

Above & Beyond



Florida Freemasonry: *Laying the Cornerstone for Good Men to be Better Men*



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Grand Master's Message

Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for the trust and confidence you have bestowed upon me and for the privilege, and opportunity to serve you as your Grand Master. I truly appreciate the warm welcome and hospitality you have accorded me and my lovely wife Dell in the course of our travels and recent Official District Visits.

This year, we have Initiated a revised the Particular Lodge District Deputy Grand Master and District Instructor Inspection and Evaluation Checklist. A necessary tool to assist Lodges in identifying its weaknesses and strengths, as well as implementations of corrective measures and realistic solutions unique to a Particular Lodge's current condition in our endeavor to improve, and solidify its sustainability toward achieving Fraternal Excellence. This Checklist will also serves as a source of valuable information for "future leaders" on which the Craft can use as a guiding "light" to continue to make progress and achieve success in the ensuing years. Equally important is our proficiency in Conferring Degrees in our Rituals... the catalyst for Masonic Thoughts, Philosophy, and Understanding... the "Language of Freemasonry"... and not to learn its scope and understand its real meaning, becomes a burden to living a "Masonic Life."

During my countless travels and visits to Lodges throughout the State, I had the humbling experience to learn more and recognize Particular Lodge Needs, condition, and priorities, thus I have instituted this year to return and conduct "Tyled Meetings" and continue to listen, and engage with you my Brethren... and with our dedicated Commitment and renewed sense of Accountability and Fidelity, to adhere to our Sacred Obligation, coupled with Humility in our Leadership, we will be able to serve the Craft with the greatest benefits to its Members... cultivating harmony in our Fellowship with Brotherly Love and affection.

I have tasked the newly appointed Board of Trustees to develop realistic options, including exploring outreach program solutions, thereby being able to provide quality care in areas closer to the families of our eligible Brothers, their wives and widows.

Additionally, in our effort to support and actively promote education by cultivating the great moral values and excellent principles of our time-honored Institution in America's kids, I have chosen and designated the Masonic Youth Activities Program as the Grand Master's Charity.

I also appreciate the thoughts and prayers you have offered my wife during her difficult times. And in her behalf, I thank you for supporting her Lady's Project: "A Sign of the Times, Opening Masonic Doors."

I would like to express a especial note of well wishes, gratitude, and appreciation to Most Worshipful Richard E. Lynn for his guidance, his many, many years of true dedication and unwavering devotion of service to the Fraternity and for his commitment and the exceptional performance of his province as our Grand Secretary for over a decade and a half... we are eternally grateful.

My Brothers, we still have a lot of work to do facing many challenges ahead of us, but with Leadership, Commitment, and Accountability, and with a common passion and dedication... together, let us build a brighter future and embrace these undertakings, making a difference effecting positive change, as we look forward to the opening of our new Grand Lodge Home.

May Almighty God delight to dwell with, and bless you and your families, and God bless the United States of America. ✕

Fraternally,

M.: W.: Donald W. Cowart

Grand Master

Leadership, Accountability, Commitment



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2024 – 25

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(Valrico)

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R.: W.: Taleb "Tali" Atala
(Miami)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Haskell R. Vest, Jr.
(Navarre)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Frederick "Rick" R. Wendling, Jr.
(Dunedin)

GRAND TREASURER

R.: W.: Rudin "Rudy" J. Boatright
(Fleming Island)

GRAND SECRETARY

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

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Deputy Grand Master's Message

My Brothers,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for electing me your Deputy Grand Master.

A couple of weeks ago, I attended a Stated Communication at Renacer Lodge No. 410, in Miami.

I witnessed an excellent Masonic Education Presentation by Brother Jose Molina. During his Presentation he Stated the following: *"Freemasonry is like a Construction Zone, a work in progress."*

As I reflected on this quote, it occurred to me that indeed it is. We should never stop learning, every day, every hour, inside, and outside of our Lodges.

When our Forefathers Created our Ritual, this is what they had in mind, a series of Degrees that should, during our lifetimes make us better Brothers, sons,

fathers, grandfathers, and Members of our Communities and the World.

Every single word in each of our Degrees, Charges, Prayers, Installation Ceremonies, Openings and Closings, are all meant to be teaching tools to accomplish this goal.

So indeed, we are an unfinished Rough-Ashlar that is hopefully being molded into a Perfect-Ashlar.

Let us never forget or ignore this great responsibility we carry on our shoulders. ✖

Fraternally,

R. W. Tali Atala

Deputy Grand Master



Senior Grand Warden's Message

Brothers All,



First and foremost, I am grateful for God's Blessings on all our travels, and to be able to meet and greet each and every one of you throughout the year.

Second, I would like to thank all those Brothers who have traveled so far to attend the events I will talk about. It is always great to get together and see all of you, especially when we are away from home. To sit down, speak with you about your concerns, hopes and what is happening in our Fraternity is priceless. We are traveling men, and that is part of the richness of our Fraternity.

Now on with it...

As we move into the fall season, and hopefully cooler weather, I would like to let you know what has been happening around the great State of Florida and beyond this Masonic Year. We started out attending the Tri-State Gathering in Warner Robbins Georgia, where our State Champion Degree Team did an outstanding job of representing our Ritual Work to the Masons from Georgia, and Alabama. Next stop; was the Southeastern Masonic Conference in Louisiana, where we sat down in discussion with all the Grand Lodges in our Conference and had some very pointed discussions about the sovereignty of each and every one of our Grand Lodges. Sovereignty seems to be a hot topic for Grand Lodges recently world-wide. Our Sub-Committee on Foreign Relations does outstanding work in keeping us abreast of all the Masonic Issues transpiring around the globe. Then I had the honor of attending the Tennessee Cave Degree everyone has talked about for years. What a fantastic event! Our Degree Team did such a great job exemplifying the Master Mason

Degree with a cave full of Masons. I was so proud to be there to witness their success. I look forward to future Degrees in the Cave.

On the State front, we have attended fourteen of the Grand Masters Official Visits to the Districts, Board week-ends at  Home, Hundred-Man  Events, rededications, Cornerstone Ceremonies, Lodges, both home and abroad, Allied and Appendant Degrees, festivals, family gatherings, Lodge Events, and invitationals to name a few. If you want to see where we are headed next, visit our Grand Lodge Website to see the Grand Master's Schedule for particulars.

Brothers, in all this hustle and bustle of travel and movement we constantly meet and discuss methods to improve and move forward in our Great Fraternity. In areas of education, leadership, industry, family, Fellowship, business, Ritual and Esoteric Work, Community, health, and all the other obligations we took to fulfill the duties you have so graciously elected us to, we never stop working for you, our Great Fraternity, our families, and for our Country.

With all that said, Please keep our Grand Master in your hearts and prayers; he sincerely needs them at this time.

God bless you all, and I hope to see you in the near future. ✖

R. W. Haskell R. Vest 

Senior Grand Warden

Junior Grand Warden's Message

Greetings Brothers and all,

It has been an incredibly rewarding experience to serve as your Junior Grand Warden and I would thank the Craft for having confidence to elect me to this Honorable position. As I journeyed across the State, meeting many of you and participating in various Lodges, I shared my vision for the future of our Esteemed Fraternity.

As you read this, I am excited to share that the Mentoring Program is under development, and I am looking forward to presenting it soon.

During my travels, I spoke about getting back to the "BASICS," and that starts with Brotherhood. You are all an integral part of this, and I want to emphasize the importance of Brotherhood in our Fraternity.

In the tapestry of human relationships, few threads are as solid and enduring as Brotherhood. Defined not merely by blood ties, but by shared values, mutual respect, and unwavering support, Brotherhood transcends the superficial, to form a profound connection among individuals.

At its core, Brotherhood embodies a deep sense of camaraderie and solidarity. It is forged in the crucible of shared experiences - moments of triumph, and adversity alike - that bind individuals together in a resilient and enriching bond, this bond inspires each Brother to grow and evolve. Within this bond lies a commitment to stand by one another, offering strength and encouragement in times of need, and celebrating each other's successes with genuine joy.

However, Brotherhood is not just about companionship. It's a powerful force that encourages the celebration of differences and the forging of unity through diversity. In a world often marked by division, Brotherhood serves as a beacon of inclusivity, bridging gaps of race, religion, and background to create a Fraternity founded on acceptance and mutual respect. It's a place where everyone is not just tolerated, but truly valued.

Moreover, Brotherhood is not just a bond of companionship. It is a powerful force that catalyzes personal growth and development. It provides a nurturing environment where individuals are empowered to strive for excellence, knowing they have the unwavering support of their Brothers. The role of mentorship, guidance, and constructive feedback in Brotherhood

is crucial, as it ensures that Brothers are always guided, and supported in their journey to reach their fullest potential, both personally and professionally.

In the realm of organizations such as our Fraternity, Brotherhood takes on an even deeper significance. Here, it becomes a cornerstone of shared values and principles that guide collective action and decision-making. It inspires Brothers to uphold high standards of integrity, leadership, and service; thereby leaving a positive imprint not only on their own lives but also on the broader Community and Fraternity; a responsibility that we all should be proud of.

Beyond its practical implications, Brotherhood is a source of profound fulfillment and enrichment. It offers a network of lifelong friendships that transcend the boundaries of time and distance. These friendships are rooted in trust and loyalty, providing a sense of belonging and continuity throughout the various stages of life.

Ultimately, Brotherhood is a testament to the power of human connection. It reaffirms our innate desire for meaningful relationships and reminds us of our capacity to uplift and inspire one another. It is a reminder that, in a world often characterized by transience, the bonds of Brotherhood endure, serving as a source of strength and inspiration that motivates us to strive for enduring camaraderie.

