

# THE VIRGINIA MASONIC HERALD

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# The Virginia Masonic Herald

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## Mission and Vision Statements of The Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia



QR Code to  
Grand Lodge of Virginia  
Website

The mission of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to teach and perpetuate a way of life that promotes the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and to assist its Lodges to grow and prosper.

The vision of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to be the premier organization composed of men of integrity and character, who are honest, true to their word, believe in God, are devoted to family, charitable in their community, and courteous and helpful to each other. 🙏

<http://www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org/>

# Grand Master's Message

It is hard to imagine ten months have passed since we gathered for the Grand Annual Communication at which the delegates granted me the great honor of serving as your 168th Grand Master. I thank you for that privilege and have been much humbled by your trust.

Immensely gratifying have been the many kindnesses and courtesies you have shown Marsha and me. We thank you for your warmth and friendship.

Still, Holy Scripture reminds us that: *To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.* Those are the words, of course of "The Preacher," the author of Ecclesiastes, thought by some scholars to have been King Solomon.

Accordingly, it is now time for change and I invite all of you to attend the upcoming Grand Annual Communication and participate in the essential business of our Fraternity. I look forward to seeing you there.

For each of us there also came at some point a time to become a Mason. While that time can range upward from age eighteen, the average age at joining the Craft in Virginia is about thirty-five. That has been the case for several years.

For "Tony" that time came at age seventy-three.

In most Lodges that would be unusual. Tony was twice the average age when he felt it was time to join. Retired, he had moved here from a colder northern state. Most significantly though, Tony had suffered a major stroke. The mental effects were slight but physically he had severe impairments. Tony could meet the physical requirements for initiation, but not easily. Walking was slow and laborious; kneeling a major chore. Still, with some reasonable accommodation he was able to receive his degrees in my Lodge.

*Our members need mentoring.  
So do these young people.  
Our members need jobs;  
our youth need help.*

As I said, mentally there was some slight impairment. Tony was a very smart guy; had held intellectually demanding jobs, and he was still thinking clearly but the catechisms would have been much easier before the stroke! As I recall, he may have been one of those people who passed because everyone knew he was trying hard, doing his best and his coach vouched for that effort and that this was in fact the best he could do. It wasn't perfect, but he wasn't given a free pass either: seven months passed between his Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees and another five and a half between the Fellowcraft and Master Mason. He was working hard! He devoted a year to the process of becoming a Mason.

Tony succeeded, but what could he do in or for the Lodge? He could never hold office. He couldn't travel much. On stated nights someone brought him and parked the car ten feet from the front door where getting Tony out of the car and into the Lodge was a five minute process and getting him from the front door

*My prayer is that the Supreme Architect will give each of us the purpose for this time, inspire us, lead us and give us strength and wisdom to serve that purpose; and that it may be pleasing in His sight.*

to his seat took another five. It was a painful process just to watch!

He always sat close to the back door. Why trudge another twenty feet? And, at the back door everyone walked past to be greeted or to stop and chat. Tony could have easily been a "throw-away" member. Had no one brought him, no one thought he was worth an investment of time and care, and we would not have seen him again.

Tony wouldn't let that happen. He wanted to help out, but what could a guy in his condition do? We made Tony the calling committee. He was not the chairman of the committee; he was the committee! Tony could use a phone, but not easily. This was twenty years ago. It was probably push button, and not rotary dial, but he surely didn't have a stored list of numbers with speed dial capability. He was dialing numbers individually.

Calling everyone had to take him hours, but he did it gladly and proudly. Seldom was there time for idle chat: "Hi, Kerry, we have stated on Monday." "Okay, Bro. Tony. I'll be there. See you then." That was about it, Tony had a job to do! But it meant he got to talk to every active member every month, sometimes more than once. He wasn't just sitting home alone, and he was doing something to help.

We never had a better attendance percentage than when Tony was our calling committee. Isn't that the way Masonry should be? We mentored Tony. We taught him the required work, but we also were attentive to him, made sure he was involved. We found something he could do. We were unwilling to let the older guy with the disabilities fall by the wayside and —while it may not have been our plan — taking care of Tony paid back tremendous dividends. That is almost always the case: taking care of your members

Continued on page 4.



# Grand Master's Message

Continued from page 3.

will benefit your Lodge and them.

Tony was instrumental in keeping the ship afloat! He did his part. Some command at the helm; some chart the course. Some shovel coal to keep the ship under power. That is more akin to Tony's job: keep the members informed, keep them coming, and get them in the doors. They are, after all the fuel of Masonry.

Every member needs a job; ideally one for which his talents and abilities suit him. Tony couldn't paint the ceiling! It was hard enough for him to dial the phone. Every Lodge has members well suited to paint the ceiling, or learn the ritual, or design a website, or serve on the Scholarship committee, or work with the youth!!

That is part of the all-important process of mentoring our members. We find them a job, make sure they are included, help them to thrive and be productive, monitor their participation and draw them back in if they start to fall away. Members, old and new, are a precious commodity: not that easy to acquire initially and all too easy to lose if we overlook or ignore them.

Some of our members will find useful Masonic work helping our youth groups, and not just "young members." Virtually every member has some skill, ability or knowledge to

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thought by some scholars to  
have been King Solomon.*



#### BILLBOARD LOCATIONS:

- 3209 Chesapeake Blvd., Norfolk, VA
- 2910 High Street, Portsmouth, VA
- 2600 Military Hwy, Chesapeake, VA
- Jefferson Ave., Newport News, VA

offer. Not all can be the primary adult leader. Someone is needed though to coach a sport, keep the checkbook, teach some ritual, be the "civic service coordinator," or just be available three or four times a year to drive them somewhere. All of those roles contribute.

There is no more important Masonic work than helping with our youth, teenagers still being the only material from which God can make decent, upright young men and women.

Our members need mentoring. So do these young people. Our members need jobs; our youth need help. You can cast members aside, actively, or passively by not drawing them into the Fraternity, or you can put them

to work like Tony and reap the rewards.

Scripture having taught us, "there is... a time to every purpose under the heaven," it would be especially appropriate for Masons if those words were written by King Solomon.

My prayer is that the Supreme Architect will give each of us the purpose for this time, inspire us, lead us and give us strength and wisdom to serve that purpose; and that it may be pleasing in His sight.

Fraternally and with thanks for the purpose each of you serves,

Louis K. Campbell, Grand Master

# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## An Edict 2013

*WHEREAS*, the use of various social networking sites is a pervasive aspect of today's society. Participation on such sites as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and all others, can reflect favorably on the Fraternity. That should be a goal for any Mason posting on such sites. When we represent ourselves as members of the Fraternity, we become someone's impression of Freemasonry. As such, it is important that we act accordingly and consistently with the lessons we are all taught as Masons in terms of how we communicate and interact with each other and with non-Masons.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Louis K. Campbell, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, by means of this edict do declare and establish as follows:

The streaming or any form of external communication of the actions or proceedings of a tiled meeting, during that meeting, is improper. Texting, "tweeting," e-mailing or the use of PDAs or similar electronic devices during meetings is discourteous and improper. The use of phones or communication devices during such a meeting, except as may be directed by the Worshipful Master, is improper. To wit: no cell phones communicating pictures, text, video or sound electronically; no use of PDAs or electronic devices during meetings.

Courtesy and discretion dictate that phones are best left outside the meeting room or turned off. For those whose employment or family circumstances require access to their phones, "Silent mode" or "vibrate" are to be utilized. A member receiving a call of a sufficiently emergent nature that it must be dealt shall, in the usual fashion, secure the Worshipful Master's permission to excuse himself and deal with the call outside the meeting room.

The non-disruptive use of cell-phone based calendars is permitted.

*The Hallmarks of Masonic Communication*, and the *Code* set forth below, form the standard and guideline to which every Mason must conform.

### *Social Media Code of Conduct for Virginia Freemasons*

- A Mason should conduct his Social Media activities in a way that reflects favorably upon his membership in the Craft. He must act in a way that presents a positive image of his membership in Freemasonry.
- A Mason must be aware that his postings are a permanent record. Rash, imprudent or ill-advised postings cannot really be "taken back" without the possibility of harm.
- His actions, postings, videos and pictures, including those of Lodge or other Masonic events, on Social Media outlets must reflect the highest standards of morality and integrity he would practice within the Lodge. Such postings must not depict the Lodge, the Fraternity or any member thereof in an unfavorable light.
- To ensure our Fraternity represents itself to the high standards we believe in, we must regulate our actions through Brother-to-Brother intervention. As a Mason, you should advise a Brother if you feel that what he has posted is improper within the framework of our constitution, laws, rules, regulations, edicts or social media policy as reflected herein. It is improper to identify any Freemason as a member of the Craft unless he has given his consent, or has already identified himself as such.
- Lodge notices, and information contained within Lodge notices beyond the time and place of meeting and the general purpose or nature thereof, must not be discussed in any forum accessible by non-Masons.
- Discussion related to the submission of a petition, application, background or investigation of an applicant, fact of a ballot, discussion thereon or results thereof is improper.
- Discussion related to the business of a Lodge and what is discussed within our tiled doors, including any posting of minutes or any portion thereof, is improper.
- Information about Lodge or District social activities must comply with the provisions of this Code of Conduct.
- Lodges may not communicate with other Grand Lodges or their subordinate Lodges online. Contact must be conducted through the Office of the Grand Secretary.
- *The Hallmarks of Masonic Communication*, oral, written or electronic, are: Dignity, courtesy, fraternal respect, consideration for the privacy rights of others, tolerance and respect for the religious, political and other personal views of others. Admonishment of error, when needed is done privately.

Discussion and reasoned debate are healthy; personal attacks and incivility are inappropriate. Masons should extend **these generous principles to all**. Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the City of Richmond this 1st day of October, A.L. 6013, A.D. 2013 and in the Two Hundred and Thirty-fifth year of our Grand Lodge.



Handwritten signature of Louis K. Campbell in blue ink.

Louis K. Campbell Grand Master

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Alan W. Adkins in blue ink.

Alan W. Adkins, Grand Secretary

# Committee On Work Grand Annual Communication Schedule

All Master Masons are cordially invited to attend any and/or all sessions.  
All sessions will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa,  
12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

7:30 P.M. - Exemplification of the Degree of Entered Apprentice

Thursday, November 7, 2013 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. – Exemplification of the Degree of Fellow Craft and Degree of Master Mason

Right Worshipful Hoen McGuire Edwards, Jr.

Grand Lecturer

## 2014 Reid J Simmons Academy Of Masonic Leadership

The Reid J Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership for 2014 will held at The Best Western Hotel in Waynesboro, Virginia Thursday, Friday, and Saturday July 31 through August 2, 2014. More information will follow shortly. Make your plans now.

Eddie Conner

## Name Badge Policy

Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins, (1997)  
Grand Secretary

The Council of Administration, which is composed of the elected Grand Lodge Officers, has considered from time to time the color, type, appearance and content of name badges being worn by the Brethren at the Grand Lodge, District and Lodge levels.

In order to provide for the continuity and uniformity essential to the harmony which is the Council's goal, the following policy has been adopted for dissemination to all parties concerned:

### Gold Name Badges

Worn by Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, and District Deputy Grand Masters only.

### Silver Name Badges

Worn by Grand Lodge Committees only.

### Purple Name Badges

Worn by Past District Deputy Grand Masters only.

### Content and Appearance

Name badges shall contain only pertinent Masonically-related information: name, office, Lodge, committee, etc., and symbols: square and compasses, officer emblems, Past Master emblem. The name badge becoming a part of a Mason's "uniform," it is specifically inappropriate to add other non-Masonically related symbols or words to it. The name badge should not be employed as a vehicle to make statements of personal opinion.

