

Masonic Messenger



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

Spring 2024



Our Children Speak

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475

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

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
Deputy Grand Master	Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)
Senior Grand Warden	Bill Shepard (717, 214)
Junior Grand Warden	Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)
Grand Treasurer	Paul H. Carter (26)
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)
Grand Chaplain	Frank J. Batt, III (376, 06)
Grand Marshal	William M. Jones (06)
Grand Orator	Michael H. Wilson (06)
Senior Grand Deacon	Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)
Junior Grand Deacon	Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)
First Grand Steward	Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)
Second Grand Steward	W. David Baxter (35)
Third Grand Steward	Jeff L. Smith (131, 2)
Grand Tyler	Jeffery L. Anderson (200, 376, 06)

Publications

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NO. 1

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FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER

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

Name in Full _____

Lodge Name and Number _____

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

Lodge Name and Number _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Briefing: 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

How to register for Grand View

Below is a link to a video that will show you how to set up your user account and the step to set up your account. If you have already created your user account and forgotten your password you can click on "Forgot your password?" under the sign-in button, enter your email address in the box and click "Send me to reset password instructions."

Video link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ilx-WliihfcM>

Step 1. Enter the URL for your jurisdiction. <https://ga.grandview.systems>

Step 2. Click on Member Portal

Step 3. Click on Member Registration (or you can Click the "Sign up" next to forgot password) Step 4. Enter your Lodge Number

Step 5. Enter your Member ID

Step 6. Enter your Last Name - (case sensitive)

Step 7. Click on Check Membership Status

Step 8. Enter your email address

Step 9. Enter a password that you can remember (password must contain at least 8 characters) Step 10. Enter Confirmation by entering the password again

Step 11. Click on Submit

Now Available

You may now find the 2024 Georgia List of Lodges, Officers Planning Tool, and DDGM Contacts under My Portal on Grand View.

Grand View Secretary Training

The Grand Lodge Office is encouraging secretary training in all districts. Anyone can attend the training classes. Please contact the Grand Lodge Office if you are interested in organizing a training class.

2024 District Conventions

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host Lodge</u>
1st District	March 23, 2024	10:00AM	Hinesville	Hinesville Lodge No. 271
2nd District	February 24, 2024	9:00AM	Albany	Dougherty Lodge No. 591
3rd District	March 16, 2024	10:00AM	Dawson	P.T. Schley Lodge No. 229
4th District	August 17, 2024	9:45AM	Greenville Lodge No. 321	Loftin Lodge No. 688
5th District	September 14, 2024	9:00AM	Tucker	Tuker Lodge No. 42
6th District	May 4, 2024	9:00AM	Griffin @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26	Mabel Lodge No. 255
7th District	May 10 & 11, 2024	9:00AM	Rome	Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District	May 18, 2024	9:00AM	Loganville	Fergus Lodge No. 135
9th District	September 28, 2024	9:00AM	Clarksville Lodge No. 325	Mt. Airy Lodge No. 141
10th District	June 8, 2024	10:00AM	Louisville	Stonewall Lodge No. 98
11th District	September 21, 2024	10:00AM	Blackshear	Blackshear Lodge No. 270
12th District	April 20, 2024	9:00AM	Dublin	Laurens Lodge No. 75

2024 Officer Installations

The Editor of the *Masonic Messenger* would like to wish all of the newly elected and appointed officers of the subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Georgia best wishes for a successful year in Masonry. Congratulations!



Cornelia Lodge No. 92



Columbian No. 7



Oostanaula Lodge No. 113



Fort Benning No. 579



Jesup No. 112



Cordelia No. 296



Allegheny No. 114



Draketown No. 252



Sincerity No. 430



Martinez No. 710



Ringgold No. 90



Camden No. 476



Atlanta-Peachtree No. 59



Chehaw No. 701



Chamblee Sardis No. 444



Mickey Fuller No. 720



Fickling No.129



Oothcaloga No. 154



Hudson No. 294



Fraternal No. 37



Gate City No. 2

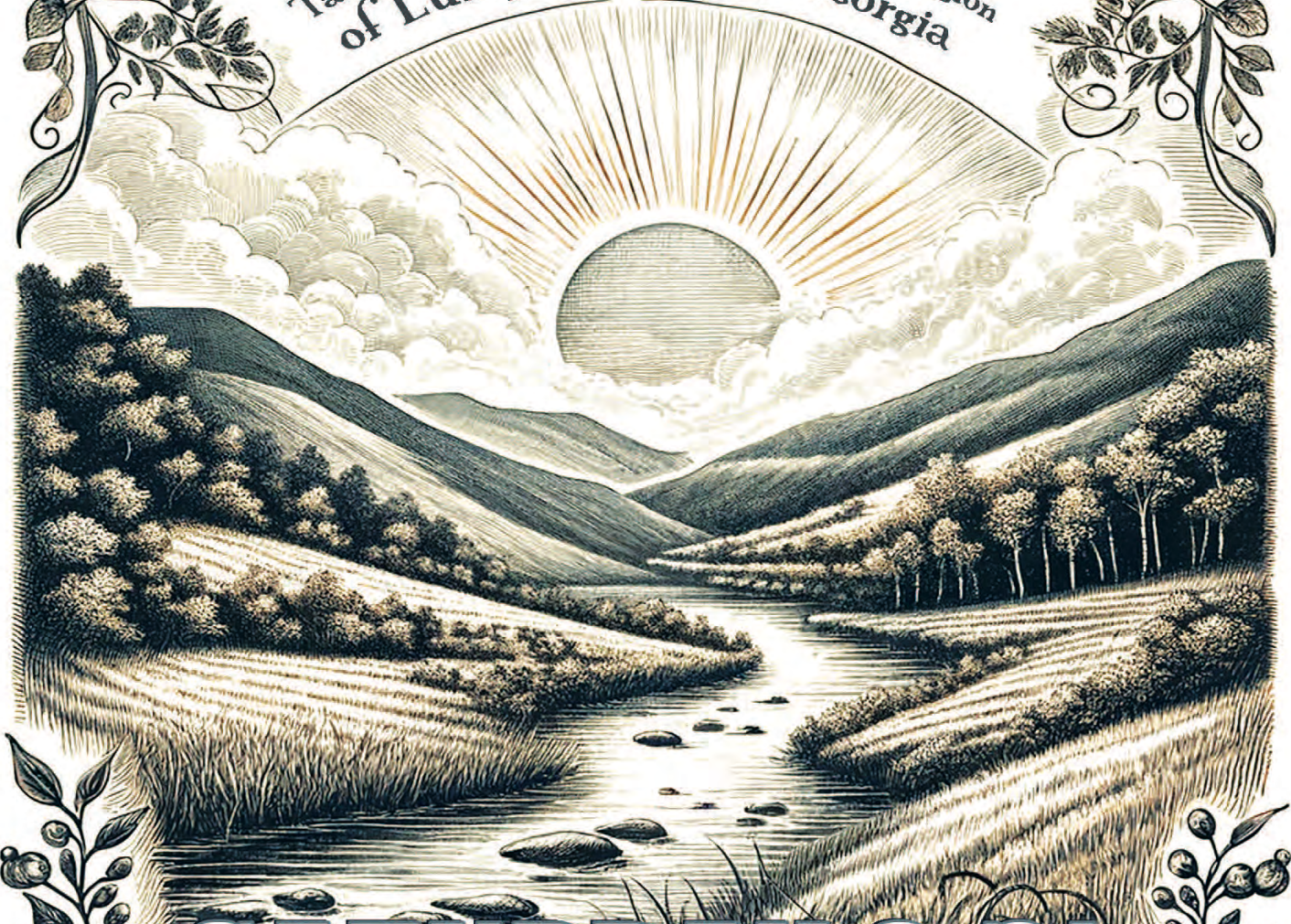


Sincerity No. 430

2nd Annual

GOLD MINE DEGREE

Taking Place in the Heart of the Gold Region
of Lumpkin County Georgia



SATURDAY 9.21

LOCATED NEAR DAHLONEGA, GA
630 MT ZION CHURCH RD MURRAYVILLE, GA 30564

DINNER AT 5:00 P.M. - LODGE OPENS AT 7:00 P.M.

**GATED ENTRANCE TO PRIVATE 500 ACRE PROPERTY
OPENING SATURDAY 9.21
AT 3 P.M.**

BLUEMOUNTAINMASONS.ORG

HOSTED BY: BLUE MOUNTAIN LODGE #38 - WM -706-300-0121





May 11, 2024

6th Annual GEORGIA/FLORIDA

100 Mason Meeting

Host Lodge: William B. Barnett Lodge # 187 F & AM

965 Hubbard St. Jacksonville, FL 32206

We will eat at 4 pm and Lodge will open at 6pm.

All Master Masons are invited.

RSVP to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/6th-annual-georgia-florida-100-mason-meeting-tickets-792746816067?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

so that they have a head count and cost of meal will be a \$10 donation.

Please bring your 2024 Dues card!

What started out as an idea to promote travel and fellowship in South Ga. has spread across the state lines and is growing every year. Come out and enjoy great meal and even better Fellowship.

HIRAM'S BLUFF



April 27 at 10 a.m.

1379 Masonic Home
Camp Road NE
Townsend, GA 31331



- Lunch Available w/donation
- \$25 Event Shirts to Benefit Masonic Children's Home
- BRING YOUR CHAIR & Current Dues Card to this Tyled Meeting

Hosted by Brunswick Lodge #717
est. 2022

Questions? Contact info@brunswick717.com.



Mountain Park Lodge #729
Presents



Bi-Annual Turkey Shoot

March 30th
Registration: 8:00 AM
Shoot Starts: 9:00 AM

Contact: **JIM SCHULTZ**
404-428-6190
Mountainpark729@gmail.com



South River Gun Club
5205 GA-212
Covington, GA 30016

Event includes lunch, ammo, and a good time!
.22 Iron Sights

PRIZES

1st Place.....Gun
2nd Place.....Turkey
3rd Place.....Ham
Middle Place Shooter.....Gun

Prizes include guns, gift certificates and other items!

COST

\$40 per shooter
\$100 sponsorship gets you a sign!



12th Annual Cove Waterfall Degree



Proudly Presents



Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team

Hosted by Hickory Flat Lodge #205

DATE: June 1, 2024

TIME: Doors open at 3PM / Meal 4PM / Degree 6PM

LOCATION: 339 W Church St Jasper, GA

COST: \$30 (Includes meal, degree and keepsake coin)

TICKETS ARE LIMITED. ADVANCE PURCHASE IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED

VENMO @covewaterfallassociation

CASH APP: \$covewaterfall

For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/covewaterfall.meeting>

Luke@SquareoneBP.com Kevin.Johnson135@yahoo.com BlueStarr357@yahoo.com



Celebrating a Decade of Building Tomorrow's Masonic Leaders

***When:** July 12-14, 2024*

***Where:** Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA*

***Who:** Wardens, Deacons, and Stewards*

***Cost:** \$275 per person*

***Application Deadline:** April 15, 2024*

Application available on GrandView

Each application must be signed by the applicant and worshipful master. And accompanied by a Lodge check



2024 Masonic Leadership Conference Application

Application Deadline: April 15, 2024

Date: _____

Lodge Name: _____ No: _____ District: _____ SUB: _____

Name: _____ GLAD #: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name on Badge (goes by): _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Shirt size: _____ (sm, med, lg, xl, 2xl, 3xl, 4xl, 5xl, 6xl)

Age: _____ Past Master (Yes/No): _____ Year: _____

Current Lodge Office: _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Special Medical needs: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Emer. Contact Phone: _____

Applicant: _____

(print name and sign)

Worshipful Master: _____

(print name and sign)

-----Internal use only below this line-----

Attendee type: _____ Recv'd Date: _____

Lodge Check No: _____

Remit with payment to:

Grand Lodge of Georgia / memo: Leadership Conference / 811 Mulberry St / Macon, GA 31201

“Our Children Speak”

Help Our Children reach their Goals



As Freemasons, “We help Good Men become Better Men.” In truth, we do wonderful things for Children, helping them achieve goals. Visiting the Masonic Home of Georgia is a great experience, but the real reward is a conversation with any of the Children who live there. Each has a story to tell. Each has an experience that was shaping their life prior to joining OUR Family.

