

The Florida Mason



Grand Lodge of Florida
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Grand Lodge Officers
2012 - 2013

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: **Jorge L. Aladro**
(Palm Bay)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: **Danny R. Griffith**
(Orange Park)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: **James W. Ford**
(Valrico)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: **Steven P. Boring**
(DeLand)

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

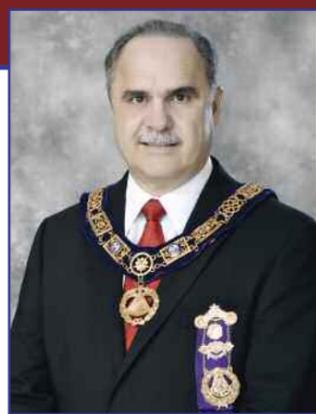
GRAND SECRETARY
M.: W.: **Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.**
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues of *The Florida Mason* should be sent to, Larry Scott, Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339
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E-News submissions should be sent to Larry Duff - 352-874-2164
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M.: W.: **Jorge L. Aladro**,
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

My Brothers,

I come to you once again to thank you for the unique opportunity you have given me to serve this Great Craft of ours. We have dedicated this year to provide the Lodges and Brethren any assistance and support they needed only for the asking. It is our hope you continue to seek assistance in order that we can continue to improve ourselves in Masonry.

As of the writing of this article we are but one visit away from completing this year's Grand Master's Official Visits to the Districts, I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed visiting with the Brethren across this State, the only drawback to it, is that they seem like doctor's visits too fast and don't get to spend enough time with all my Brothers.

However, I will tell you that Lady Bonnie and I will treasure every single visit for the rest of our lives and truly appreciate all the courtesies and hospitality everyone has shown us in our travels, the new friends we have made, and our old friends which have always been there, we truly love all of you. Thank you for sharing your lives with us and making us feel so welcome.

Soon we will be facing two issues in our Lodges one of Election of Officers and the other of Non-Payment of Dues. I implore my Brothers that in both of these issues that we follow the spirit of the law and that we let the regulations, duties, and obligations enjoined on us to help us make the right call in all our actions.

I would like to remind our Brethren that electioneering is a violation of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida and that we as Masons should not allow any portion of it to take part in our Lodges. Remember to vote for the Brother that is qualified and not for your friend that has not done a good job or a friend's choice of his friend. Vote for the good of the Order, Vote for Masonry, the future well being of your Lodge is in your hands.

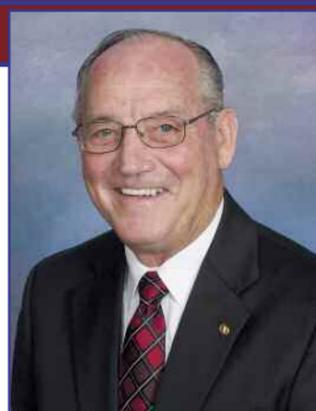
Did you know that we raise more Masons than we lose to death, however our main problem is retaining the members we have because they move again, they are getting older and don't attend or maybe they feel they cannot afford it. My Brothers, Non-Payment of Dues is everyone's business, it is NOT just the responsibility of the Secretary or even just the Worshipful Master, although they are in charge. We took an oath to watch out for our Brothers and this is the time to show what we are made of.

Let us come forth and volunteer to reach to out these Brothers that to no fault of their own may not know or understand all of the opportunities they may have, to avoid being suspended for NPD's. My Brothers we owe this much to those that are our Brothers, be especially careful with those Brothers late in years that may be coming up on exemption from dues for their upcoming 50th anniversary of service to the Craft, let us not be too hasty, let's do our due diligence to truly assist these Brothers. Let the departure if there is to be one, be of their making and not because of our lack of caring. There is always a way to keep those that really want to remain Brothers in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Hard to believe but "2012" is coming to a close pretty fast, my family, together with Bonnie and I want to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as we pray that our nation and the world becomes a gentler and kinder world to live in.

Your humble servant and Brother,
Jorge L. Aladro
Grand Master

**"Be A Leader;
Make It Happen."**



R.: W.: **Danny R. Griffith**,
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

First of all, I want to thank everyone for all the support and encouragement you have given me this year. It's always great to visit the Districts and receive a warm greeting from everyone.

As your Deputy Grand Master, one of my duties is to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home. During the year I have been asked on several occasions "What does the Board of Trustees do?" and I am going to try to answer this question in this article. The Board is made up of nine Brothers who serve on the following Committees: Long Range Planning, Admissions, Budget, and Activities. These Committees work very closely with the Administrator of the Masonic Home and her staff to ensure that the needs of our Home are met on a timely basis.

The Long Range Planning Committee is made up of Brothers who are knowledgeable in building trade areas such as facilities management and construction. This Committee is chaired by R.: W.: Stan Hudson and they work very closely with the Masonic Home Director of Maintenance. They begin work at 7 a.m. on the Saturday of Board Weekend and continue meeting throughout the day and again on Sunday morning. The projects they are currently working on include planning for the replacement of the roof on the nursing center and repaving the parking lots surrounding the Home. These are very costly projects and require close attention to detail and administration. The

Committee remains in constant contact with Masonic Home Director of Maintenance throughout the month.

The Admissions Committee is responsible for screening all applications for admission to our Masonic Home to ensure that they meet all the requirements. This is a very time consuming process and the Committee must work tireless hours during the month in order to accomplish this task. This Committee is chaired by R.: W.: Steven Teal. The Committee is made up of Brothers who are Pharmacists, Medical Doctors, Lawyers, and businessmen. The Committee works very closely with the Masonic Home Administrator, the Director of Nursing, and other members of the Masonic Home Staff.

The Budget Committee is responsible for ensuring that adequate funding is being provided to support our Home and that these funds are being spent wisely. This Committee is chaired by R.: W.: John Karroum. R.: W.: John is a Medical Doctor and has an extensive background in medical administration. The other member of this Committee is a financial advisor and planner. This Committee works closely with our Administrator.

R.: W.: Raymond Ali is the Secretary to the Board in addition to serving on the Admissions Committee.

All of the members of the Board work closely with each other to provide the very best service to our beautiful Masonic Home and the Residents. Our goal is to ensure that we remain a "Five Star" Facility and provide the very best of care to our Residents.

R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith,
Deputy Grand Master

If you would like to receive the "Discourse" please send an email to: jlageorge@bellsouth.net.
The Discourse's purpose: "My Brothers, the newsletter is intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking; what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge."



*R.:W.: James W. Ford,
Senior Grand Warden*

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

Brethren,

Our Fraternity is a very unique organization. It is the world's oldest and largest organization of its kind. It is a place where men, young and old, having various interests and backgrounds can come together in an effort to better themselves and better the communities in which they live. At the same time, they can enjoy the time together as men and Masons in the bonds of "Friendship and Brotherly Love." This is what Masonry is all about!

As the world around us changes, we should remember that our obligations to each other, to those around us, to our Lodges, to our Fraternity, and the obligations we have to our communities should never change.

Our Forefathers have provided us with a rich heritage - a heritage for which we should be proud - a heritage which has provided us with this great Country in which we live and in which many Masons were involved. Many of our Lodges have this same rich heritage and we should strive to continue this legacy into the future. The future is ours - ours to decide what we will do and how we will do it. It is ours to determine where we will go and how we will get there. The future is in our hands. What legacy will we leave to those who come after us?

We, as Masons, have the responsibility to carry this heritage forward. We have the responsibility to leave this place a better place than we found it. Yes, we have the responsibility, in all that we do, to place Masonry first. In all our discussions, in our meetings, in our communications - Masonry should come first. When there's dissension between Brothers - Masonry should come first. When there's dissension in the Lodge Room - Masonry should come first. Let's not take one side or the other. Let's not side with divisiveness where no one wins. When Masonry is placed first, everyone wins.

As we come to the end of the year, it is a time to enjoy family and friends and enjoy the rich holiday traditions that we all cherish. I want to take this time to wish everyone a Most Happy and Glorious Holiday Season and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I also want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Senior Grand Warden. If I can be of any service to you at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
James W. Ford
Senior Grand Warden



*R.:W.: Steven P. Boring,
Junior Grand Warden*

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

My Brothers,

We have had a great start to our Grand Lodge Year. The Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and I, along with our ladies, had a most interesting and educating trip to New York. We spent time at the MMRL, and the Masonic Home of New York. The laboratory tour was most informative and introduced us to what seemed to be "Star Wars" technology. Our money is helping accomplish many things that were only dreams a short time ago. The Home was also very interesting. They have many different issues to contend with, including their sheer size, over 500 Residents, and especially their weather.

