

The Florida Mason



Grand Lodge of Florida
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Grand Lodge Officers
2014 - 2015

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: Steven P. Boring
(DeLand)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Stanley L. Hudson
(Port St. Lucie)

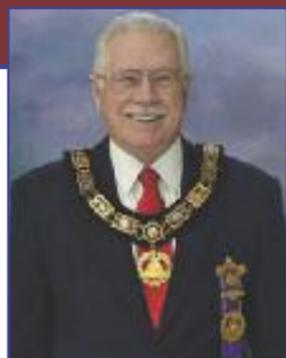
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Richard G. Hoover
(St. Petersburg)

GRAND TREASURER
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.
(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues
of *The Florida Mason*
and
E-News submissions should be
sent to,
Larry Duff - 352-874-2164
lduff@centurylink.net

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December 1, 2015



M.: W.: James W. Ford,
Grand Master

You have made my job pleasant and so enjoyable and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I also want to say how thankful I am to God for the many Blessings that have been provided. Yes, there have been many challenges, but in our journey through life there ever walks beside us an Eternal Friend whose all powerful hand is always ready to guide and support us through all the difficulties and trials that may come to us.

I offer my thanks to the Elected Grand Lodge Officers and the Appointed Grand Lodge Officers for their support and to their Ladies for supporting and helping Tracey in such a loving and helpful manner.

I want to thank the District Deputy Grand Masters and their Ladies for their support and the hospitality and reception at the Official Visits. Your efforts and hard work were truly outstanding. Also, I appreciate your efforts in conveying my message and my slogan – “Expect Perfection – Settle for Excellence” and the theme of “Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love”.

I want to thank all the District Instructors and the State and Zone Chairmen for their efforts in communicating the various Grand Lodge Programs to the Craft. You are a vital part of the success or failure of these programs and I thank you for all you do. I also thank all who serve on the various panels and committees for your service and dedication.

I want to thank Ms. Wendy John, my Personal Secretary and Grand Lodge Office Manager, and her staff for all the work they do at the Grand Lodge Office and for their dedication to our Fraternity. Their efforts are outstanding.

To Mrs. Lisa Tsotsos, Administrator of the Masonic Home, and her staff, I thank you for providing such a wonderful place of security and

A Message From The Grand Master

WOW!! WOW!! WOW!! The end of another Masonic Year draws near and as we approach the 186th Annual Grand Communication, I want express my appreciation to the Craft and to the Ladies for the friendship and support you have provided to my daughter Tracey and I. Your friendship and support has meant so much to both of us and you have made us feel welcome and at home where ever we traveled.

comfort for the Residents. We had a great Pilgrimage Day and the First Lady’s Project was a huge success. We thank everyone for the many donations and on behalf of Tracey and I, you have our deepest gratitude. Joy would have been so proud.

To the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, I thank you for a very engaging year and a year of hard work and dedication. Thank you for your efforts to bring about stabilization and action that will move us into the future.

I want to thank each and every Member of the Craft for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master. The opportunity to meet and interact with so many wonderful people has been an opportunity beyond belief and I can’t thank you enough.

In addition, I want to thank my wife Joy for her support. Although, she could not be with me the last two years, it just was not to be, she has been at my side with every step I’ve taken, and the words “there are angels among us” has a very deep meaning for many of us. My daughter, Tracey, has been a true Blessing and has been with me in all my travels and I thank her for being there for me and for her mother. She has truly made this a remarkable year and I thank everyone for providing her with such overwhelming love and support.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Craft for truly engaging the spirit of “Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love.” With your help and understanding we have been able to reduce and eliminate many charges and trials and we will move into the new year with only a couple issues pending. I continue to urge you to solve our problems through good communications in a Brother to Brother manner.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Grand Lodge and now may God Bless each and every one of you, may God Bless our great Fraternity, and may God Bless the United States of America and all who serve it!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
M.: W.: James W. Ford
Grand Master



“Expect Perfection - Settle For Excellence”



M.: W.: Steven P. Boring,
Deputy Grand Master

respect, and educate one another within our great Fraternity; communicate openly with each other. Assist our Brothers and families in need. Respect each other, both inside and outside of the walls of our Lodges. Educate all to prepare for your future. C.A.R.E. Brothers we must CARE; display our morals, honor, and integrity and work together in peace and harmony at all times thus characterizing us as Freemasons! Only then will we, the Craft, become Freemasons United Together Under Ritual Ethics or FUTURE. Brothers we must begin now to CARE for our FUTURE!

I read an article in the Knights Templar that mirrored some of my thoughts in regards to the direction our Fraternity is taking.

VOLUME LXI - May 2015 NUMBER 5

“The Magazine for York Rite Masons-and Others, too” Masonic Philosophical Differences in the 21st Century by Sir Knight John L. Palmer

“Brother Palmer states, there are two different interpretations. One interpretation is that this phenomenon of rising and falling Membership is a natural one and that there is little that can be done about it except wait it out. There is clearly a relation between large wars and Masonic Membership, but that relationship is not understood well enough to control the results. Those who take this position believe that we have no real control over the situation and that we certainly do not want to destroy Freemasonry by engaging in radical, knee-jerk reaction. I call these the “Status-Quos” and will tell you more about them later. Another interpretation of the data is that these Status-Quos somehow caused the problem, and that it needs to be solved in an entirely different manner than that suggested by the Neo-Moderns.

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Words cannot express the feelings I have lodged within my breast. The Craft has seen fit to elect me and give me the opportunity to serve our great Fraternity.

As we close one successful Masonic Year and embark on another, I call on every Mason and their families to support the programs and the committees and the Brothers selected to head them.

My vision this coming year is to find a way to better communicate, assist,

These folks were in agreement with the Neo-Moderns that something had to be done, because they believed that as numbers swelled, the character, intellect, and focus of the Membership declined. Although the numbers increased, the entire nature and purpose of the organization faded away. An individual sitting alone, mouth to ear; this is too inefficient, and the young men aren’t even trained to learn that way anymore. They no longer have this kind of patience. Isn’t the entire ritual published somewhere on the internet anyway, so what is the harm in videotaping it? This is the position of those who I call Neo-Moderns, and although some of these folks have tried this approach and determined by measured results that it was not successful, these folks seem to be supplanting the Status-Quos in positions of leadership in several of our Grand Lodges and some of the Appendant Bodies, notably the Shrine. The Shrine has already relaxed its standards to eliminate the requirement of membership in one of the rites. This position of the Shrine is completely understandable. The organization has only two stated purposes, to support the charities and to Fellowship. Moreover, they have been among the hardest hit from the Membership decline, and the cost of their hospitals is spiraling up. So where do these new kids on the block, the Neo-Ancients, stand on all this? First, while they are appreciative of the Status-Quos for preserving the Fraternity all these years, they feel that we have gone too far in the United States with this “on the level” thing by extending it to profanes. Good Masons allow a marginally “good man” to become a member in the confident expectation that exposure to the Fraternity will polish his rough edges. This man brings in someone who is marginally “less good” than he with the hope that Freemasonry will “make him better.” Eventually you have a situation where we are having Masonic Trials to try to get rid of those who are damaging the reputation of 23 Knight Templar the Fraternity and destroying its harmony, men who obviously do not have the character to fulfill their obligations or perhaps the understanding to know what they are.”

Take the time to read the full article and see if you agree we are moving in a downward spiral direction. Assist me in taking action to change the direction.

www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/Magazine/2015/0415.pdf

Sincerely and Fraternally,
R.: W.: Steven P. Boring
Deputy Grand Master



*R.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson,
Senior Grand Warden*

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

It's that time of the year I have come to dislike, the email that says it's time for your message for The Florida Mason. What to write? Is it going to be a "kumbaya" message, an inspiring message, or a get it off my chest message? I have chosen none of the above! I am going to write about the reflection of the past year.

After the Southeast Conference Meeting in August of last year I shared with you, the Craft, the discussions held, little did I know where that would take me. I have held several "Town Hall Meetings" around the state about Lodge Mergers and Consolidations. This to my surprise was met with a great deal of success. To date there are approximately 10 to 15 Lodges in the state of discussing the need and the possibility of merging. There have been four Lodges that have already merged.

What we fail to recognize is that in life all things will come to an end. I have used the analogy of a Great Oak Tree that stood tall on the property of our Masonic Home. One day a large limb broke off and fell to the ground, upon inspection we found the core of the tree to be dead and nothing to hold the weight of the limbs on the tree except the shell. After several meetings, phone calls, and "horse beatings" on how to save the tree we called in an Arborist; after he inspected the tree he informed us it had reached the end of its life and needed to come down.

Many of our Lodges have had the core die with nothing but the shell left. Through no fault of the tree or the Lodge, the time has come; we all have a choice; do nothing and let it fall down around us or join

forces and strengthen the foundation and the core from within. The choice is ours.

This is not the end but the beginning of our Fraternity, to strengthen it for the economic and declining times we are going through. I have stated that today more than any other time, our country needs the moral lessons and basic tenants that our Fraternity hold so dear to our hearts. We need to stand strong and we need to be visible to all who come to us for the Light that shines in our Fraternity.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Grand Lodge Session with Most Worshipful Jim Ford in May.

Fraternally,

R.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson
Senior Grand Warden

Email:shudson34953@gmail.com • Cell: (772) 332-4956



*R.:W.: Richard G. Hoover,
Junior Grand Warden*

A Message From The South

My Brothers,

I look back on this first year as your humble servant, and wonder where did it go? We have traveled the State, country, and even to Vancouver for the GMCNA. I have met a lot of very interesting, informative, and wonderful Masons throughout our travels. I have you, the Craft of Florida, to thank for this opportunity and I look forward to continued efforts on your behalf.

As we reach the new Masonic Year, I look to you, the Craft, for continued support. Your thoughts and concerns have been heard, conversed about, and changes are coming together. Re-Zoning and Re-Districting continue to be topics of great importance to our Fraternity. Keeping our Grand Lodge Budget as well as our Masonic Home Budget within our means, while also looking to our future needs is of great importance to us all. We need you, the Craft, to assist in these efforts. We, your Grand Lodge Officers, will continue to discuss these efforts at all of our visits and ask for your input. The future of your Fraternity is our main goal.

I see our Fraternity with a Bright future. This future is not only for us, but for the incoming Masons. I will be asking the Craft to give me your thoughts and input on "short of time" Degrees. I will NOT be advocating One Day Classes. Whatever is done, will be done with the Crafts approval. We have over 2300 Masons over the past 5 years who have not completed their Masonic Degrees. I will be trying to find the answer for this and bring as many as possible back into becoming active and productive Members of our Lodges.

Again, I thank you for your support and continued efforts for our Fraternity.

Fraternally,

R.:W.: Richard G. Hoover
Junior Grand Warden



*M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.,
Grand Secretary*

A Message From The Grand Secretary

It is hard to believe that February 2015 marked my 8th year serving as your Grand Secretary. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to the Craft. Each day proposes a new challenge and experience. I enjoy traveling and renewing friendships and meeting many Brothers for the first time.

I am excited to inform you that during the Grand Lodge Session on May 24 through 27, 2015, many of you will have the opportunity to review the new Membership System. This past year we have had three Secretary and Treasurer Seminars and the attendees had the opportunity to see a demonstration. The responses were very encouraging. It is predicted this system will not only assist the Secretaries in the day to day duties it will help improve the service to the Membership and reduce the number of Members being dropped for non-payment of dues.

A complete overhaul of the Grand Lodge computer network servers has been completed. This will enable the staff to better serve you, the Membership, and protect our valuable data.

Speaking of the staff at the Grand Lodge Office; we have the finest dedicated staff all willing to go far beyond the normal requirements to be of service to the Lodges and the Membership. Under the direction of

Wendy John, the Officer Manger, we have a well-oiled machine that never stops improving; always striving for excellence.

After the Grand Lodge Session I will be traveling to all the Districts to assist and train the Lodge Officers and Members on how to sign up on the new Membership Program. I hope to see you there.

Our Membership in 1981 was 83,158; decreased to 71,630 in 1991; and to 53,381 in 2004. The total loss for 2014 was 1,825 leaving us with a total Membership of 41,134. It is not losses to the Grim Reaper; it is losses due to non-payment of dues that contributes to these increases in losses. We cannot control the Grim Reaper but we can help our Lodges by assisting the Secretary in contacting the Brothers suspended or about to be suspended due to non-payment of dues. Sometimes all it takes is a call and an invitation to attend Lodge.