Matthew joined our family a little over a year ago. Describing his family background, he hesitates when talking about his brother who is in jail. Discussing his goals, he says “the Goals I want in life is to be a better person to people and actually care about my life and want to succeed in life, and not just do what I want to do and actually follow the rules and not get in trouble with the law.” A life that was being influenced by the acts of an older sibling is now being influenced by over thirty thousand Freemasons. You are one of those!

While that is only one story, each of Our Children has a story. A video recently published on YouTube gives six of Our Children an opportunity to tell you a bit of their story. Take 5 minutes to hear their story and learn how You are impacting their lives and helping them to reach their goals. BUT, don't stop there! Reach out to the Master of Your Lodge and create a family outing with Our Children.

If that five minute video presentation reaches your heart, think of people you know who are not Freemasons and ask them to take five minutes to see the value we bring to society and the lives of children. Someone in your circle of friends is curious about the Freemasons and this is a great way to introduce them to one of the things we do best; Help Children!.

Someone in your circle of friends knows someone who is a principle in a charitable organization that would be willing to help us help Our Children. Get our message to them by sharing the YouTube video. Post the link on your social media pages. While your donation is always helpful, Promoting what we do can be the key to growing financial support.

Yes, we help Good Men become Better Men and those Good Men are helping Our Children achieve their goals.

Masonic Home Winter 2024

Alumni Association, Bryan #308, Ezel #335, Golden Fleece #6, Hickory Flats #205, Hudson #294, Rising Sun #32, Mabel #255, McIntosh #735, #729, Mountain Park, Nelms #323, Patrons Club, Sincerity #181, Widows Sons, Woodman of the World, Worth #194, and all the lodges who participated in The Masonic Home Appreciation Day.



**MASONIC HOME OF GEORGIA ALUMNUS
SPOTLIGHT
DEPUTY SHERIFF JEFF SULLIVAN**



JEFF & MR. CHRIS

Jones County Deputy Sheriff, Jeff Sullivan, standing over six feet tall and weighing in at over 200 pounds steps out of his teeny tiny 1966 Volkswagen Beetle at the base of the Masonic Home's steps grinning ear to ear. Jeff sits down and begins to share his experience. October 12, 1994 my sister and I came for a weekend visit to the home. I loved it right away. My sister hated it. She left after three years and I stayed for the next six, until I signed myself out at 18. Signing out too soon is still one of the biggest regrets of my life.

My parents got divorced in 1987 and my mom did her best to keep it together. It seems she worked 20 hours a day until she got hurt and we moved in with my grandparents who were too elderly to care for us. My grandmother happened to be in the grocery store check-out line and overheard Michael Stewart, one of the home's social workers talking about the home to another customer. She joined the conversation and that started our journey.

Jeff continues. Before living at the home, we moved 11 times in my 12 years. A vacation was a foreign concept. Having a structured place to call home was my dream come true. I was given new clothes, education at a good school, a family structure and connection to Mabel Lodge #255 that made sure I was well cared for in every way.

Living at the home was not always easy. No matter how rough it was at home, I missed my mom and my family. I was well aware that living in a group home was not what normal 12-year-old boys did. When I lived at the Masonic Home, all the children attended Windsor private school. Culturally, this was a big shock to me as a child who grew up surrounded by other tough, low-income youth. Eventually I got expelled. I fully expected to be asked to leave the Masonic Home, but Mr. Chris advocated for me, and they gave me one more chance at Middle Georgia Christian School. I never considered myself a church person but thought as long as I am at this school, I might as well take an interest in bible study. Along with the lessons at the home, this changed my life. I became a Deputy Sheriff because I want to help people and especially children. Kids in trouble always tell me "You don't know how it is bruh". I smile and respond let me tell you.....

When asked, does the Masonic Home matter, Jeff answers. The Masonic Home is important because every child that lives here is an opportunity to change the world for the better. I don't think you can put a price tag on that. How much did the home impact me? Well, I have two children. My daughter is named Bryanna and is in high school. My son is attending Young Harris College on a full athletic scholarship. His name is Christopher Austin after the home's Mr. Chris Babcock.

MEET MASONIC HOME TRUSTEE, CHARLIE LONG

Mr. Charlie as he is affectionately known by the children and staff at The Masonic Home of Georgia is currently serving his 9th and final year as a trustee. Why do you do it Mr. Charlie? Charlie briefly pauses and shares, "It gives my life purpose to help children find their purpose. I can think of no better way to invest my time, treasurer, and talent."

Charlie shares that he was born in 1945 in Pickens, County, Georgia. One side of his family is pure Cherokee, and the other side are Scottish immigrants. "I reckon I resemble the Scottish side", Charlie laughs. I was one of seven children. My mother is what they called a healer. She served as midwife for most of the babies born in the surrounding counties. She was knowledgeable about herbal remedies and knew how to stitch you up if needed. My mother had a big impact on my life. She taught me that giving someone a word of encouragement and a helping hand was as good for me as it was for the person being helped. I grew up and eventually graduated from Pickens High School in 1964. Upon graduation I was strongly encouraged to join the army, which I did, going onto to serve a tour of duty in Vietnam where I was quickly promoted to Sergeant before being honorably discharged in 1967. My military service taught that I could do anything I put my mind to and that I was as good as anyone else. I came home to Georgia and began developing and growing my agricultural business to include poultry, corn, and the operation of sawmills. As a hobby, I plant daffodils and open my property to the community for weddings, birthday parties and other events for free to anyone who asks. I am excited to complete a chapel on the property to further this endeavor. I have been blessed and seeing other people enjoy our property brings joy to me and Barbara.

How did you get involved with the masons I ask. Charlie explains. In my county, the masons were the wealthy men who delivered Christmas presents to needy children. I thought that was pretty cool and on July 10, 1973, I received the Entered Apprentice degree in Morning Star Lodge #349. I knew about the home for many years but got more involved during my service as Master of the 7th District and as Grand Marshall to Grand Master E. Ray Knittel in 2013. Traveling around the state, I saw how the Masonic Home gave masons a purpose and that it was truly the heart of Georgia. Once I got to know the children, I was hooked for life.

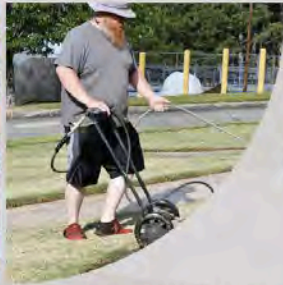
As a trustee what is your hope for the Masonic Home children? Without hesitating Charlie shares that he hopes each child will find their purpose, meaningful work they love, raise a family of their own, and pay their blessings forward to the next child in need. What are his hopes for the home? Charlie explains he would like to see more children being served at the home, more job skill development being taught, more outdoor activities being offered and more masons visiting home and getting excited to develop the pond, the woods, and the entire property.





Masonic Home of Georgia

**WORK DAY 2024
SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH
7:30AM-5:00PM
MACON, GA**



**JOIN US IN KEEPING OUR
MASONIC HOME BEAUTIFUL!**

PROJECTS INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO

- Gym ceiling tile removal & gym floor deep cleaning and refinishing
- Second playground equipment removal, new playground created
- Independent Living girls' dorm furniture removal
- Main Office interior wood walls and ceiling cleaning and polishing
- Pressure washing front building, back sidewalks, etc.
- Various pool projects: fence, deck & signage projects
- Pool picnic wood deck and picnic table renovation/Restoration
- Raised garden bed installation
- Baseball/soccer field restoration & creation
- Cleaning/painting counseling center meeting rooms
- Independent Living boys' dorm painting, carpet cleaning
- Resurfacing basketball court and laying out pickle ball court

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT'S MHOG TRUSTEE

**DISTRICT 1-GREG AMERSON
DISTRICT 4-DENNIS BUCHANAN
DISTRICT 7-CHARLIE LONG
DISTRICT 10-ROY STAMPLEY**

**DISTRICT 2-MATT MOBLEY
DISTRICT 5-RODGER DANIEL
DISTRICT 8-MIKE WILSON
DISTRICT 11-DALE TAYLOR**

**DISTRICT 3-ED BENNS
DISTRICT 6-DENNIS SNIDER
DISTRICT 9-DAVID SHOCKLEY
DISTRICT 12-SHERMAN RANKIN**

**OR CALL: (478) 743-5154
WWW.MASONICHOMEOFGEORGIA.COM**

Masonic Home of Georgia

PRESENTS

1st Annual Charity

5K ROAD & TRAIL RUN

FOR THE KIDS

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN!
OPEN TO ALL AGES

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

**EARLY BIRD
ENTRY \$35
REGULAR \$40**

SPONSOR INFORMATION

MASONIC HOME OF GEORGIA ROUNDABOUT • 1417 NOTTINGHAM DR, MACON, GA 31211

**ROAD & TRAIL RACE, TOT TROT,
MEDALS, GAMES & PRIZES!**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHILDREN AND OPERATIONS OF THE MASONIC HOME OF GEORGIA.
OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN CAN DEVELOP PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY.

**FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT:
[HTTPS://MASONICHOMEOFGEORGIA.COM/SK](https://masonichomeofgeorgia.com/sk)**



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2024 5K FOR THE KIDS ROAD & TRAIL RUN

The Masonic Home for Children 1st Annual 5K Road & Trail Run
Saturday, May 11, 2024 • Masonic Home Roundabout • Macon, GA
Check In: 7:30am • 5K Start: 8:00am • Tot Trot: 9:00am
Awards & Celebration: 9:15am



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

TITLE SPONSOR
\$7,500

20 Complimentary Runner Registrations with T-shirts

- Logo/Name in most prominent position on race t-shirt.
- Prominent Logo/Name placement on event banner, mile marker signage, all promotional materials and social media.
- Opportunity to speak at awards ceremony.
- 1 table for promotional material distribution.

GOLD SPONSOR
\$5,000

10 Complimentary Runner Registrations with T-shirts

- Logo/Name placement on race t-shirt.
- Logo/Name placement on event banner, mile marker signage, all promotional materials and social media.
- Special recognition at awards ceremony.
- 1 table for promotional material distribution.

SILVER SPONSOR
\$2,500

6 Complimentary Runner Registrations with T-shirts

- Logo/Name listed on race t-shirt.
- Logo/Name placement on event banner, signage, promotional materials and social media.
- 1 table for company promotional material distribution.

BRONZE SPONSOR
\$1,000

2 Complimentary Runner Registrations with T-shirts

- Logo/Name listed on race t-shirt.
- Logo/Name placement on event banner, promotional materials and social media.

TOT-TROT SPONSOR
\$1,500

4 Complimentary Runner Registrations with T-shirts

- Logo/Name listed on race t-shirt.
- Logo/Name placement on event banner, promotional materials and social media.

FOOD & BEVERAGE SPONSOR
\$1,000

- Company name and logo placement at breakfast and water refreshment stations. Listing on event signage, promotional materials and social media.

FAMILY SPONSOR
\$500

Up to 5 Complimentary Runner Registrations with T-shirts

- Listing on signage, promotional materials and social media.

MILE MARKER/ROUTE SIGNS
\$100

- Company name and logo placement along the race route.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT:

<https://MASONICHOMEOFGEOORGIA.COM/5k>



If you have any questions,
please contact Jeff Cohen at:
Phone (478) 743-5154
Email 5k@masonichomeofgeorgia.com

SPONSORSHIP FORM

2024 5K FOR THE KIDS ROAD & TRAIL RUN

The Masonic Home for Children 1st Annual 5K Road & Trail Run
Saturday, May 11, 2024 • Masonic Home Roundabout • Macon, GA
Check In: 7:30am • 5K Start: 8:00am • Tot Trot: 9:00am
Awards & Celebration: 9:15am



Please fill in all the fields completely and correctly below.
Completed form and check are due by April 10, 2024.

Yes, my company would like to sponsor the 2024 Masonic Home of Georgia Charity 5K Road & Trail Run.

COMPANY NAME _____

CONTACT NAME _____ TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

LEVEL OF SPONSORSHIP _____

WEBSITE: _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Don't forget to send us your logo! See logo requirements below.