In early August, we went to the Southeastern Masonic Conference. During our short stay, we met and talked with our counterparts in several other states. It was most informative to see that they have the same

problems we have. We have established a rapport with them that will be most helpful in the future.

We continue to travel around the State visiting both District Meetings and regular Lodge Communications. I want to invite all Junior Wardens of the Lodges in each District to come out and visit the District Meetings. This will give me the opportunity to shake your hand and get to know each of you.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Steven P. Boring
Junior Grand Warden



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

A Message From The Grand Secretary

First and foremost I wish to extend, on behalf of the Grand Lodge Staff and myself, a healthy and prosperous Holiday Season. No matter your chosen faith we all have much to be thankful for. Family, freedom, and friends are what I am most thankful for.

I can tell you that the friends I have made through the Masonic Organizations are much appreciated and cherished; and I look forward to making more every day.

The staff at your Grand Lodge Office has been very busy this year. Many new projects have been started and others concluded. They have all stepped up to the plate to cover the two positions that are open at this time. All of this without the need for overtime. We have great people working for the Craft in Jacksonville for the Lodges and the members. Next time you call or send an email how about letting them know they are appreciated.

One project that has taken many hours is the Background Checks for the Child ID workers. Some would think this is extreme and over burdening to our staff and volunteers; however, such is not the case. I for one support anything that will help ensure our children are protected and safe. I am pleased that we have completed well over 500 Background Checks to date. This would have us draw the conclusion that our Child ID Program is well supported by our Brothers and Families across the State. You can check out the list on the Grand Lodge Website at www.gflamason.org click on the Child ID Logo in the lower left hand corner of the page.

We have now updated the Blue Lodge Financial Handbook following many suggestions from several Brothers and I wish to thank them for their review. Does your Lodge have one? (GL222)

This year we have included a request card with the 2012 Digest Inserts for those Brothers that would wish to continue receiving them in the future. The printing, postage, and labor associated with the production of these updates are very costly. That said, if you did not return the card or contact us it is never too late to let us know you have a use for them. This is just one way we can help reduce expenses.

We are always open to suggestions from the membership on how we may be able to better support the Lodges, and you need not be a Lodge Officer to make suggestions.

The Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers together with the State and Zone Chairmen, District Deputy Grand Masters and District Instructors are dedicated and devoted men. I would like to thank them for all they do for our Great Fraternity.

In closing, may God grant you and your family peace and health in the coming New Year.

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



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

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,

Summer is just about gone, fall is upon us and the holiday seasons are just around the corner. This means the Lodges who went dark for the summer are back in business and the Brothers are busy in the Lodges and again enjoying the fellowship with their Masonic Brothers.

The time is also drawing near for the election and appointment of the new Lodge Officers, which is always a very exciting time for the Lodges. If you are in line for an elected or appointed position, the Grand Lodge has programs to assist you in preparing for this important trust. One such program is the Masonic Leadership Training Course and I do hope you have already taken advantage of this exciting training experience. This is an excellent course and completing the entire course of study will make your year so much easier and enjoyable. I have recently finished the course myself and found it to be very informative and the fellowship with the Brothers during the weeks it took to complete the instruction was excellent. The course is designed to assist you in performing the duties of the applicable office you are to hold, to plan out

your year, programs to consider and to ensure your Lodge is run properly. It is also designed to spark much debate on the numerous subjects you will cover. The entire class will become involved with the discussion of many ideas and opinions and all will certainly benefit from the MLT classes. If you have not attended the classes, there is still time and even though you may not complete the course prior your installation into an office, you will still benefit from the studies and will be able to finish the course as the year progresses.

As always, I would invite you to visit your Grand Lodge Building, especially the museum and allow enough time to take a tour and see our latest addition; a replica of King Solomon's Temple.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future and may God bless you, your family, your Lodge and certainly may God continue to bless and guide our great Country.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
M.:W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

Phoenix Lodge No. 346 July 17th Stated Communication



Phoenix Lodge No. 346 is moving forward with leaps and bounds. On July 17th, Phoenix Lodge No. 346 passed the ten (10) Brothers pictured here to the Degree of Fellow Craft. First row (L to R) Josecelito DaSilva 45, Travis Holsbeke 29, Raymond Niecestro 30, Richard Kyllonen 51, Jason Toale 41, Second Row (L to R) Jeffery Toale 31, John King 58, Nathan Kelty 44,

Matthew Lynch 31, and Scott Richards 55. Worshipful Dutch Neihart sat in the East. The average age of the candidates is 41. Which is great considering the youngest is 29 years of age.

Englewood Lodge No. 360 Presents 40 Year Award



Englewood Lodge No. 360 presented W. Russell De Frahn with his 40 year pin on October 16, 2012 at Englewood Masonic Lodge.

L to R: R.:W.: Gene Jeffers, W. Russell DeFrahn, W.:M.: Scott Budwitz.

Vero Beach Installs Corky's Corner Box At Masonic Home



Vero Beach Masonic Lodge No. 250 F. & A.M. Senior Deacon, Clinton Parvis installs a "Corkey's Corner" box to benefit the Brothers and Sisters at the Masonic Home.

The box is centered on a table in our main social room under a beautiful color photo of the Home with framed list of regular needs on either side of the Grand Lodge Masonic Home of Florida photo.

Worshipful Master Dean Pfoutz encouraged all to regularly donate anything we can afford. Items such as tooth paste, deodorant, personal needs, etc. are always needed and welcome.

Cabul Lodge Takes First Place In 2nd Annual Golf Tournament

Cabul Lodge would like to thank all who came out to help support our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday September 29.



First Place Team winners Mr. Webb, Mr. Wipps, Mr. Wright & Mr. Wieszke and a special thanks to Magnolia Point Golf & Country Club for hosting the event.

Brother Recognized For Teaching Abilities

Congratulations to Brother William "Bill" Renfroe who was recognized for his teaching abilities at Pensacola State College by ratemyprofessors.com

Brother Renfroe has been a member of Ferry Pass Masonic Lodge No. 348 for 18 years serving as Senior Deacon, Senior Warden and as the Worshipful Master in 1997.

Pensacola News Journal, October 11, 2012

TOP-RATED TEACHER

Low-tech prof, online hit

PSC's Bill Renfroe is No. 2 on ratings site
By Erin Kourkounis, ekourkounis@pnj.com

Bill Renfroe Does Things Old School

Not an iPad, computer screen or PowerPoint presentation is used during his two-hour Monday-night anatomy and physiology lecture on the Pensacola State College Warrington Campus. In a technology-laden world, Renfroe, 65, is all about the basics - he follows an outline for his lessons and uses real-world examples that students can relate to. "I have probably the lowest- tech class you will find," he said. "We go through the book. We talk about stories and examples. We have lots of fun."

Perhaps that's why he is rated No. 2 on the popular college student website, ratemyprofessors.com, where students can rate their professors and post comments about them anonymously. Renfroe currently has 89 ratings from students on the website. Students rated him 4.9 out of 5 points overall, 4.9 in helpfulness, 4.8 in clarity and 3.7 in easiness. "I'm tickled to death they did that for me," he said.

Renfroe, a Pensacola native, ran a chiropractic practice until 2000. He began teaching at what was then called Pensacola Junior College in 2004 as an adjunct professor and went full time in 2006. He is slated to retire after this semester.

Renfroe said while more students today are turning to online classes, there are still many college students who prefer a brick-and-mortar classroom. "There's a couple old guys around like me who teach it the old way," he said.

Renfroe teaches two classes this semester, Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2. Many of his students are in medical programs like nursing or physical therapy and take his classes as prerequisites. On Monday, Renfroe taught a lesson on the immune system and what happens to our bodies when we're feeling under the weather. He kept the class in constant interaction, asking the students a lot of questions. When discussing what happens when someone has a fever, he asked his students why it's a good thing. "To kill off the infection by overheating it," one student said. "I like how you think," Renfroe told her. "Your textbook does not say that, but you are right. It raises our internal core temperature." Renfroe's students say he presents the subject matter in an easy-to-understand format. Some even were prompted to take his class after seeing positive comments about him on ratemyprofessors. "Hands down, he's probably the best teacher I've had since I've been here," said nursing student Briannan Miller, 19.

Nursing student Diana Sanchez, 34, describes Renfroe as "dynamic." "He uses good examples," she said.

Cody Harvison, 19, who is studying to be a paramedic, said Renfroe has a good sense of humor and students relate to him easily. "The coolest thing about Dr. Renfroe is he's a teacher, but you can talk to him about other things," Harvison said. "He's a (Green Bay) Packers fan."

