

Masonic Messenger

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

Summer 2022



History Made:



See Pages 42-43

The History of the

MMRI
Masonic Medical Research Institute

See Pages 24-27

Treaty of Amity and Recognition Signed

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.

THE GEORGIA MASONIC MESSENGER

VOL. 125

SUMMER 2022

No. 1

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Donald C. Combs (46)
Deputy Grand Master	Michael A. Kessler (216)
Senior Grand Warden	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
Junior Grand Warden	Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)
Grand Treasurer	Larry W. Nichols (59)
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)
Grand Chaplain	Thomas J. Chapman (109)
Grand Marshal	Charlie N. Rice (46)
Grand Orator	Gary H. Leazer (166)
Senior Grand	Bill Shepard (717, 214)
Junior Grand Deacon	Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)
First Grand Steward	Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)
Second Grand Steward	Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)
Third Grand Steward	Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)
Grand Tyler	James L. Johns (750)

Publications

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

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

Published Quarterly at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201.

The Messenger goes to all Masons holding membership in
Georgia Subscription \$10.00 domestic, \$16.00 foreign per year.

Advertising rates on application.

Table of Contents

Grand Lodge Notices and Events

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary.....	3
Grand Lodge Information.....	4
From the Desk of the Grand Master.....	5
Grand Lodge Scholarship Program.....	6
Roast Flyer for DGM Mike Kessler.....	7
Treaty Signing	8-16
"A Word With the Chair(s)"	17-19
From the Masonic Home.....	20

Grand York Rite News.....21

Articles

"Grand Lodge TikTok"	22-23
History of the MMRI.....	24-27
Esōterikos: "As Above, So Below Pt. II"	28-29
Esōterikos: "Duality in Unity"	30-31
From the Archives: "Freemasonry Present"	32-33
Commentary: "What, me change?"	34-36
Commentary: "The Five Minutes Before Lodge"	37
70 Years a Master Mason.....	38
Veteran's Corner.....	39-40
GA ChIP Corner.....	41

Awards.....42-43

In Memoriam.....44-47

Back Cover: Masonic Renewal

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 Right Worshipful Van S. “Mac” McGee

Bills & Resolutions

Per Masonic Code Section 3-114, Code Bills and Resolutions must be submitted to the Grand Secretary, no later than August 1, 2022, to be reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee in mid-August. May be emailed to: gsec@glofga.org. ALL CODE BILLS will be published in Grand View on or before September 1, 2022.

By-Law Amendments

By-Law amendments Must be in the Grand Secretary's Office on or before September 15th. All By-Law amendments Must be submitted as follows

One Copy of current By-Laws.

One Copy of Amended By-Laws with the first and second reading dates, the signature of the By-Laws Committee, if the Lodge has such committee, or the Worshipful Master, and the Secretary with the Seal of the Lodge.

Annual Returns

Annual Returns should be available in the Lodge Portal on Grand View July 15, 2022. Annual returns are due August 1, 2022 and are late after September 1, 2022. MC Section 23-129 provides for a 10% late penalty if received in the Grand Lodge Office after September 1st.

Monthly Closeouts

Monthly Closeouts in Grand View Must be completed by the 10th of each month for the proceeding month. Make sure your Lodge is up to date on Monthly Closeouts before June 30, 2022.

The 236th Session of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM

Brethren, we are getting closer to the 2022 Grand Lodge Session every day. As the excitement of having a regular full session starts to build, let me add to the expectation of something different. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM, we will be unable to have our session in Macon at the Marriott and Convention Center—the usual site of the Grand Lodge Session.

After a diligent search across the state for a suitable substitute, the Grand Lodge of Georgia is excited to inform the Brethren of Georgia that the 2022 Grand Lodge Session will be held as usual on the 4th Tuesday in October (10/25). However, the location will be different.

The 236th session of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM will be held at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center—aka “The Ironworks.” The host Hotel will be the Columbus Marriott across the street and there will be additional hotels in the area.

Monday, October 24 @ 6:30PM - Grand Master’s Banquet

Tickets: \$65 per person.

Tuesday, October 25 @ 11:30AM - Ladies Luncheon

Tickets: \$35 per person.

Tuesday, October 25 @ 12:00PM Box Lunches available (sandwich mix of Roast Beef, Ham, Turkey, Chicken Salad, including chips, cookie, and drink)

Tickets: \$20 per person

Tuesday, October 25 @ 6:00PM - Grand Lodge Picnic

Full BBQ Meal: chicken & pork with all the sides, drinks, and dessert & Fellowship Hoedown at the Columbus Convention Center featuring the **Band of Brothers.**

Tickets: \$40 per person

*****All tickets are available for purchase through the Grand Lodge Office*****

Hotel reservation link can be found on GLAD or by going to
<http://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1650927716698&key=GRP&app=resvlink>



From the Desk of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald C. Combs

Living the Present

Brethren, you may remember the first part of the triangle as Remember the Past and what that meant about our past and our obligations. In this session I would like to address the portion that deals with Living the Present. In Living the Present the main thing to remember first is our obligation and what it means to be a Mason. I have said before that each time you put on a pin, shirt, hat, or anything with a square and compass on it you are representing the multitude of Masons around the world by action and appearance. The same goes for when in an automobile with a Masonic tag. You are representing the Craft, your Lodge and even the Grand Master. So part of this Living the Present is to remember that there is always somebody watching. Maybe even looking for something to be negative to disparage the Fraternity. However a big part of Living the Present is to understand who we are as Masons. Many times I have heard the question asked, "What is a Mason?" So in pondering this question I recalled a passage in scripture where Jesus is at Caesarea Philippi with his disciples and asked the question "Who do people say that I am?" Brethren, I would ask you the same question, "Who do people say that you are?" My response to that comes in three parts. A Mason is a man of Faith, a man of Hope, and a man of Charity. A Mason has Faith, in his God, his Brothers, and in himself. He has Faith in his God because we believe there is something greater than ourselves that created, sustains, and guides us in all things. We may not see this God but we see evidence of the presence all around us. He has faith in his Brothers that they are like him which caused him to be a part of all we do. Being liked minded and of similar attitude towards things, not necessarily agree in totality but enough to agree to disagree in some things. A Mason also has Faith in himself. You may remember your obligations where you said "I" promise and swear or "I" will do this, or "I" will not do that, or answered "I" in any part of it. A Mason has faith in himself enough to live up to those obligations. A Mason is a man of Hope. He has hope that there is something beyond this earthly existence. Something beyond life as we know it. Something like the evergreen that will never, never, never die. He also has hope in his Brethren that they will help him along the journey to help get to that house not made with hands. A Mason looks to his Brothers and has hope that when he has a need they will be there, or when he has joy they will share it, or when there is pain they will bring comfort. He values this hope because it get him from one day to the next. Lastly a Mason is a man of Charity. Now you may think of Charity as giving something monetary. But I would like for you to think beyond that and think of Charity as giving something of yourself to address a need without costing anything material. When was the last time you offered comfort to a suffering Brother? When was the last time you wiped the tear from the eye of a child who was reacting to something we would consider trivial but to them it was the world? When was the last time you prayed for a Brother, his family or a situation that called for it? All of those are a form of charity without any material cost. So when I say Live the Present, I would ask that you present yourself as Mason by the obligations you took and live your life under the premise that a Mason is a man who has Faith, who has Hope, and a man who has Charity in his heart and will give whatever he can, however he can, with the resources that he has available.

Brethren, be reminded there is always somebody watching. Whether an impressionable child or an eager adult or something of higher authority, you are being watched so act accordingly. Until next time when we discuss Challenging the Future, may the Grand Architect shine his light upon you and keep you steadfast!! SMIB

Fraternally,
Donald C. Combs
Grand Master

Grand Master Donald Combs Announces Grand Lodge Scholarship Program

The Grand Lodge of Georgia, and our Grand Master Donald C. Combs are looking for a good student who could a \$1000 boost towards the expenses involved in pursuing their higher education whether it be an advanced degree, a full, four-year college degree, or a technical degree or certification. Considering the costs of obtaining an education regardless of the degree, the Grand Lodge would like to help.

It has been a few years since the Grand Lodge has given a scholarship however, as the Grand Master has travelled this around the state this year to Lodges and Conventions, Brethren have stepped up and have been contributing overwhelmingly to the Golden Triangle Scholarship Box that travels with our Grand Master.

Therefore, the Grand Master has made the decision that with the aid of the Brethren donating to the Golden Triangle Scholarship Box, the Grand Lodge and the body with the largest contributions to this project, will present \$1000 to a deserving student.

The criteria to receive this scholarship is simple:

1. The applicant must write a 500 word essay explaining: "What Masonry means to me," or "What Masonry has done for me."
2. Submit the the essay to me no later than October 1, 2022 to be considered. Essay's should be submitted in one of the following ways:
 - A. Emailed to don_combs@juno.com
 - B. Mailed to 1262 Meadow Ln SE
Darien, GA 31305-3164

The Grand Master plans to present the scholarship during the 236th Grand Lodge Session in Columbus, Georgia on October

Spread the word to all students! Again, advanced degree, bachelor's, or technical degree are all eligible for this opportunity.



THE ROAST OF
**BROTHER
MICHAEL A. KESSLER**
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN GEORGIA

OCTOBER 1, 2022 | 6PM

IN THE DINING HALL AT THE
ATLANTA MASONIC CENTER
1690 PEACHTREE STREET NW
ATLANTA, GA 30319

Join Brother Kessler's friends as they offer up their comical perspectives. The program will raise money to support the travel and charities of Brother Kessler for his journey to the Grand Oriental Chair.

The suggested dress is casual attire, so come out and enjoy a fun and relaxed evening with the Deputy Grand Master.

**WHAT'LL YA HAVE,
WHAT'LL YA HAVE?**

Food will be catered by The Varsity with their famous on-site food truck and crew.
Enjoy all you can eat!



\$50 TICKET





Send donations to:
Fulton Lodge No. 216
1690 Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30319

or Scan the QR Code to pay by Credit Card



Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity.
-Psalms 133

**The Historic Signing of
A Treaty of Mutual Recognition**

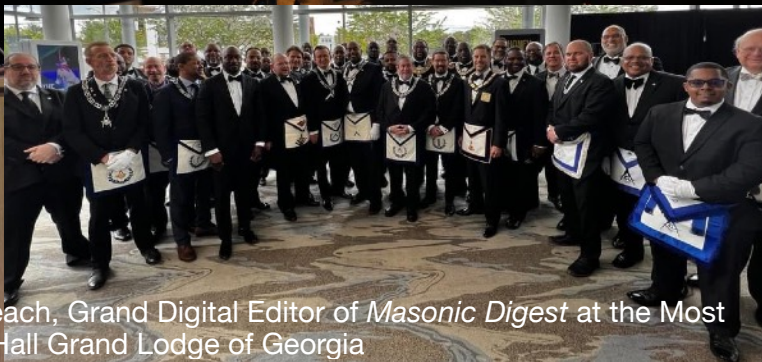
between

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia

and

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia

One hour past high twelve
April 9, AD 2022, AH 6022
City Springs Auditorium
Sandy Springs, Georgia



Some images courtesy of Brother James Q. Leach, Grand Digital Editor of *Masonic Digest* at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia

Henry V was crowned King of England in 1413.

Great Britain ratified the Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolutionary War in 1784.

The surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox in 1865.

The Civil Rights Act of 1866 was passed by Congress over President Johnson's veto.

The first color film was shown in London in 1914.

Howard Hanson's "Song of Democracy" premieres in Washington, D.C. in 1957.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was buried in Atlanta, Georgia in 1968.

Baghdad falls to U.S. Troops in 2003.

The historic dates could go on and on.

April 9th has seen many events come and go in the history of this little blue planet. Most days go by with little significance, however, as shown above, there are many events which have been monumental, world-history-changing even that have occurred on April 9th.

A new event:

On April 9th, 2022 at the City Springs Auditorium in Sandy Springs, Georgia in the midst of hundreds of Masons from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, and others from foreign jurisdictions including the Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia formally signed a Treaty of Recognition after they both voted for mutual recognition of one another at their respective Grand Lodge sessions.

The Treaty signing was the culmination of years, decades even, of work between the two Grand Lodge Jurisdictions to achieve mutual amity and recognition.

It was a momentous day filled with not only hope and charity, but joy, happiness, and Masonic fellowship and most of all Brotherly Love. I saw Brother Masons greeting old Brothers who had been missed for a while. I saw Brother Masons greeting new Brothers they had just met. I saw Brother Masons embracing one another after being separate as Masons for so long. Masons from one Grand Jurisdiction were able to meet their counterparts from the other Grand Jurisdiction and friendships were formed, renewed, and reinvigorated. Brotherhood reigned supreme.

Worshipful Brother Jeff Smith and his committee, and Worshipful Brother Isaac Robinson and his committee had planned the event down to every detail so that the signing the exuded importance, magnanimity, and virtue that befits such a momentous day.

Equilibrium and equipoise were the themes of the day. Opening with Aaron Copeland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* the officers of each respective Grand Jurisdiction in their Grand regalia walked down opposite sides of the auditorium and met their counterpart in the center of the auditorium before ascending the stairs to the stage to take their respective chair on either the left or the right side of the stage. Some officers shook hands, others—much like Grand Master Don Combs and Grand Master Corey Shackleford—embraced like Brothers, long-lost, now found. Everything was carefully weighed and carefully balanced down to Brothers Jeff Smith and Isaac Robinson taking turns at the podium to speak, and introduce other speakers. As Masons, we are taught that before engaging upon any great or important undertaking, we are to invoke the aid of the Great Architect of the Universe and as such, the first Brother to the podium was Prince Hall Grand Chaplain W.B. Sales who gave an amazing opening invocation for such an auspicious event.

Brother Jeff Smith then introduced the Honorable Brother Roy E. Barnes for his remarks.

*Remarks of the Honorable Brother Roy E. Barnes
Before Those Assembled in Unity at the Signing of the Treaty of Amity
Between the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM and the Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia*



What a great day this is. What a great day and symbol it is for us all to be together joined hand in hand. Brothers I thank you for allowing me to say just a few words this afternoon on this historic occasion.

We are gathered here today to celebrate our fellowship as Brothers in the Craft.

We all believe in the Architect of the Universe. We all believe in helping out our fellow man. We all believe in the Brotherhood of mankind. We all believe that the only time we should look down on a fellow human being is when we are giving him a hand up to help him.

We all know that he who seeks to draw wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another and with our community.

We are not just men. We are Masons.

We are neither Christian, nor Jew, Muslim, nor Hindu, Democrat, nor Republican. Neither Black nor white, Hispanic, Asian, or Indian. Neither rich nor poor.

We are all Brothers one in this Craft and in this Fellowship. Our trust in God, Faith in our Brothers, and the Charity given to all mankind is all that matters. For we are Freemasons. We are Masons together as one.

Now today, we exemplify those core beliefs. Those core beliefs bind us together and we should never let these beliefs suffer or die. For upon these beliefs lie the hope of mankind.

I would like to reiterate something that was said just a moment ago. We are divided in this nation and in this state. We seem not to be able to have civil discourse among ourselves anymore. All that we see on television, or in the halls of Congress, or in the halls of the General Assembly is hatred and vitriol to those that may not share beliefs.