I am proud to be your Grand Secretary and I am only a call away if you need me.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary



*M.:W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.,
Grand Treasurer*

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,

It seems only yesterday that we began a new Grand Lodge year with M.:W.: Jim Ford and now it is the beginning of another. A time of new Officers, new programs, and new goals. M.:W.: Ford had a very successful year with many goals met, and one of the more visible ones is the new wheelchair van at the Masonic Home. The old van had over two hundred thousand miles on it and the new one is a much more comfortable, reliable, and safer means of transporting the Residents to their many appointments. The Craft truly stepped up with their donations to make a dream come true.

One of the great programs we have in the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida is the Masonic License Tag. Not all states have a Masonic Tag but ours is available at your local tag agency for your purchase. What a great way to show your Masonic Pride as you drive each day both in your local area and out of town trips. There is a certain level of sales necessary for us to maintain our tag and if we fall below that level, there is a chance we could lose the Masonic Tag altogether. I would urge you, if you do not

have one on your vehicle, please give careful consideration on purchasing one in the near future. It not only identifies you as a Mason, shows that you are proud to be a Mason, and helps our Masonic Home as well.

We would certainly like to invite you to visit us here at the Grand Lodge Building. Our District Meeting will be on July 25th and in the afternoon prior to the District Meeting we will be having the picture hanging of M.:W.: Jim Ford in the museum. This would be a great time for you to visit, tour the museum, witness the picture hanging ceremony and then attend the District 11 and 12 District Meeting.

We are looking forward to a great year with our new Grand Master and seeing many of you in our travels. May God richly bless you, your family and your Lodge, and may he continue to bless our great Country.

Fraternaly,

M.:W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

Zanghi Grotto Presents Appreciation Certificates

By Brother Ed Slauson, Publicity and Public Relations 16th District



Zanghi Grotto's Monarch Al Woodstock presents certificates of appreciation to R.: W.: Steven Boring, Deputy Grand Master; R.: W.: Sam Guarnen, DDGM; R.: W.: Tommy Turlington, PDDGM; and R.: W.: Harry Rosenthal, PDDGM, at their November 5th, 2014 Meeting in appreciation for their assistance during Daytona's Bike week and Biketoberfest in 2014, for "shaking the cans" to raise money for the Grotto's

Dental Care for Special Needs Kids, the Grotto's Flagship Charity.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Brings Holiday Cheer

By Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, PDDGM



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, took part in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program at Tyrone Mall. The Angel Tree Program is designed to get holiday gifts to needy children in the community. Over twenty Members of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 took turns to man the Angel Tree Booth at the Mall on December 13th. It was a very moving experience for the Masons to see how the Community comes together to bring joy to the hearts of children this time of year. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is appreciative of the Salvation Army for allowing them to take part in this worthy program.

Englewood Lodge No. 360 - Awards and Presentations for 2014



Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360, located in Englewood, presented on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, awards for outstanding service and dedication to the Lodge and Freemasonry. Recipients pictured are; (L to R) - W.: Jerry Wadel for his Dedication and Service for 2013 and 2014; Lodge Officer Ben Rose, Officer of The Year Award for his Instruction, Dedication

and Excellent Service for over 45 Years; W.: Ed Behringer for his Dedication and Service As Officer and Treasurer; Lodge Officer Mike Nicklos for his Dedication and Excellent Service as Secretary; Lodge Officer Ron McLeod for his Dedication, Talent and Service as Musician and Organist for our Lodge and various other Lodges for several years and W.: Ian Fraser for his Dedication, Guidance and Prayers, as Chaplain!

Florida Sheriff's Association Recognizes Ashlar Lodge

Ashlar Lodge No. 98, Free and Accepted Masons, in St. Augustine, FL, was recently made an Honorary Member of the Florida Sheriff's Association in recognition of its continuing support of Florida Youth Ranches.

The presentation was made by Youth Ranches Donor Relations Officer Debbie Girard, assisted by Commander Art May, Director of the Law Enforcement section of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. The presentation was made during a Stated Communication at the Lodge on October 18th.

The plaque was presented to Garret Wolfe, Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge. "Ashlar Lodge is committed to continued support of such an outstanding organization. I would also like to thank St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar and the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches for this recognition," Wolfe stated.

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches' mission is to prevent delinquency and develop strong, lawful, resilient, and productive citizens who will make a positive contribution to our communities for years to come. They accomplish this mission by providing residential opportunities for children deemed "at risk."

L to R: Chris Cannan, Art May, Bob Gagnon, Garret Wolfe, David Pierucci, and Debbie Girard.



Gulf Beach Lodge Adopts a Teacher



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, took part in the Adopt-A-Class program at Madeira Beach Fundamental School. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 donated \$150.00 to Adopt Ms. Skelton's Kindergarten Class at the school in an effort to help, aid and assist her class with their classroom expenses. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 is

proud to be a part of this worthy program and encourages other organizations and individuals to do the same in their community. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 will also be donating a new American flag to fly at the front entrance of the school.

Marion-Dunn loads up two of Santa's sleighs...

Don't read this if you are a Scrooge or Grinch!!

Some photos of the two large van loads of Christmas presents (food, drinks and personal items) that the Masonic Brethren and general public donated to the unfortunate children seeking shelter with their mothers at the Ocala Domestic Violence Shelter.

What a tremendous outpouring of the Christmas spirit at Marion-Dunn Freemason Lodge!!

Also presented was \$600 in cash and checks to help assure 22 children will have a TRULY Merry Christmas during a very difficult time in their lives. The items were presented to Bonnie Tieche and then delivered promptly to the Ocala Domestic Abuse Shelter for the 22 unfortunate children victims seeking refuge the next few weeks at the shelter. Many of the children and mother's come without anything but the clothes on their backs.

We want to thank all who stepped up to meet the challenge. It's touching to see the good we can all accomplish as a team. There is unity in numbers. Marion-Dunn Lodge Members, Shriners, Morning Star Lodge, local Boy Scout Troop, several employees from Lange Eye Care, and many other Members of our wonderful community stepped up to donate.

Ron Hardy, in charge of running the Lodge for 2014, helped direct the Lodge Brethren in assuring Christmas would NOT be forgotten at the Abuse Shelter. What a great, heartwarming experience..



Past Master Or Put Out To Pasture

It was December 1982 when "the night" finally arrived. I had served my year in the East with enthusiasm, dedicated to bringing my Lodge and our Fraternity back to the basics that had once made it great. The words, "We do not need more men in Masonry, but more Masonry in men," were not taken lightly, but rather directed my course of action throughout my year. I was now a Past Master having fulfilled my duties in that office.

Like most Past Masters, there were the prerequisite feelings that accompanied the move out of the chair. Did I do a good job? Did I make a difference?

Where do I go from here? Almost any Past Master will tell you that there is a great sense of relief when their year is completed, and the Jewel and Apron is passed to the new Worshipful Brother who assumes the chair you have kept warm for him over the last twelve months. However, in reality, for the vast majority of us, there is a great sense of regret. We were just becoming proficient at our jobs when it became time to move on. "Past Master or Put Out To Pasture?"

After receiving my Past Master's Apron from my Lodge, I realized that the Past Master's Apron alone, did not make me a Past Master, and if the question is to be asked, "Past Master or Put Out To Pasture?" then it is a question that can only be answered by we who are now Past Masters. For the simple point of fact is that the choice is entirely up to us. We can, like many that have passed the office of Worshipful Master, drift silently into the crowd and not attend Lodge again. Sadly, this is a phenomenon in many Lodges today. We can, as many Past Masters become sideliners and criticize those who follow behind us for not doing things right. Sadly, this too, is a growing phenomenon in many of our Lodges. As for me, I have opted for another option here in the "Past Master's Pasture."

I see the pasture as a green valley full of opportunities. A place where I can graze and eat within all the rich opportunities afforded to my Fellow Past Masters; a place where we can learn from those coming up behind us and from those who have gone on before us. The choice is ours to graze or grieve. I have chosen to graze until the day when I can graze no longer. It is my hope that many of you Past Masters will join me in this fertile and plentiful pasture, where we can with gentleness and experience, offer ourselves to our Lodge in whatever capacity we may be serviceable to it. When I was young in the Craft all the Past Masters seemed to be very old, very important and very austere. Now that I am one myself and I look around, they all seem very young, very ordinary, and very approachable.

Neither a Mason nor a Worshipful Master should be judged solely by the results of his labors. One might strive with all his heart and all his strength, yet not be entirely successful in comparison with one to whom certain things came easily. Masonry teaches us to try to make an effort, and the amount of that effort would be the gauge by which to determine the result.

To all the Past Masters, I wish you well, and may the Grand Architect of the Universe always have you in His keeping and bring you back again to your Lodge and your Brethren in safety, health, and happiness.

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 - 2015 Installation of Officers

Ashlar Lodge No. 98, Free and Accepted Masons located in St. Augustine, FL, installed officers for the 2015 Masonic Year on Saturday, December 27, 2014, at the Lodge. Traditionally, Freemasons set aside December 27 to Honor St. John the Evangelist, one of the two Patron Saints of the Fraternity.

Officers installed during the ceremony included: W.: Christopher Cannan, Worshipful Master; Bro. James Bailey, Senior Warden; Bro. Oscar Patterson III, Junior Warden; Bro. Robert Gagnon, Treasurer; Bro. David Pierucci, Secretary; Bro. James Davis, Chaplain; Bro. Fred H. Bozard IV, Senior Deacon; Bro. Matthew Sweeney, Junior Deacon; Bro. Kenneth Schaffner, Senior Steward; Bro. Stephen Hohman, Junior Steward; Bro. Ron DeRoco, Tyler; Bro. Ted Cassford, Musician; and Bro. Robert Wilson, Marshal.

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 was Chartered on January 1, 1888, by The Grand Lodge of Florida, but, Freemasonry in East Florida can be traced back to the Establishment of a Military Lodge under the Grand Lodge of England in 1762. Even the "Monument de la Constitution 1812" on the Plaza in St. Augustine indicates the Fraternity's influence in St. Augustine with a Masonic symbol clearly visible on the monument's plaque.



Front row: Robert Gagnon, James Bailey, Christopher Cannan, Oscar Patterson, David Pierucci
Back row: Ron DeRoco, Matthew Sweeney, James Davis, Robert Wilson, Kenneth Schaffner, Stephen Hohman

Making Good Men Better

By Bro. Ken Baril

Making good men better is to extract the essence of the Masonic experience. The ritual and ceremony serve to convey and teach certain moral lessons and elevate the individuals to a position higher than themselves. The lessons are things you have likely already heard or have learned in a moral society. What makes them unique to Freemasonry is that they are presented in a specific format and context. We have come to realize, during the time we have been Members of this Grand Fraternity that we have met men we would have never met otherwise. We had the opportunity to get to know these men, not by their looks or touch, but by their hearts, minds, and souls. If we would have passed any of these men on the street before we became Masons, the chances are we would not have noticed them.

We have met numerous men who have truly touched our hearts in many ways. We have learned through their example to be more compassionate, more understanding, more forgiving, more sincere, and above all, more loving. Not one of these men has an uncharitable disposition; therefore, they are all true Masons.

Masonry strives to teach its Members that it would be great if we could convey this message throughout the whole world in ways we would have never thought possible.

We look to build on the positive example of others and bring those virtues, which are beneficial to them and to ourselves. No man is perfect, and we are taught that the Lodge is a moral workshop in which the rough ashlar is to be polished for use and beauty. If our Lodges had been too exacting, none of us would have gained admission.

As Masons, we should treat those Brothers who have unfavorable and irritable traits, not with bitterness, nor with good-natured easiness, not with worldly indifference, nor with philosophic coldness, but with pity, patience, and loving kindness. At our Altar of Obligation, we learn to look for the best in men, find their strong points, and cast aside the negative and unfavorable traits. We are taught that we should attempt to see the best in our Brethren, to cast the best light on their actions, to see them and to hear their words in the most positive light, in the most CHARITABLE light. We are also taught to have a benevolent goodwill toward, or love, for humanity and be lenient in our judgment of others. This most benevolent Brotherhood has men of good character.

We meet Brothers who may be ignorant, weak, or even ugly of spirit, driven by some blind force as all of us are apt to be and if so, our tact, and Brotherly love and charity may be tested and tried, but more often than not, we can bring them back to intelligence, strength, and beauty. As the Bible states, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." Truly, this is a wise saying, no less true today than when first said. As the old Greek said, "Know thyself," because if we do not know ourselves, we cannot know others. It behooves us to put ourselves under the spell of all the influences God is using for the making of man, among which the spirit of Masonry is one of the gentlest, wisest and most benign.