Nursing student Ashley Eagerton, 22, said Renfroe really prepares his students for a medical career. "I drive all the way from the other side of town just because he's here," she said.

Lodge Cabin Raises \$300 For MMRL



At the 2012 Grand Lodge Communication in Orlando, Florida, Pam Jones, one of the Grand Lodge Staff, had a hand made Lodge Cabin for the Grand Masters Charity for sale.

The cabin itself was donated by Brother John Moore of Riverview Lodge No. 306 and turned into a Lodge Room by Brother Edward Scadden of Orange Park Lodge No. 267.

Current D.D.G.M. Cecil O. Akin purchased the Lodge Cabin for a very good friend who built his home around the same pretense as the Lodge Cabin. The Lodge Cabin was so similar to his friend and Brother's home that R.:W.: Cecil was happy to contribute almost \$300.00 for MMRL. On behalf of all involved and especially for MMRL, we are very grateful for R.:W.: Cecil's most generous contribution. Thank you so much and may your very good friend and Brother enjoy his new Lodge Cabin.



Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 Holds Special Elections



On October 1, 2012 Wor. Keith Hoffert (center right) was elected to serve as the W.:M.: for Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 in Pensacola, Florida for the remaining term of the 2012 Masonic Year. The election was a result of the untimely passing of Wor. Charles Cobb who was critically injured in an automobile crash earlier in the year. Wor. Hoffert was serving the Lodge as the Senior Warden prior to the election. R.:W.: Lloyd "Mac" Magruder (center left) was elected to serve as the S.:W.: for the rest of the year. Both were installed by District 2 D.D.G.M., R.:W.: Jimmy Lindt (pictured on the right). Assisting him was P.D.D.G.M, R.:W.: Bruce Fortner (pictured on the left) who served as the Marshal.

Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 of Brooker, Florida, Holds An "Outdoor" Master Mason Degree



By Ted Barber

On Saturday, September 8, 2012, Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons of Brooker, Florida, held the Lodge's first "Outdoor" Master Mason Degree in recorded memory.

Brother Gene Bertine allowed the Degree to be performed on his farm to Raise Brother Travis Dampier to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

This land where the "Outdoor" Degree was performed was formally Worshipful Howard Douglas' (Pine Hill Lodge's oldest living Past Master of the Lodge) land which he had sold on a "handshake" to Gene Bertine and his wife Jessica.

Brother Bertine and Ken Morgan, his close friend and hunting buddy, fired up Gene's BBQ cooker the night before the Degree and started preparing several Boston butts. The morning of the Degree chickens were BBQ'd. This fine aroma of meat cooking along with specially prepared baked beans greeted the members of the "Friendly" 10th Masonic District as they arrived for the 9:00 AM "Outdoor" Master Mason Degree. Coffee was available for the early arrivals and Brother Gene transported the Freemasons on his flatbed trailer pulled by his 1949 WWII Jeep to the Degree Site next to a spring-fed pond.

The good Lord held off the rain and allowed the Degree to proceed in the beautiful sunshine without any interruptions.

Worshipful Darrell Davis, an Honorary Member of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, performed the duties of the Worshipful Master for the Degree. Worshipful Mike Nolan, another Honorary Member of Pine Hill Lodge presented the Master Mason's Lecture, and Worshipful John Paul Mann, also and Honorary Member presented the Master Mason Charge. The Degree will be remembered most of all by Brother Travis Dampier who was the Honored Brother to be Raised by me, Ted Barber, as the newest Master Mason in Pine Hill Lodge and the "Friendly" 10th District.

New Port Richey Celebrates Large Attendance For Ceremony



There were over 30 in attendance at New Port Richey to enjoy an Outstanding EA Degree of four (4) newly Entered Apprentice Masons (Jon McCarty, Roderick McCarty, Anthony Robinson, and Anthony Starquadine). Bro. Jesse James Coker received his Silver Proficiency Card and Bro. Henry Eichner received his Gold Proficiency Card. What a night for Freemasonry!

Masters and Wardens 11th Annual Golf Tournament



On a clear and sunny day on the 15th day of September, at 7:30 a.m. Friends and Brothers teed up for a round of golf. This was the 11th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit our beloved Masonic Home.

Over 25 hole sponsors, 30 golfers and many volunteers, in all 50 were in attendance. After the round, everyone enjoyed more Fellowship which included a pig roast, coleslaw, and baked beans prepared by W.: Bro. Tom Willmot and Bro. "Uncle" John Willmot. There were prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and a putting contest.

By the way, the best score for the day on this par 63 course was 11 under; which was determined by 4th handicap hole. However, our Masonic Home Residents were declared the true champions!

East Hill Lodge No. 310 Presents 65 Year Service Certificate



At the Stated Communication of East Hill Lodge No. 310 held at the Lodge on Blount Street in Pensacola on August 14th, 2012, a 65 Year Service Certificate and Pin was presented to Brother Carmon E. Grace, one of the Lodge's Oldest Brothers. The Certificate was presented to Brother Grace by the Worshipful Master Douglas Cain during the course of the Stated Communication after Solemn Prayer and a reading of his Masonic Record.



View us on your Smart Phone...

To submit an article for the next issue of *The Florida Mason*, please contact Larry Scott at Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339, or via email: larry.scott@gflmason.org • The deadline for the Spring Issue is March 31, 2013.

E-News submissions should be sent to Larry Duff - 352-874-2164 • llduff@centurylink.net

E-News Submission Date: February 18, 2013 • Distribution Date: March 4, 2013.

Masons RV Tours Travel To Canada And Northern America



Masonic RV Tours just completed the 2012 Nova Scotia tour. So far more than 79 Masons and their families have traveled to Alaska, the Maritime Provinces of Canada or on a US tour. 18 have been on two tours. Five couples have been on three tours and some have taken the same tour twice.

We visit Masonic Lodges and OES Chapters along the way. On our 2011 Alaska tour Peace Lodge No. 126 had an elk roast dinner for us in Dawson Creek, BC. Hibernia Lodge No. 3 welcomed us with a pot luck dinner at our campground at Saint John, NB in 2012. The Grand Master of Nova Scotia presented us with Masonic "Bluenose" pins on the 2009 Maritime tour.

This year the Grand Master of Prince Edward Island put on the Spud Island Degree for us (six former Grand Masters were in attendance). We dined in Louisbourg, NS as guests of Tyrian Youth Lodge No. 4 on Cape Breton. After dinner we went to a private home for more fun and stories. Our tours cost 1/3 to 1/2 of what "Tracks" or "Adventure Caravans" charge for the same tour. We're in this for fun and fellowship not profit.

For anyone who can afford to spend 45-60 days away from home in their rig, this is a great value. RV parks, several meals and ferry tolls and are included in tour price. The Alaska 2013 tour is 36 days and is loaded with fun, adventure and value. Ask anyone who has been on a tour.

Alpha Lodge Presents Forty and Fifty Year Service Awards



At its Family Night Dinner on July 31, 2012, Alpha Lodge No. 172 awarded a Fifty Year Service Award to W.: William E. McSwain and a Forty Year Service Award to R.: W.: Mel Odom.

Both men have had distinguished Masonic Careers. W.: Bro McSwain is a Past Master of Alpha Lodge and served over 35 years as Alpha's Treasurer. R.: W.: Brother Odom is also a Past Master of Alpha Lodge and was District Deputy Grand Master in 2007.

The awards were presented by R.: H.: ~~Robert~~

Respectfully Submitted By David Rasmus Zone 6 Chairman - Masonic Child ID

On Saturday, August 11, 2012, Parenting Magazine held their Back to School Fair at the Glazer Children's Museum in Tampa. They asked the Grand of Florida, the Masonic Child ID Program, to participate in this event. There were eight (8) Masons along with three (3) Non-Masons helping with this program from the Tampa Bay Area and Marion County. At this event there were 195 children Id'd.

Florida Masonic Child ID Program is one of many programs the Masonic Fraternity supports. Everyday 2,000 plus children go missing. This Masonic Child ID Program is provided at events like this all over the State of Florida, and all parents should lend their support to it.

100th Birthday Party for W.: Robert Thomas



By W.: David Rosenthal

September 15th was a beautiful day. Brothers from Umatilla and from many Lodges in the 18th Masonic District came to honor W.: Robert Thomas, the oldest living Past Master in Umatilla and in the 18th District for the celebration of his becoming a Centenarian.

W.: Thomas was Worshipful Master of Umatilla Lodge No. 65 in 1965. He has been a Master Mason for 68 years.

