

# Masonic Messenger



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

Winter 2024



Most Worshipful Grand Master  
**Mark Bradley and Lady Gay**

*Wish You a Happy Holidays*

Grand Lodge Officers

|                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Grand Master         | Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)          |
| Deputy Grand Master  | Bill Shepard (717, 214)            |
| Senior Grand Warden  | Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)    |
| Junior Grand Warden  | Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)             |
| Grand Treasurer      | Jeffery L. Anderson (200, 376, 06) |
| Grand Secretary      | Van S. McGee (26, 70)              |
| Grand Chaplain       | Douglas A. Koschel (711, 36)       |
| Grand Marshal        | Wiley A. Gammon, Jr. (729)         |
| Grand Orator         | Johnie M. Garmon (114, 137, 753)   |
| Senior Grand Deacon  | Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)         |
| Junior Grand Deacon  | Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)      |
| First Grand Steward  | W. David Baxter (35)               |
| Second Grand Steward | Jeff L. Smith (131, 216)           |
| Third Grand Steward  | Paul Carter (70)                   |
| Grand Tyler          | Lucien T. Hays (36, 766, 294)      |

Publications

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Editor of the Messenger  | Daniel P. Bennett (364,154)<br>728 Bough Mountain Rd. NW<br>Sugar Valley, GA 30746<br>Email: messenger@glofga.org<br>770-608-6232 |
| Chairman of Publications | Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)   |

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# THE GEORGIA MASONIC MESSENGER

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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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Brevitas: It is your responsibility to make certain your address is correct.  
 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

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## 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 2025 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.

# 2025 District Conventions

| <u>District</u> | <u>Date</u>        | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u>                     | <u>Host Lodge</u>           |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st District    | March 22, 2025     | 10:00AM     | Statesboro                          | Ogeehee Lodge No. 213       |
| 2nd District    | February 22, 2025  | 9:00AM      | Bainbridge                          | Orion Lodge No. 8           |
| 3rd District    | March 15, 2025     | 10:00AM     | Dawson                              | P.T. Schley Lodge No. 229   |
| 4th District    | August 16, 2025    | 9:45AM      | Greenville Lodge No. 321            | Sylvan Lodge No. 429        |
| 5th District    | September 13, 2025 | 9:00AM      | College Park                        | College Park Lodge No. 454  |
| 6th District    | May 3, 2025        | 9:00AM      | Griffin @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26 | Davidson Lodge No. 334      |
| 7th District    | May 9 & 10, 2025   | 9:00AM      | Rome                                | Cherokee Lodge No. 66       |
| 8th District    | May 17, 2025       | 9:00AM      | Danielsville                        | John H. Jones Lodge No. 348 |
| 9th District    | September 27, 2025 | 9:00AM      | Gainesville                         | Gainesville Lodge No. 219   |
| 10th District   | June 14, 2025      | 10:00AM     | Milledgeville                       | Benevolent Lodge No. 3      |
| 11th District   | September 20, 2025 | 10:00AM     | Blackshear                          | Blackshear Lodge No. 270    |
| 12th District   | April 19, 2025     | 9:00AM      | Eastman                             | Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279  |

## **ANNUAL ELECTIONS**

**Code Section 28-104:** Immediately after each annual election of officers, the Master of each Lodge shall cause the Secretary to report to the Grand Secretary the results of said election with the names of the officers elected.

It is very important immediately after the December elections (not after installation of Officers) the results are entered into Grand View. Please provide phone numbers and email addresses for Worshipful Master's and Secretaries and how you want information to be listed in the Georgia List of Lodges Digital Publication. All Lodge Officers must be entered into the election return with their contact information, including email addresses. Grand View allows the Secretary of each lodge to choose the mailing address for where he wants Lodge mail to be delivered. This information can be entered under Lodge Settings, then go to Lodge Contact Information. Remember all election returns must be entered on or before Friday, December 27, 2024.

## **MONTHLY CLOSEOUTS**

On the first day of each month the Monthly Closeout of the preceding month must be completed. Remember, closeouts are in lieu of paper monthly reports which are no longer necessary to submit if you are properly using Grand View.

## **2025 GRAND MASTER FORUMS**

The Grand Lodge Forums will be held as follows:

January 18<sup>th</sup> – Registration 8 AM/Start 9 AM:  
Savannah – Scottish Rite Building  
Macon – Grand Chapter Building  
Cedartown – Caledonia Lodge No. 121  
Cordele – 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church, 306 E 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Registration 8 AM/Start 9 AM:  
Augusta – Scottish Rite Building  
Atlanta – Atlanta Masonic Center  
Greenville – Greenville Lodge No. 321  
Gainesville – Gainesville Lodge No. 219

# Code Bill Results

## For the 238th Communication

### of the

## Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM

| <u>Code Bill</u> | <u>Subject</u>                         | <u>Result</u>      |
|------------------|--|--------------------|
| 2024-1           | Grand Lodge Meeting Date               | Failed             |
| 2024-2           | Trial Commissioners                    | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-3           | EA or FC – Appendant Bodies            | Passed             |
| 2024-4           | Virtual Dues Card                      | Passed             |
| 2024-5           | Cipher to Each Lodge                   | Failed             |
| 2024-6           | Trial Commission Training              | Passed             |
| 2024-7           | SUS Member – Charter Arrested          | Passed             |
| 2024-8           | Chargers Against Sitting Master        | Passed             |
| 2024-9           | Withdrawal of Petitions                | Passed             |
| 2024-10          | Masonic Burials                        | Passed             |
| 2024-11          | Superintendent/Executive Director      | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-12          | Homosexuality                          | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-13          | Withdrawn                              | Withdrawn          |
| 2024-14          | Classes of Punishment                  | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-15          | Forfeit Membership in Appendant Bodies | Failed             |
| 2024-16          | Online Banking                         | Withdrawn          |
| 2024-17          | Past Master Emblems                    | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-18          | Past Masters Collar                    | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-19          | Spending Policy                        | Failed             |
| 2024-20          | Endowment Fund Pledging                | Failed             |
| 2024-21          | Per Capita Increase                    | Passed             |
| 2024-22          | Custodian Chairman                     | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-23          | GL Nominations Required                | Ruled Out of Order |
| 2024-24          | Cipher Code Copies                     | Ruled Out of Order |



**REPORT OF  
THE CHARTERS AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A.M.

Your Charters and By-Laws Committee met in Macon on September 16, 2024, for the purpose of receiving all By-Laws amendments and other items which had been received since the 237th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge to be approved at the 238th Annual Communication.

This report is the result of the Committee's work on September 16, 2024, and will be given at this Grand Lodge Session.

We recommend that the following amendments to the by-laws be approved as amended.

|                     |                       |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Benevolent No. 3    | Mableton No. 171      | Palestine No. 486                 |
| Latham No. 12       | Trenton No. 179       | Mansfield No. 489                 |
| Zerubbabel No. 15   | Carnesville No. 186   | Inman Creek No. 491               |
| Mt. Vernon No. 22   | Folkston No. 196      | Newington No. 486                 |
| Morning Star No. 27 | A. J. Miller No. 206  | Battle Hill No. 523               |
| Rising Sun No. 32   | Marble Hill No. 207   | Elm City No. 544                  |
| Houston No. 35      | Rex No. 251           | Ducktown No. 572                  |
| Fraternal No. 37    | Draketown No. 252     | E. W. Hightower No.<br>679        |
| Palmetto No. 74     | Mabel No. 255         | Sharptop No. 680                  |
| Cohutta No. 64      | Blackshear No. 270    | Crawford No. 689                  |
| Dawson No. 68       | Eugene Smith No. 279  | Martinez No. 710                  |
| Goshen No. 71       | Buford No. 292        | Morrow No. 734                    |
| Seminole No. 83     | Mount Hermon No. 304  | Emerson No. 738                   |
| Stonewall No. 98    | Coosawattee No. 306   | James E. Sledge                   |
| Snellville No. 99   | John H. Jones No. 348 | Daylight No. 742                  |
| Dalton No. 105      | Thomasville No. 369   | Clarence H. Cohen                 |
| Quitman No. 106     | Guyton No. 428        | Daylight No. 749                  |
| Oostanaula No. 113  | Dacula No. 433        | 12 <sup>th</sup> Masonic District |
| Trion No. 160       | Mineral Bluff No. 483 |                                   |

We recommend that the following amendments be returned.

Holmesville Lodge No. 195

Fraternally Submitted,

Donald C. Combs, PGM  
Chairman  
Frank F. Baker Lodge  
No. 46

Jan M. Giddens, PGM  
Kennesaw Lodge No. 33

Michael A. Kessler,  
PGM  
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Keith Hales, PM  
Pickens Star Lodge No.  
220

Philip E. Harris, Sr., PM  
Rose Hill Lodge No.  
484

Tom Bell, PM  
Hamilton Lodge No. 5

**FINAL REPORT OF  
THE CHARTERS AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A.M.

Your Charters and By-Laws Committee met in Macon on October 21, 2024, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> review of By-Laws amendments and other items which had been received, since the September 16, 2024, committee meeting, to be approved at the 238th Annual Communication.

This report is the result of the Committee's work on October 21, 2024, and will be given at this Grand Lodge Session.

We recommend that the following amendments to the by-laws be approved as amended.

Kennesaw Lodge No. 33  
Draketown Lodge No. 252  
Stilesboro Lodge No. 260  
Hazelhurst Lodge No. 283  
Sweet Gum Lodge No. 542

Fraternally Submitted,

Donald C. Combs, PGM  
Chairman  
Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46

Michael A. Kessler, PGM  
Fulton Lodge No. 216

Philip E. Harris, Sr., PM  
Rose Hill Lodge No. 484

Jan M. Giddens, PGM  
Kennesaw Lodge No. 33

Keith Hales, PM  
Pickens Star Lodge No. 220

Tom Bell, PM  
Hamilton Lodge No. 58



# From the Desk of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mark A. Bradley



It is with profound gratitude, humility, and a deep sense of purpose that I accept the great honor of being elected as Grand Master of Masons in Georgia. This represents not just an achievement for me personally, but a reflection of our shared commitment to the values

and ideals that define who we are as Masons and as a larger community. I take on this responsibility with a clear vision—one rooted in the traditions that have shaped us, but also one that looks forward to how we can continue to grow, evolve, and make a lasting impact in the world. The path ahead is filled with opportunities and challenges, and with unity, purpose, and brotherly love, we will rise to meet the occasion together.

One of the cornerstones of our fraternity is brotherly love—a bond that binds us to one another, regardless of our backgrounds, beliefs, or walks of life. This principle, however, is not confined to the walls of the lodge or to Masons alone. It is a guiding light for how we interact with the world.

As we look around, we see a world that often feels divided; with fear, misunderstanding, and conflict pushing us apart. It is in these moments that our duty to extend brotherly love to all people becomes most important. For love that is confined to a small circle is incomplete; true brotherly love embraces everyone, regardless of their affiliations, their beliefs, or their circumstances.

As Masons, let us challenge ourselves to be beacons of kindness and understanding, not just to our brethren but to everyone we encounter. In doing so, we will not only live up to the highest ideals of our craft but also become living examples of what it means to build a better, more compassionate society.

Education is another pillar upon which our fraternity is built. As Grand Master, I will be committed to advancing this cause. Knowledge is the foundation upon which wisdom is built, and without it, we cannot hope to guide our communities, our families, or ourselves.

But education is not simply the pursuit of facts and figures. It is about cultivating an open mind and a thirst for understanding. It is about challenging ourselves to look deeper into the complexities of life and to strive for clarity in a world that often feels chaotic.

We must encourage the advancement of education, not only within our lodges but also in the broader community. Let us promote learning in every form, supporting those who seek to expand their minds and enrich their lives. Whether through mentorship, scholarships, or simply by being role models, let us ensure that we leave a legacy of knowledge and wisdom for future generations.

