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FREEMASON

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ON THE COVER

Grand Master G. Clay Smith carrying on the tradition of sitting in the chair reserved for the current U.S. Resident, Texas Governor, and Grand Master of Masons in Texas, at Milam Lodge No. 2 in Nacogdoches.

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A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brethren,

Greetings. In my address to you in the Fall of 2022, I alluded to the season, and the reaping of the efforts of our Great Fraternity. I am writing to you at present as we are working together and sowing the sustenance for our future's reaping. We are in the season of labor and our intentional investment into our Fraternity could not be more important. In my many travels this year, I have observed many examples of wholesome and foundational Masonry. Many of these examples have been shared by our brothers, and our ladies, alike, through inspiration stories.

At the time of this writing, I have participated in approximately thirty-eight events as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas. The diversity of our great Fraternity is inspiring, and for the most part, all are pulling the same way. At each of the thirteen Grand Master Conferences, we have covered the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, 2023 Officer Leadership Training Program, Investigation Program, Legacy Program, MWSAs, Reinstatement Program, and the Masonic Code of Honor. I would like to cover two of these programs here: Investigation Program and the Reinstatement Program.

Investigation Program: The single most

important duty we have as Masons is protecting the West Gate of our Fraternity. We owe it to the members of the present for the benefit of future generations. The "Investigation Standards & Procedures for Constituent Lodges & Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas" is a two-part manual. Part I has been compiled to educate the Texas Mason on the lawful processes and procedures associated with the petition and investigation process. Part II is a behavioral interview checklist and observation guide that an investigation team should consider as it prepares and executes an interview in a candidate's home (preferably). It is not realistic to engage the man and his family in every question, but rather provide ideas for the team to engage in wholesome dialogue to get to know the family. I encourage all Lodges to participate in a School of Instruction to cover this material which has been sent by hardcopy to each Lodge Secretary. This material can also be found in Grandview under Resources. I believe if we slow down the process and do what is necessary to define for ourselves a man's true character, our Fraternity will strengthen, and our society will benefit.

Reinstatement Program: I, like you, value quality over quantity. But our numbers continue to drop. They have since 1962, although the slope of the decline has lessened since 2021. There are many reasons for the decline, and it is not necessary to attempt to analyze them all. We can, however, work with intention to reach out to those members that have been suspended for non-payment of dues and have a conversation. I am encouraging all Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of the 754 Chartered Lodges of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas to attempt to engage up to five members who have gone suspended for non-payment of dues in the last three years and re-engage

them. Perhaps they simply "forgot" to pay their dues? Perhaps they moved and did not know how, or forgot to, communicate to their Lodge their new mailing address? Perhaps the Post Office failed to deliver the dues notice? Whatever the case may be, let's bring the water to them. Consider the financial benefit and the lodge benefit of more engaged members? Do communicate to them that to be re-instated, they must pay the dues amount for the year they went suspended and the current year's dues. If in your quest, you engage a brother who has been suspended for greater than three years, he must be re-investigated.

Let us congratulate the anniversary of the following Lodges: Matador Lodge No. 824 (125-years); Goose Creek Lodge No. 1192 (100-years); and Palestine Lodge No. 31 (175-years). Keep up the work of Legacy, Brothers!

I am grateful to be your Grand Master. I am looking forward to continuing to work in the quarries with my Brethren and their ladies. First Lady Teresa and I thank you for inspiring us to be better servants to the Craft and our collective society.

"May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you."

G. Clay Smith
Grand Master 2023



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

Summer is here and soon Lodge Installation season will be upon us. I offer my congratulations to all the outgoing officers and send my best wishes to those Brethren who have been elected or appointed to serve their Lodges as officers in the upcoming Masonic year. This year I have scheduled several Lodge Secretary Schools at various locations throughout the state. If you are a newly elected Lodge officer, I would highly encourage you to attend one of these schools. If you are a new Lodge Secretary, or will be in the future, I would encourage you to attend the full day “New Secretary Boot Camp” in Waco on June 17th. We will cover the basic functions of the Secretary’s job and focus on specific tasks in Grandview that will make the job of being a Lodge Secretary easier. The full schedule is posted on this page.