The Grand Lodge office has notified all known name badge vendors of the color designation aspects of this policy. Lodge Secretaries will be notified of the amended policy (including provisions on content and appearance, effective October 1, 2013), by e-mail and publication in the next issue of FYI. Direct all questions to the Grand Lodge office.

# 235th Grand Annual Communication

## Schedule for November 8-9, 2013 COMMITTEE ON WORK SCHEDULE

*All sessions will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.  
All Master Masons are cordially invited to attend any and/or all sessions.*

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013

7:30 P.M.—Exemplification of the Degree of Entered Apprentice

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.—Exemplification of the Degree of Fellowcraft and Master Mason

## AT THE GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION NOVEMBER 8-9, 2013

### RESOLUTION NO. 13-01

This resolution would change Section 2.159(e) of the Methodical Digest to require that a Brother serving as Worshipful Master of a Research Lodge must have already been elected and installed Master of a regular Lodge holden under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

### RESOLUTION NO. 13-02

This resolution would change Section 5.19 of the Methodical Digest to change the number of members to serve on the Committee on Life Membership in Perpetuity from five to nine.

## 235th GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 235th Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, commencing on Friday, November 8, 2013, at 8:30 AM. The Grand Master's Address will be delivered after the opening of Grand Lodge.

At 3:30 PM, on Friday, the Grand Lodge Committees will meet. Delegates are urged to attend and inform themselves regarding pending matters.

A banquet will be held for the Brethren on Friday evening. On Friday, November 8 at 12:00 PM, a luncheon will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump for the benefit of the Masonic Home of Virginia.

Resolutions will be considered during Friday's and Saturday's sessions. Election of Grand Lodge Officers will begin promptly at 10:00 AM, Saturday morning, November 9.

An open installation of Grand Lodge Officers will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump that afternoon at 4:30 PM, with an Installation Dinner/Reception to follow at the Acca Temple Shrine Center at 7:00 PM.

Resolutions to be considered in 2014 must be drafted in proper form as required by Section 1.16 of the Methodical Digest and submitted to the Grand Secretary by December 31, 2013.

Resolutions to be considered at the 235th Grand Annual Communication are listed above.

There were no requests for fraternal recognition this year. 🍷



# Making Good Men Better

Most Worshipful Edmund Cohen (2008)

When we are asked, “what do Masons do?,” one of the answers we tend to give is that “we take good men and make them better.” What does this really mean? How do we make good men better?

We can approach this question in a variety of ways. There are, first of all, the lessons in the degrees which train our minds and guide our actions. Then there is our exposure to Masonic mentors and role models, finally, there is the role we fill as Masonic teachers. So let us briefly explore each of these aspects in turn.

We should begin by simply reviewing the written work of the three degrees for the guidance they provide.

In the Entered Apprentice Degree, we are taught equilibrium, learning through the twenty-four inch gauge, that we should divide our days into three equal parts: eight hours for the service of God and the relief of a distressed worthy Brother, eight for our usual vocations, and eight for refreshment and sleep. This means that we are to think about our spiritual well being and the well being of others first, to be gainfully employed, but also not to neglect our rest and relaxation.

We learn through the common gavel to get beyond the passions and exigencies of today and, by divesting our hearts and consciences of all of the vices and superfluities of life, to fit our minds as living stones for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

We are taught three guiding principles: to have faith in God, hope in immortality, and charity toward all mankind. We are told that the greatest of these is charity. Freemasonry, at every turn, encourages us to go beyond good thoughts toward positive action.

We learn too that reaching our potential does not occur overnight, and through the

symbolism of the ashlar, we come to understand that it is the work of a lifetime to move from the Rough Ashlar, which is symbolic of our rude and imperfect nature, to the Perfect Ashlar, which is that state of perfection we hope to attain by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessings of God.

We learn about the point within a circle, embordered by two perfect parallel lines representing the Holy Saints John, and on the top resting the Book of Constitutions, and are told that while a Mason keeps himself within their precepts, it is impossible he can materially err. What this means is that not only are we to practice what is in the Book of Constitutions, but also to temper the righteousness and zeal of St. John the Baptist with the love, charity, and mercy of St. John the Evangelist.

We learn about the three tenets of Freemasonry. The first is brotherly love, by the exercise of which, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one common family. It is upon this principle that the universality of Freemasonry is based. In our Fraternity are men of every country, sect, and opinion. Through brotherly love we find true friendships with those who we might otherwise have never met.

The second is relief. We believe that everyone should try to help the distressed, but we believe that it is particularly incumbent upon Masons to go the extra mile to soothe the unhappy, sympathize with their misfortunes, show compassion for their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds. This means that while giving money, to the extent we can, is helpful, it is also the person-to-person interaction that is so important.

The third is truth, which we are taught is the foundation of every virtue. As Masons we should be known as men to whom hypocrisy

and deceit are unknown, who deal honestly and fairly with all men, who promote each other's welfare, and who are happy rather than jealous of each other's prosperity.

And finally there are the four cardinal virtues. The first is temperance, a restraint on unbridled passion, and the cultivation of moderation rather than excess in everything we do. It keeps drinking from becoming drunkenness, love from becoming obsession, and discussion from becoming argument. The second is fortitude, which allows us to do what is right in the face of pain, peril, or danger, but which also is equally distant from cowardice on the one hand and rashness on the other. The third is prudence, the hallmark of which is reason and common sense, along with a concern for the longer-term consequences of our actions, not merely its short term effect. And finally, there is justice, that standard of fairness and right which enables us to render to every man his just due without distinction.

Wow! Here are a number of significant principles to guide our lives, and we have discussed only the Degree of Entered Apprentice. There are equally powerful lessons to be drawn from an examination of the Degree of Fellowcraft and the Degree of Master Mason, but we do not have time to cover these now. However, you are strongly encouraged to study the valuable teachings they contain.

Moving from the role of our ritual in helping to make good men better, let us next consider the part played by our Masonic mentors and role models. New Masons are very conscious of the behavior of the Masons in their Lodge. They wonder if these Masons comport themselves differently from other men they know who are not Masons. They observe how

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# Making Good Men Better

Continued from page 8.

well these older Masons live up to the solemn obligations they have just taken, and measure their conduct to see if it is congruent with the lofty principles and high moral standards espoused in the three degrees.

Most of the Brethren live up to these standards and the new Masons learn more about Freemasonry from these men than they do from taking the degrees or reading a myriad of books about Freemasonry.

What is most impressive about these Masonic role models is how accomplished they are, and yet how modest. They wear their success and titles very lightly, have little interest in the spotlight, are very approachable, and are very pleasant to be around. We quickly learn that they keep their promises and that their word is their bond. We find that we can talk to them on the square and be confident that what we share will go no further. We can trust them with our innermost thoughts and concerns, so we trust them with our money and even our family.

These mentors and role models are not somehow superhuman, they have the same feelings or sensibilities as the rest of us, but when they are upset, they seem less quick to anger and are better able to keep their emotions in check. They feel as deeply as anyone else when they are slighted or insulted, but they opt to be courteous rather than disagreeable, conciliatory rather than offensive. They remember past wrongs and injustices like anyone else, but they are willing to forgive, and not to hold grudges. They are as aware as anyone else of a missed word, a mistake in the floor work, or a gaffe in Masonic protocol, but they pretend not to notice in order to avoid embarrassing their Brother. And although they may suffer from the same financial pressures as anyone else, they are still willing to share

what they have in order to help a Brother or their Lodge.

It is this attitude of charity and forgiveness that distinguishes them as Masons. It is their demeanor that wins our respect. And by their conciliatory attitude and agreeable disposition, they promote peace and harmony in the Lodge.

Having touched upon the role of ritual and of our own Masonic mentors, let us finally consider the part that each of us might play, if we choose, as mentors and role models for the next generation of Masons. Assuming the role of mentor gives us the opportunity to help others to become better men, but it also helps us improve ourselves even more, because it is by teaching that we learn the most.

Being a mentor can, of course, involve instructing on the ritual, explaining Masonic protocol, reviewing the history of our Lodge and its traditions, and teaching about Grand Lodge. It also should involve discussing Masonic history and philosophy, delving into the deeper meanings of Masonic symbolism, and exploring moral and ethical issues with our Brethren.

However, as hinted at throughout this talk, mentoring also is teaching by example. When we think seriously about Freemasonry, we know that its foundation is the relationship between its members, and perhaps more important than perhaps anything mentioned above, is simply being a friend.

Sometimes, we can provide material help when a Brother is in trouble, but more often simply being there to offer moral support to a Brother who is upset, giving comfort to a Brother who is sick or grieving, and being with a Brother to share his joys and his successes, is what really is needed. A smile, a cordial greeting, a pat on the back, and a

willingness to listen is so greatly appreciated, and a single phone call, or visit to a sick or grieving Brother is worth more than a thousand lectures on friendship.

We also lead by example when we give blood, show up at Child ID programs, and support our Masonic Home. In addition, it is not just our Brethren we should mentor; we should spend time helping our youth. They are bombarded by commercials that say: "Just Do It," they are exposed to music and images that glorify delinquency rather than decency, and they are susceptible to peer pressure from those whose values are suspect and whose morals are undeveloped. Providing adult supervision for activities that can be fun without being mean spirited is a way we can help to channel youthful exuberance into more socially productive directions. A small investment of our time can pay significant dividends by exposing them to the values, by providing them with the interpersonal skills, and by encouraging them to practice the rules of conduct that will have relevance and meaning long after the current jargon, lyrics, and fashions they so slavishly follow are forgotten.

In summary, when we consider how we make good men better, we find we are not speaking in the abstract, or talking about someone else. It is our own thoughts and actions that are at issue. And if we will follow the guidance in this brief talk, we will be able to look at ourselves in the mirror and say with conviction that we are the better for having been initiated, passed, and ultimately raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. 🌟



# Community Service Awards

Worshipful Patrick Murphrey  
Photographs by Right Worshipful Herb Smith



L-R: Most Worshipful Louis K. Campbell, Aaron and Tisa Brooks, Grand Master Shelton Riddick, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia

Former NFL Quarterback, native of Newport News, Aaron Brooks was recognized by local Freemasons for his contributions and commitment to the city of Newport News. The awards included the 2013 Community Builders Award, presented by Bremond Lodge No. 241 and the 2013 Outstanding Community Service Award, presented by Masonic District No. 7, Prince Hall Masons.

The event was attended by over two hundred people including many special guests: Newport News Mayor McKinley Price; Congressman Scott Rigell (VA-2); Delegate Mamyé BaCote (95); Delegate Michael Watson (93); Councilwoman Sharon Scott (North District); Councilman Joseph Whitaker (South District); Councilwoman Tina Vick (South District); Councilman Robert Coleman (North District); City Clerk Mabel Washington Jenkins; former Newport News Fire Chief and 2010 Community Builders Award recipient Kenneth

Jones; Shelton Riddick, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons; and Louis K. Campbell, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia.

Aaron Brooks was born and raised in the City of Newport News, graduating from Ferguson High School. He attended and played football for the University of Virginia graduating in 1999. He began his NFL career with the Green Bay Packers, but really made his mark in 2000 when he took over as starting quarterback of the New Orleans Saints. Brooks set many team records with the Saints and retired from the NFL in 2007.

In his post-NFL career, Brooks became a land developer. His first project began in 2008 with Burlington Woods, an upscale subdivision located on 17 acres in James City County. In 2008, Brooks announced his plans to invest in

the redevelopment of the southeast community of Newport News. Known as “Brooks Crossing,” the project will be a mixed-use development consisting of residential and retail offerings. The ground-breaking is currently scheduled for fall 2013. By investing in his home community, Brooks is hoping to break the “Bad News” stigma sometimes associated with the area and showcase its positive attributes.