If our erring Brothers must be censured or expelled, they must also be treated with compassion. The Supreme Architect of the Universe waits to welcome them back with joy. They have done themselves a far deeper injury than they have anyone else. With empathy, prayer, and pain, let our hearts beat in harmony with all the powers the Supreme Architect of the Universe is using for their recovery.

"There remain Faith, Hope, and Charity; but the greatest of these, is Charity."

As Master Masons, we have learned the Five Points of Fellowship, and these lessons should be foremost in our minds. This is how we, as Masons, "Make Good Men Better!" SKB

Notes From The Editor

My Brothers all, Thank You, for your submissions to "The Florida Mason" for this issue. Due to a computer issue some photos and articles were lost and could not be recovered for use. The computer issue has been corrected for future submissions.

Requested are a few submission guidelines;

Please do not send copies of newspaper articles. We request the article be prepared in "Word" format. Photos - submitted in .jpg, .gif or .png formats. Copied newspaper photos are generally of very poor quality.

Also, please do not send "links" to newspaper or magazine articles. Many now require a registration to view the article or have security features that prohibit copying, AND we must obtain permission to legally reprint any article

that has run in another magazine, or newspaper.

Printed articles submitted that require a retype by the editor may or may not be used. This is dependent on time permitting of the editor to prepare the article for publication use.

The text of submissions has not been an issue, but the encoding of .pdf files and photos included in some submitter's articles is, please check that your submission can be edited.

When titling your article, please limit it to a few words, not a long sentence. The title should get your reader interested in your article, not telling them the entire content of the article.

One last item, if you know someone who is not receiving "The Florida Mason", it may be their address is incorrect, please have them check with their local Lodge Secretary.

Have a safe summer.

"ALAS MY BROTHER"

Last evening, about six-thirty,
I went to a visitation
For a departed Brother of a Masonic
Lodge
Without any hesitation.

I slowly entered the funeral home,
Rather solemnly, I confess.
I thought I would be greeted by many
Of his Masonic Brothers, no less.

Only three of his Lodge Brother's
were present,
While the family sat alone.
Where is all the Brotherly Love
His Brothers should have shown?

Not only was I embarrassed,
For I could feel the family's pain,

Of not seeing their loved ones Brothers,
As the mourners went and came.
The Masonic oaths we took
on bended knee,
Should mean much more than this.

Have we lost sight of what they mean?
My Brothers, something surely is amiss.

We certainly have an obligation,
To make time to say Good-bye:
Eternity is a long, long, time
For tear filled eyes to dry.

Although many of your
Brothers are not here,
To say their last farewell,
I am here to say my last Good-bye,
Alas, my Brother, sleep well!

Great Holiday Season Maderia Beach

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach helped bring Holiday cheer to sixteen local families in need. Holiday food baskets were prepared and delivered for Christmas, along with \$100.00 gift cards for holiday toys. Lodge Members pose with gift boxes for the Holidays



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 was pleased to be able to assist in making this a great holiday season for those less fortunate this year.

Brother George "Bubba" McCaffrey A 40 Year Mason

At a meeting at Orange Park Lodge No. 267, M.:W.: Elmer Coffman, presented Brother George "Bubba" McCaffrey with his 40 Year Pin and Certificate. Congratulations Brother McCaffrey.

Fraternally; R.:W.: Jeff Foster, Secretary
Orange Park Lodge No. 267



Following in the Family Footsteps

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, Dade City Lodge No.48 Raised Bro. Edward George "Ted" Willoughby to the Third Degree of Freemasonry. On that day, Ted was age 18 years, two months and 19 days, making him possibly the youngest Master Mason in the State's History.

Presiding over the Degree was W.:M.: Lucky Lee and DDGM R.:W.: Lynn Reposa, who had participated in Brother Ted's previous Degrees. Bro. James Austin, Sr. served as Brother Ted's instructor.

Members of Dade City, Trilby, Hillsborough, Ridge, Floral City and Brooksville Lodges also participated in the Degree and all signed a Masonic Bible that was presented to him. That evening, Brother Ted had the honor of meeting M.:W.: James Ford at his homecoming at the Tampa Scottish Rite Lodge.

When asked what becoming a Mason means to him, Brother Ted said, "It's about following in my Father's Footsteps and becoming part of an international Brotherhood where I can help and be helped whenever and wherever needed."

Through his church and school, he has participated in several mission trips and other community service projects. Becoming a Mason and finding new ways to positively impact his world is a natural extension of that. The Masonic tradition is part of Brother Ted's family, too. His great-grandfather, George McClellan, was a Member of Roslindale (MA) Masonic Lodge. His grandmother, Suzanne Carter, belonged to Order of the Eastern Star in both Yarmouth, MA, and Vero Beach, FL, and his mother, Pamela Carter Willoughby, is Past Worthy Advisor of Yarmouth (MA) Assembly No. 118, International Order of Rainbow Girls.

Brother Ted is a Member of Paul Revere Chapter of DeMolay, Sponsored by Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. Several of the Advisory Board Members participated in Brother Ted's Raising. He is a senior at Wesley Chapel High School and will be attending Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland, where he plans to major in industrial and mechanical engineering, with an emphasis on robotics and materials.



Homebound Brothers Visited



Brooker's Pine Hill Lodge No.9, visited homebound Brothers and presented to them Florida Grand Lodge Certificates of Appreciation. Recipients were W.: Roscoe Cruce and Brother "HAMP" Holder. R.:W.: Bruce Kirby made the presentations. A great hamburger and hotdog lunch was served.

Florida Educational Foundation, Inc.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

On August, 2, 2014, the Board of Directors of Florida Educational Foundation, Inc., awarded two \$1000.00 scholarships. The recipients were: McLean Haughey and Amanda Guthrie.

Since only two applications were received, the Board of Directors of Florida Educational Foundation, Inc., decided to accept applications for half-year scholarships.

On December 5th, the Board of Directors of FEFI awarded scholarships of \$500.00 each to: Morgan Antoinette Crimi, Harrison Sherwin, Yeidy Velasquez, Marybeth Lambert and Thomas Wilson.

Florida Educational Foundation, Inc. is a college scholarship program open to those who must be Members, or Senior Members of Florida DeMolay, Florida Job's Daughters, Florida Rainbow Girls or the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a Florida Master Mason.

For further information about the scholarships, please contact: Russell B. Glendinning, President (rbglendinning@yahoo.com) Jerome M. Meguiar, Secretary (jmmlloh@aol.com)

Brooker Elementary School Awards Assembly

January 14, 2015 By Ted Barber

On behalf of Brooker's Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, Ted Barber, Secretary of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, presented six awards to Brooker Elementary School Students for their input to "Why They Love America."

Barber also presented the "Adopt-A-School" Grand Lodge of Florida Certificate to Mrs. Deborah Parmenter, School Principal, and an Honorary Lodge Membership for Brother Ray Davis, Member of Gainesville Lodge No. 41, to Pine Hill Lodge No. 9. Right Worshipful Ray Davis provided a short historical program about the American Revolution wearing his famous 1776 American Revolutionary War Uniform.

To accomplish the activities mentioned above, two BES School assemblies were required starting at 8:00 AM to accommodate the Brooker Elementary School Students, parents, teachers, administrators and guests. Barber told the audience that Pine Hill Lodge appreciated Brooker Elementary School's desire to challenge the students for the past four years with the "Why I Love America" Contest since it is a "Win-Win" program. The students get an early exposure to Americanism where the teachers evaluate the students learning progress and ability to communicate their thoughts on paper and the Freemasons of Brooker's Pine Hill Lodge enjoy a positive interaction with the community.

Barber introduced the Members of Brooker's Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 and Members of Lake Butler Chapter No. 40, Order of the Eastern Star, that were at the Brooker Elementary School Assemblies to include: W. Murry "Gene" Eugene Bertine, Worshipful Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Otis Tetstone, Lodge Treasurer, Jefferson Davis, Lodge Chaplain, John McKibben, Last year's Worshipful Master and present Marshall, Bob Haines, Senior Warden, Ray Davis, Honorary Member of Pine Hill Lodge, Colan Coody, Honorary Member of Pine Hill Lodge, Lila Barber, Treasurer of Lake Butler Chapter No. 40, and Shirley Thomas, Associate Matron of Lake Butler Chapter No. 4.

The winners of the "Why I Love America" Contest included first place Bryce Lawton (K-1), Jasmine Mabry (2-3), and Gavin Cook (4-5) and second place Kristen Balkin-Gainey (K-1), Michael Cain (2-3), and Chloe Nugent (4-5)



Ray Davis in his 1776 Officer's Uniform



above is the first assembly of K-2 students, teachers, parents and administrators.



above shows Lucy Nash being held by her Grandmother, Jean Barnes, and to Mrs. Barnes' right are John McKibben and Bob Haines of Pine Hill



above l-r front is Deborah Parmenter, John McKibben, Bob Haines, l-r Back is Jefferson Davis, Ray Davis, Gene Bertine and Ted Barber.

The Universality of Masonry

By Rev. Bro. Melville B. Herron

On September 25th, 2014, I received information that my son Melville Dwayne Herron, accompanied by his wife Ashley, was in an accident in the Dominican Republic. They were in a Taxi travelling from the Airport to the hotel when the taxi was hit head-on by another vehicle. His wife died on the scene and my son was seriously injured and needed immediate blood transfusions and repair of multiple fractures.

He needed approximately 8 units of rare "O" Negative blood of which only two units were available. I emailed the information to The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, Honorable William J. Thomas, who in turn communicated the information to The Grand Lodge of The Dominican Republic. A short time thereafter, I received a copy of an email sent from The Grand Lodge of The Dominican Republic. Within one hour thereafter, I received a copy of an email from The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic, stating: "A Member of The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic, along with two other Brothers, one of whom is a Medical Doctor, are on their way from Santo Domingo, to visit Dwayne, approximately 120 miles away. Soon thereafter, it would appear that a Clarion call was made from The Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic to Brother Masons for blood, and the Medical Facility was able to do the necessary surgery needed to preserve my son Dwayne. Within a few days, Dwayne was airlifted to the nearest Trauma Center in the United States on October 3rd 2014 and continues to improve.

This brings another incident to mind. A few years ago, a Brother's Wife went to her native country for a short vacation. While she was there, thieves broke in her room and stole cash and important documents, including her Passport. She could not leave the country without those documents. She tried everything on her own to no avail. Her husband contacted The Grand Lodge of New York, who in turn contacted The Grand Lodge of Columbia, and voila! Within days, his wife was on her way home in the United States.

Do not underestimate the influence of the Greatest Fraternity that was ever conceived by the imagination of man.

Let me make this as clear as possible. Masonry has no limits when it comes to good works towards humanity.

Somewhere in history, it is rightly and wisely written: Although but one man among many, you cannot escape or shrink your share in this great responsibility. Your personal contact with others may be circumscribed by the limit of the circle within which your daily life is lived; but your influence passing through and from those whom that circle may surround, will reach further than you can conceive.

Masonry bids you do your best in that which lies nearest to you; to see in your neighbor what you desire your neighbor should see in you, to remember that there is no term so often used within our midst, no words more freighted with the strength of man's very best characteristics, no claim so glistening with the ties of honest affection, as our password of greeting, "My Brother"!

Florida Masonic Tag Approved By The Legislature and Available!

The code to purchase: Freemasons Tag FQR



What Makes Us Different?

We owe our being to those who came before us. We are here because they were here, and of the way, their lives unfolded. Imagine, if you will, the countless chance happenings, the many coincidences and accidents, all of which had to come about in the precise way they did, in order to result in our being here, and, being what we are!

Each of us attends our Lodge Meetings because we want to. We attend because we firmly believe beyond any doubt, that due to our efforts, we are making this world a better place. But what makes us as Masons, different from Members of other Fraternal Organizations? We are Members of what the Masonic community refers to as, "The Greatest Fraternity in the world." This is quite a powerful statement!

I believe we are different as Masons because the instinct to become a Mason was born in us. I don't believe the subtle hints that may have been directed to us at one time or another by a Mason to a non-Mason has anything to do with our becoming a Member. Sooner, or later, we would have joined because inwardly, the calling was already there, and would eventually emerge when the time was right.

However strange this reasoning may seem, let's investigate further. Each man who becomes a Member of our Grand Fraternity is someone very special; someone who has a certain quality of character distinguishing him from others. These qualities do not imply we are better than others but the burning desire within us to help our fellowman burns at a much higher degree of intensity than most. It is not a superficial desire, as it is a deep one. No man kneels at our Altar of Obligation and arises the same man. The oaths we have taken at that Altar of Obligation are deeply imbedded in our minds and we practice the tenets of our order towards all humankind, well after the Master has closed his Lodge, while we are constantly reminded of the, "Point within a Circle." Each one of us, as Masons, practice our tenets, as the younger generations refer to as, "twenty-four seven."