PLEASE MAIL SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT TO:
Masonic Home of Georgia
1417 Nottingham Drive, Macon, GA 31211

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your support for The Masonic Home of Georgia 1st Annual 5K For the Kids Road & Trail Run. Your involvement as a sponsor, advertiser, or runner will help ensure children who are facing overwhelming circumstances have a helping hand and safe haven. Your support for our 2024 Golf Tournament plays an important role in transforming young lives from adversity to success, building brighter futures and stronger communities.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cohen

Executive Director, Masonic Home of Georgia

THANK YOU!

YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT TO US AND OUR BENEFICIARIES

The Masonic Home of Georgia is a 501(c)(3) organization.

All donations are tax deductible.

EIN (Tax ID): 90-0439584

IMPORTANT Sponsorship Logo Requirements:

In order to ensure the highest display quality of your company logo, email a copy of your logo in vector format (preferred), or .jpg, .png or .tif if vector format is not available. Fonts must be converted to outlines.

If you have any questions,
please contact Jeff Cohen at:
Phone (478) 743-5154
Email 5k@masonichomeofgeorgia.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

of the Grand Lodge of Georgia



Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

In an attempt to standardize publication dates and deadlines, the Publications Committee has determined to put in place the following deadlines for submissions.

Spring (March) Issue: deadline for content-Feb 1

Summer (June) Issue: deadline for content-May 1

Fall (September) Issue: deadline for content- August 1

Winter (December) Issue: deadline for content- November 1

When you make a submission to messenger@glofga.org, you should receive an automatic reply noting that your submission was received. If you are submitting a 50, 60, 70+ Award, you will get a second email notifying you when your award will run in the Messenger.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL, please check the email address or call the Editor at 770-608-6232 for issues.



GRAND
CHAPTER
Walter D. Waddell, Jr.
ME Grand High Priest



GRAND
COUNCIL
Judd J. Wolfe
MI Grand Master



GRAND
COMMANDERY
Ditmar W. Chavez
RE Grand Commander

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

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



FIFTENTH ANNUAL YORK RITE FESTIVAL MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER'S CLASS

April 6th, 2024

Location-Grand Chapter Building
811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201

Class In Honor Of 4 Presiding Officers

Most Worshipful Grand Master Benjamin W. Polston, II
Most Excellent Grand High Priest Walter D. Waddell, Jr.
Most Illustrious Grand Master Judd J. Wolfe
Right Eminent Grand Commander Ditmar W. Chavez

All Degrees and Orders of York Rite Will Be Conferred

Registration Fee: \$15.00 for All

Registration 6:30am To 7:30am

Work Begins Promptly At 7:30am

Candidates Must Have Proper Paper Work

Contact: Michael Sampsell

E-MAIL: mike@thesampsell.com

Cell: (770) 366-1800

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

GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE
www.yorkriteofga.org

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

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 addressed to Messenger@glofga.org.

A Fraternal History of Brother Audie Murphy

By B. Nuss,

Masonic Membership Program of Georgia

Audie Leon Murphy (June 20, 1925 - May 28, 1971) was one of the most famous and decorated American combat soldiers of World War II. He was awarded every U.S. military combat award for valor available from the U.S. Army, and was also decorated by France and Belgium. He served in the Mediterranean and European Theater of Operations. He was presented the Medal of Honor for his defensive actions against German troops on January 26, 1945, at the Colmar Pocket near Holtzwihr, France. During an hour-long siege, he stood alone on a burning tank destroyer firing a machine gun at attacking German soldiers and tanks. Wounded and out of ammunition, Murphy climbed off the tank, refused medical attention, and led his men on a successful counter assault. In 2013, he was posthumously awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor.

He was born into a large sharecropper family in Hunt County, Texas, and his skill with a hunting rifle was a necessity for feeding the family. His father abandoned the family, and his mother died when he was a teenager. Murphy



dropped out of school in fifth grade to

pick cotton and find other work to help support his family. His older sister helped him falsify documentation about his birth date in order to meet the minimum age requirement for enlisting in the military. He received training at Camp Wolters, Texas, Fort Meade, Maryland and Arzew, Algeria. He first saw action in the Allied invasion of Sicily and Anzio and was part of the 1944 liberation of Rome. On August 15, 1944, he was part of the Allied Invasion of southern France, where he saw action at Mont Aclimar and the capture of German Brigadier General Otto Richter. He led his men on a successful assault at the L'Omet quarry near Cleurie in northeastern France in October 1944. Murphy was only 19 years old when he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Colmar Pocket. He always maintained that the medals belonged to his entire military unit. Suffering what would in later wars be labeled post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he slept with a loaded gun under his pillow and looked for solace in addictive sleeping pills. The Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio is named for him.

In 1955, Audie Murphy became interested in Freemasonry. Encouraged by his close friend, Texas theater owner Skipper Cherry, Audie petitioned and joined the Masonic Order in California. Later he returned to Texas to conduct his 32-degree work where he joined the Shriners. Audie

APPLICATION FOR DEGREES

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of
North Hollywood Lodge, No. 542, F. & A. M.

1. What is your full name? AUDIE LEON MURPHY

2. When were you born? JUNE 20, 1925

3. Where were you born? HUNT COUNTY, TEXAS

4. Where do you reside? 6238 S. CLARK AVE. CANOGA PARK, CALIF.

Present lodges address: U.S. PICTONE LODGE, 1716 CLARK ST. CANOGA PARK, CALIF.

5. State explicitly your business occupation for the past ten years, and where obtained:
FOR 10 YEARS, I HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE U.S. ARMY - POST 22222, ARIZONA

6. Have you resided in the State of California the twelve months last past, and the place alone named since that six months? YES

7. Where have you resided the ten years last past? If in more than five places, state the particular years in each place: 1935-1936, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1936-1937, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1937-1938, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1938-1939, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1939-1940, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1940-1941, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1941-1942, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1942-1943, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1943-1944, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1944-1945, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1945-1946, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1946-1947, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1947-1948, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1948-1949, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1949-1950, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1950-1951, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1951-1952, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1952-1953, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1953-1954, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1954-1955, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1955-1956, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1956-1957, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1957-1958, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1958-1959, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1959-1960, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1960-1961, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1961-1962, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1962-1963, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1963-1964, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1964-1965, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1965-1966, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1966-1967, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1967-1968, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1968-1969, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1969-1970, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1970-1971, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1971-1972, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1972-1973, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1973-1974, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1974-1975, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1975-1976, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1976-1977, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1977-1978, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1978-1979, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1979-1980, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1980-1981, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1981-1982, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1982-1983, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1983-1984, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1984-1985, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1985-1986, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1986-1987, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1987-1988, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1988-1989, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1989-1990, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1990-1991, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1991-1992, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 1992-1993, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 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2023-2024, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2024-2025, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2025-2026, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2026-2027, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2027-2028, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2028-2029, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2029-2030, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2030-2031, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2031-2032, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2032-2033, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2033-2034, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2034-2035, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2035-2036, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2036-2037, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2037-2038, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2038-2039, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2039-2040, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2040-2041, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2041-2042, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2042-2043, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2043-2044, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2044-2045, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2045-2046, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2046-2047, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2047-2048, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2048-2049, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2049-2050, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2050-2051, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2051-2052, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 2052-2053, FARMER, FARMER, TEXAS; 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remained active in various masonic events and was a member of good standing at the time of his death. Audie received his first degree in Masonry when he was regularly initiated, February 14, 1955 through the North Hollywood (California) Lodge No. 542 F & AM (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons). He was passed to the 2d degree of Fellowcraft on April 4, 1955. On June 27, 1955, he was raised to the 3rd degree of a Master Mason. Later, he became a dual member with Heritage Lodge No. 764 F & AM (North Hollywood, California) on May 14, 1956. Audie took his 32d degree work (degrees 4 through 32) at the Scottish Rite Temple in Dallas on November 11-14, 1957 according to records located at this temple. After receiving his 32d degree, Audie was elected vice president of the Thomas B. Hunter Memorial Class of the Dallas Scottish Rite. Audie became a Shriner (Hella Temple, Dallas) on November 15, 1957.

Audie was made a "Master of the Royal Secret" in the Valley of Dallas, Orient of Texas, on November 14, 1965. Audie was also decorated a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) on December 11, 1965.

Audie affiliated with the Long Beach (Scottish Rite) Consistory on April 2, 1971. Two weeks previously, on March 19, 1971, Shriner Murphy affiliated with the Al Malaikah Temple in Los Angeles. Audie often participated in Shrine parades in both Texas and on the West Coast. He was especially involved with the annual Mariner's Night,



which included a dinner held in the memory of the dead and to honor the living seafaring men. The annual Mariner's Night is sponsored by San Pedro's Los Angeles Harbor Lodge No. 332, Long Beach California. As an honored guest, Audie made one of his last public speeches for the Mariner's Night Dinner on April 15, 1971. Brother Audie Murphy was called from labor on May 28th, 1971 at the age of 45, when the private plane in which he was a passenger crashed. At the time of his death, he had been recently awarded of honorary 33rd degree. and is laid to rest with full military honors at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Mrs. Murphy Receives Audie's Honorary 33rd Degree Cap Shortly after Audie Murphy's death, the Long Beach California Scottish Rite Bodies of the Masonic Order honored Brother Audie Murphy by naming the 111th

Scottish Rites Graduating Class the "Audie Murphy Memorial Class." The class, which graduated on Saturday, November 19, 1971, had 124 members from forth-five California cities and towns. One of the highlights of "graduation day" for the members of the Memorial Class was a special showing of the film TO HELL AND BACK. The film took the place of the 31st degree and was shown to give the candidates a much better understanding of the character and background of the distinguished Mason and late member of the Long Beach Bodies.

In 2000, during the November Ladies Night Dinner of the Valley of Long Beach, Audie Murphy was recognized when local Scottish Rite members presented to his widow, Mrs. Pamela Murphy, a 33-degree cap in honor of the posthumous election of her husband to that degree at an earlier Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. Harold B. Simpson quoted the Encyclopedia Britannica, in his book AUDIE MURPHY, AMERICAN SOLDIER, as he described Freemasonry as a...

"... fraternity to which men called Freemasons belong . . . It is secret insofar as it has rituals and other matters which those admitted take an oath never to divulge. Its meeting places, however, are prominently identified and its governing bodies publish annual proceedings, while its membership is a matter of public knowledge . . . It admits adherents of all faiths, claiming to be based upon those fundamentals of religion held in common by all men and to inculcate, through allegories and symbols connected with the art of building, a lofty morality laying particular stress upon benevolence."



—Dallas Morning News
AUDIE, SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING A SHRINER, PARTICIPATED IN A DALLAS SHRINE PARADE, NOVEMBER 15, 1957.
Audie is wearing a light coat and is sitting over the back wheel of the jeep.

Two Words



COMMENTARY

By Worshipful Brother Randy Hazan
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Our ritual consists of many words; some familiar and some less so. As a custodian of the uniform work the words are very important to me. The order of the words and the correct pronunciation of them is critical to well done ritualistic work. Sometimes, however, I see others and myself so caught up in the words that the meanings are, if not overlooked, are skimmed over without the full impact of their meaning coming through.

Our ritual was carefully crafted by our forebears (those that went this way before) and has been preserved through time. Veiled in allegory; every piece has meaning. Every piece is open to interpretation by each individual. To quote a line from our Bible lecture: "Guided by the light he shall therein find, as he shall therein find it."

Some will find deep meaning that will touch them immediately. Some will not. Some will as they teach and study and perform our ritual will have what I refer to as 'Aha' moments (an expression used to express satisfaction, triumph, or surprise). When in a flash of understanding a meaning shines through--bright and clear. For some this will lead to further study and examination that will lead to more of those 'Aha' moments.

In our ritual there are short phrases and sometimes rather lengthy passages that guide us in our Masonic pilgrimage. Two words have brought me to 'Aha' moments over the years and it seems a good idea to discuss them as they have recently come to mind with new insights. These two words are the last spoken in each of our three degrees. They are often muttered in a lackadaisical manner by the speaker at the conclusion of the degree.

These two words must have deeper meaning than the initial perception might indicate. The creators of the ritual surely had more important ideas in mind when deciding that all three of the degrees would end with them.

What is the end? A Conclusion, climax, peak or culmination. Culmination is defined as reaching a highest or decisive point. If this is a high point, why do we end with these two simple words? Most of you know what they are: "Follow Me." Does this simply mean follow me back into that little room to resume normal activities?

I think not.