Aaron Brooks, with the support of his wife Tisa, has also been very active in promoting childhood literacy through the Aaron Brooks Family Foundation, which encourages children to use reading and a good education to rise above any negative circumstances. One of the major projects of the Foundation was the creation of a summer reading program called “Read to Pass,” encouraging children to read at least ten books on their summer breaks. Also, Brooks has co-authored a children’s book “Aaron Brooks: Rise Above” hoping to inspire and motivate young people with his own story of overcoming adversity. 📖



Aaron Brooks surrounded with dignitaries of Newport News, Virginia.

# Historic Lodge Meeting

Worshipful Patrick Murphrey  
Photographs by Right Worshipful Herbert J. Smith, Jr.



L-R: Grand Master Shelton Riddick, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Worshipful Master Steven G. Young, Most Worshipful Louis K. Campbell.



L-R: Most Worshipful William F. Perdue (1991), Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins (1997), Most Worshipful Clifford A. Parker (2002), Most Worshipful William E. Rorer, Jr. (2010)



Seven District Deputy Grand Masters representing the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia and the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Following the awards presentation, Bremond Lodge No. 241 held its stated communication. This was not just any stated communication, but was very historic and attended by over one hundred Master Masons. For the first time, both Virginia Grand Masters were present during a tiled meeting of a subordinate Lodge of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia.

With the meeting opened, Most Worshipful Louis K. Campbell, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia, was presented at the altar by a committee of Right Worshipful William F. Overby (DDGM-14B), Right Worshipful Robert C. Coffey (DDGM-14A), and Right Worshipful David C. Westcott (DDGM-57). After he was escorted to the East, saluted, and seated to the left of the Worshipful Master.

Next, Most Worshipful Shelton Riddick, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, was presented at the altar by a committee of Most Worshipful William F. Perdue (1991), Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins (1997), Most Worshipful Clifford A. Parker (2002), and Most Worshipful William E. Rorer, Jr. (2010). He was then escorted to the East saluted, and was seated

to the right of the Worshipful Master.

Other Masonic dignitaries from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia included Right Worshipful Wayne S. Flora (Deputy Grand Master), Right Worshipful Arthur L. Pendleton (Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master), Worshipful Joseph M. Elicerio (Grand Senior Steward), Right Worshipful Emmett Pate, Jr. (Grand Junior Steward), along with two additional District Deputy Grand Masters and seven Worshipful Masters.

Also, in attendance was Illustrious Sir Richard Underdown, Potentate of Khedive Shrine Center and Sir Knight Lawrence Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Virginia.

The Masonic dignitaries from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia included: Edward E. Lattimore, III (Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer), Maurice Holland (Right Worshipful Grand Director), Clifton Pierce (Worshipful Grand Senior Steward), Ray Fisher (Worshipful Grand Junior Steward), Calvin Ruff (Worshipful Grand Pursuivant), Larry Spence (Worshipful Grand Assistant Pursuivant), Ernest Harris (Worshipful Grand Assistant Tiler), along

with Thomas Jefferson, Jr. (DDGM-7), James Johnson, three Worshipful Masters, and a large delegation of Past Masters and other members.

At the conclusion of the introductions, Worshipful Master Steven G. Young presented each Grand Master with an engraved golden railroad spike. The golden railroad spike symbolizes unity as one was laid in 1869 to signify the completion of the transcontinental railroad which opened up the East and West of the United States to travel. Bremond Lodge has its own railroad heritage. The Lodge's namesake, Louis Bremond served as the first agent of the C. & O. Railroad in Newport News. Thus Bremond Lodge was a fitting location for a historical coming together of the two Virginia Grand Lodges, a living example of Masonic unity symbolized through the presentation of the engraved golden railroad spikes. After the presentation, both Grand Masters made brief remarks appropriate to the occasion. The Lodge was closed by Most Worshipful Campbell, with the assistance of Most Worshipful Riddick.

It was a wonderful and historic evening of Masonic fellowship and can be summed up with, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity".



# Reflections about the 2013 Reid J. Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership

Worshipful Paul A. Miller

July 31, 2013, 10:30AM

The parking lot is just about empty now.

Most of the Brethren have packed up their belongings, said farewell to Fork Union Military Academy and started to make the drive home.

Right Worshipful Edward “Eddie” T. Conner has packed up his computer and registration paperwork, and is making one last check in the dormitory to make sure that everything has been picked up and the linens placed in the laundry bins.

The Reid J. Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership (RJSAML) has concluded for another year.

This year’s session combined the best of:

- Ideal July weather conditions for walking between activities and relaxing during breaks
- Learning ritual, catechisms, lectures and floor work of the three degrees, through many different methods and venues
- Participating in education presentations on topics ranging from leadership skills to Masonic history
- Eating a little too much of the good food provided
- Relaxing in a new dormitory with comfortable features (sure, it is not the Ritz Carlton, but the one-year-old facility is state-of-the-art and very well designed and outfitted)
- Enjoying the company of Brethren reinforcing that mystic tie once from all over the Commonwealth
- Talking with the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Officers, as well as many of the Grand Lodge committee chairmen and members about issues

*The Grand Lecturer, keeps a watchful eye, ... but you don't have to wait long to see a smile cross his face and a quick laugh ... to know that he is mixing fun with the work, and is enjoying the company of his friends and Brothers*

facing the Craft. Or about fishing. Being with our Brethren in a relaxed setting, where conversations can turn to the everyday topics that we share as Brothers, as well as the inner workings of our wonderful Fraternity

The Committee on Work and the Committee on Masonic Education share time and resources during the sessions at Fork Union. The Brethren have the opportunity to benefit from the expert knowledge brought together by each of these committees.

The Grand Lecturer, Right Worshipful Hoen McGuire “Mac” Edwards, Jr., keeps a watchful eye on the teaching of the ritual throughout the session. But you don’t have to wait long to see a smile cross his face and a quick laugh come from his direction to know that he is mixing fun with the work, enjoying the company of his friends and Brothers in this relaxed setting. With the capable assistance of the entire Committee on Work, he compares his effort to that of a coach on a baseball team. The others are doing all of the work, and he is just directing the play of the game (but don’t believe that for a minute,

because he works just as hard as the rest of his committee members).

The Grand Provost, Right Worshipful Jonathan Mark Mills, oversees the education programs provided, as well as the Correspondence Course sessions administered by Right Worshipful Paul W. Pennybacker, Sr., and the Publication sales area operated by Worshipful Wayne D. Golden, Sr., When Right Worshipful Mills is not busy helping out in one those areas, he is having a one-on-one discussion with one of the Brethren about Masonry or some event in the world of Freemasonry.

The RJSAML lasts from Sunday evening through Wednesday morning during one week of late July or early August each year. You are welcome and encouraged to take part in this celebration of Masonic learning and fellowship. Just check the following webpage on the Grand Lodge website for updated schedules and information early in 2014. Ask your Lodge secretary, District Education Officer, District Instructor of Work for information.

Attending and participating in the Masonic activities and fraternal opportunities at the Reid J. Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership is one sure way to advance your Masonic knowledge and to strengthen fraternal connections with your Brethren. 🍷

[http://www.grandLodgeofvirginia.org/education/reid\\_j\\_simmons\\_academy/index.htm](http://www.grandLodgeofvirginia.org/education/reid_j_simmons_academy/index.htm)

# Reid J. Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership



## Why I Am a Mason

A new addition to the Grand Lodge website is “Why I Am A Mason” [click on Membership (right hand side of the main page) then click on “Why I Am A Mason” and select the story that interests you] telling why we joined the Oldest Fraternity in the world.

Or pass this link along to a friend who has shown interest in our Fraternity:

[http://www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org/membership/Why\\_Im\\_A\\_Mason.htm](http://www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org/membership/Why_Im_A_Mason.htm)

Why did you become a Mason? Send your story to the Grand Lodge office at:

[grandsecretary@grandlodgeofvirginia.org](mailto:grandsecretary@grandlodgeofvirginia.org) with the subject WHY. Ladies, what is your point of view as to the impact on your husband since he became a Mason? Email us at [grandsecretary@glova.org](mailto:grandsecretary@glova.org) with the subject WHY. 📧



QR Code to Grand Lodge of  
Virginia Website  
“Why I Am a Mason”



# Virginia Job's Daughters New Adventure

Amanda B. Giannini, PHQ, RP  
Grand Guardian, Virginia Job's Daughters



Daughters and Jobies-to-Bee from across the state with some of the ritual books being sent to our sisters in the Philippines

This July the Job's Daughters of Virginia set out on a new adventure. We are excited to begin a new year with renewed interest in our goals. Like all Masonic bodies, our numbers are dwindling. Our primary goal is increasing our active membership. With a challenge of 60 new Daughters in 90 days, we are already off to a great start with many signed petitions received and several new girls already initiated. We still want your daughters, granddaughters, and nieces, petitions too. Every new member is an opportunity for the men in their lives to become interested in the Masonic Fraternity.

Since 1985 Job's Daughters International has supported our own philanthropic project, the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment fund (H.I.K.E.). The Daughters of Virginia have worked tirelessly to support this project, having raised over \$356,000, and maintaining our position as one of the top jurisdictions. During this time we have also been blessed to have

presented 223 awards totaling almost half a million dollars. We are looking forward to our annual HIKE weekend on the Virginia Beach Board Walk on October 26. This is another opportunity for us to have fun and help raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

In addition to HIKE, another way we are showing our dedication to service is by our project this year as part of the theme, "The Twelve Months of Service." Throughout the year we will focus on the following areas: children, breast cancer, hunger and homelessness, literacy, animals, Masonic Service, nature, military service men, women and veterans, and Special Olympics. Each month we will target one of these areas with Bethels performing acts of service in their local communities.

To begin our year, we are collecting rituals and spare pieces of regalia to send to our sisters in the Philippines. Our goal

is 200 rituals, which will be divided among their 10 Bethels.

Our Grand Master's theme this year is "Masonry's Youth, Masonry's Future." We ask the Masons of Virginia to help us reach our goals and build our organization, and we in turn, look forward to introducing our fathers, brothers and sweethearts to the great Masonic family. We extend a special thank you to Dad Kerry Campbell for his dedication to all the youth groups this year. His attendance at our entire Grand Session was greatly appreciated by our Daughters. We thank you for your tireless years of service to the Masonic Youth of Virginia.

We welcome all Master Masons and their wives to attend our events. Across the state we have 19 Bethels, locations and meeting times can be found on the website ([www.jdiva.org](http://www.jdiva.org)) or by contacting Patricia Rary, Grand Secretary for at [ggc@jdiva.org](mailto:ggc@jdiva.org).

## Fall Term Upcoming Events

*Sat, Oct. 5, 2013 at 7pm* Grand Visitation of Bethels 3, 37, 42, 46 1465 Independence Blvd, Virginia Beach

*Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 2pm* Grand Visitation of Bethels 16, 55 803 Princess Anne St, Fredericksburg

*Sat, Nov 2, 2013 at 7pm* Grand Visitation of Bethels 28, 40, 48 5717 High St, Portsmouth

*Sat, Nov 30, 2013 at 7:30pm* Miss Job's Daughters Pageant Fort Magruder Hotel, Williamsburg

Contact Patricia Rary, Grand Secretary for tickets at [ggc@jdiva.org](mailto:ggc@jdiva.org)



# Virginia Rainbow's Celebrate "The Ties That Bind" the Masonic Family

Grand Worthy Advisor Katie Whidden



Grand Master Louis K. Campbell with Grand Officers and Grand Representatives 2013-14

As Virginia Rainbow celebrates its twentieth anniversary as an independent Jurisdiction, turns its focus toward the strengthening of the Masonic Family. The theme of Virginia Rainbow this year, "The Ties That Bind," is a song sung at every Rainbow meeting. The song takes on an additional meaning and reminds us as Rainbow Girls we are bound to our Masonic Families by the strong cord of fraternity and values.