We are men of strong convictions and we are not, swayed easily. We are extremely patriotic and have within our ranks many true American heroes. We consider all men as our equal and look down upon no one but I have learned that a man has the right to look down on others, only when he is helping them up. We extend our hand to the fallen and the down trodden as a token of our Brotherly love, and, under no circumstance does any sound of distress reach our ears in vain, or any outstretched hand seeks our aid without response. Each of us has a very strong connection to Deity and our cable-tow is that connection. I firmly believe that here, within the Temple of Masonry, men differing in language, in modes of thought, in dress and in habits of life, are able to meet around a common altar, share a common hope, and seek a common ideal.

These mental images do not seem to appear in other Fraternal Organizations. We have been taught in our beloved order, the relative importance of self-analysis to the duties of life. Each day or night, when we review our actions, behavior and thoughts, and attempt to see how they coincide with our own philosophy, and measure up to the standards outlined by the Craft, we improve ourselves as better men and better Masons.

I doubt whether other Fraternal Organizations leave this impression upon their Members. Our ancient Brotherhood is founded upon the principles of love, hope, and charity, principles that through many centuries have led to the betterment of humanity. In Masonry, we are taught to search not for the transient pleasure, but for the philosophy and the guidance that will aid us in gaining the most from the short time we are accorded here, by contributing the most to our fellow man.

Our teachings do not pass quickly into and out of existence. Our teachings do not vanish, end, nor die. The advantage we have as Members of this fine organization is that it has been in existence for a long, long, time.

Unfortunately, other Fraternal Organizations do not have the same time - frame of experience as we do. After all, we have centuries of experience and many "Masonic celebrities" have contributed so much to our being. So here, we have, "The Greatest Fraternity in the world." And, why is it so great?

Because you are a Member, and our Members are the GREATEST men in the world!
©S. K. B 2004

The ADOPT-A-TEACHER Project Was A Success

Helping a teacher in one of our public schools through the Adopt-A-Teacher activity with either monetary or physical assistance is an important activity for Masons. On January 20, 2015, Past Masters Roy Weiland and David Neiman, with Worshipful Master Tom Sorensen met with Jennifer Vaughan, Principal of Lawtey Elementary School. Brothers David and Tom presented a donation from Lawtey Lodge No. 189 for the Adopt-A-Teacher Project. Ms. Vaughan stated the money will be spent wisely and for the students' activities, and thanked us for the donation.



L-R David Neiman, Jennifer Vaughan, Tom Sorensen

Four Brothers Receive Certificates of Membership

Worshipful Master Denis Doome, Englewood Lodge No. 360 (right in photo); presents Certificates of Membership issued by The Grand Lodge of Florida F&AM, to new Master Masons (L-R) Bro. Jack Gray III; Bro. Dane Grosnickle; Bro. William Boyer; and Bro. Paul Katrenak.



Congratulations and Welcome to our Fraternity.



Most Worshipful Danny Griffith, PGM, presented Brother Keith Lentz of Orange Park Lodge No. 267 with his 25 Year Certificate and Pin.

A Masonic Block Party

By D2 Public Relations / Publicity, W.: Lewis Whidden

On Saturday, 10th of January, Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 brought 2 FC's (James McAlist and Joshua Pasture) to Century Lodge No. 213 for their MM Degree. This, however, was not a usual Degree, this was to allow a Military Member to receive all 3 Degrees (with dispensation) in one day before he deploys.

What started out to be a simple TRI Degree turned out, with the generosity of Century Lodge No. 213, to be a block party! It was fantastic!!

We started at 0800 (from Gulf Breeze Lodge at 0630) with a great breakfast consisting of bacon, sausage and scrambled eggs. Then on to the EA Degree which Gulf Breeze Lodge helped with 5 seats (SW, SD, JD, SS, JS) and the charge, then a light snack and onto the FC Degree which Gulf Breeze Lodge help with four seats (SW, SS, JS, JD), the charge, and a beautiful lecture which was delivered by W.: Dan Ross, PM.

Now off to the MM degree where 6 Brothers from 4 different Lodges were raised, again Century Lodge No. 213 was so gracious, people were coming and going all day, it was like a family reunion with the ebb and flow of masons from 13 different Lodges and two different Districts.

Trust me Brothers this was a good day with Fellowship and sharing of our Craft. The Past Masters conferred the MM Degree with R.: W.: Tommy LaCroy sitting in the East for the first half and R.: W.: Bruce Fortner for the second.

R.: W.: Haskell gave a very inspiring lecture (Brothers it was one to remember) and Gulf Breeze Lodge gave the charge. This day will not be soon forgotten.

Food, Footwear & Warm Clothing To Needy School Children

January 14, 2015, North Port Masonic Lodge No. 406, meeting at Farley's Funeral Home presented to the Sarasota School District Social Workers Dept. a pledge check from North Port Masonic Charities for \$1500 for the purpose of purchasing Food, Footwear & Warm clothing to needy School children in North Port. They were then presented with five \$100 gift cards, one for each title 1 Elementary school and \$500 worth of food (boxed ready to eat) as a first payment.

R to L: Deana Gozder, Dept Head; Sam Cohen, Secretary; W.: M.: Michael Tirpak, Master of the Lodge; & Lauren Morales, School Counselor.
R to L: Deana Gozder & Lauren Morales with food loaded in their car for the school distribution.



Englewood Lodge Pit Masters

It's 10:30 am on a Sunday morning at Englewood Lodge No. 360. It happens twice a month now. The 2nd and the 4th Sundays of each month (the tourist season for sure) and hopefully year around. The sign is posted at the road and the crew is in the BBQ pit. The Senior Steward, Bill Boyer left and the Junior Warden Dan VanAlstine right turn a rack of chicken parts. Master BBQ'er, Russell Powers (background) supervises. The balance of the crew not shown is: Gene Jeffers, making beans in the Lodge kitchen; Al King, cutting cake servings and boxing for the to-go orders, Stony Stoncipher, returning from an urgent errand; John Stone, Senior Deacon making a telephone call. Last, but perhaps most important, is the Junior Wardens wife Nancy who is overseeing and tending other kitchen activities. If your in the neighborhood, stop in and see us.



All Lodge Officers Complete MLT Training Amelia Lodge No. 47

At the February 25th, 2015 - Districts 11&12 Masonic Association Meeting: Worshipful Master Fred Lindes accepted a plaque plate given to Amelia Lodge No. 47 for ALL of the Lodges Officers (100%) completing The Grand Lodge of Florida - Masonic Leadership Training courses of instruction.

Amelia Lodge No. 47 was chartered on January 11th, 1859 and is located at 1101 S 14th St., Fernandina Beach, FL Lodge Meetings are on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 PM.



The Dew Of Hermon

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: For there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

The oil spoken of is the anointing oil, which the Bible gives specific ingredients and quantities to be used. This oil was not imitated nor poured upon any flesh. All the ingredients in that oil were used for the anointing of people in the ministry and the vessels of the sanctuary.

Like to Dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion. Hermon was a mountain, which flourished because of the heavy dew that rested upon it, a fruitful place. The mountains of Zion tended to be barren and lifeless, so the first message in this picture displays one that unity makes the barren and lifeless place fruitful.

I wonder if we are able to catch all what these words are attempting to impart. These are words filled with extremely deep meaning. These words need to be heard in the society in which we live. Today, our society and our world are in desperate need of the message given in these three short verses. The

profound message should go deep within the recesses of our being and assist us in finding a better understanding of what unity is all about.

Here we have two wonderful illustrations of unity among brethren. It is like the ointment descending from the head of the high priest to the skirts of his garments and it is like the dew descending in refreshing power, from Hermon's snowy top. It is one thing to talk about unity, and another thing altogether to dwell in it. We may profess to hold "the unity of the body," and "the unity of the spirit," the most precious and glorious truths, and all the while be really full of selfish pride, party spirit, and sectarian feeling, all of which are entirely destructive of practical unity. If Brethren dwell together in unity, they must be receiving the ointment from the refreshing showers from the true Hermon.

See the proof of the excellence of Brotherly Love, where Brethren dwell together in unity and the Lord commands the blessing. If we could persuade all people to live together in peace, it would be wonderful. Most of the time our experience in life tends to be a life where there is everything but harmony. Our fast-pace, more or less, demands that we seek to achieve or climb a ladder. When this becomes the norm in life, there are too many occasions when we do not take the time to understand what others are thinking or feeling. We are always looking over our shoulder wondering who is creeping up on us,

trying to by-pass us, or perhaps trying to push us out of line for something we seek. It is important that, when we come to this point in life, we take time to know who we are, and what we are. We must examine our lives and feel the goodness that can be there when all is harmonious.

I am sure there have been times in our lives when we have known this feeling of tranquility, peace, or calm. Perhaps it has come when the kids are finally in bed and settled down. All is quiet, and for a few moments, you can sit back and enjoy the peace of life. The writer is saying that it is this kind of feeling that is great, and should be the norm in our lives. How good and how pleasant it is when we can dwell in unity. It is good for our honor and comfort, and brings constant delight to those who do live in unity. The pleasantness of this is similar to the holy anointing oil. It is profitable as well as pleasing. It cools the scorching heat of men's passions, just as the dews cool the air and refresh the earth. It moistens the heart, and makes it fit to receive the good seed of the word, and to make it fruitful.

During our lifetimes, we have witnessed all too often, when people disagree on issues, it is not just a difference of opinion, but it is like a wedge that separates and divides. People state their side of an issue and then immediately shut off their hearing. There does not seem to be any willingness to attempt to hear what the other person is trying to say, nor, is there an effort made to try to find a

way where things can be worked out in agreement between the parties.

Somehow, there must come a moment when we take the initiative and become the person who is willing to listen and seek to dwell in unity. We are living in a time when there is great discord in our society. People are running here and there, each doing their own thing, not being mindful of others, and are determined to be there first. By dwelling together, we confirm ourselves as Brothers united together in our search for truth. During that gathering, we invigorate each other by having the attentive ear listen to the instructive tongue of a Brother, as he exercises that instructive tongue to impart wisdom and speak from the heart.

Finally, we use the faithful breast as a repository, not only for the secrets of Freemasonry, but also for the confidence entrusted to us, by our Brethren.

So remember my Brothers, strive to be in unison with another, upon the level, with love, helping your Brother.

"BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY"

Historical note:

Mount Hermon's summit is on the border between Syria and Lebanon and stands 9,232 feet high. The southern slopes have been in Israeli control since the six - day war in 1967. Mount Hermon supplies the bulk of the Jordan's river water, and is Israel's only ski resort.

Brother Max E. Noshier - 50 Years a Mason

In Harbor Masonic Lodge No. 686 located in Highland Indiana, Brother Max E. Nosker became a Mason. He was: Initiated an Entered Apprentice October 1964; Passed to Fellow Craft in November of 1964 and Raised to a Master Mason in January 1965.

In January 2005 he became a Member of Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360. In January of 2015 Brother Max was awarded his 50-year pin. Shown in this photo are: W.: Denis Doome, Worshipful Master; Max E. Nosker, recipient; and Right Worshipful John Wermann conducting the Award ceremony. Thus far, in his 50 years of service to his fellow man, Max has conducted himself in a stellar fashion.

We wish him many more years in our time honored Fraternity.



Every Lodge Has Stories To Tell... Tell Yours!!!

By R.: W.: George Waas

The Florida Mason contains many articles of interest regarding activities of our Brothers and Lodges, but unless the activities or events contained in those articles reach the general public, we are only communicating to ourselves. It would be far more beneficial if non-Masons learned of the important and rewarding things we do.

This is where public relations and publicity come in. Every Lodge has stories to tell; why not tell the public yours?

Virtually every newspaper devotes a page or section at least periodically on community activities and events, recognizing people and groups that have achieved recognition, or given something back to the community, or reached a milestone...the list goes on and on.

How much would it take for a Mason who observes or participates in such an event or activity to write a brief article for his local newspaper? Think of the potential readership and the very real possibility of generating interest that might well lead to a new petition (or more!) being submitted to your Lodge.

