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WINTER 2020

Charge At Closing

Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones 175th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia

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The Virgínia Masonic

The Virginia Masonic Herald

M: W: Douglas Vernon Jones **Editor-in-Chief** 

M: W: Alan Wayne Adkins Associate Editor

### W:. Gerald Lee Frey **Chairman and Editor**

W:. Brian Roland Croteau R: W: David Alex Burkus Bro:. Wesley Howard Latchford R: W: William Anthony Parks, Jr. Bro: David Alan Schneider W:. Samuel Grant Welty

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> Editor Grand Lodge of Virginia e-mail: vmheditor@gmail.com

Mailing Address of Grand Lodge: Grand Lodge, A.F. and A.M., of Virginia 4115 Nine Mile Road Richmond, VA 23223-4926 804.222.3110 e-mail: grandsecretary@glova.org

## 2019 - 2020 Grand Lodge of Virginia **Elected Officers**



P.O. Box 159

jgolladay@glova.org



Donald "Don" E. Strehle Deputy Grand Master Grand Senior Warden 2104 North Kenmore Street Stephens City, VA 22655-0159 540.869.3784 Arlington, Virginia 22201-4339 703.524.3915 dstrehle@glova.org



Jack K. Lewis Grand Junior Warden 6281 Spring Garden Road Blairs, Virginia 24527-3525 434.489.6281 jlewis@glova.org

Reese E. Carroll, Jr. Grand Treasur 3017 Shelton Store Road

Buckingham, VA 23921-2438 434.969.3364 242mason@gmail.com



Grand Secretary 4115 Nine Mile Road Richmond, VA 23223-4926 804.222.3110 grandsecretary@glova.org



Gary D. Huffm Grand Senior Deacon 1375 Crutchfield Street Roanoke, VA 24019-4411 540 400 5824 ghuffman@glova.org



Grand Junior Deacon 8309 Accotink Road Lorton, VA 22079-1224 703 347 9549 mszramoski@glova.org



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.

https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/

### **Masonic Herald Deadlines**

Spring Issue	February 1
Summer Issue	May 1
Fall Issue	August 1
Winter Issue	November 1

## The Grand Master's Message

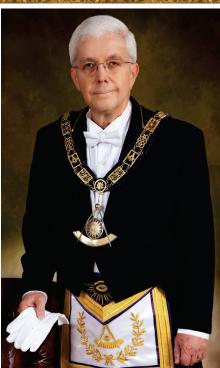
Electron March and March Ma

There are no words to describe this moment and what it means to me to stand before you as the 175th Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As I prepared these remarks, I thought of many words, but a word that kept flashing through my mind was respect.

I respect our Past Grand Masters. They have all been through this six-year journey. It involves hard work, you understand what it means to sacrifice for something in which you deeply believe. I want you to know you have my heartfelt respect, your leadership and vision bring us to this moment in our history, thank you for all you have done and continue to do. I respect the two hundred and ninety-two Lodges, and all the members, that form the Grand Lodge of Virginia, you too sacrifice, and sometimes struggle, to keep the dream of Freemasonry alive. Be bold, dream big, and keep looking for ways to make the Blue Lodge strong, I respect the elected and appointed Grand Line Officers and the 2020 class of District Deputy Grand Masters, you have been chosen and set aside, for this moment, your enthusiasm and wisdom will help chart our future course.

I respect the fact I am part of a Fraternity that never opens a Master Mason's Lodge without an open Bible on the altar. I respect the opportunity I have as a Master Mason to be in the presence of men, who do not tell me how to live but instead show me through their example. I respect all the things for which we as Masons teach and stand. I respect our Ladies, who give us the time and space to practice our gentle Craft. They may not understand why we do what we do, but they respect the fact that it is important to us.

I want you to know I am humbled by your trust and confidence, and I in no way take lightly the duties I have assumed. I respect each of you, and I respect this high office you now allow me to hold.



### Grand Master M:. W:. Douglas Vernon Jones Programs and Focus

I believe everyone here has been equipped with the tools to do that special thing your Creator called you to do... we all have a story to tell... the paint brush is in our hand, and the blank canvas stands before us.

"You are the light of the world." Always, "let your light shine before others." (Matthew 5:14-16)

When you think of 2020, you think of clear vision. If we allow it to be so, the 2020 Masonic year presents us with opportunities for clear vision, a bold path forward, with the opportunity to take a fresh look at all that our Fraternity can and should, be. It presents us with the opportunity to embrace and rededicate ourselves to the timeless values that set our Fraternity apart. It presents us with the opportunity to serve and be present in the community, and the opportunity to measure up to those things that I believe reflect the heart and soul of the Blue Lodge and just how healthy it may or may not be.

The canvas stands squarely before us. Each stroke of the brush teaches a lesson and leaves a lasting impression. As Masons we have the opportunity to transform the internal to the external, and create and refine the ordinary into the extraordinary.

"Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices." You know in the everydayness of life, it is easy to find confusion and chaos. As Masons, let us instead offer loyalty and kindness. Let us live out a genuine love and reverence for God and country. If our vision is clear and unobstructed, the 2020 Masonic year presents us with the opportunity to leave a lasting impression of things that are good. Let us choose to be defined as men, who are loyal to those things that really matter, and let us choose to be defined through random acts of kindness.

Yes, we have the opportunity.

My question to you, are you ready?

Like the Grand Masters before me, who approached this moment with plans and goals, hopes and dreams, I do so as well.

I proudly lend my full support and endorsement to those well-established and worthy charities already in place. My primary focus will be The Masonic Home of Virginia Outreach Program, The Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund, and the Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Historical Foundation. We will continue to support and encourage our Youth groups, reaching out to our Masonic widows, opportunities for ritual excellence. With an eye toward developing leaders in our Lodges and future leaders for the Grand Lodge of Virginia. A program of Masonic education that is rich and vibrant. All of these and more will receive laser focus from your Grand Master and your Grand Line Officers.

Let us talk about clear vision and honest assessment. Where will the Craft be in twenty or twenty-five years? In the Continued on page 4.



book of Proverbs, we find these words, "The wise look ahead to see what is coming." (Proverbs 14:8)

A well done and thorough study and survey by the Scottish Rite in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, called *Path Forward*, offers some food for thought.

On the less-than-encouraging side of the equation, the study predicts that without very deliberate efforts to reverse negative membership trends, and an equally deliberate effort to activate and engage members before they slip out the back door, Freemasonry as we know it could be gone in fewer than twenty years.

On the more encouraging side though, and really the most compelling finding, was the degree to which the core values of the organization resonate with American men. It proved that the organization's message and identity is still timeless and that there is a large population of men, who would be willing to consider joining. The data revealed that we can be sure that this is not an organization out of step with society.

The study showed that there is nothing wrong with our product. Instead, it is our method of delivery that needs work.

If we are going to be forward thinking, we must admit we have some work to do. There are some things that demand our undivided attention. Things like the health of our Lodges and being present, known, and understood in our communities. These things, I believe, are worthy of discussion in the brief span of time we share.

I believe the answer to where the Craft will be circles back squarely to the door step of our Blue Lodges. The strength and long-term viability of the Blue Lodge will ultimately drive the success of everything else we do: charities and education programs, our Youth groups, and the viability of our appendant bodies. There is no getting around it, the home and heart of all things Masonic will always circle back to the door step of our Blue Lodges.

I stand before you optimistic. There are many things of which we as Virginia Masons can celebrate and be proud, but we cannot ignore the warning flags and hope to keep our Lodges strong. We must define and examine our path forward.

Hand-in-glove with this, I believe, if we hope to thrive and survive over the long term, we must have a strong Masonic presence in our communities by encouraging Lodges to take full advantage of any and all appropriate opportunities to be present and engaged in the local community. Community festivals, parades, public service projects, scholarships, and Community Builder Awards, lend a helping hand, and through our presence and the work we do, we might just inspire the man who is prepared in his heart to seek membership in our Fraternity. Always remember, our values resonate with American men.

So, what does a healthy Lodge look like? Can we define the characteristics of a healthy Lodge? While there is no one size fits all, I believe we can.

To me, the answer can be found by looking at the heart and soul of the Lodge.

Rich fellowship, camaraderie, and strong brotherhood should be at the center of any Lodge. However, what does the Lodge do, where can their identity be found? Do members leave Lodge meetings month after month feeling like their time was well spent? Are there programs that educate, enrich, and entertain? What opportunities does the Lodge offer to engage its members, or does the Lodge building mostly sit empty between stated and called meetings?

Is equal attention devoted to developing both strong ritual and strong leaders? Does the Lodge have a meaningful presence in the community? What about opportunities for the wives and family engagement? What about member activation and retention. Here is the heart and soul of that question. Take the time to ask every member, "What are you interested in, and how do you want to help your Lodge?" Every Lodge is rightly bound by Masonic law to do certain things and operate in a way that is proper, but if you want to survive and thrive over the long term, what about purpose and identity. Who are we, and what do we do?

I believe if you can answer these questions in a meaningful way, a Lodge small in numbers can actually be quite healthy, and conversely, a Lodge with significant numbers, in the absence of these things, would be not so healthy.

Our intent is to have every Virginia Lodge pause just long enough to ask this question, "Where will the Lodge be in ten years, or twenty years?" Stop and take inventory, do an assessment. We are developing a simple, straightforward pamphlet or brochure with twelve or fifteen points to consider, like the questions I have asked here, basic and to the point, all about the heart and soul of the Lodge.

I also want you to know about the Grand Master's special fundraising project. In 2007 and 2013 the Grand Lodge of Virginia published a Membership Directory, I have commissioned a similar endeavor for the 2020 Masonic year. Every member can expect to be contacted by a company called Publishing Concepts (or PCI) to update your contact information and to bring your record of Masonic accomplishments up to date. In a day and age of privacy concerns, you can be assured the project is legitimate. The company has a well-earned record of success with our Grand Lodge, as well as other Masonic Jurisdictions, fraternal, and civic organizations. The directory is intended to

Continued on page 5.



Continued from page 4.

be a useful tool with member contact information, but it will also be a modern-day portrait of Virginia Masonry with stories and reflections, as well as some of our history. The Grand Lodge will benefit directly by having its membership records updated, so we ask that you participate by updating your information. While you are encouraged to consider purchasing some of the products offered for sale, you are absolutely under no obligation to do so. Participate and it is okay to say no if you do not want to buy anything. All the proceeds from this project will support Masonic charities.

### Theme

The inspiration for my theme, Loyalty and Kindness, A Lasting Impression, is taken from the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 3:3-4:

"Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you. Wear them like a necklace. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation."



I also drew inspiration from the sources I used for talks I gave some years ago illustrating thoughts on the blank canvas and the paint brush. I believe loyalty and kindness surround the hallmarks that define and authenticate who we are as Freemasons. We have the tools to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. When an artist picks up a brush and applies paint to the canvas, he creates a work of art, and, who knows, maybe even a masterpiece. I believe when we were raised to the "Sublime Degree of Master Mason," the Supreme Architect placed a paint brush in our hands. As paint, He gave us moral and Masonic lessons, He gave us the teachings of the "Working Tools," and He gave us the power of the "Three Great Lights in Masonry."

The blank canvas offers an invitation, a call to action, it stands ready to tell a story, but it is up to each of us, you and I, to bring it to life. We have an awesome opportunity, and yes, we have a tremendous responsibility. Every day you and I will find a blank canvas somewhere. I ask you, are you ready to pick up the brush and go to work?

Think about this, "Art is never finished, only abandoned." We must begin anew every day.

### Close

I close with this question... As Masons, has our finest hour come and gone? Or, as Masons, does our finest hour stand before us?

If we could go around the room, there would surely be different answers to the question, but...

History cannot be denied... I believe we must acknowledge, that some of our finest hours, are indeed behind us. But as Virginia Freemasons, this in no way means that the best is not yet to come. Should not that be the challenge before us, that we leave here determined, proud, and confident, knowing that our finest hour is yet to come?