Finally, I believe that our responsibility to the community is as vital as our responsibility to one another. A lodge that exists only for its members is a lodge that is failing in its greater mission. We are called to be engaged citizens, to take an active role in improving the world around us.

This means lending a helping hand to those in need, standing up for justice, and working to make our neighborhoods stronger and more vibrant. It means recognizing that we are part of something larger than ourselves—a community of people with diverse needs, hopes, and dreams. As Grand Master, I will work tirelessly to foster initiatives that connect us more deeply to our communities, not just in words but in actions.

My brethren, the honor of being elected as your Grand Master is one that I do not take lightly. I am committed to serving with integrity, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to the principles that guide our fraternity. Together, we will strengthen the bonds of brotherly love, champion the cause of education, and deepen our engagement with the community.

Now let us embark on this journey together, united in purpose, and committed to building a future that reflects the highest ideals of Freemasonry. The road ahead is bright, and I'm confident that, united as one, we will continue to "Let our Light Shine".

Thank you and God Bless Freemasonry!



## GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD

As a part of a focused commitment to membership engagement, we are pleased to present the Golden Trowel Award. The Golden Trowel Award was developed by Brunswick Lodge No 717 to recognize newly raised Master Masons who worked diligently to engage in the activities of their lodge, their district, and Freemasonry during their first year in our fraternity.

Each participant shall be required to complete several courses via the Grand Lodge of Georgia Masonic Education and Leadership Development (MELD) program, as well as complete a personal Masonic journey through other avenues of the fraternity. Once a candidate has fulfilled the requirements, he should submit the application to his Worshipful Master, who will then forward it to the District Deputy to the Grand Master for review and submission.

### Core Requirements

Completion of the Six Masonic MELD Courses available on Grand View under resources. (Masonic Code, Etiquette, History, Masonic Manual, Rules of Order, and Symbolism) These can be completed by hand and mailed in to your Sub-District MELD Director or emailed to him, attaching copies to this application.

### Mandatory Requirements

An applicant for the award MUST complete ALL six of the following:

1. Attend at least 6 Stated Meetings of your home lodge.
2. Attend at least one meeting of another lodge in your sub-district.
3. Attend at least one Sub-district Officers Meeting.
4. Register on Grand View.
5. Attend at least one Blue Lodge School of Instruction.
6. Be the first-line signer on a petition for membership in your lodge.

### Voluntary Requirements

An applicant for the award must complete seven of the following:

1. Participate in a degree conferred by your lodge.
2. Be the first-line signer on a petition for membership in your lodge (in addition to the mandatory requirement).
3. Serve as welcome greeter for one of your lodge's Stated Meetings.
4. Contact a brother who has not attended lodge in the last six months and invite him to accompany you to the next Stated Meeting.
5. Assume responsibility for arranging a Masonic Education program for your lodge. This may be done by you or by someone else via your invitation, with prior approval of the Worshipful Master.
6. Serve on the investigating committee of at least one new petitioner.
7. Assist a widow, or brother, with the completion of a small home project.
8. Assist or visit a sick, shut-in, or hospitalized Lodge brother or widow with other Lodge members, or take part in a committee to send cards, or make phone calls to shut-in members.
9. Attend a Called Meeting of your home lodge.
10. Assist in at least one of your lodge's fellowship events.
11. Attend an Official Visitation of the DDGM within your sub-district (other than your home lodge).
12. Assist in a fundraising event held by your lodge.
13. Assist the secretary or other members in contacting members in danger of suspension to discuss with them what you believe to be the benefits of their Masonic membership.

## GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD APPLICATION

A three-part program of Education/Engagement/Fellowship for newly raised Master Masons

**Part 1:** Complete the Six Masonic MELD Courses available online. (Masonic Code, Etiquette, History, Masonic Manual, Rules of Order, and Symbolism) Attach copies on course completion to this application.

**Part 2:** Complete the Six Mandatory Requirements

**Part 3:** Complete Seven Voluntary Requirements

To qualify for the Golden Trowel Award, the newly made Master Mason must satisfactorily complete Part 1 through the internet-based learning programs provided through the Grand Lodge of Georgia MELD and fulfill mandatory and voluntary requirements as required in Parts 2 and 3 within one year of being raised.

### Mandatory Requirements

1. Attend at least 6 Stated Meetings of your home lodge. Dates: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Attend at least one meeting of another lodge in your sub-district. Date and Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Attend at least one Sub-district Officers Meeting. Date and Location: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Register on Grandview.
5. Attend at least one Blue Lodge School of Instruction. Date and Location: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Be the first-line signer on a petition for membership in your lodge. Name of Petitioner: \_\_\_\_\_

### Voluntary Requirements (minimum of seven)

1. Participate in a degree conferred by your lodge. Date/Degree/Part: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Be the first-line signer on a petition for membership in your lodge (in addition to mandatory requirement). Name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Serve as greeter for one of your lodge's Stated Meetings. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Contact a brother who has not attended lodge in the last six months and invite him to accompany you to the next Stated Meeting. Brothers Name: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Assume responsibility for arranging a Masonic Education program for your lodge. This may be done by you or by someone else by your invitation with prior approval of the Worshipful Master. Date and program: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Serve on the investigating committee of at least one new petitioner. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Assist a widow, or brother, with the completion a small home project. Date and project: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Assist or visit a sick, shut-in, or hospitalized Lodge brother or widow with other Lodge members, or take part in a committee to send cards, or make phone calls to shut-in members. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Attend a Called Meeting of your home lodge. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Assist in at least one of your lodge's fellowship events. Date and event: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Attend an Official Visitation of the DDGM within your sub-district. Date and Place: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Assist in a fund-raising event held by your lodge. (If applicable) Date and event: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Assist the Secretary or other members in contacting members in danger of suspension to discuss with them what you believe to be the benefits of their Masonic membership. Details: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                     |                       |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                     |                       |                             |
| Member Name/Number                  | Lodge Name and Number | Date Raised as Master Mason |
|                                     |                       |                             |
| District Deputy to the Grand Master | Date                  | Worshipful Master           |
|                                     |                       |                             |
|                                     | Date                  | Date                        |



**2025 Grand Lodge of Georgia  
Lodge of the Year  
Program**

**Mark A. Bradley, Grand Master**

## 2025 LODGE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Our continued purpose with the Grand Lodge of Georgia “Lodge of the Year” program is to provide the following:

1. Involve all Masonic Lodges across Georgia in the common goals of creating better attendance, more participation from their membership, good fellowship, and at the same time encourage a heightened awareness of the advantages of an increased involvement with the programs of the Grand Lodge, the Districts and Sub-Districts of Georgia.
2. Become aware of the advantages of being visible in our communities and the satisfaction of community service.
3. Improve ourselves with the educational and training topics that are presented in each Sub-District by our Masonic Education and Leadership Team.
4. Recognize those Lodges that elect to participate.

There will be awards to Lodges as follows:

1. One Lodge from each Masonic District will be selected from those participating and will be awarded a special plaque designating that Lodge as the District Lodge of the Year.
2. One Lodge, selected from those participating, will be awarded the Georgia Masonic Lodge of the Year. The Lodge will receive a special plaque designating them as the “2024-2025 Lodge of the Year”, as well as the Grand Master’s Cup, to be placed in the Lodge for one year after which time it will be returned for presentation to the next recipient.

Please have the completed form in the hands of your District Deputy no later than September 5, 2025. Lodges may count points for activities dating back to September 1, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE: Questions regarding this program should be directed to your District Deputy. DO NOT call the Grand Secretary’s Office with Lodge of the Year Questions.

# 2025 LODGE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

All entries are due by 5 pm on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Section I. Lodge Information **(5 points for on-time completed submission)**

Submission Date *(Required)* \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Submitter Name *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_

This should be completed by one of the three principal officers.

Lodge Name & No. *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_

Total Membership *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_

Email *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Section II: Membership and Administrative

Number of Master Masons Raised *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_ **(5 points per new member)**

Number of Restored Members *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_ **(10 points per restored member)**

From September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Members Registered in Grand View *(Required)* \_\_\_\_\_

The Lodge Secretary will have this information. The goal is 65 percent of membership being registered.  
**(2 points for every 5 percent of membership registered)**

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section III. Notable Events: Select All that Apply (2 points for each selected)**

- Lodge member communication (email, text group, website, etc.)
- Establish a Lodge budget and present it to the Lodge
- 3 members, including 2 officers, attend a Masonic Education Course
- Host a Masonic Education Course at your Lodge
- Have a speaker present a program on the Masonic Code
- Have a speaker present a program on Lodge or Grand Lodge History
- Have a speaker present a program on area history
- Have a speaker on Perpetual Membership
- Have a meeting celebrating the Festival of St. John the Baptist
- Have a meeting celebrating St. John the Evangelist
- 4 members attend a mass meeting (Ynot, Rock Quarry, Tri-State, etc.)
- Hold a fundraiser with proceeds going to the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation
- At least 3 attend Masonic Home or Camp workday
- At Least 3 members assist another Lodge in Conferral of a Degree
- Maintain contact with Masonic Widows (Cards, calls, gifts, etc.)
- Worshipful Master sends welcome letters to new Members
- Assign mentors to new Masons in addition to Catechism coaches
- Secretary's monthly closeout completed on time
- 3 Lodge officers attend officers association meetings
- Hold a joint meeting with another Lodge
- Have a Lodge clean-up day (At least 4 members)
- 4 members including 2 officers visit another Lodge
- All 50 Year Awards presented at time due
- Have a special meeting to honor Past Masters
- Have an open family night meeting with a speaker
- Host a family outing outside of the Lodge (picnic, ballgame, movie, etc.)
- 4 members including 2 officers attend District Convention
- 4 members attend School of Instruction (at least 3 meetings)
- At least 2 Past Masters attended last Grand Lodge Communication
- 4 members including 2 officers attend a Grand Master's Forum
- Lodge Officer's practice at least once a month
- Retrieve a Traveling Gavel

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section IV. Community Engagement (2 points for each selected)**

- Support a local school with an event such as the "backpack program."
- Member of Lodge speak to a civic group about Masonry
- Sponsor or Co-sponsor a Blood Drive
- Sponsor or Co-Sponsor a GACHIP
- Assist a Widow or shut-in during the Masonic year (Yard Work, repairs, etc.)
- Lodge sponsored community youth activities (Little League Team, etc.)
- Host a Teacher of the Year event (singular event)
- Host a Civil Servant of the Year event (singular event)
- Participate in a Parade as a Lodge
- Have a booth at a local festival or fair

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BONUS 50 POINTS (Must provide printed event program)**

**Hold an Annual Public Lodge Officer Installation Ceremony in conjunction with an Awards Night/Family Night that includes the following:**

**"First Responder of the Year"**

**"Educator of the Year"**

**"Citizen of the Year"**

**Section V. Masonic Education (5 points for each participant)**

**Georgia Masonic Leadership Conference**

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section VI. Masonic Charity (5 points for each donation)**

**Donations to Local Charities (list separately)**

**Donations to Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation (includes Children's Home)**

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section VII. Qualification Essay (20 points)**

**Essay** – On another page, explain in detail why your Lodge should be considered as the 2025 Georgia Lodge of the Year



**2025 Grand Lodge of Georgia  
Community Engagement Award  
Program**

**Mark A. Bradley, Grand Master**



## **Grand Lodge of Georgia**

### **Community Engagement Award Program**

At one time, Masons were the go-to and backbone in the community. The Grand Lodge of Georgia Community Engagement Award program is designed to get Masons in Georgia active in their communities. In doing so, a Community Needs Assessment survey will get us off on the right foot. An assessment has been created and is attached for you to use for this purpose.