They should look at us to see how to act for the benefit of all mankind.

The symbolism that I saw here earlier as our officers marched down and embraced each other to welcome each other and to fellowship that is long overdue is something that I shall always treasure.

I ask that you in the days, and months, and years to come to never forget the symbolism and the pledges that we take here to each other.

Thank you and God Bless you all.

Brothers Tom Bruce and Reggie Walker then read in turn the Treaty for Mutual Recognition

Treaty For Mutual Recognition Between the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia

We, the undersigned representatives of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, incorporated on February 6, 1786, by the Georgia Legislature, and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia established on June 24, 1870, and incorporated by the Georgia Legislature on July 11, 1890, do hereby agree, publish, and declare this Treaty of Mutual Recognition as follows:

WHEREAS, the Brethren of these two Grand Lodges desire to mutually recognize one another and agree to respect the territory of each sovereign Grand Lodge named herein in compliance with established Masonic Laws, Customs, Landmarks, and Traditions, and

WHEREAS, each Grand Lodge upholds the Ancient Charges and Regulations of the Order and clings to the ideals, Landmarks, Customs, Usages, and Principles of universal Freemasonry, including the unalterable belief in a Supreme Being to whom all Men are accountable and the Immortality of the Soul; and

WHEREAS, each Grand Lodge believes that the ties of Brotherly Love and Affection will be strengthened, the prosperity of the Masonic family promoted, the bonds of unity as well as the strength and honor of our Craft protected by a more intimate connection and association; and

WHEREAS, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia recognizes the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and did request recognition by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, at its 235th Annual Communication, on October 26, 2021, in Macon, Georgia, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia did act favorably on said request and recognized the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia;

NOW THEREFORE, be it known that, as by their respective actions, the two Grand Lodges have demonstrated the desire to live in peace and harmony and to hold each other in mutual recognition and amity, within the same territorial jurisdiction, they do now and henceforth agree to the establishment of the following:

TREATY OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION:

Article 1: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia recognize each other as regular, independent, and sovereign Masonic Grand Lodges with separate membership and subordinate Lodges.

Article 2: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia share the territory, the State of Georgia, governed by their respective Grand Lodges.

Article 3: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia shall continue to exist as sovereign, separate, and distinct Grand Lodges, holding jurisdiction over their respective Lodges and members. This agreement of Amity and Recognition and shared Territorial Jurisdiction does not now, nor shall it ever, constitute a merger.

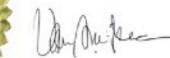
Article 4: The specific terms of fraternal relations established by this treaty shall be governed by such decisions as shall be made by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia independently, or the Edicts, rulings, and directives of the Grand Masters of the respective Grand Lodges.

Article 5: The effective date of this Treaty shall be retroactive to October 26, 2021, A.L. 6021.

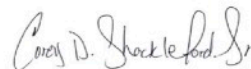
Established and exercised for the Glory of God, the Grand Architect of the Universe, and in the presence of these witnesses at Sandy Springs, Georgia and in accordance with the Laws of Masonry and the Ancient Landmarks of the Order, this 9th day of April, 2022, A.L. 6022.



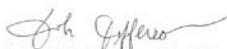
Donald C. Combs, Grand Master
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia



Attest: Van S. McGee, Grand Secretary
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia

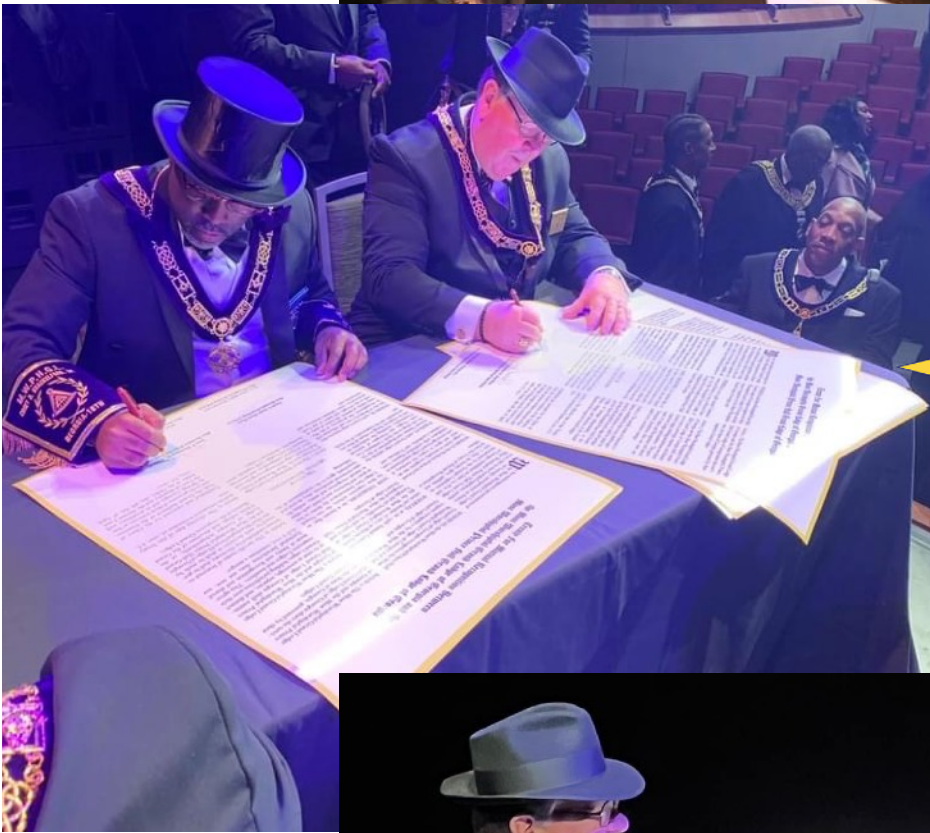


Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia



Attest: John Jefferson, Grand Secretary
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia

...and the Treaty was signed and sealed by both Grand Masters and both Grand Secretaries before Grand Master Corey D. Shackelford was introduced by Brother Jeff Smith for his remarks.



*Remarks of Most Worshipful Brother Corey D. Shackelford
Before Those Assembled in Unity at the Signing of the Treaty of Amity
Between the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM and the Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia*



Giving honor and respect to the Lord of Lords and Kings of Kings, the great I Am, Jesus Christ who is the head of my life and household, to Deputy Grand Master Primus James, to all elected officers, to all Past Grand Masters of the MWPHGL of Georgia, to my fellow conservators Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald Combs

and all his elected officers and delegation of Past Grand Masters of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia; to Most Worshipful Grand Master Victor Major of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina, PGM Rodney Wheeler, Sr. representing his Most Worshipful Grand Master Micheal Wilcox in his absence of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska and to the State Head of Houses under the auspices of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia and to all of you under the sound of my voice...good afternoon.

On March 6, 1778, Prince Hall and 14 like-minded men were initiated into the Ancient Craft degrees of Freemasonry under Irish Constitution Lodge No. 441 in Boston, MA. This marked the first time in history that men of melanin, color, black were made masons in the 13 Colonies that would later become these United States of America. Fast forward 92 years, 3 months and 18 days later the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia as we are styled today under the leadership of our first Grand Master Rev. James Simms was legally and legitimately organized on June 24, 1870, in Savannah, Georgia. The Bible reads in Ecclesiastes chapter 9 verse 11, "The race is not given to the swift or to the strong but to the one who

endures to the end." So, yes, we done come a long way like them slim cigarettes from Virginia, this ain't gon' stop, so we just gon' continue. Now, 151 years, 3 months and 9 days later we bring before you a mutual recognition between two sovereign and legal Grand Lodges of Freemasons within the state of Georgia.

I will share with you all an abstract of Brother Prince Hall's, "A Charge Delivered to the Brethren of the African Lodge No. 459," that he delivered on June 25, 1792.

"If thus, we by the grace of God, live up to this our Profession; we may cheerfully go the rounds of the compass of this life, having lived according to the plumb line of uprightness, the square of justice, the level of truth and sincerity. And when we are come to the end of time, we may then bid farewell to that delightful Sun and Moon, and the other planets, that move so beautifully round her in their orbits, and all things here below, and ascend to that new Jerusalem, where we shall not want these tapers, for God is the Light thereof; where the Wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest. Then shall we hear and see and know, All we desired and wished below, And every power find sweet employ, In that eternal world of joy. Our flesh shall slumber in the ground, Till the last trumpet's joyful sound, Then burst the chains with sweet surprise, And in our Saviors' image we shall rise."

-Bro. Prince Hall

This was Prince Hall's vision when they were Initiated, Passed, and Raised. In my humble opinion, it is this very minute of what we are doing today is what Prince Hall envisioned Freemasonry for all men when he wrote the charge to African Lodge No. 459. Understanding that there was no United States of America during that time, there were no Mason Dixie line during that time, there was only Freemasonry during his time. Unfortunately, as time would have it, politics, race, and the bitterness of human nature, derived a systemic process that put the true fundamental purposes of Freemasonry in a choke hold preventing true tenets of Brotherhood as it was

intended to be. However, as time would have it those walls of defiance would soon come to an end as did the walls of Jericho when they came tumbling down. Therefore, on this appointed day, at this appointed time we are setting a course of growth, understanding and reciprocal respect. Toward that cement which unites us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.

As the sands of the hourglass continue to flow one particle at a time in contrast to a clock each second, minute, and hour there is constant change. It reads in the volume of sacred law in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thy own understanding. And in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." Knowing this, and as the text reads which some of you in here may be familiar with; What came you here to do? To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry," therefore, my brothers, if this is the true course of your earthly journey stand to and abide by it. The late great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Therefore, with this collaboration between the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, let it be known today. That the respect of legal and regular Masonry is alive and well in the state of Georgia and the toils of forward progress in every step taken brings us closer to what is true and righteous.

In closing, to Past Grand Master Johnnie M. Garmon as a young profane would seek and knock on the door of Masonry to be Initiated, it was you that opened the door that started the process toward acknowledgement; to Past Grand Master Jan Giddens who Passed the right hand of continued fellowship that bridged the gap for the forward progression. And to you, Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald Combs for facilitating the sublime culmination that Raised the banner of virtue that we now humbly share from one Mason to another-thank you.

To our very own and to give him his flowers as they are respectfully due, to our 14th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Past Grand Master Willie L. Williams, for your fortitude and drive toward Initiating this endeavor, seeing it Passed through the august body of our Grand Lodge and now bearing witness to the Raised expectations of your labors, so on behalf of my office as the 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master and the brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia a sincere and heartfelt thank you to you, salute sir!

Thank you to the committee on both sides of the aisles for making today possible, more especially to PM Isaac Robinson, ADDGM Reggie Walker, PM William Thomas, PM Seth Gholston, Grand Historian Dave Gillarm, Grand Dir. of Education Doug Evans, Grand Secretary John Jefferson and GSW Jonathan White for facilitating the grass root efforts, thank you.

As I exit to my seat I will leave you with these parting words,

Political change in society is an act of legislative processes to correct an inhumane right, but political change in your heart is the grace of God and should strike the very fabric of one's spirit righteousness. So finally, my brothers, be ye all of one mind, live in peace and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you. Thank you and God bless each one of you.

Brother Isaac Robinson then introduced Grand Master Donald C. Combs for his remarks.

*Remarks of Most Worshipful Brother Donald C. Combs
Before Those Assembled in Unity at the Signing of the Treaty of Amity
Between the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM and the Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia*



Most Worshipful
B r o t h e r
Shackleford, Past
Grand masters,
W o r s h i p f u l
Brothers, family,
friends, guests,
and my Brethren
all,

Thank you for
your presence
here today for
the beginning of
a new age in the
world of

Freemasonry in Georgia. It is a day that is full of hope and promise, but also one, in which we face a major challenge. That challenge is an ongoing, age old struggle of divisiveness and anger that threatens both the moral and spiritual fiber of our craft and our society as a whole. The good news for us today, is that there are things within our individual and collective control that we can do to address this challenge.

As I pondered today's event, and those leading up to this day, its impact on our fraternity and our society, and the fact that major league baseball has just begun in earnest, my mind wandered to the 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, who also later, became the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Who also was, by the way, the only person in U.S. history to serve as the head of both the Executive and Judicial branches of our government.

President Taft was a large man, standing over 6 feet in height and well over 300 pounds.

He also loved baseball. On April 14, 1910, President Taft attended the opening day game between the Washington Senators and the Philadelphia Athletics. According to one report, *"as the faceoff between the*

Senators and Athletics wore on, the rotund 6-foot 2-inch President grew more and more uncomfortable in his small wooden chair. By the middle of the 7th inning, he could bear it no more and stood up to stretch his aching legs. Everyone else in the stadium, thinking the President was about to leave, rose to show their respect. A few minutes later, President Taft returned to his seat, the crowd followed suit and the "seventh inning stretch was born." While most historians may agree that something similar happened prior to 1910, the enduring popularity of one of baseballs Deepest rooted rituals can be traced back to this event.

So, what does this experience at a baseball game 112 years ago have to do with us here today?? I am thinking, we are just finishing the seventh inning stretch. Just as President Taft needed a break after sitting in an undersized seat for six and a half innings, many of us are ready for a change!! If seven innings of being confined to an uncomfortable chair can seem like a long time, then years and years of social separation, exclusion, and subjugation can seem to be more than multiple lifetimes. Yet many of us persevered!! We made it to this day, and we welcomed the opportunity to change an ideology, to stretch, so to speak. This seventh inning stretch came just in time for ***many of us, for society as a whole, and our nation at large!*** However, the game was not over when the president took that rejuvenating break. He was reenergized, but he returned to his wooden chair whose shape and size was no more accommodating than it was before he stood. There was still a lot more baseball left to play. The outcome was still uncertain. A lot can happen in the last 2 innings of a baseball game. In the same way, this opportunity is not over for us. Because of all your good work, we are ahead. And if we stay ahead, if we finish strong, we can, like the hometown baseball team, finish a half-inning early. On the other hand, if we lose focus, let up on our efforts, or storms surround us, a let down might overtake us, requiring us to go into extra innings, or worse, cancel the game. This seventh inning stretch can, therefore,

not only rejuvenate us, but also remind us of the need to continue on, the need to persevere! We have made it to the seventh inning stretch now we need to finish strong!

One key to persevering comes from another “*stretch*” ritual, that of singing a song, specifically, “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” To those unfamiliar with baseball tradition this must appear odd. One reporter wrote, “the *seventh inning stretch* is a bit *bizarre* as fans suddenly are standing up and singing a song about attending the very event they are at, but it is a ritual that makes baseball... baseball, with all of its history and *shared* experiences.”

It is that unifying element that makes the moment so powerful and reenergizing. It does not matter how well you sing or which team you cheer for, you are united with those around you, brought together by the moment. As one Atlanta Braves fan was overheard saying, “at the ballpark it doesn’t matter if you sing alto or awful, Baseball is best enjoyed if you embrace the chance to stand up and join in a tradition where for one minute, we can all get along... even with Mets and Dodger’s fans!”