These words are spoken by the Junior Steward whom some consider the lowest position in the lodge line. This takes a little looking into. The Stewards are Master Masons and equal with any other Master Mason. Perhaps

not as fully educated or mature as a more experienced Mason, but not lower. This brings to mind the slogan of Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Larry W. Nichols: "Once a Steward always a Steward."

What does it mean to be a Steward?

Again, this can be interpreted many ways. Here are a few thoughts.

1. Take responsibility for your leadership role. Does this mean a lowly steward is a leader? A resounding, "YES!"
2. Take responsibility for your constituents. A Steward's duties include assisting the Junior Warden in the duties of his office. Assisting the third highest officer in the lodge with his duties is not insignificant, particularly if one looks closely at the duties of that office.
3. Take responsibility for your organization and its actions. Another indication that this is not an insignificant role. A steward's responsibilities are those of every member of the lodge, but more particularly those of the craft who guide and maintain it.
4. Hold yourself and others accountable. This is a hard one but gets easier if you are doing the right things. Are you and others doing the necessary tasks that help a lodge not only function well, in a respectable way, but grow?

The role of a Steward is indeed a leadership role; it is one that a Brother is appointed to by the Junior Warden who has (hopefully found "him to be of good morals and of great skill, true and trusty; and as he is a lover of the fraternity,"¹ decided that the appointee is qualified to make the journey toward the Master's Chair in the East. This goes back to the two words: "Follow Me." The Steward at the end of the degree should proudly proclaim: "FOLLOW ME!"

Every station in the lodge is a steward to the preceding station. The junior Steward is learning the roles of leadership and a steward to the general membership guided by the Master. The progressive steps through the chairs from Junior Steward to the Worshipful Master are each 'Follow Me' roles. Each should be a mentor and councilor to those behind and an assistant to those ahead. The Junior Past Master is a steward to the sitting Master giving council and advice as needed. Follow me to being Master of the lodge and then a Past Master the privileges of which entitle you to a voice in Districts and Grand Lodge membership. Follow me deeper into Masonry and being a "better citizen, a better father, a better son and a fonder husband."

Look to the West one Last Time.



COMMENTARY

By Worshipful Brother Matthew Noble
Brunswick Lodge No. 717

December 9, 2023 marked the night of the end of my tenure as the Master of my Lodge—Brunswick Lodge No. 717.

It was something as a Mason I didn't initially seek out when I became a member, but as the years went by and I progressed through the officer line it became something I needed to do to prove to myself that I could be not just a “doer,” but to see if I could be a “thinker” or a “leader” which is a role I’ve never had before.

Could I do that if given the opportunity?

After several years of building up to it, I was elected in 2022 at the beginning of December. I started the way “I” believed to be the right way, but after almost three months of rake stepping, I finally started learning to do things that have helped me be both professionally and personally successful and grow that leadership and management skill that I had never used before. I have made friendships that will last a lifetime and peers that I can trust to give me sound advice. In the end, I found the biggest obstacle I had was *me*, in front of myself the whole time. When I learned to trust others with my ideas, goals, and projects instead shouldering them all on myself, this became the giant takeaway from the year. I am humbled and grateful I was given the opportunity and the trust of the Brethren to learn and grow and make mistakes—shaping my rough ashlar into a more perfect one.

Now it is the end of this massive ten-year chapter in my life, and I look forward to seeing the Masters that come after me, and what they accomplish. A massive thank you to all the Brethren who have helped shape the man I am today over these last ten years. Thank you to every brother who has given their time, donations, and knowledge. But mostly for what they continue to do—to keep Freemasonry alive and growing in our community. My hope is to continue and assist in the growth in our Fraternity and support the goals of Masters that come long after me. Hopefully for many years to come, good Lord willing.

Most importantly out of all of this, I thank my beautiful and amazing wife Samantha Noble, because I could not have done any of this without her. She has equally made me a better man, husband, and father. To have let me do all of this insanity for a decade is amazing and I love her so much for putting up with it, even when it was super inconvenient while trying to get married, buy a house, have kids, and the 100s of other things that were going on during Lodge nights. I could not have done it or had the confidence to have tried any of it without her backing me up. Behind every good Mason there's typically a wife that carries the burden of looking after things while we are at meetings, traveling for events or fundraisers and she made a lot of it possible and supported me through it all. There's not enough words to describe how blessed I am to have this amazing woman at my side.

It has been an adventure and one I will never forget. Let's see where it goes from here.



Freemasonry and the Modern Warrior



COMMENTARY

By Brother James Pitts, Jr.
Duluth Lodge No. 480

You may ask yourself what do Freemasonry and the modern warrior have in common? The answer to this will be as varied as the reason a man petitions to join a Lodge. The similarities between the experiences of a Mason and Warrior intersect at many levels. My hope is to provide a comparison of the service of warriors and that of a Master Mason. Somewhere in the middle is a common ground.



When you sit in a Lodge with a brother there are doctors, lawyers, plumbers, teachers, entrepreneurs and every other imaginable profession represented. One of the most common affiliations we find in that diverse group is a subgroup, a Brother who has served in the Armed Forces. Why is that? Why does this specific demographic gravitate towards Freemasonry?

When you enter military service, regardless of the branch, you also encounter a melting pot of individuals from every region of the United States, different countries, rich, poor, highly educated and those who barely got by academically. The one thing

that you find out quick upon your arrival at your initial training (Basic Training or Boot Camp) is that you are all "on the level." Also, everyone receives the same type of training in history, tactics, techniques, procedures and even drill and ceremonies (marching, facing movements or as we call it floor work). Does this sound familiar? It should. This can be closely compared to the first time you made those three knocks from without and requested to enter on your own free will and accord. As we go through the Degrees it is much like our initial training, everyone receives almost identical training so that we can create a strong base for us to build upon our Masonic journey. Both Masonry and the military operate on tradition and ritual work when they begin their respective initiations.

The Warrior (Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, Space Force Specialist and Coast Guardsmen) all swore an oath, one might even call it an "obligation" several times throughout their careers. You take an initial oath of enlistment when you sign up for the armed services. Upon swearing such an oath, we swore to defend our country against all enemies foreign and domestic. As you progress through the ranks you will often take more oaths or abide by certain creeds, some of these more comprehensive in their scope than those preceding. Sound familiar? The military also operates on a strict code of teamwork, brotherly love, upright morale behavior and most importantly loyalty and honor. Don't we demand and expect the same thing from the brothers we share a Lodge with? Is this really much different than the three obligations we took at the Holy Altar? While different in text, the meanings are very similar in the hearts of those who took them. That is probably one of the most profound likenesses of the Warrior and the Mason.

One of the most overlooked benefits of Freemasonry is the worldwide brotherhood. As a Mason you don't get to truly experience this unless you "travel." While world travel does have pretty significant differences between the military and Masonry world, they are still very similar. When you travel as a Mason, whether it be ten miles to a neighboring lodge or ten-thousand

miles on leisure or business, if you encounter a fellow Mason, they will treat you as a Brother. It doesn't matter if that brother is twenty-one years old, or one-hundred years old, a Past Master or a Past Grand Master. The same happens as service member. I have traveled all over the world to over thirty countries and forty-eight of the fifty states. During those travels I encountered warriors of all ages, from every possible branch of service and even from militaries we were once at war with. We still found a common ground and shared our experiences, only as warriors can. You find that while their experiences may have been significantly different than yours, they are still warriors. Masons do the same thing; I hear stories all the time from brothers who travel. Whether it be at an amazing sight to see at the United Grand Lodge of England building or in a canvas tent at Kandahar Airfield during Operation Enduring Freedom the stories of brotherhood and fellowship are still almost exactly the same. That's a unique experience to be able to find common ground with a total stranger.

During a warrior's time in service there was always one consistent thing, no matter how terrible their experiences in service may have been. Through the horrors of combat, the loss of life and the unbridled violence they experienced they could always depend on one thing: Their Brother. The camaraderie and fraternity of the military is second to none. We talk about certain tenets of Free Masonry, specifically Brother Love, Morality and Relief in many places during ritual work. These are the exact things many of these warriors are looking for when they begin to look towards Freemasonry as their next fraternal step in life.

One of the more black and white reasons many Warriors become Brothers is just that, black and white reasons. The military has a chain of command with clearly set forth duties and expectations.

We as Masons have a Masonic Code that dictates our behavior and expectations once we become Masons. Leaving the military and going into the "real world" is often a culture shock because many businesses don't follow a chain of command and have loosely enforced (if at all) rules/expectations. The structure and clarity provided by the Chain of Command (Grand Lodge and Lodge Leadership) are very attractive to them. They miss it, not because they miss being told what to do, but because they miss the accountability and structure it provides.

Over the years we have seen a decline in the membership of Freemasonry. It is estimated that there are approximately 16.2 million veterans in the United States, of that approximately 700,000 reside here in our great state. Only 6% of the US Population is a veteran. That's down significantly, almost 300% since 1980. Do these declines seem familiar to us? They should, it's the exact same things that we are encountering in our Fraternity.

So why don't we seek out these good men, who are wanting to be better and invite them to dinner, our next BBQ, Veterans Appreciation function or similar. I think you will find that they will mesh together quickly with our fellow Brothers, not because of experiences, but because of a similar mindset.

I could go on forever about this, I think we all could. I was struggling when I found Freemasonry and then when I allowed it to find me, in my heart, I felt a camaraderie and Brotherhood I hadn't felt since I hung up my boots for the last time and shook the sand and dust out of my rucksack. These warriors are looking for things that we as Masons can provide them. Let's continue the strong traditions of making good men better and strengthening our fraternity at the same time. Let's also remember that the man we make better today, will not only be a better brother within our Lodges but a better man for the world, and that we can all agree we need.

Finding Masonic Symbolism in the Most Extraordinary Places

By Bill Valles

DeWald Lodge No. 343

Lodge 49 on AMC invokes symbolism, fraternal orders, and a sense of wonder that embraces the spirit of the journey taken by all Freemasons.

One of the most fundamental takeaways for me as a Freemason is this growing awareness I have acquired over time in being more sensitive to recognizing symbolism and inside of that, an amazement and appreciation of how much of the world we participate in is absolutely covered with it.

Unfortunately, not all the symbols we encounter are conducive to higher ideals nor do they tend to invoke a state of mind for contemplation of the same, unless you work very hard at it to try and weave what small measure of gold from the coarse, dry, brittle straw we find coming at us from every source of social media and advertisements imaginable. What is lacking is the overall general goodwill and optimism for life and for the possibilities to be and do better.

Occasionally, one stumbles over something extraordinary in the most unusual and unexpected places. Take for example a television program that somehow found a way to express a profound sense of wisdom, spiritual strength, and beauty for those with ears to hear and eyes to see it. In my view, this TV show manages to portray within its episodes our intrinsic need to be a kinder, more understanding person with emphasis on the struggles we all face as a part of the mystery that binds us in a fraternal brotherhood, where all can share equally as participants in this our uniquely human experience.

Of course, the show itself did not last more than two seasons on the air, but can be watched currently by streaming over the “AMC +” application available through any streaming service provider.

"Lodge 49" was a television show created by head writer, Jim Gavin, that aired from 2018 to 2019 on the AMC cable channel network. The show follows the life of a down-on-his-luck surfer named Sean "Dud" Dudley who stumbles upon a fraternal lodge called the "Lynx Lodge 49." The lodge is depicted as a quirky and mysterious place that offers a sense of community and purpose to its members of 'The Order of the Lynx', a fraternal order based on the explorations and writings of its mysterious and legendary founding member, Harwood Fritz Merrill, the ex-soldier veteran of the Crimean War who immersed himself in alchemical pursuits of higher knowledge, a similar comparison to the real life combined personages of



Albert Pike and Albert Mackey, famous in their own accounts as historians and chroniclers of Masonic literature, ritual, and historical documentation regarding Freemasonry.

The Freemasons, a real-life fraternal organization that dates back centuries and has its roots in various historical and symbolic traditions, is certainly nothing new to us as modern-day Freemasons---all of which we are very much aware of.

