

*Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*

*Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America*

*Orient of Georgia, Valley of Augusta*

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**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2018-----TRESTLEBOARD #145**  
**DINNER @ 7:00 P.M.-----MEETING @ 8:00 P.M.**  
**SPOUSES AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED**

**JUNE LOP MEETING:** The June LOP meeting will take place at the Scottish Rite Center on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Dinner will begin at 7:00 PM with the Program beginning at 8:00 PM. All Masons, their spouses and friends are invited to attend our Flag Day Celebration. Worshipful Brother **Brian Coffey**, 32° KCCH will present the "Building of the Flag", WB **Bill Wagner**, 32° KCCH will present the "Toast to the Flag" and the **Columbia County Orchestra** will present a musical patriotic program. Put this date on your calendar and make sure that you bring your children and grandchildren to witness this Patriotic Program.



**ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER RONNY DALE LANHAM:** I have known Ronny for the last 25 years. My first contact with Ronny was at a Masonic Funeral that he was presiding over. My first impression at the conclusion of the ceremony was that he was a well-spoken, intelligent, and compassionate Mason. That impression has not changed. In 2006 Ronny (who was the Personal Representative to the SGIG) asked me if I would be interested in assuming the duties of the General Secretary of the Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite, which I did. At that time I began a more personal relationship with him and saw the same attributes which I saw earlier. He has always had a hands off approach and supports the idea that you want to surround yourself with people who are more competent than you. We have had a great working and social relationship for the last 12 years that I have been the General Secretary and I am sorry to see him retire but completely understand that at some point in time we all have to make that type of decision. Ronny's 23 years as the Personal Rep in the Valley has seen a constant improvement in the Valley membership as well as all the renovations which have taken place to the facility. I will

continue to pick his brain when needed but understand that it is time for him to rest, relax and enjoy his family. I will miss the day to day contact but I know that he will still be an active member of the valley.

Ronny Lanham is definitely **“One of the Faithful Few.”** Ronny I wish nothing but the best for you and your family. (Greg Oblak, 33°)



**Masonic History:** Ronny was raised in Harlem Lodge #276 in Harlem, Georgia in October 1971. He served as Worshipful Master in 1975, 1977 and 1993, as Secretary in 1976 and was the Director of Work for many years. He is a life member of Harlem Lodge. On the district level he was District Deputy to the Grand Master of the 10<sup>th</sup> Masonic District for 3 years as well as Worshipful Master of the 10<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Convention in 1983-1984. He has been Trial Commission member for over 20 years and has served as Defense Council since 2003. He received his 32° in the Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite in 1972, his KCCH in 1977 and his 33° in 1983. He was Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection for 3 years. He has been the Ritual Master of the 32° for many years as well as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for over 30 years. He is the Charter Grand Knight in the Knights of Saint Andrew of Augusta. He is also a life member of the Scottish Rite. He

serves as the Grand Chamberlain on the Orient of Georgia KCCH and 33° conferral teams. He also was a Charter member of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc. He is a member of the Frances Bell Chapter #75, Order of the Eastern Star and served as Worthy Patron for 3 consecutive years. He also was associated with the Rainbow for Girls and a recipient of the Grand Cross of Honor. I am sure that I have missed something but the above list shows everyone that Ronny has been a very active and dedicated Mason.



**Ronny cutting the ribbon at the Richmond County Chamber of Commerce dedication. (2018)**

**Comments from Ronny's Friends:** The cream does rise to the top. But above that cream resides Brother Lanham as a leader and a titan among men. Brother Lanham possesses and exhibits treasured skills as a musician, diplomat, engineer, mechanic, soldier, oratorical skills abounded, and mostly as a kind and gentle man. Brother Lanham is able to communicate with people on any level. Lastly Brother Lanham shares his humor and wit freely. But mostly I am honored and proud to say Brother Lanham is a friend and my Brother! (John Eckentroth, 33°).