Unity is a concept that extends beyond any of the important issues. We need that unifying power now more than ever to address pressing issues like Social Justice, Racism, Poverty, Divisiveness, and Intolerance. Unity is essential to our happiness. But it has been noted that Unity and Diversity are not opposites. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, “*unity has never meant uniformity.*” Without unity, diversity becomes divisive. If we truly want unity, we must love one another, even those, especially those, with whom we disagree. So, my message to you on this occasion is simple, persevere in unity, come closer to one another, never tire, and be perfectly united. If we do so, we will be able to successfully meet whatever challenges we may face, individually and collectively in the coming years.

I would close with this quote from M. K. “the Mahatma” Gandhi: “*religions and races are different roads converging upon the same point. What does it matter that we take different roads, so long as we reach the same goal? That goal being unified.*”

May we reach that goal is my prayer, in the name of the Supreme Architect of the Universe!!

So mote it be!!

And thus with the Treaty signed, Brother Isaac Robinson called on the Grand Lodge of Georgia’s Grand Chaplain Thomas J. Chapman for a closing prayer.



“A Word With the Chair(s)”

Following up on the historic signing of the Treaty of Amity between the Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, the Editor sat down with the Chairs of the Treaty Committees from both the Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. Worshipful Brother Jeff Smith led the committee for the Grand Lodge of Georgia and Worshipful Brother Isaac Robinson led for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia.



1. After so many years of separation, what are your thoughts on finally reaching a status of mutual recognition between the two Grand Lodges?

WB Jeff: Personally, I think was an easy decision. Given the history and background of Prince Hall Masonry and its chartering by the Grand Lodge of England, I saw this recognition as readily as I would see the Grand Lodge of Virginia or the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. What makes it different is sharing the jurisdiction (the State of Georgia) with another Grand Lodge. That was the main issue of the recognition. Since the inception of the Grand Lodge System in 1717, the rule has always been that only one Grand Lodge may exist in any jurisdiction unless they agree to share the jurisdiction through treaty. What this recognition and treaty means, in the simplest terms, is that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia may be recognized by other Grand Lodges outside the state. Previously this was barred by the rule of one Grand Lodge per jurisdiction.

For the constituent lodge, this has no effect on their daily operation. For the brethren of our jurisdiction, it simply means that Prince Hall is no longer considered clandestine, as they are now recognized. The request from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge precluded cross-membership or visitation for a period of time, so there is truly nothing changed for our constituent lodges.

WB Isaac: My thoughts on mutual recognition is one of joy. I am so excited for the future of our two Grand Lodges.

2. Going into this task, what were your initial thoughts and expectations?

WB Jeff: Upon being asked to Chair the Treaty Event, I knew that the event should be one of reverence and solemnity. An event befitting such an occasion. I was not naïve – I knew that this was not supported by some members of the Craft. I also knew there was outright opposition to the recognition. I believed communication was necessary to help brethren understand what this

meant, and what it did not mean. It was apparent from comments made, there was a lack of Masonic education that was causing issues. For example, the meaning of the word “clandestine.” What it means versus what people were taught caused significant problems. I admit, what I was taught when I was raised was not accurate.

WB Isaac: My initial thoughts were, this is a monumental task in front of me. I had to ask myself was I ready. Then I closed my eyes, put trust in the team we assembled and let God lead the way.

3. How did you organize your committee?

WB Jeff: I wanted to find brethren who were not afraid of the issue and offered a good mix of experience to help to make decisions concerning the event itself. I wanted brethren who would be knowledgeable in proper decorum for a formal event of this nature. The committee was appointed to conduct the event – it had no part in the recognition, which was decided during the Grand Lodge Session.

WB Isaac: Thirteen years ago, I gathered one the best historians on Prince Hall/Masonic history in general I knew to join me in engaging members of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Grand Director of Education, Past Master Doug Evans of WC Thomas #112, along with my lodge member Grand Lecturer, Past Master Seth Gholston. As time went on Asst. District Deputy Grand Master Reggie Walker of Mansfield Lodge #295 came aboard with Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden Jonathan White of Eden Lodge #46, Past Master William Thomas of Derwin Brown Lodge #599 and Grand Historian, Past Master Dave Gillarm of Mount Pisgah Lodge #53. This committee is what I called the “Dream Team” of Prince Hall Masonry in Georgia.

4. Prior to the announcement of official recognition, there had been many small movements, some in the background some such as the memorial for the Honorable and Brother John Lewis. Did these events give you small glimmers of hope that the process was coming together in the way you had hoped?

WB Jeff: My first interaction with the “small movements,” was seeing an outreach from Prince Hall brethren who came to open events to get to

know brethren and allow our brethren to get to know them. My first notice of this was at Open Installation of Officers at Fulton Lodge and Tucker Lodge. We got to know one another and had some interesting discussions. When Congressman Lewis passed away, I received a call from Isaac Robinson. He wanted me to pass along an invitation for Grand Master Garmon to attend a public event in the Capital Rotunda that included Masonic Rites. I quickly passed along that information, and I was very happy to see our Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, and Grand Tyler attend. I believe these “encounters” did help ease some angst on both sides. Communication can assuage many misconceptions.

WB Isaac: I actually spearheaded the invitation to the Grand Lodge of Georgia for the Last Rights for Honorable and Brother John Lewis. I got permission from our Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey Shackleford Sr. to send out the invitation. I called Worshipful Brother Jeff Smith and extended the offer, he then called me back in less than an hour and said that Grand Master Johnnie Garmon was extremely gracious and accepted our invitation. And at that moment, I knew we were on our way to something great.

5. Give us some insight into that first meeting between the committees. What was it like knowing that you were working toward an amazing progressive movement in the history of the two Grand Lodges?

WB Jeff: In a word – there was “brotherhood.” There was excitement, congeniality, and fellowship, but the entire meeting exuded brotherhood, as I know it. My committee’s first meeting was with the committee from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge – it felt historic.

WB Isaac: It was very exciting to meet our counterparts, many of which I have known of or have already have met in different settings. It was very business-oriented and many ideas flowed throughout the night. We took the best ideas and most important goals to work first, i.e., finding a place to have the Mutual Recognition Treaty Ceremony. After that, everything just fell into place.

6. What was the planning of the event like? Such a monumental undertaking, how did you get it all accomplished?

WB Jeff: Planning was a potential minefield. We were trying to ensure the ceremony had the proper decorum for such an event – it was not going to be a circus. WB William White did a great job taking input for at least seven iterations of the commemorative coin, and it turned out well. The great part of the planning was the consensus between the brethren of both Grand Lodges. We seemed to be in sync from the beginning. That is not to say there were not speed bumps along the path. We were trying to ensure the event met our vision and met with the expectations of both Grand Masters. In actuality it was a fairly smooth process.

The fact that we were able to put together an event at that venue, with giant treaties, commemorative coins, and commemorative pens at a final cost to each Grand Lodge of less than \$700 each was a huge win in my book. The \$700 has already been made up by the Grand Lodge of Georgia by the sale of excess coins from the event.

WB Isaac: My counterpart Jeff Smith is the best partner a Brother can have. We were truly the dynamic duo! Love that Brother!

8. Were there any meetings with the Grand Masters? What were those meetings like?

WB Jeff: We had physical and virtual meetings with the Grand Masters. They were great. The respect and admiration each showed for the other was, in a word, Masonic. I have to admit that they treated the committees well and were very supportive and thankful of the efforts.

WB Isaac: The Grand Masters meet separately and without us. I hear those meeting were great and they seem to be on the same page.

9. The day arrives. Treaty signing. What thoughts/feelings/emotions were going through your head?

WB Jeff: My head was buzzing like a horsefly in a shoebox. There was so much to make sure went right. I was not calm until a few minutes before it began (at that point worrying was not going to help). Once it began, I was in awe – it truly came together and was an amazing ceremony befitting such an occasion (in my humble opinion).

Everything was just right – the venue, the atmosphere, the music...everything. But more especially, it was heartwarming to see the brotherhood exhibited by members of both Grand Lodges as they mixed and mingled before and after the event. Brotherhood was alive and well in Sandy Springs that day!

WB Isaac: I was so in “go” mode and busy that I did not have a chance to think about the gravity of the moment until the end of the program when I gave my closing remarks.

10. Looking back, and taking a deep breath, looking at the accomplishments of your respective committees and Grand Lodges, what is your hope for the future of this relationship?

WB Jeff: I believe we have just made a great move. Not only did the treaty allow the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia to be formally recognized around the world, to me it was the right thing to do. Let us now pause and reflect on this great time in Freemasonry. I do not think this should be rushed, as I believe it is a process. I hope that this is the first step in a long-lasting and meaningful relationship that will bear great fruit in the years to come.

WB Isaac: My wildest dreams for our two Grand Lodges? That we will have amity forever, and eventually local lodge visitations, degree work with each other, and more community service events with each other (working on an event right now). In short, I hope we can spread Brotherly Love together across this nation that needs more love in it.

The Masonic Home of Georgia



John Snipes, Superintendent
Presented a check from Eastern Star Chapter #554
in the amount of \$2,500, for the homes Operating Fund.



2022 Camp Workday's
Many thanks to all in attendance!



Manatee Trip
Ezel Lodge #335



Annual Shoot Out
Harlem Lodge #276



Bowling Trip
Benevolent Lodge #3



Our 2022 High School Graduates

Pictured left is Jessica Molina. She graduated from Tattnall Square Academy. Pictured right is Aura Wiley. She graduated from Mount de Sales. We are so very proud of both of these young women!

All of us here at the Masonic Home appreciate the Mason's throughout the State for their continued support of the Masonic Home. Please stop by for a visit the next time you are in Macon. If you know of anyone who enjoys working with children we have some houseparent positions available. Contact information for position is Chris Babcock (478) 743-5154 or babcock.chris@masonichomeofgeorgia.com.



GRAND
CHAPTER
C. Hendry Howard
ME Grand High Priest



GRAND
COUNCIL
Robert "Rusty" Cordle
MI Grand Master



GRAND
COMMANDERY
Tommy T. Marshall
RE Grand Commander

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

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



C. Hendry Howard
ME Grand High Priest



Robert "Rusty" Cordle
MI Grand Master



Tommy T. Marshall
RE Grand Commander

The Grand York Rite Session was held during the first week of May and a new slate of officers was elected. C. Hendry Howard was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Robert "Rusty" Cordle, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia and Tommy T. Marshall, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. John E. "Jay" Finch, Jr. was elected as the Excellent Grand Master of 1st Veil, Grand Chapter of Georgia. Keith Hales was elected as Illustrious Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Georgia. Alessandro V. da Silva 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.

2022 Greater Atlanta York Rite Festival

August 20th & August 27th, 2022

Atlanta Masonic Center, 1690 Peachtree St NW Atlanta, GA 30309

- The Chapter and Council degrees will be conferred on **Saturday, August 20th**
- The Orders of the Commandery will be conferred on **Saturday, August 27th**
- Come early each Saturday for fellowship, coffee and refreshments.
- Cost will be \$15 per person per day.
- Run all petitions/candidate fees through local York Rite body prior to the festival.
- **NO VOTING WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE FESTIVAL.**



CONTACT: Daniel Bennett, Pres.

email: historyman76@gmail.com

Phone: 770-608-6232

Petition for York Rite Bodies
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf>

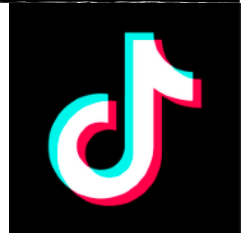
Georgia York Rite Website
www.yorkriteofga.org

Find your closest York Rite:
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/yorkrite-by-city.html>

The Georgia Masonic Messenger publishes from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in the following articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM, The Georgia Masonic Messenger, the Managing Editor, or the Grand Lodge of Georgia Publication Committee but are provided for the interest, education, and consideration of the myriad of Brethren in the state of Georgia whose Masonic interests are as diverse and varied as its membership. The articles provided here are published with an interest toward providing every Mason in Georgia with something which he can enjoy when he receives this publication. Questions, comments, or concerns should be

Grand Lodge of Georgia Reaches out to the “TikTok” Generation

By Brother Jim Robinson
Dallas Lodge No. 182



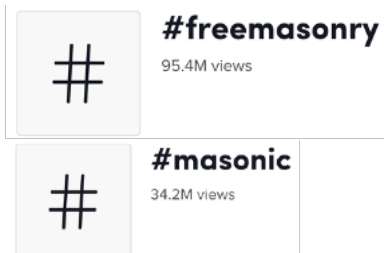
"Have you heard of this clock app?"

I hear this question a lot in my travels. Followed by the question, "isn't that the music, dancing app?" After cringing a little, I reply, "Yes, Brother, it sure is."

But allow me to dive into some background on TikTok for just a minute and share a few quick statistics from Hootsuite.com. In the next twenty-four hours, 650-thousand people will sign up on the platform. By the time you can say the app's name, six new users have signed up. The platform has a billion monthly active users.

"But who cares, Brother Jim? Most of those users aren't Masons." That's fair, and you'd be correct. But consider this, we aren't only focused on sharing our knowledge of the Fraternity with each other. The profane world is curious, just like we were when we knocked on that outer door. This is yet another tool in the arsenal of Masonry that we can use to better mankind.

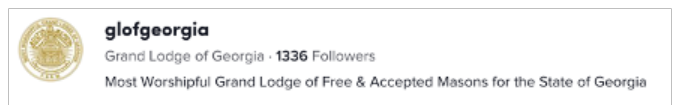
To go a little deeper in understanding what this all means by looking at the method of organizing searches through the medium of hashtags. You may have seen these on Facebook and Instagram posts. TikTok also utilizes hashtags. As a matter of fact, "freemasonry" garners more than ninety-five million video views. Put simply, this means videos with that search word attached to it have been viewed. "Masonic" brought in another thirty-five



million video views. The profane craves answers, and the Brethren desire a more extensive community.

Our Grand Master, Donald C. Combs, has challenged all of us to "challenge the future." The future is on this platform and that doesn't mean twelve-year-old kids, it means twenty-one-year-olds and older. And while the younger generation, yes, even this forty-something-year-old, is constantly tapping and swiping on their smartphone, they are more enlightened, informed, aware, and curious.

This group are truth seekers and question everything. I might argue that truth isn't just an essential aspect of their lives; it's everything, and knowledge is at our fingertips. Let's also remember a chief tenant of our Craft is truth.



In April of 2022, the Grand Lodge of Georgia's official account was launched. In a short amount of time, it grew from one to more than thirteen hundred followers in a month. Interesting enough, they aren't all Freemasons. You'll find an eclectic bunch of followers from wives and widows to sons, daughters, and lovers of history and mystery.

And there are meaningful examples of conversations with all of the above. One example comes from the recent recognition treaty signing with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. A short video posted with moments from the signing, exploded with thousands of views within twenty-four hours, eventually exceeding fifty-two thousand within a few days. And launched several conversations all over the face of the globe. Men were congratulating

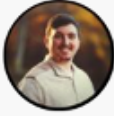


Georgians, and some were declaring “I want to be a Brother.”


Now, I’m not the only one chasing moments in Freemasonry. Several Brothers from various districts, who are also TikTok creators here in Georgia, spend a great deal of time answering questions about our beloved Craft.

Why do we have secret modes of recognition?
 Why doesn't my grandfather or father talk about Masonry?
 Why do we like green beans so much?
 Are we evil?

But, as an active user of TikTok (the_jim_project), comments like this, bring joy to my soul: “I’m interested in joining.”