Here are some suggestions to complete a community needs assessment:

- Define the scope and goals for the community needs assessment
- Identify stakeholders and the target audience and outreach methods
- Establish the date you need for further analysis
- Find community needs assessment tools
  - Online surveys
  - Individual observations
  - Be transparent about goals
- Once complete, analyze, report, and act

The Key Goal is to capture as many diverse surveys from different stake holders.

When you identify your plan, it is recommended that you partner with your local Family Connection or other organizations in your community. You may also check with your local county government or city government, which is suggested to complete a comprehensive community engagement plan every five years. In this plan are answered questions that align with a community needs assessment.

To apply for this annual award, submit to the Grand Lodge of Georgia office a complete list of all community related activities your lodge has been involved in, including the number of hours that lodge members invested serving your community, no later than September 15, 2025. The service dates are from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025. This can be done by mail to 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201 or by email at [gsec@glofga.org](mailto:gsec@glofga.org)

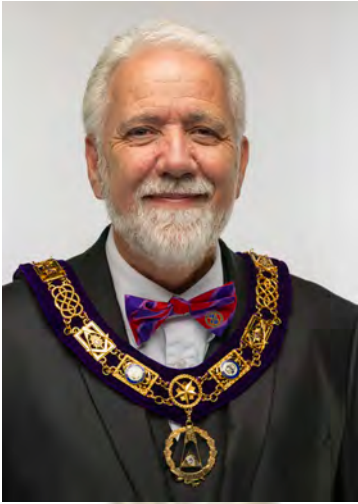
Proposed suggestions for Community Engagement Award Program:

- Member of the Lodge speaks at a local civic and/or Church group about Masonry.
- Lodge holds an event at the Lodge where the community is invited.
- Have a public meeting celebrating St. John the Baptist.
- Have a public meeting celebrating St. John the Evangelist.
- Sponsor a blood drive.
- Sponsor a GACHIP Event.
- Present a Masonic historical lecture to a civic organization.
- Sponsor a public 911 ceremony.
- Have a public family night at the Lodge Hall with a program.
- Recognition of Eagle Scouts.
- Lodge sponsors an activity for local youth.
- Lodge has a family event outside of the Lodge.
- Have a public celebration in recognition of your Lodge's birthday.
- Partner with another organization serving the local community.
- Have a Lodge meeting that promotes Masonic membership. Invite men to attend who are: suspended brethren, demitted brethren, unaffiliated brethren, and non-masons.
- Participate in community-based holiday parades (invite Shriners).
- Publish Masonic awareness/educational articles in local news forums.
- Sponsor a booth with Masonic literature at local festivals.
- Volunteer at local elderly care facilities.
- Participate in a school-based mentoring program.
- Support, engage, and partner with ROTC/JROTC programs.

Community Needs Assessment  
Survey Questions

1. What is the single greatest need in our community?
2. What current Youth Service programs benefit our community?
3. Which Youth Service programs are lacking in our community?
4. What are the unmet needs in our community?
5. What is the biggest strength/asset in our community?
6. What do you think could be done to improve the quality of life in our community?
7. What do you think could be done to make your community more appealing and a more desirable place to live?
8. What is one “short-term goal” that our community could reasonably accomplish and what would you suggest that we do to accomplish this goal?
9. What is one “long-term goal” that our community could reasonably accomplish and what would you suggest that we do to accomplish that goal?

# Introducing the Most Worshipful Grand Master of all Masons in Georgia Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley



Most Worshipful Brother Mark Bradley was born in Tampa, Florida on September 4, 1962. His family moved to Georgia when MW Brother Mark was very young so he has always considered himself a Georgia native. He graduated from Forest Park High School in 1980. He has been married to the former Gay Bettevy of Avoyelles Park Parish, Louisiana since 1989. He has one daughter and three grandchildren.

Most Worshipful Brother Mark began his apprenticeship in the tire industry while in high school and owned and operated Trinity Tire and Auto in Jefferson, Georgia from 1998 to 2019. While at Trinity Tire, Most Worshipful Brother Mark maintained membership in numerous professional organizations and was honored with several vocational-based awards, even being named the “Best Tire Store” in all of Jackson County every year beginning in 2011. Not satisfied to simply provide a service to his community, Most Worshipful Mark along with his wife Gay facilitated life skills clinics in areas such as automotive maintenance for victims of domestic abuse from 1999 to 2012.

As a citizen, he served as a Director of several non-profit boards in Jackson County including the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Family Connection, and Young Life and Peace Place. He also served in numerous other capacities as a board member on the non-profits for Jackson County Community Outreach, and Keep Jackson Beautiful.

He is a past President, Secretary, and Treasurer of both the Jefferson County Lions Club and the Jefferson County Rotary Club. He served the Lions Club of Georgia as the State Chairman of Youth Services from 2010 to 2014. He has served in multiple capacities with the Lions Club including serving as District Governor for 18-I, as the Lions Opportunities for Youth Chairman, 18-D Zone Chair, District 18 Council of Governors Chair, District 18 Global Leadership Team Coordinator, and President of the Past District Governors Association. Most Worshipful Mark was co-founder of the Georgia Lions Leadership Retreat in Waycross. He is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions for his work including being named Lion of the Year, recipient of four International President “Certificates of Appreciation,” the International Presidential Leadership Award in 2016, a Hall of Fame member for District 18-I in 2016, and the International Presidential Award in 2017. Most Worshipful Mark is a member of Jackson West Camp of the Gideons International as well as Woodman of the World Lodge No. 1344, where he was named “Fraternalist of the Year” in 2004. He organized an “Honor and Remembrance” Ceremony in Jefferson every September 11th from 2003 to 2103. MW Brother Mark was named “Citizen of the Year” by Albert Gordon American Legion Post No 56 in 2008. He has twice been recognized as “Citizen of the Year” by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce in 2007 and 2013.

Most Worshipful Brother Mark has enjoyed an active Masonic journey since being raised a Master Mason in 1999. He is Past Master and Perpetual Member of Unity Lodge No. 36 in Jefferson where he was a Chairman of the Trustees and a Past Master Mason of the Year for 2003. He is a Past President of the Barrow/Jackson Masonic Association. He served as the 9th District Director for GACHIP from its beginning under Grand Master Ted Collins in 2007 until 2009 when he was asked to serve as a District Deputy to the Grand Master. Mark served as the 9th District Chairman, as well as the State Chairman for the District Deputies to the Grand Master from 2011 until 2014 under Most Worshipful Grand Masters Jerry Moss, Ray Knittel, and Edgar Land. In 2012 he developed an instructional course for new District Deputies as they entered the service for their districts and sub-districts. He is a recipient of the Grand Lodge of Georgia “Distinguished Service Award” as

well as the “Rupert H. Bramlett Past Grand Masters Award.” He has served as the Worshipful Master of the Ninth District Masonic Convention and has served the Grand Lodge of Georgia as a member of the Jurisprudence Committee, the Development Committee, the General Welfare Committee where he served as Chairman, and the Educational and Historical Commission. He was appointed Third Grand Steward in 2016 by Past Grand Master Michael H. Wilson.

Most Excellent Companion Mark is a Past High Priest of Winder Chapter No. 84, Royal Arch Masons, Past High Priest of the 9th District Royal Arch Convention, and a Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the year 2016-2017. Most Excellent Mark is a Past President of the “C. Danny Wofford” Order of the High Priesthood, the current Southeastern Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International through 2026, and a recipient of the General Grand Chapter International “Ephraim Kirby Award.”

Most Illustrious Companion Mark is a Past Illustrious Master of Winder Council No. 77, Royal and Select Master, a Past Illustrious Master of the Northeast Georgia Council Convention, a Past Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia, a Past Thrice Illustrious Master of the “Clyde E. Griffin” Order of the Silver Trowel, and has been inducted into the General Grand Council International College of Preservation.

Most Eminent Sir Knight Mark is a Past Eminent Commander of Arnold de Troye Commander No. 31, a Past Assistant State Instructor for the Grand Commandery and a Past Division Liaison Officer for the 6th Division, a past member of the Ritual and Tactics Committee, the Inspection Reports Committee, and a Past Chairman of the Easter Sunrise Service Committee.. In 2013 he was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple, and he is recipient of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, a Past Knight Crusader of the East in the Georgia Knight Crusader of the Cross.

MW and RW Brother Mark retired from that industry to take over duties and responsibilities as the Grant Secretary and Recorder of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia in March of 2019.

Most Worshipful Brother Mark has served in leadership positions in numerous Appendant York Rite Bodies. He is a Past Governor of Luther G. Palmer York Rite College No. 123 and a recipient of the Order of the Purple Cross, a Past Prior of Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56 KYCH, a Past Sovereign Master of Dave H. Keever Council AMD, a Past Preceptor of Fidelitas Chapter HRAKTP, and a Past Puissant Sovereign of St. Ambrose Conclave RCC. He also holds membership in a number of other invitational bodies including the Royal Order of Scotland, Knight Masons, Order of the Eastern Star, Georgia College SRICE, and a charter member of the George Washington Chapter Order of DeMolay. In 2023 he was invested with the Honorary Legion of Honor in the Order of DeMolay

Illustrious Brother Mark is a Life Member of the Valley of Middle Georgia but for years was a valued member of the Valley of Atlanta where he served as the 1st Deacon, Marshal of Ceremonies, Assistant Degree Master, and Degree Master of the 30th Degree-Knight Kadosh. He was also the Degree Master for the 6th-Degree Intimate Secretary, and a member of the 14th Degree-Perfect Elu. Illustrious Brother Mark was member of the Valley of Atlanta ROTC/JROTC Award presentation committee since 2003 and served as Chairman from 2014-2019. He was President of the Athens-Piedmont Scottish Rite Association in 2008. In 2011 he was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honor and in 2019 he was Coroneted as a 33° Inspector General Honorary. In 2022 he served as Preceptor of the Atlanta Council of Kadosh and has served on the 33° conferral team since that time. From 2012 to 2024 MW Brother Mark was also a Trustee for the Atlanta Temple Association.

Noble Bradley is a Member of both Yaarab and Al Shah Shrine Temples.

# Introducing Third Grand Steward Worshipful Brother Paul Carter



I was born in Griffin, Georgia, and after graduating from Griffin High School, I continued my education at Armstrong State College in Savannah. My career began with the Georgia State Patrol in 1980, which eventually led me to form and command the Criminal Interdiction Unit in response to the tragic events of September 11th.

My work in law enforcement took me across the United States and abroad, teaching criminal interdiction, narcotics enforcement, and criminal apprehension to fellow officers from all corners of North America and several other countries.

My professional development includes graduating from the Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Unit Commanders Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and the Secret Service Dignitary Protection School in Beltsville, Maryland. Parallel to my service in law enforcement, I nurtured a passion for craftsmanship, leading to a successful venture as the CEO of a retail distribution business that specializes in providing imported and exotic woods for the furniture and cabinet industries.

In my Masonic life, I was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 27, 1983, at Roger Lacey Lodge #722. I affiliated with Meridian Sun Lodge #26 in 2006, ascending to the position of Worshipful Master in 2013 and taking on the responsibilities of Chaplain in 2019 and Secretary since 2020. My dedication to Masonry was further recognized when I was appointed as District Deputy to the Grand Master in 2018 and as the DDGM District Leader of the 6th Masonic District in 2021. I have also served on the Georgia Masonic Home Board of Trustees, contributing to various sub-committees since 2021. I was appointed Assistant State Chairman of District Deputies to the Grand Master in 2022 and later installed as Grand Treasurer on September 9, 2023. I had the great honor of being one of the founding members of the Georgia Masonic Academy and have chaired the Grand Lodge Entertainment Committee for two different Grand Masters. Additionally, since 1983, I've been a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Savannah and joined the Yaarab Shrine in 1985. In 2023, I had the honor and pleasure of serving as Grand Treasurer for the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Family and Freemasonry are the cornerstones of my life. I am blessed to share this journey with my soulmate, Sharon, and I take great pride in being a father and a grandfather to two delightful granddaughters. Upholding the family legacy of Masonry, which stretches back several generations, is a responsibility and honor I carry with deep humility.