We never need to worry about what Masonry does not have because our lessons and teachings leave us with everything we need. There is plenty of talk about declining membership, and yes, we have got some work to do, but how often have you been in Lodge when someone commented about all the empty seats? Here is my challenge, let us worry less about the empty seats and focus instead on the seat we occupy. As individuals, let us consider what contribution we can make toward building a healthy Lodge let us look for ways to share Masonry with good men, who we know to be well-qualified, not recruit, but share the good news story of Freemasonry. Let us look for ways to touch and inspire the community around us, ways to be present and engaged.

The canvas stands squarely before us. The 2020 Masonic year is the time for clear vision, a bold, forward thinking look at all that our Fraternity can and should, be. It is time to be present in our communities, ready to serve and lend a helping hand. It is time to look at the health of our Lodges. Are we providing our members all that they need to grow and thrive in their Masonic journey? It is time to talk about the things that will sustain our Lodges and retain our members for the long-term. Yes, we have an awesome opportunity and a tremendous responsibility, let us proudly wear the badge of Loyalty and Kindness and send a signal to the world around us that good and worthy things still happen every day, when men are bonded together through belief in Deity and an unwavering commitment to a system of morality that has stood the test of time. Each stroke of the brush teaches a lesson. Create a masterpiece, and remember, "You are the light of the world," always let your kindness shine through.

Thank you for the high honor of serving as the 175th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia...

God bless each of you, God bless Freemasonry and God bless America...

Douglas Vernon Jones

Douglas Vernon Jønes Grand Master

(The preceding text is taken from the Grand Master's Grand Lodge Address on November 9, 2019, at the Grand Annual Communication.)

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6	Most Worshipful Do	ouglas V	ernon Jones
2	ltinerary	2019-20	020
Metat	itinerary	2017-20	
Lanuary 2		May 2020	
January 2 4	Kena Shrine, Installation of Officers	<b>May 2020</b> 1	Grand Commandery of Virginia, Charlottesville
I	Official Visit, District 8	2	Reserved
7	SP&I Meeting	3 - 4	Grand Lodge of New York
8	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings	7	Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347
9	Mountain Home Lodge No. 263	8	Official Visit, District 12
11	Khedive Shrine, Installation of Officers	9	Wreath Laying, MacArthur Tomb, Norfolk
17	Official Visit, District 27		USS Wisconsin
18	Official Visit, District 4	10	Official Visit, District 35
24	Division Leadership Conference, Keysville	12	SP&I Meeting
25	Division Leadership Conference, Richmond Acca Shrine, Installation of Officers	13 15	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings Official Visit, Districts 2 & 3
	Acca shrine, instanation of Officers	16	Strawberry Festival, Manasseh Lodge No. 182
February	2020	18 - 20	Grand Chapter of Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star,
1	Official Visit, Districts 36 & 56	10 20	Roanoke
6	Warwick Lodge No. 336	21	Rocky Mount Lodge No. 201
8	Division Leadership Conference, Waynesboro	23 - 25	Reserved
11	SP&I Meeting	29	Official Visit, District 29
	Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21	30	MAHOVA Ambassadors Conference
12	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings		Official Visit, District 57
13 - 19	Conference of Grand Masters, Louisville, Kentucky		
22	Wreath Laying, Mount Vernon	T 0000	
	George Washington Birthday Celebration,	June 2020	
28	Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22	1 5	Vinton Lodge No. 204 Official Visit, Districts 22A & 22B
28 29	Official Visit, District 16 Khedive Shrine, Potentate's Ball	6	DeMolay Grand Master's Class, Luray
29	Official Visit, District 11	7	Districts 15A & 15B Memorial Service
		8	Hay Market Lodge No. 313, 50-Year Veteran's Award
March 202	20	9	SP&I Meeting
3	Marshall Lodge No. 39		MAHOVA Summer Solstice Dinner
6	Division leadership Conference, Norfolk	10	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings
7	Division Leadership Conference, Newport News	12	Official Visit, District 9
10	SP&I Meeting	13	Official Visit, District 21
11	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings	16	Temple Lodge No. 9
12	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11	18	Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178
13	Division Leadership Conference, Abingdon	19	Official Visit, Districts 7 & 10
14	Division Leadership Conference, Roanoke	20	Wreath Laying, Arlington Cemetery,
15 20	Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 Division Leadership Conference, Warrenton		Tomb of the Unknown Solider Official Visit, Masonic Districts 1A & 1B
20	Division Leadership Conference, Alexandria		Official VISIL, Masonic Districts IA & IB
21	Acca Shrine, Potentate's Ball	July 2020	
24 - 26	Grand Lodge of Tennessee	1	Outdoor Lodge, District 38
28	Scottish Rite Workshop, Richmond	3 - 4	Reserved
		5 - 9	Imperial Shrine, Kansas City, Missouri
April 2020	)	7	SP&I Meeting
3	Official Visit, District 31	8	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings
4	Kazim Shrine, Potentate's Ball	9	Annual Session, Job's Daughters, Ferrum
6	Westhampton Lodge No. 302	10	Official Visit, District 19
7	SP&I Meeting	11	Official Visit, District 41
8	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings	13	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
10 14	Official Visit, District 33 Glen Allen Lodge No. 131	17 18	Official Visit, Districts 42 & 43 Official Visit, District 39
14 16	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131 Ian M. Shipley, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament	18 24	Official Visit, District 39 Official Visit, District 25
10	Official Visit, District 17	24 25	DeMolay Annual Conclave, Newport News
18	Official Visit, District 14	23	Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219
24	Official Visit, Districts 5 & 6	31	Official Visit, Districts 48 & 50
25	Richmond Scottish Rite Spring Reunion		,

- Official Visit, District 14 Official Visit, Districts 5 & 6 Richmond Scottish Rite, Spring Reunion Wreath Laying, James Monroe Gravesite, Hollywood Cemetery 24 25 28

Continued on page 7.

Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones Itinerary 2019-2020 Continued from page 6. 5

### August 2020

1	Official Visits, Districts 37 & 38
6	Joppa Lodge No. 40
7	Official Visit, District 40
8	Official Visit, District 45
11	SP&I Meeting
	Chickahominy Lodge No. 286
12	GLO & MAHOVA Board Meeting
13	James Stanley Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament
13 - 15	Reid James Simmons Academy
14	Official Visit, District 24
15	Official Visit, District 44
20	Bremond Lodge No. 241, Community Builder's Award
22	Khedive Shrine, Seafood Festival
28	Official Visit, District 20

29 Official Visit, Districts 47 & 49

### September 2020

- Cabell Lodge No. 328, 50-Year Veteran's Award 2
- 3 Norfolk Lodge No. 1
- 3 5 Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association, Virginia Beach

- Hiram Club of Tidewater
- 7 Reserved
- 8 SP&I Meeting
  - GLO & MAHOVA Board Meetings
- Henry Lodge No. 57 12
- 17 20 South Atlantic Shrine Association, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- Official Visit, Districts 15A & 15B 26

### October 2020

9

- 1 4 Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia, Lynchburg
- 5 Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27
- MAHOVA Retreat 9
- MAHOVA Family Day 10
- Amelia Lodge No. 101 13
- 14 Eureka Lodge No. 195
- 17 20 Grand Lodge of Kentucky
- 26 28 Grand Lodge of Georgia

### November 2020

- 4 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
- Grand Annual Communication 6 - 10

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<b>*</b>	2020 Division Lead	dership (	Conferences
REED MAR	49 0.449 M ( 449 0 449 M ( 449 0 442 M		Mater and the mater Al Cost
Keysville:	Friday, January 24, 2020 John Daniel Community College 200 Daniel Road, Keysville 23947	Roanoke:	Saturday, March 14, 2020 Roanoke Valley Scottish Rite Temple 622 Campbell Avenue SW, Roanoke 24016
Richmond:	Saturday, January 25, 2020 Richmond Scottish Rite Temple 4204 Hermitage Road, Richmond 23227	Warrenton:	Friday, March 20, 2020 Our Saviour Lutheran Church 6194 Dumfries Rd, Warrenton 20187
Waynesboro:	Saturday, February 8, 2020 Bridge Christian Church 1275 Goose Creek Rd, Fishersville 22939	Alexandria:	Saturday, March 21, 2020 Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple 1430 W Braddock Road, Alexandria 22302
Norfolk:	Friday, March 6, 2020 Norfolk Masonic Temple 7001 Granby Street, Norfolk 23505	Friday evening	<b>Note:</b> g conferences follow this schedule: 6:30 P.M Registration and Fellowship 7:00 P.M Conference begins
Newport News	: Saturday, March 7, 2020 Scottish Rite Masonic Center		9:15 P.M Counterpart Sessions end
	65 Saunders Road, Newport News 23601	Saturday morn	ing conferences follow this schedule: 9:00 A.M Registration and Fellowship
Abingdon:	Friday, March 13, 2020 Virginia Highlands Community College 100 VHCC Drive, Abingdon 24210		9:30 A.M Conference begins 11:45 A.M Counterpart Sessions end

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## Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones 175th Grand Master

A Contraction of the Contraction

Douglas Vernon Jones was born in Richmond, Virginia, on October 4, 1955. He graduated from Deep Creek High School and attended courses at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and the FBI Academy. He started his professional career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and held several professional support positions in field office operations at the FBI Headquarters in the Columbia, Norfolk, and Richmond Divisions, with temporary assignments in Tampa, Florida, Jackson, Mississippi, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions and retired in 2010 with thirty-five years of service. Upon his retirement, Brother Jones worked parttime for The Bennett Funeral Homes from 2010-2015.

Brother Jones was made a Master Mason in Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 on April 2, 2002, where he is a Life Member in Perpetuity and served as its Worshipful Master in 2007 and as Treasurer from 2010 to 2014. He is a member of Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344. He was District Deputy Grand Master in Masonic District No. 15A in 2013. He served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership, Committee on Security, and as Lodge Services Representative for Masonic District 15A. He received the Grand Master's Award of Excellence



Grand Master M:. W:. Douglas Vernon Jones

in 2013. He was elected Grand Senior Deacon in November 2015 and was elected to the Office of Grand Master in 2019.

He is a member of the Valley of Richmond, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and was invested Knight Commander Court of Honour in 2009 and coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary in 2019. He is Past Commander of the Richmond Council Knights Kadosh and Past Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Guard and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center since 2010, where he currently serves as Vice-President. He is a past director of the Scottish Rite Foundation Board. He holds membership in Richmond-Washington Royal Arch Chapter No. 3-9, Acca Shrine Center, where he is a member of the Past Masters Club; Richmond Court No. 16, Royal Order of Jesters; and Royal Order of Scotland.

Brother Jones has also been very active in the community. He is a Past President of the Norfolk Jaycees. Within the Virginia Jaycees he served as District Director and Community Development Vice-President. He is a Life Member in the Virginia Jaycees, and a Jaycee International Senator, and United States Jaycee Ambassador. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and a former member of the International Azalea Festival Committee, the City of Norfolk's salute to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Columbia Rotary Club. In 1981, he was listed among the Outstanding Young Men of America.

Brother Jones is married to the former Frances Elizabeth Cullison. They are active members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. In his leisure time, Brother Jones is an avid reader and enjoys research and writing on various topics. He likes to follow baseball, college football, golf, and most especially, NASCAR.



The Virginia Masonic Herald-Winter 2020

## Matthew Todd Szramoski Grand Junior Deacon

Matthew Todd Szramoski was born on November 30, 1966, in Fort Gordon, Georgia, and moved to Virginia when he was four years old. He graduated from Denbigh High School in Newport News. He received an A.A.S. in Public Administration and a B.A. in History from Christopher Newport University. In addition, he completed the School Safety Professional certification from Pepperdine University. In his vocational career, he worked with the Daily Press, Inc., as the Williamsburg Bureau Supervisor; taught Social Studies in the Fairfax County School System; managed the Youth Programs Department for the National Rifle Association; and currently serves as the Director of Development for the Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction.