Chase Allen
 I’m Interested in joining
 1w ago Reply



ChathamFreePress
 I am located in Savannah. How would I best express interest?
 2d ago Reply

Look, at the end of the day, the future of Freemasonry is in our hands and – if you’ll allow me – our pockets.

It is also not lost on me that the internet can be an ugly, destructive place. If you’ve read the unfiltered comments I’ve seen, it would bring real sadness to your heart. But there are and will always be those in the profane world who continue to struggle to find their inner peace and harmony. We won’t make an impact on all of them but we aren’t going anywhere anytime soon.



Vlad Esparza
 Congratulations to Georgia 🇺🇸
 4-11 Reply



Rashard Frost
 I want to be a Brother
 4-11 Reply



Justin Conyers
 Psalms 133 personified
 4-11 Reply



Stickers • Friend
 I could watch this over and over again.. Great time in history to be a GA Freemason. Brothers coming together in peace and harmony, SMIB
 4-11 Reply

History of the Masonic Medical Research Institute



Freemasonry's longstanding commitment to the health and quality of life for all humanity is evident and clear here in Utica, NY. Following the war, the Grand Lodge of New York, under the leadership of Grand Master MW Gay H. Brown, established a foundation that would serve and benefit humankind as a whole, without regard to Masonic affiliation or any other restriction. Brother Raymond C. Ellis, the appointed chairman of the committee, together with his eminent advisors, Drs. Currier McEwen, Dean of New York University College of Medicine, and George W. Woodford, Medical Director of the Home Life Insurance Company of New York, identified that rheumatic diseases and related degenerative ailments were among the most serious confronting medical science at the time.

Indeed, findings from a national survey conducted by the United States Public Health Service confirmed that the prevalence for rheumatic diseases was the highest in the nation, exceeding 6.8 million cases at that time. Moreover, although cardiovascular disease came in second, with a prevalence of more than 3 million, it was found that a large percentage of these cases actually originated from recurring attacks of rheumatic fever in childhood.

Interestingly, despite this high incidence of rheumatic fever and associated diseases, there was virtually no substantial, long-range program of basic medical research conducted to find causes or therapies for the disease. Consequently, the committee recommended establishing a medical research foundation, with its primary focus on rheumatic fever in children and a secondary emphasis on MMRI History arthritic ailments and related degenerative diseases in adults. The Masonic Foundation for Medical Research and Human Welfare was born on October 23, 1947, with Raymond C. Ellis (President), H. Douglas Van Duser (Vice- President), Samuel Kaltman (Secretary), Malcom D. Simpson (Treasurer), James H. Brice, Charles E. Froessel, William Klingenstein, Walter S. McNab, and James Persons as its original Board of Directors.

Officers and Board Members received expert advice and counsel from two groups established within their bylaws: a Medical Advisory Council, who screened research grant applications for relevancy and effectiveness, and a Medical Review Panel, who examined the actions of the council, forwarding them to the Board along with any other recommendations. The Panel also served as an independent advisory body to the Board on all medical matters. Drs. McEwen and Woodford assisted in establishing these advisory groups.

Like any charitable organization, the newfound challenge facing the Foundation was generating funds to support its efforts. In the spring of 1948, Grand Master Brown facilitated the first (of many) Masonic Brotherhood campaigns in New York, raising nearly \$500,000 to support the Foundation's causes. As the Foundation itself did not have its own laboratory, it allocated funds to various medical colleges in New York that were conducting research consistent with the Foundation's goals.

In 1949, its first full year of operation, the Foundation awarded seven grants totaling \$203,196 for rheumatic fever and arthritis research; grants were given to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Irvington House, New York University Bellevue Medical Center, Syracuse University and Rheumatic Fever Foundation, University of Buffalo School of Medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Cornell University Medical School and Arthritis Clinic at New York Hospital. These inaugural grants continued through 1955 and totaled nearly \$1.4 million in support of the Board's resolve, to confine activities to research rather than to treatments, except where treatments were incidental to research. The Board was convinced that the limited dollars the foundation had would have far greater impact if invested in finding causes and cures for diseases. Indeed, the Foundation's significant philanthropic funding of rheumatic disease research became quickly known throughout the medical community and publications for the supported research efforts illuminated the need to eradicate rheumatic fever.

Shortly after the Foundation's research programs launched, discussions emerged regarding use of cortisone and adrenocorticotrophic (ACTH) hormones for treatment of rheumatic diseases; in 1950, two clinician scientists from Mayo Clinic, Drs. Philip Hench and Edward Kendall, were awarded the Nobel Prize for their work in the development of cortisone. The Foundation's Board invited the Nobel Laureates to a televised medical conference in New York City, during which they were presented certificates of achievement. An 11-year-old girl, who a year earlier had been crippled with arthritis, was also present at the conference.

She was one of the first children to receive the experimental treatments at New York University Bellevue Medical Center under a research program supported by the Masonic Foundation. Indeed, in Dr. McEwen's 1952 annual report, it was noted that 108 foundation supported scientific articles had been published and 32 more were in preparation from the course of the seven years of intensive research supported by the Masonic Foundation. There is little doubt that this research support was instrumental in identifying that hemolytic streptococcus infection was causal to rheumatic fever, and helped describe the preventative measures needed to reduce the overall prevalence of the disease.

In the next years, the lessened need to focus on rheumatic disease allowed the Foundation to concentrate on new challenges in the medical field. Specifically, the Board considered opening its own research facility. Former President Ellis, having stepped down from his position at the Foundation in 1952 when he was elected Deputy Grand Master for New York, both conceived and championed the notion of the Foundation building its own medical research laboratory.

The proposal was met with a number of questions, including how such an undertaking might be funded, where it would be located, and whether its research should continue to be in the field of rheumatic diseases or, rather, be expanded into other areas of interest. Based on its past commitment and generosity of support, there was confidence that the Masonic Fraternity would support the project financially.

The Board also did not want duplicate research efforts already underway by other agencies. As such, the Medical Advisory Board recommended pursuit of a long-range research program in gerontology, the study of the aging process itself. The research program would encompass studying the aging, from the chemical and physical changes that create visible signs of aging, to how these could be predicted, delayed or even avoided.

The Board successfully identified John Murray Steele, MD, Professor of Medicine at New York University College of Medicine and Director of New York University Research Service at Goldwater Memorial Hospital, as the first Director of Research (DOR) for the new laboratory. A former Associate in Medicine of the Rockefeller Institute, his professional affiliations included being a member of the National Advisory Council, the Oklahoma Medical Research Advisory Committee and Gerontological Society, and a Director of the New York Heart Association. He was, without question, one of the most accomplished and respected researchers in the country at that time.

Dr. Steele worked closely with the architect in designing the most modern and efficient research facility possible. Ground for the newly minted laboratory was broken on June 18, 1955, St. John's Day. On April 7 of the following year, the cornerstone was laid by Grand Master Ellis and New York Governor Averell Harriman delivered the principal address.

On June 21, 1958, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York completed the construction of the laboratory, fulfilling their longstanding commitment to charitable work in improving the health and quality of life for all humanity. Grand Master Lloyd Jones officially turned the facility over to the President of the Masonic Foundation, David R. Cunnison. By then, the Masons of New York and their friends had contributed over \$1 million to build the structure.

Steele's successor was J.G. Fred Hiss, M.D., a prominent cardiologist in Syracuse and a member of the laboratory's Board. Dr. Hiss asked an acquaintance, Gordon K. Moe, M.D., Ph.D., who was Professor and Chairman of Physiology at Upstate Medical Center of the State University of New York at Syracuse, for assistance. Dr. Moe readily agreed and indicated he would be interested in the position. Among his many credentials, he chaired the Research Committee of the American Heart Association, served as consultant to both the U.S. Public Health Service and the World Health Organization, and was widely published in cardiovascular research journals.

The laboratory's professional staff grew under Moe's leadership. In collaboration with J.A. Abildskov, M.D., a colleague and good friend of Moe's in the Department of Medicine at Upstate Medical Center, the two developed a mathematical model of atrial

fibrillation that became the standard for understanding fibrillation. For over 25 years, Moe led a staff that continued to grow in size and capability, forging a legacy that encompassed scientific and medical discoveries. Under Moe's tutelage, the laboratory also established education and training programs for future researchers and scientists. Beginning in the 1960s, and continuing through to today, the laboratory has been a recruitment and training center for both predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows, as well as for students from around the world, many of whom have gone on to become highly respected researchers, scientists and physicians. The 1970s through early 1980s were a particularly exciting time for laboratory's experimental cardiology research efforts. The discoveries made during this period branded the lab a premier institution in the field of cardiac electrophysiology.

In the late 1970s, research in developing a blood substitute began, ultimately leading to a substitute being developed and patented. In addition, a cancer program was initiated, establishing outgrowth for the laboratory's focus on aging. Areas of research at the MMRL during the 1980s encompassed heart, aging, hypertension, cancer, vision and blood initiatives. However, during this time, the focus started to shift more exclusively towards studies in the heart. Researchers contributed to advancements in the understanding, treatment and cures for those suffering from abnormal heart rhythms due to AV nodal tachycardia became available. Strides were also made in the understanding and treatment of life-threatening Long QT Syndrome. Most notably, in 1996, MMRL scientists were part of a global team that discovered a potential treatment for individuals at high risk of developing Brugada Syndrome which was thought to account for a significant number of sudden cardiac death cases.

In 1995, MMRL further expanded its research efforts and created the Molecular Biology Program to complement and dovetail the pioneering electrophysiological research MMRL had conducted over the previous years. Due to its excellent reputation, MMRL and its Cardiology Program saw unparalleled grant support in the 1990s for its research efforts.

To remain at the forefront of research, in 2002, MMRL announced the establishment of a Molecular Genetics Program. In conjunction with this initiative, the laboratory assembled a talented team of investigators to elucidate the genetic mutations associated with cardiac arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death, particularly in infants, children and young adults.

Within its first year, the Genetics Program identified a new clinical entity responsible for sudden cardiac death, termed short QT Syndrome, to an ion channel defect in the heart. The identification of the genetic basis for the disease permitted investigators at MMRL to study potential new candidate drugs for the treatment of this syndrome.

In 2005, research in live human heart tissue began as result of groundbreaking cooperation with the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute, a clinical entity only five miles away. Tissues removed from patients as part of surgical procedures at the Heart Institute were provided to the laboratory for research purposes.

In late 2006, MMRL, together with a worldwide consortium, discovered another gene mutation responsible for sudden cardiac death. The findings were published in the January 2007 issue of *Circulation*. By 2010, MMRL had close working relationships with over 36 clinical groups throughout the world. These relationships included not only basic and clinical researchers, but pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as well. Scientists also served as consultants to biotechnology companies, as well as to the Food and Drug Administration, to help define the mechanisms responsible for abnormal rhythms of the heart.

the MMRL was renamed in early 2018 as the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI). It celebrated its 60th Anniversary on June 21st by unveiling a Phase I renovation, totaling \$10 million and entailed gutting and rebuilding the second and third floors of laboratory.

The result was 6,800 square feet of new laboratory space that now accommodates approximately 6 research teams and a new full-barrier vivarium—a usually enclosed area for keeping and raising animals or plants for observation or research. The modernization of the 60-year-old cardiac research center transformed the Institute into a 21st century interdisciplinary, translational research facility. Areas of focus now are on heart disease, diabetes and obesity, autoimmune disease, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and have allowed for the recruitment of new talent and innovation to MMRI.

MMRI is one of only a handful of institutes worldwide whose research has been so influential and essential to the study of experimental cardiology. In

the last decade, death from cardiovascular disease has significantly decreased, and the MMRI has played an integral part in this extraordinary achievement. As MMRI's impact worldwide continues to grow, so will the importance of its work.

The first 60 years have only set the stage for the next 60, years that will be even more extraordinary and will be sure to bring life-saving benefits to all of humanity.

Any Brother wishing to make a donation to the MMRI may go to the website mmri.edu and click the “GIVING” box on the upper right-hand corner of the page to be taken to a portal in which donations can be made.

MMRI's Past Scientific Research Findings & Results

MMRI's 62-year history encapsulates tremendous achievements, which have lent themselves to the development and/or implementation of critical devices and therapies utilized around the world, including the pacemaker, implantable cardioverter defibrillator, automatic external defibrillator, catheter ablation therapy and a wide variety of drugs used to treat heart disease.

Specific research and findings include the following:

- In 1960, researchers at MMRI developed a mathematical model for use in the study of atrial fibrillation. In 1966 they demonstrated dual pathways in the AV node and showed the basis for AV nodal tachycardia.
- In 1973, Institute researchers showed that oscillatory after potentials (delayed afterdepolarizations) was the basis for arrhythmias associated with digitalis toxicity. Over the next several years later they explored modulated parasystole and reflection as mechanisms of cardiac arrhythmias.
- In the 1980s, research staff worked to clarify the differences between epicardium and endocardium—different tissue layers of the heart—and found that the presence of an action potential notch in epicardium, but not endocardium, is responsible for inscription of the electrocardiographic J wave. They found differences in the response of epicardium and endocardium to a variety of drugs and neurotransmitters.
- The MMRI developed a blood substitute which was patented in 1990.
- In the 1990s, MMRI researchers discovered the M cell, confirming that the heart is made of several different cell types. In 1998 they uncovered the cellular basis for the various waves that appear on an electrocardiogram including the J, T and U waves.
- Between 1996 and 1998, MMRI published the first gene, SCN5A, to be linked to idiopathic ventricular fibrillation (IVF). The MMRI named this the Brugada syndrome in 1996, after Josep and Pedro Brugada, who first described this as a new clinical entity in 1992, and in 1999 *proposed use of quinidine and isoproterenol for its treatment.*
- In 2000, the MMRI research team uncovered evidence linking Sudden Infant Death Syndrome to a congenital heart defect, the Long QT syndrome (LQTS) published in The New England Journal of Medicine. That year they also found experimental evidence, confirmed by later research, that some forms of early repolarization could result in the development of life-threatening arrhythmias.
- During the next few years MMRI discovered several genes that when mutated give rise to the Long QT, Short QT, Brugada and Early Repolarization syndromes. *They later demonstrated that, ranolazine (Ranexa), a drug approved for ischemic heart disease, was capable of suppressing both atrial and ventricular arrhythmias.*
- In 2007, MMRI researchers studied atrial-selective sodium channel block as a strategy to manage atrial fibrillation. *They later demonstrated that the combination of ranolazine (Ranexa) and dronedarone (Multaq) could prevent the development of atrial fibrillation, which led to Phase 2 clinical trials.*
- In 2010, MMRI described “J Wave Syndromes” a subset of inherited cardiac arrhythmia syndromes characterized by accentuated J waves, including the Brugada and Early Repolarization syndromes. *Soon after, the research team identified Wenxin Keli, a herbal Chinese medicine, as an atrial selective sodium channel blocker September 12 / 12 capable of suppressing atrial fibrillation in experimental models.*
- In 2012, MMRI also identified Wenxin Keli and Milrinone as potential pharmacological therapies for the Brugada syndrome.



