

The Florida Mason

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The Official Newsletter of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

Volume 1, Issue 2



Grand Lodge of Florida

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Grand Lodge Officers

2008 - 2009

GRAND MASTER

M.: W.: Joe Fleites

(Miami)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig

(Clermont)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez

(Tampa)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Jim Harris

(Sebastian)

GRAND TREASURER

M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, PGM

(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY

M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, PGM

(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future
issues of *The Florida Mason*
should be sent to,
Larry Scott, Grand Lodge,
904-354-2339,
larryscott@gflflamason.org



M.: W.: Joe Fleites
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

Brethren,

As your Grand Master, I wanted to say thank you for your continued support and friendship. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve you, the members of Grand Lodge as your Grand Master and to meet so many fine Brother Masons who have our Fraternity in their hearts and a willingness to see their Lodges grow.

Our Fraternity is starting to grow; many Lodges are putting Candidates through the Degrees as fast as they can set them up. We all are very fortunate to belong to the greatest Fraternity in the world. It is great to have that feeling of belonging. This feeling has been among Speculative Masons for hundreds of years. It is the natural feeling of man to have a sense of belonging to something greater than himself as an individual.

It is my fervent desire that each one of us rededicates himself to share the feelings we enjoy in our Fraternity with our non-Masonic friends and family. Talk to men you know of high moral character who share our values and beliefs. Tell them about the joy and peace together with the real sense of belonging which come from being a member of a Fraternity dedicated to Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love. Share with them the literature on Masonry that is available from the Grand Lodge office. Just tell them the plain and simple truth about what Masonry means in your life.

When you initiate the man we are looking for, do not forget to use the Lodge System of Masonic Education and the Mentors Manual. Teaching new Brothers provides great satisfaction and Masonic Renewal in your heart. It is up to us to set the example that they will live by. Continue to make it one of honor and integrity.

This year, I, along with the other Grand Lodge Officers, will be working on the Independent Living Program at our Masonic Home. This is a great program and the future that will allow us to grow. In the future this project, with proper planning and plenty of hard work, may result in satellite Masonic Homes around the State - each one with Independent Living Facilities. This will better serve our Brothers, their wives and widows by being able to remain closer to their family and friends.

I cordially invite all Masons and their families to visit the Masonic Home and our monthly Board of Trustees Meetings. Bring your friends and neighbors to show them Masonry in action. They will certainly be impressed with the organization to which you devote your time and talents. Because you, the members of our great Fraternity, give so generously of your time, talents and money, all of this is possible. Without you we would not have one of the finest facilities in the nation. Please continue with your great efforts. They are most gratefully acknowledged and sincerely appreciated.

I have chosen the Masonic Home as the Grand Master's Charity. To me all charities have their place and are important to society, but for us as Master Masons the Masonic Home is more than a charity it is our Obligation. Therefore, I am asking all the Lodges of our great Fraternity to give to the Masonic Home. Let us renew our Obligation to take care of our worthy distressed Brother Master Masons, their wives and widows. Make the pledge that for this year the Masonic Home will also be your charity. So, whenever your Lodge is considering a charity to donate to, please remember our Masonic Home first. Also remember our Masonic Home in your wills. The First Lady's project this year is to re-model the dining room. As you know, our residents spend a great deal of their time in the dining room of the Masonic Home. This project will give a fresh new look that will replace the old tables, chairs, fixtures, planters, etc. This will complement last year's project of replacing the hot serving line in the dining room. In order to make this dream a reality, the First Lady's project needs your support and donations.

I hope to see many of you at our District Meetings and Lodges this year. Again thank you for your friendship and all you have done. You are Grand Lodge and without you we cannot succeed.

In closing let me leave you with this thought: a positive outlook is the key to success. It is dependent on a commitment to oneself to be the very best one can be. Set the example. Strive for excellence. No one Mason can do it alone; it takes the effort of all of us to make real progress. Remember that we owe it to our forefathers and those who will come after us to uphold the dignity and reputation of our beloved Masonic Fraternity.

God Bless You All.

Fraternally,
M.: W.: Joe Fleites,
Grand Master



Be a Leader; Make the Difference



R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Brethren:

Thank you for your continued support and allowing me to serve as your Deputy Grand Master. The responsibilities of this position include Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg. It is truly a pleasure to work with the Administrator, Mrs. Lisa Tsotsos, and the other dedicated members of the staff who care for the residents. You can be proud of the continued "5 Star" ranking by the State of Florida, knowing that our Brothers, their wives and widows are receiving the best care possible. The number of residents continues to increase, thanks in large part to allowing qualified members from Florida and other Grand Jurisdictions to enter on a Private Pay basis rather than the traditional Life Care Program, where the resident surrendered all of his or her assets. The more residents we have, the more efficiently it can be operated.

Your voting delegates at the 179th Annual Grand Lodge Communication, held in May in Orlando, are to be congratulated for allowing the Masonic Home Board of Trustees and the Corporate Board to proceed with the next step in developing and marketing the proposed 102 Independent Living units on the grounds of the Masonic Home on the picturesque Coffee Pot Bayou. This is the logical use for the extra land surrounding the Masonic Home. Many other Grand Jurisdictions already have or are in the process of developing Independent Living units, so we are able to draw on their experience as we go forward.

It is gratifying to witness the resurgence of new members petitioning our great Fraternity, especially the younger ones. Our responsibility now is to give them a reason to participate in Lodge activities on a regular basis. We must make our meetings and activities meaningful and interesting, not just in the Lodge, but outside in the community, to compete with the many other opportunities available these Brothers in our fast paced world.

I again thank all of the Florida Masons for allowing me to continue to serve this ancient and honorable Fraternity and look forward to leaving it better than I found it.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Dale I. Goehrig
Deputy Grand Master

2008-09 Deadlines:

submission dates..... print dates

The Florida Mason

Vol. 2, Issue 1: March 16, 2009..... April 17, 2009

Vol. 2, Issue 2: September 30, 2009..... October 25, 2009

Masonic Lifestyles

Spring 2009: March 31, 2009 May 1, 2009

Winter 2009: November 15, 2009 December 12, 2009

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First Lady's Project

Dear Masonic Family,

As the wife of J. David Neveitt, Grand Tyler of The Grand Lodge of Florida, I am excited to tell you about a very special project. Mrs. Gale Fleites, the First Lady of Masonry, has chosen to renovate the dining room at the Masonic Home of Florida. That is replacing all tables and refinishing all the chairs. These furnishings are over 20 years old. The dining room is a focal point of the home where the residents dine three times daily.

Mrs. Fleites and I are asking the Masonic Family help in this worthwhile project. The total cost for the tables are approximately \$420.00 each and the chairs are \$100.00 each. Any amount donated will help bring the First Lady closer to her goal.

Based on seating for 150, this project may total up to \$40,000.00. If your Lodge or Chapter makes a single donation of \$500.00, a brass plate will be added to a plaque located in the dining room engraved with the appropriate information.

Checks should be made out to “The Grand Lodge of Florida” (re: First Lady’s Project) Please forward your donation to:

Masonic Home of Florida (First Lady’s Project)
ATTN: Debbie Neveitt
3201 1st Street NE
St Petersburg, FL 33704

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter. Any amount of donations will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please call me at (727) 545-5268.

Sincerely,
Debbie Neveitt



“Mrs. Gale Fleites, the First Lady of Masonry, has chosen to renovate the dining room at the Masonic Home of Florida.”



Monthly Lodge Maintenance Report

Hello Brother Larry,

After reviewing that monthly Lodge Maintenance Sheet I think it has great potential. It would be a good tool for me to check back on the recent activity of my Lodge and also to double check on what GL 705's that I've sent in and use for a check off as I receive the updated Masonic Member Profiles on the Brothers.

As I understand it, this Maintenance information was gathered from the GL 705's that I sent in, is that correct? If so, I would really like to get this sheet on a monthly basis. It would greatly assist in keeping track of the status changes that I've submitted to you.

Thanks Larry,
Eric

Dear Brothers,

On the 17th of July I had the privilege and honor, to attend W.: Chris Drouin's Naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse. There were approximately twenty other Masons and their families there who came to show their support for him.



I have to admit that I was taken aback by the attitude and pride of W.: Chris and the other new citizens.

How soon we forget how fortunate we are to live in the USA. We enjoy freedoms and privileges unparalleled in the world. As I listened to the Judge swear each new citizen in and ask them to forsake their loyalty to their home country, I can only imagine how they felt. They were excited and overjoyed to now be AMERICAN CITIZENS, American flags were waving, and it was great! The majority of the new citizens registered to vote then and there, including our W.: Drouin.

How proud I, and the other Masons were who came to show our love and support for W.: Chris at this important moment in his life. Congratulations W.: Chris and welcome. We are proud of you.

A little side note, during the ceremony they played renditions of the STAR SPANGLED BANNER AND GOD BLESS AMERICA, sung by Miss Kate Smith, and above the music you could hear the pure sweet voice of our own R.: W.: Mort Wolfson proudly singing along. I can only aspire to be as good an American Citizen as he is.

Many thanks to all the Brothers who prayed for my family and me during my recent relapse after my heart surgery. I am recovering very well and I hope to see you all very soon.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Fraternally,
Steve Travis, D.D.G.M.

First 18 Year Old Initiated In Florida



R.:W.: Joe Pippin with his grandson Grant Tyler Glass who is the first 18 year old Mason in Florida.

Tyler Glass is the Son of R.: W.: Joe Pippin of Pt. St. Joe Lodge No. 111. He was initiated on August 7, 2008. Not only did his Grandfather preside but he gave the lecture as well. What a great honor!

History Of Universal Lodge No. 178

THE SPANISH SPEAKING LODGE OF TAMPA

Nobody seems to know just when Spanish speaking Masonry first gained a foothold in Tampa, but it was proba- bly back in the Gay Nineties soon after the Latin colony was established in Ybor City. Of the records that remain, the earli- est reference to Spanish speaking Masonry was unearthed in the archives of John Darling Lodge No. 154. It shows that John Darling’s application for a charter had the approval of Francisco V. Aquilera Lodge No. 147, a Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida. All records of that Lodge, however, have disappeared. At the close of the last century, just after the Spanish-American War, a group of our Latin Brethren belonged to Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 and John Darling Lodge No. 154.

It was about this time, that a man named Otero was active in forming clandestine lodges in Ybor City and West Tampa. Information concerning the operations of this man, Otero, and his Lodges was difficult to obtain because regu- lar Masons are forbidden to visit a clandestine lodge. Two good Spanish speaking Brothers, Dr. Manuel R. Moreno and Dr. Charles W. Bartlett, both being members of Hillsborough Lodge, took it upon themselves to investigate, and discov- ered that they were working under Charters issued by a Lodge in Havana, Cuba which, no doubt was outside of regu- lar Masonic jurisdiction.

These circumstances emphasized the need for a Spanish speaking Lodge organized by, and working under, the Grand Lodge of Florida. The result was the formation of two, both organized about the same time: Ybor Lodge No. 179, spon- sored by Hillsborough Lodge and La Española Lodge No. 178, sponsored by John Darling Lodge No. 154. Between these two Lodges intense rivalry developed. Dispensation was granted La Española Lodge on April 27, 1908 and almost a year later, on January 21, 1909, it was presented with its Charter. In the meantime, the members of Ybor Lodge No. 179, by special and eager persuasion, succeeded in getting Ybor Lodge’s Charter issued on the 21st day of January, 1909, just like their rival.

