

the Double Eagle



the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry



in the Cradle of Liberty since 1857

Honorable Mention- "Brother Franklin Award" – 2005-06-11-13

December 2019

Seasons Greetings

Brethren,

Wow – it has been an exciting and fun Fall Reunion Season in the Valley of Philadelphia! It included highlights such as our Annual Officer Training Conference, the Feast of Tishri, an outstanding Day of Masonic Light event, debuted the new 4th degree, presented the 13th degree for the first time since 2007, awarded the new Defender of Peace and Freedom pin to our Veterans, had a Ladies program to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, celebrated the season at the Annual Holiday Party and enjoyed a family event at the Media Theater. Most importantly, we welcomed new brethren into our Valley. I want to express my appreciation for all those members, officers and women of the Valley that made this past season such a success.

I am extremely proud to be a member of the Valley of Philadelphia and your Commander in Chief. The outreach of our Valley to those in need and demonstration the true meaning of Freemasonry has been outstanding this season. The Lodge of Perfection and DeJoinville Council help those less fortunate with charity events. Our Valley also provided direct financial support to our brethren through our Almoner Fund. We also continued our commitment to the Valley's Dyslexia Center with financial contributions, as well as making donations to the Supreme Council Charities (Grand Almoner Fund, White Flower Society and Abbotts Scholarship Fund).



Looking forward to the Spring Reunion – we are going to STEP IT UP EVEN FURTHER! The Spring Reunion Honoree is scheduled to be the next Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Illustrious Thomas Gamon, 33°. Our reunions will be on Saturday March 21 and Friday April 17. On March 21, we will be presenting degrees that we have not done for over 5 years – so watch Facebook and our Valley website for the list of degrees to be presented. The Valley of Boston has heard about our Reunions, and they are planning to participate in our March 21 reunion and present the 12th degree for us.

To celebrate our Spring Reunion Class Honoree, we will have the following incentive for the first 30 candidates to join the class – "For every three petitions obtained from the same Lodge or by the same primary signer, the candidates will not have to pay dues in 2020". All fees will be required with the petitions.

From myself, my Lady Julie and all the officers of the Valley of Philadelphia – "I want to wish all of our brethren and their families the most joyous holidays, along with the best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year."

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Gerard R. Sealy
Commander in Chief, Valley of Philadelphia

My Dear Brothers,

The strength of a Masonic Body is measured not only in its financial wealth and long tradition but also in its ability to attract and engage men of caliber for the purpose of realizing its mission. Our mission is to create a culture that is welcoming, engaging, and rewarding. Our target is Master Masons from Philadelphia County and its surroundings. Our vision is to grow in membership and industrious capability.



In light of this effort, at this year's officer training, we were able to engage attendees in a very meaningful discussion that revolved around our efforts to realize our vision. Recommendations that revolved on Valley operations, service activities and communication were discussed. For example, attendees recommended that on Fridays we would start at 6:30 pm to allow members more time to travel to reunions. The October 2019 reunion was the pilot trial. Next, we placed a notice on our Valley Facebook page calling on all members with customer service, marketing, membership and fundraising experience to enrich the Membership Committee with professional skills. These professionals will help plan, execute and achieve the committee's goals. In the Spring, the Membership Committee will present a data driven plan based on your feedback and input. As we develop this multi-phased plan, we still need your help. You can help us by 1) Enlist as a Lodge Ambassador and educate your Lodge membership about our Valley and our activities. You can do so by contacting our Commander in Chief and/or Valley Secretary. 2) Update your membership information at <https://scottishritenmj.org/login> This is a very important step to ensure that we can reach all our members timely and effectively. 3) Assist a brother who is not computer comfortable to update their information at <https://scottishrite.nmj.org/login> 4) Give feedback on how we can improve the Scottish Rite experience in Philadelphia by emailing me at yalkhatib@srmnj.org with your idea or project. 5) Please complete a survey that you will receive in 2020.

Finally, The Valley of Philadelphia's membership committee is committed to serve you its customers and members. It is truly an honor to be able to serve you as First Lieutenant Commander. Also it is a pleasure to work with a Commander in Chief who truly cares about the individual person and the entire organization. I wish you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and pray that your New Year be filled with good health and happy memories.