Virginia Rainbow is seeking to strengthen ties to the Masonic Family by service, charitable works, and outreach. A keystone of the International Order of Rainbow for

Girls is service. Virginia Rainbow has specifically reached out to Blue Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, Amaranth Courts, and White Shrine of Jerusalem during the month of August. From a Child ID Program booth in Waynesboro, a dinner in Richmond, to a Lodge clean-up in Manassas, Virginia Rainbow is serving the Masonic Family. We have also named the Shriners Hospitals for Children as our state charity for this year. In addition,



tion, Virginia Rainbow is reaching out to the Masonic Lodges and appendant orders by presenting Rainbow's message at meetings of those groups, from Lodges in Alexandria to the Tidewater. Rainbow's message of improving young women through Masonic values is being presented.

Virginia Rainbow wishes to further strengthen "The Ties That Bind" with your Lodge or appendant order. If your organization would like to collaborate with Rainbow on a service project or would like a guest speaker, please contact Grand Worthy Advisor, Katie Whidden at [Kathryn.whidden@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.whidden@gmail.com). 🌈

# Virginia DeMolay

Brother Christopher L. Pendleton  
Advisory Council Chairman



L-R: Worshipful Master Gregory H. Schwartz of Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 receives the Sponsoring Body of the Year Award from Master Councilor Robert Busey.

In their “rookie year” of sponsoring a DeMolay Chapter, Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 went above and beyond the call; recognized as Sponsoring Body of the Year 2013 by Virginia DeMolay.

Early in Ashburn DeMolay Chapter’s effort to recruit members, the Lodge allowed the DeMolays to use the building for game night prospect parties. In the building, they were allowed access to a well-stocked cabinet of board games, as well as ample supply of sodas, plates, and paper towels. Seeing the old, hand-me-down television that the boys were using for video games at the game nights; the Lodge presented the chapter with a new flat screen

TV at the Chapter’s Fall installation of officers, and a place for its storage.

The Lodge has been aggressive over the past year improving their facility; and they have provided the DeMolay Chapter with a new storage closet to match those being used by the other bodies sharing the Lodge.



In May, the adult leaders of the youth groups (DeMolay and Rainbow) were treated to a lunch meeting hosted by the Master of the Lodge and a committee of Masons where input was solicited for Lodge improvements. They planned for ways to better relations and strengthen the Lodge and the youth organizations.

In its improvement planning, the Lodge committee noted a tick problem in the back lot; with this the DeMolays were to discontinue mowing the lawn. A professional service was hired to maintain the lawn, and attempt to remedy the tick issue. The DeMolay appreciate that the Lodge cared enough to keep the young men out of harm’s way and also appreciate the additional opportunities the DeMolays have been given to complete Masonic service projects.

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge has provided a contact link for the youth groups on its web page, as well as lists youth activities on the site’s event calendar. Youth are regularly invited to open events held by the Lodge (Ben Franklin visit, installation, picnic, clean-up/maintenance days).

The Brethren of Ashburn-Sterling Lodge have embraced the idea of Masonic Family. They have members and advisors of Ashburn DeMolay Chapter, as well as the rebuilding Rainbow Assembly, feel welcome, cared for, and supported. Congratulations to Worshipful Schwarz and all the Brethren of Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 for earning this award. 🙏



# Legion of Honour Banquet

Right Worshipful William A. Parks, Jr.

On June 6, 1984, Bernard Marie, a French native who had become a Roanoke businessman and philanthropist, hosted his first D-Day dinner for veterans. D-Day 2013 marked the twenty-ninth such celebration with over three hundred people, mostly WWII veterans, in attendance.

The dinner provides far more than an opportunity for presentation of the Legion of Honor. It has grown into a celebration of the “liberation of France and all of Europe,” thanks to the success of the June 6, 1944 landing at Normandy, on the beaches of Northern France.

As Bernard Marie is fond of saying, “had D-day not been the success it was, I and my countrymen would be speaking Russian today.” So France measures its gratitude to the Americans and other allies who partook of that day of horrors.

One of this year’s honorees is Brother Mills Hubert Hobbs, Jr. a distinguished member of Lakeland Lodge No. 180 in Roanoke. But the conferrals upon Brother Hobbs John Kessler and Chuck Neighbor came at the end of this night of tears, laughter, nostalgia, stark memories, and tales of unselfish patriotism and heroism.

The dinner opened with the presentation of the colors of the United States, Britain and France, whose flags share the red, white and blue. There followed “God Save the Queen,” “La Marseilles,” and “The Star-Spangled Banner,” with the French National Anthem sung solo by Nick Leitch, a Covington native with no need for a microphone, and the other two anthems performed by the Salem High School Band.

The speeches began during the dessert course. In introducing the guest speakers.



M. Bernard Marie



Lieutenant Colonel Helen Bowman  
of the British Army

Monsieur Marie pointed out that “the best way not to make the same mistakes is to know history.” And his speakers had lived the history of the day many believe to be the most significant of the twentieth century, D-Day, June 6, 1944.

First up was Nathan Kranowski, who has spoken many times as “witness to his parents’ arrest by the Gestapo.” However, in recent years, the French have acknowledged the collaboration of the French police in such arrests.

*Mr. Bernard Marie,  
a French native is a Roanoke  
businessman and philanthropist,  
has hosted his dinners for D-Day  
veterans for twenty-ninth years.*

Kranowski’s parents were among thousands arrested for the capital crime of being Jewish, interned a short while in a suburb of Paris, then taken on French trains to Auschwitz, where they were immediately gassed.

Nathan, four years old at the time (1942) was placed with three orphanage in Brittany until he came to the U.S. in 1948.

Until two years ago, Kranowski had no idea where the farm where he stayed was located nor the identity of the couple who sheltered him. Then he received a call from a French professor who had identified thirty Jewish children hidden in Brittany.

Invited to Lodge with the professor, Nathan traveled last year to Brittany and, although the farm couple was long deceased, he visited the farm where he stayed.

He ended his testimonial with expressions of profound gratitude “to all of those who saved France, the soldiers, sailors, marines,

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# Legion of Honour Banquet

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Mrs. Frances "Rusty" Rice

and airmen. Without them, the Germans would have won."

Next came Lieutenant Colonel Helen Bowman, of the British Army, a lawyer, currently studying at the University of Virginia School of Law.

Col. Bowman, decked out in the most elegant dress uniform imaginable, told of the 383,000 British soldiers who fell in WWII, including 2,700 killed at Normandy. She praised the Bedford D-Day Memorial. She told the audience of the base in Bedford, England, [Bletchley Park] where German wireless transmissions were decoded "and landed on Winston Churchill's desk" before they reached the Germans.

Dan Englar riveted the audience describing his piloting of a Higgins Boat (landing craft) on D-Day, between the troop ships and Omaha Beach. At each landing, his boat was loaded with the wounded. He carried on, pilot-



Brother Mills Hubert Hobbs Jr.,  
Lakeland Lodge No. 190



Legion of Honour, or the National  
Order of the Legion of Honour (*Ordre  
national de la Légion d'honneur*)

ing his boat despite being shot in the face.

Most of Englar's first load were killed. The English Channel churned red with blood. On his fourth trip, 300 yards from shore, a mortar hit his craft that "burned me bad," but he kept going, ferrying soldiers to the beach and carrying the wounded back to the ships.

Frances "Rusty" Rice, a nurse at the Battle of the Bulge with the U.S. 7th Army declared that "we weren't trained for what we saw." She, "never hesitates to talk about my experiences. It is history and can only be told

by those who lived it."

During the bitter winter of '44 - '45 many soldiers lost toes and more fighting the Battle of the Bulge and the unimaginable cold. Following several days of storms and clouds, the sun finally came out, and the skies filled with wave after wave of Allied planes, so many the skies darkened.

Hearing the planes, Rusty's 'Boys' (patients) were banging on their bunks, yelling over and over, "Give 'em hell!"

45,000 Army nurses served "all over the world. Wherever the Army was, there was an Army medical facility." Her experience with the horrors of war taught her that "war is stupid." Nevertheless, she concluded, "We will never forget the courage, the bravery, the commitment of our warriors. We shall never forget our comrades who did not come home. They shall live in our memories forever."

The last testimonial came from Walt Armstrong, a Navy submariner in the Pacific. He enlisted in the Navy because he "didn't want to get in the trenches." He volunteered for submarines but "as a country boy I didn't even know what a submarine was, but it paid an extra fifty buck a month." He soon learned why, submerged in the sea, listening to "tin cans" bouncing off his ship's hull, waiting for the explosions.

Walt shared a ship with Jesse Russell, the executive officer later known for authoring Run Silent, Run Deep. During one battle, a Japanese Pilot was shot down and rescued by Walt's crew. Turned out the pilot was a graduate of USC who had gone to visit his parents in Japan and got

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## (Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur)

Continued from page 18.

*Frances "Rusty" Rice,  
"It is history and can only be  
told by those who lived it."*

drafted as a pilot for the Japanese.

Then came the Legion of Honor presentations by Colonel Jacques Aragones, Military Attaché to the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. and his aide, in their full dress khaki uniforms of the French Navy.

Brother Mills H. Hobbs, Jr., born May 28, 1922, moved to Roanoke in 1924 and graduated from Jefferson High School.

He was drafted in 1942, shipped overseas in 1943, and was assigned to the 29th Division, 115th Regiment at Fort Tregnie, England.

Brother Hobbs landed on Omaha Beach on D-day and was wounded three days before St. Lo fell on July 18. He rejoined his unit forty days later and was wounded again at Fort Montbary, Brest. Later he fought the rest of the way to the Elbe River.

After Germany's surrender, he served in the occupation forces as platoon Sergeant.

Sgt. Hobbs received the Combat Infantry Badge, Two Bronze stars, Two Purple Hearts, Bronze Arrowhead, Four Campaign Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, 115 Croix de Guerre Star, and Division Croix de Guerre with palm....

....and on June 6, 2013, in the words of Col. Aragones, "In recognition of your contributions to the Liberation of France, the President of France has awarded you the



Military Attaché to the French Embassy presented Staff Sgt. and Brother Mills Hobbs, 1st Lt. John Kessler, and Pfc. Chuck Neighbor the Legion of Honor by the in Washington, D.C.

Legion of Honor in the rank of Knight."

Staff Sgt. and Brother Mills Hobbs, 1st Lt. John Kessler, and Pfc. Chuck Neighbor were presented the Legion of Honor by the Military Attaché to the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Brother Mills Hubert Hobbs, Jr. was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Lakeland Lodge No. 190, in Roanoke, on January 14, 1973, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on February 22, 1973, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 7, 1973.

Interviewed following the banquet, Mr. Bernard emphasized the French gratitude for American military aid in World War II. "For fifty years, the Americans did nothing," he says. The D-day tributes have burgeoned. One unexpected result has been to loosen the

tongues of the service members who participated. "Thanks to these dinners, and especially the early testimonials, those who served in World War II have just recently begun to tell their stories and their stories are history that should not be lost."