On the original Ledger of Ybor Lodge, located within the archives of Universal Lodge, appear a total of 72 names. Nineteen of these names represent those of the original roster, whose former membership were either in Hillsbor- ough Lodge No. 25, Spanish Lodges in New York City or Cuban Lodges.

On the original Ledger of La Española Lodge, located within the archives of Universal Lodge, appear a total of 52 names. Seven of these names indicate membership into La Española Lodge by dimits from John Darling Lodge No. 154.

Because of unfavorable rivalry between these two Lodges, all efforts to get them to work together produced little results, and finally the services of an outside mediator became necessary to resolve their differences. He was Brother Fernando Figueredo, a very influential Mason of Havana, Cuba. His special trip to Tampa was made at the request and invitation of Dr. Moreno. Brother Figueredo was able to consolidate the two Lodges into one. At a joint meet- ing of the two Lodges, presided over by Brother Figueredo, was held during the first days of 1911, and agreed to consol- idate and apply for a Charter of a new Lodge to be known as Universal. The name Universal was selected due to the different nationalities which composed its membership. Its first Master was Manuel R. Moreno, the Senior Warden was Jose Bustillo and the Junior Warden was Adalberto Porro. Ybor Lodge, which at the time of the merger had been meet- ing at Hillsborough Lodge, also contributed the largest number of members to the new Lodge. By reason of this, Ybor Lodge was able to select the first Master and decide the regular meeting place.

The determination of the members of Universal Lodge to make a worthwhile contribution to the progress of Masonry in Tampa, bore prompt results. All hands joined together in genuine bonds of brotherhood. Before his death in 1930, Bro. Charles Barlett who was one of the pioneering spirits in Universal Lodge, said: “We hated to pull out of our beloved Masonic Homes in Hillsborough or John Darling, but we had Masonic Work to do.” This determination and spirit, indeed, is the soil from which has sprung a flower of Masonry that one still sees in Universal Lodge today.

Yet, obstacles had to be met and overcome. There were still pockets of clandestine masonry. In dealing with this issue, both Hillsborough and John Darling Lodge rendered a valuable service. For Hillsborough Lodge, Worshipful Brother Wilmott R. Fitts conducted some personal investi- gations which later formed the basis for healing a group of misguided members. The work conducted by John Darling Lodge that, after prolonged study and consideration, they

were taken in and obligated as regular Masons. It is recalled that these “healing sessions” lasted until one o’clock in the morning.

There is no more thrilling phase of Tampa’s Masonic development than the feat performed by Universal Lodge of bringing its policy, teachings and ritual into perfect conformity with Florida work. This has been so successfully done that there is no difference between the workings of Universal and that of the English speaking Lodges, except a difference of language. The arduous task of overhauling the floor work was first tackled by Universal’s late Worshipful Master, Bro. Jose Y. Alonso. During his term as Master, he organized a team of young men who spoke, read and wrote both languages. These young men attended the schools of instruction conducted by the Grand Lodge Committee on Work. The team really functioned as a Committee of Trans- lators because having learned and recited the Florida Ritual in English, they were able to render it into Spanish.

At the same time, in order to impress his own members and Masonry in general with the same identity of fraternal bonds between them, Worshipful Brother Alonso gathered together his membership and began making rounds of visi- tations to every Lodge in the District to which Universal was always well received. This practice has been continued on to the present day.

Today Universal Lodge continues its commitment to maintain its Spanish Masonic heritage both within the Fraternity and Tampa’s Latin American Community. Its membership is still comprised of diverse nationalities representing Spanish, Spanish American, South and Central American countries all committed to the Masonic belief. Currently, plans are underway in preparation for its Centennial Anniversary in 2011. We hope to see you there. In closing, “VIVA LA LOGIA UNIVERSAL”.

Revised and written by:
Felix Gordillo, P. M. & P.D.D.G.M.
Secretary

The Rest Of The Story Grand Musician

The story goes that one of the Grand Masters of Florida was in the process of opening Grand Lodge for the Annual Grand Communication, when he learned the Grand Musi- cian was not in attendance and a substitute had to be found at the last minute. The substitute was inquiring of the Grand Master as to what music he would like to have played during the communication. Here’s a copy of the program the Grand

Master replied impatiently, but you will have to think of something to play after we discuss the budget. The Grand Master very diligently covered the short falls in the budget, reminding the Craft of the volatility of the stock market, rising gas prices, higher cost of living, and that donations were down this year, but still we needed money to make the budget. He spoke with great passion when he reminded the

Craft of their obligation and the need for help, aid and assis- tance during this time of financial despair. He asked that everyone who could contribute at least one hundred dollars to please stand up. At that time the substitute musician played a beautiful rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner,” and that’s how he became the regular Grand Musician.

What Is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is the largest and oldest secular fraternal order in the world, crossing all religious boundaries to bring men together of all countries, sects, and opinion in peace and harmony. It is a universal brotherhood, dedicated to serving the divine Great Architect of the Universe by service to family, country, and mankind.

Freemasonry is a philosophical organization empha- sizing the study of moral symbols to build character. This education is, in part, the foundation of a more profound understanding of mankind and his existence. Living today in a materialistic society, Freemasonry teaches about the value of people yet, allows private thoughts to rest with God and

the individual. Mutual toleration in religious opinions is a distinguishing and valuable characteristic of the Fraternity. The real nature of Freemasonry is a spiritual force behind each member, improving himself morally by associating with other like-minded men. Also, Freemasonry acts as a social organization, promoting the interaction between Fraternal Brothers within the Lodge to build bonds between them. By fostering this brotherhood, relationships are maintained in and out of the comforts of the Lodge and genuine affection prevails. Wherever traveling in this world, Masons meet and greet other Masons as Brothers as a result of these bonds. Freemasonry opens men's eyes to the knowledge that the

road to happiness is found in the journey to the perfection of the spirit, intellect & soul. Masons strive to achieve their fullest potential. Differing from religious institutions, Freemasonry sees all men as equal, not drawing division to beliefs. Fellow Freemasons are regarded as Brothers because of the rituals of Freemasonry, which have remained virtually unchanged for many hundred years. By accepting men of all faiths, together in Freemasonry, Masons learn and teach the truths of morality, justice, patriotism and brotherly love. All expressed through reverence to God, the Great Architect of the Universe.

Ted Barber

To Make Good Men Better

The following is a Trestle Board article written by my son, W.: J. Douglas White of High Twelve Lodge No. 317.

This phrase has led countless men to knock at the door of Freemasonry. I share the thought with some of you that the Masonic "mission statement", as it were, should reflect "Good men make Freemasonry better".

To me, either statement denotes a task to build, allegor- ically speaking of course. This is a construction that does not come in a world of half hearted attempts or cutting corners when no instructions are available. It is a building

constructed with the hewn stones of this great and true insti- tution, stones that represent the precepts of Freemasonry. These are carefully laid stones representing temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice, made strong with the mortar of our principal tenets: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Each of us, before knocking, has been asked several questions by our soon to be Brothers but prior to walking to the door we have made an internal inventory. Through this inventory, many have found shortcomings and inadequacies that we hoped Masonry could help rectify. In walking

through the door we have become builders, builders of ourselves, our Brethren and our Craft.

The truth, Brothers, is this: Alone we cannot build ourselves based on the designs of our Craft; only together as good men can we build ourselves and then our Craft. We, as good men, can make Freemasonry better. Show the world you are a builder.

Doug White
Worshipful Master

Lodge Officer Longevity

On January 1st, 2009, at Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352, Pensacola, the Treasurer, Worshipful Brother Roger D. White, and Secretary, Brother Willard E. Lynch, will start their 29th year in their respective offices. Both of these Brothers are very dedicated Masons and equally dedicated to their jobs in their Lodge. Their Lodge is very fortunate to have Brothers who are so committed to Our Fraternity.

John Mick, P. M.
Zone No. 1 Chairman, Public Relations

Visit of M.: W.: Grand Master To 11th & 12th Districts



The M.: W.: Grand Master of Masons of Florida made his official visit to the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts at the Annual Meeting of the 11th and 12th Districts held in the Jacksonville Scottish Rite Center, on Saturday, July 12, 2008. There was a great turnout of Brothers and wives. All enjoyed a fine dinner. There were the usual introductions and presentations. Remarks were offered by the Past Grand Masters and Elected Grand Lodge Officers. Then the Grand Master gave a very fine talk regarding Masonry in Florida and his plans for the ensuing year.

Pictured here were the Grand Master and elected Grand Lodge Officers with the District Deputy Grand Masters for the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts following the meeting. Seen left to right were: M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, PGM, Grand Secretary; M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, PGM, Grand Treasurer; R.: W.: Jim J. Harris, Junior Grand Warden; R. W. Seth L. Rothstein, DDGM, District 11; M.: W.: Joseph A. Fleites, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge F & A. M. of Florida; R.: W.: Raymond M. Ali, DDGM, District 12; R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Deputy Grand Master; and R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Senior Grand Warden. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

“Brothers Of The Craft And On The Road”

Deputy Sheriff Creg Bell and Trooper Ronald Evans.

Both of us work the midnight shift and enforce Drunk Driving Law. We both have been recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for our enforcement efforts. Bro. Bell is a Deputy Sheriff with Pasco County Sheriff's Office. Ronald Evans is a Trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol.



Deer Roping



Actual Letter from someone who writes, and ranches. Names have been removed to protect the stupid!!

I had this idea that I was going to rope a deer, put it in a stall, feed it up on corn for a couple of weeks, then kill it and eat it.

The first step in this adventure was getting a deer. I figured that, since they congregate at my cattle feeder and do not seem to have much fear of me when we are there (a bold one will sometimes come right up and sniff at the bags of feed while I am in the back of the truck not four feet away), it should not be difficult to rope one, get up to it and toss a bag over its head (to calm it down), then hog-tie it and transport it home.

I filled the cattle feeder then hid down at the end with my rope. The cattle, having seen the roping thing before, stayed well back. They were not having any of it.

After about 20 minutes, my deer showed up -- three of them. I picked out a likely-looking one, stepped out from the end of the feeder, and threw my rope. The deer just stood there and stared at me.

I wrapped the rope around my waist and twisted the end so I would have a good hold. The deer still just stood and stared at me, but you could tell it was mildly concerned about the whole rope situation.

I took a step towards it... it took a step away. I put a little

tension on the rope and then received an education.

The first thing that I learned is that, while a deer may just stand there looking at you funny while you rope it, they are spurred to action when you start pulling on that rope.

That deer EXPLODED!

The second thing I learned is that pound for pound, a deer is a LOT stronger than a cow or a colt. A cow or a colt in that weight range, I could fight down with a rope and with some dignity.

A deer -- no chance. That thing ran and bucked and twisted and pulled. There was no controlling it and certainly no getting close to it. As it jerked me off my feet and started dragging me across the ground, it occurred to me that having a deer on a rope was not nearly as good an idea as I had originally imagined.

