grovetown Lodge #730



John A. Howard
Nancy Hart Lodge #690



Bill Ashley
Madison Lodge #376



Joe Fisher
Cochran Lodge #217



Randal H. Lowery
Cartersville Lodge #63



Charles R Lowery
Cartersville Lodge #63



Bemis Locklear
Cartersville Lodge #63



Lealon J. McMichen
Dallas Lodge #182



Jimmy D. Whitley
Dallas Lodge #182



Vester Dills
Young Cane Lodge #597



Jack Harrell
Young Cane Lodge #597



Olen R. Worthey
Young Cane Lodge #597



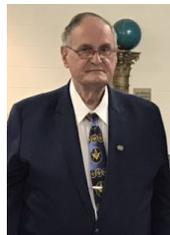
James T. Farlow, Sr.
Palmetto DL #755



Eulan Wheeler
Auburn Lodge #230



Wendell Murphy
Young Cane Lodge #597



Ronald Rowe
Dougherty Lodge #591

60 Year Awards



Harry E. Hawkins
Houston Lodge #35



William McKnight
Tyrian Lodge #111



Billy R. Spears
E. Floyd Lodge #728



Thomas B. Miller
Palmetto Lodge #74



Julius H. Dickerson, Jr.
Rabun Gap Lodge #265



Ray Power
Dougherty Lodge #591



A.W. Holton
Dougherty Lodge #591

65 Year Awards



Shelly Cook
Moultrie Lodge #381

70 Year Awards



L.A. Hensley
Madison Lodge #376

In Memoriam

**Members Reported Deceased May 31
—July 31, 2020**

Name:	Lodge No.	Name:	Lodge No.
FISHER, EMILE THEODORE	2	MILLICAN, HENRY IRVEN	131
HARWELL, KENNETH RAY	4	MCDANIEL, CARL ELLIOTT SR	134
HATCHER, CURTIS DUAINE SR	8	JONES, MICHAEL RIDGWAY	135
WATSON, DOUGLAS MARION	9	ALEXANDER, THEO. ROOSEVELT JR	137
WISHAM, HENRY SIMS	18	LINGERFELT, ROY JASPER	141
BYRD, EDDIE NEAL	20	MAULTSBY, JAMES ROBERT	165
LAWRENCE, JEFFERSON RANDOLPH	23	HALL, CARL ANDERSON	176
WEBER, CARL EDWARD	23	WILLIAMS, THOMAS GREG	185
HOLTAPP, LAWRENCE GEORGE	27	MCEUEN, ARCHIE REGINALD	192
CAGLE, LENDON HARRIS JR	30	THOMAS, WILBUR LAYTON JR	196
THOMPSON, JAMES FRED BORLAND	34	MOBLEY, THOMAS LOVETT	204
STEVENS, JOHN CULLEN	41	CROW, ERVIN CHARLES	212
LINDSEY, LUTHER LARRY JR	42	BRANNON, JOE BILL	213
ORR, EDSSEL J.	44	HOUSTON, FRANK CRANDALL	214
ORR, WILLIAM JACKSON	44	PRICE, JOHNNIE CHANDLER	214
PIERSON, RONALD HENRY	48	GINSBERG, FRANK ROBERT	216
WILLIAMSON, LEE JR	49	COSTIGAN, ROBERT OWEN	216
RHODES, ROBERT SANDERS	51	SCOTT, JACKSON EARL	217
BARBER, HAROLD WILLIAM	53	WOROSCHINSKI, JOHN H.	219
DAVIS, JESS CARROLL	57	ANDREWS, JERRY LOWE	220
ROGERS, MACK IRWIN	58	ROPER, RODNEY JACK	220
PEACE, DONALD LEE	63	MARTIN, BOBBY GRAY	220
VAUGHN, DAVID NATHANIEL JR	63	KEENE, WILLIAM EARL	221
SMITH, RONALD HENRY	63	DOTSON, JOHN ANTHONY	222
PEARSON, JOEL D.	66	TAPLEY, THOMAS EARL	224
COOPER, HARRY LEE	69	RANER, CHARLES ROBERT	228
OLIVER, MARKLIN ARNOLD	75	GRAVITT, EDWIN BUNION	228
BISHOP, DENVER RAY	78	WILLIS, CLARENCE	237
BURGESS, ROGER HARVEY	81	DANIELS, HORACE EUGENE JR	240
MCLEMORE, GEORGE STUART	87	TILLMAN, ARTHUR BRAXTON	251
COLLINS, WILLIAM THOMAS	90	DALTON, BOB FRANK	251
THOMPSON, JAMES KENDERICK	93	LOWE, GUY EUGEN	251
MOSS, MAX MCCOWN	97	CARTER, HARRY JACKSON SR.	251
LOVE, KENNETH J.	98	RAMEY, DONALD ANTHONY	265
EIDSON, JAMES THOMAS	99	HARN, ELLIOTT PAYTON	270
FAIRCHILD, ORVILLE EDWARD	111	BRYANT, EARNEST LAMAR	270
NICHELSON, LARRY HOMER	113	DYKES, JOHN WALKER	283
EVERETT, JAMES RUFUS	114	SHERRILL, EVERETT LYNN JR	289
HEATH, HAROLD CLARK	129	LEE, JAMES COOPER	296
WELLS, ROY LEE	131	MILLS, ALFRED	296