The *Virginia Masonic Herald* gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Brother Fredic E. Dooley, Melrose Lodge No 139, who made the Herald's presence at the dinner possible and researched Brother Hobbs's military background; Brother J. Keith Bohon, Jr., Secretary of Lakeland Lodge No. 190, who provided his Masonic history; and most especially M. Bernard Marie, who conducted the dinner and generously made himself available for an interview a few days later. 🙏



## Ask Hiram

**W**here are the duties of the Lodge Officers listed?

**ANSWER:** Each Lodge may have specific duties to be carried out by Lodge Officers, such as setting up the Lodge ahead of meetings, announcing Masonic Birthdays, introducing guests, etc. The main duties of Lodge officers, however, are listed in Sections 2.48 (Worshipful Master) through 2.68 (Stewards) of the Methodical Digest. The observant Brother will notice that these duties are also referred to in the Officer Installation ceremony. Additionally, Sections 2.69 and 2.70 of the Methodical Digest address duties for Lodge Trustees.

**H**iram has received a question from a Brother who frequently delivers the Lecture following one of the degrees. The Brother is looking to improve his skill in delivering the Lecture and asks Hiram for the exact wording in one section of the Lecture.

**ANSWER:** Hiram compliments the Brother on his enthusiasm and willingness to provide his Lodge with the best Lecture possible for the degree in question. It is because of Brethren such as this that the quality of our degree works remains high in many of our Lodges. Unfortunately, Hiram is not able to respond to the Brother's question in this, or any other, magazine article as the words sought by the Brother fall within the part of the Lecture that is not written, but transmitted from mouth to ear. Hiram recommends that the Brother contact his District Instructor of Work or a member of the Committee on Work for a review of the specific section of the Lecture.

**M**y Lodge needs to shift its monthly meeting date in those months when national holidays coincide with our regular meeting. This year we have moved our meeting to the same weekday, but a week later than normal. My question to Hiram is, if we were reading a petition for the first time at such a meeting, can it lay over until the next month, given that the next meeting will be only three weeks away and not a full calendar month? My question is, since I was raised in another Lodge, but am proving my proficiency in my new Lodge, is there a Diploma or Certificate to prove my proficiency? Also, is there any change in wording due to the locations involved?

**ANSWER:** This is a good question and applicable to many Lodges that are required to change their meeting date from time to time. Technically, the Lodge, in the good Brother's example, cannot ballot on the petition at the second meeting as the statutory time period has not passed between the two meetings. However, the Lodge can ask for a dispensation, which must first be sent to the District Deputy Grand Master for his review. He will upon completion of his review forward the

request for dispensation to the Grand Master. The Lodge shall await the Grand Master's decision, which will be communicated back through the DDGM.

**W**hen should I receive the Past Master's Degree, after election as Master or after Installation?

**ANSWER:** To answer the question in a logical manner we need to work backwards. To be eligible for election as Worshipful Master, Section 2.33 of the Methodical Digest (MD) requires a Brother to have served one year as Warden of his Lodge. In order to be eligible to serve as Warden, the Brother must, according to Section 2.25 and Section 2.34, Decision 6 from 1907 of the MD, have obtained the Past Master's degree. It therefore follows that the degree should have been received at least one year prior to being nominated as Worshipful Master. Sections 2.33 and 2.34 list a number extraordinary circumstances when the above rules may be set aside.

**I**n the ritual about the Master Masonic apron we tuck the flap up. Yet as Master Masons we wear the apron as Fellowcrafts. Why is this?

**ANSWER:** This is a question that comes up quite frequently and has previously been discussed in issue from 2008.

For those Brethren who do not have access to this issue Hiram offers the following interpretation: The new Master Mason, by being taught to wear his apron in a particular way, is moved one step up from Fellowcrafts, and becomes one of the original 3,300 Overseers at the Temple.

The folding of the apron created a means for carrying tools, particularly the trowel, or construction plans. Today we, as members of the Craft, wear our aprons in the manner of the Fellowcraft, carrying all the plans and implements of Masonry in the symbolic 'pouch' of our hearts and minds.

Did you know that some of the Brethren overseeing the Craft today (DDGMs) wear aprons with pouches on the inside? 🛠️





# Masons Capturing Great Moments

Right Worshipful Moring E. Gravitt

The Virginia Masonic Herald Publications Board will announce the winning pictures of Masons Capturing Grand Moments in the next Herald (Summer, est. April). The contest will determine the best photos taken by Masons in Virginia.

Masons are asked to continue sharing their favorite shots with the Herald. The two principal categories are Masonic and non-Masonic. These can include portraits, landscapes, snapshots, family, fun events, Masonic gatherings, everyday items and items of interest. If it catches your eye and it is worth sharing, snap a picture. These photos should be under the banner of **Masons Capturing Great Moments**. Send us some great shots of things, happenings, or people in Virginia. Masonic items from outside the Commonwealth will be equally considered.

Photos will be accepted in electronic form only. These should be in JPG format and not larger than 2 MB. The Virginia Masonic Herald Publications Board reserves the right to use any photo submitted for Masonic publication (The Herald, Grand Lodge of Virginia website, etc.) without compensation to the photographer. Proper credit will be given where appropriate. All rights, not specifically outlined here, remain the sole property of the photographer.

Send Photos to: [vmheditor@gmail.com](mailto:vmheditor@gmail.com) and put **Masons Capturing Great Moments** in the subject line of the email. Send only one (1) photo per e-mail. You may enter six (6) photos per year. With each photo, send a detailed description of the subject, when and where taken, and the reason for the picture, listing the photographer's name, Lodge number, and camera used. Detailed stories accompanying the photo are encouraged. These pic-

## Like Answers Returned

by Sam Welty



The joint procession brought up many questions of great Masonic importance . . .

tures and stories may be made into an article in the printed version of the Herald.

An ad-hoc committee from the Herald Board will preview these photos. Selected



photos will be published in the monthly web supplement of the Masonic Herald.

The Masonic Herald Publications Board is fortunate to have some excellent photographers on the staff. Two of these Brethren are professionals and will serve as judges for the contest. There will be several categories to include, landscape, portrait, and snapshot. Each group will have a first, second, and third place chosen. There will also be an overall Best in Show chosen. 🙏

# Order of the Eastern Star Special Weekend

Paula Swansey  
Worthy Grand Matron



The Grand Chapter of Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star is very proud of their recent accomplishments. In August, they sponsored "Dinner with Abe," a wonderful dinner, and a presentation by Johnny Schuler on the life of Abraham Lincoln. The net profits were donated to the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center. It was a very special evening as several of our Masonic Bodies came together to support our project. The estimated donation to the Language Center is about \$2,000. The organization and preparation of this event was handled by the Capital City Past Matron's and Past Patron's Club. We are very grateful to Ronald E. Butler, Sr. and the Scottish Rite Stewards committee for the preparation and serving of the food and to the International

Order of Rainbow for Girls, Assembly No. 10 for their assistance in waiting on tables. We were also assisted by many Scottish Rite members who sold tickets. Those attending were pleased with the evening as it gave them a chance to see old friends and make new friends from other Masonic bodies.

The next morning the Capital City Past Matron's and Past Patron's Club sponsored our Annual Initiatory Breakfast. There we enjoyed an excellent breakfast, and had many laughs at the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron as they were initiated into the Club. After the initiation, they auctioned off several items that had been donated. The estimated profits from this event are approximately \$1,200, which will be donated to the Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's special projects for the year, Cancer and Parkinson's.

That evening was the Official Visit to District No. 26, the Worthy Grand Matron's home District. Much love and friendship was shown the whole weekend. I am so proud of our members who worked so hard to make the weekend so profitable for our three very worthy charities. 🌸

## 70 Year Mason



L-R: Joseph Warshawsky, P.M. (Kyle Lodge 422, Whitesburg, TN) and Life Member of Occidental Lodge 72, Seattle, WA; and member of Virginia Research Lodge 1777; Royce Peterson, Past Grand Illustrious Master; Rev. Charles Douglas Mayo; M.W. Laddie Lann Wilson, P.G.M. (2012), Grand Lodge of Tennessee, R.W. Billy Ray Cutlip, Grand Junior Warden (2013), Grand Lodge of Tennessee

On April 15, 2013, a group of Brethren presented Brother Rev. Charles Douglas Mayo with a 70-year pin in honor of his seventieth year as a Master Mason. Brother Mayo, who is now in his nineties, was raised as a Master Mason on July 18, 1942, in Toccopola Lodge No. 310 Toccopola, Mississippi (the Lodge is now dark). Brother Mayo is a retired Methodist minister and now resides in Greeneville, Tennessee. The 70-year pin had to be special ordered by Worshipful Brother David Hart, who at the time was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee F. and A.M. 🌸

## Brother

In the silence of the heart  
Duels the seed of wisdom  
Culture it through kindness  
Realize it in love  
There is no higher title than Brother  
and I am proud to be your Brother

Don Saint



# Community Builders Award

## Brother Kenneth M. Smith

Junior Warden Ken Smith, of Edwards Lodge No. 308, Stony Creek, Virginia, preparing a program for Junior Warden's Night reached out to the Mayor Frank Jackson of the Town of Stony Creek, to learn what opportunities might exist for the Lodge to become a greater presence in the community. He asked the Mayor to report to the Lodge on planned community affairs. The Mayor and his Lady (Council Lady Sylvia Jackson) joined Brother Smith, and Lady Jacque for dinner the previous Friday night to discuss how the evening would unfold. Council Lady Sylvia Jackson added that she, and her daughter, had firsthand experience with Virginia Masonry, told her story and they were

invited to attend to share their story as well.

At the meeting the Mayor and his Lady explained that they had canvassed the voters

*Her Shrine scars are,  
"badges of valor"*

of Stony Creek to learn what services, and amenities the voters wanted to see in the Town. A library and a place for the Town's children to play were the standouts. This the Mayor reported to the Lodge, both are expected to be deferred at the next meeting to the Lodge



(L-R) Junior Warden Ken Smith, Shannon, Council Lady Sylvia Jackson, and Mayor Frank Jackson

## Masonic Veterans

### FIFTY-YEAR VETERANS

Bro. William L. Barton  
Wor. Joseph Carter Crafford  
Bro. David Randolph Morgan  
Bro. John Archie Harden  
Bro. Harland Maydew Jenkins  
Wor. Richard Nimrod Early, Jr.  
Bro. Joseph Emmett Abbott, Jr.  
Wor. James Martin Campbell  
Bro. Michael Davis Cundiff  
Bro. William Roger Gray  
R.W. Kyle Beecher Powers  
Wor. John Kenneth Edwards  
Bro. Ira Neal Bass  
Bro. William Whitfield Smith

Williamsburg Lodge No. 6  
Williamsburg Lodge No. 6  
Manchester Lodge No. 14  
Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21  
Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21  
Piedmont-Stella Lodge No. 50  
Ruth Lodge No. 89  
Snow Creek Lodge No. 90  
Melrose Lodge No. 139  
Hill City Lodge No. 183  
Big Stone Gap Lodge No. 208  
Powhatan Lodge No. 295  
Cabell Lodge No. 328  
Warwick Lodge No. 336

### SIXTY-YEAR VETERANS

R.W. Bill Cantrell  
Bro. Edgar Mullins

Pound Lodge No. 59  
Pound Lodge No. 59

Trustees for their recommendations.

Then, Council Lady Jackson shared her story. While working third shift at an Emporia truck stop, a trucker noticed she was unusually distraught and asked what was bothering her. He learned that her daughter was facing an enormous orthopedic matter that she and her former husband, a farmer struggling to overcome four years of drought, were ill prepared to meet. The trucker was a Mason, and within a week the daughter was at the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville, North Carolina. Daughter Shannon Hawkins, now owns a convenience store in Skippers, Virginia, and proudly bears the scars of many surgeries required to correct the disease that once threatened to cripple her. Although the doctors would have removed the scars, she declined, calling them badges of valor.