The only upside is that they do not have as much stamina as many other animals.

A brief 10 minutes later, it was tired and not nearly as quick to jerk me off my feet and drag me when I managed to get up. It took me a few minutes to realize this, since I was mostly blinded by the blood flowing out of the big gash in my head. At that point, I had lost my taste for corn fed venison, I just wanted to get that devil creature off the end of that rope.

I figured if I just let it go with the rope hanging around its neck, it would likely die slow and painfully somewhere.

At the time, there was no love at all between me and that deer. At that moment I hated the thing, and I would venture a guess that the feeling was mutual.

Despite the gash in my head and the several large knots where I had cleverly arrested the deer's momentum by bracing my head against various large rocks as it dragged me across the ground, I could still think clearly enough to recognize that there was a small chance that I shared some tiny amount of responsibility for the situation we were in, so I didn't want the deer to have it suffer a slow death. I managed to get it lined back up in between my truck and the feeder -- a little trap I had set before hand ... kind of like a squeeze chute.

I got it to back in there and I started moving up so I could get my rope back.

Did you know that deer bite? They do! I never in a million years would have thought that a deer would bite somebody, so I was very surprised when I reached up there to grab that rope and the deer grabbed hold of my wrist.

Now, when a deer bites you, it is not like being bit by a horse where they just bite you and then let go. A deer bites

you and shakes its head -- almost like a pit bull. They bite HARD and it hurts!

The proper thing to do when a deer bites you is probably to freeze and draw back slowly. I tried screaming and shaking instead. My method was ineffective.

It seems like the deer was biting and shaking for several minutes, but it was likely only several seconds. I, being smarter than a deer (though you may be questioning that claim by now), tricked it.

While I kept it busy tearing the bejesus out of my right arm, I reached up with my left hand and pulled that rope loose. That was when I got my final lesson in deer behavior for the day.

Deer will strike at you with their front feet. They rear right up on their back feet and strike right about head and shoulder level, and their hooves are surprisingly sharp.

I learned a long time ago that, when an animal -- like a horse -- strikes at you with their hooves and you can't get away easily, the best thing to do is try to make a loud noise and make an aggressive move towards the animal. This will usually cause them to back down a bit so you can escape.

This was not a horse. This was a deer, so obviously, such trickery would not work. In the course of a millisecond, I devised a different strategy.

I screamed like a woman and tried to turn and run.

The reason I had always been told NOT to try to turn and run from a horse that paws at you is that there is a good chance that it will hit you in the back of the head.

Deer may not be so different from horses after all, besides being twice as strong and three times as evil, because the second I turned to run, it hit me right in the back of the head and knocked me down.

Now, when a deer paws at you and knocks you down, it does not immediately leave. I suspect it does not recognize that the danger has passed. What they do instead is paw your back and jump up and down on you while you are laying there crying like a little girl and covering your head.

I finally managed to crawl under the truck and the deer went away.

So now I know why when people go deer hunting they bring a rifle with a scope so that they can be somewhat equal to their "prey."

Honorary Membership

On September 10, 2008, Gainesville Lodge No. 41 in Gainesville, Florida, prior to their regular Stated Communi-cation, had a dinner and a ceremony for Honoring Right Worshipful Lloyd Wilkerson of Lawtey Lodge No. 189.

The dinner was very well served and Right Worshipful Lloyd Wilkerson was conducted to the head of the line. He is a very humble person who will never go to the front of the line and always waits until everyone else has eaten before he serves himself. Brother Wilkerson has helped many differ-

ent Lodges over the years and everyone who knows him has great respect for him. If there is any person who epitomizes what a Mason should be, he is truly the one. The ceremony continued in the Lodge Room where many Masons and their wives attended. He was presented a Certificate, a Dues Card and a very well written saying was read. Right Worshipful Wilkerson said that the greatest honor anyone could give him was Honorary Membership. He said that he didn’t deserve it and was very touched by receiving it. There were many

people who rose to speak on behalf of Right Worshipful Wilkerson and all of them had good things and memorable experiences to relate to the Brethren present. After the cere-mony, the Lodge Opened and held their Stated Communica-tion. The night was a very memorable event. Right Worshipful Lloyd Wilkerson was and is deserving of any awards that can be given him for his constant help and perse- verance in attaining perfection in the work and everyday life. Vernon “Mike” Nolan

Board of Trustees Masonic Home Of Florida Overview

Each year the Grand Master selects the members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home. Recognizing that Board issues require specialized knowledge across a wide array of topics, the members are appointed from all walks of life and are respected leaders.

Faced with complex industry, regulatory, and govern- ment issues, the Board Members encounter a wide range of challenges. Rarely are their actions scrutinized by member- ship; however, regulators and government rating agencies inspect our records and facility on an ongoing basis. One crucial question remains unanswered for many boards, “How do we, as Board Members, provide adequate support for our Masonic Home with the ever changing regulations imple- mented by the governing agencies?” One of the ways we are able to stay current is to rely heavily on our very competent administrator and her staff.

The challenge for the Fraternity is to provide our Masonic Home staff with continuing education opportuni-

ties. There are compelling and relevant programs that focus on the unique needs of our Masonic Home. Jointly, our Masonic Home and Board of Trustees budget the funds necessary to maintain a highly effective continuing educa- tion program for the staff of our Home, and we encourage employees to take advantage of this benefit. The Home conducts internal training for the staff, utilizing facilitators to teach classes on site, and provide funds for training at local educational institutions. Our administrator and many on her staff are required to be licensed for their positions and are able to retain proficiency by use of this continuing educa- tion program.

I, as a Board Member, have reached the age when a person starts reviewing his life to recall those things he may have accomplished. Sometimes this represents a painful look at past missed opportunities, while other memories bring a measure of pure satisfaction. When I reflect on the appointments I have had in our great Fraternity and the time

I have spent traveling this great State on various committees, none has been more rewarding than being appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of our Masonic Home. As Board Members, we are charged with the task of ensuring the best quality of care for the residents and having the vision for providing financial stability for the Home far into the future.

What a great opportunity it is to be on the Board of Trustees as we embark on the new program of providing independent living on the grounds of our Masonic Home. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your vision into the future by supporting this program that will provide continuing income for the Endowment Fund and a new array of services for our residents.

R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith
Member Board of Trustees Masonic Home

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Adopts-a-Highway

Madeira Beach, FL

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge has once again renewed its adoption of Gulf Boulevard from John's Pass to the Tom Stewart Causeway and the Tom Stewart Causeway to Duhme Road. Gulf Beach Lodge does a quarterly road clean-up as

part of the DOT's Adopt-A-Highway program. The members of the Lodge are proud to be able to help keep the commu- nity clean and be a positive presence on the beaches.

Gulf Beach Lodge meets each Thursday evening at 7:45 p.m. at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach. All

Master Masons are invited to attend. For further information on the meetings, events, or contact numbers, please visit the Lodge website at www.gulfbeachlodge.org or email the secretary at secretary@gulfbeachlodge.org

The Door

Don't let the back door of the Blue Lodge close on you.

Sometimes in life an event takes place and seemingly without much meaning can turn very significant if it’s prop- erly pondered.

I met with our two new E.A.’s the other evening to study for their proficiency. When I arrived they were waiting out in front of the Lodge (Temple No. 23 Jax, FL), as was an "urban outdoors" woman. She had made a little camp under one of the trees, not much of a camp but a blanket spread out and resting herself. She asked if it was O.K. that she be there for a little bit as she was tired of walking, had been run off from somewhere up the road etc. etc. And in true homeless fash- ion proceeded to try to engage further conversation.

Being the compassionate man and Mason that I am, I told her just don't mess anything up or litter and go on about her way when she’d rested up. Masons are taught that we are all equal, to look past the outside and be serviceable and considerate to all mankind. I felt I exercised that duty flaw- lessly had I not been there that night I wouldn’t have known she was either; all the while trying to break off the conver- sation and as you may know isn’t very easy to do with the homeless folk. I’m sure you’ve been in the same predicament where you want to be pleasant but go on about your busi- ness.

We finally got away from her and I unlocked the Lodge, secured the alarm and we three entered and closed and locked the door with the finger lock from the inside. A finger lock in case you're wondering is one that you set from the inside with out using a key, and as far as I knew none of our members have a key for opening that particular lock from the outside. We went on into the Lodge Room, as I didn’t wish to sit in the dining area and have the afore mentioned outdoorsman knocking to use the bathroom or any other disturbance. I have a lot to teach these two men and a short amount of time to do it.

We studied for about an hour or so and decided to take a smoke break. I figured it best to go out the back door just in case she was still out front, which I found out later that she was. I unlocked the key lock on the back door, and out we went. I noticed a brick sitting at the foot of the door and tried to hold the door open with it so I could keep an eye and ear out on the Lodge, well the brick was too light to hold the door open so I let it close.

Little did I know the the door-knob lock was set to the lock position, again another lock that I didn’t have a key to. Now all of this may not seem like much of a problem, however, the back yard at the Lodge is surrounded by an

eight foot chain link fence with one gate securely locked and as you may guess, I didn’t have a key to that one either! I personally wouldn’t have a problem with climbing that fence, however, since the front door was locked with a lock that I didn’t have a key to, going around front and unlocking the door was out of the question, and my two E.A.’s in their age and physical conditions, well I just figured if they tried, we might have had to call the ambulance and nothing screams that the day is ruined like the big red truck showing up! On the East end of the yard are some woods and a creek farther down, so we weren’t in panic mode, we can get out, I’m a woodsy kinda guy anyhow. But about this time Mike tells me "OK, Waco, quit with the secret stuff and unlock the door. Let’s go in and run through this one more time" He was seri- ous! I had to keep from laughing as I explained to him the magnitude of the situation! And knowing full well that this wasn’t a Masonic secret!!! Even when we do get out of the back yard, the Lodge is still not secured properly and in this day and age that’s just not good.

I called our Worshipful Master, yeah “The Big Guy,” he came and we discussed the happenings. We found a path through the stickers and vines and got out ok, Ted told me he'd find a way to secure the Lodge and not to worry. I went home with my tail between my legs knowing full well the amount of grief I’m going to hear at our next meeting. He later called the Secretary who has a key to every lock known to man, and they secured the Lodge.

So, where is the significant part of this story? I thought I’d never ask!

All of this could have been avoided if I’d have thought more like a Mason.

I let the door close, even with the rough ashlar there and ready for my will, the "brick" wasn’t to keep the door from closing, it was to keep the door from locking.

So many of us come to the front door, go into the Lodge Room and out the back door and on to other things. However, we are still Masons and are still rough ashlars. If we’re not at the Lodge to hold the door open then we’ll not be there to keep it from locking.

Each and every one of us came to the front door of our own free will and accord, we knocked and became Masons, in a survey recently done by a fellow Brother, 35 Masons were asked “Why did you become a Mason?” 29 answered, “To become a Shriner.”

Is the Shrine a great and noble organization? Oh, you bet!! They help and they give to the burned and crippled children at absolutely no cost! They visit children in local hospitals in full cartoon or clown costumes and entertain the

kids, they are some of the most selfless, thinking men I know. always willing to give. Yes, they are awesome, I can’t really come up with words to describe properly the honor they deserve.