In Memoriam

**Members Reported Deceased May 31
—July 31, 2020**

Name:	Lodge No.	Name:	Lodge No.
BUSH, STANLEY SETH	298	WEIFFENBACH, NORMAN CONRAD	716
PARRISH, ROY EVITT JR	300	MULLINS, DENNIS	719
JOHNSON, WILLIAM EDWARD	305	DEASON, BILLY ASBELL	720
FOLSOM, SETTLE	310	WHEAT, LARRY COLBERT JR	728
BROWN, HERSHELL ERIC	369	VANMETER, EDWARD THOMAS	728
WILSON, RONALD LEE	371	BELLAMY, JOHN LINDON	730
WILLIAMS, SAMMY SCOTT	371	FRICKS, ANTHONY HARBIN	120, 113
CLARK, NEAL WILLIAM	381	BLACK, STANLEY EUGENE	212, 763
COBB, BOBBY LAVELLE	381	LOWRY, THOMAS ERWIN	260, 738
BAILEY, HOMER LAWSON	382	MILLS, BASCOM PALMER JR	40, 760
ALLEN, EDWARD RICHARDSON	382	MOORE, CHARLES CRAWFORD	457, 738
ELY, THOMAS HARRISON	386	CRON, FREDERICK THORPE	709, 443
MILLIGAN, RONALD COLEMAN	397	BAGWELL, HAROLD DEAN	758, 77
GOODMAN, TERRY LEE	397	MAJCHER, MICHAEL GERALD	760, 304
NORTH, RICHARD BERNARD	397	WEBB, LARRT JAMES	761, 321
HASS, TRAVIS EDWIN	397		
ETHRIDGE, STANLEY JULIAN	433		
WATSON, JIMMY DARRELL	434		
OVERSTREET, TOXEY ALAN	440		
BAGLEY, GLENDON BYRON	444		
WHELCHER, THOMAS ESTON	444		
DUKE, GERALD HENRY	454		
PADGETT, LARRY WAYNE	455		
SANDERS, HAROLD CECIL	513		
EAST, ROY LEE	544		
WILLIAMS, JIMMY DILLARD	558		
SMITH, JOHN EUGENE	590		
BLANTON, HAL EMANUEL	622		
HALL, JAMES EDWARD	664		
GRIFFIN, DOUGLAS GILBERT	664		
SMITH, DONALD GALE	690		
SANDERS, HARVEY JOE	690		
CHAMLEE, WILLIAM M	691		
ZELACK, STRATTON MAURICE	703		
MIDDLETON, EMORY HAYS	708		
SKINNER, DONALD REX	709		
GLADWELL, GOOCH VAUGHN III	711		
THOMAS, LARRY SWIFT	716		
CLANTON, WILLIAM LARRY	716		
WACTER, WALTER EMORY III	716		

GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA STORE Merchandise

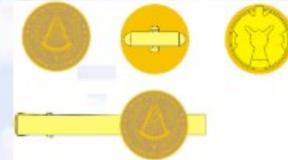
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The "Grand Lodge of Georgia" Store is now online at
<https://av8rstuff.com/GLofGAindex.html>

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)