Brother Smith, seeking opportunities to hold Child ID events or a Community Blood Drive, found other important needs in the community that the Lodge may be able to help foster, and gained a greater sense of pride in being a Virginia Freemason. "If we can help the town meet those goals, the community's children will benefit, our membership will grow from our exposure. The members of the Lodge will be enriched too," said Smith; "plus we'll be holding a child ID function and a blood drive." 🙏



# A Traditional Observance Lodge:

They walk among us, touting Strict Observance, Traditional Observance, and Masonic Restoration. They promote “excellence in all things Masonic,” publish screeds condemning the current state of the Craft, and even have a web site, [www.traditionalobservance.com](http://www.traditionalobservance.com). The web site contains cogent suggestions for improving the Masonic experience, increasing membership, and providing sound financial planning for Lodges. It is well done and worth visiting and revisiting.

Brother Cliff Porter’s contribution to the movement strikes a few right notes in his *A Traditional Observance Lodge*:

“Masonry is a life-long journey and cheapening it by a one-day class, or some other shortcut, steals a once in a lifetime chance from the man, the mentor, and from Masonry.”

“The watchwords of the Traditional Observance enrichment program are proficiency, presentation, and education all of which must be done under an umbrella of quality.”

“Only the fool believes that the power of the Oriental Chair is true power.”

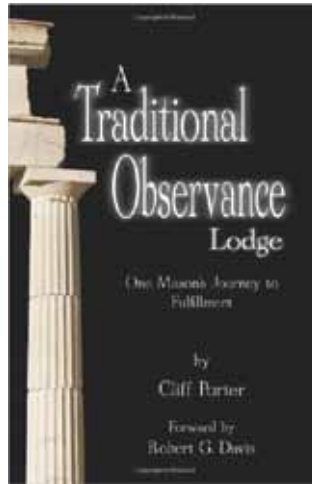
“We should not try to create something Masonic without abiding by Masonic principle and inculcating what we have learned in the ritual itself.”

“When I travel to speak on Freemasonry and its tenets, I am met with numbers of men excited about reforming Freemasonry in their area [sic].”

“Masonry is exceptional and extraordinary, so too can the Lodge [small ‘l’] experience be; but it is going to take work, difficult decisions, and dedicated members.”

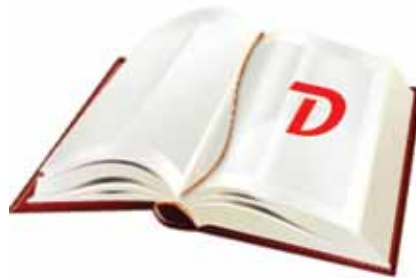
“If we want successful and fulfilling appendant bodies then we need to stack them full of excited and fulfilled blue Lodge [small ‘l’] Masons.”

“The word ‘special’ has been used 54 times in this book. The word ‘quality’ has appeared 89 times. If I have communicat-



*A Traditional Observance Lodge:  
One Mason’s Journey to Fulfillment*  
(Starr Publishing, LLC, paperback, 2013,  
244 pages, \$16.33 at  
Amazon.com)

Review by R. W. William A. Parks, Jr.



ed anything thus far it should be that the Traditional Observance model seeks a fulfilling Lodge experience that promotes just how special Masonry is through insistence upon quality in all things Masonic.”

Amen, Brother! Let’s see just exactly what he proposes.

Brother Porter suggests that on the night of his initiation, the candidate should be picked up at home or in some parking lot by two Brethren in tuxedos, preferably transported by limousine, who first ask the prospect, “Do you trust us?”

Upon receiving a positive response, the Brethren drop a sack over the novice’s head.

Then the Brothers ride the candidate around in circles for an hour or so and keep him blindfolded until he enters the “chamber of reflection” down at the old Traditional Observance Lodge.

The chamber is small, its walls black, its only light a solitary candle, its only furniture a table and chair, with perhaps a skull present to provoke meditation on his inevitable departure from this mortal coil.

Once in the chamber, the Candidate is instructed to answer the following questions:

- What is truth?
- What is fact?
- What is more dangerous, the lie we tell others or the lies we tell ourselves? Why?
- What does it mean to have freewill [sic]?
- What is more important, thought or action? Why?
- Can God co-exist with freewill [sic]?
- Please explain.
- If you were ordered to leave your friends and join your enemy, what would you do? Why?
- What is the greatest sin a man can commit against himself and why?
- Why is secrecy important to you?
- How would you like to be remembered in death?
- Are faith and reason compatible? Why?
- How should you confront ignorance?
- What value is there in failure? If you fail, how should you handle it?
- Are you ready?

Brother Porter states: “The candidates [no apostrophe] responses can be retrieved prior to the work beginning and read aloud to the Lodge [small ‘l’].”

Attempts to answer those questions have filled libraries for centuries. Really thoughtful

Continued on page 25.

# One Mason's Journey to Fulfillment

Continued from page 24.

responses to those questions could take days, weeks, and entire lifetimes.

At this point the reader begins to understand the back cover's blurb: "Men arrive on Lodge days at 8:00 AM and are reluctantly [sic] leaving for home near midnight or 2:00 AM"\* Bad enough the candidate must ponder the imponderable, he must record his reflections and suffer their being read aloud to the Lodge.

The Strict Observance Movement's basic tenets include sprucing up the Lodge, providing excellent, memorized ritual without the need for prompting, enjoying excellent meals (catered if necessary), and dressing up as a sign of respect for the "sacredness" of the Lodge. So far, so good.

Indeed, Brother Porter collects and presents a fine collection of arguments in support of raising dues, including the Craft's responsibility for maintaining its Lodges in excellent condition.

Nevertheless, Porter claims that "The whole Masonic existence is endangered." His points in support of that contention and his proposed remedies sail some choppy seas.

Regarding the Morgan Affair, Porter proclaims:

"I am left with some level of historical admiration that at one point in the history of American Freemasonry a group of men cared so much when they believed their rituals would be exposed....[T]hese men were willing to go to illegal and extraordinary measures just to protect their ritual. Again, I would never sanction violence, but I would be lying if I said I was not awestruck at the commitment."

Nine (9) of those stalwarts were convicted of crimes committed in the course of "protecting the ritual" and their sentences ranged from three months to twenty-eight months.\*\* Yeah, sure, that's some kind of real commitment.

*Does this mean that the  
Masonic Restoration Movement  
has removed Grammar as one  
of the seven liberal arts commended  
to our study in the  
Fellowcraft Degree?*

Most Brethren find themselves awestruck by the idiocy of the Morgan assassins.

Another example of Brother Porter's sense of history concerns his attribution of the Worshipful Master's "Charge at Closing" to "Brother Thaddeus Mason Harris, ca. 1972 from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts." You know, that stuff about doing good unto all and every human being having a claim upon our kind offices.

Clearly, Brother Porter missed yet another Masonic exposé from the nineteenth century, namely Duncan's *Ritual of Freemasonry* (Malcolm C. Duncan, Dick, and Fitzgerald, 3rd Ed. 1866) which includes the "Charge at Closing." And Duncan's version is better than that quoted in *A Traditional Observance Lodge*. The one in the Virginia Presentation Volume rocks.

How can anyone be entrusted with "restoration" of an institution so unknown to him?

Further, Brother Porter undercuts his

*And, worst of all from a  
Brother who advocates  
excellence in ritual:  
"Tenants" for "tenets." Twice!*

argument for permitting alcoholic beverages in Lodges when he suggests that exuberant Masons sing this little ditty at the Festive Board:

Give a cheer, give a cheer  
To the boys who drink the beer  
In the cellar of brotherhood Lodge.\*

They are strong, they are bold  
And the liquor they can hold  
Is a story that's never been told.

(Chorus) So it's guzzle, guzzle, guzzle  
As it trickles down your muzzle;  
Drink Boys, we never will go dry.

Apparently, at least one proponent of the Masonic Restoration Movement advocates that the Brethren sing sophomoric drinking songs straight out of *Animal House*. "Roll it out, Roll it out/ as the Seventh keg goes out/ In the Cellar of Brotherhood Lodge." Let's stick to the Army's lyrics, Brother.

Let's also remember that Temperance is one of the four cardinal virtues that our ritual admonishes us to practice. Admonishing the Brethren to guzzle seven kegs of beer hardly connects with something called the "Masonic Restoration Movement." Brothers Revere and Franklin imbibed because little potable water was available to them. That problem was solved some decades ago.

Perhaps such copious guzzling also keeps the Traditional Observance Brethren hanging around the Lodge until midnight and later, waiting for their blood alcohol content's to drop below the legal limit.

Finally, the issue of editing rears its demanding head. The grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors scattered throughout *Traditional Observance* startle the reader so

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# A Traditional Observance Lodge

Continued from page 25.

frequently as to distract from the cogency of its argument.

Most distracting are the unintended (one hopes!) use of just plain wrong words. Examples abound:

“Will” for “well,” as in “read it will.”

“There” for “their” or possibly “the.”

“Goat” for “goal.”

“Worse” for “worst.”

“And” for “had.”

“As” for “is.” (Twice)

“Holds upon” for “holds up.”

“Plan” for “plain.”

“It’s” for “its.” (Twice)

“That” for “than.” (Twice)

“Provide” for “prove.”

“Lacks” for “lax.”

“Preview” for “Purview.”

“Grown” for “ground.”

“Further” for “future.”

And, worst of all from a Brother who advocates excellence in ritual: “Tenants” for “tenets.” Twice!

Then there’s the grammar. Here’s a full sentence: “The brethren\* collectively being less likely to elaborate on the intricacies of initiation.” Another: “The ritual in these countries, much like the ‘Red Lodge’ degrees\* of the Louisiana are often referred to as the Scottish Rite symbolic\* degrees.\*” The ritual are?

The author notes “one of the most beautiful Masonic degree\* systems that have ever been worked.” Further examples: “With whom to study with,” “those feast,” and “the solemnity? of the situation.” One have?

Does this mean that the Masonic Restoration Movement has removed Grammar as one of the seven liberal arts commended to our study in the Fellowcraft Degree?

*Porter claims that  
“The whole Masonic existence  
is endangered.”*

A Traditional Observance Lodge cries out for an editor. Incredibly, it came out in hard cover two years prior to this “First Edition in Paperback.” Was there no one to admonish Brother Porter, no one to whisper good counsel in his ear, no one to read the galleys of either edition? Did anyone actually read the hard cover edition?

This blistering screed condemning “the way we’ve always done it” destroys its own argument for quality, for excellence, and for “reform” with its unreliable “history,” its distracting and frequent misspellings, bloopers, malapropisms, misplaced and unnecessary punctuation, and grammatical errors scattered throughout like ratshot in a landfill.

More importantly, Traditional Observance arouses Fraternal sympathy for the anger, the sloppiness, and the utter lack of appreciation for the Craft’s simple, beautiful truths as expressed in this book seeking to promote a movement calling itself “Masonic Restoration.”

*Apparently, at least one  
proponent of the  
Masonic Restoration Movement  
advocates the Brethren sing  
sophomoric drinking songs.*

Sure, we should spruce up our Lodges, present excellent, impressive ritual enhanced, perhaps, by incense and live music, and, for those whose stations in life dictate the ownership of suits and ties, show respect for the Lodge by dressing well.

But any author who condemns the current state of the Craft and severely criticizes the behavior of his Brethren in print, should not be surprised that we expect his argument to be expressed grammatically, with respect for what’s left of the English language, and with respect for the intelligence, and sensibilities of his audience.