The problem is that when a Mason goes on to other things, other appendent bodies for instance, his time gets so thinly spread with other activities and that of family, of course he hasn’t the time for the Blue Lodge. And in a lot of cases once they pass the Blue Lodge, they don’t look back other than staying current in paying dues.

Paying dues and carrying a card isn’t what makes a man a Mason. It’s showing up at the Blue Lodge from time to time to sit in a chair if needed, to give opinions on topics while at labor, to show the new guys coming in that he or they are joining an organization of a lot of men not just 8 or 9 look- ing for a cheap Monday night dinner.

It’s the fellowship, the clasping of hands, the friendly smiles and gleam in another Masons eyes when he sees you, it’s the little jokes or ribbing that we all give and get, from Brothers young and old. It’s the shared companionship that makes a Lodge of Masons, not the building, not the bumper stickers you can put on your car, not the card in your wallet, but the Brotherhood.

Fellowship, not necessarily membership, is “KEY” to a successful Lodge, as “Without fellowship there might not be membership in the future.”

Remember your Blue Lodge and we Brothers who yearn for your FELLOWSHIP...

Waco Renshaw
Junior Deacon
Temple Lodge No. 23 F. & A. M.
Jacksonville, Florida



City Of Ocala Dedicates Marion-Dunn Masonic Park

Grand Master Robert P. Harry, Jr., of the Grand Lodge of Florida and other Grand Lodge Officers were on hand in early spring when Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 and officials of the City of Ocala dedicated Marion-Dunn Masonic Park as part of the popular Jervey Gantt Recreational Complex.

The lease with the city allows the public to utilize most of the ten acres Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 has owned for the past 34 years, as part of the City’s overall recreation and parks program. Much of the property has actually been utilized by the recreation department for more than 25 years, and many people, including some city staffers, actually believed the southern 3.5 acres was part of Jervey Gantt Park, and they used it as such. Members of the Lodge allowed the use because that is what Masons are and what we do – we are part of the community and we serve the community, sponsoring little league teams, soccer teams, et cetera and serving where we can and are needed.

Grand Master Harry, City Council President Charles Ruse, Worshipful Master Paul Duscher and Immediate Past Master John Story unveiled the attractive sign designating the park. The property is located on heavily traveled S.E. 36th Avenue, with more than 30,000 cars a day seeing the community designated sign.

In return for the use of the property, the city has installed water lines to provide reclaimed water from the nearby sewer plant to water ten live oak trees and about two dozen crepe myrtle trees they planted to further landscape and beautify

the Lodge property. The city maintains the property and plans to install several pavilions for the use of the community. The property is used by little league football teams, cheerleading squads and soccer teams and for other recreational purposes, serving more than 2,000 children annually.

Members of Marion-Dunn Lodge voted unanimously to approve the lease. Worshipful Story said “This is a win-win situation. We have property that looks nice but is more than we need for a Lodge building and parking lot. The City has a shortage of park lands for the young people of Ocala. They have been using the property for more than 30 years, and

maintained a large portion of it. The City now has use of all of the land for recreational use, they maintain it all, they are beautifying our property, and we are proud to help the kids of Ocala and Marion County!” In addition, the Lodge saves more than \$2,000 annually in grounds maintenance. Secretary Paul Ferguson said he hopes other “businesses and organizations with excess property will consider allowing the city to utilize unused portions of their properties for recreational leases as have we – it is an idea whose time may have come!”



Left to right are, Past Master Worshipful Ladd Poehlman (hidden) Master when the city park project started; Right Worshipful William J. (Bill) Furse, Jr. 15th District District Deputy Grand Master for M.:W.: Harry; Master Paul D. Düscher shaking hands with M.:W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Worshipful John R. Story, Master when the lease was signed, and City Council President Charles Ruse, Jr.



M.:W.: Norman Getchell, Past Grand Master of Connecticut in 1987 and a member of Marion-Dunn Lodge; RH Gregory J. Wilson, District 15 District Instructor; County Commission Chairman Charles Stone, Past Master of Crescent City Lodge, M.:W.: John Gonsalves, Past Grand Master of Connecticut in 1988 and a member of Marion-Dunn Lodge; Right Worshipful William J. (Bill) Furse, Jr. 15th District District Deputy Grand Master for G.:M.: Harry; County Administrator Gen. Pat Howard, Master Paul D. Düscher of Marion-Dunn Lodge; Calvin “Popsicle” McCray of the City Park Department; Grand Master Harry; John Roach of the park department; Council President Ruse, Bill Parsons of the park department; County Commission Chairman Stan McClain; M.:W.: Grand Secretary Richard Lynn; R.:W.: Dale Goehrig; R.:W.: Danny Griffith, and R.:W.: Joe Basler.

Short Of Time Class In Key West by R.:W.: Jorge L. “George” Aladro

The drive to Key West is a gorgeous scenic route that takes us through the beautiful Overseas Highway, whose bridges connect a chain of islands called the Florida Keys. The bridges provide us with some of the most beautiful views of the ocean waters in North America, the early morning ride gives us breath taking sunrises and spectacular sunsets over their pristine waters.

In front of us we had a day full of activities with the initiation of five Entered Apprentices, passing of seven Fellow Crafts and raising of twelve Master Masons. Dade Lodge No. 14, F. & A. M. was the host and with the help of Brothers from other Lodges in the District as well as the neighboring Districts they would accomplish their mission.

Breakfast was a light fare of coffee, donuts and toast fresh from the bakery; this was done so as to get started as early as possible for it will be a long day before the task was completed. With earnest work the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degree’s were delivered to everyone’s delight and in a timely fashion after which there was a break for lunch.

After a wonderful lunch, the Brothers returned to the Lodge Room where the Lodge was opened in the Master Mason’s Degree and prepared to receive the

prospective Brothers who would be the candidates for that Degree. The first section went very smoothly under the guidance of R.:W.: Joe Basler, member of the Committee on Work.

While the Lodge was placed at ease, M.:W.: Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master of Masons of Florida, took charge of the East as King Solomon, and started the second section of the Degree. After he had performed several of the raisings, the positions were switched to give the Brothers present an opportunity to fill in the different chairs until the last candidate was brought in and the entire Degree exemplified.

This class was indeed very special, it not only had many dignitaries in the audience but in the class itself, with Brothers traveling from afar to see their relatives being raised as Master Masons. What a joy to see once again the community leaders wanting to become Masons.

The Candidates read as a Who’s Who book as the following picture shows some of the Brothers who were raised. A sincere welcome and congratulations go out to all the Brothers who made this event a success more especially the newly raised Brothers, WELCOME to the oldest and finest Fraternity known to mankind.



Left to right Front Row: R.:W.: Joseph Martin, Sr. Grand Deacon; R.:W.: Jorge L. “George” Aladro Grand Marshal Pro-tem; M.:W.: Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master; W.: David Zeh; Worshipful Master; R.:W.: Ray Laura D.D.G.M. of the 36th Masonic District; R.:W.: Joe Basler Committee on Work Zone 10 Chrmn.; Brother Pablo Marcos.

Second Row: Brothers Allen Averette; Deputy Fire Marshal, Peter Malott; Capt. K.W. Fire Dept.; Michael Cunningham, CEO Florida Keys AHEC; Steven Homes, Capt. Commanding Officer Naval Air Station, Key West; Charles “Chip” De Clue; Dennis Ward, Attorney.

Back Row: W.: Bill Hemmelgarn; Brothers Ron Saunders, State Rep Dist. 120; Barry Gibson, Key West City Commissioner; Julio Margali, Attorney, and Ryan Condella.



R. W. J. Dick Martinez
Senior Grand Warden

“Just do it.”

There is always a degree of fear when there is something new we are taking on. To me it is fear of the unknown. The fear is natural and will be there, but we must endure and take action anyway. Anthony Robbins says, “If you can’t, you must, and if you must, you can.” The very things we fear provide us the greatest opportunity for liberation and growth.

Brethren, I chose to use Masonic Education as the example for this article. As you can see this example can be utilized in any and all endeavors. I continually challenge myself to attain higher goals in many aspects of life. I challenge all of us to improve ourselves. Remember we are a Fraternity that takes good men and makes them better. As I have said many times, we, as part of the human race and as Masons in particular, should always be striving for perfection. Will we attain that goal? Probably not, but let us continually strive to be the best that we can possibly be.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Dick Martinez, Senior Grand Warden

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

Brethren,

I recently read a book authored by Jack Canfield entitled “The Success Principles.” The author writes about how to succeed in business: how to get from where you are to where you want to be. However, the message can be put to use in so many other areas in life, such as in our Fraternity.

Let us just look at the Masonic Education side of our Fraternity. How serious do we really take it past our ritual? Have we set a goal to make it better? I believe we should examine where we are and where we want to go. Once we have accomplished this we should move in the direction of setting the goals that will assist us in attaining our objectives.

Before setting the goals there are a few steps that need to be taken. First, we must take responsibility for where we are and be clear why we are here. Second, decide what we want to accomplish. Third, each particular Lodge must believe in its leadership not only in the Lodge but also at the Zone and State levels. To set the proper tone and we must believe in ourselves and our ability. Once we have identified the three steps we can unleash the power of goal setting.

In my case, every time I have set a goal it always seems a bit optimistic. However, when I “chunk it down” or break it into smaller pieces it is very attainable. I relate it to, “How do you eat an elephant?” - one bite at a time. This is how we must approach any and all goals that we set for ourselves personally or for our Fraternity as a whole.

Once we have arrived at where we want to go and have written our goals we need to release the brakes. We must get out of our comfort zone and stop re-creating the same experiences over and over.

We must remember that nothing happens until we take action. We can talk about changes and improvements all day long, but as we all know, talk is cheap, and we need to walk the walk. We can sit and plan and set goals, but until we implement the plan nothing will happen. To quote the Nike ads,



R. W. Jim Harris
Junior Grand Warden

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

My Brothers,

This year is flying by, and we are already five months into the 2008-2009 Grand Lodge year. Your Grand Lodge Officers have been traveling all around the State with the Grand Master. His message is received by well attended meetings with Brothers full of questions and encouragement.

The Grand Master has appointed an Independent Living Facility Committee to ensure the project stays on track and moves along as quickly as possible. I was asked to chair the committee and will do my best to see that the facility gets all the attention it needs. We are meeting regularly as a committee and have interviewed additional architectural and marketing firms that are very familiar with Independent Living Facilities and have expressed a strong willingness to be part of our team. We are anxious to offer Brothers the option of living in an Independent Facility with a Masonic environment. This project is a large undertaking and will take time, but it will be well worth the effort in many ways. First it will provide those independent Brothers a lifestyle where they can be surrounded by Masons and still have the comfort of being near our Masonic Home which has earned the reputation for being one of the best facilities in the country. It also gives a Brother and his family a level of relief knowing that should they need the assistance, and one never knows when that time is near, they will be close to the next level of care.

Brothers, I feel very proud to be your Junior Grand Warden and look forward to working to promote Masonry everywhere I journey. I enjoy Freemasonry and I love to be with my Brothers and their families. Please make every day a great day, and remember that you are the best advertisement we have to show the public who Masons are and what we do. Be proud of your Fraternity and live and enjoy everyday as a Mason.