As I conclude my service as Grand Secretary this January, I am grateful to all the Lodge officers who have made my job a joy. One of the things I have enjoyed the most during my service as your Grand Secretary is getting to know brothers from all over the State. We face unique challenges as a Fraternity, and I am confident that the members and officers of the constituent Lodges will rise to meet the challenges we face with a spirit of cooperation and unity.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Justin Duty

New Secretary Boot Camp
June 17, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Waco

Oso Naval Lodge No. 1282
Aug. 12, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Corpus Christi

Houston Scottish Rite
Aug. 19, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Houston

TMRC
Sept. 16, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Arlington

Yellowhouse Lodge No. 841
Nov. 4, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Lubbock

Grand Master G. Clay Smith's Activities Thus Far in 2023

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

February 4, 2023

Installation of Right Worshipful H. Bart Henderson, Deputy Grand Master



On February 4, 2023, Right Worshipful H. Bart Henderson was officially installed as Grand Lodge of Texas, Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year. The installation was conducted by Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas Masons, and supported by Past Grand Master Right Worshipful Mike Gower, who assisted as the Installing Marshal. The installation was hosted by Point Isabel Lodge No. 33 in Port Isabel, Texas. There were approximately sixty Masons in attendance with many ladies in attendance too.

March 4, 2023

Alamo Observance, San Antonio



The weather was perfect as a few hundred Masons from around the great State of Texas assembled at the San Antonio Fire Museum. They marched through the streets to the Alamo, always an

impressive experience. Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas Masons led the proceedings for the Alamo observance as Masons, families and friends watched on. During the observance, Right Worshipful David Gower, Grand Orator gave an impressive oration on the history of the Alamo.

Following the Alamo Observance, the Masons and families attended the Grand Master's conference at the San Antonio Scottish Rite Temple. During the conference, a representative from the Grand Lodge of New York presented the Grand Lodge of Texas with the original banner from the Republic of Texas. No one is sure why the banner was in New York, but the Grand Lodge of Texas, and Texas Masons are happy to have it back home, in our great State.

April 1, 2023

Grand Lodge visits Goliad for the annual Observance and Memorial Park Fannin Monument



Goliad Masonic Lodge No.94 is one of the few Lodges in Texas fortunate to have an annual visit by Grand Lodge Officers. These visits include the opening of a representation of The Grand Lodge of Texas in the beautiful Lodge room for an official ceremony in order to pay respects for Col. Fannin, his troops and civilians that lost their lives prior to Texas gaining its independence. There is always a wonderful meal and fellowship.



In 1851, a group of nine Masons under the leadership of Alexander H. Biscoe, Mayor of Goliad, met for the purpose of requesting dispensation for the formation of a Masonic Lodge in Goliad.

This dispensation was accepted and has been preserved in the first page of the old Lodge minutes. The first Lodge meeting in Goliad was on August 18, 1851, when the brethren met at the schoolhouse in Goliad and proceeded to open the first Master Masons Lodge in Goliad.

Most Worshipful Grand Master G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas Masons places a Masonic wreath at the base of the Fannin

GRAND LODGE



Burial Monument. The Monument was constructed of granite from Marble Falls and stands thirty-five feet in height. Built in 1938 and dedicated by the State of Texas in 1939 as a memorial for the men that lost their lives in Goliad, March 1836.

April 1, 2023

Grand Master's Conference Corpus Christi

A big thank you to Al Amin Shriners for the use of their wonderful facility during the Grand Master's Corpus Christi Conference and banquet. This annual event is always well attended, with many Brethren gathering together, giving all an opportunity to meet with old friends and to make new ones.

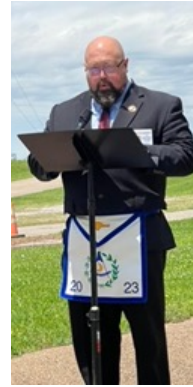
Congratulations go to Right Worshipful Paul Underwood, Past Grand Master of Texas Masons who was awarded a 50 year Masonic Service Award. Let us also remember his First Lady Rebecca Underwood for her support and commitment to our Past Grand Master and the Masons of Texas.