Esōterikos

“As Above, So Below” Part II

By Brothers Jimmy Densmore and Anthony Luke
Dalton Lodge No. 105

Part 2: Mapping the Heavens to Understand Ourselves

Since ancient times human beings have revered the stars above us. One of the first crafts human beings learned was to map the heavens. We found great constellations above us and we have even personified these constellations and given names to them. Throughout history, these constellations, including the 12 major constellations known as the zodiac, have intrigued us, inspired us and guided us. By mapping the heavens, humankind has advanced himself by learning the art of sailing, the knowledge of science, mathematics, psychology and even the understanding of God. By understanding the heavens above us, we inevitably understand ourselves.

Imagine that you are walking through a lush country field. You are barefoot and moving gracefully through the thick grass. You are breathing the fresh country air. The experience is very pleasant to you. As the cares of the world lift off your shoulders, you reconnect with the most important things in life, peace and nature.

However, though it may be pleasant to you, below your feet as you walk and all around you as you take those deep breaths, violent events are occurring on a microcosmic level. As you walk, your feet are trampling the grass beneath you, changing it forever as you move gracefully across it. The air you are breathing in through your mouth and nostrils is undergoing a chemical change deep within the machine of your lungs. As you breathe newly changed oxygen out you are violently pushing it back into the air around you. Molecules and cells are changing, and the carbon dioxide you have just released from your lungs now becomes food and energy for other living things on the earth.

This visualization is to show you the connection of ALL things and that ALL things effect other things around it.

We live in a cosmic system. We inhabit the earth. The earth inhabits the solar system; the solar system inhabits the Milky Way Galaxy, which consists of billions of other stars and solar systems such as ours. All of these things are

connected. Just like the effects we have on our surroundings, IE the grass, the air, the molecules, everything within this cosmic system has effects on us. Both on physical and psychological levels. In this case, we will be speaking about the psychological effects the cosmic system has on our lives, our cultures and traditions and yes even our religions.

Nearly every culture, tribe and tongue under heaven has learned the ideas of the constellations and this knowledge appears heavily in most if not all of their philosophies, sciences and religions. Even the bible itself is replete with images reflecting the 12 major constellations of the zodiac.

The bible says in Psalms chapter 19 verse one: “The heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”

In Ezekiel chapter one, the Prophet has a vision of a whirlwind coming out of the sky whose four corners reveal images of a man, a Lion, an Ox and an eagle. These images are nothing more than the four corners of the Babylonian zodiac. These four corners correlate with the four main corners of the modern zodiac; Aquarius, Leo, Taurus and Scorpio. The Babylonians believed that the constellations of the zodiac effected times, seasons, crops, weather and even regional traditions.

Now, to understand the western version of the zodiac more clearly, imagine a wheel in your head. On the top of the wheel is a lion, representing Leo. On the right side of the wheel is a bull or ox representing Taurus. On the bottom of the wheel is a man pouring water out of a bucket representing Aquarius and on the left hand side is a scorpion or eagle representing Scorpio. All around the wheel are the other eight signs of the zodiac such as Aries the ram, Virgo the Virgin, the twins of Gemini, etc.

Most of us know that the zodiac wheel changes from month to month. Most of us could even tell you which symbol we were born under. Some of us can even remember using the cheesy pick up line, “what’s your sign?” However, little known is that the zodiac wheel, which flows in a clockwise rotation from month to month

depending on where the earth is in relation to a particular sign of the zodiac, the zodiac wheel also flows counter clockwise creating what western traditions call a zodiac age. This is dependent upon where the sun is in relation to a particular constellation of the zodiac.

A zodiac month usually lasts anywhere from 28 to 30 days. However, a zodiac age lasts about 2,160 years. It takes the sun 25,920 years to complete the full cycle of the Zodiac.

This means that in the course of about 25,920 years, which constitutes one Great Solar or Platonic Year, each one of the twelve constellations occupies a position at the vernal equinox for nearly 2,160 years and then gives place to the previous sign. This is called the Procession of the Equinoxes.

According to Anthropologist and brother Master Mason, Manly P. Hall in his book "The Secret Teachings of All Ages," brother Hall tells us that the astrological age we are in dictates not only culture but religious traditions as well. In fact, so powerful are these archetypes in our psyches, we can see the effect they have had in religious worship dating back more than 6,000 years ago. So let us travel back in time, roughly 6000 years ago to the age of Taurus.

Six-thousand (6,000) years ago, we were in the age of Taurus. The bull is the symbol of Taurus. It was during this age in Egypt that Apis the bull was sacred to the sun God Ra. In fact, in Egyptian lore, the solar god embodied Apis the bull. During this time, human beings worshipped the sun as god. Cave drawings and other ancient art works dating back thousands of years ago reveal to us just how important the bull

was to humankind as they appear in numerous locations around the world. Now, let's jump forward in time by 2,000 years to the age of Aries.

Four-thousand (4,000) years ago, our sun moved into the age of Aries, the ram. It was during this time humans sacrificed lambs and rams for the remission of sin. Not only in the Middle East, but many other regions across the world. The book of Genesis reveals when this shift in age occurred. Abraham, commanded by God, takes his son Isaac up a hill to sacrifice him per Gods instructions. God, testing Abraham's faith, is satisfied and just before Abraham thrusts the knife into Isaac, an Angel of the Lord stops him. After releasing Isaac, the two men discover a ram trapped in the woods, with its horns caught in the thicket. From that time forward, humankind would sacrifice the most spotless of lambs and other lamb like animals for the forgiveness of their sins. Getting in our time machine, let's jump forward another 2,000 years to the age of Pisces.

Two-thousand (2,000) years ago, we moved into the age of Pisces. The fish is the symbol for Pisces. For the past 2,000 plus years Christianity has been the dominate religion in the world. A major symbol of Christianity is the fish. Biblically, we see this played out when Jesus calls to his disciples and tells them he will make them fishers of men. During the great persecution of Christians in Roman times, Christians would use the fish symbol to identify themselves to other Christians.

Now, without concrete evidence, some suggest that as early as the 1940s we moved into the Age of Aquarius. The man holding a bucket of water symbolizes Aquarius and he is known as the Water Bearer. Others have suggested that we moved into the Age of Aquarius in December of 2012, which if you remember was the end of the Mayan calendar. It was not the end of the world but the start of a new age. Biblically, we can see aspects of the water bearer when the Apostle Peter, filled with the Holy Spirt, stands and prophesies on the day of Pentecost; "I will pour out my spirit on ALL flesh and blood."

Ironically, each symbol of the zodiac is balanced by its opposite, which appears directly diagonal if you look at the signs on a zodiacal wheel. For instance, the sign of Taurus has Scorpio across from it. During the age of Taurus, Scorpio would also play a part in the history of the age. Scorpio can represent both a scorpion and a serpent. In fact, Scorpio is associated with three different types of animals including the eagle. During the time of Taurus, the story of the Garden of Eden evolved. The Serpent or scorpion deceived Adam and Eve into eating the forbidden fruit.

The opposite of Aries is Libra and we know during this time that in an attempt to create an equilibrium between sin and righteousness, humankind sacrificed animals for the remission of their sins. The balancing scales are the symbol of Libra, which weighs our sins against our good works. However, for those who have sinned, only the blood of a spotless lamb can cleanse.

Virgo is the opposite of Pisces and we see the symbolism of Virgo played out heavily during this past age. As mentioned, Pisces the fish is symbolic of the major religious worship of the time, Christianity. However, Virgo, which represents the Virgin, is also prevalent in the Christian religion. Of course, the mother of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, symbolizes this.

Now, in conclusion, we see that the forces above us, the heavens, do effect human life both mentally and culturally. The stars above us have influenced many of our traditions and religions. Early humans created myths and stories about

Esōterikos

Duality & Unity in the Black & White Masonic floor

By Greg Sudmeier, PM
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Why did Jesus, one of the greatest master initiates of all, say, “*The poor you will always have with you*”? Was this a remarkably unloving and insensitive statement coming from someone so spiritually advanced, or, did he know something deeper about the reality of our human condition and about Earth being a school for the soul? In a general way Jesus was referring to the deeper esoteric principles of the Masonic black and white “Checkered Floor.”

Besides the joys we experience, the inherent nature of the dual *material* realm we currently inhabit (Earth) is also plagued by death & disease that make it by nature *both* an existence of joy and beauty and also a realm of pain and suffering. These opposites are represented by the ancient and modern Masonic globes we walk between in each of our progressive degrees; Jachin and Boaz, *material and eternal*, the Grand Balance of Opposites. Being initiated in the ancient mysteries, Jesus learned and taught this profound esoteric truth to his followers.

Jesus understood, and all other worthy spiritual teachers understand that Earth is designed as a severe “Yin-Yang” testing ground with extreme hardship and hopefully enough beauty for us to survive it, and learn our crucial and divine lessons in developing a severe sense of forgiveness, compassion, and empathy in the process. Accordingly, it has been known by the wisest teachers throughout history that only the bravest souls venture to this existence for this level of testing and growth of the soul. “*Making good men better*” is no weak “Pollyanna” platitude.

A person who exists only in “material” consciousness sees all in “duality” and division and separately compares themselves to others who are less fortunate. In this way they find a sense of false contentment here even in the material realm. It is the age-old negative

Master/Slave material human rationalization. For this reason, many stuck in a purely dualistic mindset will miss the opportunity to elevate to their higher unified spiritual consciousness, where true love and happiness actually exists. This, I think, is what Freemasonry is really all about.

As Masons we are taught and encouraged to rise above an earthly dualistic materialism to see universal reality from our higher “divine spark” nature. We are taught to learn how to hold our “*Light*” in the darkness. This inherently includes waking up to the truth of the “*miracle of the one thing*,” or, “non-duality”. The Oneness and Unity of all creation, where everyone is “*on the level*.”

Yes, in duality, the black and white floor is a constant visual reminder of the opposite nature we learn in while we are here together. That is the outer exoteric view. However, the inner esoteric knowledge of the Checkered Masonic floor, the ancient dual forces that have been taught by Jesus and many others through the centuries, is so much more meaningful.

When we apply the principle of Unity we learn the full meaning of the Masonic floor, and life - Nothing is finally separate. It all works “...*together for good to them who are called according to his purpose*.” The ever-swirling *material* energies of Good and Bad serve to hone our *eternal* souls through both positive and negative experiences, so we can finally see everyone and everything as part of *ourselves*, *not* as the “*other*.” This is why the principle of “*brotherly* (universal) *love*” is ubiquitous in all valid and loving forms of spiritual training, including Freemasonry.

THE BALANCE OF INNER ALCHEMY - THE GREAT WORK

For your contemplation, absorb the following quotes regarding the Grand Balance (uniting) of opposites:

“When the Rose and the Cross are united, the alchemical marriage is complete and the drama ends. Then we wake from history and enter eternity.” ~ Robert Anton Wilson

“When the Sacred Masculine is combined with the Sacred Feminine inside each of us, we create the ‘sacred marriage’ of compassion and passion in ourselves.” ~ Matthew Fox

“We have all seen the children’s stories and heard the Bible songs of God bringing the animals into the ark. “Two by two.” Why does God emphasize this? If you remember that the ark represents the mind going through a cleansing process to higher consciousness, you should also be able to see that the two, the male and female, represent conscious thought. And how does thought arise? Thought arises through the male/female, positive/negative, or yin/yang process. In other words, conscious experience and thought is possible because of spirit expressing itself through matter, via the positive and negative forces of the universe. You can literally think of the male and female animals (thoughts) walking into the ark (mind).” ~ Joshua Tilghman

"Spirituality is not all Love and Light. It is reconciling and balancing the light and dark within. It is embracing both light and dark. It is the Alchemical Wedding, the Perfect Matrimony, the Union of Opposites. A person's "Twin Flame Reunification" is this inner union; it is the inner marriage of their own Feminine/Masculine, light/dark polarity. When a person's Twin Flames unite, they have achieved inner balance, the integration of Self. Only then, by the Universal Law of Attraction, can they attract another person who has achieved their own inner balance and integration, who has unified his or her own inner Twin Flames and achieved the Magnum Opus of Inner Alchemy. Relationship with Self determines relationship with others." ~ Scott Maurer

“Everything is dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites; like and unlike are the same; opposites are identical in nature, but different in degree; extremes meet; all truths are but half-truths; all paradoxes may be reconciled.” ~ The Kybalion

Ever remember that we are all eternal, unified, and equally divine spirits on a material human journey together. Not separate, material humans in search of an exclusive spiritual salvation. In that spirit, this is why all Lodges close each meeting with the words, “May brotherly love prevail.”

As we stand on the symbolic black and white floor all together, on the level, it is the closing reminder that we are always to live in the spirit of eternal “non-dualistic” unity.

So Mote It Be.

Notes:

1. Matthew 26:11
2. Emerald Tablet of Hermes (Thoth); see: <https://www.sacred-texts.com/alc/emerald.htm>
3. St. Paul, Romans 8:28
4. Robert Anton Wilson, see: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Anton_Wilson
5. Matthew Fox, see: <https://www.matthewfox.org/>
6. Joshua Tilghman, The Spirit of the Scripture, See: <https://www.spiritofthescripture.com/id657-god-male-and-female-and-the-one-flesh-of-conscious-creation.html>
7. Scott Maurer, esoteric images: <https://diragopasquale.blogspot.com/2019/10/esoteric-images-from-scott-mercer.html?m=1#!>
8. The Kybalion: <http://www.kybalion.org/kybalion.php?chapter=II>, and <https://sacred-texts.com/eso/kyb/kyb03.htm>

From the Archives

Freemasonry: Present

By James E. Moseley, P.G.M., Georgia
Grand Recorder, York Rite of Georgia

Editor's Note: This paper is the second in a three-part series focusing on the past, present and future of Freemasonry, delivered at the Southeastern York Rite Conference, held in Dothan, Alabama on August 22-23, 1986, interestingly enough only a few short months after the current Editor was born.

Permit me to thank the committee for giving me this opportunity to come before you and present my remarks on this important subject. It is one on which you can begin anywhere and head in any direction you want.

In order to discuss "Freemasonry Present," we must review the past to see where we have been, in order fully to understand where we are now, and to make plans for where we are going.

In reviewing past proceedings of all our grand bodies, from 1900 up until the present time, we find that there was a small, but steady growth up until 1929. With what we now call "The Great Depression," membership in all Masonic bodies collapsed drastically. This condition had bottomed out by 1939, and allowing for the war years, it began once more to increase steadily and fairly rapidly until the early 1960s. Not surprisingly, that period of great social upheaval signaled a change in attitude, and since then, especially during the remaining 1960s and the 1970s, we have again been losing members.

This loss of members is in itself tragic, but more importantly, our fraternity is losing its prestige and public image. It is my personal opinion that when we improve this image, it will correct our loss problem as well. We were told in the 1970s by those who claimed they could look into the future, that the latter part of that decade and the 1980's would be another period of spectacular growth in our fraternity. It has not happened. In fact, we have lost a complete generation. We can no longer anticipate our sons taking our places, we must look to our grandsons.

It is not my purpose to present to you a negative address. While I am disappointed, I am not

discouraged. We need to get our priorities in proper perspective. Distinguished historians claim that Masonry had passed its infancy when the Hebrews defied the Pharaoh. Since that time, mighty empires and kingdoms have arisen and fallen, but Freemasonry still survives.