Remember we are the Brothers who can make a difference in all that we do. We are the Brothers that can attract new candidates by our involvement with the community. We are the Brothers who were given this great Fraternity in good condition by other hard working Brothers who I am sure worked long and hard to ensure we could enjoy all it has to offer. We have been entrusted to preserve it for the next generation of good men willing to try to be better men.

God Bless You All.
Jim Harris, Junior Grand Warden



M. W. Richard E. Lynn, PGM
Grand Secretary

A Message From The Grand Secretary

Greetings from the Grand Secretary!

I wish to thank my Brothers for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Craft as Grand Secretary. Often I reflect on how much I enjoyed my travels in the late 80’s and early 90’s as I progressed through the Grand Lodge Elected Line. Serving as Grand Master in 1992, I was fortunate to spend time with so many friends and Brothers. It is great to be traveling once again with the Grand Lodge and renewing these friendships. As Grand Secretary, the challenges are many. I sincerely hope I will be able to live up to the challenges and your expectations.

The staff at the Grand Lodge Office is committed to service and excellence, and is to be commended for these endeavors. The movement towards a paperless environment and electronic records is progressing rapidly. Please feel free to contact our office with suggestions on how we may better be of service. My late father stated: “Do as much as you can in Masonry as long as it is fun!” Yes, with all the duties and travel it is still fun. I enjoy my duties and association with all the dedicated Grand Lodge Officers. They are committed to the principals of our Fraternity yet enjoy the many hours spent on your behalf. And yes, they know how to have fun and do.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary



M. W. Elmer G. Coffman,
PGM
Grand Treasurer

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brothers,

Let me first say “Thank You” for allowing me to continue to serve as your Grand Treasurer. This is certainly a job I enjoy very much, as it allows me to continue to be involved in Grand Lodge and work with a great Grand Lodge Staff, as well as a group of dedicated Grand Lodge Officers. With the dedication of Grand Lodge and the dedication of the Lodges around the State, only good things can happen in our Fraternity.

We are already seeing good things in our Lodges, as many of them are reporting an increase in the number of candidates they are receiving, and that is exciting. Our next challenge, after making these men Masons, is to get them involved and keep them active. We must make special effort to ensure the new Masons do not get discouraged by finding themselves relegated to the sidelines and slowly fade from our ranks. We must make Masonry exciting and appealing if we hope to continue to attract new members and to retain the ones we already have. One of the best ways to do this is to make them feel they are an integral part of the organization by giving them meaningful jobs with duties and responsibilities.

This is truly a busy time of year for the Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, District Instructors and Committeemen as we visit each of the Districts to attend the District Meetings. Although this means hours of driving time, it provides us such a wonderful opportunity to meet with the Brothers and their ladies around the State, to see old friends and to make new ones. I truly believe one of the greatest benefits we enjoy in Masonry is the friends we make along the way. Had it not been for Masonry, I would have never had the pleasure of meeting so many marvelous people through the years, and that definitely would have been my loss. If you have not attended your Lodge for some time, please make a special effort to do so in the very near future and rekindle that friendship, fellowship and comradery you so much enjoyed when you became a Mason.

May God bless you all and may He continue to bless our great Country and our great Fraternity.
Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer

Englewood Lodge No. 360 - 25 yr. Presentation Night - June 03, 2008

We had a great night and we thank everyone that helped with the Planning, Presentations and Refreshments! All in attendance had a great time.

R.:W.: Rodger Craig, R.:W.: Eric West, W.: Bob Holland and Lady Pam assisted with the 25 yr. Presentation to: R.:W.: Gary Schroeder P. M. No. 360 in 1987 & 1988 and PDDGM 1992. Authorized By: The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of FL and Signed By: The Grand Secretary M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn and Grand Master of Mason's of Florida - M.:W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr.



Rob, Deb, Pam, Kim & Elianna with her PaPa - Gary



Showing 25 yr. Certificate - during presentation 25 yr. Presentations From The Grand Lodge Of Florida were made to Bro. Gary Schroeder and Bro. Irving Hopkins.

Madeira Beach - Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Supports Florida Children's Burn Camp by Howard W. Knapp

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach recently made a \$250.00 donation to the Florida Children's Burn Camp. The camp began 16 years ago by a woman named Ruth Pierson who was burned in a house fire. During her trips for treatment she noticed that there was no place for children that had suffered a burn injury to meet other children with the same afflictions. Her dream of having a camp where burned children could meet once a year, interact with other children that had been burned and learn to feel like a burn survivor rather than a victim became a reality with the Burn Foundation.

Each year, roughly 60 children from across the State meet at Umatilla, Florida, for 4 days of burn camp. At camp they can swim in the heated pool, play on the slip-n-slide, shoot baskets in the gym, canoe, shoot archery,

and basically feel like a normal child without the stares they have become used to. The water activities are the favorite because for many of these children, this is the only time during the year they will be seen in a swim suit.

The money raised is spent totally on the children and the camp. They have no paid employees and everyone involved is a volunteer who gives up their vacation time to attend camp and participate in making this a weekend of lifetime memories for these kids.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is a fraternal organization dedicated to helping make the community a better place and frequently donates to worthy organizations such as the Florida Children's Burn Camp. For further information about Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, please visit the Lodge's website at www.gulfbeachlodge.org



l to r: Irene M. Gaccek, Madeira Beach Fire Rescue - Derryl B. O'Neal, Master of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge

Local Horse Donated To The Ft. Lauderdale Police Mounted Patrol



l to r: Sgt. Kevin Finn, Officer John Franco, Steve Travis, HOT SHOT, Dru Travis, Officer Duval Madrigal, and Officer Eric Sweet

Steve and Dru Travis of High Springs have donated their Tennessee Walking Horse, "Hot Shot," to the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department. Hot Shot, a ten-year-old gelding who stands 17 hands and 1,350 lbs., will make a great mounted patrol horse, states Steve. "He's an intimidating guy due to his size, but he was bred to be a gentle giant, he has not a mean bone in his body. He will be a public relations sensation."

Dru Travis, says he has been a pasture potato long enough and its time he went to work. Steve, who is a retired police officer, thought it was appropriate that Hot Shot get into police work. The Travis' have no doubt that he will make them proud.

Sgt. Kevin Finn of the Ft. Lauderdale Police Mounted Patrol, along with three other

mounted patrol officers traveled to High Springs on Sept. 2nd to pick up Hot Shot. Hot Shot will then enter a three-month training program to learn how to handle crowd control situations, work in traffic etc. Sgt. Finn said that due to his size, the mounted officer will have a high vantage point to be able to surveil mall parking lots, the beach and many other situations. He's perfect for police work.

The Travis' have two daughters and three grand children who live in the Ft. Lauderdale area. "It will be great that our grand kids will be able to visit Hot Shot, whenever they want," stated Dru, "but we will miss him. He's been a joy to have here and a great babysitter for the foals."

Brown Proficiency

The Suncoast Masters and Wardens Assn., which covers the 20th and 21st Masonic Districts, recently held their 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Saint Andrew's Links Golf Course (Dunedin, FL). Over 50 friends and Brothers participated and shared the opportunity to win numerous prizes, including a Harley motorcycle, a bass boat, \$15,000 cash, a \$500 Visa gift card, Nike golf clubs and much, much more. The trophies and cash prizes went to: first place - Dunedin Lodge No. 192; second place - Nitram Lodge No. 188 (sponsored by All R's Pest Control) and third place - Star Lodge No. 78. The event was

capped off with a free pig roast. This event helps to fund the Bill O'Brien Scholarship Program and contributes to our Masonic Home.

Districts 20 and 21 covers all of Pinellas County and West Pasco County.

W.: Derryl B. O'Neal, Vice President

W.:M.: Frank Harmon congratulates Chaplain Tom Gavagan on receiving his Brown proficiency card July 22nd



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Adopts A Class, Madeira Beach, FL

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located at 14020 Marguerite Drive in Madeira Beach, recently took part in the Adopt-A-Class program at Madeira Beach Middle School. Gulf Beach Lodge donated \$100.00 to Mr. David Tagliarini's Band program at the Middle School in an effort to help, aid and assist him with his classroom expenses. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is proud to be a part of this worthy program and encourages other organizations and individuals to do the same.

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 clean up 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.

Freemasonry is a fraternal order for men 18 years of age and older who desire to be serviceable to their community as well as to society in general. For further information regarding Freemasonry, or Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge in particular, visit our website at www.gulfbeachlodge.org. Meetings are held weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:45 p.m., all Masons are invited to attend.



l to r: Howard W. Knapp, Gulf Beach Lodge Secretary; David Tagliarini, Madeira Beach Middle School Band Director; Dick A. Sansom, Gulf Beach Lodge Master

Be a Leader; Make the Difference

District 18 Has A New Parade Float



District 18 has a new parade float. Truly one of the glorious aspects of Masonry is when a Brother; their family or something is in need, a Brother steps up to assist. The old parade float had seen better days. Pictured here (l to r) are W.: Chris Voss, R.:H.: Dennis Ricker (District Instructor), R.:W.: Carl Vause, Jr. (DDGM), R.:W.: Glenn Reynolds (PDDGM), W.: Bill Green and Brother Dean Sever at one of the July 4th city parades.



Brother Randy Jesmok, Senior Deacon of Leesburg Lodge No. 58, (far right) built the new parade float for District 18. The District Association purchased the banners. The float is now available for use. Brother Jesmok says he has a few more decorative ideas for the float. Brother Randy says if you have any ideas and would like to volunteer some available time, let him know. When completed the only thing missing will be YOU.

Initiates His First Freemason By Ted Barber

With the help of the 'Friendly' 10th Masonic District Degree Team Worshipful Master Gary Welhausen initiated Daniel Manning as an Entered Apprentice Mason at Lawtey Lodge No. 189 on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. Worshipful Clethan Johns from Sander-son Lodge No. 122 provided the lecture and Right Worshipful Tom Adams from Dawkins Lodge No. 60 read the Entered Apprentice Charge. Joey Delacruz, the present District Deputy Grand Master for the 'Friendly' 10th Masonic District attended the initiatory Degree representing the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Florida, Joe Fleites.



Pictured in the front row from left to right are: Tom Adams, Clethan Johns, Bob Nobles, Gary Welhausen, Daniel Manning, Joey Delacruz, Gerald Flynn and John Rosado. The back rows include Colon Coody, Harold Bell, Leaman Alvarez, Roy Weiland, John Belovich and Bryan Lingold.

Lake Butler Lodge No. 52 Raises Five New Master Masons

On May 14, 2008, a new record was set in Lake Butler Lodge No. 52 with five new Master Masons being raised and three of those coming from one family. Two Clyatt Brothers and a Brother in law (Ken Clyatt, Curtis Clyatt and Don Hicks) were raised by ‘Red’ Clyatt. The Worshipful Masters of Lawtey Lodge No. 189 and Raiford Lodge No. 82 each had the privilege to raise Bernard Kirley and Devin Monroe, respectively as Master Masons. Leaman Alvarez served as the Worshipful Master for the Degree, Worshipful Mark Munez provided the lecture which explained the significance of the Degree, and Sandy Huff, Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 gave the charge to the five new Master Masons. Over 46 Master Masons attended the historic event and the

Lodge dining room was filled to capacity as the evening meal was served prior to the Third Degree. Kenneth Clyatt, a Past District Deputy Grand Master, and a Master Mason for 61 years in Lake Butler Lodge attended the Master Mason Degree to watch his family members achieve the level of Master Mason. Brother Kenneth Clyatt’s son Mallet ‘Red’ Clyatt had the honor of raising his two sons and his son in law as Master Masons. Few men have ever had that treat of raising two sons and a son in law at the same Degree and this distinction is one that Red Clyatt and all that attended will never forget.