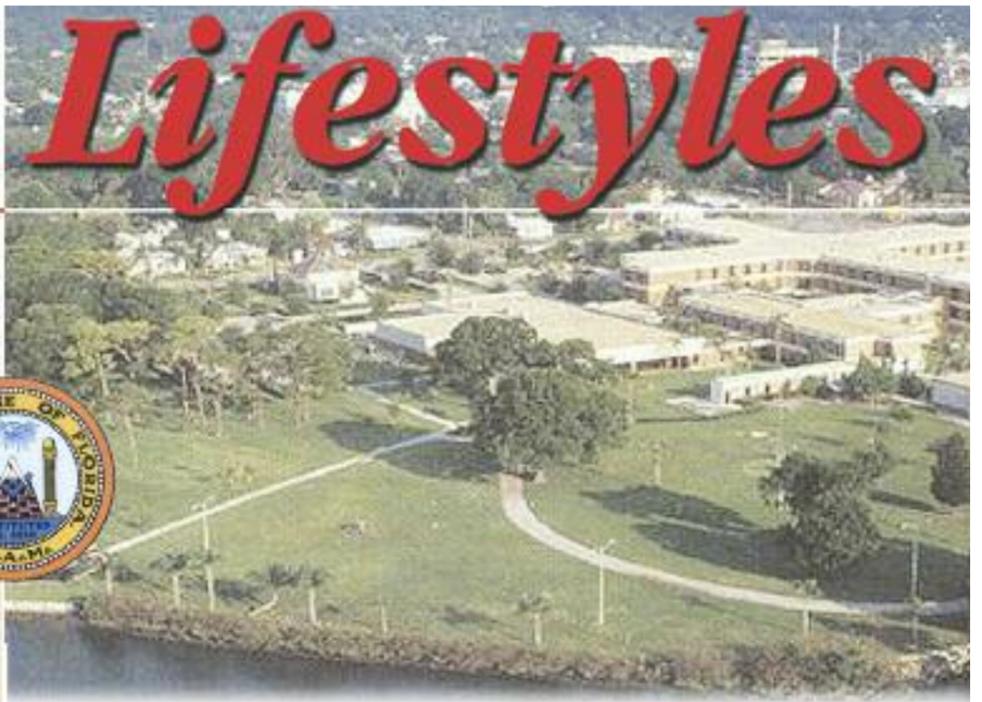
All it takes is to think publicity and public relations, and a little effort to put the event in writing and submit it to your local newspaper. Chances are, if it's worth submitting to the Florida Mason, it's also worth submitting it to your local newspaper. And if this is done once, it will be done again and again once you realize that the public is interested in what Masons do. The more that people read about us, the greater the interest will be in our Fraternity. And this can easily lead to growing our Membership.

Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou



First Lady's Project Completed



Charles Walker and Fran Bergin, staff, assist Carmella Bloodgood, Resident, sponsored by Tarpon Lodge No. 112, on the van's first trip.



Tracey Williams committed herself to fulfilling her mother's dream during her father's year as Grand Master. On March 19, 2015, a program was held to officially dedicate this beautiful vehicle in memory of Joy Ford. During M.:W.: Ford and Tracey's travels, they were presented with generous gifts which helped make this possible. This 2015 Ford Transit Diesel Van will transport Residents daily including those who utilize a wheelchair. What an amazing accomplishment! Many thanks to all who made this possible with special recognition to Lawrence and Marcia Kunken for their very generous contribution.



Resident Council VP, Bob Elston (at podium) & President Guy Wilson, (to his right), express their appreciation to the Grand Master and Tracey



M.:W.: Ford and Daughter Tracey are joined by 39 year staff member and driver, Charles Walker



Lawrence and Marcia Kunken, donors

Welcome

Masonic Home
OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARE



Grand Lodge of Florida
220 North Ocean Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
P.O. Box 1020 • 32201
Tel: 800.375.2339
www.gflfamazon.org

Grand Lodge Officers
2014 - 2015

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: Steven P. Boring
(DeLand)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Stanley L. Hudson
(Port St. Lucie)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Richard G. Hoover
(St. Petersburg)

GRAND TREASURER
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.
(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future
issues of *The Masonic Lifestyles*
should be sent to
Lisa Tsotsos, Toll Free at
866-868-6749 or E-Mail:
masonichm@aol.com

Next Issue Deadline:
The Florida Mason
Vol. 8, Issue 2
& **Masonic Lifestyles**
Winter 15

Submission Date
October 20, 2015
Print Date
December 1, 2015



From Our Administrator

As we approach the close of the 2014-2015 Masonic Year, we once again reflect upon how fortunate we are to have the honor and privilege of serving the Masonic Home of Florida. We realize this may sound repetitive, but there really is no other place like it! Our Community is the culmination of many years of dedicated, generous and talented people coming together to fulfill the mission established almost 100 years ago! This newsletter is intended to share the many wonderful activities in the past six months. Please know it is impossible to fully describe the efforts of so many which go on every day.

Most Worshipful Grand Master James W. Ford and his daughter, Tracey Williams began the year with a goal of receiving

gifts to help replace the 14 year old wheelchair van with over 200,000 miles. Well, due to your generosity, the Residents are now being transported in a brand new 2015 Ford Transit 250 Van with customized wheelchair lift and many other special features. This ensures that Residents receive the safest ride and promotes our Home in the very best way possible! Tracey's project also allowed for additional safety and mobility features to be added to the other two vehicles which transport Residents.

The Masonic Home Team would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our Grand Lodge Officers, Board of Trustees and Members throughout Florida for providing the expertise, commitment, support and vision to continually make our care and services available to the deserving individuals we serve.

With Gratitude,
Lisa Tsotsos, Administrator

Thank You Districts 28 & 29

The Members and Families of Districts 28 & 29 and Lehigh Acres Lodge No. 344 are spoiling the Residents of the Masonic Home and they love it! They delivered over 100 gorgeous poinsettias during the holidays and were back again in April to deliver beautiful Easter baskets to each and every Resident. We really appreciate all they do!



Beautiful New Gazebo Completed

Due to the outstanding generosity of the Masonic Family throughout Florida, a wonderful new gazebo and patio was made possible for the Residents to enjoy. Past First Lady Betsy Griffith designated the funds remaining following the amazing chapel renovation last year to build the gazebo structure. Then First Daughter Tracey Williams designated funds remaining after the purchase of the new wheelchair van be used from her project to purchase the gazebo furniture. This is an excellent example of how working together can make the lives of those we serve better and better!

Cape Coral No. 367 Performs Service Project at Home

Cape Coral Masonic Lodge visited the Masonic Home of Florida on Saturday, March 14th to perform a service project. The group mulched the gardens at the parking lot entrance, and also spent much time pressure washing the parking lot and sections of the walkways near the entrance to the building.

The Brothers in attendance (and the ladies that attended as well) would like to thank the Masonic Home for permitting us to perform this project. They would also like to thank the Resident Tour Guides that offered the group a tour of the facilities. All of the Brothers in attendance had never been to the Masonic Home before and really enjoyed the experience. They look forward to performing a future service project at the Masonic Home, and would like to encourage other Brothers, and Lodges to give some of their time as well.



Gift Made In Memory of Alfred L. Talley From His Family

The Masonic Home of Florida had the honor and pleasure of having Alfred L. Talley reside here for several years. After his passing, his daughter Susan T. Cornwell, a daily visitor who also became a member of our Masonic Home family, made a very generous donation in his memory. Susan wanted to help beautify a particular hallway which her father traveled each day to various activities. Thanks to her gift, we were able to paint, order new handrails, improve lighting, purchase artwork, etc. to make this area more enjoyable and interesting to all. What a wonderful way to honor this amazing man!



An Easter Celebration With The 25th Masonic District

Every year, the wonderful men and women of the 25th Masonic District come spend the day with the Residents to celebrate the Easter holiday. They bring along their smiles, hugs and all kinds of treats to enjoy! Thanks to all who make this a very special event.



Mission Accomplished By 13th Masonic District Association

The eight Lodges within the 13th Masonic District decided to issue a challenge to see which Lodge could collect the most items for Corky's Cupboard. Well, based on this picture, they met their objective! For those who may not be familiar, Corky's Cupboard is a country store stocked with various toiletry/sundry items which are offered free to the Residents of the Masonic Home. This just goes to show that some good, fun competition can also help many others! Thank you 13th District and by the way, which Lodge won the competition? Looks like we all won...



Holiday Happenings



The Grand Lodge of Florida Ladies throw another great party for the Residents



Districts 20 & 21 hosted an annual holiday party for the Staff, their Children & Grandchildren. Thanks to the Masonic Youth for volunteering!



Anderson-McQueen Family entertains the Residents



The 33rd Masonic District holds another outstanding holiday party for the Residents

Masonic Home Service Guild volunteer their time and hosted a wonderful holiday tea



DDGM of the 32nd District, Bill Bates Sr., and son Bill Jr., visit with Resident Lois Ocharski, sponsored by Englewood Lodge No. 360

Allendale United Methodist Church came to entertain the Residents

Programs Which Benefit Masonic Home Of Florida



As you can see, there are many ways in which your contributions help to secure the future of The Masonic Home Of Florida

We Are Pleased To Offer An **OUTREACH** Program Serving Members Throughout Florida! Whether you have a need for Residential Services on our St. Petersburg campus, or in your local Community, please call the Masonic Home of Florida toll free at (866) 868-6749 for Assistance with Aging Services.

Masonic Lifestyles is a complimentary semi-annual newsletter produced by the Masonic Home of Florida and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Florida. Story requests, comments or suggestions for future issues may be e-mailed directly to: masonicmh@aol.com or mailed to: Masonic Home of Florida, Attention: Lisa Tsotsos • 3201 1st Street NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home cordially invite you to attend monthly meetings at the Masonic Home, 11:00 A.M. in the Board Room. Chapel Service starts at 10:00 A.M.
June 21st, July 19th, Aug. 16th, Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th, Dec. 20th

ADMISSION PLANS

Life Care Plan

This traditional plan is available to any Master Mason who becomes a Member of a Florida Lodge prior to the age of 70. He must be a Member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for at least ten years and continually for the last three. The wife or widow of a Master Mason is eligible for residency based on his Membership. Contact your Lodge or the Masonic Home for an application. Upon completion, the application is signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary. It is then presented to the District Deputy Grand Master for review. The application is then forwarded to the Admissions Committee, Board of Trustees, and Grand Master for final approval. This process takes approximately 30-60 days. Dual Members are also eligible.

Under the Life Care Plan, assets owned by the Resident such as property, bank accounts, stocks, social security, pensions, etc., are deposited with the Masonic Home. These assets are then converted to cash to establish a Resident Maintenance Account. Each month, this account is debited to cover the cost of care. Residents retain 10% of any liquid assets, initially and subsequently, in excess of \$10,000 for personal use. When assets are exhausted, the Masonic Home continues to provide care throughout the lifetime of the Resident regardless of his/her ability to pay.



Pay As You Go (Private Pay)**

In May of 2005, The Grand Lodge of Florida approved Private Pay admissions for Florida and non-Florida Masons. This plan provides an opportunity for Florida and non-Florida Master Masons and their wives, widows and mothers to retain control of their assets while enjoying all the Masonic Home has to offer. Residents pay a three month deposit and \$3,650* monthly for Assisted Living and \$6,083* monthly for Skilled Nursing care. Most fees and services are included except medication. For couples entering the Masonic Home, the first person pays this monthly fee and the second person fee is \$1,800* monthly. Applicants for Pay As You Go should get in touch with the Masonic Home directly to begin the admission process which can take as little as one week for approval.

**Please Note that effective June 2012, Women who are qualified Members of the Order of the Eastern Star are now eligible to apply for the "Pay As You Go" Plan.

*Rates subject to change.

Englewood Lodge Adopts-A-Teacher

Earlier this year the MASONS in Englewood Lodge announced they had adopted a Teacher and her class of Kindergarteners at the Vineland Elementary School in Englewood.

The Englewood Masonic Lodge F&AM No. 360 adopted Kathy Wylie and her Kinder Garden class at Vineland Elementary School. One day a little over a month ago a contingent of Masons from the Lodge visited Vineland. They met with Principal, Laura Blunier; Assistant Principal, Jacqui Barber; Class Assistant, Gaby Redmann, and the students.

Ms. Wylie was asked for a wish list of things her Kinder Garden class needed. She responded that, "she had never been asked that question before". She promptly turned to her students and asked them for input. It took some time to evaluate and determine exactly what support was needed and what could be provided.

At the April 7th Lodge meeting Ms. Kathy Wylie, a number of student representatives, some siblings, and parents were invited to the Lodge for a presentation. After the pledge to the flag and a prayer the class members who were present assembled behind the Sr. Deacon, who was holding the flag, led by Ms Wylie. The Master of the Lodge presented a check for \$800 given to Ms Wylie to cover the majority of items they had requested.

The session concluded with ice cream for the guests and the Masonic meeting then proceeded.