In embracing the essence of Brotherhood, we embrace a shared identity and a collective responsibility to support and uplift each other. It is through this commitment to Brotherhood that we create a supportive Fraternity of resilience, empathy, and shared purpose, enriching our lives and those around us in profound and lasting ways. Your actions today will have a lasting impact on the future of our Fraternity, Brothers, and Communities. ✖

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Rick Wendling,
Junior Grand Warden



Grand Secretary's Message

Brothers,

This summer has been a very busy one and, in my estimations, a productive one.

Traveling across the state having the opportunity to visit with the Brothers, having the opportunity to clasp their hands in Fraternal Friendship, is a great experience. I consider this action as my Masters Wages.

This year we have changed the dynamics of the Lodge Officers' Workshops, known as the Secretary-Treasurer Seminars. The new format is a presentation in round table format, and is presented in question and answer sessions. There is a smaller attendance as these are presented in the Districts. As of the date of this article, we have eight on our schedule with more to come. Check Amity for updates on location and times. Due to the nature of the presentation these will not be available on Zoom.

We have submitted a contract for our new Grand Lodge Building and are presently performing inspections.

There remains one and one-half years on our occupancy in the present building so we will have sufficient time to coordinate the move.

I wish to thank the Secretaries for the cooperation and commitment to their Particular Lodges. Many go without proper acknowledgment for

their hours of labor. Next time you pass the Secretary's desk tell him thank you.

Your staff at the Grand Lodge Office continues to perform their jobs with vigor and professionalism. I am constantly reminded by our Brothers how much they enjoy the interaction with the staff.

Brothers, please be careful of the things you post on social media. Remember your obligation, and that sometimes it is a better method to whisper wise counsel in a Brother's ear than to air differences in the public view. Often, we react to a comment without the advantage of having all of the facts, and a kneejerk-reaction can be harmful to all involved.

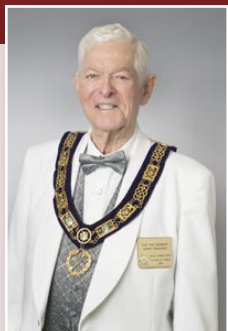
I hope to have the opportunity to visit with you soon.

Remember: If your presence doesn't make an impact, your absence won't make a difference. ✖

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



Grand Treasurer's Message



Brethren,

R.W.: Howard Chase and his wife, Betty, continue to support our Lodges by scanning in their Minutes to help safeguard the Lodge's History. I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring that your individual Lodge Records are backed up and archived. Not only do we face the probability of storm damage to our Lodges, especially during the height of hurricane season; we are additionally confronted with fire and flood losses throughout the year. We have lost Lodge Records to many natural disasters, and even some to arson during our history. Your Grand Lodge provides this backup service free to every Lodge. Bring us your Lodge Minutes and we will scan them, make a DVD copy that we will store them in our fireproof safe, and then return your minutes with a separate DVD copy to you. Additionally, the Grand Historian is available to visit your Lodge and provide a photographic records of your past Worshipful Masters' photos and any additional important visual you may have.

During my years in the Navy, the hardest periods I experienced were being on deployment during the holidays. Being a service member deployed for months can be rough,

especially when small children are home without their father/mother. Please keep our service members in your thoughts and prayers. Additionally, our first responders face many hardships year-round, so please included them as well.

It has been such a great privilege and honor to serve the Craft as your Grand Treasurer for eight years. Unfortunately, because of family medical problems, I will no longer be able to do so. With the help and understanding of our Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the wonderful staff here at Grand Lodge, I will endeavor to accomplish my duties this Masonic Year; however, I will not request an application to run for Grand Treasurer for the 2025 Masonic Year. Serving as your Grand Treasurer over these last years has been one of the most rewarding periods of my Masonic Career.

I look forward to seeing you all at Grand Lodge Communication this year. ✖

Fraternally,

R. W. Rudy Boatright
Grand Treasurer

Membership Development Committee R. W. John Paniccia, State Chairman 2024-2025

Greetings my Brothers! I hope all of you and your Families are doing well.

This Membership Development Committee was created to assist the Lodges in bringing in new Members.

BeAFreeMason.org

Through **BeAFreeMason.org**, we receive inquiries from men interested in our Fraternity. Prospects from this website are turned over to the Zone and District Committeeman, who in turn find the nearest Lodge and refer the gentleman to that Lodge. By talking with the interested prospect, the Lodge can determine if he is a proper fit for us and answer any questions he may have.

We have had good success with this, and I urge you to act upon an inquiry immediately once you receive it.

Lodge Reimbursement Program

The Lodge Reimbursement Program is fantastic for reaching new men through our virtual door:

social media. This program demonstrates the Lodge's commitment to supporting its members' efforts. Its emphasis is on using media and social media to encourage participation and promote events and fundraisers.

Lodge Programming

These are great ways to reach potential new Masons, but we must keep our current members interested in our Fraternity and attending our Lodges. Here are a couple of things you can try:

- The Lodge of Discussion program fosters thought-provoking conversations that will shape the future of your Lodge.
- Community Activity or Service Events provide a fantastic opportunity to give back and showcase the philanthropic spirit of our Brotherhood.
- Brotherhood Events like Table Lodges, Festive Boards, and joint Degrees with the other Lodges strengthen internal bonds and offer opportunities to attract potential members who may be drawn to the sense of community and camaraderie. ✖

*I would like to thank our
M.:W.: Grand Master Donald W. Cowart
for providing me with a Great TEAM
of hardworking and dedicated Brothers!
If you want to learn more, you can
contact me at:
jpsec318@aol.com*

Be a Freemason
BeAFreeMason.org



Full Regalia Ceremony Held St. Augustine National Cemetery, For Brother Daniel Whitehurst, Died August 1842, New Head Stone Placed During Full Regalia

On August 17, 2024, a group of Masons from throughout the Jurisdiction made Masonic History at the Saint Augustine National Cemetery.

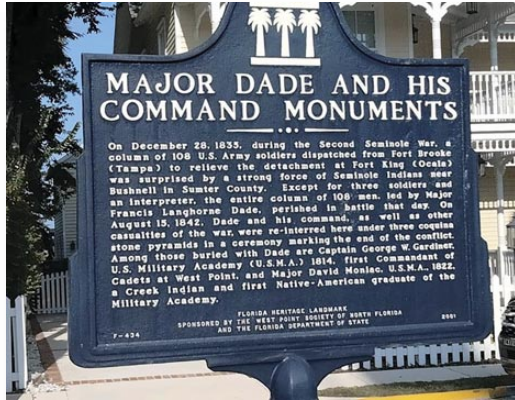
At the original ceremony in August of 1842, our Brothers from St. John's Lodge No. 12, in Saint Augustine, led by Brother Daniel Winchester Whitehurst, Conducted a Masonic Ceremony, at the reinterment of the soldiers killed at the Battle of Dade, and during the Second Seminole War.

About a year ago, the Dade Battlefield Society asked Brother Rick Weil if he would research the Masonic Participation in the reburial of

the soldiers. That research led to an invitation to Zephyr Lodge No. 198, to participate in the annual reburial commemoration. Zephyr Lodge coordinated the activity and brought together Brothers from ten different Lodges throughout the Jurisdiction.

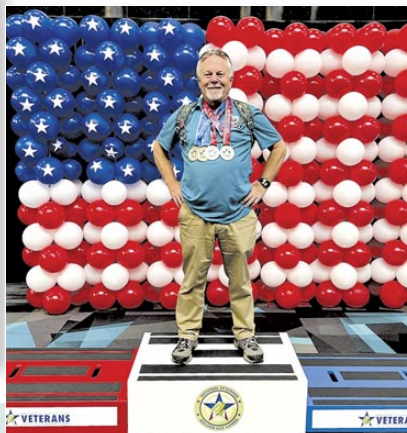
Permission was requested from the Most Worshipful Donald Cowart for participants to wear white gloves and aprons during the event. Our Grand Master graciously granted this permission and authorized the participants to wear full Regalia. At the given time, the Freemasons of Florida recreated for the first time in 182 years the ceremony conducted by our Masonic Ancestors. It was emotional,

to say the least, with each Member of the Craft understanding the importance of what we were doing with honoring the dead, and our Masonic Ancestors. ✠



Salt Lake City, Utah National Veterans Golden Age Games

Brother Doug Ingram brings home Gold Medals in Cornhole, and Air Rifle; Silver Medals in Bowling and Basketball Free throw. He is a Member of J. Edwin Larson Lodge No. 361 in Tallahassee. ✠



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Renacer Lodge No. 410 Welcomes R.:W.: Zambrano; Meeting Filled With Brotherly Love, and Information

R.:W.: Alex Zambrano, D.D.G.M. of the 29th Masonic District, made his Official Visit to Renacer Lodge No. 410, in District 29, on July 24, 2024. There were 56 Lodge Members attending the Meeting, all very happy to receive the D.D.G.M. into our Lodge. It was a night filled with Brotherly Love and information from our Most Worshipful Grand Master Don Cowart. ✖



Brother Ditman Receives 55-Year Service Award At Okaloosa Lodge No. 312

Brother Henry Ditman received his 55-Year Service Award. The award was presented by W.:M.: Wayne Paizes.