That audience has the right to have such a manifesto for “quality in all things Masonic” to itself exemplify quality in its grammar, its logic (another of those pesky liberal arts), and its intelligence.

Ironically, near the book’s beginning, Brother Porter “offer[s] thanks to R.W. Michael Halloran for assisting me in using the English alphabet in the manner in which it was intended.” See? Brother Porter offers up way too many easy targets. Our condolences to Brother Halloran.

The Masonic Restoration Movement deserves better, far better, than what Brother Porter delivers.

\* Henceforth this review will omit pointing out Brother Porter’s attachment to the lower case for such commonly capitalized Masonic terms as “Lodge,” “Degree,” etc. All quotations from *A Traditional Observance Lodge* in this review are exact and unedited.

\*\* *Dafoe, Stephen, Morgan: The Scandal That Shook Freemasonry*, pp. 433-435 (Cornerstone, 2009) 📖



## Traveling Gavel Update

Worshipful Paul A. Miller

Brethren, further information came to light after the publication of the last issue of the *Virginia Masonic Herald*, with regard to the article titled “Striving for the Traveling Gavel.” The following is provided to add some historical context to our use of traveling gavels in Virginia.

First, the following historical details were provided by Wor. Allen R. Pierce, Secretary of Berkley Lodge No. 167, concerning the establishment of their Traveling Gavel.

The gavel was the idea of Worshipful Usef Beasley, Jr., who was elected Master of Berkley Lodge No. 167 in 1973. He displayed a plaque with a Traveling Gavel, intended to use during his year to stimulate attendance in the Lodges. The initial presentation of the Plaque and Gavel was January 1974 to Wor. Bill Joyce of Indian River Lodge No. 252. There were twenty-four members of Indian River Lodge present to claim the plaque. Right Worshipful Kenneth H. Gregory was secretary of Berkley Lodge No. 167 at the time, and he was notified of the location of the gavel as it traveled from Lodge to Lodge. Worshipful C. Frank Hicks was elected secretary of Berkley Lodge in December 1980, and he took over the duty of being notified of the location of the gavel.

The following comment was provided by Most Worshipful Spencer McMath Rogers (1981): “In 1981 we gave each DDGM a Traveling Gavel in a velvet bag to start the Brethren visiting Lodges in their district. Some of the Districts are still using the 1981 gavel.”

It is time to get traveling, Brethren. 🍷

## Will You Make a Contribution to Freemasonry In The Coming Year?

Right Worshipful William E. “Bill” Hershey, Jr.  
Chairman, Committee on Membership

November is a somewhat perplexing time of the year for the Committee on Membership as it most likely is for the Lodges throughout the Commonwealth. It is a time when we know who the Master and the District Team will be for the coming year, but what else can we expect in the coming year? Take a moment, if you will, and write down what you believe were the three most important events that happened in your Lodge in 2013. If you are the District Deputy Grand Master nominee, take a minute and do the same. I dare say, we are indeed fortunate that a number of you will be able to list far more than three important events that happened in these months past. On the other end of the spectrum and quite unfortunately, there are also some of you reading this article that will be hard pressed to identify one, let alone three important events that happened in your Lodge or District over these past months.

I raise this issue, not to dwell on was or was not accomplished in the past, but rather to implore you to look to the future. The Committee on Membership is prepared, and wants to be of assistance to the Districts, and Lodges in the coming months to assist with matters related to membership development and retention.

Building upon ground work put in place with the issuance of Executive Orders addressing “membership” these past two years, I am pleased to say, I also see a continuance of this support, and the promotion of membership activities by our Grand Lodge Officers in the months to come.

As I have said in the past, although it is an honor to be appointed a member of a Grand Lodge Committee, it is a somewhat hollow

honor if that Committeeman cannot reflect on contributions made to the improvement of our Fraternity. The Committee on Membership wants to be of assistance to the Districts, and Lodges with their plans and effort with regards to membership. Therefore, I suggest that over the next few weeks the District Deputy Grand Masters, and Worshipful Masters do a self-assessment of their respective Districts and Lodges. If situations pertaining to District or Lodge membership matters could use assistance, perhaps you need to employ the talents of the District Membership Coordinator, or his Membership committee counterpart. If you’re achieving success in the areas of membership development, and retention, why not share your formula for success with the rest of us.

*... why not take advantage of this “in between time” to assess what we could do together?*

In closing my Brethren, I simply ask that during the time between now, and the first of the year, while we celebrate the holidays, that we give some consideration to membership, why not take advantage of this “in between time” to assess what we could do together?

If you have questions I am only a phone call away at 540.972.1692 and also via e-mail at [wehershey@comcast.net](mailto:wehershey@comcast.net). Let’s work together and use this “in between time” to develop our membership plans for the coming months. 🍷

# Act Now for a Real Deal

Most Worshipful James D. Cole (2001)  
Masonic Home Chief Executive Officer

Sometimes things that appear very costly may just be a real deal.

Often, folks have to think long and hard about moving to a retirement community. Unfortunately, the “thinking” usually does not begin until health issues arise. Consider the real life example in which a Virginia couple investigated the cost of staying in their home and receiving in-home care from an independent healthcare provider. The care provider determined that the couple needed round the clock care, due to several health concerns. The written estimate included a base fee of more than \$31 per hour, totaling more than \$22,000 per month. That fee did not include any meals.

The Masons of Virginia provide similar nursing care in the Care Center of the Masonic Home, where the charge is \$7,998 per person per month, or a total cost of \$15,996 per month for a couple, including meals. So, in the long run, the couple could have saved a lot of money if they had been

residents at the Masonic Home. We could have offered a much better deal.

Unfortunately, once folks need that level of round the clock nursing care, they generally cannot be admitted to the Masonic Home, because our license does not allow us to accept residents directly into our Care Center. But, the great news is, if Masons, their wives, and widows will simply plan ahead and move to the Home before their health needs require round the clock care, then they can have a very enjoyable lifestyle and save money. Once a person is a resident at our Home, he or she can move into or out of any level of care based on his or her care needs.

Yes, \$7,998 is a big monthly cost for round the clock care. But in reality, it is not as expensive as similar in-home care. Fortunately, members of the Masonic Fraternity have built and supported, through their tax-deductible gifts, one of the finest retirement communities on the east

coast. It is also fortunate that the vast majority of the residents who come to the Masonic Home never incur the extra cost of the Care Center. Instead, they reside either independently, or in assisted living, with monthly fees, including meals, beginning at \$3,105. Of the two hundred seventeen residents here today, only twenty-seven are in the Care Center full time. Our Home, true to our name of “Masonic,” even allows limited, short term stays in the Care Center for our residents at no additional cost.

What a deal.

Every Virginia Mason who reads this article and appreciates what we are doing for their fellow Master Mason, wife, or widow, should strongly consider sending a gift to support this great endeavor. As costly as healthcare can be for each of us and for those around us, Masons are doing something about it.

The Masonic Home of Virginia – THE real deal. 🍷

# Masonic Home History

Worshipful R. Wayne Donahoe

The Masonic Home Alumni Association presents *The History of the Masonic Home of Virginia* covering the “children’s era” from 1890 to 1975 with the story of the last child to leave.

The book’s purpose is to document the children’s era at the Home, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. The book, 500 pages, contains: factual data, personal experiences, and favorite stories about 840 boys and girls at the Home after the death of their

Masonic fathers. They worked hard, played hard, and had a famous championship football team called the Tomcats. It is informative, funny, and sometimes sad. There are love stories, war stories, and poems. Some of the tales are a little hard to believe, but are true.

It has four parts: a history by subject; a personal stories section; a section with forty of the best stories from the Alumni Newsletters; and a statistical section, which includes all the kids, their Lodges, dates, buildings, education,

military service, staff members, lots of good pictures, etc.

Copies are available from the Grand Lodge Museum and Library and with the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Historical Society for \$20 plus \$6 postage. Make checks out to the “MAHOVA Alumni Assn.” Include return address. Send to:

MAHOVA Alumni Assn.,  
PO Box 691,  
Toano, Va. 23168-0691

# Masonic Home of Virginia Honorariums and Memorials

Many Lodges and individuals contribute a gift to the Masonic Home to either honor a living person or a Lodge out of respect and appreciation or to generate a legacy of care in honor of one who has passed to the Celestial Lodge above. As these tax-deductible gifts are received by the Home, acknowledgements of the gift, but not the dollar total, are sent to the person honored or to the family of the person memorialized. In grateful recognition of these touching gifts and to recognize those persons so honored, we call attention to the following combined list of memorial and honorarium gifts that were made to the Masonic Home during the period **June 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013**. Persons HONORED are on the left, followed by the donor's name on the right.

HONOREE	DONOR	HONOREE	DONOR	HONOREE	DONOR
Frederick W. Adams	Charles J. Sword	Gene B. Jenkins	Nancy M. Holder	Harry P. Soles	Botetourt Lodge No. 7
George S. Alcaraz	Norfolk Lodge No. 1	T.L. Jernigan	Black Heath Daylight Lodge No. 1982	Allen Spain	Nancy M. Holder
George W. Allison	Ronald N. Morris	Edward Lanford	Garland N. Rollins	Adren H. Stiltner	Taylor Lodge No. 23
Edna Alvis	Richard and Mary Peroe		MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Ray M. Stokes	Spurmont Lodge No. 98
Alfonzo F. Atkins	Piedmont Lodge No. 152	Harry H. Lowery	Warwick Lodge No. 336	Earl V. Thacker	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
Richard C. Barber	Manassah Lodge No. 182	Robert M. Mallory	Alvin S. Knight	Charles R. Tomlinson	Piedmont Lodge No. 152
Catherine Barlow	Wayne and Mary Ann Flora	William T. Manson	Piedmont Lodge No. 152	George W. Trimble	Spurmont Lodge No. 98
Ronald J. Boothe	Taylor Lodge No. 23	Jennings E. Marshall	Garland N. Rollins	Cornelius J. Van Aalst	Carol C. Dexter
Ersell Brinser	Manchester Lodge No. 14		MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class		Donald M. Farmer
Edward R. Burton	Wayne and Mary Ann Flora	James S. Mason	William C. Wingfield, Sr.	Stanley T. Vaughan	James F. Borum
	Henrico Union Lodge No. 130		Mr. Earl T. McFadden, Sr.	Jack L. Vincent	Williamson Road Lodge No. 163
Irving N. Byrne	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54	Steven W. McGowan	Alan and Gerri Adkins	Henry E. Walls	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
Louis K. Campbell	A. Howard Mason, Jr.	Irving G. Meadows	Nancy M. Holder	Sommerville Wickham	Phyllis C. Gasser
Ruth E. Carter	Garland N. Rollins	Ronald P. Melton	Sandston Lodge No. 216		Gail D. Law
Robert B. Caruthers	Midlothian Lodge No. 211	Charles L. Midgette	Botetourt Lodge No. 7		Thomas and Nancy Chewning
Gabriel W. Christie	Army and Navy Lodge No. 306	Herbert B. Milby	River View Chapter No. 69 OES	Joseph A. Williams	Joan Wilkins
William E. Clary	Warwick Lodge No. 336		West Point Lodge No. 238		Aubey A. Dellinger, Jr.
Vid Clopton	Warwick Chapter No. 43, OES		Charles R. Bryant, Jr.		Alan and Gerri Adkins
	Warwick Lodge No. 336		George S. Williams, Jr.		Mt. Jackson Lodge No. 103
Harry D. Cooke	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60		Charles and Norma Klebert		Dean Brothers Inc.
Fred E. Crawford	Wayne and Mary Ann Flora		Monty and Marilyn Mills		Martha S. Proctor
Ernie Dandridge	Garland N. Rollins		Joseph and Barbara Hogge	Richard K. Willis	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54
Claude J. Dawson	Varina Lodge No. 272		Mrs. Helen L. Payne	Charles A. Wilson	Piedmont Lodge No. 152
John D. Denton	Civil War Research Lodge No. 1865		Wayne and Mary Ann Flora	John A. Winn	Western Branch Lodge No. 189
Frank S. Duling	Civil War Research Lodge No. 1865		T.C. Lawson, Jr.	Charles J. Woodard	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54
Harry F. Emmart	Spurmont Lodge No. 98		MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Clement L. Woodward	Joppa Lodge No. 40
Leo V. Facenda	Nansemond Lodge No. 77		Garland N. Rollins	Richard A. Youngman	Piedmont Lodge No. 152
Ralph R. Fitzwater	Midlothian Lodge No. 211	Jake D. Miller	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class		
William R. Gallaher	Lee Lodge No. 209	Gertrude S. Miner	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60		
Dallas C. Gibbons	Warwick Lodge No. 336		Stanley and Beverly Prymas		
Mary L. Giebel	Simeon and Virginia Phipps	James C. Moler	Amelia Lodge No. 101		
Willie E. Gravitte	George and Connie Chapin	Wilfred P. Montgomery	Heathsville Lodge No. 109		
Louise H. Guise	Brother William T. Guise	Marian K. Mundie	Ryland V. Mundie		
Howard T. Harvey	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351	Lloyd E. Nicholson	Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220		
Robert E. Hobson	Garland N. Rollins	Terry L. Nightengale	Thomas K. Daughtrey		
	Diane L. Yamini	Claude A. Norton	Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220		
	Derek Smith	Franklin D. Peters	Western Branch Lodge No. 189		
	Betty Anadale	Richard T. Pro	George and Connie Chapin		
	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Billy H. Redd	Old Town Lodge No. 68		
	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54	Earl T. Robb	Malcolm and Sharon Kerley		
Thomas M. Holder	Nancy M. Holder	Everett Sawyer	Robert L. Harrison		
Craige G. Holm	Theodore B. Holm	Mary Sawyer	Wayne and Mary Ann Flora		
Lawrence R. Howe	Unity Lodge No. 146	John A. Seaman	Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220		
Elmer I. Hudgins	Army and Navy Lodge No. 306	Eugene G. Sexton	Taylor Lodge No. 23		
William G. Ingram	Warwick Lodge No. 336	Donald L. Shelton	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60		
Lawrence S. Jamison	Piedmont Lodge No. 152	Stuart A. Shipley	Dr. Jeffrey B. Spence		
		Howard C. Smith	Williamson Road Lodge No. 163		