Brother Szramoski was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 23, 1988, in Yorktown Lodge No. 205, where he is a Life Member in Perpetuity and served as its Worshipful Master in 1993. He affiliated with John Blair Lodge No. 187 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1996 and as Secretary from 2002-2012. In 2013, he affiliated with Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219, where he is a Life Member in Perpetuity and served as its Worshipful Master in 2015 and Secretary since 2017. Also, he is a member of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777. He was the District Instructor of Work for Masonic District 1A from 2002 to 2007 and District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 1A in 2003. He served as Grand Chaplain in 2014, as Chairman of the Committee on Youth in 2006, and as Chairman of the Committee on Finance



Rt. Wor. Matthew Todd Szramoski Grand Junior Deacon

since 2007. He served on the Grand Master's Commissions on Life Membership in Perpetuity and the Grand Lodge Building. He was elected Grand Junior Deacon in November 2019. He received the John Blair, Jr. Award in 2008. He is the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Slovenia, near Virginia.

He is a member of the Valleys of Newport News and Alexandria, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, was invested Knight Commander Court of Honour in 2003, coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° in 2009, and is a Life Member in Perpetuity in the Valley of Alexandria. He is a Past High Priest and Life Member in Perpetuity of Mount Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No. 14; Past District Deputy Grand Commander of Chivalric District 3, Past Commander and Life Member in Perpetuity of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11; Past Governor and Life Member in Perpetuity of Washington and Lee York Rite College No. 93; Life Member in Perpetuity of Virginia Council No.12, Knight Masons; St. Polycarp Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Charter member of Potomac Court No. 107, OrderofAthelstan; RoseofSharonPriory No. 2, Royal Order of Scotland; and Kena Shrine Center. He is a Past Patron of the Faith Chapter No. 177, Order of Eastern Star. Brother Szramoski is a Past State Master Councilor, Virginia State Association, DeMolay International; Past President of the Virginia DeMolay Foundation; Past Associate Guardian of Bethel No. 22, and a member of the Grand Guardian Council of Virginia; and Advisor to Woodlawn DeMolay Chapter. He is an Eagle Scout, Life Member in the National Eagle Scout Association, and Past Chairman of Boy Scout Troop No. 1076. He is a recipient of the Knight York Cross of Honor: the Chevalier, Cross of Honor, and Active Legion of Honor from the International Order of DeMolay

Brother Szramoski is a member of First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, where he has served as a Deacon and on the Stewardship committee. In the community, he is a Past President of the Newington Civic Association, Chief Election Officer in Fairfax County, and on the Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County Annual Plan Review (zoning) committee.

Brother Szramoski is married to the former Alicia Lemeshewsky. They have a son, Alexander, who is a Senior DeMolay, and a daughter, Haley, who is a Past Miss Congeniality of Virginia, Job's Daughters.



Summary - Grand Lodge – 2019 241st Grand Annual Communication Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa, 12042 West Broad Street Richmond, Virginia November 8 - 9, 2019

Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr., Grand Master, greeted the Brethren and distinguished guests.

### Officers Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia 2018 - 2019

Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr. Right Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones Right Worshipful James Winfield Golladay, Jr.	Grand Master
Right Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones	Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful James Winfield Golladay, Jr.	Grand Senior Warden
Right Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle	Grand Junior Warden
Right Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle Most Worshipful Reese Edward Carroll, Jr	Grand Treasurer
Most Worshipful Alan Wayne Adkins	Grand Secretary
Right Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis	Grand Senior Deacon
Right Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman Right Worshipful Donald Joseph Kerr Right Worshipful Stormy Thorson	Grand Junior Deacon
Right Worshipful Donald Joseph Kerr	Grand Marshal
Right Worshipful Stormy Thorson	Assistant Grand Marshal
Brother Donald Lee Simmons	Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master
Brother Edward Ernouf, III	Grand Chaplain
Right Worshipful Doyle Lee Miller	Assistant Grand Lecturer
Brother Donald Lee Simmons Brother Edward Ernouf, III Right Worshipful Doyle Lee Miller Worshipful Paul Alan Miller Right Worshipful Ronnie Walter Houser Right Worshipful Edward Allen Wade Right Worshipful James Robert Eller	Grand Provost
Right Worshipful Ronnie Walter Houser	Grand Pursuivant
Right Worshipful Edward Allen Wade	Grand Purveyor
Right Worshipful James Robert Eller	Grand Senior Steward
Right Worshipful Glenn Robert Perry	Grand Junior Steward
Brother Donald Francis Moro, Jr.	Grand Organist
Worshipful Samuel Moseley Jones	Grand Physician
Worshipful Samuel Moseley Jones Brother Kenneth Wayne Caviness	Grand Tiler

The Grand Master proceeded to open the 241st Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Friday morning's session included the Address To Grand Lodge of Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr., as well as a memorial service conducted by Most Worshipful Alan Wayne Adkins, P.G.M.

James Noah Hillman Awards and Seymour Jonas Levy Awards will be presented to those Lodges that qualified by the District Deputy Grand Masters when they officially visit the Lodges during 2020, if the awards are available.

The Perfect Ashlar Award was presented to Brother Arthur Berry Doughty, a member of Mann Page Lodge No. 157.

The Reid James Simmons Award for Ritualistic Excellence was presented to Most Worshipful George Bernard Dungan, Jr. of Westmoreland Lodge No. 212.

During Friday morning's session, Most Worshipful Brother Hershey recognized his distinguished guests and the Past Grand Masters of Masons in Virginia.

The Report of the Board of Governors of the Masonic Home of Virginia was presented and approved. The report of the Finance Committee was given, and the budget for 2020 was presented and approved.

Friday's agenda included a report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which submitted the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall not extend fraternal recognition to the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, the Grand Lodge of Lebanon, and the Grand Lodge "Southwest" of the State of Colima-Mexico; but shall extend fraternal recognition to the Grand Orient of Minas Gerais (Brazil)." This resolution was adopted.

The Report of the Past Grand Masters was presented by Most Worshipful William Franklin Perdue and adopted.

Committee meetings were held at 3:30 P.M., and a banquet for the delegates and distinguished guests was held on Friday evening at 6:30 P.M.

The Grand Master called the Craft from Refreshment to Labor at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday morning, November 9, 2019.

The John Blair, Jr. Award was presented on Saturday to Right Worshipful Rhey Maurice Solomon, Past Master of Herndon Lodge No. 264, and Worshipful Paul Alan Miller, Past Master of Norfolk Lodge No. 1. In addition, the George Washington Distinguished Service Medal was presented to Most Worshipful Reese Edward Carroll, Jr., of Buckingham Lodge No. 242.

The Grand Master's Award of Excellence for the Outstanding Sponsoring Body of a Virginia Chapter of the International Order of DeMolay was presented to Masonic District 2 by Right Worshipful Richard McCoy Young, Executive Officer in Virginia. Right Worshipful Arthur Lee Pendleton, on behalf of the Virginia DeMolay Foundation, also presented the Howard K. Smith, Sr. Leadership Award for individual support of

# al Communication

the Virginia DeMolay Foundation to Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr.

The booklet of Committee Reports was adopted as printed. Resolution 19-01 was withdrawn. Most Worshipful Vernon Stuart Cook conducted the election of Grand Lodge Officers with the following results:

### Officers Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia 2019 - 2020

Most Warshinful Dauglas Vernan Janes	Grand Master
Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones Right Worshipful James Winfield Golladay, Jr.	Denuty Grand Master
Right Worshinful Donald Ellis Strehle	Grand Senior Warden
Right Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle Right Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis	Creat Instant Wester
Kight worshiptul Jack Kayle Lewis	Grand Junior warden
Most Worshipful Reese Edward Carroll, Jr.	Grand Treasurer
Most Worshipful Alan Wayne Adkins	Grand Secretary
Most Worshipful Alan Wayne Adkins Right Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman	Grand Senior Deacon
Right Worshipful Matthew Todd Szramoski	Grand Junior Deacon
Right Worshipful Ronald Eugene Butler, Sr	Grand Marshal
Right Worshipful Gury Dwight Human Right Worshipful Matthew Todd Szramoski Right Worshipful Ronald Eugene Butler, Sr. Right Worshipful Terry W. Woo	Assistant Grand Marshal
Right Worshipful Terry Francis Hilton	Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master
Brother Timothy Neal Madison	Grand Chaplain
Right Worshipful Dovle Lee Miller	Grand Lecturer
Right Worshipful Michael Jean King	Assistant Grand Lecturer
Right Worshipful Jonathan Alexander Giles	Grand Provost
Right Worshipful Claude Ashley Bass, Jr Right Worshipful Mark Wayne Underwood	Grand Pursuivant
Right Worshipful Mark Wayne Underwood	Grand Purveyor
Right Worshipful Michael Roy McKenney	Grand Senior Steward
Right Worshipful Richard McCoy Young	Grand Junior Steward
Brother Donald Francis Moro, Jr.	Grand Organist
Worshipful Samuel Moseley Jones	Grand Physician
Right Worshipful David Wayne Murray	Grand Tiler

The newly elected Grand Master, Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones, announced his appointments to the Board of Governors of the Masonic Home of Virginia for a three-year term. They are Right Worshipful Lambros George Deligan, Right Worshipful Sheldon Barnett Richman, and Right Worshipful Gino Warren Williams. Right Worshipful James Friend Dickerson was appointed to a one-year term.

The Committee on Credentials gave its report. There were 242 Lodges represented with 779 registered by the Committee.

A motion was entertained and passed to pay the bills of this Grand Lodge.

At the conclusion of all business, the Grand Lodge of Virginia was closed in Ample Form until the Friday preceding the second Monday in November 2020, unless sooner convened in emergent or special communication at the will and pleasure of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. The Installation of District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers was held at 4:00 P.M. in the ballroom of the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa. The newly elected Grand Master, Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones, gave an address outlining his goals for the coming year.



AWA:ksm

Respectfully submitted,

M

Alan W. Adkins Grand Secretary

Summary of Resolutions presented at 2019 Grand Annual Communication

### **Resolution No. 19-01 – WITHDRAWN**

This resolution would amend Section 1.73 of the Methodical Digest to change the number of members of the Committee on Lodge Services, consisting of the Chairman and five (5) members.



Remember your anticipation of the night and ritual before undertaking the First Degree? As we, in our hearts, prepared to become Masons, many of us searched for information on the course of action we were taking and what would befall us as we began what was promised to be a long and fulfilling journey. As the night of our Initiation was quite suspenseful, and perhaps a little overwhelming, I know we have all reviewed, considered, and even reconsidered what actually happened that night. This introspection of the events and, most especially, of the meaning of the obligation we then accepted, created changes not only in our perception of ourselves, but in our deeper understanding of our obligations to family, our fellowman, and of the world around us.

Let us reflect on some of these personal changes as discovered through the purpose and meaning of the Entered Apprentice's Obligation. A solemn purpose of Masonry is "to make good men better." How do we make good men better?

We all know, that is, we are all told and believe from personal experience and perception of those around us, that taking the obligation as an Entered Apprentice started us upon a new path in life of "being a good man and true." Why is that so?

To understand more fully, we begin with a brief review of the history of the Entered Apprentice Degree. The Degree of Entered Apprentice, like the other two degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, finds its roots in the Middle Ages, when the Masonic Fraternity was an operative guild of architects and builders. The medieval Entered Apprentice was a young man or boy engaged to learn the trade of an operative stonemason. Such apprentices were carefully selected. Only freeborn youths of good character, respectable parentage, and sound physique being accepted. Those chosen were apprenticed to a Master for a term of seven years during which time they were given thorough instruction, not only in both the practical and the theoretical phases of operative masonry, but also in moral deportment, in good manners, and in their religious duties.

Right Worshipful Malcolm R. Holley, Jr.

In particular, they received careful instruction in geometry. For it was the geometrical principles underlying Gothic architecture that constituted the real secret or "mystery" of the medieval Craft, whereby the masonic guild enjoyed a tight monopoly in the construction of such major buildings as castles, cathedrals, monasteries, guild halls, and defensive walls.

To uphold the reputation and good standing of the operative craft, these apprentices were, of necessity, under rigid discipline. Their moral conduct was strictly supervised. They were forbidden to play at cards or dice and were not allowed even to enter a tavern or public house unless sent there on business by their Master. When off duty, they always traveled in pairs, so that each could have a witness that he had indulged in no forbidden conduct.