Yasser Al-Khatib, 33° MSA, HGA
First Lieutenant Commander
Valley of Philadelphia, A.A.S.R.

The Valley is helping our members and the community

As Second Lieutenant Commander my responsibilities include chairing the Charity and Almoner Committees as well as initiating and organizing the Mentoring of our new members.

Charity:

Since July the Valley has made the following charitable contributions:

\$5000.00 to the Children's Dyslexia Center of Philadelphia
\$100.00 each to the three Supreme Council's Charities: the Grand Almoner's Fund, the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Fund and the White Flower Society, which helps our widows.

Almoner & Hospitaller:

To date, having been made aware, we proudly offered financial assistance to two of our members. Let us also offer prayers to these brothers to help them through their difficult times.



Our Valley Hospitaller Joseph W. Calabrese, 32° MSA works diligently to let our sick brethren or their families know that the Valley is thinking of them. He makes many phone calls, arranges visits when warranted and reports each illness at our monthly Executive Committee Meeting.

Remember we cannot help members unless we have knowledge of their need. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you learn of any hardship, illness or worse for any of our members or their families.

Mentoring:

First, please join me in welcoming the members of our 2019 Fall Class. Each new candidate upon petitioning the Valley has had a Mentor assigned to him. Mentors have been qualified and furnished with helpful information to share with their candidate or candidates. We endeavor to have the first line signer assume the responsibility of mentoring their candidates. Candidates, we welcome any feedback you may have to assist us in this process. We are always looking to improve on our systematic approach to make this a fraternity that welcomes new members. We plan to have a Welcoming Breakfast next June to help indoctrinate the new members into the Valley of Philadelphia.

Ill. Jon S. Solheim, 33°
Second Lieutenant Commander



My dear Brethren,

*“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: **The potential for greatness lives within each of us.**”* What a powerful and meaningful quote by American athlete and Olympic champion; Wilma Rudolph.



It is truly an honor for me to be a member of the Valley of Philadelphia! We have such great, hard-working and dedicated Brethren among us. Our Fall Reunion Finale was in fact, a memorable and meaningful one. The degrees performed have a significant impact, the presentation of the new Scottish Rite jewels and Defender of Peace and Freedom pins

were meaningful. To our newest Valley members – get involved in our organization and make it your own! Together, we can achieve distinction.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate our Past Commander in Chief, Ill. Jeffrey S. Greene, 33°, DTA, for having our Fall Class named in his honor. We are very lucky to have Ill. Brother Jeff as such a significant role model in our Valley.

To all of our members who helped our Fall 2019 Charity Campaign by donating food for Philabundance, THANK YOU!! Together, we have made a strong and positive impact for the less fortunate and people that need us. The Philabundance fundraising team has asked us to relay their sincere appreciation to all who have donated food. ***The potential for greatness lives within each of us.*** Dream big. Be the best you can be. Make a difference.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a bright and festive Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
Rick S. Freedman, 33°
Thrice Potent Master



On Saturday, November 9th, a group of members of the Valley of Philadelphia and their ladies went to Aid for Friends. During our time we prepared 300 meals for the elderly and shut-ins. It is a rewarding feeling knowing that what you do will impact somebody and they will appreciate what you do. I also learned that day that two weeks prior to our visit they changed their name to “Caring for Friends” and that they also expanded their outreach to include the homeless. Last month they prepared 5300 meals from 17 sites. I want to thank everyone who could attend; it was an enjoyable and rewarding day.



Sincerely and Fraternally,
Joseph W. Calabrese, 32° MSA
Sovereign Prince

Looking Forward – Our 2020 Spring Reunion
The Ill. Thomas Gamon IV, 33°
Right Worshipful Grand Master Class

Deadline for Petitions for the Class:
Friday, March 13, 2020

Saturday, March 21, 2020
Builder, 4°

Intendent of the Building, 8°

***Master of Mercy, 12°**

Brother of the Forest, 24°

Master of Achievement, 25°

***Presented by the Brethren of Lafayette Lodge of Perfection-Valley of Boston**

Friday, April 17, 2020

Official visit of the Right Worshipful Grand Master
Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32°

Brethren,

As our fall reunion season has come to an end, I want to congratulate all of our degree lines for tremendous work in October and November. I especially want to thank the members of the 18° line for the excellent job they did. But most especially I want to congratulate the candidates, now new members of the Valley. It was truly an honor to play a part in your journey into Scottish Rite Masonry. We hope you enjoyed watching the work as much as we enjoyed performing it. That being said, if you have any interest in taking part in the degree work, please come forward! We'd love to welcome new talent.