Ted Barber



Don Hicks talking to Ken Clyatt Sr.



Front Row:
Devin Monroe,
Curtis Clyatt, Ken Clyatt,
Leaman Alvarez,
Bernard Kirley,
Ernest Beeman,
Don Hicks, Mark Munez.

Back Rows: Colin Coody,
Ted Barber, Ron Ratliff,
Sandy Huff,
Seabie Rucker,
Mike Nolan,
Jerry Anderson,
George Barber, and
Joey Delecruz.



Leaman Alvarez presenting an Honorary Membership to Mike Nolan.

Micanopy Lodge No. 29 Gets A New Face Lift



Micanopy Lodge No. 29, F. & A. M., Micanopy, Florida, over the past two years has given the outside of the Lodge a new face lift. In addition to a new covered entrance way constructed of cedar wood, a new paint job and a new granite Lodge and Eastern Star sign, the latest improvement was the replacement of the louvered vent with a solid copper vent as shown in the photo. The copper louvered vent replaced the rotted out wooden louvered vent on the gable end of the building. The materials were furnished by W.: Marvin Davis and Brother Colin Jones. The louver was fabricated by Worshipful Master Marvin Davis from 16 oz. copper. The Letter G, with the Square and Compass, was fabricated from 10-gauge polished stainless steel. The louver was installed by Brothers Colin Jones, Cary McCollum, Zach Williams and Tim McKee on September 13, 2008. The Lodge is

now deciding on the type of lighting that will be installed to enhance the new addition. We are proud of our Lodge and its heritage and invite everyone to attend when visiting the Micanopy and Gainesville areas. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. The best suppers in this neck of the woods are prepared by our Faithful Chef, W.: Danny Rosser, P.M., at 7:00 p.m. and our Stated Communication begins at 8:00 p.m. On behalf of the Worshipful Master and Brothers of Micanopy Lodge No. 29.

Fraternally and Respectfully,

R.:H.: Sandy Huff, P.M.,
District Instructor,
14th Masonic District,
2008-2009

Omega Lodge No. 380 Fort Walton Beach, FL



Omega Lodge No. 380 celebrated its 30th Anniversary in May with a Dinner and the Presentation of four deserving Merit Service Star Awards to our Fraternity Brothers. Worshipful Master Jim Crum, far right presented these Brothers from left to right, the Omega Lodges Annual Donnie Pettis Award, with a Plaque and Gold Star Award for 2008, went to Brother Warren Hart Franklin J.:W.:, the Lodge Silver Star Award to R.: H.:, John Gray S.W., the Bronze Star Awards to W.: John Brown and Brother Robert Deponts, SS. These Awards are for their dedication and work in and the around the Lodge.



Master Mason Degree

On July 26, Thirty-six Brothers from several Districts and Lodges were present to witness R.:W.: Edward L. Bailey confer the Sublime Degree of Master Mason upon his Grandson, Scott Dennison Bailey. The Master Mason was raised by his father, Brother Paul Bailey, also of Omega. R.:W.: Larry Tomas delivered the lecture, and Ed Bailey delivered the charge. Brother Scott Bailey, is proudly serving in the USAF, is the fifth known generation of Masons to his family, and the second to be raised in Omega. This Degree was conferred as courtesy work for TEJON Lodge No. 104, Colorado Springs, CO. Pictured from left to right are Brother Paul Bailey, Brother Scott Bailey, and R.:W.: Ed Bailey.

Village Masons

Have you ever known someone for a long time and then found out they are a member of a Fraternity that you have been a member of for years? Masons were experiencing this at the Advent Christian Retirement Village in Dowling Park until recently. To be true to our obligations, I believed it was necessary to bring our Brothers together since we have so much in common.

One of my first encounters with a fellow Mason was in the ACV Bixler Memorial Church. I don't remember how the topic came up but as I was talking to the Head Usher, of 36 years, I discovered he was a Brother. From that day on, I greeted him as a Brother and a big smile would come to his face.

A couple of months later, there was a Golf Cart Christmas Parade here and I noticed another fellow I recently met was wearing a Shriner's Fez. I had no idea he was a Mason and that was the start of another fellowship for me.

I realized there must be more Masons here at the Village than I knew about. I got busy and planned a get together at our Community Center inviting all Masons and former Masons to attend. About ten attended. The group was very interested in continuing our meetings and agreed to bring in other Brothers that they were acquainted with.

After several meetings, a group of twenty Masons are now attending and sharing Masonic and Career experiences monthly. We are now able to recognize one another as we travel about the Village.

At a recent meeting we were honored to have a Past Grand Master of Masons in Florida, Ralph T. Miller (1986) attend our meeting. P.G.M. Miller recently moved to Live Oak and now attends regularly and feels right at home.



Our group now represents over 1,000 years of Masonic membership. Home Lodges are from many U. S. states and Panama. Two of the members recently moved their membership to Barrett Lodge No. 43 in Live Oak.

The following points must be kept in mind when visiting with our Senior Brothers.

1. They feel they are not be able to pass the examination to get into the Lodge. They were reassured this would not be a problem as long as they had their dues card.
2. Most of the men do not drive at night.
3. Several of the near-by Lodges have stairs and it would be difficult to navigate them.
4. Most are from other states and they don't want to move their membership.
5. They were all anxious to meet other Brothers knowing they have something in common, and need a place to tell their stories.

I volunteer every month to drive those interested to Barrett Lodge in Live Oak for a meeting. Since then, two Brothers have demitted to Barrett. It was exciting for a few of them to see a Degree presented for the first time in many years. It brought back memories.

A new dining facility is near completion here at the Village, we have plans to occasionally bring in speakers, and invite wives or significant others for a noon luncheon.

Brotherhood is alive and well here at the Advent Christian Retirement Village on the Suwannee River.

Don Mott, Secretary,
Hayward Lodge No. 45

On June 17, 1943, Clayborn Driggers was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons. He was passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on July 15, 1943 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on September 16, 1943. The Grand Lodge of Florida issued the 65- year Certificate of Good Standing to Worshipful Driggers on September 16, 2008. Clayborn earned the title of 'Worshipful' (Master of Lake Butler Lodge) in 1950. He served as a Junior Steward in 1989 and earned his 40, 50, 55, and 60 year Service Certificates of Good Standing in 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2003, respectively.

Clayborn and his wife Irene Driggers are presently residing at Still Waters West in Lake City, Florida. Clayborn is a life long resident of Union County. He retired from the U.S. Government's Department of Labor. Clayborn has been a 'Gator' and 'Tiger' fan all of his 92 years. He and Irene have two children, Marguerite and Clay. Marguerite and her husband, Wayne Larkin, reside in Gainesville, Florida. Clay and his wife, Cassie Driggers, reside in Lake Butler, Florida. Clayborn and Irene have 6

grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Seven Members of Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons traveled to Lake City on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, to present Clayborn Driggers with his 65-year Certificate of Good Standing. Marguerite and Wayne Larkin and Clay and Cassie Driggers were present for the ceremony and refreshments that followed. Joey DelaCruz, the present District Deputy Grand Master of the 'Friendly' 10th Masonic District representing Most Worshipful Joe Fleites, the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, and Worshipful Master Leaman Alvarez of Lake Butler Lodge presented the certificates, pins, and Grand Master's Coin. Right Worshipful Ted Barber served as the Chaplain and Right Worshipful George Barber read Worshipful Drigger's Masonic History during the ceremony. The ceremony and honor of receiving the 65-year Grand Lodge Certificate of Good Standing is one that rarely happens and is one that all who participated will not forget.

Clayborn Driggers Reaches Masonic Milestone! *By Ted Barber*



Pictured in the group photo behind Clayborn and Irene Driggers are from right to left: Leaman Alvarez, George Barber, Ted Barber, Bob Gaubatz, Joey DelaCruz, Wayne Larkin and Jerry Coutts not pictured (taking photo)

Grand Master's One Day York Rite Class

A York Rite One Day Class Honoring M. W. Robert P. Harry, Grand Master of Masons in Florida was held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 in Jacksonville, Florida. The Royal Arch and Royal & Select Mason Degrees and Knights Templar Orders were conferred in a single day. Thirty Companions were exalted, greeted and knighted during the day.

The day began with breakfast at 6:00 a.m The Mark Master Degree was portrayed first by St. Augustine Chapter No. 17. The Past Master Degree was presented by Jacksonville No. 12. The Most Excellent Master Degree was exemplified by Duval No. 48, and the Royal Arch Degree was given by Jacksonville No. 12. The Royal Master Degree was put on by an All-Florida Team. Lunch was served at 12:00 Noon, and then the Select Master Degree was presented by an All-Florida team, again.

The Commandery's Illustrious Order of the Red Cross was conferred by a combined Northeast Florida Templar Team. The Order of Malta was conferred by a select cast drawn from the First Coast and Central Florida, directed by Paul W. Friend, MIPGM of the Grand Council of Florida. Finally, the Order of the Temple was conferred by Damascus Commandery No. 2, K. T. All ritual work was completed by 7:00 p.m. Following some photographs and thank you's, the new Companions and Sir Knights were on their way home.

Most Worshipful Brother Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master of Masons was present for all the morning Degrees, and presented the charge for some of the Degrees. Most Illustrious Brother George Malone, M. I. Grand Master of the Grand Council R. & S. M. of Florida, participated in the Council Degrees. In the picture, Most Worshipful Brother Robert P. Harry, Jr. and Most Illustrious Companion George Malone, are seen with the class of new York Rite Masons in the morning. Seated in the front, from the left, with the One Day Class were: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida; and George Malone, then Most Illustrious Grand

Master, now M. I. Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida.

The New York Rite Masons came from various cities throughout Northeast Florida - Jacksonville, Lake City, Ormond Beach, Palatka, and St. Augustine.



Courtesy Work At Acacia Lodge No. 163

Anderson Lohr “Andy” Triggs was initiated as an Entered Apprentice, passed to the Degree of the Fellowcraft and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 8 August 2008. What made his Degree work unique is that virtually every officer on the obligating team was a Masonic relative bearing his surname.

He was obligated on all Three Degrees by his father, Ronald E. Triggs, Past Grand Master of Wyoming, and was conducted on all three Degrees by his grandfather, Eldon D. Triggs, Sr., Past Master of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 and Past Grand Lecturer. Senior Warden in all the obligations was his elder Brother, Eldon D. Triggs, II. Junior Warden responsibilities were shared by his cousin, Lloyd W. Triggs, Past Grand Master of Alaska, and Howard W. Triggs, three-time Past Master, Sherburne Lodge No. 95, Elk River, Minnesota. They also shared Senior Steward duties with Howard’s son, Jay Triggs, of Sherburne Lodge No. 95.

