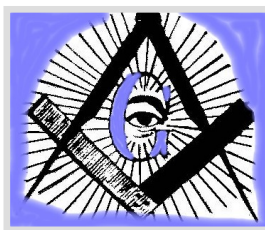


TRESTLEBOARD JANUARY 6026 A.L.

DeSoto Lodge No.105 F&AM
P.O. Box 216
Riverview, FL 33568-0216



Non- Profit Bulk Rate
Permit No. 4
Riverview, FL



Trestleboard



De Soto LODGE NO. 105 F.&A.M.

10801 De Soto Rd.

Riverview, Florida 33569

RIVerview, FLORIDA 33569

JANUARY 2026 VOL. MMXXVI NO. 1

MAKING MASONS SINCE 5889 A.L.





Desoto Lodge No.105

Officers for 2025



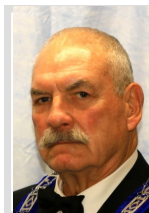
Worshipful Master

∴ Joel Sparnon
704-779-0730



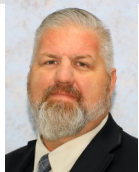
Senior Warden

Tony Garcia
860-625-4557



Junior Warden

Paul Evancoe
240-888-1468



Treasurer

R∴W∴ Steve Williams
813-743-5739

Chaplain

Russell Gavlak
603-566-8710



Secretary

W∴ Troy DiVito
813-598-7087



Senior Deacon

Mark Barthle
813-695-3502

Junior Deacon

Adrian Porrata
813-597-6810

Sr. Steward

Steve Maslin
610-476-7130

Lodge Instructor

R∴W∴ John Grey

Jr. Steward

Richard Resto
516-790-5375



Tyler

Oscar Griffis
813-493-3768



Historian

W∴Steve Wilson
813-758-6174



Marshall

W∴ Daniel Allen
813-600-7540



DESOTO HONOR ROLL of PAST MASTERS

* =Deceased + = Past DDGM

1888-.....B.N.Mathes*	1978-.....M. Beardsley +/*
1889-.....A.H.Meeks*	1979-.....D.R. Packard*
.....Lodge first met	1980-.....W.B. Ellis 33°*
.....in the Meeks Store	1981-.....E.E. Oglethorpe*
1890-.....B.N.Mathes*	1982-.....J.D. Fowler*
1891-.....O.P.Buzbee*	1983-.....G.J. Davis
1892-.....L. Buckholtz*/+	1984-.....W.J.Wiggins*
1893-.....J.R.Brooker*	1985-.....G.W.Fears*
1894-1913-...Dr G.H.Symmes*/+	1986-.....A.E.Baker*
1914-1915-.....B.H.Emerson *	1987-.....J.M.Williams
1916-1917-.....L.G.Scofield *	1988-.....R.S.Varney*
1918-.....J.W.Williams *	1989-.....R. "Gene" Horne*
1919-1920-.....E.P.Blanton *	1990-.....J.H.McDaniel
1921-.....F.Ray Hearn *	1991-.....R.M.Hardy*
1922-1925-.....W.T.Williams */+	1992-1993.....E.L.Swiley, Jr.*
1926-.....J.E.McLean Sr. *	1994-.....T.A.Berry
1927-.....A.Kirkpatrick *	1995-.....F.R.Hudson*
1928-.....J.W. McLean *	1996-.....D.M.Little
1929-.....D.H.Williams *	1997-.....RW:F.E.Lowe+*
1930-1931.....E.J.Bryant *	1998-.....R.E.Kennedy*
1932-1934-.....C.Friedling *	1999-.....David G. Watson Sr.*
1935-.....C.Pelt *	2000-.....Dennis Owenby*
1936-1937-.....L.D.Patterson *	2001-.....Bob Boose
1938-.....T.H.Brown *	2002-.....David G. Watson Jr.
1939-.....C.P. Remling *	2003-....."Skip" Franklin*
1940-1941.....A.O.Moody *	2004-.....James Hiller*
1942-1943.....M.Linder *	2005-.....David "Doc" Rivera*
1944-.....G.L.Pritchard *	2006-.....Ronald J. Brimmer*
1945-.....J.S.Meadows *	2007-.....Robert Dishon
1946-.....H.W.Meadows *	2008-.....Mark Titzel
1947-.....E.E.Doub *	2009-.....Howie Angeloni
1948-.....J.E.McLean Jr. *	2010-.....Don Campbell
1949-.....J.W.Thompson *	2011-.....Greg Wynn+
1950-.....D.C.Graves *	2012-.....Hoyt "Al" Lawson
1951-.....W.J.Gallana */+	2013-.....Adam Barsoum
1952-.....Wm.E. Hegeman *	2014-.....Troy DiVito
1953-.....J.P.Massicotte*	2015-.....Bill Tracy
1954-.....J.A.Bailey Jr. *	2016-.....Steve Wilson
1955-.....W.Willis*	2017-.....William Miller
1956-.....R.M.Ekker*	2018-.....Stephen Williams+
1957-.....A.Vasquez*	2019-.....David St. John
1958-.....A.Ekker*	2020-.....Richard Vogt+
1959-.....R/W/G. Cooley 33+*	2021-.....Peter Loach
1960-.....H. Smallwood +*	2022-23.....Miguel Viruet
1961-.....H. Rice*	2024-...George Grosskopf, Sr.
1962-.....J.R. Hamrick, Jr*	2025-.....Daniel Allen
1963-.....V. Linder*	
1964-.....H.B. Wilder*	
1965-...../.....A.L. Frisbie*	
1966-.....W.A. Thompson*	
1967-.....W.L. Shurtleff*	
1968-.....W.W. Jay*	
1969-.....J.D. Fletcher*	
1970-.....R.F. Tatum*	
1971-.....A.W. Fenzau*	
1972-.....W.L. Stanford*	
1973-.....R.W. Smith*	
1974-.....H.J. Clausen*	
1975-.....C. Repp +*	
1976-.....O.H. Elmore*	
1977-.....J. A. Brown *	