W.: Thomas was joined by his loving wife, Mary, who is 98 years old. The two of them are very active seniors and can be found working out daily. Also in attendance were over a dozen of his family members to celebrate this special day.

W.: Thomas was given several special proclamations. Acting Mayor of Umatilla, Peter E. Tarby, delivered one personally. W.: Ed Lisle presented a proclamation from Florida Senator Alan Hays, and



I had the pleasure of presenting W.: Thomas a Proclamation from our Governor, Rick Scott and a birthday card signed by all of our elected Grand Lodge Officers.

Fun and Fellowship was had by all in attendance followed by, of course, Birthday Cake.

Harbor City Lodge No. 318 Takes First Stanley Cup



L to R: W.: Richard Seteroff, Bro. Stanley Bell, R.: W.: John Paniccia.

The Thundering 26th District Masters and Wardens Association has made its inaugural presentation of the "Stanley Cup" to the Brothers of Harbor City Lodge No. 318 for their outstanding support of the Annual Masters & Wardens Golf Tournament. The "Stanley Cup" is a silver loving cup that was presented to the 26th District Masters and Wardens Association by Brother Stanley Bell, a very devoted and hard working Brother of Harbor City Lodge No. 318. After being mounted and inscribed it was selected to be presented to the Lodge in the District which provided the greatest number of Hole Sponsors to the Annual Golf Tournament.

All the Lodges in the 26th District are a close knit "Band of Brothers" but with the pride and honor of their Lodge at stake, a little good nature rivalry was sure to ensue. The gauntlet has been thrown down by the Brothers of Harbor City Lodge to all the other Lodges in the Thundering 26th and a very hard fought competition is assured for many years to come.

The true winner is the Masters & Wardens Association which collected almost \$3,000 from the Annual Golf Tournament. We all look forward to next year's tournament and to the 2nd Presentation of the Stanley Cup.

10th District Child ID Team Protect Our Children



L to R: Gerald Coutts Lake Butler Lodge, Brian Sutton Bradford Lodge, Misty Debose and Kimberly Wheeler BC Library Staff, Roy Weiland Lawtey Lodge, Bobby Rehberg Lawtey Lodge, John Paul Mann Sanderson Lodge and Leaman Alvarez Lake Butler Lodge

The 10th District Child ID Team joined with the Bradford County Public Library to protect our children. During the 3 hour event July 17, 2012, 75 children had ID DVDs made.

**"Be A Leader;
Make It Happen."**



First Responders and Educators Honored

The Members of Concord Lodge No. 50 in Crestview honored first responders and educators for their service to the Crestview Community at their Family Night on Monday, October 29th. Each individual was nominated by their Supervisor as performing in such a manner as to set them apart from their peers.



The Honorees are, from L to R: Rhonda Day, Crestview High School; Cindy King, Shoal River Middle School; Laura Pink, Antioch Elementary School; Detective Sergeant Don Howe who received the award for Investigator David Henry, Crestview Police Department; Deputy Heath Hehl II, Okaloosa County Sheriff Department; Mathew Constable, Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Service; Battalion Chief Tony Holland, Crestview Fire Department.

Past Masters, Widows and Americanism Honored



Bob Shellenber, Ret. Colonel USAF facilitating the program.

Pictured are Colonel Bob Shellenber, Ret. USAF; Spec 4 Paul Mast, Ret. US Army, Captain Corbin Elliott, Ret. US Army, and Petty OFC 1st class Tom Sorensen Ret. Navy, Past Masters John Rosado, John Mann, Gary Wellhausen, Larry Scott, Stan Harvey, Bobby Rehberg, Jim Modica, Don DeWitt, and Roy Weiland.

Lawtey Lodge No. 189 Free & Accepted Masons honored the Past Masters, Widows, and Americanism on Thursday, November 1, 2012 in Lawtey, Florida. Masons have always been Patriotic and as such have an annual Americanism day or night honoring our Country. Worshipful Master Tom Sorensen of Lawtey Lodge combined the three important activities and requested the National Sojourners, Inc. to come to Lawtey and perform "Build a Flag" program.

The National Sojourners, Inc. Heroes of '76 are active or retired Military officers who are Master Masons. They are reminiscent of the old military or traveling Masonic Lodge that were active during the Revolutionary and Civil War periods. National Sojourners strive to promote Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation, support the Military need of National defense and oppose calculated efforts to weaken the National security. Their uniform or costume are examples of the uniform worn during the Revolutionary War when our first President, George Washington, also a Master Mason, led us into war.

The night was started with a prayer, dinner with visitors, widows, Past Masters, children, and fellow Brother Masons. The program "Build a Flag" was presented by Colonel Bob Shellenber, Ret. USAF, Spec 4 Paul Mast, Ret. US Army, Captain Corbin Elliott, Ret. US Army, and Petty OFC 1st class Tom Sorensen Ret. Navy. Tom is also the current Worshipful Master at Lawtey Lodge. The program was very moving and educational for all who attended. The Widows as well as the Past Masters were recognized. The night started with a prayer and ended with a prayer.



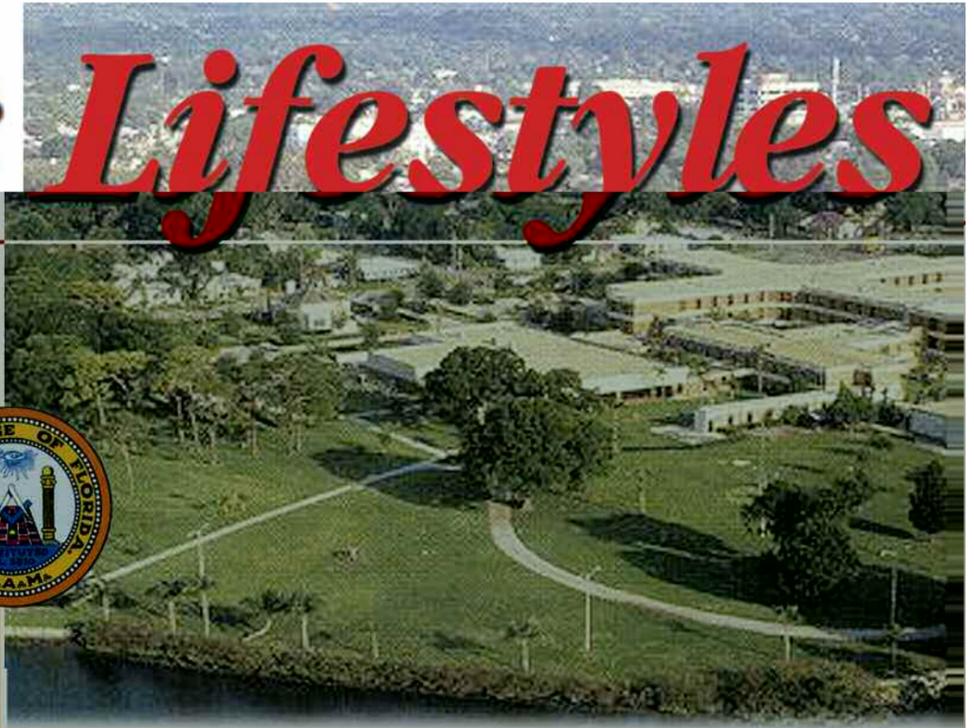
**View us on your
Smart Phone...**

Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou



FIRST LADY BONNIE ALADRO'S PORCH PROJECT

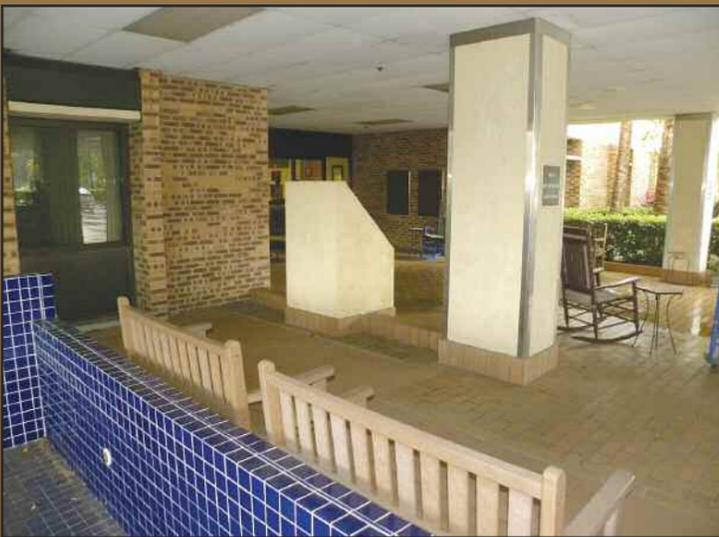
Every year the Grand Master's Lady chooses a project for the Masonic Home. Even though his Lady picks what the project will be, it is the combined effort of many that makes our project a success.