Brother Ditman was Raised in Moreno Valley Lodge No. 804 (California) on August 25, 1969. Following a career in the US Air Force, he joined Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 F.&A.M., Niceville, FL, in 1998. ✖



Brother Kraus of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, Receives 60-Year Masonic Service Award

R.:W.: Robert Gonzalez, District Deputy Grand Master of the 27th Masonic District, R.:W.: Bobby Brumfield, P.D.D.G.M., R.:W.: Alexander Tabares, P.D.D.G.M., and District Photographer Kerry Davids, Presented Brother Michael Krause, of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, in Niceville, FL, with his 60-Year Masonic Service Certificate and Pin at the Mirabelle Senior Living Community in Kendall, FL. It was an honor to be with Brother Krause and let him know he can contact us any time. ✖



Brother Michael Krause, of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, proudly displays his 60-Year Masonic Service Certificate and Pin



Brother Mast Receives 55-Year Service Award At Pineland Lodge No. 86

Brother James Mast was Presented his 55-Year Service Pin and Certificate by Worshipful Master John P. Dugish, at Pineland Lodge No. 86, on June 20, 2024.

This was a Great Honor for Brother James Mast.

Landmark Lodge No. 383 Awards Detective Mefford Top Cop Award For 2023

On July 11th, 2024, The Brothers of Landmark Lodge No. 383 F. &A.M. presented Detective Mefford of VSO the Top Cop Award for 2023.

Detective Mefford, being an 18-year veteran of the Sheriff's Dept., was most noted for his leadership and mentoring. He was joined by

his wife and daughter, who said, "My dad is pretty cool." Sheriff Chitwood was also present and thanked Landmark Lodge for the years of support and assistance the Brothers have given the Sheriff's Dept. and the Community. ✖



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Over the years, we have stood together through thick and thin, fostering bonds that transcend time and circumstance. Today, I am reaching out to you not only as Brothers but also as vital pillars of support for a fund, we know well – Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc. a 501(c)(3) organization. The Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc., fund is used to support our Masonic Home; Masonic Youth Association and Youth Groups; Disaster Relief; and College Scholarship Programs, just to name a few.

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Christopher Smith

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Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340 Hosts Annual Community Ice Cream Social

What is the best way to beat the heat during the dog days of summer? For a Community in Jupiter, Florida, the answer was attending Jupiter Light Lodge's Annual Ice Cream Social.

On July 13, 2024, Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340, opened its doors to its neighbors and provided towering waterslides, games, clowns, music, and food for all to enjoy. Even a visiting mermaid made an appearance to swim and entertain the children. The event was free, and the smiles were priceless. Although the waterslides and entertainment were a big hit, the star of the show was the home-made ice cream Jupiter Light Lodge is known for. Hundreds attended the event throughout the

day and a great time was had by all.

Jupiter Light Lodge is uniquely situated between Jupiter Elementary School and Jupiter High School. The surrounding Community is home to many lower income families with fewer opportunities than others in town. Yet these families are close knit, hardworking, and appreciative of the opportunities they receive. Because these children and families need assistance and support, Jupiter Light Lodge has made it their mission

to serve them.

Upcoming events for the Community will include a Trunk-or-Treat event in October and a classic car show in November. ✖



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Umatilla Lodge No. 65 Brothers Dedicate New Headstone For Brother Carter, Who Passed Away 117 Years Ago

Thou hast promised that "where two or three are gathered in Thy name, Thou will be in their midst and bless them."

When only three were present to dedicate the new headstone for Freemason S. J. Carter, it was enough. He died in May, 1897, and is buried in Umatilla's Glendale Cemetery.

Two years ago, the Masons from the Umatilla Masonic Lodge No. 65, were conducting a Masonic Funeral at the old cemetery for Russel Collins. It was summer-time, and they had parked in the shade of the oaks, in the back of the cemetery. While waiting for the service to start, Richard Powell, who was the Masonic Lodge Worshipful Master at the time noticed a badly broken headstone. It was S. J. Carter, and it had a large Masonic Square and Compass. In three pieces, it was too bad to be repaired.

Thanks to Brother Powell; whose idea it was to arrange for a new stone, it was finished and set a week or two

ago. The dedication was planned for June 14th. Due to being on a Friday, a work day for many conflicting schedules, only three Umatilla Masons were present.

Umatilla Masons Tony Blanton, Gary Foley, and myself were there for the ceremony. We had attended or conducted many Masonic funerals. This was no funeral. There were no mourners, there were no family or friends. No casket or photographs of the deceased life. No celebration of life. The only burial here took place 117 years ago. It



was hoped that Brother Carter was honored with a Masonic Funeral. The Umatilla records were destroyed by fire in the early 1900's, so there was no way to find out if he was a member here. Because of the large Masonic Emblem, it was obvious he was proud to be a Member of this very old organization. This was a happy time, and after a short impromptu ceremony, Tony Rendered Brother Carter public Grand Honors. ✖

Okaloosa No. 312 F.&A.M. Member Celebrates His 100th Birthday

Brother John Oerting, Jr., accompanied by R.:W.: Ken Eichorn, Secretary of Okaloosa No. 312, is sitting in front of a picture of the Douglas SBD Dauntless.

Brother John A. Oerting, Jr., a 53-Year Mason, was born May 4th, 1924, in Pensacola, FL.

Joined the United States Marine Corps shortly after Pearl Harbor, and earned Sharpshooter.

He sat in the rear-facing seat of the Douglas SBD Dauntless in WWII.

Brother John was also a rear gunner in the Mitchell B-25 during the Korean War.

He graduated in 1950, from Auburn University as an Electrical Engineer. He married his wife Anne, in 1950.

He was an accomplished sailboat racer, serving as Commodore of both the Pensacola Yacht Club, and The Gulf Yachting Association. He also served as a United States yacht racing union judge. ✖



Honorary Membership Awarded To Senior Warden Martz

At the Hastings Lodge No. 183, F. & A.M. Stated Communication on Tuesday, June 11th, Worshipful Master Raymond Winters, assisted by Senior Deacon Brother Matthew Taylor, Presented an Honorary Membership to Hastings Lodge No. 183, F. & A.M., to Senior Warden Brother Shannon L. Martz of Bunnell Lodge No. 200, F. & A.M. ✖

*L to R: S.:D.: Brother Matthew Taylor;
W.:M.: Brother Raymond Winters,
and Senior Warden Brother Shannon L. Martz*



Brothers Of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299, Partnered With The Ft. Lauderdale Air Show 2024

On May 11-12th, 2024, a team of Brothers from Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299, manned several merchandise outlets at the Ft. Lauderdale Air Show, to raise funds for charity and was able to spread some good tidings about the Masonic Fraternity in the process. ✖



Hastings Lodge No. 183 F. & A.M. Held An Entered Apprentice Degree On Tuesday, April 30th



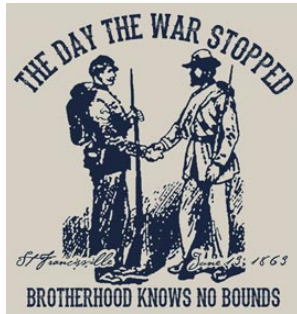
L to R: Brother Caleb Arsenault, Ashlar Lodge No. 98 - Entered Apprentice; Worshipful Brother Tommy Kronz - Tyler; Brother Matthew Taylor - Junior Deacon; Worshipful Master Brother Raymond Winters, Hastings Lodge No. 183 - Chaplain; Worshipful Brother Rick Bailey - Senior Deacon; Worshipful Master Brother Bill Hicks, Palatka Lodge No. 34 - Senior Steward; Newly Initiated Entered Apprentice Brother Tristan David James Sims; Worshipful Master Brother Richard Gray, in the East; Worshipful Brother Tom Torretta gave the 1st & 4th parts of the Entered Apprentice Degree Lecture; Brother David Hinton - Junior Warden; Worshipful Brother Frank Pandt; Worshipful Master Brother Terrell Jones, Ashlar Lodge No. 98; Worshipful Brother George Maultsby gave the 2nd part of the Entered Apprentice Degree Lecture; Worshipful Brother Larry Fulford, and not pictured Worshipful Brother Jim Carrick, who gave the 3rd part of the Entered Apprentice Lecture.

Brotherhood Knows No Bounds by R. W.: Glen L. Garner, P.D.D.G.M.

Masonry creates strong friendships between men who might not otherwise have an opportunity to meet. Once these relationships develop, Brothers often find that their passions within and outside the Fraternity are deeply aligned.

Many of our founding fathers were Freemasons, including countless Brethren who fought in the Civil War. "The White Apron Men," as the Freemasons were often referred to in those days, were known to remain true to their Promises.

Each year in June, the beautiful Louisiana town of St. Francisville, remembers a day of peace that took place there during one of the bloodiest months of the Civil War. "The Day the War Stopped" of 1863 features various events, including reenactments and ceremonies which remember the unusual funeral services of Lt. Commander John E. Hart, of the U.S. Navy. His crew had used the historic Grace Church in St. Francisville, for target practice but then humbly asked for permission to bury him there.



The events took place during the bloody Battle and Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana.

One must imagine what it was like... you are in enemy territory, under a flag of truce, asking to bury a Union soldier on the Confederate ground. And on the other side, you are a Confederate soldier allowing a sworn enemy, not just to be buried in a town that was decimated by Union gunboats. Still, you are going to give him your burial plot but, somehow, the call of the Masonic Brotherhood gave courage to those who needed it, and the "Day the War Stopped" was born.

Traveling Florida Brothers, R.: W.: Phil Slack, R.: W.: Glen Garner, and R.: W.: Ben Schwartz, participated during the reenactment ceremony and presented a "Bonnie Blue Flag" of West Florida - 1810 to Felician Lodge No. 31, Member W.: B.: Paul Martin for his continued participation over the past twenty years. They toured the Grace Church, and Masonic Cemetery, where each was treated to a greater understanding of Civil War and Masonic History, and were greeted with gen-



uine Fellowship, and Hospitality. All are again planning to return at next year's ceremony, scheduled in June 2025.