However, taken in the context from someone on the 'outside looking in,' the organization's own practices, rituals, and symbolism being somewhat shrouded in

secrecy, although by design and functionality, does tend to lend to various interpretations and speculation by non-Masons about their true meaning and purpose. It's important to stress at this point that even though "Lodge 49" is a work of tele-fiction, and while it does draw inspiration from real-life fraternal organizations like the Freemasons, it's not a direct representation or interpretation of them. The show takes creative liberties and uses these elements to tell its own story and explore its own themes. But that being said, let's delve a bit deeper so that we might appreciate the measure of gold that can be found here.

However, when interpreting the writing of "Lodge 49" in the brighter light of comparative analysis to Freemasonry, it's helpful to consider the broader context of the show's narrative, its characters, and the themes it aims to explore.

The portrayal of their fictional version of a fraternal lodge could be seen as a reflection or commentary on certain aspects of fraternal organizations like the Freemasons. The show often delves deeply into matters that incorporate within the journey of the characters the very principles which we as Freemasons are very familiar with and the sensitivity in which these lessons are delivered make the show worth watching. For instance, the main character, "Dud", is a perfect example of someone who in their heart desires to become a member and comes open minded, excited, optimistic, and hopeful as many of us might remember being when first taking those steps as Entered Apprentices in our lodges at some point in our Masonic journey.

The perfect spiritual 'Fool' who, in the beginning, moving through their life seemingly on a whim, finds Divine inspiration to course correct and to take an opportunity to try and become a better, more enlightened version of themselves. No matter how often this effort is strewn with disaster and failure, the struggle to try and be better is always at the forefront. Here are some other ways the show's writing might be interpreted in relation to real issues, themes, and concerns within our own Fraternal Order of Free and Accepted Masons, as well as many other similar organizations:

1. Community and Belonging: Fraternal organizations often emphasize a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and mutual support among their members. In "Lodge 49," the focus on community and the lodge serving as a gathering place for people seeking connection

does parallel the real desire for such connections in fraternal orders.

2. Symbolism and Rituals: Just like the Freemasons, "Lodge 49" incorporates symbolism and rituals that hold significance for its members. The show uses these elements to explore themes of tradition, heritage, and the deeper meanings that such practices can hold.
3. Mystery and Secrecy: Both the Freemasons and "Lodge 49" contain an element of mystery and secrecy. The show might be seen in certain episodic aspects as commenting on how secrecy can lead to intrigue and speculation, but it can also create barriers and exclusivity within an organization.
4. Personal Growth and Enlightenment: Fraternal organizations, especially Freemasonry, often emphasize personal growth, enlightenment, and self-improvement. The show can be seen exploring how individuals seek purpose and self-discovery through their involvement in these organizations.
5. Legacy and Tradition: The Freemasons and other similar organizations have a rich history and tradition. "Lodge 49" comments on how often certain traditions can evolve, adapt, or even fade away over time, which is most relevant to how Freemasonry today is currently viewed and discussed by members and non-members alike.

The notion in "Lodge 49" that there is something greater and more emotionally and spiritually rewarding beyond the "normal" world can be correlated to certain aspects of Freemasonry, particularly in terms of our organization's emphasis on moral and spiritual development.

Freemasonry, like many other fraternal orders, but most particular to ours, often promotes the pursuit of higher ideals, personal growth, and the quest for a deeper understanding of life's meaning. This pursuit is often symbolized through rituals, teachings, and symbolic allegories that encourage members to reflect on their own character and values.

The Ideals of Freemasonry filtered through "Lodge 49" as Catalysts of Change for Personal Growth

In the context of the philosophies taught us in Freemasonry, this pursuit of higher ideals can indeed face challenges due to the inherent nature of the world

and its practicality. Here's how this correlation might play out:

1. **Idealism vs. Realism:** The pursuit of higher ideals and spiritual growth, as promoted by Freemasonry, may be seen by non-Mason's as purely idealistic. It encourages members to strive for virtues like wisdom, compassion, and integrity. However, the real world is often complex and filled with practical concerns. Economic pressures, social responsibilities, and daily life demands can make it challenging to fully embody these ideals consistently.
2. **Struggle Against Materialism:** Many of the precepts held by the tenants of Freemasonry encourage members to rise above materialism and focus on spiritual minded aspects of adhering to moral development. However, as often viewed through the eyes of the modern world, a person's major influences in the aspect of functioning within that society are often driven by consumerism and material desires. Balancing these two aspects can be a constant struggle for individuals sincerely seeking to live up to the ideals promoted by such organizations.
3. **Exclusivity and Accessibility:** Freemasonry, like other fraternal orders, has historically been shrouded in secrecy and exclusivity. While this exclusivity might be intended to preserve the sanctity of its teachings, it can inadvertently create a sense of elitism and detachment from broader society in general. This unfortunately contradicts the idea of promoting higher ideals for the betterment of all humanity.
4. **Divergence from Intent:** Over time, some fraternal organizations, including Freemasonry, have faced criticism for straying from their original intentions. They might become more focused on social networking, maintaining tradition for tradition's sake, or even losing sight of the deeper philosophical and moral teachings they were founded upon.
5. **Personal Limitations:** Despite the best intentions, not everyone who becomes a member of a fraternal order will achieve the level of personal growth and spiritual insight they aspire to. Individual limitations, life circumstances, and personal struggles can hinder the realization of these aspirations.

What We Can Learn from Understanding Different Perspectives

The correlation between the themes of "Lodge 49" and Freemasonry I assert lies in the tension between the pursuit of higher ideals and the challenges posed by the practicalities and complexities of the world. Both the show and Freemasonry highlight the desire for something more meaningful and transcendent, but they also acknowledge the difficulties in fully realizing those aspirations. This creates a kind of dynamic tension between the ideal and the real, which can be a source of reflection, growth, and self-awareness for individuals seeking a deeper connection to their beliefs and values.

What can we as modern-day Freemasons take away from this that might better enable us to work more closely to achieve the higher spiritual goals and ideals that we discover to be so ingrained in the rituals and literature that defines what it means to be a Freemason?

Freemasons can draw several valuable insights from the analysis of "Lodge 49" and its correlation to the pursuit of high spiritual goals and ideals within Freemasonry. These insights might help some brothers better navigate the challenges and complexities of the modern world while staying true to the core principles of the organization:

1. **Integration of Ideals and Reality:** Recognize the need for integrating the high ideals and spiritual principles promoted by Freemasonry into everyday life. While rituals and symbolism are important, the true test lies in applying these teachings to personal actions, interactions, and decisions.
2. **Adaptation and Relevance:** Understand that the world has evolved since the origins of Freemasonry, and its teachings should remain relevant and adaptable to contemporary issues. Continuously examine how Masonic principles can address modern challenges and contribute to personal and societal well-being.
3. **Inclusivity and Outreach:** Strive to be inclusive and accessible to a diverse range of individuals. Avoid the pitfalls of exclusivity and elitism. Encourage open dialogue and active participation from members with different backgrounds and perspectives.
4. **Focus on Personal Growth:** Emphasize personal growth and self-awareness as central tenets of Freemasonry. Encourage members to reflect on their own character, virtues, and

shortcomings, and to work towards continuous self-improvement.

5. **Balance Material and Spiritual:** Acknowledge the influence of materialism and worldly demands but encourage a balanced approach that places spiritual and moral development at the forefront. Help members strike a harmonious balance between their material pursuits and their commitment to higher ideals.
6. **Transparency and Accountability:** Foster an environment of transparency and accountability within the organization. This helps maintain the integrity of Masonic teachings and prevents the divergence from core principles.
7. **Community and Service:** Deepen the focus on community service and contributing positively to society. Channel the energy and knowledge gained through Freemasonry into initiatives that benefit the broader community and align with Masonic values.
8. **Continual Education:** Continue to promote lifelong learning and exploration of Masonic literature, history, and symbolism. This enriches members' understanding of the organization's foundations and fosters intellectual and spiritual growth.
9. **Adapt Rituals to Meaning:** While rituals are a cornerstone of Freemasonry, encourage members to seek personal meaning and insight from them. Emphasize understanding the symbolism and applying the lessons learned in ritualistic experiences to real-life situations.
10. **Humility and Reflection:** Cultivate humility and a willingness to reflect on both successes and failures. Understand that the journey toward spiritual growth is ongoing and that setbacks can be valuable opportunities for learning.

The Hard Road to Becoming a Better Man

Incorporating these insights into the practices and culture of modern Freemasonry may help members bridge the gap between the ideals they hold dear and the realities of the contemporary world. By doing so, Freemasons who wish to take the time to contemplate such matters can enhance their ability to work collectively and individually towards the fulfillment of their spiritual goals and ideals, aligning their actions with the profound teachings that define the organization.

Personally, it's interesting to me to consider how a television show like "[Lodge 49](#)" can invoke such inspiration by its sensitive incorporation of ideals and principles, even though through a fictional medium like television, and it result in having an impact on one's own self-reflection and recognition of the personal journey as I have taken through time upon my own travels as a Master Mason.

If anything can be summarized here, beyond the humorous antics of the characters and the strangely woven plot points contained within the show, it is that the same heartfelt moments experienced at times by the characters on their similarly constructed journeys through their own lives and fictional fraternal organization mirror in some respects my own real journey through Freemasonry and its appendant bodies.

And through that journey, which is entirely my own, and somehow---not mine alone; I have often found that the things that break your heart will also, in time, heal your soul.

Perhaps in this way, we share a commonality and brotherhood that satisfies our need for understanding and builds through the recognition of that timeless symbology that is stored away in each of our hearts as that most sacred of places---the True Lodge, if you will---where we can equally meet and share in the source of our spiritual treasures and life changing discoveries that we've personally worked towards, struggled with and within this special space have acknowledged and founded together.



The Bee: A Symbolic Metaphor for Masonic Education and Continuous Improvement

By Brother Sudhanshu Shukla
Kennesaw Lodge No. 33

Introduction

The bee, a small and industrious creature, has long been revered for its diligent work ethic and cooperative spirit. In the world of Freemasonry, the bee serves as a powerful symbol, representing not only the values inherent in the Masonic teachings but also embodying the principles of continuous improvement and lifelong learning. This essay explores the intricate connections between the bee, Masonic education, and the broader concept of continuous learning, both within and outside the realm of Freemasonry.

The Bee as a Symbol of Industry and Cooperation

In Masonic symbolism, the bee is often associated with industry, diligence, and teamwork. Freemasonry encourages its members to be industrious in their pursuits, just as the bee tirelessly labors to collect nectar and build its hive. The bee's commitment to its work is a reminder for Masons to approach their responsibilities with dedication and perseverance.

Moreover, bees are social creatures that rely on cooperation within the hive for the greater good of the community. This spirit of collaboration is mirrored in Freemasonry, where brotherhood and mutual support are foundational principles. Masonic lodges provide a space where individuals with diverse backgrounds come together, contributing their unique skills and knowledge to the collective growth of the fraternity.

Masonic Education as the Hive of Knowledge

In the context of Freemasonry, the hive can be metaphorically equated with the Masonic lodge, where members gather to share wisdom, knowledge, and experiences. Masonic education serves as the hive of knowledge, providing a structured environment for individuals to learn and grow. Just as bees communicate through intricate dances to share information, Masons engage in a dialogue that transcends generations, passing down the teachings of the craft to ensure the continuity of its principles.

Continuous Improvement within Freemasonry

Freemasonry places a significant emphasis on continuous improvement, both as individuals and as a collective. The bee's lifecycle, marked by stages of growth and transformation, serves as a metaphor for the Masonic journey. Initiates progress through degrees, gaining insights and knowledge with each step. This process of continual advancement reflects the Masonic commitment to personal development and the pursuit of enlightenment.

Furthermore, the concept of "making good men better" is a central tenet of Freemasonry. Just as the bee tirelessly works to improve its hive, Masons strive to enhance their characters, refine their virtues, and contribute positively to their communities. The Masonic journey is a perpetual quest for self-improvement, with each Mason aspiring to be a better version of themselves.

Applying Masonic Principles to the World Beyond

The lessons derived from the bee's symbolism extend beyond the confines of the Masonic lodge. Freemasonry encourages its members to be active contributors to society, applying the principles of brotherhood, industry, and continuous improvement in their daily lives. By embracing a commitment to lifelong learning, Masons become agents of positive change, influencing the world around them through their knowledge, virtue, and benevolence.