**SECRETARY'S CORNER****Happy New Year!**

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as DeSoto Lodge Secretary for an additional year. I truly enjoy serving the lodge in this capacity and consider it a privilege.

With that being said, every year I ask that you strive to keep your Masonic record up to date. Have you moved or do you have a new phone number? What about putting your email on file? As we start a new year, please let me know of any changes that need to be made.

Also keep in mind, that using the new AMITY App, you can view and make note of any corrections that you may need to make regarding your Masonic record.

DeSoto Lodge Current Membership: 215

W.: Troy DiVito
divitotd@aol.com
Phone: (813) 598-7087

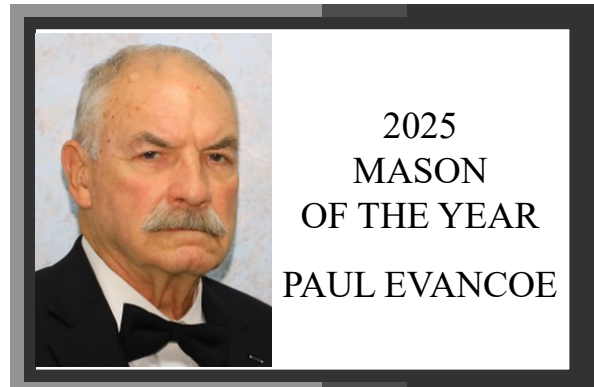
DeSoto Lodge Secretary
P.O. Box 216
Riverview, FL 33569

De Soto Lodge's January Birthday Brothers!

Juan F. Alayan	Charles E. Ivery
William Bierce	David J. Mason
Paul R. Broshear	James Nieu Kirk
Charles P. Bulloch	Mark D. Titzel
Kevin J. Bush	Josue Torres-Bosch
Michael A. Clayton	Daniel L. Uffner Jr.
Daniel B. Dixon	Casper Wynn
Willaim W. Hams	

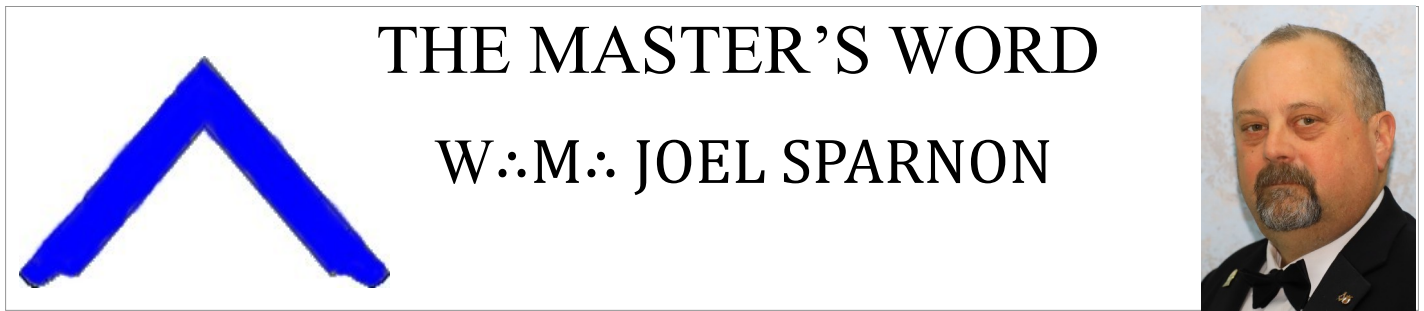
Happy Birthday & Happy New Year Wishes

The officers and members of DeSoto lodge wish each of you a happy birthday and a happy new year.