We want to take on a project that will truly meet the needs of the Residents. This year we will be redoing the entrance to the Home by removing the existing non-operating fountain, enclosing walls, and retiling the floor creating a larger and more open sitting area for the Residents and adding a self-contained waterfall over a granite slab honoring all of those who have worked and contributed to a

"Tradition of Caring for the Brethren" yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Our Masonic Home is one of the finest retirement communities in the entire State. The appearance of the building and the grounds are a testimony to the dedication of the Masons of this State. They work hard to see that our Brothers and Sisters can live in comfort. Our Residents will tell you that this is their home and they are proud of it.

Thank you,
Bonnie Aladro



Welcome



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

Grand Lodge Officers
2012 - 2013

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: **Jorge L. Aladro**
(Palm Bay)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: **Danny R. Griffith**
(Orange Park)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: **James W. Ford**
(Valrico)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: **Steven P. Boring**
(DeLand)

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

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

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



From Our Administrator Greetings To All,

Every December, I start out by expressing how fast the year has gone by and how fortunate we are at the Masonic Home of Florida. This year is no different. The year end provides an opportunity to reflect on all the challenges and accomplishments. It's a time to answer the question of whether or not we have succeeded in fulfilling your mission; to provide quality care and services to worthy Masons, and their wives, widows, and mothers. After almost 100 years, you are continuing to do just that!

The Masonic Home is a wonderful balance of respecting tradition and looking towards the future. In 2012, there has been the continuation of "tried and true" programs for the Residents as well as the addition of newer programs to keep things progressive and interesting. Lodges and Districts work throughout the year to show their support of the Home and Residents and this is exhibited in pictures and articles displayed in this issue of the Masonic Lifestyles. We appreciate all the efforts of thousands of dedicated members and their family members across the State.

In early 2013, we will begin work on First Lady Bonnie Aladro's

Masonic Home Project. This project will enable us to make the entry of the Home more appealing and beneficial to the Residents. It is obviously the first thing you see when visiting and helps make a positive first impression. This project will provide safe, comfortable seating areas for Residents to enjoy their front porch, which is where the "action" is. We have many Residents who walk daily and there are also plans for installation of a walking path which will improve Resident safety and exercise.

Each year, the First Lady's Project provides the unique opportunity to make important additions and modifications to the Home and we value each and every one of you who supports this worthwhile cause.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as Administrator of the Masonic Home of Florida. After almost 18 years, each and every day I witness the dedication and exceptional efforts of our staff and members of the Masonic Family. I am constantly amazed by the generosity, goodwill and achievements.

We hope to see you and your families again at the Masonic Home Pilgrimage Day on Saturday, March 16, 2013 where we will dedicate the First Lady's Project and enjoy a day of fun and Fellowship.

Best Wishes To You And Yours For A Happy And Healthy 2013,

Lisa Tsotsos
Administrator



Masonic Home Celebrates Our Vets

The Residents of the Masonic Home deserve respect and admiration every day, but especially on Veteran's Day. Many of the men and women who reside at the Home dedicated years of service to the United States of America. They are proud of their service to our Country and we appreciate their efforts!



What's On Your Mind?



On July 20, 2012, the tradition of the newly Installed Grand Master and First Lady coming to sit down and have open discussion with the Residents continued. M.:W.: Aladro and Lady Bonnie came prepared to share everything from their favorite meal to their goals for the year. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Residents and Grand Master to hear first-hand what is important to each other. We appreciate the time they spent as well as the joy and laughter.



Merry Christmas In October From Masters & Wardens Of Dade County

On October 20, 2012, our friends from the Masters & Wardens of Dade County, Districts 34 & 35, were back again to host an incredible party for the Residents. They set up a holiday display of clothing and gifts for the Residents to browse through and select whatever they chose. This special event makes every resident feel special and they are still talking about it!



Halloween At The Masonic Home

Without giving away the identity of the Residents in these crazy costumes, let's just say that Halloween 2012 was one of the best! It is hard to tell who had more fun, the Residents getting ready or the Staff helping them put their costumes together. There was also a pumpkin decorating contest with many outstanding entries.



Golf Tournament



11th & 12th Masonic Districts Provide Luau At Masonic Home

The 11th and 12th Masonic Districts visited the Masonic Home on Saturday, September 15th, and provided the Residents with a Hawaiian Luau themed luncheon. There were 34 Brothers and Sisters that assisted us in planning, cooking, delivering, and serving the food. There was a performance that included singing and line dancing. It was great teamwork and all of the Residents, staff, and visitors enjoyed and appreciated the events, as well as all of the Grand Lodge Officers. The Administrator, said it was, "excellent and the first time the Residents stayed that long in the dining room." Thank you to all the Brothers and Sisters who traveled to the Masonic Home and to all of the volunteers for your support, donations, and dedication that made this event a success. A special thank you to R.:W.: Raymond Ali, with his vision, W.: Danny Torio, R.:W.: Joey Dela Cruz, Bros: Chito Torio, Leo Cajusay, Dante Reyes, Danny & Sisters: Grace Poblacion, Alice Antonio, Remy Ventura our MC who made the program so simple and meaningful.



2nd Annual 30th Masonic District Western Day BBQ

It was so much fun last year that the 30th Masonic District was back again on August 18, 2012 to host their 2nd Annual Western Day BBQ for the Residents. They brought all the "fixins" necessary for a fantastic BBQ, great food, music, grill masters, denim, bandannas, smiles and Fellowship! We appreciate all the wonderful men and women who made this event outstanding! See you again in 2013.



Charlie's Surprise Party

Charles Walker has served the Residents of the Masonic Home of Florida for 36 years. He safely transports them to medical appointments and other activities and is adored and trusted by the Residents. On every Resident and staff member's birthday, Charles takes the time to sing them his special rendition of "Happy Birthday." However, on his birthday, he usually takes the day off. This year, the Residents got their chance to serenade Charles and waited in the lobby to "ambush" him! It was a lot of laughs. Thanks for all you do Charles!



Our Trip To The Duck Pond

There is nothing like a beautiful October day in Florida. To make it even better, the Residents took a trip to Crescent Lake Park to enjoy the great outdoors and feed the ducks along with their little ducklings!

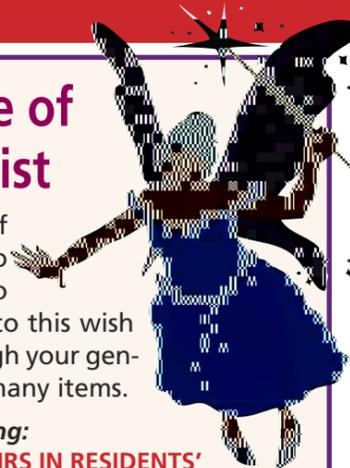


Masonic Home of Florida Wish List

The Masonic Home of Florida would like to thank all of you who have made contributions to this wish list in the past year. Through your generosity we have received many items.

We can still use the following:

- **REFINISHING OF 20 CHAIRS IN RESIDENTS' KITCHENETTES** Approximately \$105 per chair
- **NEW SILK TREES FOR RESIDENT LOBBY AREAS** Approximate cost \$200
- **NEW LARGE WALL CLOCKS FOR THE LOBBIES AND HALLWAYS** Approximate cost \$100



Proud To Be An American

Fred and Freida Buckley, Residents, sponsored by Veritas Lodge No. 396 are always proud to be Americans. On July 4th, 2012, they took the time to exhibit their feelings about their country and the men and women who serve to protect it. *Looking good Fred and Freida!*



Check it Out!

We Are Pleased To Offer An **OUTREACH** Program & **WEBSITE** Serving Members Throughout Florida!

Whether you have a need for residential services on our St. Petersburg campus, or in your local Community, please call the Masonic Home of Florida toll free at (866) 868-6749 or go to www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org for assistance with aging services.

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

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home cordially invite you to attend monthly meetings at the Masonic Home, 11:00 A.M. in the Board Room. Chapel Service starts at 10:00 A.M.

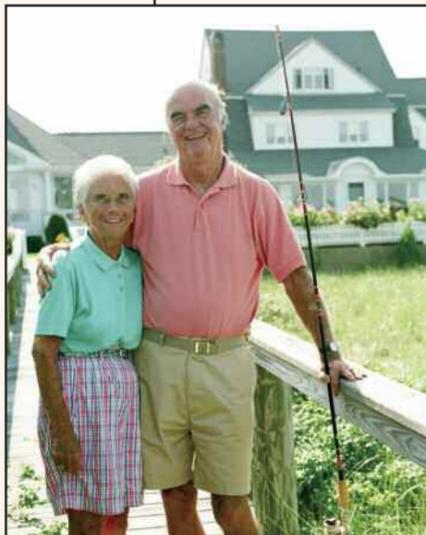
December 16th • January 20th • February 10th • March 17th • April 21st

ADMISSION PLANS

Life Care Plan

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

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



Pay As You Go (Private Pay)**

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

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

*Rates subject to change.