The long form King Solomon was performed with each member of his family taking a part, his father as King Solomon; his grandfather Eldon D. Triggs, Sr. as Junior Grand Steward; and his Brother Eldon D. Triggs, II as Senior Grand Steward; Lloyd W. Triggs as Junior Grand Deacon; Jay Triggs as Sea Captain and Wayfaring Man; and Howard Triggs as First Craftsman. The second section lecture in the Entered Apprentice Degree was given by Lloyd W. Triggs, PGM, and the G Lecture and Charge in the Fellowcraft Degree was given by his father, Ronald E. Triggs, PGM; and the second section lecture of the Master Mason’s Degree was given by his cousin, Howard W. Triggs, P. M.

Breakfast and lunch were hosted by Andy’s father and later in the evening, a dinner was held in a private room at a local resort with the seven Triggs Masons in attendance (enough to open Lodge).

This adventure began in October of 2007 when Andy said to his father, “I think it’s time I became a Freemason.” Andy resides in the Stuart, Florida area and permission was requested to make an informal inquiry of the Grand Master of Florida as to the feasibility of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 performing these Degrees as a Courtesy. The Grand Master of Florida and his Grand Secretary responded in a superlative manner, assuring that the Courtesy Work could be done, and referring the inquiry to a very active Lodge in Andy’s area, Acacia Lodge No. 163 in Stuart, Florida. The secretary of that Lodge, Brother Paul Friend, was of enormous assistance, coordinating with Andy for his initial investigation, submission of his petition, his investigation and his election. Upon his election to membership by initiation in Acacia Lodge No. 163, Brother Friend requested of the Grand Secretary, Richard E. Lynn, Past Grand Master and Most Worshipful Grand Master of Florida, Joe A. Fleites, that the work be performed, by courtesy, by Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 of the Grand Jurisdiction of Wyoming. This kindness on the part of the Florida Grand Lodge enormously expedited this entire process.

Assembling the cast for the Three Degrees was quite easy with the active participation of the Triggs family members. Parenthetically, there are two other members of the Triggs family who are Master Masons who were unable to be in attendance, Ronald B. Triggs of Anchorage, Alaska; and Donald A. Triggs of San Antonio, Texas. Howard’s daughter, Tiffany Triggs, is a Past Honored Queen of Bethel No. 48 in Anoka, Minnesota and is a past Grand Bethel Honored Queen of the Grand Bethel of Minnesota. Andy’s sister and Ronald E. Triggs’ daughter, Angel Triggs, an actress and author in Hollywood, is a past member of Bethel No. 39, IOJB, in Cheyenne.

Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 responded magnificently and particular thanks is due its Senior Warden, Elvin “Al” Ehrhardt, who assisted in filling out the cast in the long form and with some of the lectures.

The family had assembled by the 6th of August in Cheyenne, and arrangements were made for a continental breakfast and for lunch on the day of the Degrees. Because of his work schedule, the candidate was to leave West Palm Beach on U.S. Airways, arriving in Denver at 9:30 p.m. that evening. Once our candidate was in his seat with his seatbelt fastened, having listened carefully to the instructions on how that task is be accomplished, he and his fellow passengers were informed that they were unable to start the engines on the aircraft and that the flight was cancelled. Through considerable effort on his part, he was able to locate a seat on a United flight leaving from Ft. Lauderdale at 6:55 the following morning, arriving in Denver at 11:42 the morning of the Degrees. The members of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 were informed of the delay and could not possibly have been more understanding and accommodating. Andy’s father drove to Denver during the lunch, picked him up at the airport and drove back to the Masonic Temple in Cheyenne for the Degrees, arriving just after 1:30 p.m.

Andy was immediately handed over to his cousin, Howard W. Triggs, and to Henry W. Kaphangst, P. M. of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1. P. M. Kaphangst served as third ruffian for Andy’s father and brother and was understandably enthusiastic about serving in the same capacity for the youngest Triggs Mason. Because of the delay, the very first time his grandfather saw him on that day is when he opened the door to the preparation room and said, “Who Comes Here?” The Entered Apprentice Degree and lectures were flawlessly performed and the only break during the proceedings was while the candidate was returned to the preparation room. Immediately thereafter, Andy received the Fellowcraft Degree and the performance of the Stair Lecture by Casper Landman, Senior Deacon of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1, was as impressive as it was perfect.



Andy Triggs was thereafter returned to the preparation room and the Lodge again took about a 3 minute recess until after the Master Mason’s obligation was conferred. Again with a break of only 3 or 4 minutes, the Lodge began the long form King Solomon. The third section lecture was performed by Michael McGrady, Esq., a law clerk with the Tenth United States Circuit Court of Appeals and his work was flawless and inspiring.

The Degrees were conferred over the course of 5 hours and 20 minutes without any haste, but with extraordinarily brief breaks, and the work was beautifully performed by the members of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 and by the members of Acacia Lodge No. 163, Brian Sandlian, P. M., and Capital Lodge No. 54, Harry Furrey, P. M.

At the conclusion of the Degrees, the lectures and the Bible presentation, the Stewards, Eldon D. Triggs, Sr., and Eldon D. Triggs, II, escorted Anderson L. Triggs to the east where his father read to the Craft the narrative to his citation for the Bronze Star for Valor he received for combat heroism in Afghanistan. Andy is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a degree in Business and Marketing, and is employed as the Vice President for Operations for Palm Beach Pharmaceuticals. He is the proud father of 2-1/2 year old Christian Jacob Triggs and will soon be acquiring both MBA and JD Degrees.

His grandfather, Eldon D. Triggs, Sr., earned the Purple Heart for wounds in action on 21 February 1945, while aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga (CV-3) at the Battle for Iwo Jima. He is retired from the United States Treasury Department and is a Tax and Management Consultant in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He is a Past Master of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1 and a Past Grand Lecturer, an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite, a Past Patron of Mizpah No. 36, OES, a 30 year member and 11 year secretary of the York Rite Bodies in Wyoming, a Past Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, and is the Secretary-Treasurer for the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund. Eldon is a past President and past Commander in the Cheyenne Chapter No. 5, National Sojourners and the Alexander Hamilton Camp of the Heroes of 76.

Eldon D. Triggs, II, has both a Bachelor and Master’s Degree in aerospace engineering from Auburn University and is a doctoral candidate at Tuskegee University where he teaches aerospace engineering. He served 8 years in the active Army and Army National Guard in both artillery and infantry. He was raised as a Master Mason in Cheyenne Lodge No. 1, October 1993. He is a life member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of Wyoming and a 32nd Degree.

Lloyd W. Triggs is a two-time Past Master of Tanana Lodge No. 3 in Fairbanks, Alaska; he organized and is Past Master of North Pole Lodge No. 16 in North Pole, Alaska; a Past Grand Master of Masons in Alaska; an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree; a Past Grand High Priest and Past Illustrious master of the Cryptic Rite; an Honorary Legion of Honor and an Emeritus Member of the Order of DeMolay; a three-times Past Patron of the Midnight Sun Chapter No. 6, OES in Fairbanks, Alaska; Past President of the Farthest North Shrine Club; Past President of the National Sojourners Polaris Chapter No. 369; and a member of Sherburne Lodge No. 95 in Elk River, Minnesota. He is a retired cement and construction contractor.

Howard W. Triggs is a three-time Past Master of Sherburne Lodge No. 95, a member of the Scottish Rite, 32nd Degree, and a life member of the York Rite, St. Cloud, Minnesota. He is a real estate broker and appraiser, a land developer and a trucking company owner, and is the Mason responsible for Anything Goes Trucking, Inc. trailer which displayed the Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Jobs Daughters, DeMolay and Boy Scout logos throughout the country which has attracted such National attention. He is the nephew of Lloyd W. Triggs and the father of Jay Triggs, a Master Mason in Sherburne Lodge No. 95 and a Senior at Moorehead State University, Moorehead, Minnesota.

Ronald E. Triggs is a Past Master of Cheyenne Lodge No. 1, Past Grand Master of Wyoming, 2005-2006, an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree, a life member of the Scottish Rite, and an Attorney in the active practice of law in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He is a retired Colonel of Infantry in the Army Reserve. Ron is a Past President and past commander in the Cheyenne Chapter No. 5, National Sojourners and the Alexander Hamilton Camp of the Heroes of 76. He has a BA and MPA in Political Science, a JD in law and is a graduate of the Command & General Staff College and the Army War College. Attached is a cast list for the Degrees and photographs of cast remaining at the end of the day, as well as the family members.

To each and every member of the cast go the heartfelt thanks of the Triggs family for their kindness, courtesy and remarkably good work. Copies of this article are being forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Florida with heartfelt appreciation to the Grand Master, Joe A. Fleites, Grand Secretary Richard E. Lynn, PGM, the Master and Wardens of Acacia Lodge No. 163, and particularly its Secretary.

There are two sets of three generations in the photograph of the Triggs family, and it is presumed by all that Andy’s son will continue the family’s Masonic legacy.



Backpacks and School Supplies Presented To Students

Members of the Masonic Community Lodge at 402 W. Waters Ave. in Tampa made a backpack and school supply presentation to E. L. Bing Elementary School in Tampa. Robert L. Herman, II, Robert Theibodeaux, Matt Jones and Robert L. Herman, Sr. went to the school to give Vicky Taylor’s class new backpacks filled with school supplies. It sure was good to see the faces of the children light up when they got the new backpacks. They sure were happy!



Leesburg Lodge Serves Weekly Fellowship Breakfast

About two years ago a new dual member, W.: Ron Cottman, now of Leesburg Lodge No. 58 F. & A. M. in Leesburg, Florida, mentioned that his home Lodge in California had started a weekly Coffee Klatch while he was Master of the Lompac Lodge No. 262. The Tyler and chief cook at the time, Fred Neilson, ran with the idea. The first week coffee and a hot pastries were served. Since the Lodge has a large commercial grade kitchen, the next week, eggs, home fried potatoes, sausage patties, biscuits & sausage gravy and orange juice were added to the menu.

The weekly breakfasts average between 20 and 30 participants each Tuesday morning between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Many are officers and members of the Lodge. However, we have many wives and friends & neighbors who come each week. In addition, several uniformed Law Enforcement Officers come for breakfast and conversation on a regular basis. One of the local High Twelve Clubs has its monthly Board Meeting at the Lodge after the High Twelvians have enjoyed a full breakfast.

Currently, Bro. Don McIntyre, Jr. Warden, and his wife, Nina, are principal cooks along

with Jr. Steward, Richard Cartier. Others who help out in the kitchen are: Larry Duff, Sr. Steward; Richard Ecott, Sr. Warden; W.: Bill Green, Worshipful Master; and Fred Neilson, Tyler.

The breakfasts are served every week except on election days when Lake County uses the dinning room for voting purposes. No set fee is charged for the breakfasts – but donations are accepted.

Dr. Ronald J. Cottman has a Ph.D. in Physics. He retired as Director of Engineering for Litton Aero Products. He has published several books including one on how to revitalize a Masonic Lodge. In his book he outlines how a Lodge can breathe new life into itself by taking a team approach to analyzing the Lodge’s shortcomings and playing upon its good points. W.: Cottman is an accomplished musician. He plays piano, organ and drums. He has lead his own band and is a choral director. Early in his career he lead The Blue Jackets Choir at Great Lakes, IL.



l to r: Brothers Fred Neilson, Larry Duff, Don McIntyre and Richard Cartier

Randy Duane Wilkey

On September 21st, at 6 p.m. many, many Brothers, family and friends, attended R.:W.: Randy Wilkey’s Masonic Service, at Hooper’s Funeral Home.