The Middle Ages persecuted us and the death penalty was imposed on those suspected of being Freemasons. But, with her principles and great moral truths still intact, she has stood the test of trials, overcome the iniquities and jealous oppression of nations; and survived political persecution. Today, we as representatives of Freemasonry, unchanged in its principles, firm in its resolutions, steadfast in its faith, bow in humble reverence to our Guide, our Deliverer, our God. Freemasonry has withstood the test of time, but its continued survival depends on you and me. What we think, what we say, what we do, will chart the course for decades to come.

Earlier I mentioned that we need to get our priorities in order, and the first thing we should do is to rededicate ourselves to the principles and teachings of our fraternity. Furthermore, we *must* practice and live them in our daily lives.

One of the greatest lessons in all of Freemasonry is to be "a just and upright man and a Mason." Every Mason should apply this precept in his daily life. We should be impartial in making decisions in all matters that come before us. We should be considerate of all things and all people. We should be always upright. We should stand for the truth no matter what the consequences may be. We should be straight as an arrow, letting our actions tell the world that we are Masons, because we live and act as Freemasons should.

To improve our image, we must first improve ourselves, by living within the precepts and teachings we expound. We absolutely *must* be more selective in our members, even at the risk of a yet further deterioration in numbers. It is imperative that we look at character and quality, rather than quantity. We have got to overcome the notion of the profane that we are a "secret organization" by becoming involved once again in worthwhile community projects, extending our charity beyond the confines of our meeting halls.

Of major importance, is to keep our physical Masonic Temples in good repair so as to be a credit to the community and ourselves. Nothing will give us a "black eye" faster than a dirty, rundown building, with the paint peeling and grass uncut. We should keep in touch with our members and widows, more especially those in hospitals, convalescent centers, and nursing homes.

"Freemasonry Present" requires that we elect officers who have the vision to develop programs and implement them. We have talked for ever about appointing a junior steward who is okay at that level but will be useless – or worse – as a worshipful master. Stop doing it.

We need quality degree work to impress our candidates. The young men of today are more knowledgeable and will not be interested in Degrees and Orders conferred (or even read) in a sloppy and discreditable manner. *Impress* your candidates, give them "their money's worth."

"Freemasonry Present" is a gift to you and me. We have eaten from the tree we did not plant; we have drunk from the well we did not dig. Love for the Order was the incentive that motivated our fathers. By them was the foundation laid. From that foundation arose the great edifice we call "Freemasonry."

He that never thinks, never can be wise. God, in his infinite wisdom, has blessed us in surrounding us with the happy conditions which encompass us in this life. He has blessed us with hopeful hearts. He has given us faith in the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. He has developed in us the exemplification of charity. Let us be more diligent in the exercise of that commendable virtue, charity. Let us be slow to condemn and ever ready to throw charity's mantle over a wrong. Let it be easy to forgive and to heed the divine teachings of our Order in all things. Cast away any tendency towards despondency. Let every error be counteracted in our plans for the future. The well-earned victory awaits the traveler who faints not by the way. Optimism for the future can work wonders in its own right.

Also, as a Grand Secretary and thus even more directly concerned with membership, let me enter a plea for a little tact and common sense, especially when pleading with someone to maintain his dues and membership. I must quote you two sad examples of what not to do.

Recently a member visited another who was about to be suspended for non-payment of dues. The recipient of the call was elderly and sick, and had little income apart from his Social Security. He pleaded that he was no longer able to afford all his dues. The caller, instead of seeing what could be done about remitting the old gentleman's dues, told him to sell a piece of his remaining furniture and pay his lodge commitments. Elsewhere, on another occasion, similar circumstances applied. This time, the caller told him to sell his rather large but not recent model car and buy a smaller one, and pay his dues out of the difference.

Needless to say, two members who could have been saved, albeit on a remitted basis, were, not surprisingly, lost to the Craft forever. It is incredible to me that people who call themselves practicing Masons could be so callous and uncaring, and even downright rude to a Brother. Sweet is the pleasure after pain.

The rough barriers of life may exact a heavy toll and toil from the worn and weary, but how great the reward when laurels crown our victories. We may have courage, firmness and endurance, yet fail. But the higher qualities of faith in the inherent principles of our Order, and self-confidence – the essential ingredient of success – are required to bring to a glorious reward our highest conception of Masonry's end.

"Freemasonry Present" is a prelude to "Freemasonry Future."

What will be the thoughts of the next generation when they look back at "Freemasonry Present?" We can change direction if we are proud to be a Mason. Let us guard well the entrance to our Lodge Room. See that none but the worthy and the select are permitted to enter.

I still think that we should have two words over the entrance to all our Rooms – "Service and Sacrifice." If a person is not willing to give a minimum amount of service and a minimum amount of sacrifice to the Masonic fraternity, then he is not deserving of our consideration and we would be better off if he never entered our Lodge Room to start with.

If you are proud to be a Mason, let that pride show forth in your actions when you meet your fellow man in your church, on the streets, in the marketplace, and in your employment. Let them see in you something to be desired.



COMMENTARY

What, me change?

By Worshipful Brother Ronny Lanham
Harlem Lodge No 276

One who is familiar with Alfred E. Neuman of Mad Magazine, is well aware of his motto that was in the form of a question: “What, me worry”? This question makes quite a statement. It is as if he is faced with the serious suggestion that he might be concerned over any issue at hand. It doesn’t take very long for the magazine reader to realize that it is a waste of time, trying to lead our friend Alfred, to worry about anything. Life seems much simpler to resist the temptation to worry. It appears that nothing can be said or done to cause him to worry, regardless of perceived importance.

This attitude and reaction come to mind when many Masons are faced with the issue of change.
“What, me change”?

Most political and religious philosophies are inherited, as they are almost indelibly programmed into one’s belief system, from an early age. They are handed down from generation to generation. Some feel that to stray from long-held family beliefs, is heresy. Many feel that it has taken generations to grow their knowledge and commitment to their beliefs and no one is going to easily change their mind. As a matter of fact, some issues are not open for discussion. Some Brethren might suggest that It would be an insult to the forefathers to consider change. Life just seems simpler, to resist the temptation to change.

Many resist the notion that any of their core principles on family traditions or adopted dogma, social or political beliefs, are open for adjustment. This attitude would work out just fine if we were but an island among ourselves but when we assume social or political identities, our duty changes because we are then, a member of something greater than ourselves. We then become a citizen of the world and in matters of process or procedure, are expected to conform to the will of the collective. This doesn’t mean that we are expected to adopt contrary political or religious

philosophies but in policy and procedures, we are to conform to the collective judgement of a clear majority or their elected leadership. Some feel that changes in policies and procedures might actually, at times, be matters of political or religious natures. These are the hard ones to deal with. This is where our leadership earns or loses the respect of the Craft. The true leader will, in all cases, do the right thing as he has, with serious reflection and trusted advise, determined it to be. Some might not like him for it but they have to respect him for it.

We came here to learn to improve ourselves in Freemasonry. Improvement is change. Without change, there is no improvement. We are to exercise faith and trust the wisdom and goodness of our leaders to chart the right and proper course to greater things.

The giant ship sets sail to a point of interest. With full knowledge that the shortest distance between two points is in a straight line, the Captain will, in consideration of all known factors, steer the vessel on the shortest, safest and practical route, however, it may not be in a straight line. Safe arrival at the desired destination is his only objective. Progress and profit are the motivating factors. Some cargo or ship features may be sensitive to heat, like perishable goods, so he might avoid warmer routes. Wind and water currents are used or avoided according to their advantages or disadvantages. A shipload of delicate cargo might require him to avoid storms or rough seas. The vessel is guided into the waves and storms at different angles, according to the nature of the obstacle, but also the nature of its’ cargo. The ultimate direction of the vessel, crew and cargo are at the final discretion of the captain. In making his decisions, he consults his navigator, engineer, physician and other trusted section leaders. This seems to be a reasonable analogy of our Fraternity.

The Grand Master is selected from among us as the leader of our Fraternity. In the decision to elect one to lead our noble and ancient Craft, we select a man. His name matters little. His nature, dignity, wisdom and honor are the considerations. He is chosen to make decisions concerning matters of interest to our ancient and honorable Craft. He must avoid potentially destructive influences like counterproductive cross currents or opposing currents, damaging winds or other moral and social factors. He selects advisors or team members who have valuable insights into various trends or currents that require consideration in steering this cargo of truth and light, to greater heights and long-term security as possible. Our direction may be misunderstood by many, as their sight may be limited in some issues and do not have the advantages of multiple points of view, as does our captain or Grand Master. Our obligations are to abide by our constitution, laws, by-laws and edicts of our chosen Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

A very important topic of concern to our Craft is the current, long awaited accord between The Grand Lodge of Georgia, F&AM and the Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons, PHA. Among some serious Brothers in both camps, there exists much understandable apprehension. We are entering upon a time of change. The cry has been sounded and heard from both sides, "What, me change?" "Do you mean to suggest to me that our direction or trajectory needs tweaking?" "To do so would suggest that we and our forefathers have been wrong". This does not mean that our predecessors were wrong. The need to establish this formal recognition of each Grand Body, by the other, is the naturally and mutually advantageous process of navigating these huge vessels alongside each other with the greatest of care. There are those, in both camps, who loudly insist that the status-quo is preferable but deep down, most skeptics know that it is for the best, for our shared worlds.

Other social institutions unlike Freemasonry have been miserable failures when it comes to affable social relationships between members of various cultures. However, Freemasonry has some advantages. Each Grand Lodge has members of immeasurable influence and in this critical time in our shared history, a union of these powers may prove very productive, when it comes to navigating the troubled waters and rip currents that have had devastating effects on our willingness to ignore or deny our aversion to change. We should always seek improvement and that requires change. There's that word again.

Now, let's visit the statement that "Freemasonry is a progressive science". This is not meant to be in the word "progressive" in the political sense but in a state of constant progress. The word "Progress", means change. The lack of progress will eventually lead to stagnation. An idle Craft will make room for idle thoughts and deeds. There is no time limit on the practical need to progress. As society changes, our image is viewed through evolving lenses and prisms, therefore, it changes. Our steadfast commitment to the practice of ancient social norms, pushes us further out of focus of that modern man. Like it or not, we are always destined to draw our membership from contemporary society. Our approach to our public relations is key to our survival, as a fraternity. The relevance of our doctrine will always persist in a civilized society. It is up to us to deliver that doctrine to the succeeding generation and their duty to pass it on. We have inherited the creed and we must not fail as stewards. Why is it up to me or us to change a system that has served humanity since recorded history? We have accepted it as our duty.

Freemasonry has always lived, to a great extent, in the shadows. Modern day man has more than enough in plain view to keep his attention. He has not the need nor inclination to seek out and explore things unknown to him. Besides, he is reluctant to change. We should constantly seek and employ ways to improve our image and social approach and make it more relevant in the new age of travel, prosperity and information. This requires change.

The simple answer is, humanity or society has changed.

While the boat slips through the fog and slows, a voice is heard, "somebody is not paddling". Perhaps the vocal one is steering the vessel and is responsible for their being in the fog. In the overwhelming haze, it is virtually impossible to see who is ignoring his duty to row. Only those who are nearest to him can see his lack of cooperation.

You can only blame the leader if he stays in the fog and refuses to seek safer routes or at least accept the lack of theoretical progress.

If we are so steadfast in our rejection of change in our new age of information and experience, just consider what our fraternal forefathers must have endured at the first serious mention of accepting speculative craftsmen.

For me to change would be like admitting that I have been wrong.

Just imagine the heated discussions our Masonic forefathers must have had at the time that Speculative masonry was announced.

“Do you mean to tell me that you want us to initiate men who have never carved or laid a stone”?

“Let them start an order of freegardeners, freeweavers, freelancers for all we care! Just not freemasons!”

“They can find their own symbols. We have creative rights. These copycats are highjacking our system of doctrine.”

“What will our Forefathers say”?

“My father and grandfather would roll over in his tomb”.

In retrospect, the conversion, regardless of how radical some considered it to be, would prove to be the salvation of the diminishing number of faithful followers of the ancient philosophies and social construct.

We are now, entering into a new era of great change. Many Brethren will second-guess the wisdom of our leadership at the very mention of any change. Though some might know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do, they will still resist change because of the fear of change. They are also upset because it was not their idea and they had no part in the plan.

Those in leadership are entrusted to collect and assess all information that can be gathered and chart our trajectory, toward the best possible destination. Your destination or fate is the same as theirs. Our leaders are chosen as the best among us to guide us in the right direction regardless of the inevitability of heated passions. The loudest protesters are usually not aware of more than their experience and ego will allow.

We are each subject to potentially unguarded passions, thus the requirement for each of us to constantly remind ourselves of our primary purpose of being a Mason. We came here to learn to subdue our passions. Our purpose here is not to improve Freemasonry, but to improve ourselves. Our individual improvement is our unique contribution to the good of this ancient and noble Order.

The handwriting on the wall is obviously written in a language that is unfamiliar to some. It is a universal language which is not fully understood by many because they have chosen to not be a citizen of the world. They wish to remain a culture of local, complacent citizens who embrace and wallow in the

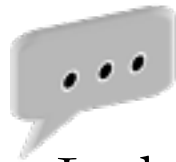
status-quo and wallow in the unquestionable, comfortable death spiral. “We will lock the doors and close it down, rather than conform to the collective wisdom of our elected leaders”. This attitude is maintained, as though they feel as they personally own Freemasonry and have the moral right to deny their families, succeeding generations and communities of the advantage of the time-proven, immense social and political value of this system of philosophy.

Please consider that if there is great difference between the interests of yourself and this centuries-old doctrine, there might be a small possibility that it could be you who is out of line. Perhaps a passion has gone unchecked. Ofttimes when a passion is unchecked, that out-of-control Brother is the last to know it or admit it.

Our leadership has chosen to establish accord with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. The giant, preliminary step has been taken after decades-long discussions, careful planning and majority vote of our Grand Lodge. Notwithstanding the immense, obvious value of this long-overdue alliance, some, in both camps, still have misgivings.

A strange thing about Freemasonry is that some, with the aversion to change, refuse to change themselves to fit the obvious good. They try to change the Order into something that mirrors themselves.

Our continuous, collective supplications have risen like the sweet vapors on a warm Summer morn and have reached the heart of our God and He has responded. Let us not ignore our calling and our duty to the Order and its purpose. The one constant is: The Order is us. All else is change.



COMMENTARY

“The Five Minutes Before Lodge”

By Worshipful Brother Drew Martin
Social Lodge No. 1

In the 5 minutes before Lodge:

As a Master Mason, when I take my apron out of its case to put on before a lodge meeting, I take a moment in that act to reflect on what I am doing.

Physically I am affixing a Masonic Apron to my waist. We are told in the Apron Lecture that this is the badge of a Mason and should be worn with equal pleasure to yourself and honor to the fraternity.

Symbolically, I am clothing myself as a Master Mason and preparing to enter a space representing the Sanctum Sanctorum, or Holy of Holies, and dedicated to God & The Saints John.

The white of my apron representing the purity of desire to live an honorable and unblemished life. The border reminds me of the courtyard of the temple, and the all-seeing eye on the bordered bib reminds me of God's presence in the Sanctum Sanctorum as well as His Divine Providence watching over my life both in and out of lodge.

Affixed to either side of my apron, there are 2 tassels. The Leather representing the two columns at the outer porch of Solomon's Temple. Reminding me that as I passed through those columns to

receive each degree, I am again about to pass through them to enter the lodge room. Just as then, I entered ready to receive instruction and grow in Freemasonry, I again enter in the same mindset.