In Symbolic Masonry, the Master and members of the Craft take "good men," men who have not transgressed society's bounds, men who are on the right "path" and make them "better men" by providing a symbolic roadmap of understanding of the teachings and wisdoms found in the great cultures and philosophies of the world. Through this process and knowledge building, we encounter an emblematic guide for an Entered Apprentice to become that "better man." It is that journey that each of us is on, that quest we seek, through the many different paths before us. We learn that for all Masters of Symbolic Masonry, their trade, their duty is to be mentors for those entering the Craft, acting as guiding lights along the candidates' paths, shining, so they will see the way. We are, therefore, also charged with the search for "good men" along the way, so they too may be instructed to build for the tomorrows of our Fraternity, community, our society, and our world.

As Symbolic Masons, more of the discipline, good manners, religious duties and moral conduct are emphasized, by that symbolic road-map, rather than the practical phases of operative masonry. Just as our Brethren of old, operative masons, selected and cemented good stones together to build a foundation for their order to build upon, we as Symbolic Masons select metaphorically better stones and cement these with Masonic light to produce our brotherhood and Fraternity. In the ritual, an Entered Apprentice comes to understand that his guides, educators, and mentors employ the tools of education and ritual as Masters once employed the ancient tools, materials and disciplines of the operative Craft. Most seriously, the Entered Apprentice will realize that a breach of the ancient disciplines has consequence for the Craft and himself just as in days of old.

As we took our Entered Apprentice Obligation, one of the first things we did was promise and swear before the Supreme Architect of the Universe. Since we had already been questioned, and responded to in whom we put our trust, we started our obligation with those words we know all too well, as they begin each of the many obligations we take as we continue our search for light in Masonry. We surely take this part of the obligation seriously as we promise to do certain things later in the obligation. Our introspection of our obligation weighs heavily upon us, as we know we have taken these actions as a promise to do on our oath to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, as well as to our Brethren and ourselves.

Continued on page 13.

## tice Obligation Affects our Behavior

Continued from page 12.

When we fail to live up to our promises, we realize that we have failed most importantly in our promise to Him, and to our Brethren. Since we stated we were not coerced into these obligations, we should let the promises we have taken guide our actions and introspection of our daily actions be our "rule and guide." In discussion with many of our Brethren, this introspective reflection of their actions is the primary change that many say happened with the taking of the Entered Apprentice Obligation.

One of the promises we took was to keep concealed the mysteries of Freemasonry. Over the ages and upon discussion with more learned Brethren, we have seen this promise upheld by Brethren from a very rigid interpretation to an interpretation more relaxed. The rigid interpretation was to keep "any and all" information about the Fraternity from the world at large. Thus, we often failed to properly mentor a new Brother, and did not share general information about the Fraternity with potential members. The "more relaxed" interpretation continues to not revealing any "secrets," but the sharing of general information more freely, and the greater mentoring of new Brothers. Keeping this part of our obligation by our Brethren is the part of the obligation with the greatest influence over the future of our Fraternity. We should also be apt to share the secrets or mysteries of Freemasonry with a Brother to fulfill that part of the charge we heard at the end of the Entered Apprentice Degree, where we were instructed to improve in Masonic knowledge by conversing with well-informed Brethren, who will always be as ready to give, as we should be to receive instruction. Furthermore, the sharing on general information with the world at large, especially with potential new members, should be encouraged to keep the correct view of the Fraternity and its activities in the public light and dispel



the constant negativism we encounter from various organizations.

The promise to conceal the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry was further expounded in the latter part of the obligation. We all remember that we promised not to communicate the secrets in a variety of ways and means under the canopy of heaven. We have often heard of a document being found that violates this portion of our obligation. Even as this talk was created or any other document is, one has to remember this portion of our obligation and ensure that the writer did not violate his obligation to "keep the secrets of Freemasonry." This part of the obligation should also bring to mind the following two passages we find in the Great Light in Masonry, the first at Psalm 141, verse 3: "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" and the second, at Proverbs Chapter 21, Verse 23: "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles." You can see by explanation of this part of the Entered Apprentice Obligation that the constant reflection of our obligation is what becomes our rule and guide and affects our behavior daily.

As we finished our Entered Apprentice Obligation, we affirmed our promise to uphold it without any hesitation whatsoever. We also took upon ourselves the knowledge of a penalty, should we violate the obligation. The penalty we took upon ourselves was to show our seriousness in taking upon ourselves our obligation, as Brethren have over previous centuries. We know today that while we retain the centuries old statements, however, they are purely symbolic. However, the penalty is carried out today for the violation of our Masonic obligation by a Brother being reprimanded, suspended, or expelled from the Fraternity, and his Brethren consider him disgraced. As we gave much thought to petition to become a member of the Fraternity, we should ever be mindful of the consequences of the violation of our Masonic obligations. We should also remember and reflect on the fact that we once again called upon the Supreme Architect of the Universe to help us to be steadfast in the daily performance of the obligation we just took.

Just as the Operative Masons of old were instructed in moral deportment, in good manners, and in their religious duties, today, we, as speculative Masons should ever remember that the teachings of the Fraternity parallel the teachings of old. Our operative Brethren were taught to constantly reflect on the teachings they learned, whether in application of the trade, or in their daily behavior. We, too, as speculative Masons should reflect daily on upholding our obligations and how this impacts our daily behavior. Only through review and reflection of our daily behavior against our obligations and the Tenets of Freemasonry will we be able to fully realize and discover our potential.

Right Worshipful Brother Holley, Jr. laid down his working tools May 5, 2017.



### Worshipful David C. Wells

Our journey in Freemasonry starts with the Degree of Entered Apprentice, so the ritual of the first degree informs us that becoming a Freemason is the beginning of a purposeful and laborious trek down a path adorned with symbols, a path well-trod by countless others through the ages, to a place no living being has yet discovered.

One of the symbols of the Degree of Entered Apprentice, the point within a circle, serves as a bridge from our non-Masonic to our Masonic experience, and as a bridge from Operative to Speculative Masonry. The point within a circle is, in and of itself, a symbol-within-a-symbol, a visual symbolic representation linking our past to our present. This ancient, geometric Egyptian symbol binds the primary teachings and well-guarded secrets of ancient Operative Masonry with the moral and philosophical underpinnings of modern Speculative Masonry. It focuses us on the necessity of knowing the ancient Craft, if we are to begin to understand the modern Craft.

The concept of a point within a circle or a circumpunct, is not a unique Masonic symbol; it has many ancient and modern meanings. It has been used as the symbol of God, used, for example, by the Egyptians to represent the sun god Ra; it is the sign of the Archangel Michael; it is the symbol of the Monad, the most primal aspect of God in Gnosticism; it is the sign of the divine order; and the symbol of the singularity point before the Big Bang, and, thus, the representation of that which was before the beginning. It has represented light, freedom, life, good, happiness, infinity, existence, and chaos.

Some Masonic authors note, "the symbol is actually based on an old symbol of astrology and alchemy. The point in the center represented the Earth, which was thought to be the center of the universe. The heavens were believed to spin around the Earth, represented by the circle. The two lines represented the summer and winter solstices, the longest and shortest days of the year. For thousands of years, these days were celebrated as pagan feast days all over the world, and they were especially important to farming societies, because they were the astronomical methods of determining planting seasons."

The point within a circle also has represented the alchemist's attempt to produce gold from lead, which from a Masonic perspective is the effort to turn the rough ashlar into a perfect ashlar, or metaphorically to make good men better.

The circle is a flawless form, which signifies completeness, oneness, harmony and holiness, while the two parallel lines are said to represent the Saints John, and upon the vertex of the circle rests the Holy Scriptures. By this symbol, therefore, Masons acknowledge the Holy Scriptures and the two Saints.

Consider how a point within a circle is displayed within our modern symbolic Lodge rooms. If you were to look down upon the closing of any Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, what would you find? At the center of this circle, the point within the circle lies the altar, upon which rests the Volume of Sacred Law. When we contemplate the Masonic symbol of the point within a circle and its parallel lines, we think of the altar and the candidate receiving the degrees with the Brethren representing the two parallel lines.

Freemasonry is the embodiment of mankind's universal morals and values, which have one common feature, they are life protecting or life enhancing for all mankind, not just one portion of humanity. We calibrate our moral compasses by judging whether our actions are logical and psychologically healthy not just for us, but for all mankind. Our actions are our ethics. If we filter our thoughts and subsequent actions through the lens of right and wrong and then, if our actions are in accord with these universal ethical and moral values, we will be doing what is right.

Worshipful Brother Hodapp suggests that the point within a circle is the individual Mason, who seeks to strike a balance between his zeal, as represented by John the Baptist, and his compassion, as represented by John the Evangelist. He calls this balance a, "graphic representation of the conscience."

My personal reflections lead me to the belief that the point within the circle represents our individual soul. God's grace, love, and forgiveness are the constructs of the circle, which know no beginning or end but rather are a continuation of a flawless and complete oneness. Our soul occupies the position as a point within the circle where we are surrounded by the grace, love and forgiveness of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. We do not know when the hands of time will chime that magical hour which designates our earthly meridian, but if we apply the teachings found in the Volume of the Sacred Law, and remain within the two parallel lines, our time will be well spent. It is when we lose sight of the Volume of Sacred Law and the universal tenets of Freemasonry, and reach beyond the circle of morality, that we lose our moral bearings, and then we lose our way and ourselves.

Each of us should use the symbolism of the point within the circle to guide us in building our own spiritual temple, but as Master Masons, we can also shine the light of Freemasonry to illuminate the path for others.

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## Area Masonic Ritual Schools - 2020

Name Location Date(s) District(s) Kidd/Lupton Salem Feb. 20-22 22A, 22B, 24 Ben Clements/James McFarland Martinsville Mar. 2-3-4 38, 39 Mar. 14 27 George Robert Marshall Crewe Mar. 12 12 Ira Curtis Hudson Onley Charles A. Sinclair, Jr. Haymarket Mar. 14 4 Kenneth O. Shelton Mar. 28 2 Ashburn 7,10 Mar. 28 **Richard E. Loving** Culpeper James Alfred Butts, Jr. South Hill Mar. 28 27 Wickham/Smith Mar. 28 20 Clifton Forge Boitnott/Myers/41st District Mar. 23-24-25 Narrows 40, 41 21, 24, 25, 37, 38 Campbell Area School Rustburg Mar. 23-26 Charles Eldon Fulgham Windsor Mar. 24-26 31, 33 James Bolling Myers Midlothian Mar. 25-26 16, 29 Willard D. Monk/45th District 45 Tazewell Mar. 31, Apr. 1-2 Fred D. Bowman Front Roval Apr. 4 3, 5, 6 Robert R. Kennedy, Jr. Waynesboro Apr. 17-18 19 William Hiram Wood Alexandria 1A, 1B Mar. 28, Apr. 18 C. Frank Hicks/36th District Chesapeake 36, 56 Apr. 11 James Henry Parkerson, Jr. Kempsville Apr. 13 36, 56 C. A. Whitted Scottsville Apr. 20-21 17 Showalter/40th District Blacksburg Apr. 22-24 40, 41, 42 E. Tyree Mountcastle Williamsburg May 4-6 57 8, 9, 11 Johnson/Rowell/Dungan Kinsale May 9 Stewart Arthur Deem Norfolk May 16 35 Dr. Walter A. Porter Galax May 19-21 43 May 11-12-14 48, 49, 50 Harry C. Wallace Wise Elmo J. "Bo" Norfleet Portsmouth June 16-18 33 James Revere Bowyer, Sr. Bedford June 22-25 22A, 22B, 15A, 15B, 16 **Robert Lewis Gibbs** Richmond July 15 -18 Lewis Q. Moore 44, 47 Abingdon Aug. 28-30 C. S. Revell/B.D. Hudson Newport News Sept. 14-16 14 L. N. Cridlin Jonesville 49,50 Sept. 14-15-17 44, 47 Lon Norman Dooley Lebanon Sept. 28, Oct. 5-7 Edward Page Henry Hopewell Sept. 29-30 16, 29 Starks/Baumgardner Bland 41, 42 Oct. 12-14 James Noah Hillman Gate City Oct. 13-15 48, 49, 50 O. B. Omohundro Gordonsville Oct. 24 7, 10 Charles T. "Bucky" Gilbert Marion Oct. 26-28 42, 43, 44 Joseph T. Stewart Courtland Oct. 27-29 31, 33 **Reid James Simmons Academy** Roanoke Scottish Rite Aug. 14-15 Statewide

NOTE: Always verify the date(s) and location of any school you are planning to attend E. Tyree Mountcastle School locations: Chickahominy, Mann Page, and Williamsburg.