# Introducing Grand Chaplain Worshipful Brother Douglas Koschel



Worshipful Brother Douglas Koschel was appointed to serve as Grand Chaplain for the Grand Lodge of Georgia by Grand Master Mark Bradley for the ensuing Grand Lodge year. Worshipful Brother Koschel was born in Oak Park, Illinois on December 31) 1951 and grew up in North Lake, Illinois attending the local schools there before graduating from Triton College in 1972. WB Koschel finished his education at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois receiving a B.S. in Education in 1974. It was at the Illinois State that he would meet his wife Karen (nee Heer) and they were married that same year.

For one year, Worshipful Brother Koschel and Karen lived in the Amish town of Arthur, Illinois which is home to the largest and oldest Amish community in Illinois and was founded in the 1860s. After that time WB Douglas started his teaching career in Pekin, Illinois where he taught for four years before moving to Florida to work in the lumber industry. He remained in that line of work for ten years before transitioning in 1989 to work for the Department of Family and Children's Services. He retired from DFACS in 2012.

WB Douglas grew up in the Lutheran Church as a young boy and has faithfully served at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, Georgia for over twenty-seven years, twenty of which he served on the church Council and even served as President of that council.

Worshipful Brother Koschel has two daughters who both work in the healthcare industry—one at Northeast Medical Center in Gainesville and the other at Northside Hospital. He and his wife Karen also have two grandchildren. He has one sister Barbara Hermansen, who currently lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

He was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 21, 1978 in Empire Lodge No. 126 in Pekin, Illinois. As a result of his many moves around the United States, Worshipful Brother Koschel was not active in Masonry for approximately twenty-nine years. However, after meeting some of the members of Fayetteville Lodge No 711 WB Koschel demitted and began to get more active in the chairs of his Lodge. He served as Master of Fayetteville Lodge No 711 in 2013. In 2016 he became a member of Unity Lodge No. 36 where he currently serves as Worshipful Master.

Over time, WB Koschel got involved in the York Rite Bodies. He served as High Priest and Illustrious Master of Fayetteville Chapter No. 71 and Council No. 66, respectively. He Served as Commander of Alexius Commandery No. 22 in 2015. He is also a member of Alleghany Chapter No. 64, Zabud Council No. 64, Pilgrim Commandery No. 15.

Over the last five years he has been invited to and become involved in Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56, KYCH, Blue Ridge Council No. 377 AMD and Luther G. Palmer No. 123 Sovereign York Rite College.

Worshipful Brother Koschel is proud and blessed to serve as Grand Chaplain for the ensuing year and hopes that he is able to meet many of the Masons around this great State in the coming year.

# Introducing Grand Marshal Worshipful Brother Wiley Gammon, Jr.



Wiley Gammon, Jr. was born in Carrollton, GA on September 3. His family moved around Georgia during his early years and moved to Tucker, GA when he was 10 years old. WB Gammon graduated Tucker High School and

attended Georgia State University where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management. WB Gammon later attended Columbus State University where he earned a Master of Science degree in Public Safety Administration. He is also a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College and a life member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

WB Gammon enjoyed a 30-year career in Law Enforcement where he served as a member of and chaired many different committees. Among those, he was Chair of the Campus Annual Security Report Committee and a member of Title IX Implementation and Oversight Committee; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Violence Committee; the Student Conduct Committee; the Background Investigation Committee; the Emergency Response Committee; the Sexual Misconduct Management Committee; and the Sexual Assault Response Committee. He was also an adjunct faculty member at East GA State College where he taught sexual assault investigation/prevention classes, and he is a Certified Police Instructor. He retired as a Chief of Police in March 2022.

WB Gammon was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Mountain Park Lodge No. 729 in 1982. He served as Worshipful Master in 1989. He served on the Lodge Auditing Committee more than 25 years and served as Chairman multiple times. He has proudly held an Orange Card for the past 35 years. He served as the Master of the Ninth Masonic District Convention in 2001 and as a District Deputy to the Grand Master.

WB Gammon has served as a member of several Grand Lodge Committees including the Jurisprudence Committee (32 years), the General Welfare Committee (13 years), the Masonic Home Endowment Fund Committee (8 years) serving as the Chairman 2001-2002, He also has served on the Masonic Education and Leadership Development Committee (5 years), serving as Assistant State Director 2004-2005. He is the current Grand Representative of Michigan near the Grand Lodge of Georgia (30 years).

WB Gammon is also active in several appendant bossies. He is a Companion in Dave H. Keever Chapter No. 49 Royal Arch Masons, serving as High Priest in 2004 and Gwinnett Council No.44 Royal & Select Masters, serving as Illustrious Master in 2005. He is a Sir Knight in DeKalb Commandery No. 38, serving as Commander in 2006. He is a Companion in Dave H. Keever Council No. 365 Allied Masonic Degrees serving as Sovereign Master in 2011, GA Lodge of Research, Cherokee Rose Priory #54 K.Y.C.H., and Luther G. Palmer No. 123 York Rite College. He has served as a District Deputy to the Grand High Priest in the Ninth District and as the Illustrious Grand Chaplain of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of GA. He is a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree IGH Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Atlanta, an Emeritus member of the Classroom team and currently a member of the Hospitallers team. He has been a Noble in Yaarab Shrine since 1994. He is a life Member of the Royal Order of Scotland. WB Gammon was initiated into St. Ambrose Conclave Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine. He is also a Knight in Carl F. Lester Chapter #65 Knight Masons.

WB Gammon has been married to his best friend and most ardent supporter Linda for 42 years. Wiley and Linda are both members of Mountain Park Chapter # 524 Order of the Eastern Star. Together, they raised two sons and now are blessed with two granddaughters and two grandsons, ages 12, 9, 4, and 1.



# Introducing Grand Tyler Worshipful Brother Lucien “Tom” Hays



WB L. Thomas Hays was born and raised in the rolling hills of Northwest Tennessee. A native of Paris, Tennessee, he went through the Paris City School System and graduated in 1986 from Henry County High School. There he was active in raising and

showing quarter horses on the family farm and working on old cars and hotrods with his father, Jack Hays.

Tom went on to study radio and television at Murray State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1991. After graduation he began a career as a cameraman and field producer for three different outdoor television shows on The Nashville Network. During that time, he traveled all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico with Orlando Wilson, Roland Martin, and Ron Shearer as they brought hunting and fishing into living rooms every Saturday morning to millions of viewers.

When the company moved from Western Kentucky to Woodstock, Georgia Worshipful Brother Tom moved to the Peach State as well. TNN was then acquired by MTV Networks in 1993 and moved operations to New York City. WB Hays stayed in his new state and went on to work as a video engineer for a division of Comcast Communications for the next twenty-seven years. When the world paused for COVID-19, his employer downsized, and he began a search for a new career. In the fall of 2020, he went to work for Myers-Sargent Consulting in Gainesville, Georgia as an I.T. Specialist and currently assists their clients in I.T. and communications issues as they arise.

Tom has served as a Mission Development Committee member which helped plant a new church in Pendergrass, Georgia for the Chattahoochee Baptist Association. The church—named Foundation Church—is pastored by WB Storey A. Tate, a Past Grand Chaplain.

In the Fall of 2003, Tom began having a long discussion with a good friend about Masonry as they were sipping some cold Cokes. His friend asked him

what he knew about Masons. Tom replied, “Not much.” His friend explained that Masons are good men in the community who are dedicated towards helping others and to improve themselves through a close network of other Brethren. In short notice, Tom asked for a petition and that good friend was the signer of his petition. That good friend—and signer of the petition—was MWB Mark A. Bradley.

Worshipful Brother Hays is a proud member of Unity Lodge No. 36 in Jefferson, Georgia. He was Initiated February 12, 2004, Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on May 11, 2004, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 11, 2004. He has been active in all officer lines and was installed as Worshipful Master on December 7, 2010. On December 6, 2011, he exited the East and took over as Secretary from Worshipful Brother and Past Grand Orator (1997), P. Mike Tate.

When Tom joined the ranks of Masons in Georgia, he was not aware of his own Masonic family connections. His great grandfather, D. Emerson Hays, his grandfather, J.R. and J.R.’s five brothers were all Brothers of Parsons Lodge #586 in Parsons, TN. Tom’s uncle, Jerry Hayes and Tom’s cousin Matt Hayes, are both members of Marshall Lodge #109 in Cottage Grove, TN. In the past twenty-one years, more and more of his family have come to light as fellow Traveling Men.

During his Masonic tenure, WB Hays has served on the 9<sup>th</sup> District Trial Commission from 2016 through 2019 and was appointed as a District Deputy to the Grand Master and District Leader for Sub-District 9G by MWB Johnie M. Garmon in 2019 for a three-year term. WB Hays still enjoys traveling to several Lodges each month to visit and help where needed and encourage others to visit other lodges. He believes that we should all expand our circle of friends and Brothers. “You can never have too large of a support system, and we should always be supportive of our neighbors, friends and brethren.”

During the Annual Grand Lodge Communication in 2024, WB Tom was appointed to the position of Grand Tyler by Most Worshipful Grand Master Mark Bradley. He is honored and grateful to MWB Mark for this opportunity to serve the Masons of Georgia.

# Introducing Grand Orator Most Worshipful Brother Johnie M. Garmon



Johnie Michael Garmon was born in Stephens County, Georgia on February 18, 1947. He was educated in Habersham County Schools and graduated from North Habersham High School in 1965. Upon graduation, Most Worshipful Brother Johnie served three years in the United States Army as an SP5/E5 Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Most Worshipful Brother Garmon then attended Gainesville College and obtained an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice before attending Brenau University. While at Brenau he obtained his Bachelor of Criminal Justice Degree and a Masters in Public Administration. PGM Garmon spent thirty-four years in public service with the Georgia Department of Corrections as a correctional officer, canine handler, probation officer, and facilities manager. He also served for seventeen years as the Chief Magistrate of

Union County.

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

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

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

In the Scottish Rite, PGM Garmon has served as Wise Master of Atlanta Chapter Rose Croix, Past Commander of Atlanta Court, Knights Commander of the Court of Honour, President and Secretary of the Georgia Mountain Scottish Rite Association, and is a recipient of the 33° Inspector General Honorary. He is also a Member of Georgia State Forest No. 181 Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Blood Mountain Chapter No. 555 and Lyman Hall No. 577 National Sojourners and Leon Davenport Camp of the Heroes of '76. He is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Yarrab Shrine Temple in Atlanta Georgia. Past Grand Master Garmon served the Grand Lodge of Georgia as Grand Master in 2019-2020. He led our Grand Jurisdiction through—and out of—the COVID years with caution and care for the Lodges and Masons of the State of Georgia and brought the Grand Lodge out of that time stronger and more focused.

# Introducing Grand Treasurer Worshipful Brother Jeffery L. Anderson



I was born in Clifton Forge, VA, and spent my early years in Clifton Forge. Schools are a treasure trove of memories and the beginning of friendships that have lasted a lifetime – and thanks to the wonders of social media, we're all still connected. In high school, I threw myself into sports, dabbling in football, basketball, baseball, and track. But it was the gridiron where I truly felt at home. My passion for football followed me to college at East Tennessee State University, where I proudly played on a football scholarship. Two standout moments? Beating Terry Bradshaw and Louisiana Tech in his final college game – Terry and I have remained friends since – and being the first to graduate in four years with an engineering degree while playing football.