May we, by using the Masonic Trowel's Symbolism, continue the spreading of the cement, which unites us into one common band of Brothers. ✖

For more information, please visit: www.exploresouthernhistory.com/daythewarstopped.html
felicianalodge31.com/day-the-war-stopped
smithsonianmag.com/history/the-history-of-the-short-lived-independent-republic-of-florida-28056078/

A Historic Day Unfolded At Fort Lauderdale City Hall!

On May 8, 2024, we gathered with City Officials and Community members for a ceremonial demolition and the unveiling of a time capsule placed by The Grand Lodge of Florida and Doric Lodge No. 140 which has been waiting since 1968.

Lodges from across Broward County were in attendance with our District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Juan Roque, Worshipful Master Stewart James, and Senior Warden Brother Manny Vila. Our

Brothers witnessed this unique peek into our Masonic and Community Heritage.

The time capsule revealed a fascinating collection of artifacts from 1968, including a newspaper with reports on the Vietnam War, a DeMolay Handbook reflecting youth activities of the era, the Grand Lodge Proceedings from 1967, and various historical documents and prints showcasing the development and culture of Fort Lauderdale. ✖



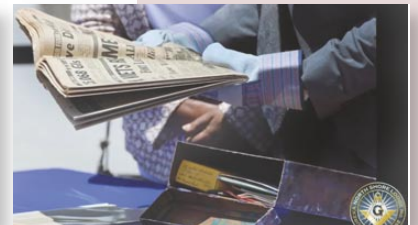
Freemasons Stewart James, from Left, Manny Vial, George Woolley, and Juan Roque inspect the contents of a time capsule Tuesday, outside Fort Lauderdale City Hall. (Amy Beth Bennett/South Florida Sun Sentinel)



Photo Credits: City of Fort Lauderdale, South Florida Sun Sentinel, and Junior Warden Bro. George Woolley from Doric Lodge No. 140



SOUTH FLORIDA
SunSentinel



Branford Lodge No. 130 Donates School Supplies To Our Local Elementary School

Submitted by R.:W.: Robert See, P.D.D.G.M, Secretary

Branford Lodge No. 130, F.&A.M., in Branford, Florida, elected to purchase school supplies for our local elementary school as a Community service project.

The Lodge Brothers purchase school supplies and bring them to the Lodge. When the donation box is filled, a Brother delivers them to the School Administration Staff for distribution to the teachers whose students need them.

The Lodge started this project in August 2023, and has collected four boxes of supplies thus far.

The staff, and teachers of Branford Elementary School are always happy to receive them. Suwannee County is a rural County in North Central Florida. The Town of Branford is located at the Southern tip of the County.

Our Lodge, is small, approximately 30 Members, and proud that we can assist our elementary school with needed supplies. ✖



Strawberry Crest High School JROTC Awards Ceremony, Dover, FL, LTC John Ingraham (USA-R) Commanding

Cadet Randy Watts of the Strawberry Crest JROTC, was the recipient of The Grand Lodge of Florida JROTC Certificate and Award. Cadet Watts was presented this Award by Bro. Phil Walters of Holyrood Lodge No. 257, in Tampa and P.M. David McCallister of Trilby Lodge No. 141, in Dade City.

Cadet Watts received a Certificate of Extraordinary Dedication & Service from The Grand Lodge of Florida, an Award check of \$100, and Bro. Walters added a genuine, wild alligator leather card case, valued at \$225, to the recognition.

CMD Ingraham said this about Cadet Watts: "Cadet Randy Watts distinguished himself with exceptional meritorious service in the Strawberry Crest High School, JROTC Program, Charger Battalion.

Cadet Watts is a pioneer of the ROBOTICS Program. He earned a deployment to Dallas, Texas, for the National ROBOTICS Tournament in April 2024. His Team won the Innovative Trophy for its imaginative

strategy.

Cadet Watts completed rigorous training at the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) Summer Camp at Camp Flaming Arrow near Lake Wales, Florida.

He received the Coveted Grand Lodge of Florida Award presented by Phil Walters at the JROTC Awards Ceremony.

Cadet Watts is the kind of student who excels in every program he enrolls in at Strawberry Crest High School.

He is expected to serve as a Platoon Sergeant for the school year 2024-2025. His future is bright in JROTC and beyond."



Just One Example Of Why Our Fraternity Is So Great!

Submitted by W.:M.: Sean Boulanger, Cantonment Lodge No. 322

As the Worshipful Master of Cantonment Lodge No. 322, I would like to share a recent sequence of events that illustrates how great our Fraternity is. At our 2nd Stated Communication in June, a Brother shared during "Sickness and Distress" about his niece, who was going to be having major surgery in Orlando. At the following Meeting, our Lodge was dark to host a Past Masters Cookout in observation of the 4th of July holiday. In preparation for that event, our Junior Warden asked if we could take up a collection for this family since our Lodge participates in some charity every time we meet. We were all impressed with the generous donations collected, and this Brother was completely surprised, as he never asked for anything more than prayers.

The following night, I was traveling for a District Deputy Grand Masters' visit to a neighboring Lodge. I asked for continued prayers for this family with their upcoming medical journey. I was humbled when their Senior Warden stood up and asked the Worshipful Master if their Charity Basket that night could also be donated to this family.



I am pleased to report that the surgery was long, but so far successful. Prayers really do work!

The Compassion and Charity our Fraternity offers to our Communities is second to none. This is just one example of why our Fraternity is so Great! ✖

Food Drive For Local Community

The Brothers of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 conducted a Community Food Distribution Drive on Saturday, April 6th, 2024. Over 500 bags of food, produce, and dairy products were given out at the Lodge for the benefit of the local Community. ✖



Pineland Lodge No. 86 Hosts A Sweet First Lady's Fundraiser

The Brothers of Pineland Lodge No. 86 hosted a dinner and dessert auction on June 1, 2024, for our First Lady. It was an evening of fun, Fellowship, and good food. Thousands of dollars were raised for our First Lady's project, but more than anything, the Spirit of Masonic Charity was raised to a level we can all be proud of. ❖



Retiring "Old Glory" with Fire Article first ran in Hernando Sun, Brooksville, FL

Article and Photos By Austyn Szempruch, June 23, 2024

On June 14, also known as Flag Day, the local Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Chapter held a public event to retire 30 American flags by way of a ceremonial burning. The honoring was held at Paul Revere Lodge No. 419, just off Sunshine Grove Road on Friday, near sunset. Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Wyatt Oden, led the local scout troop in the proceedings, as they began with the Pledge of Allegiance before Chaplain Aide Alex Jenkins, led the gathering in prayer.

During Oden's brief speech honoring the flags, the troops bequeathed the grommets that once adorned the flags to select military members and first responders. "The grommet symbolizes the sacrifices that these men and women have made for their Country," the SPL said. "It is a reminder of all they do to protect us."

The solemn ceremony saw various military and Masonic Lodge Members look on as boys and girls from the local scout troops each respectfully placed flags in the fire. They did so one after the other after the previous flag had burned away completely. Though the BSA has retired many flags throughout the years, this was the first one they have performed publicly.

In fact, they are one of only three organizations besides the military that are authorized by Congress and the U.S. Flag Code to burn American flags. The code itself states that this emblem of freedom should be "destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Senior Warden Adam Oden has had many discussions with adults and was continually surprised by how few had actually seen a ceremonial flag burning.

"Why don't we do something where we can invite the public?" Adam thought. "They do not have to stay, but they can at least turn the flags in, so they are retired in a dignified way." Oden also figured that if people had questions about scouting or Freemasonry, they could take the opportunity to ask Adam or other Members about the organizations.

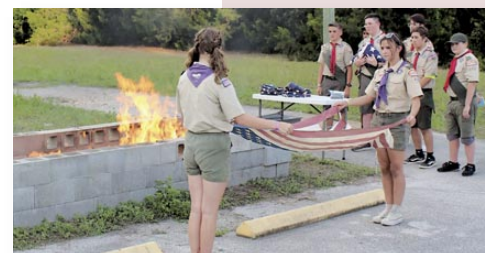
The Senior Warden told the Sun that the Local Masonic Lodge took it upon themselves to Charter Cub Scout Pack 43, which includes kindergarteners through fifth graders, as well as two scout troops: Troop 443B (boys) and 443G (girls).

Adam and Scout Master / Worshipful Master of the Lodge, Michael Pecora, allow their troops to be led by the youth in the organization. The adults are there more so to provide assistance through "making sure they are safe, and they are doing what they are supposed to be doing," said Oden.

Besides housing this chapter of the boys' and girls' scout troops, Masonry Orders (Freemasons, Shriners, etc.) also help Communities around the Country through donations for college, field trips, and more. According to estimates shared by Oden, these organizations donate about two million dollars a day to various causes.

As Adam stated, the Masonic Code is to "take good men and make them better." He feels that this aligns the Scouts and the Masons because the principle in scouting is to take young people and make them leaders and better citizens. In doing so, the troops are also taught proper respect for the United States and "Old Glory."