Special Evening At Pine Hill Lodge



L to R: Turk Thomas, Bob Haines, John Bellovich, Travis Dampier, Tom Adams, Ted Barber, Roy Weiland, Robert Rehberg, Bruce Kirby, Jeff Davis, and John Paul Mann. Not pictured was Leaman Alvarez who acted as the Senior Warden for the Degree.

On Wednesday evening, July 18, 2012, Travis Dampier Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft in Pine Hill Lodge No. 9. Right Worshipful Ted Barber, the present Worshipful Master of Pine Hill Lodge, Conferred the Fellow Craft Degree. Worshipful Turk Thomas of High Springs presented the Lecture and Worshipful John Paul Mann presented the Charge.

Southwest Florida Mason Awarded 70-year Pin

By Phillip H. Keyes, LaBelle Lodge No. 379 F. & A.M.

Brother Kenneth D. Glidden, second from right, front row (now 94 years of age) and his wife, Betty recently hosted a delegation of Southwest Florida masons in their Naples, Fl. Home. The occasion was to commemorate Brother Glidden's 70th year as a Mason.

In addition to Mrs. Glidden, a daughter, granddaughter, and grandson, Brothers Ray Navor, Master Pro-temp, Secretary Jerry Hubbard, Chaplain Herb Hollenbeck, and Brother Phillip Keyes were present for the brief ceremony. Accompanying R.:W.: Lanham was Brother Fred Wright, Secretary of the Fort Myers Beach Lodge.

Over a light luncheon, Brother Glidden amazed everyone with his wit and humor. "It wasn't hard for me to get to 70 years," he told R.:W.: Lanham, "all I had to do was wait."

Brother Glidden easily recalled being Initiated on July 19, 1941 just after his 23rd birthday. On November 8th that year he was Passed and was already beginning flight training in the Army Air Corp. Less than a month later the U.S. declared war on Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was Raised to the Sublime Degree on April 11, 1942.

His military service was spent stateside as a Bombardier Instructor. After the war he returned to a career as a farmer and became a husband to Betty. In the early 1950's they moved to the South Florida farming Community of Immokalee and later included an area north of Naples.

"I probably cleared the land where this house is now located," he said. "I was out in this area one day and a man drove up and said he wanted to build houses out here."

Brother Glidden demitted his Masonic Membership from Indiana to Immokalee in 1953 and sat in all but the Master's chair. He continued being active in Immokalee and in 1994 moved his membership to LaBelle No. 379 when it merged with Immokalee.

"Becoming a Master Mason was a very important step in my early life and Masonic Teachings have provided me with a good solid basis for all the key events in my life," he said. "If I could give all the 21 year old men in the country today some advice it would be to seek membership in the Masonic Fraternity. One not only has to be a good guy to get started, you have to continue to be a good guy to stay."



The presentation of his given a Gold Lapel Pin and framed Certificate from the Grand Lodge of Florida made by R.:W.: Ed Lanham, II, District Deputy Grand Master of the 29th Masonic District.

Barrett Lodge No. 43 And Hayward Lodge No. 45, Salute Our Troops With A BBQ



On Saturday, July 7th, Barrett Lodge No. 43 and Hayward Lodge No. 45, F. & A.M., joined together and held a barbeque to salute the men and women of the local National Guard unit. It was our small way to say "Thank You" to these men and women who serve and protect us and make it possible for us to be able to gather and Fellowship freely.

While the troops fed on hamburgers and sausage dogs, they were musically entertained by "Still Standing," a couple of Brothers who do a great job of picking and singing. Also, the Honorable Lin Williams, County Judge for Suwannee County, and Marine Colonel, retired, addressed the troops and thanked them and emphasized the important role they serve, both in our National defense and assisting in our local disasters. He spoke of how they make these difficult tasks go much smoother.

The commander of the Unit, Captain Jorge Iturralde, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the entire unit. We were also joined by a group of Brothers who rode their motorcycles up from Gainesville, American Legion Post 16.

Thank you, one and all, who helped with this salute, but most of all, THANK YOU TO ALL THE ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AND VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR GREAT NATION.



\$1,000 Masonic Scholarships Presented At Esther Lodge



Miss Reeves was presented the scholarship on July 2, 2012 at Esther Lodge by Worshipful Master Ricky Peters. Pictured on Courtney's right are her Dad and Mom, Neal and Barbara Reeves, on her left W.:M.: Ricky Peters and W.: Robert Curry, 2012 Scholarship Committee Chairman. Miss Reeves plans are to pursue a major in Forensic Science at Florida State University and a career in law enforcement.



Esther Lodge No. 144 Free and Accepted Masons in Bonifay presents a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving Holmes County High School student each year. Our Lodge has presented this scholarship for the past eight years. The 2012 recipient is Miss Courtney Layne Reeves, Daughter of Neal and Barbara Reeves of Bonifay, FL. Pictured with Miss Reeves is Right Worshipful Ronnie Peters, District Deputy Grand Master, 5th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Miss Reeves was presented this plaque at the H.C.H.S. Awards Program, May 31, 2012.

The Florida Mason Helps Get Scholarship Information Out To Our Masons

Once again three \$1000.00 Gainesville Charitable Foundation University of Florida Masonic Scholarships were awarded for 2012, and we believe it is largely due to your mentioning the scholarships in The Florida Mason. In the past, we often had no applicants, and now we have given more than one each year, with three or more per year being awarded to UF students with Masonic relatives.

This year Megan Bates, whose grandfather is Raymond Bates of Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340, Ross Cawthon, whose uncle is a Mason in Gainesville Lodge No. 41, and Doug McDuffie, who is a Mason and member of Fellowship Lodge No. 265 received the scholarships.

Any relative of a Florida F. & A. M. Lodge is eligible to apply for this

scholarship at the University of Florida, as long as they are a successful student at the undergraduate or graduate level at the University. The Gainesville Charitable Foundation, Inc. funds these Masonic Scholarships, and they are awarded by the University of Florida Scholarship Office to qualified applicants.

As always, I speak for the Board of Directors of the Foundation when I thank you for letting the Brethren know that these awards are available for their UF student relatives.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Milledge Murphey, P.D.D.G.M. and Administrator
Gainesville Charitable Foundation, Inc.



Howard Colson Douglas: A Great Man and Mason, Awarded His 65 Year Gold Service Pin and Certificate

A group of Brothers from the 6th Masonic District joined together Saturday June 9th to do a good deed and promote the charitable ideals of Freemasonry.

They built approximately 250 ft. of privacy fence at the Transformational Recovery Mission in Panama City.

The mission provides a transitional program for homeless mothers and their children and helps them to become self-sufficient and independent. Our effort was greatly appreciated and helped a worthwhile Community Charity.



W.: Howard Colson Douglas served Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, as the Lodge's Worshipful Master in 1960 at the age of 35. He was Initiated in Pine Hill Lodge located in Brooker, Florida on April 8, 1947, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on May 5, 1947 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 1, 1947. On June 19, 2012, W.: Douglas was awarded his 65 Year Gold Service Pin and Certificate from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. The ceremony was conducted by R.:W.: Frank Camacho on his Official Visit to Pine Hill Lodge as the new "Friendly" 10th District Deputy Grand Master representing the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Florida, Jorge L. Aladro.

W.: Howard Douglas on 29 April 1945 helped liberate Dachau Nazi Concentration Camp and Training Center for the Nazi Secret Service. The 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Thunderbirds had found a trainload of corpses and went into Dachau to release the prisoners that were still alive. Just two years later Brother Howard Douglas was Initiated, Passed and Raised as a Master Mason. His military and Masonic Experiences have helped him and those he associated with throughout his life.

When I am asked by non-Masons what motivates me to be an active Master Mason, I immediately think of the great men and Masons that have helped me become a better man. Men like Howard Douglas and many other great Freemasons I have had the pleasure to associate with over the years are always in my mind. Freemasonry is a Brotherhood of men (Fraternity) under the Fatherhood of God (all trying to please and serve the Lord by action and example).

Our patriotic student involvement contest at Brooker Elementary School entered the grading stage October 26, 2012. Since the younger students (kindergarten through 3rd grade) are not yet skilled in the writing, they entered their drawings of "Why they Love America".