## 2019 - Grand Annu

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Grand Master recognizing Most Worshipful Louis K. Campbell for his work on the Youth Commission.



Grand Master presenting Most Worshipful Reese Edward Carroll, Jr. the George Washington Distinguished Service Medal.



Grand Master opening t installation c



Masonic District 2 receiving the Grand Master's Award of Excellence.



Grand Master receiving the Howard K. Smith, Sr. Leadership Award from the Virginia DeMolay Foundation.



Grand Master presenting in memory of all dec



Grand Master with Kelsea Hall, Miss Job's Daughter and Judy Pennington, Grand Guardian.



Grand Master with Linda Jenkins, Supreme Love and Supreme Inspector in Virginia and Kaitlyn Costis, Grand Worthy Advisor.



Douglas V. Jones and his Prethe Installation

# ual Communication



ing the Holy Bible at the ion ceremony.



nting a rose on the Altar deceased Brethren.



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Most Worshipful Brother Carrol presenting Most Worshipful Brother Hershey with his Past Grand Master's certificate.



Grand Master with the leaders of three Youth organizations.



Grand Master presenting Certificates of Merit to Right Worshipfuls Joseph G. Daigle, Jr., Robert C. Holland, III, and Robert G. McBride.



Grand Master presenting a Certificate of Merit to Richard M. Young, Jr., DeMolay Executive Officer.



; Presentation Committee at ition ceremony.



George Seghers, Executive Director, George Washington Masonic Memorial presenting a certificate to the Grand Master.



Grand Master being congratulated on his year of service to the Craft.



### ... And Dedicated To The Holy Saints John

Brother Alexander S. "Sandy" MacNabb

Freemasons know our Lodges are "Erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saints John." We celebrate their feast days. Saint John the Baptist at the time of the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, and Saint John the Evangelist at the time of the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year.

The Holy Saints John are referenced in the Entered Apprentice Lecture as representing perfect parallels in Masonry, but generally, we seldom hear more about the "Holy Saints John," and so it is fair to ask who these men were, and why they are so important to us as Freemasons.

Saint John the Baptist, the original Patron Saint of Masons, was a prophet of righteousness, who rebuked kings, and preached repentance and virtue. He embraced martyrdom rather than betray his trust, which is truly characteristic of the teachings of Masonry. His life is depicted in the three synoptic Gospels (Mathew, Mark, and Luke) as well as the Book of John. He was born six months before the birth of Jesus to Saint Elizabeth and Saint Zachary, a religious family. In his early youthful ministry, he became known by his oft-repeated theme, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

In the course of John the Baptist's preaching during the fifteenth year of the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberias Caesar, he denounced and upbraided Herod Antipas, the Governor of Galilee for violating Jewish law by taking Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Phillip, as his own wife. Herodias and her daughter, Salome, who was also the niece of Herod, plotted to get rid of John, and asked that he be decapitated as a reward for Salome's dancing.

John left his mark as a holy man of great principle. The Jewish historian Josephus said of him: "He was indeed a man imbued with all virtue, who exhorted the Jews to the practice of justice



Saint John the Evangelist Symbol towards men and piety towards God...."

Saint John the Evangelist was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of James the Greater. The two sons were originally fisherman and returned to that calling in later life. He lived near Ephesus most of his life and died there of old age. Saint John the Evangelist was one of the original twelve apostles and is famous for his doctrine of love, which comes into sharp focus in the following words found in the *Book of John* 15:

- 12. This is my commandment, that Ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- 13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- 17. These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Few Masons seem to have arrived at a satisfactory explanation for why these two Saints were selected. For example, since Masons were and are builders, it was unclear why Saint Thomas, the popular patron of architecture and building was not selected



*Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* sheds some light on the subject under the entry: The Holy Saints John; Lodge of Saint John at Jerusalem:

"The Gothic Legends related back to the building of King Solomon's Temple, approximately a thousand years before there was a Saint John but the first legendary Lodge was said to be that of Saint John, presumably meaning a Lodge at Jerusalem dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. That Saint John was the energetic forerunner of Christ and baptized Him in the River Jordan. In some places John the Evangelist, also called the Mystic, was deemed more to be revered, and was substituted. In other places, or most places, it was not known which was right, and it was not known why there should be any necessity for a choice, so that both were adopted as the Patron Saints and Lodges came to be dedicated to the Holy Saints John and were supposed to be replicas of some Lodge of the Holy Saints John at Jerusalem."

Despite a lack of agreement as to why, when, and how they were selected, most Masons seem to agree that these two men were wisely selected to be the patrons of Freemasonry. In fact, these two saints, selected by Operative Masons centuries ago, survived the transition from Operative to Speculative Freemasonry, and continue as the patron saints to which our present day Lodges are dedicated.

Indeed, it does seem fitting and proper that our Freemasonry should honor these two great Saints, John the Baptist, a stern prophet of righteousness and a hearty son of the desert, and John the Evangelist, the gentle prophet of Love. Taken together the two Saints John epitomize righteousness and love, the two tenets, which point out the entire duty of man and Mason.

Brother MacNabb laid down his working tools November 26, 2016.



As Grand Governor for the York Rite Colleges (YRC) of Virginia, I want to take a moment to share with our Masonic families how proud I am of the YRC's in Virginia. Our annual assembly was held in Salt Lake City, Utah this year. We enjoyed the luxury accommodations of the downtown Sheraton one block from the Mormon Tabernacle. I had to rise on several occasions to receive the awards our Colleges had won.

This year Hampton Roads No. 95 received the International Award of Excellence in York Rite Colleges, the Spencer Award. Each college submits an activity report, which earns a score and the highest score gets the Spencer Award. Colleges from the Philippines, Canada, and United States of America are reviewed. In addition to this prestigious award, Hampton Roads No. 95 also received the Saunders Award, which is a similar award for the best activity report from a college in the state. Honor College status was awarded to four of Virginia's five colleges honored for their work in the community. Virginia also had five Order of the Purple Cross recipients, with an additional six recipients for next year approved. This is 120% of our colleges receiving this prestigious award.

Wilderness Road No. 94 recently did the Order of the Knight of York on five candidates and Valley of Virginia No 161 for one candidate. All of these candidates expressed how they were very impressed with their degree work. There have been many comments on the perfection, quality, and inspiration of these degrees. Virginia Colleges keep improving with their ritual and their ability to assist Masonic bodies with their degree work and community involvement.

Although it would be tough to top this year, I cannot wait to get to Kansas City next year. It would be great to win the Spencer Award three years in a row. I am so proud of Virginia, good work, square work, just such work as is needed.



L-R: Wor. Paul A. Miller, Rt. Wor. Wayne D. Golden, Sr., Rt. Wor. Robert G. McBride, Wor. Brian Dempster, WSW Craig James Allison, Bro. Charles R. Krauser.

Worshipful Brother Dempster and Brother Allison, Worshipful Senior Warden of Old Aberdeen Lodge No. 164 in Aberdeen, Scotland. These Brethren made a Fraternal visit to Norfolk Lodge No. 1 and were warmly welcomed during a joint stated communication of Owens Lodge No. 164 and Norfolk Lodge No. 1.



A couple of weeks after the incredibly successful tour to Kansas City, Missouri, Virginia DeMolay held its state conclave at Christopher Newport University, in Newport News, Virginia. The Kempsville Chapter received awards for exceeding last year's membership and also attaining best positive growth.

Next, Most Worshipful Louis "Kerry" Campbell (2013), a member of the Grand Master's Commission on Youth, paid a surprise visit to the Clifton Forge Shrine Club to present yet another award. The state conclave had recognized the Club with its Supporting Body of the Year Award for its outstanding contributions and support to Virginia DeMolay.



### **Grand Jurisdictions**

Thirty-five of the fifty-one Grand Lodges in the United States allow eighteen-year-

old men to petition for membership in the Masonic Fraternity. Five Grand Lodges allow nineteen-year-old men to petition for the degrees, while eleven require the man to be twenty-one.

[Masonic Messenger, Georgia]



## Whence Came the Closing Charge?

Right Worshipful William A. Parks, Jr.

According to *The Masonic Trowel*, one Brian James Fegley wrote the "Charge at Closing," which goes:

"Brethren, we are now about to quit the sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its cares and employments, forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended to you around this altar; be therefore, diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet.

"And remember also, that around this altar you have solemnly and repeatedly promised, to befriend and relieve, with unhesitating cordiality, every Brother who shall come to you for assistance; that you will remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation, to vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced, and to suggest in his behalf the most candid, favorable, and palliating circumstances, even when his conduct is justly reprehensible. If you faithfully observe these duties, the world will observe how Freemasons love one another, in obedience to the will of God.

"These solemn rites, of which you have been partakers, and your parts in them, are as binding upon your consciences out of the Lodge as within it; they are links in that Chain made in Life, for Eternity. And these generous principles are to extend further; every human being has a claim upon your kind offices; wherefore we enjoin it upon you: do good unto all, while we recommend it more especially to those who are of the household of the faithful."

A search for Brother Fegley turned up nothing of sufficient antiquity to match the vintage of the Charge at Closing. For sure he did not make it into 10,000 Famous Freemasons.

A similar Charge appears on the Lodge Devotion No. 723 website, claiming that it dates from 1843 and that it "appeared in many versions of *The New Masonic Trestle-Board*" in the mid to late 1800's. In states like Pennsylvania and New Mexico, a similar charge is still used today."\*\*

For Sure. Brother Paul M. Bessel maintains a website full of articles of Masonic interest, including one on the "Closing Charge." In a listing of all fifty States, as well as England, Scotland, Israel, Brazil, British Columbia, and Ontario, he names nine State Grand Lodges and British Columbia as users of the Charge, seventeen that do not, and eleven in the Middle Ground or optional position.

That leaves seventeen of the fifty-six named in the unknown category, but

he does continue to solicit further information from the unknowns. Some jurisdictions appear to use versions of the Charge longer than the one set out above. Some, such as Virginia, use shorter, pithier variations.\*\*\*

According to Worshipful S, Brent Morris, PhD, Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Research Lodge No. 2076:

"The charge at the closing is a wonderfully moving ceremony, but it appears to be a modern innovation on the body of Masonry. It is attributed to Reverend Thaddeus Mason Haris of Massachusetts. I thought it was from his 1801 *Discourses*, but it appears to be from the 1792 Constitutions of the Grand Lodge Massachusetts." \*\*\*\*

Worshipful Brother Morris adds: "It is only used sporadically in Maryland" Well, on Brother Bessel's chart, that may move Massachusetts to a "yes," and fill in Maryland as Middle Ground.

Which leaves only sixteen unknowns in Brother Bessel's chart.

- http://www.themasonictrowel.com/Articles/
- degrees/Ceremonies/closing\_charge.htm
   \*\* http://www.lodgedevotion.net/devotionnews/masonic-history-and-things-historic/amasonic-charge-from-1843-charge-at-closing-2016-09
- \*\* http://bessel.org/charge.htm
- \*\*\*\* Email to this writer dated 10/01/2018.



## A Life Spent Doing For Others

Brother John W. Thompson, Sr. I observed him and what did I see,

In action all the working tools of Masonry; Virtues displayed and as square as could be, His life full of good deeds; living simply but wisely.

He bowed himself at the sacred altar, Asking for Divine help that he may not falter; "Keep me steadfast, unmovable, true and strong Always for right and never for wrong."

The Bible his guide to life and faith Following the four cardinal virtues was safe; To each human being he felt he owed Friendship, brotherly love and for this he strove.