The leather tassels are capped at the end in silver. From each of those caps hang seven chains and seven pomegranates. These are symbolic of the pomegranates that were affixed to the hem of the High Priest's robe when he entered the Holy of Holies. Their sound was an indication that the High Priest was clothed in proper manner and had been prepared to enter.



As such, it reminds me as a Master Mason, that I should be properly clothed and prepared both in my mind and heart to enter the lodge room.

The sound of those pomegranates was also a sign of life, that the High Priest was performing his duties in the Holy of Holies.

This is also a symbolic reminder to me that Freemasonry is lived in and out of lodge. Every time I pass my apron case at the

door of my office, I am reminded anew of all the above thoughts, symbols and lessons.

As a Master Mason, I strive to build my spiritual temple not as a monument to my achievements, but as a monument to God. A place where my wife and son can thrive and grow. A place that they can know the kind of man that I am and that they are part of my masonic journey as well.



70 YEARS A MASTER MASON

On April 13th, four members of Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 made a visit to honor a Brother who for 70 years has walked in the light of Freemasonry. Brother Thomas Condra Tabor was raised in Palestine Lodge No. 486 in February 1950, while attending Georgia Tech and working in Atlanta, around 1955 Brother Thomas went to work at Lockheed and relocated to Marietta and affiliated with Kennesaw 33 and has maintained his membership since that time. Brother Thomas built his own house, dabbled in Real Estate, a long-time member of the First Baptist Church in Marietta, served in the community and at one time thought of running for Mayor.

Brother Thomas was born in Florida in 1923 and his family moved around for several years until World War II broke out, and just like millions of other young men he enlisted and served in the U.S. Navy until the end of the war. Bro. Thomas served as a mechanic repairing ships and planes, and after the war attended Georgia Tech to study Mechanical Engineering. He met and married the “prettiest girl he had ever seen” in 1948 and Thomas and Evelyn

have been married for 72 years.

The Worshipful Master Larry Grimm, Secretary Bill Stanley, Jr. Don Beckwith, PM and Jan M. Giddens, PGM were captivated by the stories of our 98.9-year-old Brother and his wife as they talked of traveling all over the world with Lockheed on business and personal travel together. The buying and selling of real estate and rental property and his generosity of buying and donating land for a church in Marietta.

The time came for the Worshipful Master to present the 70-year apron, a coin and pin from MWB Don C. Combs, a coin and pin from PGM Giddens, all of which he was most appreciative. His wife, Evelyn, said she loves to read the *Masonic Messenger* as soon as it arrives and has saved many issues. We took a few pictures and left all of us feeling so blessed to have spent time with our Brother that was a Master Mason before any of us were born. We made plans to return with his 75-year award and he seemed excited about that.

Brother Thomas C. Tabor, citizen, veteran, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, a man of faith, and Master Mason, one of the “greatest generation”. His father was a Mason and Brother Thomas followed his father into the fraternity and set a high standard of service for all of us to follow. We all left encouraged by the example of a Master Mason and proud to have him as a member of our Lodge.

Veteran's Corner

By Worshipful Brother Rick Conn

The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory and mental disorders body systems. The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions. Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated. Updating the rating schedule allows Veterans to receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition. By incorporating modern medical data in the assessment of disabilities and how they impact earning capacity, Veterans will receive evaluations which more accurately compensate them for their service-connected disabilities.

Proposed updates include:

1. Modernizing the evaluative rating criteria for sleep apnea, using developments in medical knowledge to evaluate it based on its responsiveness to treatment, bringing the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule.
2. Evaluating tinnitus (ringing in the ears) as a symptom of the underlying disease which causes it, rather than as a stand-alone disability.
3. Evaluating mental health conditions based on a more robust and holistic approach that assesses how impactful the disability is to cognition, interpersonal relationships, task completion, life activities and self-care.

Additionally, the proposed evaluation criteria include a 10% minimum evaluation for having one or more service-connected mental health conditions and will no longer require "total occupational and social impairment" to attain a 100% evaluation. No change to a Veteran's current rating would occur due to these proposed changes.

If the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased

compensation, but no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veteran's disability is shown to have occurred. If you are a Veterans suffering from this, you can go to the following website to read the entire Bill: www.regulations.gov/document/VA-2022-VBA-0009-0001.

To make you aware of what is going on at Capitol Hill concerning Veterans and their rights and Benefits, I want to relate what Bills are in the House at present and their impact on Veterans. **House Resolution 6990** - To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Doris Miller, in recognition of his acts of valor while a member of the United States Navy during World War II. Sponsor: Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD) Latest Action: On March 8, referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

House Resolution 6543 - Restore Veterans' Compensation Act of 2022 Sponsor: Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) Latest Action: Referred to the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker. Goal: To amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the recoupment of separation pay, special separation benefits, and voluntary separation incentive payments from members of the Armed Forces who subsequently receive disability compensation under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and to impose limitations on the authority of the Secretary of Defense to recoup such pay from members who receive military retired or retainer pay.

House Resolution 2372 (S.952) - The Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act Sponsor: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). House bill sponsored by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) Latest Action: Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings held on April 28. Establishes a presumption of service connection for specified diseases associated with exposure to burn pits (an area used for burning solid waste in open air without equipment) and other toxins by veterans who were awarded specified medals on or after Aug. 2, 1990. Under a presumption of service-connection, specific conditions diagnosed in certain veterans are presumed to have been caused by

the circumstances of military service. Health care benefits and disability compensation may then be awarded. Under the bill, if the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives a written petition to add a disease to the list, it must request a determination by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine as to whether there is a positive association between the exposure to a covered toxin and the occurrence of the disease in humans.

The bill makes disability or death of certain employees from specified diseases compensable as a work injury. Specifically, such employees are those who were employees of the Department of State, the Department of Defense, or an element of the intelligence community on or after Aug. 2, 1990, and carried out job responsibilities for at least 30 days during a contingency operation.

House Resolution 7109 - To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to require public lodging establishments to waive minimum age requirements for members of the Armed Forces
Sponsor: Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) Latest Action: House - 03/17/2022 Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

House Resolution 7158 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA) (Introduced 03/18/2022) Latest Action: Referred to the Veterans' Affairs Committee on March 18. S.3813 - Veterans Member Business Loan Act Sponsor: Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) Goal: To amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan. Latest Action: Introduced in Senate on March 10, read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

House Resolution 511 - To recognize the Memorial, Memorial Garden, and K9 Memorial of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national memorial, memorial garden, and K9 memorial, respectively, of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.
Sponsor: Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL) Latest

Action: Introduced in House on Aug. 27, 2021 and referred to House Armed Services Committee.

Update on the latest information on cancer and what is going on within the VA Benefits office. Rare cancers could be added to VA service-connected list. The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter. VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection. Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include: Squamous cell carcinoma (larynx). Squamous cell carcinoma (trachea). Adenocarcinoma (trachea). Salivary gland-type tumors (trachea). From the Veterans Administration Adenosquamous carcinoma (lung). Large cell carcinoma (lung). Salivary gland-type tumors (lung). Sarcomatoid carcinoma (lung). Typical and atypical carcinoid (lung). "This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before." VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process. Once rule-making is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility. Check with the local Persian Gulf Illness center and speak with the Rep. there and see if this applies to you if you have been diagnosed with one of these cancers.



Georgia ChIP Communication Corner

By Worshipful Brother Cabot Rohrer

“WE’RE BACK!”

YES - GACHIP IS BACK IN FULL SWING!

We often hear these words from our children and friends. Have you ever thought about what this means? It is the assurance that something you expected has finally happened. It is so often the comforting words that a parent hears when their kids first begin to drive and run an errand to the grocery store or pick something up. “We’re Back”! Often times it is a scary thought when the expected return is delayed by some unforeseen circumstances.

“We’re Back”! It is a great message for GACHIP. Our commitment to the community has been on pause for over 24 months and our District Directors are hosting GACHIP Events across the state once again. As Brethren we should be so proud of our District Directors and Grand Masters who have ensured our GACHIP flame of light during the Pandemic was NOT extinguished.

Just in the past several weeks, I have received calls from nearly every District Director as they are organizing events. Most recently our District 5 Director Worshipful Brother Craig Knowlton ensured that we were front and center at the ‘Tucker Days’ hosted by Tucker Lodge 42. His very own son, Thomas Knowlton was the computer operator. At the event, nearly 1,200 people attended with 100 vendors which was great visibility for our Program. To get the message out, our Worshipful Brother and his family distributed over 150 CHIP pamphlets and completed nearly 20 CHIP ID’s for ages ranging from 3 to 30 years old. We should be so confident that through the efforts of our Brother and his family we have set a firm place for GACHIP for the annual “Tucker Days” event!!!

Another success story to share, our Worshipful Brother District Director David Winkler for District 10 hosted an event in partnership with the local American Legion carnival. We were so blessed to have our Brothers from the Lodge and a number of volunteers work the event. Worshipful Brother David Winkler and his team of volunteers successfully ID’ed 50% of the children that enjoyed their fun day at the

Carnival. Again, another example of placing a foothold for future years. In addition, Worshipful Brother David is organizing a future event at a community ‘giant yard sale’.

There have been a number of GACHIP events scheduled for future dates from north to south and west to east in our great state. I am so proud of our team. Their continual support and never give up attitude carry the brilliant light of Freemasonry and what it means to our communities and families.

I would ask each of you as you carryout the community work within your Lodges to reach out to your GACHIP District Directors and invite them to your Lodge for a short talk and demonstration. Let’s get to work with community leaders to schedule events. Your GACHIP District Director’s name and contact information is on the Grand Lodge site, and I know our District Directors are anxiously waiting with undying enthusiasm for your call. **Make it today!**

Certainly, we have discovered by driving a philosophy that **WE’RE BACK** is an example that *“It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed.”*

The year is only one third complete and there is plenty of time for Lodges to reach out for event venues, such as Day Care Centers, Back to School Programs, City Fairs, and safety events. Your suggestions and reaching out to community organizations is the ‘fuel’ for our program. 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 that makes us proud and successful. **“Were Back”!**

Please reach out to the team via the contact information on the Grand Lodge site or at: SD@GACHIP.org.



Kenneth L. Stubbs
Davidson #334



David N. Bean
Quitman #106



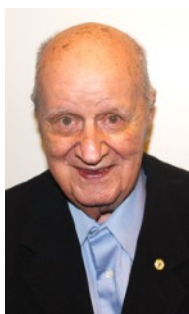
Danny Bowman
Lafayette #44



Billie J. Blanks
Riverdale #709



James N. Beaver
Riverdale #709



James R. Brooks
Riverdale #709



Curtis M. Galbreath
Hinesville #271



Danny L. Camp
Villa Rica #72



Robert T. Armstrong
Villa Rica #72



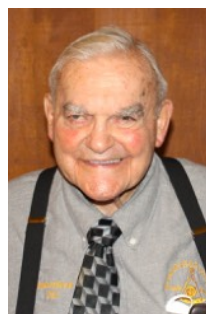
Donald E. Davis, Sr.
Lawrenceville #131



Adolph McLendon
Smith #85



Walker Parish
Smith #85



Clarence S. Bryan
East Point #288



Edsel R. Black
Yonah #382



Kenneth W. Marks
Yonah #382



John C. Johnson, III
Nelms #323



Gene Rowe
Fort Valley #110



Ervin Plott
Young Cane #597



Ralph D. Martin
Bryan #303



Don M Lewis
College Park #454



Lemuel H. Kemp
Dalton #105



Don E. Henson
Dalton #105



Francis A. Cross
Dalton #105



Sammy R. Jones
Dalton #105



James M. Chalkley, Sr.
Doerun #151



Joseph W. Cates
Dallas #182



Ted Chapman
Jonesboro #87



James Grizzle
Young Cane #597
55 Years



Felton Crews
Mountain Park #729



Ray T. Jordan
Nancy Hart #690



Worth Mason
Young Cane #597



Carlie L. Ruddell
Dalton #105



J. Edward Jennings, Jr.
Dalton #105



Bobby Walraven
Dallas #182
68 Years



Clarence L. Huddleston
Loftin #688

In Memoriam

Members Reported
Deceased December 1,
2021—May 31, 2022

Brethren, in the Spring issue of the *Masonic Messenger*, an error occurred when sorting the information to produce the Memoriam list. This issue has been corrected and the Memoriam report has been reprinted with members who have passed to the Celestial Lodge above from December 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022.

Purvis, Jimmy Hartridge	1	Burton Sr., John Garland	25	Bankston, John Daniel	42
Roach, Jack Alton	1	Crouch, John Wayne	25	Caldwell, Robert Edward	42
Tomlin Sr., Roger Samuel	1	Eavenson, Ronald Hayes	25	Cash, James Howard	42
Troxler, Paul Drewry	1	Griggs, Richard Holden	25	Cohen, Otto Louis	42
Irby, William Kenneth	3	Lovinggood, Glenn David	25	Hansard, Charles Emory	42
Brown Sr., Phillip Michael	4	Seymour, Rodney Stuart	25	Maddox, Robert Eugene	42
Griffith II, Powell West	4	Sigman Jr., Thomas Frank	25	Marshall Jr., Edward Arthur	42
Wooten, Sammy John	4	Simmons, Michael Lee	25	Ingram, George Phillips	44
McGiboney Jr., Guy	6	Smith, James Mitchell	25	McGinnis, Manuel Gene	44
Smith, Gypsy Lane	6	Willis, Keith Dennis	25	Beckham Jr., Jesse Thomas	45
Terrell, Paul Ronald	6	Reeves Jr., Clement Cary	26	Branch Jr., Francis Irvin	47
Zuest, Harro	7	Barfield, Ralph Allen	27	Rivenbark, Franklin David	48
Gibson, William Franklin	8	Garrett Jr., Leonard Paul	27	Parrott Jr., Donald Walter	50
Wester Sr., Bennie Lee	8	Allen, Rufus Coleman	30	Tanner, Jimmy Leon	51
McLendon, Thomas Edward	9	Morgan Sr., Michael Joslyn	31	Craven, Terrell Dean	52
Smith, Fulton Elijah	9	Newton, David Wayne	31	Reese, Tony Delane	52
Kent Jr., William Branson	11	Johnson, Ernest Pearce	32	Goley, James Harold	55
Kitchens Jr., Alton English	11	MacKinnon, John Charles	32	Phillips, William Emmit	55
Alexander, Lovic Eugene	12	Shuman, John Daniel	32	Folsom, John Walter	59
Carrell, Herbert Allen	12	Tapley, William Bernard	32	Huggins, William Daniel	59
Gunnell, Tyler Fonterrie	12	Hammonds, Donough Cole	33	Tanner, John Raleigh	59
Warren, William	12	Hall, Bruce Leon	35	Petty Sr., Raymond Dupree	60
Cook, Norman Ray	14	Huffman III, James Callie	35	Williamson, Jerry Richard	60
Snider, William Worthy	15	Sellers, Steven Kent	37	Kimsey, Joel William	63
Tomazin, Ronald Joseph	15	Burt, Johnny	38	Whisenant, Calvin Edward	64
McKee, Homer Rae	16	Hawk, Benjamin Howard	38	Ashmore, Marshall	66
Pate, Harold Jerome	16	Lee, Richard Eugene	38	Brown, Robert Jonathan	67
Williams, James Thomas	22	O'Neal, Douglas Wayne	38	Weeks, Harold Eugene	67
Cook, Lewis Lee	23	Schwind, Lawrence B.	38	Folds, Clyde Leo	68
Majors Jr., William Wilson	24	Smoot, John A	38	Davis, Douglas	69
Adams, Isham Hugh	25	Thompson, George Cameron	38	Brown, William Edward	70
Avery, James Donald	25	Stone, Edward Harold	40	Williams, Herbert Lee	70