2025
MASON
OF THE YEAR
PAUL EVANCOE





Welcome to 2026, Brothers, Families, and Friends

As we step into 2026, we enter not just a new year, but a new chapter filled with excitement and opportunity. Our lodge stands strong because of the dedication and leadership that came before us, and I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to WM Daniel Allen for guiding us through a remarkable 2025. His vision and commitment lit the path we now walk together.

This year, your officers are determined to build upon that foundation and raise the bar even higher. We are not simply continuing momentum—we are igniting it. Together, we will strengthen the bonds of our Desoto family, support our OES Desoto Chapter and Walter Fishback Chapter Order of DeMolay, and expand the reach of our light into the community.

Our goals are ambitious, but they are within our grasp: completing the lodge remodeling punch list, hosting at least two successful fundraisers for local charities, and deepening our support for ECHO. Each project is more than a task—it is a chance to leave a lasting mark of service and compassion.

Mark your calendars for June 13th, when we gather for our 4th annual family picnic and corn hole tournament. These moments of fellowship remind us that our strength lies not only in ritual and tradition, but in laughter, friendship, and shared joy. Family nights will continue to inspire, beginning in January with Megan Swanson from Special Olympics, who will open our eyes to new ways we can serve and uplift others.

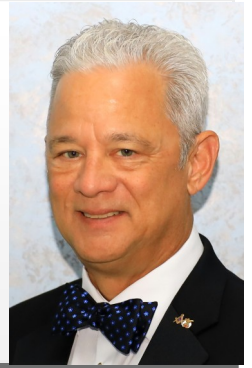
Above all, I want to thank each of you—the heart of Desoto—for your unwavering support. We are blessed with a team of officers and, I believe, the finest Masonic family in Florida. Let us embrace this year with courage, unity, and joy. Together, we will accomplish great things for our lodge, our community, and for one another.

Here's to 2026: a year of growth, service, and Most Importantly, **Fun!** Let's make it unforgettable.





From the West **TONY GARCIA**



Brothers,

I want to thank all of you for your support in my year as Junior Warden. I hope you continue to support, with equal enthusiasm, Brother Paul in his upcoming year.

I am looking forward to serving the Fraternity, the Lodge and all of you as your Senior Warden.

This year is looking good for all of us and I hope we all can give as much as we can. Remember, we get out of Masonry, what we put into it. We have a great group of Brothers and I'm looking forward to a great year with all of you.

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,

And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles. (Proverbs 24:17)

These phrases hold a clue as to the origins of resentment.

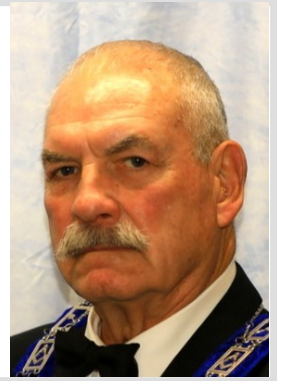
The term rendered “enemy” means, literally, “hater” or “one who hates.” This person has either harmed you in the past and has not repented or continues to take every opportunity to harm you now. Obviously, the proverb counsels against delighting in that person's downfall even though the temptation is great to see such misfortune as poetic justice. That desire, however, reveals a heart of bitterness and resentment that would take its own revenge if given the chance. — Dr David Jeremiah

A good name is to be more desired than great wealth,
Favor is better than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)





From the South PAUL EVANCOE



I am honored to assume the duties as your Junior Warden. I have big shoes to fill. Our 2026 officer line is strong, as is our degree team. We are also fortunate to have a financially healthy Lodge with a growing membership.

It is important to recognize how truly unique Desoto Lodge is, but the success we enjoy today didn't just happen. It is the result of years of excellence in goal-oriented leadership, careful financial management and motivated membership. Let us continue to advance Desoto Lodge.

Long live the Brotherhood!

“People do not long to be around one who *does* a lot of things as much as they want to be around one who *is* what they admire. It is **greatness of character** and a life with depth that earns the respect of others. Those who have been honed and buffeted, bruised and melted in the furnace of affliction, and then emerge with emotional stability and inner strength—they are the ones who have a ministry in the lives of others.” - Unknown

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

PANCAKES - SCRAMBLED EGGS - BACON - SAUSAGE— GRITS-ORANGE JUICE - HOT COFFEE
\$10.00



EVERY FOURTH SUNDAY

FROM 8:00 AM TIL 12:00 PM

Come support your Lodge while you enjoy some good Masonic Fellowship. You are also encouraged to bring your friends & neighbors and those whom you would like to have as Brothers.