The 4th and 5th graders entered their drawings with a short essay. The Brooker Elementary School Administrative Staff will be placing all student entries on a single laminating sheet so that the consolidated entries can be graded by the team of volunteer Brooker Elementary School Teachers and Pine Hill Lodge Members. The laminating roll will allow the entries to be easily displayed, and the individual student will be able to explain what their entry means to them.

In preparation for the individual student entry, BES Teachers provided the students with patriotic background informa-tee*tZ)

Brother Dave E. Olson Jr. (center) who is presented a 65 Year Certificate and Pin from R.:W.: Don Frazer, D.D.G.M. of the 15th Masonic District (left) and the Worshipful Master, Randy Crum, of Morning Star Lodge No. 94. Brother Olson has been the Tyler of Morning Star Lodge for a number of years and has just this year become a "Perpetual Member." Brother Dave also celebrated his 87th birthday this past January.

Group shot of the "Cracker Country 4-H" (girls in the front row) with members of Morning Star Lodge who are sponsored the 4-H group who meet regularly in the Lodge's Dining Hall.

Tom Bingham Past Master, Morning Star Lodge.

Brother Dave Olson cutting a cake in celebration of his 65 years as a Master Mason. Brother Dave is the current Tyler of Morning Star Lodge and a new "Perpetual Member."

Hurried Advancement? Learning The Meaning Of Masonry

Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia under "Hurried Advancement" states, "Nothing can be more certain than that the proper qualifications of a candidate for admission into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and the necessary proficiency of a Freemason who seeks advancement to a higher degree, are the two great bulwarks which are to protect the purity and integrity of our institution."

The Catechism of each Degree is an important step in the advancement of a Mason. Although the instructor for a candidate is able, at the end of his tutelage the candidate may be as much in the about Masonry as he was before his entry. He has learned the words, the questions and the answers. But, that is all he has learned, the words. They are just set phrases he hopes to utter correctly in response to the questions he is asked during his proficiency examination. He has no idea what the words mean, or how they relate to the degree he went through.

Is this teaching pattern done hurriedly just to advance the new Brother through the degrees? Is it done out of ignorance? Do we care that we are cheating the new Brother, a new Mason, out of the beauty of his first steps in Masonry? Will he ever learn the first steps in Masonry if we hurry him along without our seeming to care about these early stages? These are good questions that we must ask ourselves and answer honestly.

An instructor should take the new Brother along the Masonic Path step-by-step, teaching him at each point along the way. It should not be a hurried trip, but a trip where the Brother learns and relates to what has happened to him. He should understand each step of the way, so as to fortify his confidence in himself in his new learning experience. The instructor should teach the words, but also what those words mean. As he is asked the question and has the answer explained to him, the instructor should make clear exactly what the question and answer mean. Make it evident to him at what point he is at in the degree. Take him to a few degrees so he can see how they are performed. Give him something to relate to. As the degree progresses, explain to him what the questions are and point out how they tell the story of his passing through this degree. As he sees the degree performed, he will know it better and will be able to relate to the questions and answers, knowing what they ask and what they tell. He will find that the questions have more meaning and that the answers are important to his learning about Masonry. The instruction will be easier for him and for his instructor.

It must be remembered that the Brother cannot possibly remember all that happened during the degree. By attending a few degrees, the Brother learns what occurred and he learns the meaning of each part of the ceremony. He becomes better informed by seeing the beauty of the degree being performed. As he gains more knowledge, he desires more, and he returns to the Lodge to learn more. The more he learns, the more he becomes involved, and through this process we have the making of future Officers of the Lodge. Through this process we also perpetuate the beauty of masonry, otherwise we create Masons who have not learned their proper steps through Masonry. Not being informed, they may choose not to return to the Lodge and become just carriers of Masonic Membership cards. Some just drop out of Masonry.

It is not our desire or our intention to lose good men and Masons. It is important that we instruct them in the proper manner from the beginning. We must ensure that they are learning the meaning of Masonry. We must take them along step-by-step. We must not give them a hurried and meaningless advancement.

Joseph F. Basler: P.D.D.G.M.
914 W 66th Street
Hialeah, Florida 33012
Phone: (305) 821-5124



Albert J. Russell Lodge presented a 65 year membership award and pin to Bro. (Judge) Tyrie Alvis Boyer during a Family and Friends Night at their Lodge. He also

received an embroidered



Cruising For The Heart

By W.: David Rosenthal



The weekend of September 7, 2012, five Brothers, and three Ladies cruised aboard Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas for a wonderful adventure to the Bahamas. The Journey actually began a day earlier with a phone call that woke me from a sound sleep. The phone call came from the Chief Officer of the Majesty of the Seas, Geir Lilleeng. Geir, I found out was Brother Geir, a member of North Star Lodge No. 405 in District 33. He had heard that we were going to be cruising

that weekend and that he would like us to join him for dinner on Saturday Evening. I told him that we would be delighted. I invited him to join us ashore in Nassau as we had been planning a visit with the District Grand Master of the Bahamas and Turks at Royal Victoria Lodge in Nassau, but unfortunately as the Chief Officer on board he is responsible for all the safety drills for the ship and that the ship was preparing for its Coast Guard Inspection the following week, but he looked forward to our arrival.

My wife Debbie and I, W.: Barry Rosenthal and his wife and my mother Gerri, R.: W.: Jim McQuigg and his wife Christine, Brother Scott Barrish, and Brother Mark Nach all arrived at the Cruiseport in Port Canaveral on Friday afternoon and off we went to Nassau! Friday Evening was a Party night filled with lots of Dancing and Fun into the wee hours. Not too worry we could sleep in. We're on Vacation!

We arrived in Nassau Saturday at Noon and did the most important thing Brothers do for their Ladies, help them get their shop on! We stopped to see my friend Vince at Venetian Jewelers.

Then we headed over to Royal Victoria Lodge No. 443, which was chartered June 23, 1837. We were met by R.: W.: James Bain, District Grand Master of the Bahamas and Turks and R.: W.: Peter Cole, Past District Grand Master of the Bahamas and Turks. Both R.: W.: James and Peter gave us a wonderful and historic tour of the facility. They also gave us some background about the history of Freemasonry in the Bahamas.

Did you know that the Office of District Grand Master in the Bahamas and Turks has a life term? I didn't.

As time was limited in Nassau it was time to leave our gracious hosts. We bid them farewell and headed to the Famous Straw Market for a little more shopping and then to see an old friend and Brother Mason, George Hamalian, who owns DeLucci Fine Jewelry. A little bit more shopping; Hey, it's Nassau - a great place to shop for jewelry and hand-made crafts.

Shopping over, it was time to return to the ship for dinner with Chief Officer and Brother Geir Lilleeng. Dinner was fantastic. The Fruit of the Vine was present and most definitely enjoyed. Everyone had some great fellowship. When we parted most of us went off to see a great juggler perform in the theater and our Brother, Chief Officer Geir Lilleeng, went off to take a quick nap before he needed to go on duty to pilot the ship out of port. The Chief Officer on the ship is also one of the ship's Masters, this means he is also a Captain, as my wife likes to say, "He drove the ship out of the port."

As we said goodbye to beautiful Nassau and set sail for Cococay, Bahamas, we got to enjoy the entertainment of the evening, a fantastic juggler named Charles Peachock who was a semi finalist in America's Got Talent. After the show they had a wonderful midnight buffet. While getting something to eat I had noticed that they had something special on the buffet I had not seen since I had been living in Puerto Rico, fresh passion fruit. It is not a common fruit here in Florida so I wanted to see if we could get some for dessert the following night. I lucked out and we had some fresh ones delivered to our table. No one in the group but I had ever had passion fruit before. It is very tart and sweet, with many seeds like you would find in a pomegranate and you don't eat the skin. Many in the Caribbean use it as a medicinal fruit to help with circulation. Some in our group liked it, others, not so much. But I was glad I could give our sisters and Brothers an additional taste of the Caribbean.

We arrived at Cococay and as there are no docks too moor at the passengers took tenders (smaller boats) to the shore where there was an island party with Bar-b-q pork and all the fixins. A nice relaxing day!

All good things must come to an end, so our day at Cococay ended and our trip back to Port Canaveral started. The Closing Show was nice and after the show several of us hung out at the Schooner Bar to listen to the piano man, Chuck Perry, play for the remainder of the evening. It was a wonderful way to wind up the weekend.