Williamson, Joseph Allen	71	McClain, Donald Lee	113	Turner, Ronald Davis	158
Crapps, Billy Warren	73	Treadaway, Noel Oneil	113	McGraw, Jimmy Perkins	160
Hester, Rayford Janice	75	Buchanan, Bethel Arnold	114	Millian, Hugh Leron	160
Jackson, I. M.	75	Coker, Richard Bonnell	114	Boden Jr., Lawrence Demoy	165
Rowland Jr., James Roy	75	Gurr, David Michael	114	Bradford Jr., Calop Jackson	166
Brown, Mercer Lee	76	Smith, Lester Neville	114	Torrey III, Frederick A	166
Henley Sr., MacK Edward	76	Tully, Willis Glen	115	Bray, James Howard	167
Reece, Ike	81	Barnes Jr., Doyle Johnnie	116	Chandler Sr., Charles William	167
Ivey, Andrew Jackson	85	Laroche, Isaac Grant	116	Holsonback, Arvin Eugene	167
Deason, Paul Wesley	87	Winge, Daniel Hugh	116	Woodall, James Lynn	167
Dunaway Jr., William Frank	87	Daniel, Robert Edward	121	Bradley, Kenneth Elsworth Reeves	171
Massengale, Hiram Preston	87	White, Samuel Henry	121	Munn, Robert Hodman	171
McAdams, Cecil Oscar	87	Johnson, Benjamin Lester	124	Rogers, Donald Eugene	171
Stevens Jr., Thomas Elvin	87	Mabry, Hall Hamilton	125	Schwartz, Neil Sheldon	171
Middleton Jr., Allen Franklin	91	Monroe, Donald Emery	126	Stisher, Douglas Franklin	171
Wade, Curtis Gregory	92	Kelley, Charles Leslie	127	Waits, Richard Clyde	171
Searels, Terry Wayne	93	Chambless Sr., Henry Webster	128	Pendley, Grady Rondal	174
Hughes, William Ray	97	Leonard III, Walter David	131	Baxter, Clyde Lee	176
Payne, Michael Ashley	97	Perry, John Wesley	131	Greenway, James Kenneth	176
Weaver, William Franklin	97	Webb, Bobby Walter	131	Turnipseed, James Edward	176
Guatney, James Lee	99	Webb, Jones	131	Walker, Riley Lavert	176
Kirby, Charles William	99	Heller, Gerald Isadore	134	Hauck Jr., Paul William	178
Phillips, James Barry	99	Morris, Robert Clyde	134	Penney, Lloyd Eugene	182
Godfrey, Earl Glenn	100	Baker, Jerry Wayne	135	Whitley Sr., Jimmy Dale	182
Howard, Doyle Wilkins	100	Dockery, Ricky Lee	135	Cooper, Buddy	185
Jenkins, Jack Alfred	100	Escoe, James Leon	135	Rickerson, Steven Ray	185
Sims, Robert William	100	Hunter, Bockett Hall	135	Hudson, Larry	194
White, Wayne Delton	101	Lee, Earl Hamilton	135	Leymeister, Richard John	194
Castleberry, Rodney Aaron	102	McGee, William Franklin	135	Rouse, Henry Tillman	194
Clark, Gene	106	Powell, Winfred Floyd	135	Thompson, James Steve	194
Stamey Sr., Archie Eugene	106	Voyles, Terry Lee	139	Mixon, Timothy Walter	197
Watts, Waymond Nathan	106	Dodd, Morris Randall	141	Richardson, James Eugene	199
Dyals, Roger Dale	109	Funk, Terry Grant	141	Hall Sr., Royal Wayne	202
Wirth, Joseph Edward	109	Clary Sr., Thomas Searcy	144	Hege, Ben Wesley	202
Childs, Ronald David	110	Kvietkus Sr., Edward	144	Ansley, John Alan	204
Steiner, Stephen Ian	111	Tyus, Billy Jack	144	Martin, Luke Allen	204
Woods, Charles Ray	111	Blackwell, Bobby	148	Obukuro Sr., Robert Kenneth	205
Wright, Marion Eugene	111	Pace Sr., Roger Michael	148	Payne, Willis	207
Daniel, Jack	112	Carlton, John Larry	151	Wigington, Dewey Lee	207
Deane, Thomas Rae	112	Proctor, Thomas Richard	151	Pledger Sr., Thomas Cleveland	211
Allred Sr., Herman James	113	Ingram, Donnie Gene	153	Young, Steven Lawrence	214
Gray Jr., William Curtis	113	Potts, Ronald Bruce	154	Habif, Morris Nace	216
Hawkins Jr., John Douglas	113	McGarity, Joseph Turner	158	Gay, Charles Eugene	220

Grizzle, Carl Frank	220	Nichols, Ronnie	265	Reed, Virgil	309
Quinton, James Waldroup	220	Patterson, Doyle Monroe	265	Westmoreland, Robert Lee	309
Silver, Walter Dillard	220	Taylor, Clark Allen	265	Wilbanks, Thomas Eugene	309
Wilson, James Carl	220	Carter Jr., Herman Levi	267	Williams, Fred Lee	309
Glassman Jr., Herbert Wayne	222	Pruett, Williamm Leeon	268	Garrett, Edward Ashley	310
Overstreet, Benjamin Brinson	222	Reynolds, Arthur Vaughn	268	Strickland, Carl Winfred	310
Boza, Michael Raymond	228	Ginter, George Earl	271	Bowen, Hubert	314
Garrick, Marion Francis	228	Owen, Harry Todd	271	Grant, David Keith	314
Gunter, R. D.	228	Peterson Jr., William Harold	274	McIntyre, Clarence Herman	315
Welch, Carey Marcus	231	Weddon, Wayne Phillip	274	Hamby, Quinton Reed	323
Free Jr., Bobby Lee	235	Braswell, Thomas Jefferson	276	Allen, Howard Guy	325
Garner, Cyler Duggan	240	McDaniel, Scott David	276	McCollough Jr., Thomas Jackson	326
Schneider, Robert Warren	240	Stephens, John Stanley	279	Harris, James Leonard	330
Williams, Ricky Howard	240	Adams Jr., James Earl	288	Sumner, Vernon Eugene	330
Peace, Robert Thurmond	241	Folds Jr., Robert Michael	288	Williams, Jeffrey Barton	333
Hall Sr., Gene Hyland	243	Green, Billy Roy	288	Benner, Harry Eugene	334
Waller, Bobby Russell	243	Meadows, Dewey Eugene	288	Bledsoe, Peniston Lee	334
Newsome, Gregory	244	Watson, Jesse Junior	288	Colson, Gordon Frank	335
Pascoe, John Butler	244	Budahazy, Robert Joseph	289	Mitchell, John Sims	335
Abramson, Howard Allen	246	Chandler, Jimmy Keith	289	Nelson, Byron Lee	335
Barron, Carlis	251	Morton, Thomas Henry	289	Busby, Winfred Lee	338
Garner, Eugene Hardin	251	Rakestraw, Ronald Barry	289	Greene Jr., Leonidas Eugene	348
Ison, William Howard	251	Smith, Walter Lamar	289	Mazariegos, Jorge Luis	349
Campbell, Charles Buck	252	Sewell, Anthony Keith	291	Epps Sr., Sterling Wayne	354
Crooms, Donald Richard	255	Berger, Stuart Wayne	292	Conaway, James White	364
Holder, William Jay	255	Cheeley, William Edward	292	Poole, Charles Clinton	364
Jackson, Freddy Ray	255	Cooper, Robert Larry	292	Dyal Sr., David Aldridge	368
Koester, Frederick Allen	255	Lantz II, Kenneth Boyce	292	Whitted, Charles Edward	368
Phillips, Grover Dean	255	Maddox, Fred Lemore	296	Dekle, Harold Waymon	369
Meeks, David Harold	256	Brickle Jr., Claude Madison	298	Eckberg, Lloyd Ellsworth	369
Clark, James Edward	259	Causey Sr., Hines Vann	298	Gandy, George Winfred	369
Merritt, Lewis Oliver	259	Currie, William Anthony	298	Taylor Sr., Billy Edwin	369
Walraven, Thomas Eugene	260	Merritt, Homer Webster	300	Lambert, William Edwin	371
Cordell Jr., Jesse James	261	Oglesby, Gary Cleon	301	Asbury, William Sidney	376
Evans, Troy Lee	261	Waters Jr., William Randolph	301	Moon, Ernest Aubrey	376
Kelley, Charles Thomas	261	Allen, Dennis Glenn	302	Horton, Lonnie Henry	381
Dennis, Charles William	262	Lashley, Edwin Marshall	302	Bryant Sr., Charles Wayne	382
Lindler, Billy Franklin	262	Milligan, George William	302	Alexander, Elmer William	386
Lyons, Jerry Paul	262	Waters, Gaylon Pratt	302	Branam, Winston E.	397
Thompson Sr., Edward MacKerl	262	Christiansen, Ned Gordon	303	Brite, Jerry Woods	397
Bryson, Forrest Coleman	265	Harris, Jimmy Glispy	304	Byrd, Robert Earl	397
Campbell Sr., Edgar Allen	265	McCarthy, James William	304	Wiggins, John Robert	403
Hunter, William Lloyd	265	Westover, Wayne Ralph	304	Oliver, Robert Grady	405

Jones Jr., William Bryan	412	Bowen, Willard Tommy	509	Gore, Charles Ennis	688
Radford, Hayes Isaac	412	Hipp, David Elliott	509	Adams, George Allen	690
Crawley, Lester Eugene	413	Mealer, James Lamar	509	Banister, Robert Clark	690
Kent Sr., William David	413	Kiser, Otis Eugene	512	Brown, Arthur Thomas	690
Martin, Jeffery Scott	413	Pittman, William Lawrence	513	Snow, Jerry Michael	690
Greene, Lloyd Forest	423	Beamon, Curtis Richard	523	Siebert, Herschel Lee	693
Stuart Sr., Kenneth Lee	423	Kirby, Thomas Floyd	523	Manders, Randy Troy	694
Tanner, Ray Lehmon	423	Pritchett, Franklin Delano	523	Fennell, Bruce Edward	698
Bean, Edwin Blackshear	429	Woodall, Kenneth Wallace	537	Mattix, Duane Vance	698
Holmes, James Thomas	430	Marrett Sr., John Wayne	543	Eubanks, Melvin Wayne	701
Mayhue, Charles Edward	430	Johnson III, Carmen Lee	544	Bedwell, Donald Eugene	702
McCoy, Harry Douglas	433	Broome Jr., Walter Charles	549	Calhoun, Ronald Eugene	703
Weaver, Robert Paul	434	Hewitt, Robert Lee	564	Busby, John Wesley	704
Bell III, Charles Homer	435	Clark, Ronnie Lee	572	Chisolm, Everett Hughs	704
Johnson, Elvin	438	Jones, Robert Franklin	572	Connell, William Randolph	709
Dickey Jr., Paul Jefferson	440	Pendley, Danny Lee	572	Ethridge, Timothy Carlton	709
Jones Jr., Mardre Powell	440	Reynolds, Vendyl Martin	572	Haney, Hershel Thomas	709
Kight, Clarence Murray	440	Doyle Sr., Hugh Isaac	575	Drake, Daniel Robert	710
Mitchell, James Robert	440	Orphandoudakis, Andrew David	575	Cates, Richard Newton	711
Anthony, Joe Rish	444	Stephens, Clinton Dell	579	Griffin, Isaac Melvin	711
Covalt, Fred Cunard	449	Bishop Jr., James Dorsey	590	Johnson, James Gilbert	711
Farmer, James Alan	449	Buntin Jr., William Henry	591	Lancaster Jr., James Millard	711
Small Sr., Francis McDowell	449	Cox, Barney Roosevelt	591	Swafford, Robert Lee	711
Hinely, John Derrick	452	Gregory, Edward Howell	591	Thompson, Nelon Chester	711
Newsome Jr., Rufus Fredrick	452	Holton Jr., Arcie William	591	Clark, Wayne Eugene	715
Parker, Albert Thomas	452	Huggins, Eddie Harrison	591	Williford, Edward Perry	717
Shirah, Marco Kim	452	Jenkins, Charles Lindbergh	591	Savage, Calvin	718
Stembridge Jr., William Francis	454	Kinsaul Jr., William John	591	Saxon, Lynwood Eugene	718
Carden, Jimmy Franklin	456	Herring, William Lamar	595	Lindsey, Willie Clifton	720
House III, Willie Bernard	456	Dyer, Douglas Joe	597	Marshall, Richard Paul	720
Stephenson, James Michael	456	Kimsey, Steve	597	Chamblee, James Elmer	721
Walker, Billy Frank	456	Edwards, James Clayburn	622	Benson, Lee Willard	722
Cowart, Homer Charlie	457	Edwards, James Robert	622	Ennis Jr., Raiford Lee	722
Lea, James Ronald	466	Van Vlake, Robert Earl	622	Rutledge, Gary Ralph	724
Little, Carl Van	466	Earnest, Troy Walker	639	Almand, Charles Timothy	729
Long, Lynn George	466	Redding, Robert Joseph	639	James, Dale Lee	729
Ratliff, William Gary	466	Tucker, William Rufus	663	Inglett, Robert Harmon	730
Lanier, Wayman Levi	469	Hughes, Michael Junior	664	Hamlett, Leyman H.	731
Wilkie, Robert Buren	479	Tankersley, Harold	664	Reece, Edward Eugene	733
Dilbeck, Stephen Wayne	483	Beck Jr., Claude William	677	Collum, Richard Henry	738
Stanley Jr., George Milton	484	Boatright, Al Douglas	677	Biggers, Robert Eugene	744
Dailey, Dennis Hassan	489	McFarland, Robert Luther	680	Callahan, John Tracy	744
Harper, Gregory Harold	489	Taylor, Barney Ray	680	Branch Sr., Bennie Gerald	745

The Grand Lodge of Georgia
Free and Accepted Masons
Masonic Messenger
811 Mulberry Street
Macon, Georgia 31201-6779

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MACON, GA.
PERMIT NO. 477

Murphy, Radford Earl	748
Marshall, William Onan	753
Sim, Arthur Edwin	756
Reedy, William Rufus	761
Steele, Carl Ray	761
Albertus, Daniel Earl	766
Green, Harold Melton	766
White, Billy Hoyt	766
Griffin, Larry Bryan	42, 754
Conley, James McClelland	230, 421
Waddail, Richard Stough	265, 757

Are you looking for something new or different to help your Lodge Challenge the Future? Check out the resources available from the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America supported by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and others. Some wonderful resources are only a click away at: www.masonicrenewal.org
Open a brave new world to improve your Lodge and its membership.

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)