My stint with Western Electric in Winston Salem, North Carolina, was cut short when the draft called my number. Before I knew it, I was off to basic training and Southeast Asia – a place whose actual name stirs up memories I'd instead leave untouched.

Returning stateside, I jumped back into work with Western Electric, which soon led me to the secret shores of the Marshall Islands with Bell Laboratories for two years. My career path then wove through various roles within the Bell System – from South Central Bell to BellSouth, and finally to AT&T.

I eventually landed in Atlanta, finishing my career as Director of Facilities and Planning. On the home front, I'm blessed with my wonderful wife of 26 years, Penelope Elliott Anderson. She's my rock, keeping me active and happy. My two sons, one in Louisiana with his family and the other in Kentucky, pridefully filled me. They're good men, devoted to their families, and have given me two grandchildren – a lively 9-year-old boy and a 29-year-old granddaughter who's making her way in Louisiana.

My Masonic journey mirrors the diversity of my professional life. Raised a Master Mason on March 3, 2011, I've since served as the Past Master of Walton Lodge #200. I'm deeply involved in the Masonic community, from the Scottish Rite Valley of Middle Georgia, where I'm a 32° KCCH, to Covington York Rite's past leadership positions. I'm active in Cherokee Rose Priory #56 KYCH, the Red Cross of Constantine New Convent Conclave, W Joe Clarke York Rite College #203, and Henry Hooper Council # 312 of the Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees. Additionally, I'm a Legion of Honor Member at Al Sihah Shrine and a two-time Past Worthy Patron at the Madison Chapter #335 Order of the Eastern Star. Each step in Freemasonry has been as enriching as the last, and I look forward to continuing this fulfilling journey. In 2023 I served as Grand Tyler for Most Worshipful Brother Ben Polston before transitioning into the role of Grand Treasurer.



I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself but first I feel the need to introduce the group above. These are the kids that presently reside here at the Masonic Home - we have 28 (15 Girls and 13 Boys) - with an age range of 10 to 19. They are what it's all about - it's a great group of kids. Some have been here 10+ years and one or two have only been here a few weeks. Each one is unique in their own right and each one is trying to find their way in today's world.

It's not easy - growing up in a group home but as I tell everyone of them - God has a plan for you and right now at this moment in your life He has you exactly where you need to be. It's a struggle to make the adjustment to group home living but while here - we tell them to make the most of it - it's an opportunity for you. Take everyone else out of the equation and use The Home to your advantage to get what you want. It's easy to say this but it is hard to do.

As many of you know I have been here 35 years. I came to The Home on March 3, 1990 as a Senior Boys Houseparent, moved into Boys Social Worker before becoming Director of Home Life. On June 13 of this year - I became Superintendent. I graduated in 1987 from Georgia College with a BS in Journalism - worked at a local TV Station and came to a crossroads in my life. In TV to move up and make more money - you have to move to a larger market. The Home came into the picture because my wife Carol and I had some friends that worked here. They told us about a Houseparent position that was available. I interviewed for the job and was offered the position of Senior Boys Houseparent. That night Carol (I talk more about her in a minute) and I talked about it, decided not to do it but did pray about it. Divine Intervention occurred for us because the next morning we both looked at each other and decided to do it. The rest - as they say is history.

Now Carol - we married in 1988 after she graduated from Georgia College - we have two wonderful kids Thomas and Addie - who I often use as an example when talking with the kids here. Thomas is engaged to Monica Harvey (she actually was at The Home but that's a different story to tell) and two grandkids Greyson and Oliver.

None of this could have been possible without Carol by my side - she is the second most important person in my life (I get looks when I say this but Jesus does come first). I have no idea where I would be if God didn't put her in my life at the exact moment He needed to. She has been everything to me and has played a valuable part in helping the children here at The Home as much as she can.

The picture below is the Staff at The Home and the true backbone of The Home. They are some dedicated employees who give their all everyday to The Home but most of all to the children. It's not an easy job and I can honestly say none of them are in it for the money. It's a calling.



**So let me introduce you to The Staff of The Masonic Home**

Front Row (left to right): Shannon Marrs, Cassandra Plummer, Joni Thigpen, Tasha Parks, Natasha Allen, James Allen, Priscilla Stanley, Shemika Bussey

Back Row (left to right): Kemie Landin, Chris Babcock, Brittni Jump, Al Lawson, Brooke Jones, Janice Beard, Glen Lavender, Peggy Ranes, Susan Drummond, Adam Landin, Monae Sheffield.

Not Pictured Brent Walker and Kevin Bullock

# Masonic Home Happenings

Thank You to the Following for Doing Activities with our Children:



Mountain Park # 729 Cookout



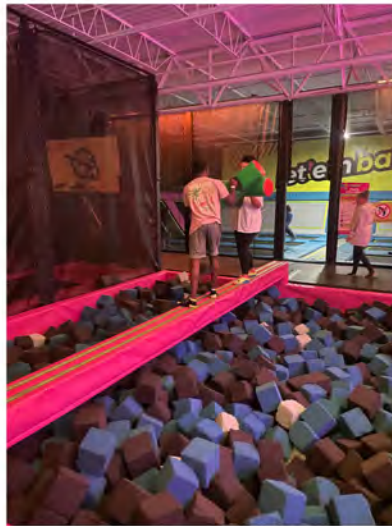
McIntosh # 735 teaching Car Maintenance



Gate City # 2 Atlanta United Soccer Game



Mabel # 255 Smokv Mountains Trip



Royston # 52 Urban Air Day

## A Christmas Remembrance



The pictures above are of Karen Hodge. Karen came to the Masonic Home on April 12, 1992 when she was 8 years old. She came to The Home with her brother Michael and sister Melissa. I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about Karen because during my 35 years at The Home - she is the child that has been here the longest. She left the Home on June 5 2007 after living with us 15 years, 1 month and 28 days.

I remember Karen being an angry, wild child at first and it took her some time to settle into the routine of The Home. She made straight A's throughout her Academic Career and in 10th grade she made a bold move to switch schools because she wasn't being challenged enough. She graduated high school - went to the University of Georgia graduated with a degree in Social Work - stayed at Georgia for two more years to complete her Masters in Social Work. I often use Karen as an example of how The Home can make a difference and what opportunity each child that comes here has available to them.

Karen is "old" now and has a wonderful son Ila Francis Bellflower.

Karen shares the following:

My sister, brother and I moved to the Home when I was 8 years old, so I was able to celebrate ten Christmases before heading off to college. When I think back on those days, I remember fondly the reception and dining rooms decked out in deep red velvet bows, lights strung throughout the Home, the big tree decorated with care in the lobby. I remember getting dressed up and heading to the lobby to be with everyone and open presents - all the kids, the houseparents, and staff. All of us buzzing with the electricity of the holidays, into the dining room to share a special Christmas meal that had been prepared for days by all the kitchen staff. My sister and I were recently laughing to realize we both still have gifts from one of these Christmases 30+ years later - me, a blue footlocker where I have all my childhood keepsakes, and my sister, a jewelry box she still uses.

I remember spending a special day with our Sponsored Lodge (Mountain Lodge # 729!) each holiday. One year we went out to see the lights near Stone Mountain - a night where I can still easily recall the hot chocolate, the lights, and spending time with our masons and their families that we'd grown to know and care for over the years. I look back now, 32 years later, and with my own family, and can recognize and appreciate the love and effort everyone took to make those moments and more happen for all us kids.

With warmth and appreciation, Happy Holidays  
~ Karen and Ila

## THANK YOU, MASONS OF GEORGIA, AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Your generous donations to *The Power of 3 Campaign* enabled us to improve the lives of children served by our RiteCare Clinics. This work is vital for these children to communicate and thrive. With your support, we continue to secure funding to sustain and increase our impact around the State.

*"Every child deserves a voice, and we're making that possible."*

- Erica Wilson, M. ED, CCC-SLP

### Meet Ray



**Be someone's light by giving today!**

*(Any gift amount is appreciated.)*

Ray, RiteCare's Ambassador, helps light the way, ensuring all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and shine brightly in their communities.



An effort of The Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc.



### Children. Charity. Community.

With your donation, we can help RiteCare's Ambassador Ray raise

**\$3 Million in 3 Years**

to fund early interventions for childhood speech and language disorders at low or no cost.

### The Power of your gift

**\$33.33** recurring monthly gift can support multiple children and purchase supplies

**\$300** supports a child for one academic year

**\$3000** supports 10 children for one academic year

### Three ways to give



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P. O. Box 7927  
Warner Robins, GA 31095

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# 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](mailto: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.

## Webb Longe Celebrates 200 Years of Freemasonry



Webb Lodge recently awarded three 50-Year Grand Lodge Awards to members. Altogether those three with one more recent recipient constituted 200 Years of Freemasonry in Webb Lodge. The members left to right are: Kenneth Brian Posey, PM, Clyde Stanley Posey, PM, Walter Hugh Lord, PM and James Williard Hogan PM.

## Sincerity Lodge #430 Makes Multiple Visits to the Home



Sincerity Lodge #430 made several trips to the Masonic Home over the summer. In June Sincerity along with Mabel Lodge #255 hosted a kickball game followed by a swim party and cookout. On June 23 Sincerity Lodge returned again to host a birthday party for Camila Rodriguez and nine of her friends at the Masonic Children's Home, at Grate 8 Skate in Gray, Georgia.

## Sincerity Lodge #430 Raises Two



On June 20, 2024 Sincerity Lodge No. 430 Raised Brother Brandon Dwayne Eavenson and Brother John Kieth Eisele to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

## Oostanaula Awards Eight 50 Year Awards



Eight 50 Year Awards were presented at Oostanaula # 133 during an open communication on June, 25, 2024.

## Three Generations of Masons in Cornelia Lodge



On June 24th, Caleb Lewallen was initiated into masonry at Cornelia Masonic Lodge #92 F&AM, Becoming the third generation to join Cornelia Lodge. WB Clarence Lewallen is Caleb's grandfather. WB Clarence Lewallen is Past Master of Hollingsworth Lodge #355 and Past Master of Cornelia Lodge. WB Ronald Lewallen is Caleb's father. WB Ronald Lewallen is Past Master of Cornelia Lodge. Brother Caleb Lewallen has started a journey of Masonic teachings, which teaches the universal principle of unselfish friendship and promotes those moral precepts which are in keeping with all great faiths.

## Chamblee-Sardis Hosts 2nd Annual First Responders Day



Chamblee Sardis Lodge #444 hosted its second annual First Responders Dinner on Saturday June 15, 2024. All police, fire, EMS, 911 operators, sheriffs, deputies, and their families from Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville, Norcross, Sandy Springs, Dunwoody, and DeKalb County were invited. Mayor Brian K. Mock from Chamblee, GA, was also in attendance.

## Cornelia Awards Master Mason of the Year Honor



On July 8, 2024 Worshipful Master Bradley Sullens along with Grand Master of all Masons in Georgia Benjamin W. Polston II presented Worshipful Brother Richard McCoy with a certificate for Cornelia Masonic Lodge #92 F&AM Mason of the Year.

Grand Master Polston also present WB McCoy with his official coin. WB McCoy said, "I appreciate this honor, but looking around this Lodge I see many more Brothers deserving of this honor." WM Sullens said, "WB McCoy has been a Mason and a member of Cornelia Lodge since 1985, was WM for 1992, and Treasurer for twenty six years, served as Ambassador to the Masonic Children Home for two years, and is the Public Relations Correspondent to The Northeast Georgian and the Masonic Messenger". This was the first year for this award. WM Sullens stated that he hopes future Worshipful Masters will continue this tradition.