Conclusion

The bee, as a symbol deeply ingrained in Masonic teachings, offers valuable insights into the principles of industry, cooperation, and continuous improvement. In the hive of Masonic education, members engage in a shared pursuit of knowledge, embodying the collaborative spirit of the bee. The principles learned within the lodge extend into the wider world, encouraging Masons to be lifelong learners and catalysts for positive transformation. In essence, the bee serves as a timeless metaphor for the enduring values of Freemasonry, inspiring individuals to cultivate their minds, nurture their characters, and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of society.

Esōterikos

What Does Masonry Mean? Is There a Dark Cloud of Esotericism Over it?

By Worshipful Brother Jimmy Densmore
Dalton Lodge No. 105

What's the Meaning of Freemasonry?

Recall that memorable night you gained admission into the esteemed fraternity of Freemasonry. If you're anything like me, you were likely filled with a mix of anxiety, excitement, eagerness, and nervousness. As Freemasons, we've all heard that going through the degrees is akin to trying to drink water from a firehose due to the abundance of knowledge and teachings.

Yet, I invite you to return to that pivotal moment when you were first invited into the preparation room. Can you recollect the lecture that was imparted to you at that significant juncture? If your memory fails you, allow me to assist in revisiting it:

“Before proceeding further, it becomes my duty to inform you that the ceremonies in which you are about to engage *are by no means of a light or trifling character* but are of great importance and deep solemnity. *Freemasonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.* The design of the Masonic Institution is to make its members wiser, better, and consequently happier, and this is accomplished through a series of moral instructions taught, according to ancient usage, by types, symbols, allegorical figures, and lectures. The forms and ceremonies of this Institution have come down through a succession of ages and are all designed to impress upon the mind wise and serious truths.” (emphasis added by me)

A candidate seeking admission to the Fraternity expresses a desire to receive the light of Masonry. Freemasonry's primary purpose is the instruction of its members in the mystical aspects of life and the attainment of a connection with the Divine. This argument gains strength when considering that the

allegories, symbols, ceremonies, and unique rituals in Freemasonry carry specific meanings and convey crucial lessons about the nature of the human soul and the Divine. While the original plan may have deviated at times, and parts of the scheme may have been lost over the years, an enduring and consistent purpose within Freemasonry remains centered on teaching the mystical aspects of life and the journey of the human soul.

Freemasonry caters to every facet of a person's character, assisting the soul in its upward journey. It welcomes all who seek the Light and rewards each person in proportion to their deserving. In this sense, Freemasonry represents a progressive discipline, and its members can be seen as seekers and strivers. They seek greater wisdom and truth to lead wise and harmonious lives in harmony with nature and humanity while aspiring to uphold the high standards of conduct presented by the Fraternity.

Much like the original lodge, which was established to construct the Temple, and the completed Temple was not the ultimate goal but rather a means to meet humanity's spiritual needs, the modern lodge is not an end. Its purpose is to construct a moral and spiritual structure that nurtures the finest qualities in individuals and serves as a place to apply moral laws and principles in everyday life.

Albert Pike's "Morals and Dogma" underscores Freemasonry as being unsuited for those with cold hearts and closed minds. He emphasizes the importance of embracing zeal and enthusiasm in the pursuit of comforting misfortune, disseminating knowledge, teaching truth in religion and philosophy, promoting respect for order and decency, showing the

path to genuine happiness, and preparing for a future where all of humanity is united in toleration and fraternity.

Pike also highlights that Masonry is a universal moral code applicable to people of every background and creed. It imparts only those truths that directly contribute to human well-being and is engaged in a mission against ignorance, intolerance, fanaticism, superstition, lack of charity, and error.

Furthermore, Pike characterizes Freemasonry as the subjugation of base human tendencies by the Divine, a continuous effort and struggle of the spiritual against the material and sensual. The ultimate victory is the conquest of appetites and passions by moral sense and reason, leading to a well-earned sense of accomplishment.

Worshipful Brother Arturo de Hoyos 33°, Grand Cross, Grand Historian, and Archivist for the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction, offers insights into esoteric Freemasonry in his lecture titled, "Esotericism is a Matter of Degrees". He ponders whether Freemasonry can truly be considered esoteric, and his reflections reveal a nuanced perspective.

De Hoyos suggests that the answer to the question of Freemasonry's esoteric nature is not a simple "yes" or "no." Esotericism generally pertains to knowledge understood by a select few with specialized expertise or interest, which aligns with aspects of Masonry. However, when examining Freemasonry on a deeper level and within a Masonic context, the concept becomes more intricate. It may involve ceremonies and rituals that hint at undisclosed truths or realities not commonly comprehended, possibly possessing a spiritual dimension.

He delves into the question of what kind of specialized knowledge is at the core of Freemasonry and whether these are genuine "secrets." The Master Mason's Degree, for instance, has been interpreted in various ways by different individuals. For some, it conveys the idea of fidelity, while others find a message of hope in the immortality of the soul. Some view it as a lesson in alchemy, while still others associate it with the discovery of entheogens. De Hoyos acknowledges that these interpretations can coexist and advises against trying to establish one as the ultimate truth.

Additionally, de Hoyos emphasizes that Freemasonry is an eclectic organization that has borrowed language

and symbols from various traditions over time. The question arises as to whether these rituals genuinely convey these concepts as "realities" or serve as tools for stimulating contemplation, or possibly a combination of both. The cautionary principle of not mistaking a symbol for the symbolized object is brought into play. De Hoyos acknowledges that in some cases, Freemasonry may have conflated symbols with realities, while in others, it might preserve remnants of different traditions. He notes that even when such elements are present, they might be only superficial layers.

We must and should emphasize the importance of equilibrium and balance in Freemasonry. There should be a harmonious coexistence of different perspectives and interpretations, analogous to a pendulum's oscillation between the left and right. Yet, why do some brethren discourage a deeper exploration of the allegories, symbols, ceremonies, and unique rituals in Freemasonry, especially when they align with our earlier concepts? Why is there apprehension about delving into these more profound studies, often labeled as esoteric teachings? This has even been referred to as the "Dark Cloud of Esotericism" harming Freemasonry.

The Dark Cloud of Esotericism?

In his book "What Masonry Means," William E. Hammond delves into the concept of Masonic Light, equating it with knowledge and darkness with ignorance. Masons value knowledge over ignorance because it brings greater freedom and empowerment. Consequently, one of Freemasonry's objectives is an ongoing pursuit of knowledge, emphasizing that education is a lifelong journey. Hammond compares this process to a child's gradual acquisition of understanding through life experiences. Even the most learned individuals recognize the limits of their knowledge, and this is evident in Masonry through the questions raised by candidates, akin to a child's curiosity. These questions can sometimes confound even the most experienced members, underscoring that knowledge still needs to be completed even for the most seasoned brethren. Regrettably, many Masons become content with the limited knowledge they possess and need to pay more attention to the importance of expanding their understanding. They often consider their Masonic education complete upon being raised, believing they have reached the pinnacle of knowledge.

Engaging in intricate ceremonies and complex rituals is purposeless if we don't endeavor to grasp their significance. If Freemasonry were merely a social club, these ceremonies would be redundant. Numerous other social clubs offer membership without such ceremonial admission processes.

Masonry's vitality and capacity to inspire and uplift diminish when its core purpose is forgotten or overshadowed by other priorities. The challenge facing Masonry today isn't rooted in esotericism but primarily in the *dark cloud of self-centeredness and egotism*. Disciplines, in any context, demand substantial effort, including patience, endurance, and sacrifice. Unsurprisingly, in Masonry and other organized disciplines, only a few individuals can meet these demands when driven solely by intrinsic motivation. Consequently, less critical concerns often overshadow the more essential values the Fraternity aims to uphold.

Contributing to this situation is appointing individuals to significant roles in Masonry who lack a genuine passion for and competence in the craft's work. These individuals pursue Masonic honors with the same self-serving attitude as they seek worldly titles. Their goal in attaining higher positions is not motivated by a sincere desire to use these positions for the greater good but to obtain self-serving distinctions. Once they achieve their objective, they cast Masonry aside, like discarding an old coat. Such individuals typically need more inclination to contribute to the actual work of Masonry actively.

This discrepancy arises from the fact that the activities in many lodges fall short of upholding the true spirit of Masonry. Suppose lodge proceedings were characterized by more extraordinary dedication and thoughtful execution, focusing more on studying our symbolic representations rather than mere spectacle and superficial conformity. In that case, the number of new members might decrease, but the number of genuine Masons worldwide would rise. Many of the profound symbols we hold dear are rarely explored within our lodges, and only a minority of our members have delved into their meanings and the profound truths they convey.

This is why many rational and intelligent men, upon joining the Craft, eventually become inactive members. It is primarily due to inherent aspects of human nature, such as the *dark cloud of self-centeredness and egotism* mentioned earlier. Upon closer examination, we

cannot attribute this phenomenon solely to our faults. Perhaps the reason lies in the way the organization's activities are conducted. Can we honestly say that the lodge's proceedings are so well-organized and enlightening that there's no valid reason for some members to be absent or for others to remain uninformed? Unfortunately, in the contemporary context, many individuals hold membership titles in Masonic organizations without genuinely embodying the principles of Masonry.

In conclusion, as Albert Pike emphasized in *Morals and Dogma*, Freemasonry is unsuited for those with cold hearts and closed minds. While there may be concerns about delving into the esoteric aspects of Freemasonry, the true challenge the Fraternity faces today lies not in esotericism but in self-centeredness and egotism. Disciplines, including Masonry, demand substantial effort, patience, endurance, and sacrifice, often challenging individuals' intrinsic motivation to meet these demands.

Greater dedication, thoughtful execution, and a deeper focus on the study of symbolic representations will rejuvenate Masonry's core purpose and increase the number of genuine Masons worldwide. We must emphasize the importance of equilibrium and balance in Freemasonry, and there should be a harmonious coexistence of different perspectives.

This reflection asks whether the dwindling participation of rational and intelligent men, once initiated into the Fraternity, can be attributed solely to personal faults or whether the way activities are conducted within the organization needs to be re-examined. In the contemporary context, many individuals hold Masonic membership titles and still need to fully embody the principles of Masonry. This realization challenges us to rekindle the spirit of Freemasonry and ensure its enduring impact on the lives of its members and the broader community. Freemasonry, as we have learned, is a profound journey toward wisdom, moral growth, and a deeper connection with the Divine, and it is a path we must continue to tread with dedication and enthusiasm.

Sylvan Lodge Retires "Old Glory"

When a U.S. flag is too tattered, too torn, or when it touches the ground it is too sacred a thing to throw away. It must be retired (ceremonially burned) so that its ashes can be returned to Mother Earth.

This is not only a story of honoring Old Glory, it is also a story of brotherhood, a coming together of multiple generations to honor those who came before us, who sacrificed their lives so that we and future generations may live free.

This year, Sylvan Lodge honored those veterans by retiring 155 flags, 147 U.S. flags, 5 Georgia flags, 3 POW flags, and by helping Scout Jackson Beck earn the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout.

A team of people came together to plan the ceremony. Scout Beck built a special ceremonial firepit for the flags to meet a requirement to become an Eagle Scout. A brother who is a Veteran agreed to preside over the ceremony so that the flags would be properly retired.

When retirement day came the weather threatened to stop the proceedings. The members of the Lodge discussed rescheduling, but this was the only date that Scout Beck could do the retirement. We decided to take a chance, and at least retire two flags. Scout Beck retired the first flag. Scout Connor retired the second flag. Scout Master Beck retired the third flag. The Members of the Lodge and the Scout Troop continued working together. Luckily, the rain stopped long enough to retire all of the flags.

Many thanks to Scout Jackson Beck and Troop 47 for the ceremonial firepit. And a hearty thanks to our

infinite creator for delaying the rain so that we could finish retiring all flags.

Thanks to Lodge Members who attended the ceremony and a special thank you to those who are veterans: Worshipful Master Sylvan Lodge James Calvin Holbrook, Jr. Warden Dean Hendson, Secretary Worshipful Brother Rodger Bowen, Jr. Deacon John Oliver, Jr. Steward Eddie Cook, Director of Works Worshipful Brother Mark Warren, Worshipful Brother Bryant Collins, Brother Frank Hall, Worshipful Brother William Kelley, Brother Jimmy Mocoy, Scout Jackson Beck, Scout Connor Beck, Scout Master Brian Beck.

God Bless America the Land We Love.