"Honor me, respect me, and defend me with your lives," Wyatt Oden said from the flag's perspective. "Never let our enemies tear me down from my lofty position. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and keep me always as a symbol of freedom, liberty, and peace in our Country." ❖



Members of the local girls' scout troop prepare to retire one of the 30 American flags



Members of the local boys' scout troop prepare to retire one of the 30 American flags



Wyatt Oden gives veterans the grommets that were removed from the American flags

Austyn Szempruch

Austyn Szempruch is a Graduate with Distinction, University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. He's written numerous articles reporting on Florida Gators football, basketball, and soccer teams; the sports of rugby, basketball, professional baseball, hockey, and the NFL Draft. Prior to Hernando Sun he was a contributor to ESPN, Gainesville, FL and Gator Country Multimedia, Inc. in Gainesville, FL, and Stadium Gale.

Megan Gracia Serves As The Administrator Of The Masonic Home Of Florida



Before devoting her work full-time to Skilled Nursing, Megan began her career by serving the senior community as a health insurance agent and broker. Energized by challenges, and driven by an authentic desire to serve others, Megan graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelors in Long Term Care Administration. During her career Megan, has accomplished much by assisting several facilities to achieve the sought after Joint Commission Accreditation. She has also successfully passed all annual surveys increasing facility

star ratings. Megan has recently been selected as FHCA Florida Leaders Class of 2025 influencing healthcare across the State of Florida. Healthcare services has always been a calling for Megan. She is dedicated and devoted to both excellent customer, and healthcare services as well as growth within the Community.

Join with me, the Board of Trustees, the Staff, and the Residents of the Masonic Home in welcoming her. ✕

Submitted on Behalf of the Board of Trustees
The Masonic Home



MEMORY GARDEN

The Memory Garden at The Masonic Home of Florida is an open, tranquil courtyard nestled within the center of the Masonic Home main building, and is accessible by the Residents and visitors. Along the Southwest corner of the garden, a beautiful wall of Granite has been erected to honor and remember family members, Residents, Lodges, Brothers and Sisters. As an option to donate \$150.00 to the Masonic Home, each Granite Plaque is engraved with your special message.



TREE OF LIFE

There are two locations within the Masonic Home that display a Tree of Life. It is one of several charitable gifts programs initiated by The Grand Lodge of Florida to benefit the Masonic Home and its Residents. For a \$100.00 donation, you can purchase a brass Leaf on the Tree in honor, or in memory, of someone special. Inscriptions can recognize family, friends, Brothers, a Lodge, or a Resident of the Masonic Home.



BRICK COURTYARD

The Brick pathway, located within the outdoor Memory Garden, is decorated with personalized bricks in memory, or in honor, of a special person.

As an alternative to the Granite Plaque, the Courtyard Brick program requires a small donation of \$50.00 per brick, which is engraved and permanently placed along the pathway.

*So Many Ways
You Can Help Support
The Masonic Home*



Florida Masonic Youth Charity

Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.

The Grand Lodge of Florida has always supported of all forms of Masonic Youth Programs. Donations to the Florida Masonic Youth Charity are deposited into the Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc., Fund, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable account, and used to support Masonic Youth Programs that are dedicated to education and the principles that will help build strong leaders for our future. A separate and special account was been set up by the Grand Secretary to ensure that all donations are properly distributed to our youth and proper records maintained.

Charitable Gifts

additional ways to support
The Masonic Home of Florida

WILLS AND GIFTS

One of the most satisfying things we can do is to leave a legacy for something we care about. Please consider including a charitable

provision in your will. The Grand Lodge has a list of attorneys within the Fraternity who are willing to assist in you. You may also want to consider making direct cash donation to the Masonic Home of Florida. This can include a one-time gift or ongoing donation to the Home.

MASONIC HOME ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

Proceeds from this tax-deductible fund provides income to fulfill our mission to provide charitable care and services as well as other on going expenses required to maintain the Home.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Gift annuities provide income for the rest of your life and may have tax advantages. The Grand Lodge has literature available which describes the Charitable Gift Annuity Program and the advantages of utility this gifting strategy.

FIRST LADY'S PROJECT

Each year the First Lady of Masonry chooses and works to fund a special project for the Home. Your generous contributions enable the First Lady to improve the care and service throughout the year.

RESIDENT TREAT FUND

Funding for our treat fund allows for extra special programs and activities than cannot be supported by the Home's annual budget such as ball games, show tickets, fishing trips, etc. ✕

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Public Relations & Publicity Committee

R.:W.: Howard Knapp, 2024-2025 State Chairman

Enhancing Public Relations and Publicity for Florida Masonic Lodges

Public Relations (PR) is an essential practice that involves managing the spread of information between an organization and the public. For Florida Masonic Lodges, effective PR and publicity can significantly impact Membership growth, Community engagement, and the overall perception of the Fraternity. Here are several key steps and strategies that can be employed to achieve a positive and lasting impression in our Communities.



Step 1:

Designate a Public Relations Coordinator

One of the first, and most critical steps in strengthening a Lodge's Public Relations is identifying a dedicated Member to handle PR responsibilities. Their role will be to manage communication efforts, Craft Messages that align with the Lodge's Mission, and ensure that information is shared effectively with the public. By having a specific person accountable for these tasks, Lodges can ensure their PR efforts are consistent.

Step 2:

Update the Lodge Website

In today's digital age, a Lodge's Website is a crucial tool for engagement and information dissemination. Updating the Lodge Website is

about aesthetics, functionality, and content. An effective website should include current information about Lodge Activities, events, Membership requirements, and contact details. It should also reflect the values, and history of the Fraternity, providing a welcoming, online presence for prospective Members, and the general public.

Step 3:

Introduce Your Lodge to the Local Media

Building relationships with local media outlets can significantly boost a Lodge's visibility. By introducing the Lodge to local newspapers, radio stations, and television channels, Lodges can share their activities, events, and Community Service initiatives with a broader audience. Crafting compelling press releases, and inviting media representatives to Lodge Events can help garner positive coverage and raise awareness about the Lodge's Contributions to the Community.

Lodges must keep their social media profiles, and websites current. In today's fast-paced world, many visitors and potential Members will first encounter the Lodge online. An up-to-date and engaging online presence is crucial for attracting new Members and fostering Community interest.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Public Relations and Publicity Zone and District Chairmen for their outstanding efforts in promoting our Lodges. Your dedication and hard work are vital to the success of our public



relations initiatives. To build on their momentum, I encourage Lodge Members to get involved in setting up and managing their Lodge's Website and social media accounts. Your active participation can significantly enhance our outreach efforts and ensure that our online presence accurately reflects the vibrancy and values of our Fraternity.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Grand Master for the confidence placed in me by appointing me to this position. This opportunity to contribute to our Fraternity's Public Relations efforts is an honor, and a responsibility I take seriously. With the collective effort of all our Members and the support of our leadership, I am confident that we can enhance our Lodge's visibility, and strengthen our ties with the Community.

In conclusion, effective public relations, and publicity are vital components of a successful Masonic Lodge. We can build a positive image and attract new Members by appointing a dedicated PR Coordinator, updating your website, and engaging with local media. With continued support from our Zone, and District Chairmen and active involvement from our Lodge Members, we can ensure that our Fraternity's Values and contributions are well-represented and appreciated. Thank you all for your commitment to these efforts, and let us continue to work together to promote the ideals of Freemasonry with pride and excellence. ✖

Pineland Lodge No. 86 Invites Widows To A Fish Fry Luncheon

Pineland Lodge No. 86 invited our widows to lunch during our latest fish fry. This time, we asked them to also join us for a group picture. These are the ladies that we hold close to our hearts as they have supported us in so many ways. Thank you, Ladies! We love it when you join us and share your company. ✖



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Contact W.: Mark Tishman

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Seventh Masonic District Membership Survey 2024

By Paul R. Swanson

In 2024, the 7th Masonic District put forth a survey to Members to determine ways in which their Masonic experience could be improved. With just over one hundred surveys compiled in the Lodge and through Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes (SASE) mailings, what do we know that we did not know before?

Executive summary of the findings:

- More Fellowship, less of the boring business meetings
- More personal betterment divesting of vices and superfluities
- More self-improvement in leadership and organizational skills
- More inclusive family events, selling the family on the Fraternity

We learned that friends and family brought most Members to discover and join our Fraternity. This Membership Path was highest just after WWII, and has been steadily dropping since the 1964, social shift from “we” to an “I, me, mine” mentality documented in the book *“Bowling Alone”* by Robert D. Putnam, and further expanded in his follow-up book, *“The Upswing.”*

I see no “we,” I hear no “we,” and I speak no “we,” I only hear “I, me, and mine.” This reflects our current society and impacts our Fraternity when seeking new Members.

Fraternal, Civic, and Veterans groups returned to popularity from the roaring 1920s, to the 1950s, when one of several books commenting on society like *Atlas Shrugged*, by Ayn Rand, challenged the value of the “we society” and proposed the libertarian concept of “rugged individualism,” a term coined years earlier by Herbert Hoover and espoused by Mason and actor John Wayne after he defeated fellow Mason, and actor Roy Rogers in the market of making western movies. Art follows reality and John Wayne saw the tea leaves pattern better than Rogers did and prospered because of his insight.

The consequences of the radical shift in society towards the “me” mentality are the most significant source of the Membership Issues we see today.

Robert D. Putnam says that Fraternal groups cannot continue to operate as they used to if

they want to survive. I agree. The answer lies in the Marines’ Motto, we must improvise, adapt, and overcome our issues or we will fall by the wayside.

The surveys we conducted reflect what recent past surveys of ten thousand Brothers have already identified in 2019; that Masonry, in general, is not providing what the current Membership wants nor what the younger petitioners want.

What do they want?