# Masonic Home of Virginia

## Resident Birthdays

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
10/3	Donald Davies	Glen Allen Lodge No 131
10/3	Martha Mason	Glen Allen Lodge No 131
10/3	Gladys Simmons	Faulkner Memorial Lodge No 91
10/3	Luther Zirkle	Cumberland Lodge No 283
10/5	Cora Simmons	Henrico Union Lodge No 130
10/6	Annie Lee Davis	Metropolitan Lodge No 11
10/8	Ruth Walker	Varina Lodge No 272
10/10	Graham Sherrod	Northside Lodge No 292
10/10	Helen Wood	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
10/11	Robert Young	Portsmouth Lodge No 100
10/13	Gloria Martin	Sandston Lodge No 216
10/14	Lucy Lamp	Winchester - Hiram Lodge No 21
10/23	Richard Andrews	Washington and Henry Lodge No 344
10/24	Irma Tunstall	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
10/26	Ethel Hutcherson	Meridian Lodge No 284
10/27	Welvin Davis	Arlington Lodge No 102
10/28	Gloria Hall	Woodland Heights Lodge No 345
10/31	Irma Thornhill	Transportation Lodge No 337
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
11/3	Mildred Butler	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
11/4	Catherine Busbee	Westhampton Lodge No 302
11/4	James Friis	Franklin Lodge No 151
11/5	Margaret Jordan	Manchester Lodge No 14
11/8	Thomas Spain	Southside Lodge No 191
11/9	Louise Gooding	Edwards Lodge No 308
11/9	Betty Lide	Broadwater Lodge No 71
11/10	Lois Roan	Woodland Heights Lodge No 345
11/14	William Martin	Sandston Lodge No 216
11/16	Carolyn Kaufman	Churchland Lodge No 276
11/19	Glenn May	Varina Lodge No 272
11/23	Barbara Pyle	Ruth Lodge No 89
11/23	Martha Sugg	Sandston Lodge No 216
11/24	Walter McCuiston	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
11/24	Helene Peters	Sandston Lodge No 216
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
12/5	James Herring	Richmond Lodge No 10
12/7	Joyce Beninghove	Varina Lodge No 272
12/7	Alice Britton	Northside Lodge No 292
12/9	Judith Houchens	Cloverhill Lodge No 253
12/15	Patrick Wilson	Mann Page Lodge No 157
12/18	Mary Lee Peroe	Northside Lodge No 292
12/18	Edwin Ragsdale	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
12/19	Luvirda Mitchell	Elbert Munsey Lodge No 298
12/21	Lucille Corcoran	Naomi Lodge No 87
12/25	Norma Klebert	Glen Allen Lodge No 131
12/28	Earl Slaughter	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
12/29	Morton Conwell	Edwards Lodge No 308

## Resident Anniversaries

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
10/10/1969	William and Rose Mills	Woodland Heights Lodge No 345
10/14/1951	Paul and Wanda Lucey	Ruth Lodge No 89
10/21/1950	Joseph and Fay Gardner	Metropolitan Lodge No 11
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
11/4/1950	Edwin and Juanita Ragsdale	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No 351
11/9/1951	William and Jean Johnson	Babcock Lodge No 322
11/12/1955	Leon and Delores Headley	Manchester Lodge No 14
11/18/1956	James and Novella McDonough	Kemper Macon Ware Lodge No 64
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
12/3/1970	Jerry and Patricia Clark	Washington and Henry Lodge No 344
12/31/1960	Nathan and Dorothy Barrey	Treadwell Lodge No 213

## Resident Deaths

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
3/2/2013	James Goodman	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
6/3/2013	Edward Lanford	Glen Allen Lodge No 131
6/5/2013	Robert Hobson	Elmer Timberman No 54
8/2/2013	Edna Alvis	Thomas N. Davis No 351
8/7/2013	Sommerville Wickham	Glen Allen Lodge No 131
8/22/2013	Nancy Walker	Thomas N. Davis No 351
8/30/2013	Boyd Ivester	Washington and Henry No 344

## New Residents

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
<b>JUNE</b>		
6/5	Richard Andrews	Washington and Henry Lodge No 344
6/17	Judith Houchens	Cloverhill Lodge No. 253
6/18	Sarah Burke	Monroe Lodge No. 301
<b>JULY</b>		
7/23	Miriam Bew	Babcock Lodge No. 322
<b>AUGUST</b>		
8/1	Albert Pirkle	Warwick Lodge No. 336
8/10	Norwood and Jean Taylor	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131



# Masonic Home of Virginia



Board of Governors volunteers to serve lunch to residents



Board member RW Harris Luscomb serves lunch to Resident Shirley Roberts



Residents enjoy the Crab feast, one of several events each month



Residents dig into their plates at the Crab feast



*Resident Catherine Busbee serves as Fortune Teller at the Carnival*



Resident Hattie Crebbs dressed as a blue bird for the wheel-chair beautification event



Resident Jean Johnson singing with entertainer Tommy Custalow



Resident Leon Headley getting drenched at the Carnival

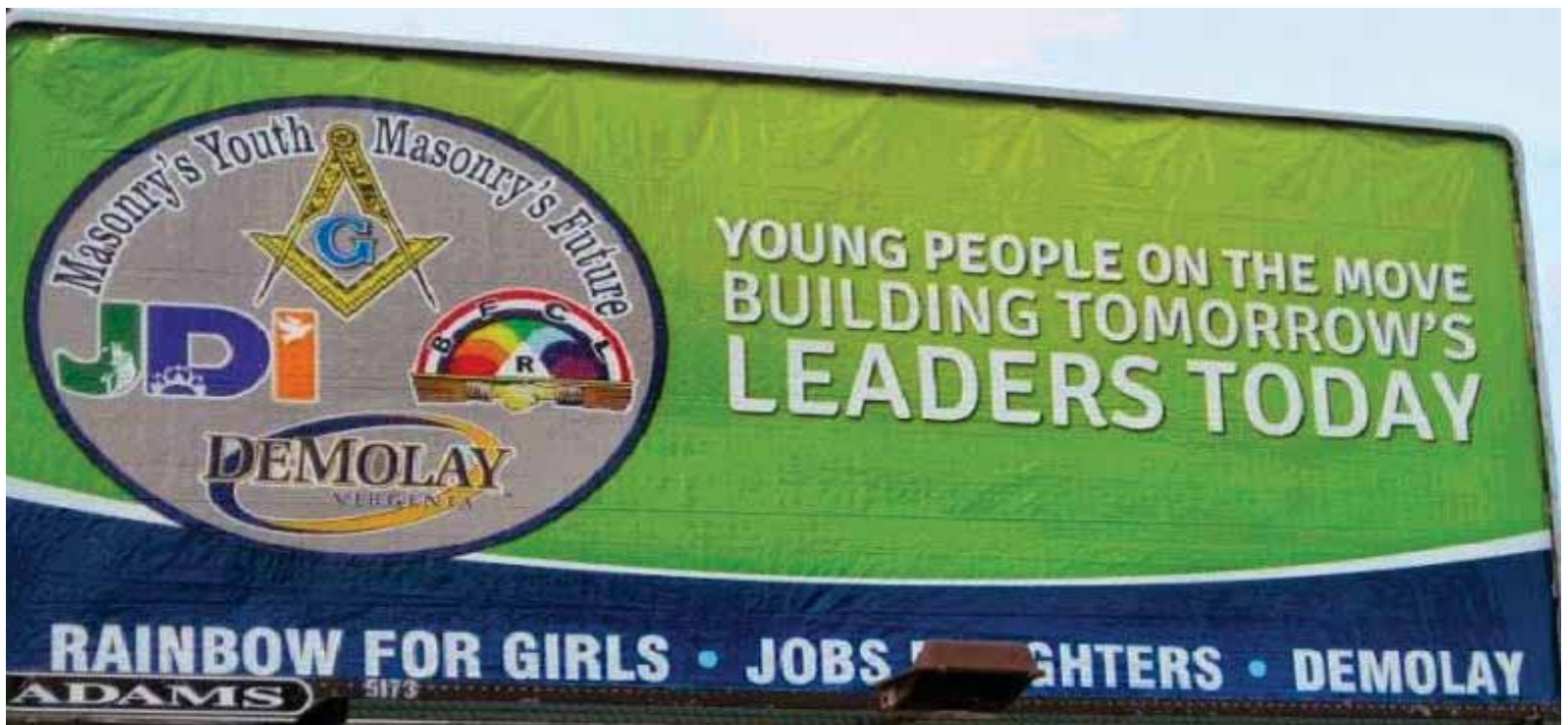


A petting zoo was included in the Resident carnival



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Non-Profit Organization

## Masonic Youth Billboards



### LOCATIONS:

3209 Chesapeake Blvd., Norfolk, VA  
2910 High Street, Portsmouth, VA

2600 Military Hwy, Chesapeake, VA  
Jefferson Ave., Newport News, VA