We arrived back in Port Canaveral at 8:00 am on Monday morning where it was time for us to say goodbye to our Sisters and Brothers. This cruise was a win-win. A win for fun and fellowship for all who went, and a win for our Grand Master's Charity where he received, at his Homecoming, the donations for the cruise.

I look forward to our next "Cruise for the Heart!"

Phoenix Lodge Presents Awards To Father And Son



Phoenix Lodge No. 346, Sarasota, presented Brother Fred Soto, Sr., and P.M. Fred Soto, Jr., Father & Son their 55 and 25 year awards on February 21, 2012.
L to R: W.:M.: Roger Neihar, Fred Soto, Sr., Fred Soto, Jr and R.: W.: Frank Albinson presenter.

President Washington Returns To Umatilla Lodge No. 65

By W.: David Rosenthal



On the wonderful evening of Feb. 20, 2012, The Father of our Nation arrived in Umatilla, Florida accompanied by many Brothers of the Heroes of '76. The Heroes of '76, are composed of selected, worthy members of National Sojourners who have been recognized for outstanding service to the Fraternity.



Sixty-six Brothers, their family and friends were in attendance for the Annual President's Day celebration presented by Umatilla Lodge No. 65. It was organized to salute our First President by W.: Ed Lisle, who also delivered the poem "The Flag."

W.: Gene Patnode, the Worshipful Master of Umatilla No. 65 did a great job as Master of Ceremonies. The Heroes of '76 presented and explained the history of the flags of our armed forces and Ill. Martin Schwebel 33°, eloquently delivered the "Toast to the Flag." It was an evening of patriotism and pride for our Great Nation.

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Five Lodges Sponsor Child ID Event

We were asked about a week before the event by Tampa City Police Department to provide the Child ID at the mall, where we were pleased to have five Lodges participate in such short notice. Thanks to Fellowship Lodge, A.W. Windhorst Lodge, J. F. Swartzel Lodge, Holyrood Lodge, and Temple Terrace Lodge for their help. As it turned out we were the hit of the event with Radio Disney there who advertised us and directing people to us. It was a great day to ID 51 kids in the three hour period of the event. We look forward to doing many more events with the Tampa City Police Department and the malls in the area.



Top photos: Child ID event at Westshore Plaza, Tampa, FL. Districts 22 & 23 September 22, 2012

Right: Height chart is adjusted for scales, so the parent can record height and weight at the same time. Plus the chart acts as advertisement for the program at these events.



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Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314 Celebrates Two Milestones.

Brother Wayne H. Clark (left) was presented a Certificate for 65 Years of Service, by the Worshipful Master hopeful to achieve 65 Years. During the Ceremony Brother Robyn E. Tremblay was also presented a Certificate for his 40 Years of Service.



Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

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

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

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Rainbow Girl Officers Installed

Harry Jackson Masonic Lodge No. 314 was proud to host the Installation of Officers for Assembly No. 147 of the International Order of the Rainbow Girls on September 29, 2012.



L to R: Chaplin, Gabrielle Bowman; Charity, Morgan Proffitt; WAA (Assistant), Cassy Henderson; Worthy Advisor, (WA), Samantha Howard; Hope, Nina Terry; Drill Leader, Savana Broxton; Recorder, Liz Leavins, (not pictured)

Certificate Of Appreciation Presented To Unsung Hero

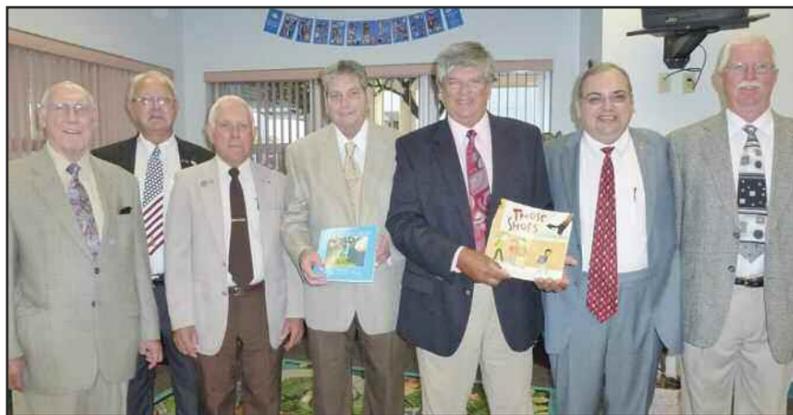
Mr. Fred Wright was presented a Certificate of Appreciation on November 5, 2012 by NOTR Sector of Florida for his service to our Veterans. Mr. Wright drives the DAV van from the Fort Myers VA Clinic transporting Veterans for treatments at the Miami VA Hospital. Fred always treats the Veterans with the upmost respect and helps them find their way to the various clinics for their treatments, then driving them safely back to Fort Myers. Fred side "This is his way for Payback to our Veterans."

Thank you Fred, you are one of our "Unsung Heroes" for a job well done.

Pictured: Fred Wright receiving Certificate from Billy Green, NOTR Rep.



Local Masonic Lodges Support Adopt- A-Book At Oakhurst Elementary



Members of Pinellas Daylight and Gulf Beach Masonic Lodges make presentation.

Recently members of Pinellas Daylight Masonic Lodge and Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge combined their efforts in support of the Adopt-A-Book program at Oakhurst Elementary School in Largo during the monthly "Mustang Round-Up." The Masonic Lodges presented the principal, Ms. Kelly Kennedy, with a check in the amount of \$715.00 for this worthy project. The Adopt-A-Book program allows the school to purchase books for the school library or classroom, and serves to enhance the students reading. Both Masonic Lodges hope that this donation will serve to encourage other local businesses and organizations to support this program.

South Florida Masons Support The March Of Dimes



L to R: Harold Amandi, Renee Rodriguez, Kevin Cruz, Robert Remmen, Alfred Sarria, Harold Peterson, Michael Araguez, and Ronald Kashuta (Lower Center)

Submitted by Joseph M. Fleites, P.D.D.G.M.

The Masters' and Wardens' Association of Miami-Dade County re-new their support for the March of Dimes again this year. It has been the honor of the Brothers from the 34th and 35th Masonic Districts to be part of this noble charitable event for the past 10 years. In addition to helping to raise funds for pre-mature born children, the Brothers donate their time to the March of Dimes by cooking and serving the food for those who participate in the Walk for Babies. A very special thanks goes out to W.: Alfred Sarria, who volunteered to be the Committee Chairman of this event on behalf of the Association; and a heartfelt thanks to the Brothers who showed up to help prepare and serve the food. It is this type of commitment to our Community that reminds me why I joined Masonry.

Brother Miller Receives 40th Year Award



L to R: W.:M.: Roger Neihart, Miller and Presenter R.:W.: Frank Albinson.

John J. Miller received his 40 Year Award Tuesday night April 17th at the Phoenix Lodge No. 346.

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R.: W.: George Waas, our W.: Grand Orator, has written three books.

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Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida



Rusty Nail Degree

November 17, 2012, Daytona FL
Zone 5 had another Rusty Nail Degree in District 16 at Halifax Lodge No. 81 was a very well attended and successful event. We had the honor and privilege to have W. James E. Hawkins Zone 5 Chairman 2012 Membership Development, and the W.M.: of Halifax 81, Palm Bay 397, and Volusia 77 in our quarry.

In attendance we had Master Masons from Merritt Island 353, Palm Bay 397, Landmark 383, Sanford 62, New Smyrna 149, Daytona 270, Memorial Lodge 16, Volusia 77, St. John's 37, Ormond Beach 326, Millervilles 126, and Halifax 81; thirty-two Brothers in total. Out of these thirty-two Brothers: two were our candidates, Brothers Edwin Orellano from St. John's Lodge 37 and Thomas J. Worrel from Millerville Lodge 126 in Indiana.

The Degree started promptly at 10:00 AM and was completed by 11:15 AM. Introduction of the Degree Team and our Zone 5 Chairman were made. The Worshipful Master proceeded to close the Order of the Rusty Nail. The Order of the Rusty Nail was closed at 11:30 AM



in peace, love, and harmony.

Rusty Nail Team: W.: M.: Scott Welker; S.: W.: Howard Chase; J.: W.: Edgar Ortiz, P.M.; S.D. Ed Slauson; JD: Patrick X. Velasquez; S.S. Charles Calabritto; J.S. Al Woodstock; Chaplain Jay Rogers; Lecturer Sam Guarnier; Tyler Donald E. Needham. District 16 Chairman for Membership Development 2012, Brother Patrick X. Velasquez, coordinated this Remarkable Degree. A "Must See". Next events: December 1st, 10AM, Volusia 77 and then Palm Bay 397, TBD.



"Be A Leader; Make It Happen."