We asked, and they replied: They want:

- More Fellowship.
- Esoteric Masonic learning
- Self-improvement opportunities and programs
- More family events with their Brothers

They do not like the boring meetings of opening, paying the bills, and the usual sick and distressed conversations, followed by closing the Lodge. They want fewer Meetings and more family events, with a few options for charity engagements.

The bottom line is that our Members who participated in the survey want their Lodge experience to be a family experience where possible and mentally stimulating rather than the same old boring routine.

The answer to this issue is to start meeting our Membership’s Expectations with self-improvement programs. The already available podcasts, and videos are mostly free and number enough to keep any Lodge busy for many years. This is a simple solution that will not burden the individual Lodges with an excessive cost and should be a good return on time well spent for each member who participates.

There are also books, but that runs into the adage, “Masons don’t read,” something that is not historically true but in large part is true of our Members today. If material is beyond a slogan or a tweet in length, it is more effort than many are willing to read.

Masonry reflects Society as a rule and our surveys reflect this. “I” thinking is observed by Members wanting services from a group, but only if it is free of cost or any participation burdens from them.

Many Members want to refrain from participating in anything the Lodge is doing. They

are happy with inactivity. They will not even return surveys with a SASE when asked to by their W.M.. Over a hundred Members mailed a survey with a SASE for the reply at one Lodge, and ignored their W.M.’s call to return the survey! Remember, “You can’t not communicate.” Even if you do not respond, you are communicating.

The 80/20 rule is extremely hard to overcome. Only 20% of the Members do the work and 80% are knife & fork Members, expecting an unburdened experience with little or no cost to them in money or work.

Ideally, Masonry is a “we” group, not a group made up of isolated individuals who will not work as a team.

Being a Mason means bucking the social trend of “me, me, me” that has structured our society for several decades and has no identifiable end in sight. Everything Masons traditionally do is group-oriented, with Committees, Lodge Chair progressions together year by year, Degrees put on by a team, and family activities in the form of youth groups and associated groups like the Scottish Rite.

When you join a group that promotes Fraternity, you can potentially experience stress in a society ruled by selfishness! New members need reasons to offset bucking social patterns, and rewards for their time away from their families.

The rewards are a Fraternity that is making good men better!

Fraternity is defined as, the state or feeling of friendship and mutual support within a group: the ideals of liberty, equality, and Fraternity. friendship and mutual support are “we” concepts, not the “me” concepts that our society at present is promoting.

All of this being said, the surveys did not resolve two important items.

1. They did not address whether the Membership is willing to share the cost burdens and work to get what they want.
2. It also did not resolve how much self-improvement and personal betterment they expect or want. I suspect the answers will vary by individual Lodge. ✖

Paul R. Swanson retired from the United States Navy, where he joined Freemasonry while serving as a Navy recruiter in Iowa in 1990. He has been a Shriner in Virginia as he traveled the Country for military service, he is the sitting Chaplain in Madison Lodge No. 11, and the Facebook and Newsletter Editor for the Valley of Tallahassee Scottish Rite. He is the District 7, Chairman of the Membership Development Committee. He is also the author of “The Empowered Volunteer Rebuilds America: One Fraternal, Civic, and Veterans Group at a Time.” It is available in electric format from Amazon for \$3. He is also a Six Sigma Green Belt and a Certified Lean Practitioner; which is where the idea of the empowered volunteer evolved into reality.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

195th Grand Communication

R.:W.: Ryan Lombardi, W.: Grand Orator 2023-2024

Grand Oration

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, revered Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters, Right Honorables, Distinguished Guests, ladies, and My Brothers All:

My name is Ryan Lombardi, and I have the distinct honor and pleasure of serving as your Grand Orator this year.

It's funny when you have a year to prepare a speech, it feels like you've got the rest of your life to write it, to make it perfect, to make it better than anything anyone's ever heard before; and then the advice starts to roll in from everywhere.

Things like, "Brother, just give your personal experience" to "no matter what you do R.:W.:, don't talk about yourself." Then there's "R.:W.:, try to stay positive; you don't want to rub anyone the wrong way," and then of course there's "Listen Brother, whatever you do don't get up there and sugar coat it! You say what needs to be said!" Like I said, it's funny when you have a year to prepare a speech.

In all seriousness and respect, I would like to thank Most Worshipful Glen Bishop, Grand Master, for trusting me to give this year's Grand Oration and to have the distinct honor of traveling this year as an Appointed Grand Lodge Officer. Most Worshipful, I am proud to call you my friend and my Brother and I congratulate you on a job well done. Thank you for all of your efforts this year, Most Worshipful.

I've learned a lot about myself this year. I also feel that I have learned a lot about the Craft as a whole. I like to think that I've always presented myself as the type of man to whom people trust to confide in and count on; someone who works hard; studies diligently and always puts 110% into everything that I do; in my family and professional life as well as Freemasonry; and to that point I can also shamelessly say that I have always enjoyed the gratification both personally, as well as the praise and appreciation that comes from others for a job well done. Now that last part will often create in most men, whether he realizes it or not, a silent battle between pride and ego, the focus of my Oration.

It goes without saying that I have truly enjoyed the many new relationships that have been built over the last year and the multitude of conversations, opinions, and insights I have gained by the opportunity to carry this Collar.

I have, however, come to realize that many people have in my opinion, a misconception of the representation of these Collars and this realization has directed my heart in the writing of this Oration.

You see, I find that many Brothers hold this idea that a Collar or title somehow magically elevates a man to some next level of Masonic Status, if you will, whether at the State or local level it is, in my opinion, as far from the principles and teachings of this great Fraternity as one can be. In its truest essence the Collar symbolizes an Elected or appointed servant to the Craft. It does not by any means bestow an elevated rank in social status yet, says loudly I am here to work, to lend a hand, an ear, and if possible, a word to assist in all things relevant to the Craft. In its truest representation it is a sign of a humble servant.

I have learned that carrying a Collar or holding a title comes with an incredible responsibility. You see all of a sudden everybody wants to talk

to you. Everyone wants to discuss their ideas, their joys, and their grievances, the things that they would like to see improved in the Fraternity, as well as ideas in ways to improve not only the personal journey, but that well-guided journey that we owe to our newly Initiated, Passed, and Raised Brothers, to give them that education, direction, and light that one truly seeks and expects when joining such a prestigious and ancient Fraternity.

Unfortunately, it is at this point we often fall short; maybe due to our own inadequacies, too little effort, or simply a failure in our own ability to intimately understand the teachings and principles of our profession. Often times when advancing Brothers through the Degrees we focus solely on completing that task. In doing so we just as often lose the essence, or teachings that are found within the task itself. This essence is never more abundant than in the teachings of Freemasonry; for this system was formed in its Inception meant to strike intrigue into the mind of those seeking its fruits; to create an opportunity to ponder; to explore; and to investigate its every part. That we may come to better understand ourselves, whereby through our newfound education we may in fact better ourselves.

Instead, we have learned to relegate ourselves to some perceived time frame by advancing Brothers as fast as possible, so they don't "lose interest" completely depriving our intellectual assertion in the name of advancement. As a business owner you learn in time that quantity over quality has a fuse. In some instances, it may be long burning and in others it may be brief yet in all instances it always ends exactly the same.

I believe that we owe it to our Lodges, our Brothers, and our Fraternity as a whole to slow down, to do better, and to cultivate a culture of true enlightenment. To lead by example not because of a title or symbol but because we ourselves have put in the time, done the work, and studied the Craft and have an earnest desire to build pillars out of men and not monuments of ourselves.

Therefore, my Brothers and friends, I say be humble in your successes and achievements, as they could never be yours alone. For it is the greatest, and best in others who came before you who have shaped and carried the stones that paved the very road you now walk high upon.

To that point, I would like to read a quote:

"To laugh often, and much: To win the respect of intelligent people; and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics; and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child; a garden patch; or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded." by Ralph Waldo Emerson

I would like to share with you all something very personal to me. You see, very early in my Masonic Career I was approached by an elder Illustrious Brother who said to me one single sentence, it is something that I carry with me every day and try my best to act upon, he said,

Continued →



The Grand Lodge of Florida Symbolically Lays Cornerstones At Kissimmee Public Safety Training Center And Melbourne Viera Middle School

On July 11, A.L. 6024, A.D. 2024, an Emergent Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Florida, was opened in Ample Form by M.: W.: Donald W. Cowart, Grand Master, for the purpose of symbolically laying a cornerstone at The Kissimmee Public Safety Training Center in Kissimmee, Florida. Opening remarks were made by Olga Gonzalez, Mayor; Betty Holland, Police Chief; and Jim Walls, Fire Chief. After the remarks the ceremony for a Cornerstone was conducted by M.: W.: Donald W. Cowart, Grand Master, and Members and representatives of The Grand Line. Over sixty Masons from the area attended the

ceremony.

A second Cornerstone Ceremony was held on Wednesday, August 21, A.L. 6024, A.D. 2024 at the new Viera Middle School in Melbourne, Florida. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of



Free & Accepted Masons of Florida, brought Members of District 17, and around the State to symbolically lay square, level, and plumb the Cornerstone. The ceremony was conducted by Most Worshipful Donald W. Cowart, Grand Master, along with Members and representatives of The Grand Line Officers. Mr. Matt Susin, Brevard County School Board Chairman, and Ms. Megan Wright, School Board Vice Chairperson, attended and made remarks thanking The Grand Lodge of Florida. ✖



Grand Oration continued from previous page...

"Congratulations, and welcome my Brother and never, ever forget that we are the protectors of the ancient knowledges." It was that simple sentence, at that very moment that instilled in me this great sense of responsibility to Honor Freemasonry in all its parts and in the name of all those who came before me, whose name I will never know.