His life a blessing wherever he trod True to his many friends and faithful to God. Sunshine he brought to those in despair Exhibiting through action, the rule of the square.

No task was too little, menial, or small In all his ways, upright, straight, and tall; He launched out into the waters deep His obligations to others he faithfully did keep.

Sometimes his cable tow would stretch but not break Burning himself out for others' sake, The 24-inch gauge beyond the rule fulfilled, Forgetting self-giving more for others: this his thrill

There was always a gingerly handshake With a "How are you, my good Brother and friend?" He had a special magic in greeting others From using the trowel he would not bend.

His prayer was for others, as for himself his spirit contained a "gold mine" of wealth; As I observed him, from all I could see, Like him a dedicated Mason I will strive to be..

"I care not what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do! That is character!"

Theodore Roosevelt



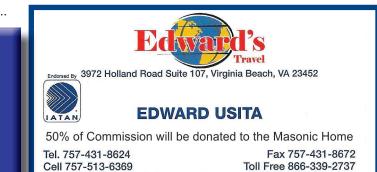
How do you explain the phrase, "Brothers and Fellows?" Brothers is obvious, but not Fellows.

Originally, Brothers were fullfledged members of the Lodge, and had the same rights and benefits as Master Masons now have; but more specifically, they were Entered Apprentices. This was all that was required to be a member of a Lodge associated with the Grand Lodge of England, when it formed in 1717.

When the Grand Lodge was formed, one of the items it changed was that only the Grand Lodge could make Fellow Crafts. From these "Fellows," they would give a special degree, so a Fellow Craft could be the Master of his Lodge. Therefore, Fellows were the Masters of the Lodge, and they were the Fellow Crafts also. It was the highest title, and "the Master's part" was what a member had to experience to become a Fellow Craft.

In 1725, the Grand Lodge of England changed its stance on this policy and allowed individual Lodges the authority to confer the Fellow Craft Degree. This all changed soon after the Premier Grand Lodge turned the task of making Fellow Crafts over to the Lodges, and the Master Mason was offered as an option soon thereafter.

**Note:** October 2017, the Grand Lodge of England, the Premier Grand Lodge, celebrated their 300th year as a Grand Lodge.



Email: edwardsvirginia@aol.com Website: www.edwardstraveltour.com

### 50-60-70-Year Masonic Veterans Between August 14, 2019 and November 13, 2019

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between August 14, 2019 and November 15, 2019

Bro. Millard Matthew Cull, Sr. Bro. Wirt Nixon Wills, Sr. Bro. William Edward Rupprecht, Jr. Wor. Edward Lee Donalson Bro. William Edward Lane Bro. Robert Reed Landis Wor. George Tiffany Graham Bro. William Walter Venable Bro. William Richard Hurst Rt. Wor. Joseph Brian Diggs Bro. James Leighton Polley Bro. Ronald Stuart Willard Bro. Horace Edward Van Nostrand Bro. Arthur Dewitt Baker, Jr. Wor. Seth Erwin Mizelle Bro. William Clay Brown Wor. William Eldridge Hopkins, Jr. Bro. Frederic A. Siddons Bro. James Boyd Bro. Herbert Latane Tanner Bro. Donnie Eugene Harrison Bro. Raymond Carlton Estes Bro. Zell Walker, Jr. Bro. William Maurice Stallings Bro. William Leonidas Dudley, Jr. Bro. Leonardo Concepcion Llanes Bro. James Raleigh Satterwhite, Jr. Bro. Roger Thompson Bass Bro. Jimmy Rogers Lael Wor. Renice William Snoots Bro. George Linwood Shipp Bro. Glenn Ray Spear Bro. Kenneth Gerald Rhodes Bro. George White Bell, Jr. Bro. Alan Kenneth Smith Bro. Ronald A. Seale Bro. Robert Glen Martin, Jr. Wor. Claude Daniel Carter Bro. Edward Gene Huggett Bro. Thomas Edward Hypes Rt. Wor. Gerald Mack Elks Bro. James Allen Cox Rt. Wor. David Herndon Dew Rt. Wor. John Chapman Eggert Bro. Horace Gray Cooke, Jr. Bro. Clarence William McCoy Bro. Howard Littleton Churchill Bro. William Thomas Hudson, Jr. Bro. Robert Lynn Gustavus Wor. Weldon Eugene Keyton Bro. Charles Edward Henline, Sr. Bro. Gerald R. Sullivan Bro. Joseph Harry McGrady Bro. Clyde Shannon Sheely Wor. Clarence Gwaltney Felts Bro. Roderick Daniel Harvey Bro. William Norman Shaal Bro. Robert Lee Thomas Bro. Robert Craig Mustard Wor. Homer Wayne Falin Wor. Robert Williamson Gray, III Bro. Theodore James Welter Wor. Donald Edward Melvin Bro. Gary Ray Fisher Wor. William August Barth, Jr. Bro. Richard Allen Gipson

Bro. Francis Barton Bagley

**Fifty-Year Veterans** Norfolk Lodge No. 1 Norfolk Lodge No. 1 Blandford Lodge No. 3 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 York Lodge No. 12 Oriental Lodge No. 20 Oriental Lodge No. 20 Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Taylor Lodge No. 23 Princess Anne Lodge No. 25 Princess Anne Lodge No. 25 Elizabeth Lodge No. 34 Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge No. 42 Poquoson Lodge No. 49 Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54 Seaboard Lodge No. 56 Henry Lodge No. 57 Clintwood Lodge No. 66 McDaniel Lodge No. 86 Naomi Lodge No. 87 Ruth Lodge No. 89 Ruth Lodge No. 89 Ruth Lodge No. 89 Fleetwood Harmony Lodge No. 92 Chester Lodge No. 94 Chester Lodge No. 94 Barboursville Lodge No. 112 Norview Lodge No. 113 Norview Lodge No. 113 Norview Lodge No. 113 Norview Lodge No. 113 Olive Branch Lodge No. 114 Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 Glen Allen Lodge No. 131 Melrose Lodge No. 139 Nottoway Lodge No. 147 Franklin Lodge No. 151 Franklin Lodge No. 151 Piedmont Lodge No. 152 Clifton Forge Lodge No. 166 Berkley Lodge No. 167 Covington Lodge No. 171 Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178 Manasseh Lodge No. 182 Lakeland Lodge No. 190 Hillsville Lodge No. 193 Kempsville Lodge No. 196 Kempsville Lodge No. 196 Monitor Lodge No. 197 Monitor Lodge No. 197 Bland Lodge No. 206 Bland Lodge No. 206 Big Stone Gap Lodge No. 208 Lee Lodge No. 209 Treadwell Lodge No. 213 Treadwell Lodge No. 213 Treadwell Lodge No. 213 Bayside Lodge No. 218

Bro. Robert Leroy Thompson Bro. Manuel Cheracles Bro. Frank Edward Buchanan Bro. James Dailey Evans Bro. Donald Ray Harris Bro. Dewey Joseph Johnson Bro. Roscoe Matney Wor. Andrew P. Hartsock Bro. Nicholas John Matthews Bro. Joe Preston Haynes Bro. Barrie Marshall Bunn Bro. Lynwood Wayne Yeatts Wor. William Stanley Buckler, Jr. Bro. Donald Wayne Price Bro. Sylvester Franklin Annis Bro. Perry Doniel Mowbray, Jr. Rt. Wor. Gaylord Gealon Ambrose, Sr. Bro. Jesse David Beavon, Sr. Bro. Archie Warren Marshall Rt. Wor. Harold Cooley Joyner

LE GAR LE GAR LE GAR LE GAR LE GAR LE

Bro. Charles Reynolds Brockwell Bro. John Wesley Thomas, Jr. Bro. Robert Burrell Priest Bro. Dimitrios Basilios Soulios Bro. Gordon Wyatt Rutland, Jr. Bro. Ralph Wogalter Rt. Wor. Henry Booth Bro. Kenneth Brown Kincer, Sr. Bro. Arthur Darrol Bond Bro. Roland Lee Midgette, Jr. Bro. Fred Leon Bennett Bro. James William Tapscott Bro. Edward Millard Fern Bro. Robert Aiken Wheeler Wor. Haynie S. Robertson, Jr. Bro. Sidney Edward Locke Bro. Edward Frank Mason Wor. Usef Beasley, Jr. Bro. Briant Lee Capps, Jr. Bro. Franklin Mason Gamage Bro. Curtis Raeford Eure Bro. Samuel Ray Kitts Wor. Arnold B. Kitts Bro. George Edward Fisher, II Bro. Cecil W. Nicholson Rt. Wor. Arnold Kenneth Pedersen Rt. Wor. Clarence Lewis McDearmon, Jr. Bro. Clarence Harrison Carwile Bro. Patrick Nelson Delavan Bro. William Vernon Rucker Rt. Wor. Donald Ford Ritenour

Bro. Robert George Liverman Wor. Frank Raymond Lewis, Jr. Bro. Howard Carson Chitwood Bro. Estrich Woodard Page, Jr. Bro. Gerald James Patesel, Jr. Bro. William Reice Henry Bro. Philip Charles Warner Bro. Verl W. Kilgore Bro. Howard Glenn Kraay Bro. Harley Paul Affeldt Wor. Donald James Hoy Rt. Wor. Sherwood Stonell Parrott Bro. Ashton Allen Durrett

Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 Harman Lodge No. 222 Stuart Lodge No. 224 Bremond Lodge No. 241 Bremond Lodge No. 241 Boone Lodge No. 247 Anderson Lodge No. 258 Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 Northside Lodge No. 292 Central Lodge No. 300 Westhampton Lodge No. 302 William J. McMahon Lodge No. 303 Occoquan Lodge No. 310 Mineral Lodge No. 311 Warwick Lodge No. 336

#### Sixty-Year Veterans

Blandford Lodge No. 3 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Richmond Lodge No. 10 Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Scottsville Lodge No. 45 Fraternal Lodge No. 53 Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82 Valley Lodge No. 93 Norview Lodge No. 113 Norview Lodge No. 113 Taylor Lodge No. 117 Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 Mt. Carmel Lodge No. 133 Nottoway Lodge No. 147 Nottoway Lodge No. 147 Williamson Road Lodge No. 163 Berkley Lodge No. 167 Berkley Lodge No. 167 Kempsville Lodge No. 196 Kempsville Lodge No. 196 Bland Lodge No. 206 Bland Lodge No. 206 Waddell Lodge No. 228 Cedar Bluff Lodge No. 260 Cumberland Lodge No. 283 Monroe Lodge No. 301 Edwards Lodge No. 308 Transportation Lodge No. 337 Transportation Lodge No. 337 John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350

#### Seventy-Year Veterans

Norfolk Lodge No. 1 Botetourt Lodge No. 7 Abingdon Lodge No. 48 Poquoson Lodge No. 49 Poquoson Lodge No. 49 Arlington Centennial-Glebe Lodge No. 81 Arlington Centennial-Glebe Lodge No. 81 Coeburn Lodge No. 97 Olive Branch Lodge No. 114 Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178 Sandston Lodge No. 216 Waddell Lodge No. 228 Kilwinning Crosse Lodge No. 2237

Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219

## 2019 Division Leadership Conferences

Worshipful Paul A. Miller Grand Provost

The Division Leadership Conferences are held each year preparation for Lodge officers.