R.: W.: Randy was born on October 24, 1957, in Battle Creek, Michigan. R.: W.: Randy was called to the Celestial Lodge above on September 17, 2008. Interment for R.: W.: Randy was on Monday, September 22, 2008, 10 a.m. at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. R.:W.: Randy was Raised a Master Mason on September 26, 2002, in Dunnellon Lodge No. 136. He loved being a Mason and a Member of our great Fraternity. I had the privilege of working with R.:W.: Randy and appointing him as the District Deputy Grand Master for the 15th Masonic District for 2008. R.:W.: Randy is survived by his Wife of 26 years Paula, Mother and Father, Alma and Dewey Wilkey, Brother Scott, Sister Melanie and other family members.

God Bless Paula and the entire Wilkey family.

Fraternally,
Joe Fleites, Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Florida

School Supplies Presented

On September 26, 2008, Palma Ceia Lodge No. 290 presented school supplies to its adopted school teacher’s class at Henry Grady Elementary.

*Pictured l to r:
P. M. Rayferd Roy (Tyler),
Phyllis Driggers and
P. M. Woody Newcomb
(Marshall) along with
students from
Ms. Driggers Early
Education Learning
Program.*



Annual Sixth Grade Essay Contest

On 3 Jun 2008, representatives of Palm Bay Lodge No. 397, Palm Bay, Fla., presented awards to the winners of the annual Sixth Grade Essay Contest that the Lodge has sponsored at Palm Bay’s Columbia Elementary School for the past several years. This year’s subject was “What can I do to make my neighborhood a better place to live in?” We had 12 entries this year.

“It was really interesting to read the students’ essays,” stated W. Bill and W. Roger, who also judged the entries. “You get some interesting insights into what

they are thinking”.

Palm Bay Lodge has been supporting Columbia Elementary School in various ways since the Lodge was founded in 1998. We provide a donation of \$50 a month to the Kindergarten class to help the teachers provide a more varied set of activities, and a few years ago we started the Essay Contest.

In the photograph are W. Bill Pitman, P. M., presenting on behalf of sitting W.:M.: Steve Kendall, and W. Roger Seigel, P. M., Lodge Youth Activities Coordinator, along with winners Whitney Sylliac (First Prize), Tiffany Welch (Second Prize, Jeramey Millspaugh (Third Prize), and Honorable Mention winners Jay Rowland, Kyle Johnston and Bryan Lopez.



Joint effort With Initiation



On Thursday night, June 26, 2008, Lake Butler Lodge with assistance from the “Friendly” 10th Masonic District Degree Team initiated three new Entered Apprentice Masons. Leavy Robinson was initiated into Lake Butler Lodge, Phillip Crawford and Mark VanAllen were initiated into Dawkins and Sanderson Lodges, respectively.

The Entered Apprentice or First Degree in Freemasonry was conferred by Right Honorable Leaman Alvarez. The lecture for the Degree was presented by Cleathan Johns, and the Charge was read by Right Worshipful George Barber.

l to r: Phillip Crawford, Leavy Robinson, Leaman Alvarez, Mark VanAllen, Bob Moody, Cleathan Johns, Duane Renard, Colan Coody, Don Hicks, George Barber, Tom Adams, Coy Pacetti, and Kenneth Clyatt.

Scholarships Presented

On June 3rd, PDDGM Joe Paul presented the scholarship to Monica Hall from Mosley High School in Lynn Haven, FL.

l to r: PDDGM Joe Paul, Mrs. Hall, her daughter Monica along with W.: Tony Brannen of Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314.



Child ID Program a Success



The 15th District had a very successful Child ID today hosted at McDonalds. One Hundred and Eighteen ID's were done. Brother Nathan Pyles was instrumental in the organization and the 15th District DeMolay participated.

Amelia Lodge Award Night

Amelia Lodge No. 47, F. & A. M. recently honored some of our County’s finest, bravest and brightest at their Annual Community Service Awards Night. Over 100 people were in attendance to witness Lodge award a plaque and small honorarium to the City Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year, City Police Officer and Honorable Mention Police Officer of the Year;



County Sheriff’s Law Enforcement and Support Personnel of the Year; County Firefighter of the Year for both 2006 & 2007; Nassau County Teacher of the Year and School Related Employee of the Year. The respective heads of agencies all spoke highly of their honored employees listing their accomplishments and acts of selflessness, dedication and commitment that were the catalyst for their awards. Amelia Lodge is proud to honor and recognize these dedicated men and women and plans to continue this tradition for generations to come.

1 to r: First Row L to R: Brenda Williams, Nassau County School Related Employee of the Year; Lt. Glenn Harper, Nassau County Fire Rescue, Firefighter of the Year; Officer Jason Hepler, Fernandina Beach Police Department, Honorable Mention Officer of the Year; Detective Freddie Peake, Fernandina Beach Police Department, Officer of the Year; Deputy Hope Herrin, Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Division Officer of the Year; Lawana Ware, Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Administrative Support Staff Employee of the Year; Melissa Bain, Fernandina Beach Fire Department, Paramedic / Firefighter of the Year; Jean Lamar, Nassau County Teacher of the Year; Lt. Robert Beasley, Fernandina Beach Fire Department, Fire Officer of the Year.

Second Row 1 to r: Lt. Brian Edwards, Nassau County Fire Rescue, Firefighter of the Year 2006; Dr. John Ruis, Nassau County Superintendent of Schools; Captain David Bishop, Fernandina Beach Police Department; Chief Chuck Cooper, Nassau County Fire Rescue; Sheriff Tommy Seagraves; Orlando Avila, Master of Amelia Lodge No. 47; Chief Danny Leeper, Fernandina Beach Fire Department.

Annual Jay Outdoor MM Degree

On June 28th, Jay Lodge No. 176, held it’s Annual JAY OUTDOOR MM DEGREE at Pitman Pond, which is located off Highway 4 in Santa Rosa County. This was the 27th year for this Outdoor Degree. There were 92 Master Masons in attendance. The members of Jay Lodge served the fish fry dinner, with some assistance with the wonderful desserts from the local Eastern Star Chapter. A GREAT meal was consumed by all. The honoree for this Degree was Wor. Brother Fred Stouky who travels from Tennessee every year to assist the members of Jay Lodge with the Degree. Wor. Brother Stouky is an honorary member of Jay Lodge No. 176, perpetual member and P. M. of Cornerstone No. 386 in Port St. Lucie and is currently Secretary of Quebec Lodge in Tennessee. R.: W.: Dick Rush came down from Lodge No. 341, Greentown, Indiana to participate in the raising of his Brother John to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. We were even Blessed by The Great Archi-



tect of the Universe. While we were surrounded by storms and lightning all around us, it remained clear overhead with a slight breeze. Anyone living in or near the panhandle of Florida should plan to attend the annual Jay Outdoor Degree, which is held the last Saturday of June.

John Mick P. M.,
Zone No. 1
Chairman Public Relations

Teddy Bears To Police Officers

On July 1, 2008, the members of Havana Lodge No. 167, presented approximately 45 teddy bears to the Havana Police Dept for the Bears for Bears Program. This program provides teddy bears to police officers to be given to children when the officers are called to domestic violence situations or cases where a child may be

traumatized. The members of Havan Lodge No. 167 plan to make this an annual event. In the picture, W.: Bro. Tom Rawsthorne (far right) is seen with Chief Glynn Beach (far left) of HPD and members of the HPD.

Thanks

Tom Rawsthorne



Two Blood Brothers Share Long Awaited Experience

Historic Morningstar Lodge No. 94 in the tiny community of Connor in Marion County was filled with excitement like none ever seen in its’ long history on June 12. It was the day two Masonic Brothers had long waited for, the day two blood Brothers has likewise eagerly awaited, and it was shared by Grand Master Joe A. Fleites, three Past Grand Masters and a long list of Grand Lodge, District and Zone Officials. For R.: W.: Benjamin Franklin Shealy it had been a difficult road these past few months as he struggled to regain his speech after a stroke he suffered in February, so he could fulfill his pledge to his Brother, W.: George Nuby Shealy. “Nuby promised me years ago, he would present my 50 year pin, which he did March 20. I promised him I would present his 60 year pin, which I did on June 12,” the 94 year old younger Brother said, beaming with pride and accomplishment. For the 97 year old Nuby Shealy – honored several years ago when the Florida Legislature with the official designation of the intersection of State Roads 40 and 315 as “Nuby’s Corner” - he was the same old Nuby – his jokes came easily, his love for his family evident, and perhaps a bit awed with



W.: Nuby Shealy and W.: T.C. Grant, who came in together 60 years ago, and Morningstar Master W.: Keith Poole.

four Grand Masters seated in his beloved Morningstar Lodge at one time. “We’ve had a Grand Master visit us before, but never had four of them on one night,” Worshipful Nuby said. The Brothers Shealy are legendary in their love and work for Masonry in the 15th and old 14th District. R.: W.: William J. Furse, Jr., Past District Deputy Grand Master and Past Master of Inglis Lodge No. 324 gave Bro. Nuby credit for saving Inglis Lodge. “We were down to only a few members and he just kept coming and encouraging us and he saved Inglis Lodge – no doubt about it,” he said. Sharing the evening was Worshipful T.C. Grant, who was raised with W.: Nuby in 1948 in Morningstar Lodge. Slowed with advancing age, Brother Nuby now uses a walker, while Brother T.C. uses a motorized wheel chair, but they had many thanks and well wishes for their Brothers in Lodge and were full of “old war stories” about their Raising as Master Masons, and their families, friends and Brothers in Lodge. Enjoying the evening with M.: W.: Fleites were Past Grand Master Robert P. Harry, Jr., and Past Grand Masters Norman Getchell and John Gonsalves, who served Connecti-



W.: Nuby Shealy, M.: W.: Joe Fleites, R.: W.: B F Shealy and R.: W.: Randy Wilkey of the 15th District.

cut in 1987 and 1988, Grand Marshall Nicholas Canora, R.: W.: Randy Wilkey, District Deputy Grand Master for the 15th Masonic District, and along with a long list of Past District Deputy Grand Masters and Masters and Brothers from other Lodges.



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Pioneers Days Parade



Englewood Lodge No. 360 participated in the annual Pioneers Days Parade on September 1st for the third straight year in Englewood, FL. The float was pulled by Bro. Bill Zett. W.M.; Bob Holland; S.W.; Mike Cripps; Chaplain Gordon Byer, Jr.; Secretary Gene Jeffers, P. M.; R.W.; Gary Schroeder and granddaughter. Bros. Mike Misemer and Scott Budwitz and his daughter rode on the float and gave carnations to the ladies and candy to the children on the parade route. Pamphlets promoting the Child I.D. Program and Freemasonry were distributed.

Gene Jeffers, . P. M.,
Secretary

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Welcome to the Grand Lodge of Florida



Be a Leader; Make the Difference