Georgia Grand Council Recognizes Long-time Donor



Dr. Wallace Mays has been a long-time contributor to Masonic Charities. Five Companions made the trip to MB Council Lodge #13 in Andersonville to recognize long time donor Dr. Wallace Mays for his generosity to CMMRF. He has lifetime donations of \$25,000 to our charity and it was felt by all that this very special Companion deserved special recognition.

At the ceremony PGM Bobby Simmons read from the book "From You to Me" by PGM Dewey H. Wollstein his selection was a poem titled "Great Masons"

We speak of great men who were Masons,
And proud of them we should be,
But praise should also be given those,
Who serve with zeal Freemasonry

We speak often of those brothers,
Whose names in history loon so bright
But should we not honor as well
Brothers who spread Masonic Light?

Let us never forget those brothers
Whose greatness belongs to the ages,
But let us also cherish those,
Who left their mark on Masonry's pages.

Raising of 88 Year-old Member



Brother Howard Farmer petitioned Grove Lodge #652 after his two grandsons were raised on Dec 10, 2022 at Grove Lodge #652. This picture represents three generations with the oldest being raised last. Left to right is Eddie Melvin Addison, Sr (which is Howard's son-in-law and a Past Master from TX), Hunter Addison (Howard's grandson and Eddie Sr's youngest son), Brother Howard Gaston Farmer, Jr, and Eddie Melvin Addison, II (Howard's other grandson, Eddie Sr's son, and Hunter's older brother).

Mount Zion Lodge # 316 Partners with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers



Mount Zion Lodge of Cumming will host its 27th annual spring barbecue fundraiser on Saturday, March 23rd. This year, the community will have an opportunity to enjoy great barbecue as well as save lives by donating blood to alleviate a shortage. As an incentive, blood donors will receive a discount toward the purchase of barbecue.

"We host a barbecue every year and have a great turnout," said Duane Olson, WM of Mount Zion. "We are very excited to have LifeSouth at our barbecue to do our part for those who may need blood."

LifeSouth and blood centers across the nation are experiencing unprecedented decline in blood donations, creating a significantly impacted blood supply. Blood supplies have been low for months. The demand for blood is critical and the need for donors is soaring.

Jack Jordan of LifeSouth added, "For 50 years, LifeSouth has provided a safe blood supply in each community we serve. The blood supply collected from our community members directly serves the needs of patients in over 100 medical facilities in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Tennessee. The blood donated here will stay in our community for local patients. Just one donation can help save up to three lives. From all of us at LifeSouth, I want to say THANK YOU to Mount Zion Lodge for helping us."

The barbecue fundraiser and blood drive will be at 6635 Little Mill Road, Cumming, GA, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 23rd

The Landrum Gavels



I asked back to when did Landrum Lodge start using this style of Gavel. Past Master Joey Wheat believes they were made by Brother Thomas Herbert Guerry Sr probably close to a 100 years ago. The Guerry, Beam, and Wheat family represent 5 generations of Landrum members. I was at an Allee Shrine Iron Knights meeting with Past Master Gary Arnold of Altamaha 227 talking about replacing the Gavels and having them turned with a solid piece of wood. Gary had a solid piece of American Walnut that was thick enough. Robert Goolsby also of Altamaha 227 volunteered to turn the wood and build a storage box. Brother Goolsby presented Worshipful Master Charles O'Neal with the Gavels at the October 20th Landrum Meeting. The Lodge can't express how grateful we are for these beautiful works of art and look forward to using them for another 100 years.

Sincerity Lodge Hosts Special Events for Children

Sincerity Lodge No. 430 recent hosted two events for the children at the Masonic Home of Georgia. One month they provided a pizza party for the children

and then followed that night up with a Movie night the following month. The children had a great time at both events. Thank you Sincerity Lodge for visiting our children!



Son of Illustrious Grand Chaplain Initiated in Amity Lodge



Wiley Gammon III, son of Wiley Gammon, Jr. who is currently serving the Illustrious Grand Council of Georgia as Grand Chaplain was recently initiated an Entered Apprentice in Amity Lodge No. 731.

Spotlight On Masonic History At Waycross Museum

By Worshipful Brother Larry Purdom

Waycross Lodge No. 305

Frank C. Folks Lodge No. 192

It isn't every day that Freemasons are invited to share their story with the community, but that's what happened to Waycross Masons who were invited by their local history museum to mount the exhibit throughout August.

In Waycross is located the Okefenokee Heritage Center, a local museum that has worked for decades to display the achievements of Swamp Country in South Georgia. One of their volunteers, Judy Kurrasch, contacted Larry Purdom, a Mason who happens to have dual membership in both of Waycross's Lodges.

"I about fell out of my chair. They said they wanted to do an exhibit on the early history of Freemasonry in Waycross and Ware County," says Purdom. "Of course I said yes!"

The result was an exhibit that was open to the public, beginning the first of August and continuing. Brothers from Waycross Lodge No. 305, F&AM, and Frank C. Folks Lodge, No. 192, F&AM, started searching in back closets and upper rooms. They found much of interest.

The exhibit was opened at a reception held the first Sunday in August and was well-attended by Masons from both lodges.

"We were thrilled when the lodges pledged full cooperation," said Ms. Carla Cornett, Director of the OHC. "We're here to tell the history of our little corner of the country and Freemasonry is definitely a part of that story."

Ware County history and Ware County Masonic History begin in the farming community of Waresboro, seven miles west of the current county seat of Waycross. The town itself began in 1825 and Waresboro Lodge No. 217 was chartered in 1857. Prominent members included several representatives of settler families who domesticated this part of the Wiregrass.

Randall McDonald was first Worshipful Master. The Lodge failed to meet during the years of the Civil War. In 1866, William B. Folks, who would later become the first physician of Waycross, was elected to the post,

followed the next year by Joseph McQuaig, another member of the Waycross founding families. Thomas Hilliard and his son Cuyler, both veterans of the Indian Wars in the area, were prominent members of first Waresboro then Waycross lodges. Thomas Hilliard's pioneer cabin has been relocated to the OHC grounds. Cuyler Hilliard would go on to found the town of Hilliard, Florida.

The last recorded meeting of Waresboro Lodge was in 1871. When the seat of government moved from Waresboro to Waycross in 1872, early Freemasons followed suit.

City fathers incorporated the new town of Waycross in 1874. One year later Waycross Lodge No. 305 was issued its charter by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, with William B. Folks again serving as WM. B. J. Walden was Senior Warden while Joseph McQuaig reprised as Junior Warden. Its early years were met with progress that mirrored progress of the growing railroad town, "where the ways crossed." The cornerstones of many important buildings were laid by brothers of Waycross Lodge. On June 4, 1890 a cornerstone was laid in the new lodge building on Plant Avenue, while on October 15, 1891 Waycross masons laid the cornerstone on the Ware County Courthouse. Later, in 1920, they would do the same at the first comprehensive high school located in the county, Wacona High School. At the present time, no one knows of the exact location on Plant Avenue where the Lodge met, but it was a center of Masonic and fraternal activity in these early years. The Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows met there. Dr. Daniel Lott, Waycross founder and dentist, had his office here.

In the early years of the 20th century, the lodge meeting place was moved from Plant Avenue to the fifth floor of Waycross's first "high rise," the Bunn Building downtown. Later, a brother of the Lodge, Scott Beaton, built a new two-story brick edifice at the intersection of Haines Avenue and Jenkins Street where he hosted offices and stores on the first floor, the second floor of which was dedicated as a Masonic Hall. In 1987 Lodge Brothers secured land and

built the current Lodge home on Carswell Avenue.

The economy of Waycross has always been anchored by the railroad, first with the (Henry) Plant system, then the Atlantic Coast Line. Around 1930 there was a strike at the railroad repair shop in Waycross. Eventually dissention invaded Waycross Lodge between members of the managerial branch of the railroad and its valued laborers. In 1930 these laborers formed a new lodge, Frank C. Folks Lodge, No. 192. In doing so, the brothers there thought to honor a fine civic citizen who had died two years prior, Dr. Frank Clingman Folks. This Folks was son of William B. Folks and was a two-term Waycross Mayor and State Senator from Waycross. A city park was named for Frank C. Folks.

Precious Masonic Memories

The exhibit allowed Masons to illustrate their principles without the misinformation found in so many sources. Placed above all the exhibits was the noted definition, "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." An aged Masonic Bible was prominently displayed and it was explained that the Holy Bible occupies a central location, literally and figuratively, in almost every North American lodge. York Rite portraits and Commandery and Royal Arch Chapter information was also illustrated. These included portraits of former High Priest Bob Gill and Past Grand Commander Tommy Marshall.

A large rendering of Master Mason George Washington looked down approvingly. And what he would have seen were histories of all three lodges. Official minutes books displayed the first meetings of Waresboro, Waycross, and Folks lodges, and provided a plethora of historic tidbits. A portrait of Waycross Mason and Past Grandmaster A. M. Knight, 1920, is displayed. Perhaps the "star of the show" was the authentic Masonic commemorative apron presented by Wakefield Lodge, Knights of Pythias, in 1882, to local Civil War veteran Captain Lemuel Johnson.

At a March visit to Waycross Lodge Grand Master Mike Kessler was apprised of the invitation to mount the display and expressed his pleasure. "I applaud the Waycross lodges for entering whole heartedly into this project for the edification of the people of Georgia and Master Masons everywhere. I encourage all Georgia Lodges to follow suit." GM Kessler is known for his love of Masonic history.

The only thing that distracted somewhat from the otherwise complete exhibit was the decision by the

two local Prince Hall Masonic Lodges not to participate. Both Prince Hall lodges share a rich history in Waycross, dating from the early years of the twentieth century. Invitations were extended, but not accepted.



Secretary Matt Sanford of Waycross Lodge No. 305, (l to r) Purdom, and J.D.Lang, Secretary of Frank C.Folks No. 192 view the 1882 commemorative apron.



The main part of the exhibit featured artifacts from Waycross Lodge, Folks Lodge, and Waresboro Lodge.

VETERANS CORNER

By Worshipful Brother Rick Conn

Brothers, several subjects have come up in the past few months that I would like to discuss this month and bring to your attention.

Concurrent Receipt has been around for several years now and all Veterans need to support Concurrent Receipt Reform. The Fleet Reserve Association is advocating for the House to pass the "Major Richard Star Act" (H.R.1282). This legislation provides concurrent receipt for service members unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries (H.R.1282, S.344). The House Armed Services Committee unanimously approved the House version (H.R.1282), sending it to the House floor for further consideration. Over two-thirds of the House and Senate are co-sponsoring the "Major Richard Star Act." If your Representative is not one of them, please encourage them to do so.

The VA is in the process of changing the schedule for Disability Evaluations. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is undergoing a major overhaul of its disability ratings criteria and how they evaluate mental health and other conditions for veterans. VA officials stated that the changes are being made to help ensure that compensation is in line with veterans' medical conditions.

The VA plans to update its Schedule for Rating Disabilities, which is its guide for determining how it evaluates and provides benefits for service-connected disabilities. Mental health conditions will now include the impact on veterans' lives and abolish the "0%" disability rating for any service-connected mental health diagnosis in favor of a 10% minimum.

For tinnitus, the VA will eliminate its stand-alone rating and consider the condition a symptom of whatever underlying disease is its cause. As for sleep apnea, ratings will be assessed based on the effectiveness of treatment and the condition's impact on "earning impairment."

The VA hopes that by changing how they assess conditions, they will ensure veterans are compensated appropriately. Eventually, veterans with mental health conditions will likely see higher disability ratings. But fewer will likely be able to receive compensation for other conditions, such as tinnitus and sleep apnea. The VA claims that veterans already receiving

compensation for these conditions will not see their ratings downgraded when the changes are implemented. Veterans who think their ratings should be upgraded based on the new criteria should file a claim with the VA.