According to the registration statistics from the confer- more of the conferences: ences, there were a number of Lodges that exemplified outstanding leadership and motivation by having their entire elected line of officers (Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, and Junior Deacon) present at one or more of the conferences:

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Cherrydale Lodge No. 42 Henry Lodge No. 57 Naomi Lodge No. 87 Chester Lodge No. 94 Norview Lodge No. 113 Dewitt Clinton Lodge No. 141 Mann Page Lodge No. 157 Kempsville Lodge No. 196 Yorktown Lodge No. 205 Lee Lodge No. 209 Chickahominy Lodge No. 286 Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 Hay Market Lodge No. 313 Warwick Lodge No. 336 The Patriot Lodge No. 1957

In addition, the following eighteen Lodges also exhibited in nine locations around the state to promote leadership their leadership and cooperation by having all of their progresskills, provide networking opportunities, and encourage sive line officers (Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, and Junior Deacon) present at one or

Richmond Lodge No. 10 Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Manchester Lodge No. 14 Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Abingdon Lodge No. 48 Kemper-Macon Ware Lodge No. 64 Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178 Manasseh Lodge No. 182 Sandston Lodge No. 216 Corinthian Lodge No. 266 Achilles Lodge No. 281 William J. McMahon Lodge No. 303 Babcock Lodge No. 322 Ocean View Lodge No. 335 Washington And Henry Lodge No. 344 Henry Knox Field-John Blair Lodge No. 349 Victory Daylight Lodge No. 1778



Corn Hole Tournament held on Family Day First Place winners: Rt. Wor Charles E. Hinson (Coordinator), Wor. Earnest E. Walton, III; and Mr. Brian Toney.



Family Day Corn Hole Tournament held on Second Place winners: Rt. Wor Charles E. Hinson (Coordinator), Rt. Wor David W. Murray; and Bro. Dawson C. Murray.



L-R: Wor. Doug Guthrie, Sheriff/ Bro. Joe McLaughlin, and Wor. Bobby Mawyer.

Brother and Sheriff Joe McLaughlin was presented a Child ID unit by Sandston Lodge No. 216. The unit was presented to the New Kent County Sheriff's Office at a recent County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

Henry Ford

## **Masonic Awards and Recognition**



L-R: Bro. Ryan Lutz, Bro. Tony Giaccio, Wor. Robert Murray, Bro. Allen Haynie, Rt. Wor. David Murray, Larry Shriver

Yorktown Lodge No. 205 was pleased to present the York County Volunteer Association (YVA), "The Bargain Box," with a Community Builder's Award for 2019. The presentation was made to the Board of Directors at the Bargain Box with many of their volunteers present. The Lodge supplied lunch for the dozens of volunteers, who were working and would be working later in the day. In addition to lunch, Yorktown Lodge No. 205 made a monetary donation to the "Bargain Box" to support their efforts in appreciation for their work.

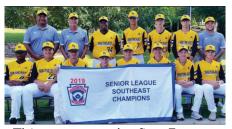
The environment at the Bargain Box is one of enthusiasm and excitement. It had much the feel of a busy beehive, where the volunteers were engaged and working hard to accomplish their goals. We are excited and proud to present this award to such a deserving group.



Brother Leander O. Scott (on the left) receiving his Seventy-Year certificate and pin from Worshipful Lee R. Kern (on the right) during the Amelia Lodge No. 101 community breakfast.



L-R: Rt. Wor. Wimpy Isgett, Wor. Donald J. Hoy, Rt. Wor. Douglas Jones, DGM (Back) Rt. Wor. Jimmy Burton Worshipful Donald James Hoy received his Seventy-Year Veteran's award at Sandston Lodge No. 216.



This team was the first Eastern Shore baseball team to reach the Little League World Series.

Each year Central Lodge No. 300, in Onley, Virginia, sponsors a Little League Baseball team. This year the team the Lodge sponsored became the All-Star team on the Eastern Shore, went to the state finals and won, went to the Southeast tournament in Florida, and won, then participated in the playoffs for the Little League World Series and finished fourth in the United States and eighth in the world.



L-R: Rt. Wor. William Hughes, Mrs. Glenda Hawk, and Rt. Wor. Mikel Johnson.

Cabell Lodge No. 328 presented Mrs. Glenda Hawk, with a Masonic Community Builder's Award. Glenda Hawk always had a passion for teaching. The dream of teaching began in first grade after graduating from Radford University with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

She began teaching in Goochland County at Byrd Elementary with second grade after a couple of years, she moved to first grade

Glenda taught for thirty-one years in Goochland County Schools and loved teaching children how to read and working with the wonderful children and parents.

- Goochland County Teacher of the Year
- Inducted into Goochland County Educators Hall of Fame
- Coached LEGO Robotics three times winner regional competitions and then taking the teams to the State level
- Enjoyed seven years as a Gifted Resource Teacher:
- Initiated the Goochland Reading Olympics program for the elementary schools
- Presented at national and state Gifted Conventions
- Created Outdoor Learning Lab in courtyard at Byrd Elementary
- Member of Mount Gilead Baptist Church Vacation Bible School director for over twenty years, presently Mount Gilead Preschool Director

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## **Masonic Awards and Recognition**

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Manasseh Lodge No.182 and Manassas Royal Arch Chapter No. 81, presented their thirty-third annual scholarship awards to five recipients who have excelled at their chosen disciplines. Brother Tom Costis conducted the ceremony, which demonstrating the careful preparation, was a most impressive event. The two bodies have strong scholarship programs, as well as the generosity of three of their members.

Jeffrey Dunn was a DeMolay in Prince William Chapter in the early 1990's where he served as Master Councilor. Jeff is a past recipient of both Manasseh Lodge and Manassas Royal Arch Scholarships. He graduated with honors from the University of Virginia with a Business and Finance Degree. Upon graduating, he worked for an investment bank in New York City and was later recruited by Paul Allen (the late co-founder of Microsoft) to work in his investment division. After ten years, he was able to transfer to work in the sports division as Vice President of Business Strategy and Analytics. Jeff currently lives in Seattle with his wife, Dawn, and two children Emily, and Luke.

Worshipful Floyd "Shorty" Vetter was a lifetime resident of Manassas, and worked with the local phone company, is now Verizon. Worshipful Brother Vetter was a 57-year member of Manasseh Lodge No. 182 and a longtime member of Manassas Royal Arch Chapter No. 81. Worshipful Brother Vetter spent a lifetime generously contributing to his hometown and trying to improve the lives of all those around him, especially at the Lodge.

A towering, giant of a man who spent

"Do not worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition."

Abraham Lincoln



L-R: Bro. Ariel Phillips, Sophie Phillips, Alison Aldrich, Rachel Bentz and Kaitlyn "Gigi" Costis, and Wor. Tom Costis.

a lifetime in the attainment of useful knowledge, Worshipful Tom Wickman, truly enjoyed sharing his knowledge of things with other enthusiastic learners. As a college professor, Worshipful Brother Tom was known for his tough, but fair teaching style and his ability to motivate students with his high expectations. Through Masonry, Worshipful Brother Tom found a natural path to foster his passion and desire for learning, and through his financial generosity to the Lodge Scholarship fund, he has secured a way to support the education of their Masonic youth and perpetuate the passion of life-long learners among their Masonic family.

The beneficiaries of the awards were:

Ariel Phillips, who currently attends George Mason University and studies Computer Game Design where she hopes to improve her community in a positive way by creating games that will not only amuse and entertain but teach tolerance as

well.

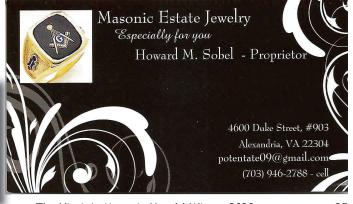
Kaitlyn "Gigi" Costis, who is a charter member of Manassas Assembly No. 13 IORG and is currently the GWA of Virginia Rainbow. Gigi attends Lord Fairfax Community College, where she is studying to be a nurse. Gigi graduated high school when she was sixteen and will complete her degree in Health Professional Sciences this year.

Sophie Phillips is a member of the International Order of Job's Daughters and attends the University of Virginia. Sophie is majoring in Psychology and hopes to become a therapist. In her freshman year at the University of Virginia, Sophie demonstrated great resilience and determination, completing the difficult transition from high school to college.

Alison Aldrich is the granddaughter of Worshipful Paul Martin and attends Old Dominion University, where she is majoring in Electrical Engineering. Alison listed as her long-term goal: "to keep my family proud because that is the most important goal for anyone in my opinion."

Rachel Bentz is the granddaughter of Worshipful Wayne Bentz. Rachel is in her final year at Ferrum College, majoring in Pre-Professional Sciences and Chemistry, and is working toward attending medical school.

Manasseh Lodge No.182 and Manassas Royal Arch Chapter No. 81 are to be commended for their continuing goal of providing the financial assistance to those aspiring students, who can make a change in the future of our world.



The Virginia Masonic Herald-Winter 2020

## **Masonic Awards and Recognition**



L-R: Wor. Joseph Waymack, Mr. Jose Luis Pedroza, and Wor. Jason McPeak.

Mr. Pedroza was recognized with the Community Builders award by Prince George Lodge No. 115 for establishing and expanding his restaurant business in Prince George, Virginia. His enterprising efforts have led to the creation of several job opportunities in the community.



L-R front: Brother Kerlin C. Mc-Manious, Brother Boyce S. Brice, Brother Kaleb O. Corle, and Rt. Wor. Arleigh H. Rice, Jr. L-R back: Worshipful James Scites, Rt. Wor. Gregory D. Hosaflook and Rt. Wor. Gerald W. Hogan.

Day Lodge No. 58, Murray Lodge No. 175, and Cabell Lodge No. 328 held a joint called communication at Cabell Lodge No. 328 to raise three Brethren, one from each Lodge, to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brethren from all six Masonic District 10 Lodges were in attendance, as well as the District Deputy Grand Master and a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work.



L-R, Rt. Wor. David Herndon Dew, M. W. Kerry Campbell, and Rt. Wor. Glen Bryant.

Most Worshipful Louis Kerford Campbell (2013) presented a Sixty-Year Certificate to Right Worshipful David Herndon Dew. His son, David Herndon Dew, II, of Meridian Lodge, Natick, Massachusetts, pinned the Sixty-Year Veteran's emblem on his father.



Some Kempsville students will have a fresh start next month when it comes to school lunch debt, thanks to a group of local Masons and church members.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church and the Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 on Princess Anne Road paid just over \$4,600 toward lunch debts at three schools in their backyard, Providence and Kempsville Meadows Elementary Schools and Larkspur Middle.

The debt did not go away completely, but it was enough to cover about sixteen

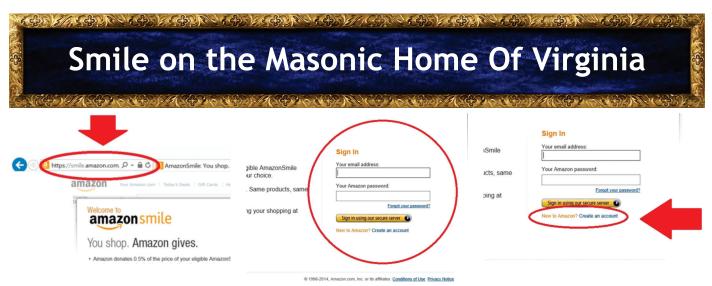
### Saleen Martin

## Va. Beach groups pay lunch debt for Kempsville students



hundred lunches, said Scott Bottenfield, who helps run the church's donation program, Feed Kempsville. The church started collecting the funds in September, and the Masons joined the effort in February. "Hunger's not going away," organizer Brother Bob Hughes remembers thinking when he presented the idea to his Lodge. "I have actually found that both Masonry and the church go hand in hand," he said. "We are a brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God. What we do, we do not do for recognition. We do it for the good of helping."

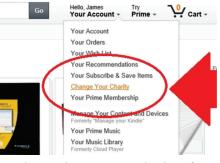
Bottenfield said he is glad to help so many people. The group could not have done it without their church, the Masons, and non-members, who stepped up to help.



- 1-Go to https://smile.amazon.com (You must always use this address instead of amazon.com. The Masonic Home of Virginia will not receive money if you do not.)
- 2-If you already have an Amazon login, log in here.
- 3-If you do not have an Amazon login, create an account by clicking on "Create an account."



4-Once logged in, click on "Your Account."



5-Select "Change Your Charity" from the drop-down window.



6-Type in the blank, Masonic Home of Virginia, as illustrated.

- Or pick your own charitable organization Masonic Home Of Virginia onic Home of Virginia nile West Virginia Masonic Home (Abo
- 7-Click the "Search" button.
- 8-Make sure you choose Masonic Home Of Virginia by clicking the correct "Select" button.