Looking into next year, the members of the 18° line will be organizing charity activities this Spring to support the Veterans Multi-Service Center. They're locally based and support Philadelphia area veterans in exceptional ways. We'll be sharing more information on this very worthwhile endeavor after the holidays.

Speaking of holidays, it's hard to believe they're already upon us. On behalf of the entire Rose Croix degree line, I'd like to wish each of you a joyous holiday season and prosperous new year!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
David Kolmetzky, 32°
Most Wise Master

My Dear Brethren:

To our newest Sublime Princes, I again say welcome! But, I must



add to that and it's a statement you may have heard before, you'll get out of Scottish Rite what you put into it. Opportunities are always available for any Valley Brother that desires to get involved. Sadly, we recently said goodbye to Illustrious James C. Rae, 33° MSA. Jim was the kind of Mason who would roll up his sleeves and report to the

quarries ready to work. I would ask you and any member of this Valley that isn't currently active to honor our late Illustrious Brother's legacy of service by coming forward. I want wish all of you and your families the Happiest of Hanukkah's, the Merriest of Christmas's, and a very Happy New Year!

Sincere fraternal regards,
Steven A. Morrison, 33° DSM
Valley Secretary

Members of the Board of Governors of the Children's Dyslexia Center of Philadelphia would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday.

December is the month we typically celebrate and look back over the year. This year, I am happy to report the Center is open and moving forward, thanks to the support we are receiving from the Scottish Rite and members of the various Masonic affiliates.



We are thankful for everyone who gave us a one-time gift in the past and welcome your future tax deductible gift of any size.

We are striving to secure our future by introducing a new program of sustained giving. Below I have listed a few of the Programs:

Builders Council	\$10,000
Sponsor a Child	\$5,000

Builders Council can be paid through your credit card over a ten year period; you might elect to pay \$83.83 per month or any other payment for any number of years.

Sponsor a Child can be paid over a two year period.

Plaque Program	\$250 per year for five years
Certificate Program	\$100 per year

Plaque Program participants will receive a plaque the year and a number signifying the year the next four years.

Anyone interested in having a classroom named in their honor may do so by donating \$2,000 for five years.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Tom Wible at 215-219-9839 or email Tomwible48@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the Learning Center. The Board Members, Staff, Children and Parents would like to wish you a happy holiday, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ill. Thomas H. Wible, 33° MSA
Board Chairman

Merry Christmas

IN MEMORIAM
ILL. JAMES C. RAE, 33° MSA

The Valley of Philadelphia is sad to announce the passing of Ill. James C. Rae, 33° MSA, Captain of the Guard of Benjamin Franklin Consistory, 32°. Illustrious Brother Rae passed on November 20, 2019.

James Cruden Rae was born in Philadelphia on November 25, 1942 to Cruden and Catherine (Fleming) Rae. Our Brother is a graduate of Riverside High School and studied a Burlington County College. He was retired from his career as an Electrician.



Illustrious Bro. Jim resided in Burlington, New Jersey with his wife, Carole. He is the father of son, James C. Rae and daughter Tammy Lynn Adams and step-father to Nicole Van Ness. He was a member of the Roman Catholic faith.

Bro. Rae was made a Mason in 1998 in Mozart Lodge No. 436. He served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2004 and as a Trustee and as Representative to the Grand Lodge. Jim was also a dual member of Jerusalem Lodge No. 506.