Teacher, Kathy Wylie and kindergarten class representatives, with siblings, stand behind the Sr. Deacon, John Stone, holding flag for the pledge. Denis Doome joins with a lot of happy faces for a photo after presenting them the check.

Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 & Pensacola Lodge No. 42 – Lodge Mergers

By R.:W.: Harry Boyette

Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348, had their Installation of officers on January 3, 2015, as all Lodges have done here recently. There was a difference though. Many Lodges continue to struggle with declining Membership and aging Craft. They end up with a few doing everything and just holding on.

Ferry Pass decided to do something about it and have now had their first reading for a merge with Pensacola Lodge No. 42. A Meeting was called with both Lodges well in attendance. There were a lot of ideas and suggestions brought forth, the biggest was whether to merge or consolidate. There was a lot of discussion as to which was the easiest and at the end of the night the agreement was to pursue a merger.

With The Grand Lodge talking of possible combining of Districts and encouraging Lodges to unite to become stronger, I feel this helped drive this endeavor. Senior Grand Warden, R.:W.: Stan Hudson is really driving this and is holding Town Hall Meetings all over the State. My Brothers this is an opportunity many Lodges should take. If finances, Membership or just having people take positions in your Lodge is a problem, go to one of these Town Hall Meetings and hear what he has to say. He is doing it for you and Masonry! He will be in Pensacola on the 28th of March and I expect a good turnout.

My congratulations to the newly Elected and Appointed Officers of Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 and happiness in their new home at Pensacola No. 42.

Another highlight was watching a son replacing his father as Worshipful Master. R.:W.: Melvin Gaylard proudly passed the gavel to his son Brother Jason Gaylard. There were many family members there to witness this as well as an uncle who sat in the West. A true family affair. I know there is sadness at soon closing this Chapter, but I know there will be many doors opening for these Masons.



Masons - Adopt a Teacher

The Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360 adopted Ms. Kathy Wylie and her Kinder Garden class at Vineland Elementary School. A contingent of Masons from the Lodge visited Vineland. They met with Principal, Ms. Laura Blunier; Assistant Principal, Ms. Jacqui Barber; Class Assistant, Ms. Gaby Redmann, and the students.

This effort is part of a state-wide-initiative promoted by The Grand Lodge of Florida.

The Masons asked Ms. Wylie for a wish list of things her

Kinder Garden class needed. She responded that, "she had never been asked that question before". She turned to her students and asked them for input. Ms. Wylie is know for her ability to spark student interest in a variety of things. It will take time to evaluate and determine exactly what support is needed and the Mason can provide.

Hopefully there will be good things to report later.



Teacher, Kathy Wylie, Worshipful Master, Dennis Doome, and Ms. Wylie's Kinder Garden Students at Vineland Elementary School. Also present but not shown were: Masons Gene Jeffers and Bill Boyer; along with Principal Laura Blunier; Asst. Principal, Jacqui Barber; Class Asst. Gaby Redmann.

Lighthouses / More Light By Bro. Keb Baril

A lighthouse is a structure from which light is projected at night, or which serves as a marker by day, to guide ships sailing in coastal waters. Lighthouses are constructed as important points on a coastline, at entrances to harbors and estuaries, on rocky ledges or reefs, on islands, and even in the water. Lighthouses help identify a ships location, warn ships of potential hazards, and notify them that land is near.

Lighthouses differ from smaller beacons in that a lighthouse includes living quarters for a lighthouse keeper. Today, however, most lighthouses use automatic electric lights that do not require a full – time Resident operator.

The first lighthouses were built long before the time of Christ. The earliest known reference to a lighthouse dates back to 1200 BC. This reference appeared in the Iliad, Homer's Greek epic poem. The first onshore beacons that were used to guide ships were bonfires. Eventually, bonfires were replaced with iron baskets filled with burning wood or coal and suspended on log poles. It was not until the 18th century that these baskets were replaced by oil or gas lanterns. In the early to mid 20th century, electric beacons replaced these oil and gas lanterns.

One of the most important developments in the technology of lighthouse beacons was the invention of the Fresnel lens. Developed in 1822 by French physicist Augustin Fresnel, the Fresnel lens is a collection of multiple glass prisms (transparent bodies consisting of two or more usually flat surfaces and used to bend a beam of light) that bend nearly all the available light into a powerful central magnifying lens. The magnifying lens projects an intense beam of light that is visible up to 28 miles away. A Fresnel lens used in a lighthouse beacon is an array of glass prisms and a "bull's eye" lens that is usually encased in a frame of solid brass. The lens, which surrounds a single lamp, consists of a central glass disc surrounded by concentric glass rings that decrease in thickness moving away from the central disc. Horizontal rows of glass prisms are located above and below these concentric glass rings.

Modern lighthouse beacons vary in

power from about 10,000 candles to about 1 million candles depending on the prevailing weather conditions and the visibility requirements of shipping traffic in a particular area. (The candle is the unit used to measure the amount of light that a source radiates in a given direction – one candle is equivalent to about one two – hundredth of the brightness of a fifty - watt light bulb). Every lighthouse emits a distinctive series of flashes known as its characteristic. These flash sequences allow ship captains to time intervals between flashes so that they can identify lighthouses, using a publication called the Light List. This publication assigns a number to each lighted beacon, and describes its identifying characteristics. Flash sequences include the following: fixed, revolving, flashing, isophase, group flashing, alternating and Morse code.

A fixed light is a light that shines constantly. A revolving light has longer periods of light than darkness, while a flashing light has longer periods of darkness than of light. An isophase light has equal durations of light and darkness.

A group of flashing light has a specified number of regularly repeating flashes of light, while an alternating light shows light of different colors. Morse code shows short and long flashes that represent dots and dashes, respectively. These dots and dashes are grouped to represent code characters.

Many lighthouses are equipped with fog - horns to help guide ships sailing in foggy weather. These foghorns, which make their sound by quickly releasing compressed air, can be heard for distances up to 8 miles. Ship captains can determine their position by identifying distinctive combinations of long and short horn blasts specific to each lighthouse. Some lighthouses are also equipped with radio beacons that transmit Morse code radio signals. These radio signals, which are distinguished by short (dot) and long (dash) combinations, have a range of up to 200 miles.

By day, lighthouses often serve as landmarks for ship captains seeking to identify their position along a coastline. Thus, lighthouses vary in shape, size, and color. Light-

houses can be square, round, conical, rectangular, and even octagonal. Some are painted with identifying stripes, spirals, or diamond patterns. Some have twin, and in one case, triple towers. Most lighthouses range in height from 33 feet to 208 feet. Lighthouses are built from wood, stone, brick, reinforced concrete, iron, steel, or aluminum. They are designed to withstand local environmental conditions. For example, tall skeletal lighthouses located in the Caribbean offer less surface area to hurricane force winds and waves. Lighthouse designs often reflect architectural styles of the time the lighthouses were built.

In the 19th century, lightships, which are essentially floating lighthouses, were stationed in coastal waters where lighthouses could not be built. A lightship displayed one or more lights from a mast as an aid to navigation. At one time or another, more than 120 lightships dotted the coastal waters of the United States.

By 1985, buoys that were equipped with an automated beacon and fog signal had replaced all U. S. lightships. These massive buoys, called Large Navigational Buoys, measure 40 feet in diameter and are among the largest of a variety of navigational aids known as lesser beacons.

Lesser beacons include river lights, fog signals, and numerous other smaller navigational aids used to mark channels in rivers and harbors. Today, hundreds of thousands of lesser beacons are in use throughout the world.

One of the first known lighthouses was also the greatest and most famous of all. It was built in 285BC at Alexandria, Egypt, on an island at the entrance to the city's harbor. This lighthouse, called the Pharos of Alexandria, was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was over 440 feet tall and stood for 1,500 years, until an earthquake destroyed it. The Romans constructed lighthouses in several harbors, as far away from Rome as Dover in Britain. One of Italy's most famous lighthouses was built in 1161. Located at Genoa, this lighthouse was manned in 1449 by Antonio

(Columbus, uncle of famous explorer

Christopher Columbus.) Extensive lighthouse construction did not occur in modern times until the 17th century. Prior to that time, most lighthouses were harbor lights serving as homing beacons so boats could safely find their way into port. Beginning in the 17th century, however, as travel on the high seas increased, major coastal lighthouses were constructed in Britain's American colonies in the 18th century. The first was built in 1716 in Boston Harbor. By 1900, nearly 1,000 lighthouses, both coastal and harbor types had been built in the United States. There may be as many as 50,000 lighthouses existing in the world today, although estimates vary.

At the end of the 20th century, most of these lighthouses were either automated or abandoned. Before the use of electric beacons, the lighthouse keeper had to keep the gas beacon lit, clean the reflecting mirrors, and remove soot from the tower windows. With the introduction of the automated electric beacons, the lighthouse keeper became all, but obsolete. In addition, modern satellite – based navigational systems, that can be installed on ships of all sizes, have replaced the lighthouse as a primary navigational aid. Today, lighthouses that have been automated are used primarily, as backups for marine navigation, while many other lighthouses are no longer in operation. Some national governments have turned control of these abandoned structures over to local governments and nonprofit organizations.

In many cases, abandoned lighthouses have been turned into parks, museums, inns, and research and educational centers.

Now, what does all this have to do with Masonry?

We have Members who cannot display a steady beam of light; just short intervals. We have others, who do just what needs to be done and no more, or a flashing light, where there is more darkness than light; and we have those who shine constantly, or a fixed light, spreading light wherever they may be, and that light is what we depend upon when it comes to, "Lighting the Way of Freemasonry."

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"

Let's Have Some Fun And Productivity At Our Meetings

Worshipful Master Alex Carambas rapped the gavel to get everyone's attention. Then the fun began. With the help of the District Deputy, District Committeemen, District Instructor and a wonderful SUPPER, a great time was had by all who attended Lodge that night for the District Deputies visit.

Twenty nine Masons and wives exchange conversations jokes and laughter and made this night memorable. Who would have thought that a pair of RED socks could be such fun?

I am not sure which of the Grand Line Officers thought it up, but it has really taken off. Not only was the DDGM and District Instructor wearing them, but now, even many of the Committeemen were also wearing them. Hey they match the tie! LOL (laugh out loud).

Right Honorable Jon Davies gave a heartfelt talk to the Brothers concerning District Instructions. It is amazing how much of a turn around these meeting have had in the last few years. We are lucky that we have people who are thinking out of the box. By taking Instructions to the different Lodges attendance has soured. One month it is in District 1 and the next in District 2 at a different Lodge each time. We, in District 1 and 2 work together, in almost every endeavor, to accomplish our goals. For example our committeemen on their first round of visits give the program and what they are trying to achieve. On the second round they talk about what they have achieved or new ideas to make that program work better. One good idea that Worshipful Bob Denard brought up was to have Masonic Leadership Training either in Lodge for education or better yet, at the end of supper before opening Lodge. We are using this approach now and our numbers are soaring.

The Grand Masters message, on the second go around, is being well received. Several Brothers have asked for a copy to use as education for our Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts.

Thank you Most Worshipful Jim Ford for such an inspiring message. As the Grand Master said "We need to have fun in our meetings". So on that note Worshipful Bob Pilgrim said of the picture he took "I have the perfect place to hang it "The guys in the picture are a little nervous about that.

With Friendship and Brotherly Love. Alex Carambas - Worshipful Master, Escambia Lodge No. 15



Father And Son Installed As Worshipful Masters

History was made in the Eight Masonic Districts of Florida when a Father and Son were installed as the Worshipful Master of their respective Lodges in the same District.

Brother Zachary Cone was installed the Worshipful Master of Perry Lodge No. 123 on December 27, 2014. Following a covered dish supper, family and friends assembled in the Lodge Room. Here, R.:W.: Calvin Cone, PDDGM, had the honor of installing his son, Zachary as Worshipful Master.

Then, on January 10, 2015, in Greenville Lodge No. 28, after a covered dish supper with family and friends, everyone assembled upstairs in the Lodge Room. Here Worshipful Zachary Cone had the honor of installing his father, R.:W.: Calvin Cone as Worshipful Master of Greenville Lodge No. 28.



Pictured on the left is Worshipful Zachary Cone, on the right is R.:W.: Calvin Cone, PDDGM.

Lawtey Lodge No. 189 - Recognizes Local Youth Groups

During Lawtey Lodge's regularly scheduled meeting on February 19, 2015, the Bradford High School JROTC unit was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition from the Florida Grand Lodge and presented a donation from Lawtey Lodge to assist them with their programs. Cadet Lt. Colonel Thomas Parker and Sgt. Major Kristapher James performed Reverence for us with a prayer.