## Cornelia Recognizes Teacher and Support Staff of the Year



On July 22, 2024 Cornelia Masonic Lodge #92 F&AM honored the teacher and support person of the year. The Teacher of the Year for Cornelia Lodge is Daniel Medders. Mr. Medders received his bachelor's degree from Gordon State College in Barnesville, GA and his master's degree from Walden University in educational science. He is certified in general education, special education and gifted instructions. Before moving to Habersham County, he taught in the Henry County School System at Hampton Elementary and Cotton Indian Elementary. In college he began working after school at Dutchtown Elementary. It was there that Mr. Medders found his calling and passion for helping students achieve their goals and see their potential. He has been teaching at Level Grove Elementary School for nine years, with one year at the 4Th grade level and the remainder at the 5th grade level. Mr. Medders teaches mathematics, science, and English language arts. Mr. Medders is serving as the level chair and mentor to the new teacher on the grade.

The Support Person of the Year for Cornelia Lodge is Linda Garrett. Mrs. Garrett has been driving a school bus for Habersham County schools for 46 years. Her love for bus driving began while riding Mr. Hugh Gastley's bus while in school. She was the door operator. Mr. Gastley encouraged her to follow her dream. She has driven for the Band of Blue, many athletic events and field trips. While driving a bus, Mrs. Garrett has held various jobs. She worked for 15 years as a paraprofessional at North Habersham Middle School. She works with the LIFT program for HCHs. Mrs. Garrett has worked part time as a 911 dispatcher for the past 32 years. She attended North Georgia Technical College

where she took EMT training and has had her NREMT-I for 24 years. At NGTC she became certified in Firefighting 1 so she could drive a fire truck. She has volunteered with the Habersham County Fire Department and Emergency Services. She worked part time, for 6 years, as a Radio Operator for the Toccoa State Patrol. This January Mrs. Garrett took a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course in White County and helps with rescue, searches and special events.

Worshipful Master Bradley Sullens began this program this year with the desire that it continue each year. Each recipient received a gift card from the Lodge.

## Cornelia Awards Scholarships to Local Students

Cornelia Masonic Lodge #92 F&AM honored the three recipients of the David Hobson Memorial Scholarship. Each high school graduate will receive \$1000.00 to be used for tuition and or books while attending the college that they have chosen. The recipients are Brooke Blackburn, Ashley Beason, and Parker Stribling. Brooke graduated from Habersham County High School and will be attending Truett McConnell University where she will be pursuing a degree in Nursing. Brooke's parents are Carisa and Bart Blackburn. Ashley graduated from Habersham County High School and will be attending North Georgia Technical College where she will be pursuing a degree in Nursing. Ashley's parents are Melanie and Michael Stembrime. Parker was not able to attend the presentation. He graduated from Rabun Gap Nacoochee School and is attending Georgia Tech. He will be taking elementary French, differential calculus, linear

algebra, English composition II, and a seminar course that focusses on traveling Europe both as a group and individually. Parker is taking these courses in France. Parker will be majoring in mechanical engineering. His parents are Jonathan and Jessica Stribling.



### Quarry of Solomon Award Presented



WB Dan Payseur (right) receiving the "Quarry of Solomon Society" certificate from the Georgia Masonic Academy.. It was recently presented by WB Tom Bruce - Grand Senior Deacon (left) in Tucker Lodge No. 42. WB Payseur is the DDGM in District 5F.

### Wigham and Cairo Present Checks



Whigham Masonic Lodge #356 and Cairo Masonic Lodge #299 presented a check for to the local VFW Post 8433 during family night this past July. Worshipful Master Daniel Paul also presented a check to our 2nd District Masonic Children's Home Ambassador Chris Booth to help with the quarterly Birthdays.

### Tucker Lodge No. 42 Present Awards and Checks to First Responders



Tucker Masonic Lodge No. 42 presented DeKalb Fire Rescue Capt. Shawn Staton and DeKalb Police Officer Joe L. Turner with Community Achievement Awards during a ceremony at their Lodge. Worshipful Master Marvin Brown opened the program and observed that fraternal organizations and the first responder profession share many common values. As part of the award, Staton was presented with a \$500 check to benefit his non-profit Winning Warriors Camp, a day camp for children who have experienced significant trauma.

### Mount Zion Lodge #316 Takes a Three-Pronged Approach to Community Involvement First Responders, Homeless People and Homeless Dogs



During the September BBQ hosted by Mount Zion Lodge #316, more than 170 first responders enjoyed free meals provided through donations from the public and lodge members.

Fire houses in Lumpkin, Hall, Forsyth, and Dawson Counties received smoked pork dinners to demonstrate our respect and appreciation for the work they do.

In addition, an anonymous brother donated 3 smoked pork butts that provided 60 meals to feed those at Good News at Noon, a homeless ministry in Gainesville.

The Dawson County Humane Society was on site with adorable dogs seeking a "forever" home, and two had their dreams fulfilled with adoptions. Another was taken in as a foster, which usually leads to permanent adoption.

# In My Hand...

Anonymous

Submitted by Worshipful Brother Thomas Chapman

St. Mary's Lodge No. 109

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper, two and one - half by three and three - fourths inches in size. It is on no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt for values, yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my membership card in a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual and material kinship with my fellow masons to practice charity in word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my Brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick, and to be just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among Brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home, and my household, are under the protection of every member of this great Fraternity, who have sworn to protect and defend mine, as I have sworn to protect and defend theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune, the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally, it tells me, my Brethren, that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered in my Lodge room friends and Brothers, who will recall to mind my virtues, though they may be few, and will forgive and forget my faults, though they may be many.

It tells me all this and a great deal more, this little scrap of paper, two and one - half by three - fourths inches in size.

Never forget why we are Masons.



*Brethren, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, has a heart for Masonry and a focus on Leadership in our gentle craft. A team is working under his direction to develop, distribute and conduct an enduring curriculum of leadership training for the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. This is in addition to the great Masonic Leadership Conference that is held every July. The two will complement each other.*

*You may ask, "Why do I need leadership training? I am not a lodge officer." In my opinion, part of making "good men better" is to help them gain leadership knowledge and experience. We are all leaders in our lodges, from the Worshipful Master to the newest Master Mason on the sidelines. We are all men with ideas and life experiences that we can bring to bear on the activities of the lodge. More than that, we are called to be leaders in our communities. If we want to grow our Fraternity, we need men of good reputation and leadership skills to demonstrate the lessons of our craft to the men around them.*

*Be on the lookout for leadership articles, future training events and the opportunity to learn more to impact your lodge and the men in your circle of influence.*

*Fraternally, the Coffey Brothers (WB Jarrod and RWB Brian).*

## Leading With Fellowcraft Ideals

By Worshipful Brother A.C. Wiley

Martinez Lodge No. 710

The Fellowcraft Degree teaches us that a Mason's journey is one of continual growth, where knowledge, strength, and responsibility are essential to effective leadership. These principles guide us to be not only skilled in our craft but also purposeful leaders within our Lodges and communities. Recent events—particularly the community response to the Helene—have shown us how the teachings of the Fellowcraft Degree inspire us to step forward and serve when it matters most.

If you would please indulge me, I'd like to explore how the values inculcated in the Fellowcraft Degree encourage us to take on leadership roles, whether within our Lodges or in the broader world. By embracing knowledge, strength, and responsibility, we demonstrate the impact of Masonic principles in action.

### **The Pursuit of Knowledge: Foundation of Effective Leadership**

The Fellowcraft Degree encourages us to seek knowledge—a commitment to learning and understanding that prepares us to lead with insight. As Masons, we know that knowledge strengthens our character and sharpens our ability to serve. Leadership demands more than just skill; it requires the wisdom to make sound decisions and the humility to keep learning.

During the recent hurricane, Masonic brothers who had knowledge and experience in emergency response were able to step up as volunteers, guides, and coordinators. This knowledge allowed them to act swiftly and effectively, organizing relief efforts and making crucial decisions under pressure. Some of us gained new knowledge – for example, I now know how to work on and repair small engines. It's not exactly geometry or rhetoric, but helpful, nonetheless.

In our Lodges, we cultivate this same foundation by sharing knowledge, supporting each other's growth, and learning from those who came before us. In the larger community, our knowledge becomes a guiding light, helping us respond to challenges and lend support where it's needed most.

### **Strength in Service: A Call to Step Forward**

The Fellowcraft Degree teaches that strength is not only physical but moral and spiritual—a steadfastness of character enabling us to lead with resilience and compassion. This strength empowers us to stand up for what is right, to help those in need, and to remain resolute in our commitments.

Nowhere was this strength more apparent than when Georgia and South Carolina Masons volunteered their time and energy to support those affected. From delivering supplies to helping clear debris, these brothers

demonstrated that Masonic strength is about showing up, even when times are tough. In the Lodge, let's not lose the lesson that showing up is sometimes enough, but we *do* need to show up. strength means being there for our brothers, contributing to the harmony and growth of the craft. To the profane, our strength is seen in

our willingness to step forward in service, providing stability and hope to those who need it most.

### **Responsibility: Leading with Purpose and Accountability**

Responsibility is a central tenet of all of our teachings, but especially as Fellowcrafts. The work we began as apprentices gets refined using our working tools. This work is then inspected by our overseers – each other – and holds us accountable for our actions, inactions, and accomplishment or dereliction of our duties. As Masons, we understand that our responsibilities are sacred; they connect us to each other and to the values of the craft. Leadership, therefore, requires us to fulfill these responsibilities with consistency, honesty, and integrity.

We should all take pride in our Masonic leaders who took responsibility for organizing volunteers, managing resources, and ensuring the safety of those involved. Their actions underscored the importance of accountable leadership, showing that responsibility is more than a task—it's a commitment to the well-being of others. In our Lodges and in our communities, it means stepping up as trusted figures who can be relied upon, especially in times of need.

### **Mentorship and Growth: Empowering Future Leaders**

The Fellowcraft Degree's emphasis on intellectual growth extends through the master mason's degree and further, acknowledging that such growth carries with it the inherent responsibility to mentor and uplift others. It is not for us alone that we grow, but also for the benefit of those around us. Mentorship creates a legacy of knowledge and support, helping others become capable leaders. Within our Lodges, mentoring newer members strengthens our bonds and builds a foundation for future leadership. In our communities, mentoring extends that support outward, creating a ripple effect of service and empowerment. Whether you engage a brother over a side of green beans or regularly as a coach, the gift you give of yourself will never be given in vain.

### **Living the Fellowcraft Degree in Every Sphere of Life**

As Masons, we have a duty to serve as living examples of the Fellowcraft teachings. By pursuing knowledge, demonstrating strength, and embracing responsibility, we embody the timeless values of Freemasonry, creating a positive impact wherever we go. Let us continue to live the Fellowcraft principles in our Lodges, in our homes, and in our communities, making each action a testament to the strength and integrity of our craft.



## *t Refreshment: The Junior Warden's Corner*

By Brother William Brewer  
Fayetteville Lodge No 711

You've just been elected to the South in your Lodge. Congratulations! This may be your first time in the South, it may be your fifteenth time in the South. In either event, you have new duties in respect to the Brethren during the "hours of refreshment" that you may or may not be ready for. In fact, there is a lot that goes into your role as Junior Warden, and though you may have "able assistance if need be" in the form of your Stewards and other members of your Lodge, the organization of and preparation for the Lodge at Refreshment will primarily fall upon your shoulders.

As I prepared to begin to fulfill my role as Junior Warden in the South, I first had to look at what we had been doing and give a listening ear to my Lodge Brothers to get a feel of what was liked and what was disliked in regard to the meals for our meetings.