He completed the degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Philadelphia as a member of the 'Ill. George R. Moad, 33°, Active Emeritus of the Supreme Council Class' in the Fall of 2002. Interesting note, that Class had four of its members coroneted 33° Masons: Illustrious Bros. Armando M. Duran (Class of 2011), Thomas Hopkins (Class of 2009), Bro. Jim (Class of 2013), and Thomas H. Wible, MSA (Class of 2019). Our Illustrious Brother was a very active and involved Scottish Rite Mason serving as Captain of the Guard for the Consistory, as an At Large member of the Executive Committee, as Assistant Stage Director, as a member of the Reception/Stewards Committee, on the Supreme Council 2010 Planning Committee, and as Chairman of the Family Life Committee. He was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Children's Dyslexia Center. Bro. Rae received the Meritorious Service Award at the 2011 Annual Convocation of the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation. Jim was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33° in 2013 at the Annual Meeting held at Washington, D.C.

Our Brother was exalted in Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 and had served his Chapter as Most Excellent High Priest. James was greeted in Philadelphia Council, R. &S.M.M. No. 11 and serving as Sentinel at the time of his passing. Sir Knight Rae was knighted in St. John's Commandery No. 4 and had served as Eminent Commander.

Illustrious Jim was a member and the current Master Overseer of Girard Mark Lodge No. 214. He was a Past Monarch of Delco

Grotto, and is a Past President of Benjamin Franklin Chapter No. 16, National Sojourners. He also belonged to LuLu Shriners and the Joshua Association. Aside from Freemasonry our Illustrious Brother was an Auxiliary Member of Lambert-Scully-Bozarth Post No. 3020, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he was active with the United Way.

His family has asked that donations in Jim's memory be made to the Children's Dyslexia Center of Philadelphia.

Our Brother, who was always one of the first to volunteer whenever a need arose, will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