The local Boy Scout Troop No. 70 of Starke was also there and were presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Florida Grand Lodge and presented a donation from Lawtey Lodge to help the boys with their projects and camping needs. Also, the Troop Leader, Paul Funderburk was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Lawtey Lodge for his continued contribution to the Troop as their leader. Riley Miller was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition from the Florida Grand Lodge for earning his Eagle Scout Rank.

There were 34 people who came out to enjoy dinner, Fellowship and witness the presentations. Lawtey Lodge was honored to have District Deputy Grand Master, Bruce Kirby, in attendance and assisting with presenting the awards.

Pictured on the left is Worshipful Zachary Cone, on the right is R.:W.: Calvin Cone, PDDGM.



L-R Sgt Major Kristapher, Lt. Colonel Thomas Parker, and Worshipful Master Tom Sorensen



L-R Joseph Fugatt, Johnny Spencer, Jonathan Schmidt, Paul Funderburk, Tom Sorensen



Fellow Craft Degree Held At Hurricane Lodge No. 401

The Lodges that participated included Clyde S. McLaren No. 395, Village Lodge No. 315, Hialeah Opa Locka Lodge No. 391, Oleeta West Dade No. 145, and Hurricane Lodge No. 401. Other Brothers from District 35 were also there to show their support. It was an incredibly memorable night with more than 70 Brothers, from almost all the Lodges across our two Districts enjoying fellowship, Brotherly love and the strong bond of our Masonic Ritual. The Brothers that were passed last night all stated how special the night was for them with the number of Brothers that were there for their Ritual. We all gained a better understanding of the meaning of Brotherhood.

Fellow Craft Degree held at Hurricane Lodge No. 401. The Brothers from all of the five Lodges in the 34th Masonic District, worked together to perform the Fellow Craft Ritual. Each Lodge was represented in the Chairs and had Brothers being Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft, as well.

Fraternally, Paul Thompson, D.D.G.M of the 34th Masonic District



Parking Lot Traveling Masons

The 13th Masonic District Association provided drivers for the transportation service at the Clay County Fair April 2-11, 2015, at the Fair Grounds in Green Cove Springs, FL.

More than 20 Brothers from the association drove the various vehicles carrying fair goers from the parking area to the fair ground and back. They worked from 10 am until 11 pm in 4-hour shifts.

The 13th District Association Banner was proudly displayed at the transportation center and each Brother wore a cap with the District Association's logo and a safety vest with the Square and Compasses on the back.

The event was coordinated by Worshipful Bill Autro, Past Master of Cabul Lodge and a Board Member for the Association.

Father & Son

Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman (PGM) presented

newly raised Brother Ron Hudson his Masonic Bible. Brother Ron Hudson is the son of Senior Grand Warden Stan Hudson.



Brother Norman Casey Receiving his 60-Year Masonic Certificate at Mount Ewell Lodge No. 131 in Baker Florida.

Rainbow Girls Raise Money Helped By M.:W.: Coffman

At the 11th and 12th Masonic Association meeting, Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, PGM, auctioned off homemade baked goods to help raise money for the Rainbow Girls.



Helping Special Needs Children in Pinellas Park

By W.: Bruce Ward,

P.M., Photo Courtesy of: Bro. Richard Kimberley

Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307, located in Pinellas Park, assisted Nina Harris School (a school for special needs children) by presenting them a check to support their bicycle program. The bicycle is a very important part of the physical education; students have opportunity to work through their disability or they may have more than one disability. While there, Junior Past Master, Joe Griffith learned the school needed help repairing over 100 bicycles. Since then, W.: Griffith has been contributing and volunteering his time, skills and abilities to help with the bicycle program.



Gulf Beach Mason Honored for 70 Years of Service

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach, recently recognized Brother William "Bill" Hunt for his 70 years of service to the Fraternity. Brother Hunt was born in 1918 and became a Mason at the end of WWII in 1945 when he joined National Lodge No. 12 in Washington D.C. Brother Hunt worked for the Federal government as a diplomatic liaison in Central America during the 1950's and 60's, mainly in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. In 1978, after retirement, Brother Hunt moved to Florida and transferred his Membership to Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 and has been an active Member here since that time. On Thursday March 19th Brother Hunt, age 96, attended Lodge under his own volition, walked to the podium and was presented his 70 year certificate and pin by Worshipful Brother Carl Moore, sitting Master. Brother Hunt was met with a long and enthusiastic applause from the many Brothers in attendance.



L to R: Brother William "Bill" Hunt; Worshipful Carl Moore, sitting Master

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Mason Helps Fire Victim

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 in Madeira Beach recently helped a single mother who lost everything in a house fire, including the family pet. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 became aware of the situation when W.: Joe Finocchiaro contacted us about the plight of one of his college students and the loss she had sustained. The Brothers of the Lodge collected \$275.00 at a Lodge meeting and sent it to Ms. Nicole Leroux, who was very pleased with the help from the Masons.



W.: Joe Finocchiaro, Ms. Nicole Leroux

13th Masonic District holds Corky's Cupboard Fundraiser

Members of the 13th Masonic District of Florida held a "Corky's Cupboard" Fundraiser at our March meeting and collected over 1,000 items to take to the Masonic Home of Florida. Ashlar Lodge No. 98 won the total given plaque but the true winner is our Residents at our Masonic Home!!

Coren Brownell, "Corky", came up with the idea in 1990, to hand out sundry items and health & beauty aids to Residents, received from donations. She was a Member of the Masonic Home Service Guild whose Members volunteer here and who are also Eastern Star Members. She initiated a State-wide plea for donations and they started coming in from Lodges and Chapters, and since then, twice a week, "Corky's Cupboard", named in her honor, opens for the purpose of supplying the Residents with their toiletry needs. These needed items are listed below. Corky ran the Cupboard for many years until her passing. It continues to be run by the Service Guild, and is located inside the "Now & Then" Gift Shop. It is entirely sustained through kind donations of items, and cash to buy the items the Residents need the most! Sincere "thanks" from all the Residents to those who have donated!



Florida's Newest & Youngest Mason And Warrior

By Cesar A. Blanco, Secretary, Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252

On March 28th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Emilio Michael Santiago, who at the age of 18 years and 5 months, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by his father, Brother Michael Hartwick. Brother Emilio, who will be reporting to the United States Air Force on June 30th, to begin his duties as a U.S. Airman and later received his Certificate of Membership from Worshipful Master Timothy (Duke) Pierce, of Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252 in Safety Harbor, FL.

Also raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason that day, was Brother Aaron Michael Cardenas, a local attorney.

The Members of the Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252 meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Masonic Lodge, located at 4th and Main Street in Safety Harbor. All Master Masons are welcomed.



L to R: Brother Aaron Cardenas, W.M.; Duke Pierce, Brother Emilio Santiago - right



Brother Michael Hartwick & Brother Emilio Santiago

George P. Williams. Memorial Service



George P. Williams was 91 years old when he died. He had been a Resident at the Masonic Home for a number of years. He was a Member of Englewood Lodge No. 360; a 33rd Degree Mason of the Scottish Rite; and an Araba Temple Shriner. George's family and Lisa Tsotsos the Director of the Masonic Home, requested Englewood Lodge No. 360 conduct a Masonic Memorial service on March 27, 2015. Four Representatives

of the Lodge traveled to The Masonic Home of Florida, to join with George's family to give honor to George and solace to the family. The Navy and American Legion assisted with the Service.

In the photo from the left are: Son Doug; Mason Arie Dewaard; Son, John; Right Worshipful. Gene Jeffers; seated Right Worshipful, Gary Schroeder; Son, George Williams, Jr.; Mason, Bill Boyer. His wife Destiny accompanied John Williams. John grew up in our Englewood Lodge No. 360 area and went to high school at Lemon Bay!

Heroes of '76

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, "Thank you. Thank you."

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave.

He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might

seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant ... Maybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive. Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft...

Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a

Amelia Lodge No. 47 Adopt-A-Highway

Brothers of Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach take part in the Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up program on Fletcher Avenue on March 28, 2015.



Let's Have A Parade

Brothers of Amelia Lodge No. 47 participate in the 70th Annual Fernandina Beach Shrine Club Parade on March 25, 2015!



Heroes of '76 Building the Flag Program at Arlington Lodge No. 309

Arlington Lodge No. 309 of Jacksonville, Florida held its Americanism/Patriotism Day Celebration on February 28, 2015. The Heroes of '76 from Andrew Jackson Camp, Northeast Florida Chapter No. 435, National Sojourners, Inc. put on a "Building of the Flag" program for the Members and guests of the Lodge. National Sojourners, Inc. is an organization of Masons who are also present or past Commissioned Officers or Senior NCO's of the U. S. Military Services.

The Lodge also heard from John "Robbie" Stokes and Barry Collins, who do many patriotic talks and educational skits on our country's history.

Pictured here were the Heroes of '76 Flag Building team with Brothers Stokes and Collins, and several officers of the Lodge. Shown from left to right were: James Rutledge, Chaplain of Arlington Lodge No. 309; Robert Fussell, Sr., PM, Secretary of the Lodge. Robbie Stokes, PM, Solomon Lodge No. 20; Tom Sorensen, W.M., Lawley Lodge No. 189, Past Commander; Andrew Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76; Dwight Shuman, S. W. of Arlington Lodge, 1st V.P., N. E. Florida Chapter No. 435, National Sojourners, Commander of Guard, Heroes of '76; Jeremy Neidhart, Worshipful Master of Arlington Lodge No. 309; Corbin P. Elliott, PM, PP, Sojourners, PC Heroes of '76; and Barry Collins.



flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait... And the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Reference:
(Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", pp. 221, 225-226)

Edward Veron "Eddie" Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became America's first ace. In

WWII he was an instructor and military adviser, and he flew missions with the combat pilots. Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero. Rickenbacker was a Mason in Kil-winning Lodge No. 297, Michigan.

Heroes of '76 Building the Flag Program at Arlington Lodge No. 309

Arlington Lodge No. 309 of Jacksonville, Florida held its Americanism/Patriotism Day celebration on February 28, 2015. The Heroes of '76 from Andrew Jackson Camp, Northeast Florida Chapter No. 435, National Sojourners, Inc. put on a "Building of the Flag" program for the Members and guests of the Lodge. National Sojourners, Inc. is an organization of Masons who are also present or past Commissioned Officers or Senior NCO's of the U. S. Military Services.

The Lodge also heard from John "Robbie" Stokes and Barry Collins, who do many patriotic talks and educational skits on our country's history.

Brother Lummie Deas – 60 Years a Mason

On April 7th, 2015 at 10:00 am, Brother Lummie Deas of Dixie County received his 60 Year Certificate and Gold Pin from R.:W.: Thomas Partin, D.D.G.M. and W.: Roger Pittman on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Florida and Joppa Lodge No. 4 in Old Town Florida. Brother Deas has been a good time Member of Free and Accepted Masons for over 61 years. Brother Deas also enjoyed his 66th wedding anniversary this week. Among his other distinctions, Lummie Deas was a former Air Force pilot during World War II.



L to R: Brother Lummie Deas, R.:W.: Thomas Partin, D.D.G.M. and W.: Roger Pittman.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Recognizes Local Heroes

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach, recently recognized two individuals as Firefighter of the Year and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The presentations were made by the Master of the Lodge, Worshipful Travis Palladeno, at the Masonic Temple following a dinner prepared by Junior Warden Steve Fetherman.

The recipients of the award were Lt. Todd I. Ermscher, Madeira Beach Fire Rescue who received the Firefighter of the year and Deputy John J. Luckett, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office who received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Both of these gentlemen have shown a dedication to the community that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Both are extremely motivated and go the extra mile in making our community and neighborhood a safer place. Congratulations to a job very well done, and thank you both for your service.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1950 and has been an active presence on the Gulf Beaches since that time. For years the Masonic Lodge has been a part of the Adopt-a-Highway program and takes care of the periodic cleanup of portions of Gulf Blvd. and the Tom Stewart Causeway. The Lodge is a strong supporter of many charitable organizations such as the American Heart Association, PARC, the American Lung Association, the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, and many others.

(L-R) Travis Palladeno, Master; Deputy John J. Luckett, Pinellas County Sheriff's Department



(L-R) Lt. Todd I Ermscher, Madeira Beach Fire Rescue; Travis Palladeno, Master; Deputy John J. Luckett, Pinellas County Sheriff's Department



(L-R) Travis Palladeno, Master; Lt. Todd I Ermscher Madeira Beach Fire Rescue



LaBelle Lodge No. 379 Members Volunteer with Local Charity Organization

About ten Members of LaBelle Lodge No. 379 took a Saturday in mid-March to volunteer with the Hendry County Give Back Association which provides funds for a number of local charities. The efforts of the Lodge Members made the event the most successful in the three-year history of Give Back.