I had to think about our average attendance and what was donated. I had to look at and pay attention to how we acquired supplies and be mindful of the other non-food products we needed: paper plates, napkins, plastic sliver wear, cups, stenos, serving utensils. (Most Lodges use Sam's or Costco and while these stores are good options each Lodge has its own practices and ways they gather supplies. In future issues I will discuss tips and options for getting the most value for dollars spent.)

After taking these things into account I was able to plan accordingly, building a budget to purchase food and other needed items. After all these considerations, a base plan for our dinners began to emerge: one meat, one vegetable, one starch, bread, salad, sweet tea, and dessert.

With that I set to work planning and building menus for the Lodge and working on cost points for a standard dinner. I can prepare a meal top to bottom for around 150: grilled chicken breast in a Dijon rosemary cream sauce, herb roasted potatoes, braised brussels, dinner rolls, salad, apple pie and ice cream for dessert. I have found that making the menu a few days

in advance and having it posted to our Facebook has helped with overall attendance where a Brother may have been on the fence about attending. This little head's up may be the extra "nudge" he needed to attend.

For all of us from Entered Apprentice to Master Masons to the Worshipful Master, the biggest factor for is time. For most meetings I spent the afternoon Sunday and from around 1pm till dinner (630) cooking and preparing dinner. Some Brethren may not have time to put into a dinner like this and this is understandable. Some Lodges have dinner catered in and this is a good, cost-effective way for a Lodge to have dinner. My Lodge has done this in the past, but by the end of the year it was not the most sensible choice for us.

If you plan to cook at your Lodge for most of your meals, be sure to invest some time and effort with your Stewards inform them about your plans and prepare them for the year for the set-up, break down, and when and where you need help. The workload is heavy and you'll need all the help you can get. Communicate clearly and be firm in what you need, but always be sure it is coming from a place of Brotherly Love and respect.

Lean on the wisdom of those who have been to the South before you and remember not one Brother wants to see you fail. Do not be afraid to ask for help.

Brethren feel free to email me at [jrwardenscorner@gmail.com](mailto:jrwardenscorner@gmail.com). I would love to hear about your time in the South and working about the Lodge, tips, ideas, things that went well and things that went poorly or event recipes for meals that turned out to be Lodge favorites. Let us use this space to share and build up our Brethren and to ensure that the "hours of refreshment" and fellowship are something that each Brother in your Lodge looks forward to every meeting.



# VETERANS CORNER

By Worshipful Brother Rick Conn

Brothers, I have been asked several times about PTSD and its effects. Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) may face a heightened risk of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).

Research shows that chronic stress from PTSD can accelerate brain aging while certain injuries to the spine can disrupt brain signals, both of which increase vulnerability to neurodegenerative conditions like ADRD. Veterans who have experienced these conditions may face cognitive decline earlier than expected, making timely diagnosis and support crucial for their overall well-being.

Warning signs of dementia include:

- Repeatedly asking the same questions.
- Becoming disoriented in familiar places.
- Difficulty following directions.
- Confusion about time, people and places.
- Challenges with self-care such as nutrition, bathing or maintaining personal safety.

Given that other conditions can mimic dementia symptoms, it is essential that Veterans—especially those with PTSD, TBI or spinal cord injuries—undergo a thorough medical evaluation if exhibiting any of the above symptoms.

What should you do After an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diagnosis? The VA understands that receiving an ADRD diagnosis can be overwhelming. Many Veterans and their families feel a mixture of fear, sadness or anger. Understanding the diagnosis and planning for the future can empower Veterans and their loved ones. While ADRD can impact daily living, staying active both mentally and physically can help manage some symptoms. If you are diagnosed with ADRD, VA offers several services that can support you in maintaining your quality of life:

- Home-based primary care.
- Skilled home health care.
- Homemaker and home-health aid.
- Respite care for caregivers.

“Accurate diagnosis of ADRD often requires collaborative, team-based conversations among all the experts. This involves more extensive diagnostic evaluation and more complex management plans to

fully address the Veteran's cognitive, behavioral and physical symptoms. VA supports these types of multidisciplinary team-based collaborations to ensure Veterans the best possible care,” said Dr. Sophia Wang, geriatric psychiatrist and medical director for the Neurodegenerative Disorders Clinic at the Support for caregivers Roudebush VA.

There are several wives that care for their Veteran husbands and rely on VA's caregiver support services. Participation in the local VA Caregiver Support Program could open their eyes to the complexities of the disease. There is an online program that is invaluable. It will also show that they are not alone in this experience. Others are going through this, and they can see how they can handle the common threads like memory loss, anger and the difficulty around processing information,

Caregivers play an essential role in helping Veterans manage the complexities of ADRD. VA offers extensive resources for caregivers through the Caregiver Support Program, including access to Caregiver Support clinicians at every facility who can connect families to both VA and community services. To locate the Caregiver Support Program at your facility, you can call the VA Caregiver Support Line (1-855-260-3274) or check out the Caregiver Support Program website. Get more information on VA resources for Veterans with ADRD and their caregivers. We also encourage caregivers to explore VA's dementia caregivers video series.

VA's role in research VA has advanced understanding of the relationship between PTSD, TDB, spinal cord injuries, genetics and ADRD by leveraging the power of clinical research. The Million Veteran Program (MVP), one of VA's ongoing studies into ADRD, is one of the most diverse genetic databases in the world with over a quarter of its participants representing a racial or ethnic minority. The program's diversity helps researchers identify unique differences in populations and tailor their findings to improve care for all Veterans.

By using these large databases, VA researchers have done epidemiological studies that suggest that a

diagnosis of PTSD, moderate or severe TBI and Agent Orange exposure increase Veterans' risk of ADRD.

If you need more information about MVP and make an appointment at a participating VA facility you can call 866-441-6075. An ADRD diagnosis is difficult but Veterans and their caregivers do not have to face it alone. VA is here to support Veterans and their loved ones with world-class care and resources.

#### MVP Communications, Kelly O'Donnell reports on the MVP program.

One of the most important things you can do for your health and longevity is take steps to prevent certain conditions from happening. Prevention, which works to keep you safe from and aware of the issues that may affect your path to healthy living, can take several forms. VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) is researching ways to improve screening, detection and prevention for health conditions that affect Veterans.

#### What is prevention?

Sometimes prevention means lifestyle changes—like getting quality sleep, maintaining a healthy diet and engaging in consistent physical activity—all activities included on VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention's (NCP) list of 10 Healthy Living messages for you and your family.

Other changes are in the form of preventive medicine. One of NCP's Healthy Living messages is to get recommended screenings, which involves looking for a condition before having any signs or symptoms of that condition. Screenings can help detect certain health conditions or help you and your health care team take steps to prevent some conditions from starting.

Recommendations for screenings and tests depend on your age, sex, health status and family history, so every person's unique needs are different. For instance, an annual breast cancer screening is recommended for women aged 45 to 54; colon cancer screening is recommended for men and women starting at age 45.

Everyone should be screened for alcohol abuse, depression, high blood pressure, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), obesity, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and tobacco use. You can see the full list of VHA recommended preventive health services. If you have any questions about which health screenings are right for you given your unique health history, reach out to your doctor or health care team.

#### Better health research for better health care

Researchers are using MVP data to study how genes, lifestyle, military experiences and exposures affect health and wellness. One of the goals of this research is to find better ways to screen for, detect and prevent health conditions that matter to Veterans. MVP data has led to:

- An improved way to predict coronary artery disease risk in African, European, Hispanic and South Asian ancestries.
- A genetic screening tool that could help predict prostate cancer in male Veterans from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- Opportunities to improve breast cancer screenings and prevention among women of African descent based on a genetic breast cancer risk assessment.
- Research findings that could help develop glaucoma risk scores for diverse populations, including Black and Hispanic populations.

Join MVP to support health care research Researchers using MVP data study conditions that matter to Veterans, including:

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Kidney disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Substance use disorders
- Suicide prevention
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)

More than 1,000,000 Veterans have joined MVP—each putting us one step closer to transforming personalized health care for all Veterans and, ultimately, all Americans. You can learn more about MVP or join today.

Again, you can also call 866-441-6075 to make an appointment at a participating VA facility. You DO NOT need to receive your care at VA to participate.

Thank you for your service and may God Bless every one of you. God Bless our Great Republic and the Red, White, and Blue. And please remember all those deployed.