It's an excellent opportunity to “show off” our Lodge.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

RUSS GAVLAK

This being my first message to you as the Chaplain, I wanted to wish the WM and officers all the best in the ensuing year. And to thank WM Daniel Allen on a fine job this past year.

January is a time certain Christian faiths celebrate St. John's Day. We in Freemasonry have a special connection to two St. John's: the Baptist and the Evangelist. Here is an excerpt from an article in the California Freemason that sums up that relationship, I hope you all enjoy.

The reasons for this connection go back centuries—and remain shrouded in mystery. What we know for certain is that it isn't strange that there would be a patron saint of Freemasonry. During the Middle Ages in England and Scotland, many societies and guilds were dedicated to a particular saint. That figure received special devotion from the members of the society, and, in turn, he would offer its members special protection and favor.

St. John, the Patron Saint of Freemasonry

In the calendar of the medieval church, there were two saints named John who were associated with Jesus. One was the “forerunner” of Jesus, John the Baptist. The other was the Apostle John, the brother of James. He is commonly known as John the Evangelist because of his supposed authorship of the Gospel of John in the New Testament. At some point, these two saints became known as the Patron Saints of Freemasonry. When and where that happened remains a mystery. Now, Freemasonry isn't and has [*never been a religious organization*](#). It has always been open to members of all religions and faiths. However, the world into which it was born, in Enlightenment-era Europe, was a largely Christian one. As a result, many of the symbols of Freemasonry reflect Christian iconography—including the connection to the two Saint Johns in Freemasonry.

Saint John and the Eagle, by Vladimir Borovikovsky

Duality and the Two Saint Johns

From the Masonic perspective, we can understand the [*balanced dualism*](#) of John the Baptist on one side and John the Evangelist on the other. Together, they represent two sides of a coin: the passionate zeal of the Baptist and the knowledge of faith of the Apostle. A Masonic lodge dedicated to the two Patron Saints of Freemasonry can be seen as a space to both reflect on and channel our passion. Taken as an abstract compilation of symbols, they represent a well-balanced path toward enlightenment. Even more, their feast days are closely associated with the summer and winter solstice—underscoring the symbolic duality of the two figures.

But why are St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist associated with Freemasonry in the first place? How did they become the Patron Saints of Freemasonry? Masonic scholars claim that the custom came from the practice of new Masons taking their obligations on a Bible opened to the first chapter of the Gospel of John. The “John” who was the supposed author of that gospel was, of course, John the Evangelist.

St. John Masonry

The opening words of the Gospel of St. John are:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

We know that in the 17th and 18th century, the “Mason Word” was a very important secret given to the newly obligated Mason. The “Mason Word” gave members of the fraternity access to all the privileges of Freemasonry. For “operative” stonemasons, that included access to work. The Gospel of St. John may have been chosen for the obligation because of the symbolic connection between the “Mason Word” and the “Word” in the opening verse of the gospel.

This connection was so important that Masons in that era were sometimes referred to as “St. John's Masons.” In some tilers' registers from the 18th century, visitors would put “St. John's Mason” after their name. From that, we can extrapolate that the connection to the “Holy Saints John” in the Masonic ritual originated with St. John the Evangelist. And we can assume that the reference to St. John the Baptist as the second Patron Saint of Freemasonry came later. None of this can be proven, of course.

These “St. John's Masons” did not leave us any records about why they adopted that name, or why they adopted the two Johns as the Patron Saints of Freemasonry. But I think this is as good a guess as any.

--1723 Constitutions of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons



January 2026

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026 6:00 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Service
4 4:00 P.M. DeMolay Meeting	5	6 STATED MEETING 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Meeting	7 6 pm Catechism Prac 7 pm Degree Practice	8	9	10 9 am Catechism Prac
11	12 7:30 PM OES Meeting	13 7:00 pm Officers Meeting	14 6 pm Catechism Prac 7 pm Degree Practice	15	16	17 9 am Catechism Prac
18 4:00 P.M. DeMolay Meeting	19 7:00 pm DISTRICT SCHOOL at BRANDON LODGE 6 to 7 Open Books	20 FAMILY NIGHT 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Meeting	21 6 pm Catechism Prac 7 pm Degree Practice	22	23	24 Open Books 9 am to 12 pm at John Darling Lodge 9 am Catechism Prac
25 8 am—12 pm PANCAKE BREAKFAST \$10.00 Bloodmobile here	26 7:30 PM OES Meeting 6:30 PM Master Masons Meeting at the Egypt Shrine	27 7:00 PM FC Degree Dinner between parts	28 6 pm Catechism Prac 7 pm Degree Practice	29	30	31 9 am Catechism Prac

MAKING MASONS SINCE 5889 A.L.