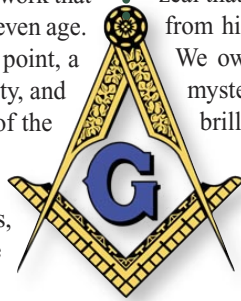
We often hear "I'm a ritualist, not an esoterist" and vice versa. My Brothers, these terms are no way mutually exclusive, as one can never truly be an esoterist and not a ritualist, as a great education without application is simply a theory. Conversely, you can never truly be a ritualist without learning the esoterics, for portraying a good man, does not make a good man.

Now let me say this, some of the greatest, and best men, and Masons that I have ever known, proudly claim to be one, or the other. This is in no way a slight or judgment on them, but instead a testament to the work that lies ahead for each of us all, regardless of title, achievement, or even age.

My Brothers and friends, I feel we are reaching a tipping point, a hollowing out if you will, of the ancient essence of our Fraternity, and to that point, society as a whole. There was a time, before all of the distractions of today, before television and schedules consumed our every waking moment, before smart phones and computers captured our conciseness, and detached us from our true selves, when man would stare into the night sky and contemplate the great achievements of the Grand Architect of the Universe. My hope is that we can all find a renewed sense of appreciation, and gratitude for the gifts that God has given each, and every one of us, and then use those gifts to help each other.

My Brothers, if fortune favors the bold, then legends favor the brave. I challenge you all to be brave in the face of complacency and familiarity. Be powerful in your humility, and never, never mistake titles, or achievements as the path to immortality, as it is the achievements of those who will come after us by traveling along the path we have beaten, and the road we have laid in the hope of someone else's future success that truly defines us as a people.

I would like to read one last quote that I often give to our newly Raised Master Masons. I find it helps when teaching them that they should learn from and respect our Past Masters; Past Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Masters; our Lodge Elders, and of course our Secretaries. Equally important, I believe instills in them that they are not only duly entitled to; but directly responsible for leading our Lodges into the future. We must therefore nourish and cultivate their strengths.



*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.
Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing
enlightened about shrinking so that others won't feel insecure
around you. We are all meant to shine as children do.
It's not just in some of us; it is in everyone.
And as we let our own lights shine,
we unconsciously give others permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fear our presence
automatically liberates others." by Marianne Williamson*

My Brothers, if a job is available, then it should be done. If a job is to be done it should be done well, and with the same freedom, fervency, and zeal that each Mason finds beaming from within every part of his being, from his Initiation to receiving the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. We owe a great debt to this Fraternity, for held within it are great mysteries waiting to be understood; history, antiquity, the meanings brilliantly hidden in its symbolisms, the inner teachings of this great system of philosophy, this wonderful power which moves men's hearts and provokes goodness toward all mankind. For all of this, all that is asked of us, my Brothers, is simply everything. My Brothers, we must take the time to attend to our working tools; be honorable at your several stations, and not just in Lodge but in all aspects of life. Pay attention to the prayers that are graciously delivered before the opening, and closing of our communications. Be men of good, moral character; be honest and fair; especially my Brothers when no one is watching.

We should always stand up for what is right, hold ourselves accountable to our word and always speak and act in righteousness and truth, not because it is popular or easier, not because we think it's what everyone will want to hear, but because it is what is necessary to preserve the honor, and dignity of our beloved Craft, because it is necessary to preserve the very spirit that drives each of us.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your time, your continued efforts and contributions in ensuring a strong future of this Great Fraternity. May the Grand Architect of the Universe lay blessings and protection upon your homes, your families, and your Lodges. May he protect those who protect this Country, both here, and abroad and may God Bless this Great Nation.

Thank you all. ✖



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Greetings!

I hope this note finds you well, as the summer season bears down upon us. I have just completed my sophomore year at Florida State University. I am grateful for the college scholarship you awarded me, and am writing to update you on my progress and activities.

I earned a 3.9 GPA this past semester, while working a part-time job. I continue to work very hard on my studies, and am thrilled that my diligence has earned me a spot on the Dean's List (GPA 3.5 and above) each semester since starting at FSU.

I completed my year-long work as a research assistant to a PhD candidate in the Florida State University Askew School of Public Administration and Policy. I did so through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. For my research, I analyzed data on government structures and their influence on certain disparities, through the lens of government responsiveness. My research improved my ability to think critically and draw reasonable conclusions. These are critical skills I will need in my future career as a lawyer.

On April 3, 2024, I presented my research project at the 24th Annual President's Undergraduate Research Symposium. The day was quite exciting for me, as it was the culmination of a year of intense and challenging work!

This past year I also completed my term as Social Chair and Executive Board Member for the FSU Women in Pre-Law Society. I really enjoyed planning and executing creative, educational, and enjoyable social events for the organization. I particularly enjoyed bringing in speakers to present on legal education topics. One exceptionally engaging speaker was the Executive Director of the Henry Latimer Center for Professional-

ism at The Florida Bar, who spoke on the very

important topic of Florida lawyers' ethical responsibilities.

Next year, I will continue my leadership in the Women in Pre-Law Society. The Executive Committee of the organization has selected me to serve as the Vice-President of External Affairs for the 2024-2025 school year. In that position, I will assist the President in her duties, and assume the President's responsibilities in her absence.

Community service was also a very important part of my life this past year. During the spring semester 2024, I rendered 234 hours of community service, and during the Fall semester 2023, I rendered an additional 195, for a total of 429 community service hours for the 2023-2024 school year. Those hours were audited by FSU and are verified on my "ServScript," which is the FSU-transcript for community service.

I logged some of my community service hours while serving as Director of Community Engagement and Executive Board Member for "The Big Event" Tallahassee. "The Big Event" is one of the nation's largest one-day student-run community service projects. As Director of Community Engagement, I established and oversaw alliances between Tallahassee non-profit organizations and the hundreds of college-based student, faculty, and staff volunteers from three local colleges and universities, who provided community service to these organizations on Saturday, February 24, 2024, the day of "The Big Event."

On that day, hundreds of university students and staff gave a day of community service to ten Tallahassee non-profit organizations, including Catholic Charities, Bond Community Health Center, and the Leon County Sheriff's Office. I worked very hard with the rest of the "The Big Event" team to ensure that the day was a resounding success,

and it was!

After The Big Event, I was honored and

gratified to receive a personal note from Michael Barrett, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida, stating: "Kate, I regret not having the opportunity to meet you on Saturday but want to THANK YOU on behalf of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida for your engagement, and getting volunteers to give of their time, and talent by helping the Tallahassee offices past Saturday. The Big Event was a big success and Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida is grateful to be a partner with you. Please keep us on your list for future events."

I am thrilled to have been a part of such a successful community service effort! Community service will remain an essential part of my life as long as I live.

In a few weeks, I will be departing for Costa Rica, where I will spend the summer taking classes taught entirely in Spanish at The Instituto San Joaquin de Flores, for twelve hours of college credit. I am pleased to have been awarded a US State Department Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for my Spanish immersion studies. I aim to become a fluent Spanish speaker, which will assist me in my future legal career, and more generally.

I look forward to living with my host family, getting to know other university students, and savoring the sights and sounds of Costa Rica! For a few months I will be living the "Pura Vida," a phrase used in Costa Rica to express the Costa Rican philosophy of cherishing life's simplest pleasures.

None of my collegiate achievements and experiences would have been possible without your support. I cannot thank you enough. I look forward to providing future updates, and wish you a joyful and restful summer. ✕

Kindest Regards,
Kate Deviney

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Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 Continues Their Adopt-A-Teacher Program In 2024 With Four First-Year Teachers From Local Schools

Okaloosa No. 312 F.&A.M. annually adopts a first-year teacher in the Elementary Schools in Niceville, FL. This year's newest teacher is Ms. Molly Warneck, 4th Grade. ✖



L to R: Principal Ms. Tammy Metz, W.: Robert Anderson, Ms. Molly Warneck, and Senior Warden Brother Scott Boston.

Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 F.&A.M. annually adopts a first-year teacher in the Elementary Schools in Niceville, FL. The program provides the new teacher with a check to assist in setting up their first classroom. This year's newest Edge teachers are Ms. Hannah Dempsey, 3rd Grade, and Ms. Anna Carrieri, Kindergarten. ✖



L to R: Principal Ms. Melissa Kearley, Ms. Hannah Dempsey, W.: Robert Anderson, Ms. Anna Carrieri, and Ms. Kathy Anderson, Assistant Principal.

Okaloosa No. 312 continues its Adopt-a-Teacher program. A donation is made to assist the first-year teachers at Lewis Elementary in setting up their classrooms. ✖



L to R: W.: Robert Anderson stands with the recipient Ms. Jami Shira, Elementary School Physical Education Teacher.



L to R: W.: Robert Anderson is standing with Ms. Lauren Kaushagen, 7th Grade Teacher.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Early in our nation's history, when illiteracy was the norm and the people were mostly agrarian laborers, there were no public institutions dedicated to improving the education of people and providing a solid future for coming generations. Freemasonry led the way during those ages in developing a competent working class capable of independent thought and action. Masons of previous generations worked tirelessly to establish new schools, and to enhance public knowledge and educational opportunities. One such example is Brother Benjamin Franklin and the University of Pennsylvania.

We, as Masons, elect to assist those engaged in this process of attaining knowledge to make a significant impact on future generations. We do this by supporting public education and championing the cause of our public school systems. To accomplish these goals in Florida, the Grand Master appoints a Committee on Public Education and Citizenship, which serves to promote and aid students of our public school system. Specifically, the Grand Lodge of Florida offers all graduating High School seniors the opportunity to be awarded a scholarship that may be used at any State of Florida supported Institution.