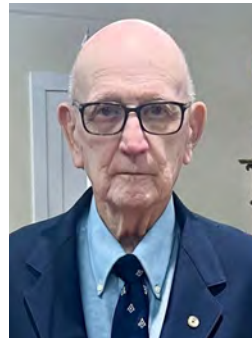
50 Year Awards



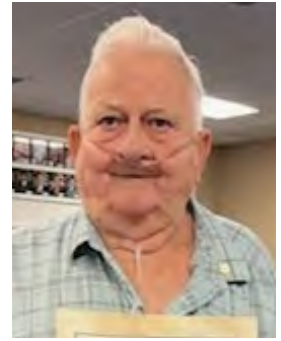
Charles M. Carney  
Shannon #100



Wayne Mullinex  
Philomatheia #25



William E. Prescott Jr.  
Bigham #53



Charles H. Lever  
Martinez #710



Alton Meeks Jr.  
Bacon #56



Marlin M. Danforth  
Duncan #234



Donald Reese  
Mountain Park #729



Ronald C. Peoples  
Morrow #734



Donald L. Autry  
Quitman #106



Knox G. Kell  
Rabun Gap #265



Donnie Waynick  
LeRoy Duncan #262



Larry Adams  
Screven #248



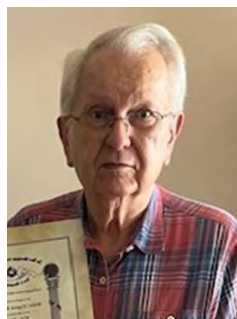
James W. Ellrod  
Pickens Star #220



Larry P. Kellogg  
Pickens Star #220



Herbert H. Harris, Jr.  
Pickens Star #220



Walter E. S. Hutchins  
East Point #288



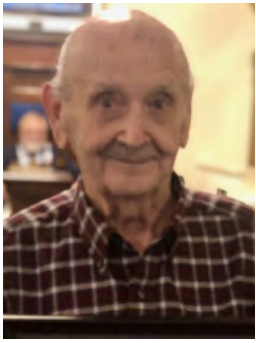
Stanley Harvey  
Toccoa #309



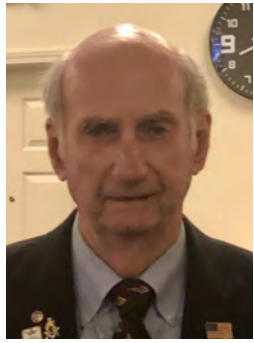
James D. Reese  
Landrum #48



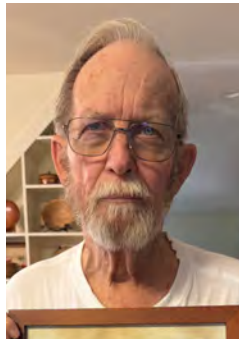
Ronnie B. Patterson  
Eton #509



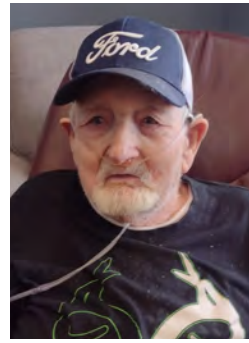
James F. Tilley  
Cartersville #63



Howard M. Howell  
Cartersville #63



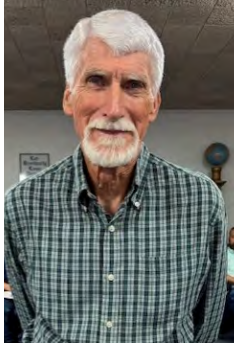
Brent M. Hegwood  
Mountain Park #729



Archie Culverhouse  
Fickling #129



William E. Burt  
Matt #694



Tommy R. Bottoms  
Matt #694



Thomas J. Chitwood  
Davidson #334



Larry Strickland  
Kingston #394



David H. Hardin  
East Point #288



Bobby R. Wheeler  
Sincerity #430



Irvin L. Parker  
Thomasville #369



Leonard B. Peebles  
Davidson #334



Robert L. Thompson  
East Point #288



Jerry Lancaster  
Mt. Hope #9



James B. Bearden  
Pleasant Grove #702



Ronald R. McClure  
Western #91



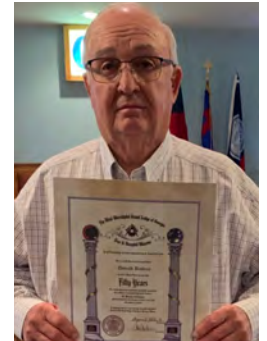
Carl J. Ward  
Latham #12



William A. Mumpower, Jr.  
Oothcaloga #154



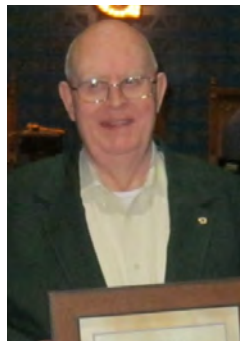
Larry H. Edwards  
Murrayville #30



Donald Baldree  
Duncan #234



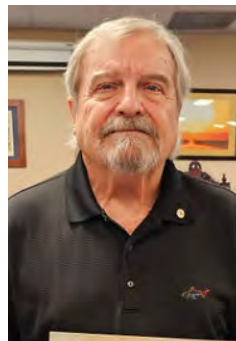
Kenneth B. Posey  
Webb #166



Clyde S. Posey  
Webb #166



Walter H. Lord  
Webb #166



Joseph L. Skinner  
Martinez #710



Aaron H. Jackson, Sr.  
Mt. Hermon #304  
55 Years



Aubrey J. Greeson  
Quitman #106



Lonnie K. Darnell  
Chamblee Sardis #444



Daniel J. East, Jr.  
Mt. Hermon #304



Freddie Dorris  
Milan #393



Guy Melvin  
Milan #393



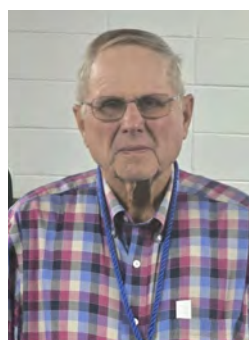
James B. McCoy  
Midland #144



J.W. Ralston  
Oothcaloga #154



Jimmy Upchurch  
Hampton #70



Benton Williams  
Milan #393



Waymon H. Yearwood  
Chappell #511



Bobby Joe Dodd  
Oothcaloga #154



Ullis B. Thomas  
Oboe #201

# In Memoriam

Members Reported  
Deceased August 2 to  
November 1, 2024

|                             |    |                              |     |                              |     |
|-----------------------------|----|------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| Ralston, Robert Wilbur      | 1  | McGill, James Edward         | 67  | King, Ralph Leroy            | 153 |
| Eberhardt, Kenneth Wayne    | 3  | Dominy Jr., Willie Eugene    | 75  | Nation, Claude Erwin         | 158 |
| Higgins, Freeman Harry      | 3  | Harrison, Gene Wayne         | 75  | Becker, Robert               | 165 |
| Williamson, Frank James     | 6  | Tritt, Bobby                 | 77  | Ridgeway, Fredrick Jack      | 165 |
| Tante IV, Thomas Edward     | 7  | Sorrells, William George     | 78  | Sharples, Mark Albert        | 165 |
| Cheek, Herman Lish          | 12 | Futch, Roger Eschol          | 81  | Rogers, Larry Paul           | 167 |
| Watson, Bobby Joe           | 12 | Griggs Jr., Harold Maynard   | 81  | Houghton, Edward Thomas      | 171 |
| Rushing Sr., Thomas Earl    | 15 | Knight, James Ronald         | 81  | Lecroy, Bryan David          | 176 |
| Pitman, Norman Jackson      | 18 | Theobald, Christopher Jacob  | 82  | Stephens, William Francis    | 184 |
| Gaines, Terry Daniley       | 25 | Fleming, William Walter      | 86  | Turner, Cameron Dale         | 184 |
| Vickers, Ollie Royce        | 27 | Watson, Roy Boyd             | 97  | Bahnsen III, Peter Frederic  | 190 |
| Clegg, Larry Thomas         | 28 | Jones, Tommy Doyle           | 100 | Noble, John Allen            | 190 |
| White, Leon Wendell         | 30 | Davis II, Clyde Edward       | 102 | Warmack Jr., Hardy Cornelius | 191 |
| Gore, Oscar Nathan          | 33 | Reeves, Cecil Edward         | 102 | Monk, William Ridley         | 194 |
| Hutson, Billy Monroe        | 33 | Bates, John Morris           | 105 | Irwin, James Ray             | 198 |
| Saine, Paul Eugene          | 33 | Curtis, Bobby Dale           | 105 | Potts, Donald Troy           | 204 |
| Williams, Alvin Dale Carter | 33 | Duke, John Edmond            | 105 | Grant, Jimmy Edward          | 212 |
| Wilson, Jack Elliott        | 33 | Gaines Jr., John Strouther   | 113 | Tinkham, Roger Winslow       | 214 |
| Stouder, Kyle               | 35 | Jarrett, Buck Lee            | 113 | Berger, Sidney Cecil         | 216 |
| Jackson, Joseph Nathaniel   | 36 | Sikes, David Sammy           | 113 | Kuipers, Kenneth Leroy       | 217 |
| Bedell, Baxter Keith        | 37 | Foreman Jr., Lester William  | 116 | Mullis, Aaron Earl           | 217 |
| Perry, Clinton Lanier       | 37 | Bedford, Clyde Nickey        | 121 | Cochran, Gregory Wayne       | 220 |
| Ashworth, Herschel Edward   | 42 | Camp Sr., Herbert Preston    | 121 | Darnell, Donald Hoyt         | 221 |
| Cook, Robert Bruce          | 42 | Gammage III, Olin Lynn       | 121 | Simmons, Tuson Smith         | 222 |
| Bryant, Charles Philip      | 52 | Wright, Alfred Alan          | 126 | Etheridge, John Devilla      | 230 |
| Zipperer, Edward Helmy      | 54 | Bowden, Harold Fincher       | 127 | Hartman, Gerald Eugene       | 230 |
| Stover, Herman Glen         | 55 | Foster, Kelley Wilson        | 129 | Hutchins, Randy Scott        | 230 |
| Townsend, Wayne             | 57 | Vonrabenu, Paris Michael     | 129 | Lovin, Louis Monroe          | 230 |
| Vandiver, James Scott       | 59 | Beard Jr., Daniel James      | 131 | Watson, James Herbert        | 234 |
| Cochran, James Randall      | 63 | Ward, Homer Clyde            | 131 | Head, Olin McLean            | 235 |
| Eckstein, Kenneth Hubert    | 64 | Shelnutt, Leslie Wayne       | 135 | Howell, David Warren         | 241 |
| Sanford, Jason Lance        | 66 | Smith Jr., Holly             | 135 | Crowley Jr., John Collins    | 255 |
| Touchstone, Howard William  | 66 | Davis Sr., Frank Emile       | 139 | Saxon, James Warren          | 255 |
| Cheatham, James Amburn      | 67 | Pruitt, Christopher Steven   | 141 | Mathis Jr., Henry Olin       | 257 |
|                             |    | Bacle, David Lawrence        | 144 | Tinney, Buddy James          | 259 |
|                             |    | Allison Sr., Russell Brabson | 153 | Day, Christopher Dwayne      | 260 |

# In Memoriam

Members Reported  
Deceased August 2 to  
November 1, 2024

|                                 |     |                              |     |                           |       |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------|
| Doiron, John Adam               | 261 | Dittman, William Joseph      | 443 | Haynie, Philip Anthony    | 731   |
| Dixon, Adam Jefferson           | 270 | Reeves, William Dean         | 444 | Wade, John Henry          | 733   |
| Carter, Shyhiem Tajh            | 271 | Prater Jr., Fred Ray         | 466 | Adams, Donald Wayne       | 763   |
| Lewis, Acey Lester              | 271 | Dawkins Jr., William Lee     | 489 | Phillips, Henry Grady Lee | 5,000 |
| Shaw, Johnsie Ellis             | 274 | Hall Sr., Jack Ronald        | 509 |                           |       |
| Williford Jr., Charlie Clarence | 274 | Johnson II, Forrest Bernard  | 542 |                           |       |
| Mitchell, Fredrick Brook        | 280 | Lackey, Douglas MacArthur    | 544 |                           |       |
| Ramm, John Charles              | 288 | Parker Jr., Leonard Hugh     | 566 |                           |       |
| Nolin III, James Eugene         | 289 | Hutchison, William Schofield | 572 |                           |       |
| Stephens, George Wilburn        | 291 | Cantrell, Wayne              | 590 |                           |       |
| Lenz, Ernest Frederick          | 292 | Braswell, James Otis         | 591 |                           |       |
| Banks, Henry David              | 294 | Elledge, Lawrence Lee        | 591 |                           |       |
| Cleland, Ed Roy                 | 301 | Holcombe, Bobby Alton        | 595 |                           |       |
| Dopson Jr., Talmadge Dean       | 302 | Kennedy, James Lumuel        | 595 |                           |       |
| Pearce, Charles Edward          | 304 | Davis, Robert Alvin          | 597 |                           |       |
| Hunsinger, Emerson James        | 305 | Nelson, Jackie Theodore      | 597 |                           |       |
| McClelland, Joel Mitchell       | 305 | Bassett, John Richard        | 639 |                           |       |
| Jarrett, Gary Jones             | 309 | Shubert, Fay Kedrick         | 644 |                           |       |
| Harrison Jr., Morgan Lamar      | 310 | Ballew, Richard Talmadge     | 652 |                           |       |
| Warren, Charles Lamon           | 310 | Smith, Tyrus Gene            | 652 |                           |       |
| Crombach, Charles Joseph        | 325 | Rogers, Joseph Tony          | 688 |                           |       |
| McMillan III, Robert Nmn        | 325 | Teasley, Clayte Andrew       | 690 |                           |       |
| Moore Jr., Thomas Jefferson     | 325 | Ross, Winford Lawrence       | 691 |                           |       |
| Bowlden, Gregory Alan           | 334 | Smith, Ervin Devero          | 693 |                           |       |
| Howard, James David             | 369 | Hamby, Clendon Manuard       | 694 |                           |       |
| Bass, William Will              | 381 | Honea, Earnest James         | 694 |                           |       |
| Gilbreath Jr., Earl Eugene      | 382 | Willis, John Michael         | 702 |                           |       |
| Burkhalter, Danny Wesley        | 386 | Hayes, Oscar Lawrence        | 708 |                           |       |
| Muse Jr., James Newton          | 403 | Blackwell, Jack Austin       | 709 |                           |       |
| Harris, Alton Bentley           | 413 | Schuler, Paul                | 709 |                           |       |
| Wilson, Kenneth Marcus          | 413 | Jones, Samuel Lee            | 711 |                           |       |
| McAdams Jr., Carl Leon          | 421 | Thurlow, George Legasey      | 711 |                           |       |
| Willis Jr., Roy Cecil           | 428 | Tinsley, Dannie Carroll      | 716 |                           |       |
| Thornton, George Cornelius      | 430 | Greer, Charles Buford        | 720 |                           |       |
| Adams, David James              | 433 | Newton, Richard Lee          | 721 |                           |       |
| Mast Jr., Edward Everett        | 440 | East Sr., Thomas Wayne       | 722 |                           |       |

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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)