Brothers, are you, or do you know a Veteran with a permanent and total service-connected disability? If you don't know, check it out, If you do know, you should be aware that the family members may have access to VA-covered care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA)? To help Veterans and their family members learn more about the program there is a SITREP that invited CHAMPVA's deputy director and Coast Guard Veteran Luke Davis to its podcast. In the podcast, Davis answers frequently asked questions about CHAMPVA in a series of youtube videos worth watching. What is CHAMPVA? Top three takeaways from the VA health care for Veterans families (CHAMPVA)

1. CHAMPVA is a health care benefit program for family members of Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability, provided they don't qualify for TRICARE. (TRICARE is the Department of Defense's health care program for active-duty and retired service members and their families.)
2. CHAMPVA is not an insurance policy, but it shares the cost for care and will pay as secondary to any other health insurance.
3. Family members can enroll in CHAMPVA by completing and mailing a CHAMPVA application form and other Health Insurance certification form.

CHAMPVA can also be used outside the U.S. Top two points from using CHAMPVA when traveling overseas:

1. CHAMPVA provides the same benefits if you live or travel overseas. Deductibles and cost shares are the same as if you were in the U.S. Claim payments are made in U.S. dollars.
2. You may have to pay up front for your services, but you will be reimbursed once your claim has been approved.

What Doctors and/or Service providers can you see when using CHAMPVA?

Three highlights from who can you see with CHAMPV.

1. Because CHAMPVA doesn't have in-network providers, family members can see their regular providers and specialists as long as they accept CHAMPVA payment
2. methods.
3. Providers who accept TRICARE or Medicare are more likely to honor CHAMPVA.
4. Family members are encouraged to reach out to their providers and find out if they accept CHAMPVA.

Brothers I encourage all to check on this. For more information you can call 800-733-8387, Monday through Friday from 8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET for more information about CHAMPVA. You can also view the CHAMPVA fact sheet or visit the CHAMPVA website. Go the va.gov website and in the search box type CHAMPVA and it will bring up all you need to know with forms to download and file. It covers CHAMPVA resources including: CHAMPVA eligibility, CHAMPVA fact sheet, and how to apply for CHAMPVA. For a shortcut you can go to the website listed here:

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva/champva-eligibility.asp>

Brothers, I hope all of you are using the My Healthevet website for your health care needs? It is a good way to keep up with your appointments, check your records, order your medications Rx by mail, and talk to your PCP nurse between appointments. I encourage all to sign up for this and use it. Create a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account if you haven't yet done so.

Both of these accounts meet modern security standards. They encrypt your data at two levels so only you can access and change your stored information. Both **Login.gov** and **ID.me** let you use a single, secure account to access your VA benefits, services and information. You can also use your **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account to manage some other government benefits and services (like Social Security benefits).

Login.gov is a U.S. government account provider. **ID.me** is a private account provider that partners with the U.S. government.

If you use your My HealtheVet or DS Logon username and password to access VA apps or the My HealtheVet portal, now is the time to switch to a Login.gov or ID.me.

Brothers, there is a program in Georgia that all veterans need to know about. The Georgia Veterans Service Foundation Inc. GVSF for short is a federal 501c(3) non-profit organization established in an effort to help our community partners better meet the needs of Georgia's veteran population.

Our partners are working on the front lines to serve veterans and their families. It is our goal to be able to share funding with a variety of organizations that provide dozens of services to veterans living in Georgia.

The GVSF works to distribute funds raised through the Foundation to thoroughly vetted and trustworthy community partners that are already well-established in local communities across the state. The GVSF is able to provide this supplemental help to its community partners through the generous gifts of individuals, families, organizations and businesses who share our passion and commitment to veteran service members.

To learn more about this program go to the website below to see if it can benefit you or your family.

<https://veterans.georgia.gov/about-us/veterans-service-foundation>



Carl H. Crews
Sylvania #301



Glen R. Walding
Sylvania #301



John M. Popham, Jr.
Clarkesville #325



Spencer Mercer



Wayne Duncan
Palmetto #74



David Jacobs
Palmetto #74



Loyd A. O'Bryant
Ducktown #572



Warren H. Ridley
Etowah #222



William Eason
Benevolent #3



Thomas Smith
Benevolent #3



John L. Dallas
Tucker #42



Bill P. Kendall
Stephens #414



James C. Peebles
Stephens #414



Leon White
Murrayville #30



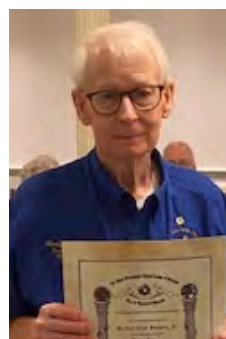
Johnny Cronan
Sharptop #680



Thomas L. Estes
Ducktown #572



John Lindsey
Benevolent #3



Herbert C. Hughes, Jr.
Cordelia #296



Willie A. Beam
Zingara #519



Gary Fincher
East Floyd #728



Harold D. Culpepper
Hamilton #16



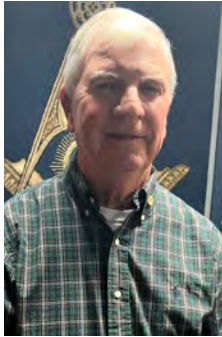
William E. Tatum
Hamilton #16



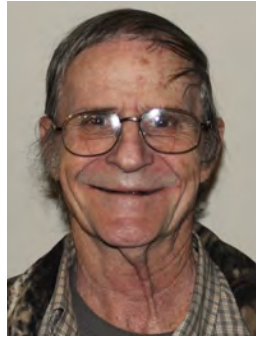
Jimmy R. Wright
Chipley #40



Arthur H. Ellis, Jr.
Moultrie #381



James C. Smith
Palmetto DL #755



Gregory A. Bowlden
Davidson #334



Jackie D. Lowe
Davidson #334



Preston Foskey
Millikens Creek #302



Orville T. Jones
Mountain Park #729



Franklin A. Cowart
Ducktown #572



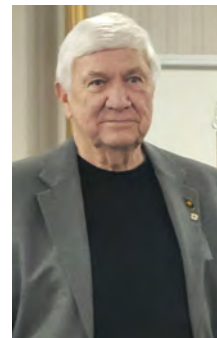
Jimmy C. Davis, Jr.
Doerun #151



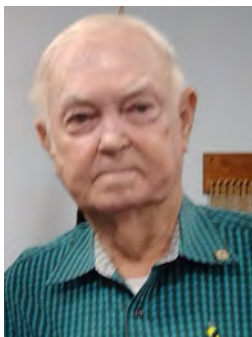
Norman D. Hager
Rex #251



Lowell M. Bush, Jr.
Buchanan #78



William J. Kiser
Toccoa #309



James L. Hurst Jr
Buford #292



Louis M. Lovin
Auburn #230



Danny L. Bailey
Martinez #710



Robert E. Pledger
Alpine #211



Willard C. Townsend
Mountain Park #729



Philip L. Henson
Sylvan #429



Donald Davis
John H. Jones #348



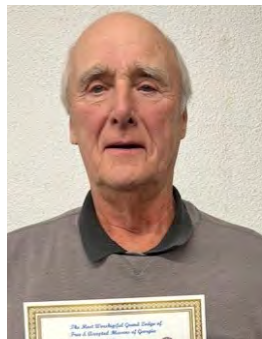
George R. Smith
Marshall #188



Robert F. Greenberg
Sandy Springs #124



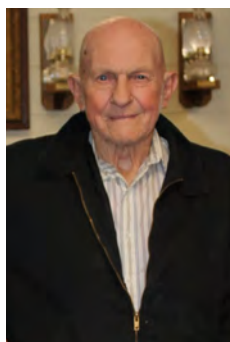
George K. Bennett
Ogeechee #213
55 Years



Ledford C. Smith
Nancy Hart #690
55 Years



Charlie P. Underwood
Pine Level #353



Lewis Flood
Eton #509



Charles Burkhardt
Quitman #106



Kenneth F. Shadrix
Buck Creek #639



Johnny Fields
Hudson #294



Marvin A. Jackson
Hamilton #16



George L. Robinson
Thomasville #369



Henry Mathis
Gibson #257
65 Years



Harold L. Moss
Madison #376
65 Years

In Memoriam

Members Reported
Deceased December 2,
2023 to February 1, 2024

Hilliard, Robert Donald	1	Cash, Hal Lee	78	Warr Jr., Robert Alpheus	204
Mathis, Robert Eugene	1	Currie, William Thomas	81	Foster, Blair Donald	212
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Herndon, James Marion	5	Winstead, Charles William	90	Taylor, Robert Allen	220
Autry, Michael Douglas	6	Bell, Glenn Curtis	92	Mangrum Jr., Charles Lee	221
Helm, Donald Dean	6	Raper, Douglas Ralph	92	Hendricks Sr., Carl Lafayette	231
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Pritchett, Horace Rowland	18	Deaton, Billy Ray	103	Freeman, William Harold	251
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Johnson, Charles Ward	25	Hunter, John Edwin	109	Johnson, Joe Bennie	255
Burgess, George Clayton	27	Watson Jr., Roy Herman	111	Shurling, Jack Helton	256
Knight, Bobby Eugene	28	Collins, Calvin Eugene	114	Smith, Charles Randall	256
Sellers, Leon Jackson	28	Temples, Wesley Lamar	115	Waldroup, John Jefferson	259
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Hawkins, Harry Elbert	35	Tillery, Jeffery Scott	121	Ashe, Tracy Leroy	268
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Winecoff, Kelly MacK	42	Ethridge Sr., Joseph Doyle	139	Marsh, Richard Howard	274
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Grotheer Jr., Martin George	46	Shirley, Marion Eugene	165	Ross Jr., Thurman Cecil	279
Burke, Johnny MacK	53	Klingenfus, Emil John	166	Bryan, Clarence Sibley	288
Smith, Raiford Lee	53	Eassey, Robert Ellis	171	Huiet III, Ben Tillman	288
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Harris, Reefas Watson	59	Sutton, James Daniel	190	Deroeck III, Leonard Edward	292
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Harper Sr., Richard Eugene	74	Aiken, Clifford Milton	200	Yancy, William Thomas	292
Morrison Jr., Harley Hershell	74	Bryant, David Wayne	200	Bennett, George Terence	294
Couey, Bobby Clyde	75	Ross, Jimmy Dale	200	Murray, Robert Thomas	294
Allen, Harry Bradford	77	Hampton, Bobby Gene	204	Wilson, Walter Leon	294

In Memoriam

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Deceased December 2,
2023 to February 1, 2024

Hall, Carl David	298	Pruitt Sr., John Wesley	434	Johnston, James Keith	590
Marshall, Harold Eddie	299	Turpin, Henry Lamar	443	Long, William Earl	590
Nation, Ralph Alvin	300	Nash, Charles Andrew	449	Berry, Chris Allen	591
Brooks, Francis Marion	304	La Roche Sr., William Calvin	452	Brunson, David Oswald	591
Streat, Jerry Franklin	305	Horne, James Herbert	454	Cotton Jr., Charles Lafayette	591
Blankenship, Ronald William	306	McGrew, Herbert Lee	454	Faircloth, James Kenneth	591
Stephens, William Roy	323	Milam, Robert Eugene	455	Watson Jr., Lester Bunyan	591
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Thomason Jr., Paul William	333	Sweatt Sr., Robert Carleton	476	Temples, Ronnie Joe	595
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Jacks, Johnny Morris	364	Dickerson, Michael Claude	491	Fuller, Wilmer Carlos	639
Hill Sr., Ronald Guy	367	Kirby, Gerald Eugene	509	Gable, Danny Ralph	639
Hatcher Jr., Marvin Williford	369	Dingler, Edward Clark	511	Hambrick, Jack Daniel	652
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Crews, Dettra Fulton	391	Griggs, James Lee	537	Vaughn, James Donald	690
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Seckinger, Earl Eugene	428	Hatfield, Doyle Ray	586	McMonigle, Dee Everett	709
Starley, Robert Earl	430	Hendricks, Hewlett Moran	586	Vernon, Christopher Lee	709
Wells, Buford Alvin	430	Kierbow Jr., John Elzie	586	Weatherford, Ralph Franklin	709
Etheridge, Donnis Randall	433	Ingram, Billy Joe	590	Bryant Jr., Pascal	710

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Chandler, Thomas Buford	711	Byers, Charles Phillip	720	Williamson, Pullen Rux	729
Bush, Jessie Norman	716	Smith Sr., Sherrill Kemp	720	Dubois Jr., Ralph Kenneth	730
Copeland, Vernon Avery	717	Thomas Jr., John Broadus	720	Acree, Robert Clinton	734
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		Galate Jr., Charles Veto	5000		



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)