ELIGIBILITY: All Graduating High School Seniors in the State of Florida who will be

attending a State of Florida Supported Institution (college, university, community college, technical college, or other such institution of higher education governed by the Florida State Board of Regents or the Florida Department of Education) during the following term (semester or quarter). The applicant must enter the school within one semester / quarter (excluding summer sessions) after having been awarded the scholarship.

REQUIREMENT: An essay of no less than 1,000 words or more than 1,250 words on the topic "Why Education is Important" and a completed Scholarship Application form. All work must be original and the essay becomes the property of The Grand Lodge of Florida. Deadline:

January 20, 2025, is the deadline for submission. The application and essay must be received by the State Chairman no later than midnight on January 20, 2025. Any applications and essays received after that date will be returned.



If you would like to participate, please download detailed information & application at <https://www.grandlodgefl.com/citizenship/>

Adopt-A-Highway Program Taken On By Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299, To Help Keep Local Streets Cleaner

Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299, partnered with the Florida DOT, and the City of Hollywood to adopt sections of two streets in the local area close to the Lodge:

- Hollywood Blvd (SR820)
- SW 46th Avenue

The Brothers of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299, routinely conduct clean-up activities on these streets to help the neighborhood. ✖



The Hand Shake *By Brother Harry E. Stewart, John M. Caldwell Lodge No. 70*

Around 1996, I traveled to Shamokin, PA, with my Son, his wife, and grandson to visit her parents. I have never been around Amish people; they lived in that area. We went to a flea market in the Amish Village. I was surprised at their accepting my family into their village. Two beautiful young ladies were standing at a table looking for merchandise somewhere in the middle of the market. I told my grandson to get close to them and that I would take a picture. He stood behind them and said something to them, and they turned around, giving a perfect shot. Instantly, they got quiet, and two elders came to me and said I could not take pictures of their children and that they would have to take my film.



A gentleman approached me, recognizing my Mason Ring, and asked if I was a Mason; I said "Yes, Sir." He told the crowd to calm down. He asked me if I would take a picture of the young ladies and destroy them and the Negatives when I developed them. I told him I would, and then he stuck out his hand and

said can I have your hand on this? After the Master Mason Hand Shake, I agreed to do so.

He then told the crowd it was all settled. When I got home about a week later, I had the pictures developed. My wife saw one of our grandsons and the two ladies; she said it was wonderful. I told her I had to destroy it and the negative. She looked at me, puzzled, and told me I had given my word as a Mason, and sealed it with a handshake. After destroying them, I felt honored to be a Mason, and we are known as honest, and respectful people. Our word and handshake are our bond. ✕

DeMolay Congratulations *By M.: W.: Rob Lambert, Past Grand Master*

It is truly an honor to convey my congratulations to the Officers of DeMolay the jurisdiction of Florida for a year well done. Also, congratulations to the newly elected Officers for this coming year. As a DeMolay, it is exciting to see my young Brothers continuing to work for the future of this great Fraternity. Your journey has just begun, and your opportunities are endless. You are part of a group of Brothers whose goal is to improve one another.

The Seven Cardinal Virtues are the foundation of DeMolay, and should always be your guidepost in life. To sum up in a word what they would mean together, I would have to say is: "Integrity." Follow the seven virtues in your young manhood, and they will be your Crest of Honor upon which the world will know you for the rest of your life.

~ From a proud DeMolay.

May God bless you, your families, and our beloved Fraternity of DeMolay.





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Approved for Distribution by M.W. Donald W. Cowart, Grand Master, on August 14, 2024

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My Brothers please share this information on the Outreach Program with your wife, children, and Lodge; it is very important for everyone to know what is available and how it can be delivered to you in your place of residence or in a facility near you. The caring for our worthy distressed Brother Master Masons, their widows, and orphans is in our Obligation since time immemorial.

The Lifecare is a concept that we have been committed to for over 105 years, and it does not have to be given at only one facility it can be delivered to you in your neighborhood.

We have the following services:

- Masonic Home Lifecare in St. Petersburg
- Assisted Living Facility
- Skill Nursing Facility
- Non-Resident Relief
- Emergency Relief
- Hal W. Adams Hospital Service Fund
- Outreach Program

So, what is the Outreach Program?

Where are we heading?

A little history about the Outreach Program, that it may give you a better understanding of the powerful assistance it can deliver by encompassing all the services mentioned above and more by tapping into the Local State and Federal Assistance Programs including the Veteran services available.

The Outreach Program has been around since the Great Depression when we requested the Brethren to stay home because the Masonic Home was at full capacity, that we may better assist them there. In the 2010's, the Outreach Program was once again put into effect with a twist, to the Non-Resident Relief Program, that we could assist the Brethren at the local level not just by the Non-Resident Relief Program, but by looking at all the sources mentioned before which, had never been used. The Brothers that were assisted with this program were able to stay close to their family in their homes for a longer period of time adding quality of life, and making living easier and better.

Last year, the Outreach Program was brought out once again. This year the Craft authorized a line item to give this program some

teeth with its own funding and importance that we can expand on the delivery of goods and services at the local level bringing Lifecare Services to your neighborhood. The major focus will be helping Brothers, wives, and widows with the assistance needed without having to leave their home, familiar surroundings, family and friends behind, health permitting after an evaluation by the Admissions Committee.

How do we do this? We do it by making sure we exhaust all the programs available where they live, bringing in all the Local, State and Federal Government Programs to bare and once this is determined the Outreach Program would kick in the difference needed to fulfill our Obligation and commitment to help, aid, and assist all worthy distress Brother Master Masons their widows and orphans.

With the Outreach Program we bring the HOME to you. We are in your neighborhood.

As an example, we have just approved a 95 year-old widow of a worthy distressed Master Mason with her stay in a facility where she has resided for some time, close to her family. However, her resources have reached a point where she needs our assistance. We have looked at her case and the Admissions Committee has approved her for assistance and have reached out to the family with guidance to seek other resources from the Local, State, and Federal resources and our participation in that assistance will be cut by a little more than half once the government assistance is implemented.

The result is that we will be able to keep this widow whose health is frail, close to her family that visits her daily in a place she knows, without subjecting her to a move in her frail condition. My Brothers, that is delivering Brotherly Love and Affection to one of our widows, maintaining our Obligation and Commitment, while at the same time saving funds to be able to help other worthy distressed Brother Master Masons, widows, and orphans down the road.

If we had taken this widow to the HOME it would have negatively impacted her in her present condition both physically and mentally, her family which would be separated from her and could not travel daily to see her, because of the distance between them. This action would have increased our financial participation in her daily care.

Continued →

Tropical Lodge No. 56, Celebrates 70-Year Pin and Certificate With Brother "Augie"



Tropical Lodge No. 56, recently had our Past Masters and Awards Night, which also consisted of a Presentation to Brother Agostino "Augie" Luce of his 70-Year Pin and Certificate. This was done the week prior with some of the Officers and Lodge Members at Augie's house. At 99-years old, Brother Augie doesn't travel as much as he would like, so we brought the festivities to him.

Brother Augie was Initiated an Entered Apprentice into Veritas Lodge No. 53, in New Jersey, on Nov. 17, 1953, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on Jan 5, 1954, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 1, 1954.

He transferred his Membership from Veritas No. 53, to Peninsula Lodge No. 99, also in New Jersey, on April 8, 1973. Augie became a

dual Member of Tropical Lodge No. 56 on Aug. 6, 2013, where he remains today.

On June 1, 2014, Augie was honored with his 60-Year Service Award; on June 1, 2019, his 65-Year Service Award; and on June 1, 2024, his 70-Year Service Award. Brother Augie also served as the Chaplain of Tropical Lodge for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019.

Brother Augie's birthday is celebrated every December 1st during Tropical Lodge's "Augie Luce Day" and this year's celebration will mark his 100th birthday!

Because Augie is not able to travel like he used to, we were fortunate enough to visit with him this year to present his 70-Year Service Award Certificate and Pin, and plan to return to help him celebrate his 100th birthday.

Augie continues to be an inspiration to the Brothers, and maintains his wit and charm at 99-years of age, as evidenced by our recent visit. He holds a special place in our Lodge, and in our Fraternity's History.

It was a great honor to be a part of Augie's 70-Year Service Celebration. ✖



Outreach Program *continued from pg. 26*

This is a win, win situation for all and this is the type of service we are looking for all our Members when needed.

We will be bringing you more information as the year progresses, come out to the Grand Masters Official Visits to hear more about it. Ask questions, learn more about the Outreach Program and help us make this one of our primary goals in bringing the Lifecare through the Outreach Program to your home or neighborhood.

My Brothers, this is the general scope of where we want to take our fulfillment of our Obligation and Commitment to serve our worthy distressed Brother Master Masons their widows, and orphans. We also want to take this a step beyond and make these services

anonymous, as there is no need for everyone to know who the recipients are, this may take away that element of pride that a Brother may not seek help, aid, and assistance because everyone may become aware of his situation. We need to do the right thing by all in need regardless of who they may be, anonymity will take care of that.

In conclusion, by the time you receive this magazine we will have our new Administrator, please help your Board of Trustees welcome Megan Garcia. On behalf of the Board of Trustees we hope you join us in making these goals a reality, and improve the level of care to all who are in our care, where they may be within our Grand Jurisdiction. God Bless all of you. ✖

The Florida Mason
Above & Beyond

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

Volume 3, Issue 2

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