Ronny has been a very close and thoughtful friend and caring to everyone. He has provided me with invaluable advice over the years. He has inspired me to think both inside and outside of the box. I have learned more about Freemasonry just listening to his conversations. He has an unmatched wit which he expresses at the appropriate time. Ronny; you have my admiration, respect and friendship. I look forward to your continued friendship. **(Kenny May, 33°)**. I met Ronny Lanham on May 11, 2002. The occasion was the Spring Reunion of the Scottish Rite. That day was marked with a large number of new faces and names. One was our Personal Rep, Illustrious Brother Ronny Lanham. Upon first meeting Brother Lanham I questioned whether he had sense enough to come in out of the rain. A classic example of gross misjudgment on my part. Over the years I have come to understand and appreciate his management style. He has a firm grasp of the fact Masonry is a voluntary organization. One of his sayings which has stuck with me over the years goes something like this; If a problem arises, assemble a few good Masons, describe the

problem and then let them figure it out. Brother Lanham also introduced me to the importance of Masonic Education. Ronny must have sensed in me my love for learning because he would drop me tidbits of Masonic symbolism, philosophy and allegories and then let me do the research and ultimate understanding of the subject. Brother Lanham is undeniably one of the foremost Masonic adepts and I will be forever grateful for the world he opened up for me. **(Eric Milks, 33°)** Ronny's legacy will always be the quick mind and retentive memory that we would all love to possess. His instant recall of lectures and the poise of twenty three years as the personal representative of the SGIG of the Orient of Georgia, has no equal. His ability to react in a judicial setting shows a strong sensitivity to the morality of our society and I am honored to have had Ill. Ronny Lanham as my mentor for these past few decades **(M. Steven Fishman, 33°)** "I never kid about anything serious". These words so typify Ronny Lanham. Those words he said to me when he notified me a number of years ago about receiving a significant honor. He eloquently speaks important and profound philosophy or he can entertain and ad lib as the situation warrants. His opinion is sought by leaders of Georgia Freemasonry at many levels and he leads in a manner that causes people to be motivated and want to follow his suggestions. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work alongside of him and I am certain that it will continue in a different way. **(Richard Williamson, 33°)**

**Illustrious Brother Ronny Lanham establishing the Valley of  
Augusta Rite Care Clinic, 9 years ago. (2009)**





Charity Golf Tournament in 2010 lead by "Slammin Lanham" (named after Sam Snead). He led us to last place but we acquired more prizes than the top three finishers. L to R: Driving Coach Eckenroth, Player of the Year Milks, Fed X Champ Murdock, Slammin Lanham, 1934 Masters champion Johnson and Putting Coach Oblak.

Below is Brother Lanham and Past SGIG Leonard Buffington.



ABOVE: Ritual Master of 32° Ronny Lanham instructing J.O. "Bucky" Summers during Fall Reunion.

Left to Right: Illustrious Brother Ronny Lanham declared "Personal Rep Emeritus" by our SGIG Ted Collins. Ted then installed PGM Gary Leazer as Personal Rep.

A great man spends time with his family and knows what real beauty is. A great man is strong because he is gentle and never afraid to help a child. Great men are careful not to lose their temper and feel the pain of others. A great man is never afraid to do what is right,





no matter what. A great man is faithful, honorable and a gentleman and has a sense of humor. These are the attributes of **Illustrious Brother Ronny D. Lanham, A Great Man.**



**Brothers Lanham and Valentine getting ready to go on a shopping spree at the Augusta Mall.**

**Brother Lanham presenting Brother Loo with his Asian Coolie 33° Hat.**



**Brother Lanham presenting 50 awards & caps.**



**This About Sums it Up:** Ronny D. Lanham is my best friend ; that about covers it. The only other thing of note is the years of effort in trying to teach him how to play golf. I have to admit that he will never be as good as me. **(Charles Johnson, 33°)**

**EDITOR AND SECRETARY**

**T. GREGORY OBLAK, 33°**

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SGIG**

**GARY H. LEAZER, 32° KCCH**