- 9 -Verify your choice by looking at the "Supporting:" field near the top left of the page.
- 10-Remember. You must always log in to https://smile.amazon.com in order for the MAHOVA charity to receive funds.
- 11-This wonderful feature is being made possible by Amazon, at no cost to the buyer.



### Masonic Home of Virginia New CEO

The governing board unanimously adopted a resolution to promote Anne B. Hagen, who served as Chief Financial Officer of the Home since August 2009.

Hagen will replace Most Worshipful James D. Cole (2001), who has relocated to Washington, D.C., to assume the duties as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States, Southern Jurisdiction. Most Worshipful Brother Cole served as CEO of the Home since January 2006.

The Masonic Home of Virginia is a continuing care community for retired Master Masons, their wives, and widows.

Hagen said she appreciates the governing board's confidence and looks forward to "continuing the excellent standards" set by Most Worshipful Brother Cole.

Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins (1997), President of the Masonic Home,



Anne B. Hagen, Masonic Home of Virginia, Chief Executive Officer explained that the residents and the staff maintain a very close relationship, "just like we're one big family." Most Worshipful Brother Adkins pointed out that the Home was recognized in 2018 and 2019 by the Richmond Times-Dispatch as one Richmond's Top Places to Work.

In its decision to select a successor to Most Worshipful Brother Cole, Most

Worshipful Brother Adkins noted, the governing board of the Home sought to continue the standard of excellence forged by Most Worshipful Brother Cole's vision and leadership through a policy of promotion from within the organization.

Hagen, a resident of Moseley, consistently displays her "passion about family, faith, and community," Most Worshipful Brother Adkins added. She served for fifteen years as the Director of Finance for Commonwealth Catholic Charities. She supplements her professional career through significant volunteer activities:

- Virginia Society of CPAs, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- Virginia Credit Union, Supervisory Committee.
- St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Vice Chair of the Finance Council.



The Masonic Family Day was held at the Masonic Home, and it was a beautiful, sunny, and warm day that was perfect for the fifteen hundred or so visitors, friends, and residents that came to enjoy fellowship at the Home. This was a day jam-packed with activities for the whole family. The Cornhole Game was once again the featured activity, but the new Putt-Putt course was also very popular. These games are perfect for the whole family and were truly enjoyed by a great mix of youth and adults.

Of course, the parade was led by the Grand Master and featured a number of great units from both young and old Masonic groups. And the Widows Sons Riders Association, who made a great 28 The Virginia Masonic Herald-Winter 2020

Director of Development entrance with over fifty motorcycles rumbling through the parade route then quickly transitioned to volunteer lunch servers.

All of this plus a spectacular display by the Special Forces Association Parachute Team. In a first ever event for the Masonic Home, three paratroopers from Ft. Bragg, N.C., jumped onto the lawn to the delight of everyone in attendance. When they first jumped, they had smoke, which attracted a lot of attention. As the jumpers got closer, the American Flag carried by one jumper could be seen and cheers went up from the crowd. Another jumper carried the Masonic Flag while a third jumper carried a plaque celebrating the hard work of Right Worshipful Lambros G. Deligan, Chairman of the Family Day Committee of the Board of Governors. It was a great sight to see these three soldiers join the guests and enjoy a great BBQ lunch cooked by the Brethren from Amelia Lodge No. 101.

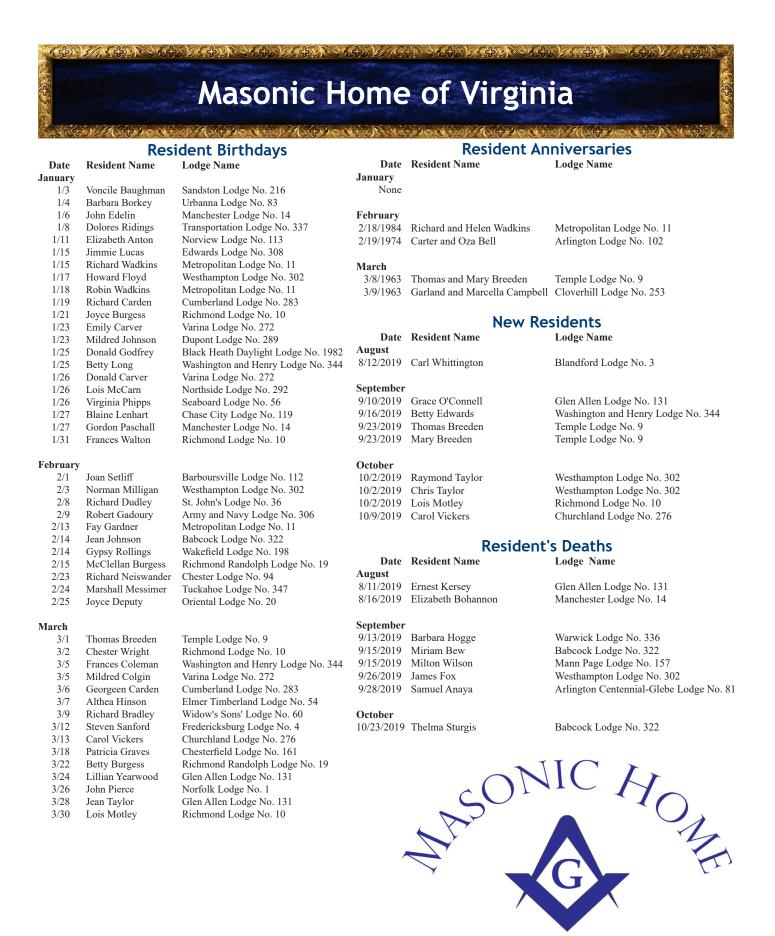


## Masonic Home of Virginia Honorariums and Memorials

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, acknowledgments 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 August 1, 2019 - October 31, 2019. Persons HONORED are on the left, followed by the donor's name on the right.

Honor/Memorial	Donor Name	Honor/Memorial	Donor Name
Charles E. Allen	William E. Hershey, Jr.		Mary Perdue
	Midlothian Lodge No. 211		Paula Huffman
Samuel C. Anaya	Ann George		Frances C. Jones
	Lisa Schoenthaler		Barbara Lewis
	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class		Ann Litten
	Black Heath Daylight Lodge No. 1982		Mary A. Flora
	Nilda Gumbs		Susan Golladay
	Sue Lofurno		Evelyn Holliday
	John and Karen Cavanaugh		Michele Houser
	Terry F. Hilton		Gwendolyn M. Cohen
	Varina Lodge No. 272		Barbara Cook
	Larry E. Goff		Joyce Eller
	John W. Shipley		Wanda Ellison
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	Sidney Coffey		Deborah Caviness
	Michael Alston	Betty Hodges	Berkley Chapter No. 52, O.E.S.
			Michael D. Johnstone
	Karen Szoke	Evelyn Holliday	
	Gayle Petro	Ernest C. Kersey	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class
	David W. Barnes	Wilson D. King	Sandston Lodge No. 216
	Pat Cavanaugh	James MacDonald	Arthur W. Bentz
	Helen Anaya	Marvin R. Martin	Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220
arroll E. Arnold	Mackey Lodge No. 69	Jason M. Parham	James F. Dickerson
mes H. Ash	James O. Ash	Richard E. Peroe	Cheryl Gambardella
hn V. Bandy	Sandston Lodge No. 216	Forrest M. Porterfield	Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220
urray Bernard	Civil War Research Lodge No. 1865	Larry A. Renner	Thomas Mutter
iriam Bew	Robert Bew	-	Marsha Allemong
	Gregory B. Farmer		Robert E. Lee
izabeth P. Bohannon	John W. Pierce		James M. Van Hecke
	John I. Long		Aikens Corporation
ewis W. Broy	Spurmont Lodge No. 98		Judy Excavation
obert C. Bunting	Murray Lodge No. 175		John G. Russell
etty B. Burnette	Job's Daughters International, VA Grand Guardian Council		Fred L. Glaize
chard O. Carden	Terry F. Hilton		
			Kern Motor Company, Inc.
orman E. Carpenter	William E. Hershey, Jr.		Marianne Matthews
	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60		Gloria Spangler
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imes D. Cole	Paul E. Clark		John Prosser
awrence L. Coleman	David Morrison		Paula S. Ginger
	Darrell Aleshire		Alice Mauroner
tewart A. Deem	Ruth Lodge No. 89		Alfredo Flores
aliopi Deligan	Terry F. Hilton		Marie Prosser
	Frederick G. Martin		Carol Chapman
	William E. Hershey, Jr.		Susan Claytor
eorge B. Dungan	James O. Ash		Amos Kettlewell
oy L. Durham	Carter Lodge No. 323		Ronald Bales
oen M. Edwards	Purdie Lodge No. 170		Carter Strader
oen wi. Edwards	Stuart Cook		Joan Lewis
	Wayne S. Flora		Paul Ensogna
. A E			
on A. Evans	David R. Evans		Sharon Byrd
y A. Fleming	Varina Lodge No. 272		Lawrence R. Ambrogi
illiam T. Fleming	Darrell R. Fleming		John Milleson
nes J. Fox	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	a 1 151 - W	Dennis J. McLoughlin
	William E. Hershey, Jr.	Gardner and Elva Rollins	Anne B. Hagen
igh I. Furmage	George W. Field	Charles R. Seaford	Lois Wargo
bbert L. Gibbs	William F. Perdue	June D. Spivey	Franklin Lodge No. 151
	Alan W. Adkins	Edward F. Swansey	Terry F. Hilton
	Herbert S. Berman	Jesse P. Throckmorton	Babcock Lodge No. 322
	George H. Chapin	Fred H. Van Dyk	Civil War Research Lodge No. 1865
	Verrel Hughes	Theodore D. Wands	Civil War Research Lodge No. 1865
	Joppa Lodge No. 40	Bro. M. Warren	Raymon Bacchus
	David A. Brown	Barbara M. Wilkinson	Terry F. Hilton
	Joy Hurt	Grover Williams	John Williams
	Julia Cleal	Milton P. Wilson	John I. Long
ora L. Gregory	Job's Daughters, Bethel 24	-	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class
illard E. Griffing	Sally A. Lion		Paul S. Bollinger
inara E. Ommig	Salley Sutton		Terry F. Hilton
irton A. Gunn	Nelson M. Bryant		John W. Shipley
	Raymon Bacchus		
illiam E. Hershey, Jr.			Virginia Phipps
	Ronald G. Kendrick		William E. Hershey, Jr.
ichele Hershey	Mary Strehle		William F. Perdue
	Billie L. Taylor		John W. Pierce
	Linda Thorson		Nancy C. Harver
	Diane Wade	Samuel L. Winston	Cabell Lodge No. 328
	Cynthia Perry		
	Jill B. Quinley		
	Judith Rorer		
	Geneva Simmons		
	Detaile C. Martin		

Patricia S. Martin Ann B. Miller Deborah Moro



VIRGINIA

## Masonic Home of Virginia



Anne Winder enjoying a pet therapy visit.



King Tom Lewis with his great-grandson and Queen Betty Klotz at Family Day.



Frances Gillie at her book reading and signing about growing up at the Masonic Home of Virginia.



Residents enjoying entertainment by a choir.



Lunch outing at Olive Garden.



Outing at Route 11 potato chip factory located in New Market, Virginia.



Residents enjoying the Sock Hop.



Residents and staff leaving for Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.



Mildred Colgin enjoying music therapy.

U. S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 388 Richmond, Virginia Non-Profit Organization



L-R: M. W. William F. Perdue, M. W. Alan W. Adkins, M. W. George H. Chapin, M. W. James D. Cole, M. W. Clifford A. Parker, M. W. Frederick G. Martin, III, M. W. James M. Scearce, Jr., M. W. John R. Quinley, M. W. Glover H. Jones, III, M. W. George B. Dungan, Jr., M. W. William E. Rorer, Jr., M. W. John M. Chambliss, Jr., M. W. William T. Ellison, Jr., M. W. Louis K. Campbell, M. W. Wayne S. Flora, M. W. Reese E. Carroll, Jr., M. W. James E. Litten, M. W. Vernon S. Cook, M. W. Gary W. Taylor in the center of Grand Lodge's Grand Annual Communication.