IN MEMORIAM
*Farewell My Brother,
You've gone to meet your God.*

Boyd Bruce
Spring Class 1977

Ronald C. Kline
Fall Class 1973

Thomas F. Milhous
Spring Class 2013

John A. Wishwanick Jr.
Spring Class 1975





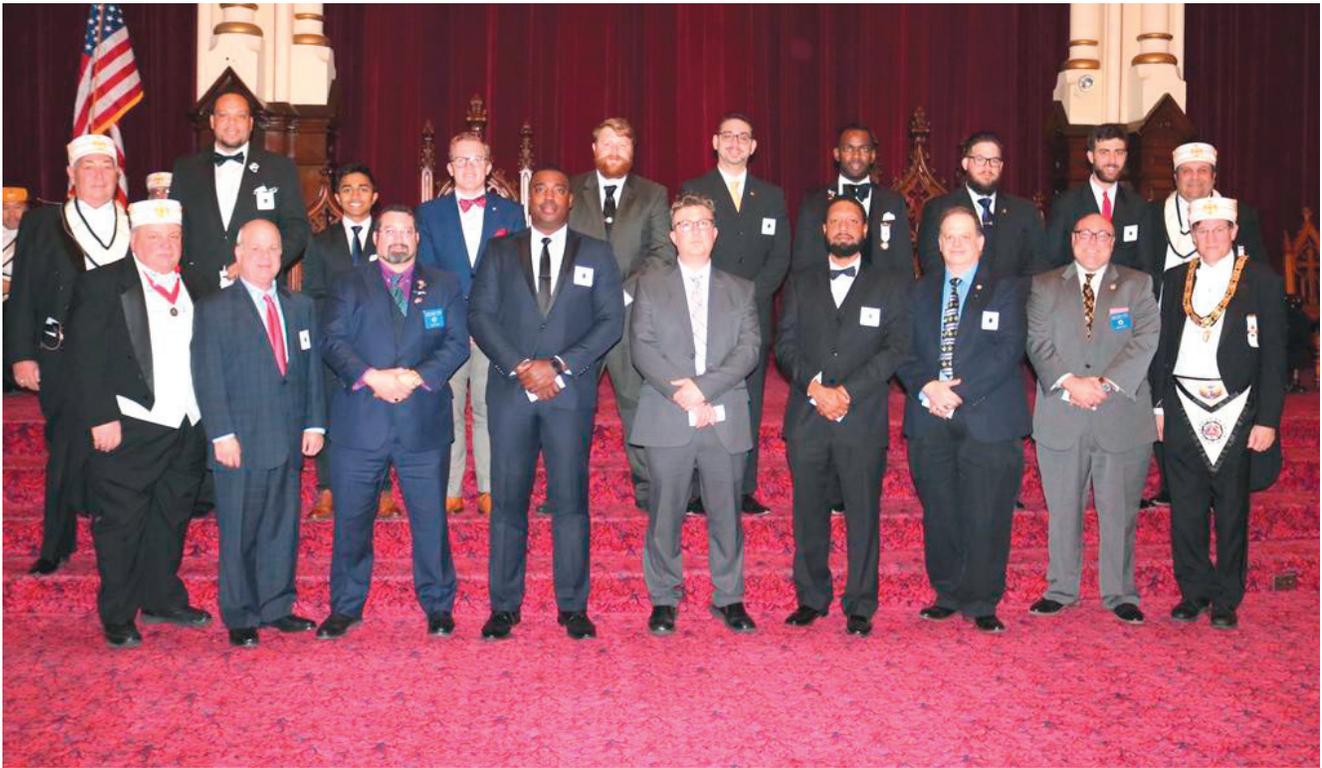
Our November 16th Reunion Meeting

The Commander in Chief was pleased to present Bro. Scott R. Hilsee, 32° with his Past Thrice Potent Master’s jewel. He also presented Ill. Norman R. Greene III, 33° MSA with his Past Most Wise Master’s jewel, 33° jewel, and his 33° Scottish Rite cap. Illustrious Brothers Yasser A. Al-Khatib, MSA HGA DSM, Jon S. Solheim, and Thomas H. Wible, MSA received their Scottish Rite 33° caps as well.

Attending a Reunion soon? Be sure to bring along your Scottish Rite Dues Card! Bro. Joseph R. Waters, 32° assisted with scanning dues cards at the Reunion. Getting your card scanned will add whatever degrees being presented at that particular Reunion into your membership record. Don’t forget your Scottish Rite Passport either. We’re still stamping them.

Helping the less fortunate during the Holiday Season: Our Thrice Potent Master, Ill. Rick S. Freedman, 33° identified *Philabundance* as the Lodge of Perfection’s charity effort this Fall and as such donation boxes were placed throughout the Masonic Temple during our Fall Reunion season. With donations being made by Valley Brethren and other members of the Masonic family; food donations raised were over 500 pounds! Thanks to Bro. Daniel O’Rourke, 32°, who shared this project with his local scouting troop, who also contributed. A wonderfully caring way to show our community that Freemasonry and in particular, Scottish Rite Masonry cares. Congratulations Illustrious Bro. Rick!

Our November 16, 2019 Reunion Meeting



Meet the 2019 Fall Class-L to R (front row)- Ill. Jeffrey S. Greene, 33°, Class Honoree, Michael Mollen, Allen W. Dick, Anthony L. Heath, David M. Goldman, Maurice Gonzalez, Richard A. Hall Jr., Andrew Saksa, Ill. Gerard R. Sealy, 33°, Commander in Chief **(back row L to R)-** Ill. Jon S. Solheim, 33° 2nd LTC, Ian D. Mosley, Ayush Mohan, Matthew J. McGovern, Sean J. McGillen, Oscar J. Martinez, David A. Jenkins, Kevin J. Hunnicutt, Matthew T. Hirsch, Ill. Yasser A. Al-Khatib, 33° MSA HGA DSM, 1st LTC



Thank You for Your Service: Our Valley's Veteran members received their Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33° Defender of Peace & Freedom pins at our November meeting. The Commander in Chief, along with our First and Second Lt. Commanders posed for a picture with the 9 Soldiers, 6 Sailors, 6 Airmen, 3 Marines, 1 Coast Guardsman, and 1 Uniformed Services Veteran.

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ALLEGIANCE

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ILL.: DAVID A. GLATTLY, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILL.: ROBERT J. BATEMAN, 33° RWPGM
*Active Member of the Supreme Council
Deputy for Pennsylvania*

www.scottishritenmj.org

www.pacod.us

The Double Eagle

Valley of Philadelphia, A.A.S.R.
Ill.: Steven A. Morrison, 33°, DSM, Editor

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