One of the Give Back organizers is now an Entered Apprentice at LaBelle Lodge and due to the public exposure, the Lodge anticipates receiving more applications. The Give Back organization is mostly men under age 50 who enjoy grill and barbecue pit cooking and are seeking ways to boost the community.

The Masonic team arrived at the park early that Saturday morning with 200 pounds of ice cubes, sweet and unsweet iced tea, bottled water and soft drinks, tables from the Lodge Hall and a large banner announcing "Free Masonry At Work".

During the day nearly 500 area Residents visited with the Masons' booth for beverages to accompany BBQ ribs, hamburgers and hotdogs.

Umatilla No. 65 Brings Together History, Patriotism & Youth In One Great Evening

By W.: David Rosenthal, 32° KCCH

On March 16th 2015, Umatilla held a really great program. It was the evening of the Official Visit of the DDGM R.: W.: Edward Mayfield and 53 Brothers, Ladies and Guests had a wonderful supper of Pulled Pork, French Fries and Cole Slaw. After supper, a Flag Presentation was given by R.: W.: Ed Lisle, P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand 18th Masonic District titled "I am Old Glory". The Worshipful Master W.: Tony Blanton Invited the Young Ladies of Mount Dora Assembly



No. 79, International Order of Rainbow for Girls to give a Special Colors Presentation and then he invited the Young Men of Lake-Sumter DeMolay to talk about their Fraternity. Both were very well received. Finally, before the Brothers began the Meeting for the Official Visit, Brother George Washington gave a very nice talk about Masons in History. All in all it was a splendid evening.

Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Received as Sojourners, Inc. Hero of '76

M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida, was admitted and received as a Member of the National Sojourners, Inc. Heroes of '76 in Jacksonville, Florida on March 13, 2015.

M.:W.: Richard Lynn is pictured here with the Heroes of '76 at the Florida Area Conference & Encampment in Jacksonville after the Heroes of '76 Degree. Most Worshipful Lynn is seen sixth from the left in the first row. Also seen were: fourth from left, in the first row, National Sojourners, Inc. National President Elect, James Higdon; fifth from left, Pedro Arroyo, Past National Commander, Heroes of '76; sixth from left, M.:W.: Richard Lynn; seventh from left, John J. Brown, National Commander, Heroes of '76; eighth from left, Ronald Sortino, 2nd V. P., National Sojourners; and ninth from left, Ray Vanden Berghe, National Chief of Staff, Heroes of '76.

Many Brothers and Heroes of '76 from the various Sojourners Chapters and Heroes of '76

Camps in Florida joined in initiating and welcoming M.:W.: Richard Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. in Florida to the Honor, Fraternity and Fellowship of the Organization.



Grand Lodge Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida awarded 10 high school seniors in our state \$1000 scholarships in March 2015 for the 2015-2016 academic year. The recipients were selected from among almost 60 applications and essays submitted by students from throughout Florida.

Recipients for 2015 include:



Kyle J. Carey, Belleview HS, Belleview, FL



Brooke A. Christy, North Marion HS, Citra, FL

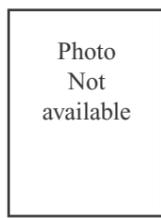


Photo Not available

Case Hilland Emerson, Union County HS, Lake Butler, FL



Meghan, E. Hall, Bartram Trail HS, St. Johns, FL



Jade A. Hartwell, Belleview HS, Belleview, FL

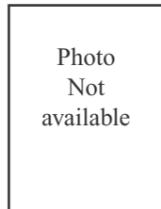


Photo Not available

Aditi Kumar, Lecanto HS, Lecanto, FL



Kaitlin C. Renaud, Boone HS, Orlando, FL



A'driana Z. Sams, Bayshore HS, Bradenton, FL



Mikayla D. Sanford, Walter L. Sickles HS, Tampa, FL



Laurel A. Thomas, Vanguard HS, Ocala, FL

Each scholarship recipient will attend a state-supported college or university in Florida. All scholarship funds are applied toward the student's tuition.

Each applicant submitted an application form and an essay of no less than 1,000 words nor more than 1,250 words on the topic "Why Education is Important." Essays were read and scored by four independent graders. The 10 applicants with the highest scores received scholarships. Essays submitted this year were significantly better than those submitted in previous years thus rendering the work of the readers most difficult.

This part of the Public Education and Citizenship program of The Grand Lodge of Florida demonstrates Freemasonry's strong, historical support for education and future generations. It is a program that serves to promote Freemasonry in our state as it confirms our desire to strengthen minds and encourage positive self-government.

Please support this program through our donation to our Masonic Charities. As with all of our activities, its success depends upon the Craft.

New Perpetual Member

At a Meeting at Orange Park Lodge No. 267, M.:W.: Elmer Coffman presented Brother Dehaviland Glisson with his Perpetual Membership Card and Certificate.

Fraternally; R.:W.: Jeff Foster, Secretary, Orange Park Lodge No. 267, 511 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL. 32073



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Cabul Lodge No. 116 Past Master Receives 50 Year Award From Two States

February 16, 2015. Past Master C. W. "Bill" Autro was called to the East to receive his 50 Year Member Awards from The Grand Lodge of Florida.

W.: Autro is a Dual Member who retains Membership in Chester Lodge No. 236 in Chester, PA where he was raised in 1965. He also received a 50 year award from The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in Chester Lodge 236. He traveled to Chester, Pa to receive his award, where he was joined by his Grandson Matthew Reidy who is currently Senior Warden of Fernley Lodge No. 34 in Fernley, Nevada.

W.: Autro can now say he is totally a 100 Year Mason with his two awards. He also plans to travel to Fernley Lodge at year-end when his Grandson Matthew is installed as Master of Fernley Lodge.



R.: W.: Russell Raulerson, District Deputy for 13th Masonic District presents 50 Year Mason Award to W.: C.W. "Bill" Autro Past Master of Cabul Lodge No. 116

10th District Child ID

The 10th Masonic District Association once again offered the "FREE CHILD ID" program to children during the Lawtey Trail Ridge Festival on March 14, 2015. The Child ID program gives each parent a CD with their child walking, talking, personal information, and fingerprint at no cost to the family. The 10th Masonic District Association has nine Lodges in their District: Pine Hill No. 9 in Brooker, Bradford No. 35 in Starke, Lake Butler No. 52 in Lake Butler, Dawkins No. 60 in Macclenny, Raiford No. 82 in Raiford, Sanderson No. 122 in Sanderson, Lawtey No. 189 in Lawtey, and Baldwin No. 217 in Baldwin. Pictured are L-R: Stan Harvey, John Rosado, Leaman Alvarez, John Mann, Larry Scott, David Neiman, Roy Weiland, and Chuck Lambert.



A Masonic Surprise for a 65 Mason

The Leesburg Lodge No. 58 Brothers were able to give a surprise to another Brother of ours today at our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner for St Paddy's Day. Brother Robert "Bob" Hersh has been unable to attend Lodge for some time now due to having trouble driving at night. His anniversary of 65 Years in Masonry arrived and we wanted to do something different for him. We arranged for his wife to make sure that he came to the dinner, unaware of what was about to happen. Lois was good as her word and showed up with Brother Bob in tow. After they had sat down with their dinners and gotten comfortable, our Worshipful Master, Ron Glover, came into the dining hall and announced that we had a special person in the building today who had reached the milestone of 65 Years in Masonry! He then proceeded to present Brother Hersh with his Certificate from The Grand Lodge and his 65 Year Pin. Brother Hersh thanked us all and said that he had been totally surprised!



Grand Lodge of Florida Honors 35 New Eagle Scouts in Clay County

At the 33rd Annual Black Creek (Clay County) Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner, over 230 attendees honored those Boy Scouts in Clay County in 2014 who attained the flagship rank of Boy Scouts – Eagle Scout.



For the fourth third year, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida participated with other Federal, State, and Local officials and organizations in the honoring of these new Eagle Scouts. Most Worshipful James W. Ford gave each new Eagle Scout a certificate of achievement and a letter of recognition from The Grand Lodge of Florida and Most Worshipful James W. Ford.

Representing The Grand Lodge and Most Worshipful James W. Ford was R.: W.: DDGM Jason Cowart of the 12th Masonic District.

Morocco Shriners were represented by Noble and Eagle Scout Dr. Jerry Linder. Brother Jerry is one of the founders of this Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner.

To earn this prestigious rank, each Eagle Scout was required to earn at least 21 merit badges, go through several boards of review, hold at least one leadership position in their unit, and coordinate a project that each had to plan the project, secure approval for the project, solicit financial assistance, ask for Scouts and adults to volunteer to help on the project, and supervise those who came out to help with the project.

In 2014, these 35 Eagle Scouts contributed over 4,634 hours of service by themselves and others who helped them to complete their projects. They were able to receive donations of money and materials in excess of \$26,682.00 to complete their projects.

Noble and Eagle Scout Bill Hudson was honored as the Eagle Scout who has been an Eagle Scout the longest. If you are interested, ask Noble Bill how long he has been an Eagle Scout.

Perry Lodge Helps Out Local Food Pantry

With the help of the Home School Coop and Perry Masonic Lodge they were able to donate over 500 non-perishable items to support the First United Methodist Food Pantry. The Food Pantry serves over 180 people a month and helps those that are in need including the elderly and disabled. The volunteers for the Food Pantry don't stop there, they continue their Fellowship with visits and one on one time which truly supports our community. We are grateful for the kids that helped us gather donations as well as the volunteers that keep the pantry running. Zach Cone | AGM Valdosta Area



40 Years A Mason

In Beavercreek, Ohio, Masonic Lodge No. 753, Robert William Iiams Petitioned to become an Entered Apprentice Mason on May 9, 1974. On June 13th 1974 he was Passed to the Degree Of Fellow Craft Mason. An October 10th he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. He became Master of his Lodge in Beavercreek, Ohio in 1980. Worshipful Master Denis Doome Awarded Brother Ray his 40-Year Service Pin and Certificate April 7th at the Englewood Masonic Lodge. Rite Worshipful Gene Jeffers Conducted the Ceremony.



L to R: Denis Doome, Worshipful Master; Robert Iiams, recipient.

Ormond Beach Lodge Recognizes Outstanding Brothers Labors

Ormond Beach Lodge No. 326, 2014 W.: M.: Peter Remington and Senior Warden Steve Morris presented Past Master Robert Sands with an award recognizing his efforts in the Adopt-a-School program. Also presented to the Members of Ormond Beach No. 36 was a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.



25 Years A Mason

Brother Denny Jelsma receives his 25 year pin from Worshipful Master Fred Lindes at Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach! Congratulations Brother Jelsma.



Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

The Florida Masonic Child ID Program is attempting to establish uniform policies and procedures across the state, making the program a cornerstone of Florida Masonic activity.

To this end, we need your financial support.

Please make your 501(c)(3) tax deductible donation to this important and worthy program, in any amount your cable-tow will permit. Checks should be made out to Masonic Charities, Inc. with the words "Child ID" on the memo line, and can be sent to:

Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.
P.O.Box 1020
Jacksonville, FL 32201



Brothers, show your pride for our Great Fraternity and at the same time help your Grand Lodge with Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc., Specifically our Child ID Program. The Grand Lodge of Florida, has commissioned Cufflinks and Button Covers bearing the Seal of The Grand Lodge of Florida, F&AM. For your tax deductible donation of \$50.00 or more you will receive a set of Cufflinks. For your tax deductible donation of \$100.00 or more you will receive both the Cufflinks and Button Covers in a carrying box.



The Masonic Charities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation and your donation is Tax Deductible.

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Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida



100 Years of Age – 25 a Master Mason

May 19th, 2015 will be here before-we-know-it and on that date Samuel Levin, center, will become a Centenarian. For 1/4 of those years he has been a Mason. He worked for all those 25 years to support his Fraternity and Community. Recently Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360 presented Brother Levin his 25-year recognition award. Right Worshipful Gene Jeffers (left) conducted the ceremony and presented Brother Sam his award. Worshipful Master Denis Doome is on the right.



Amelia Lodge No. 47 Recognizes 25 Year Masons

Worshipful Fred Lindes recognizes Right Worshipful Danny Fullwood and Worshipful John Pugliese for 25 years of Service to Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach!

Brother Denny Jelsma receives his 25 year pin from Worshipful Master Fred Lindes at Amelia Lodge No. 47 in Fernandina Beach! Congratulations Brother Jelsma.



“Expect Perfection - Settle For Excellence”