April 21, 2023

San Jacinto Monument

The Battle of San Jacinto fought on April 21, 1836, was the final and decisive battle of the Texas revolution. Some 187 years later, the Masons of Texas again congregated to remember those who gave their all. This Masonic event is attended annually by many Masons, friends, and families from around Texas.



During the remembrance, the attendees were fortunate to hear an awesome Oration by Right Worshipful Cody Cockcroft, Chairman of the Masonic Education Committee. Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith placed a wreath at the monument and was supported by other Grand Lodge Officers who were in attendance.

April 28, 2023

Official Visit & Banquet MWSA District 107



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas, attended the District 107, MWSA banquet on April 28 in Liberty. This event has been hosted by District 107 for many Grand Masters over the years and is always a remarkable success.

Right Worshipful Michael Cockerham, District 107, District Deputy Grand Master (D.D.G.M.) presenting Brother Kyle Winklemann an appreciation plaque for his service as the District 107 D.D.G.M. in 2022. This is a wonderful tradition and has been hosted by District 107 for many years.

It was good to see Brother W. Mike Spears, Master of Ceremonies keeping the event flowing while also adding some humor.



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Once again, the Board of the Foundation was surprised when the MWSA of District 107 presented our Grand Master G Clay Smith with a \$200 check supporting 2023 scholarships. Thank you for your extra efforts and love.

The Board of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation was pleased to receive a \$200 check to support 2023 scholarships. Thank you to District 107 MWSA for presenting this check to our Grand Master at this event.

Once again District 107, thank you for taking the time to plan this annual event. The attendees, as always, really enjoyed the presentations, fellowship, and amazing meal. We will see you all again next year.



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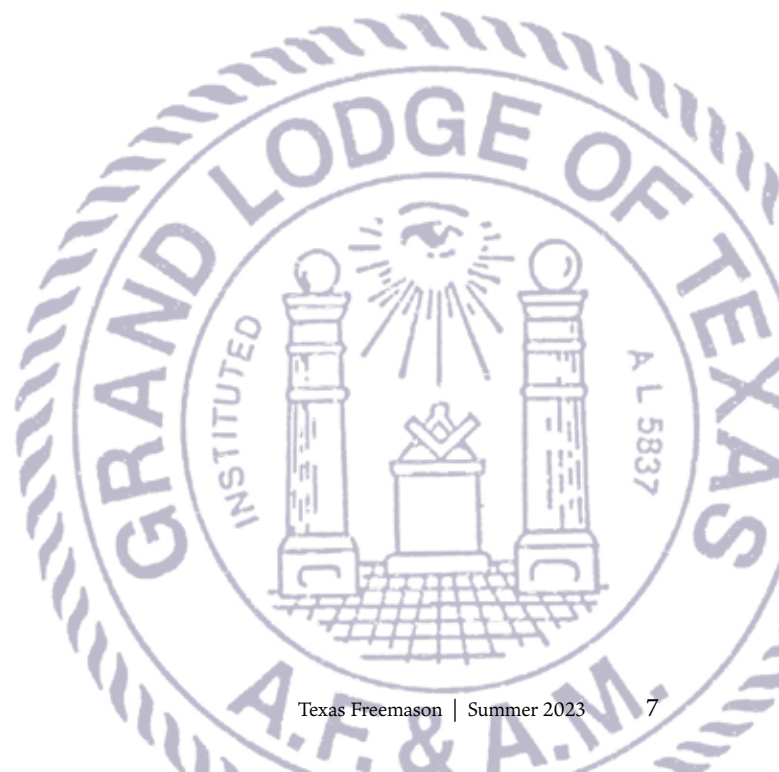
April 29, 2023

Grand Master's Conference in Nacogdoches

Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas, attended the District 107, MWSA banquet on April 28 in Liberty. This event has been hosted by District 107 for many Grand Masters over the years and is always a remarkable success.



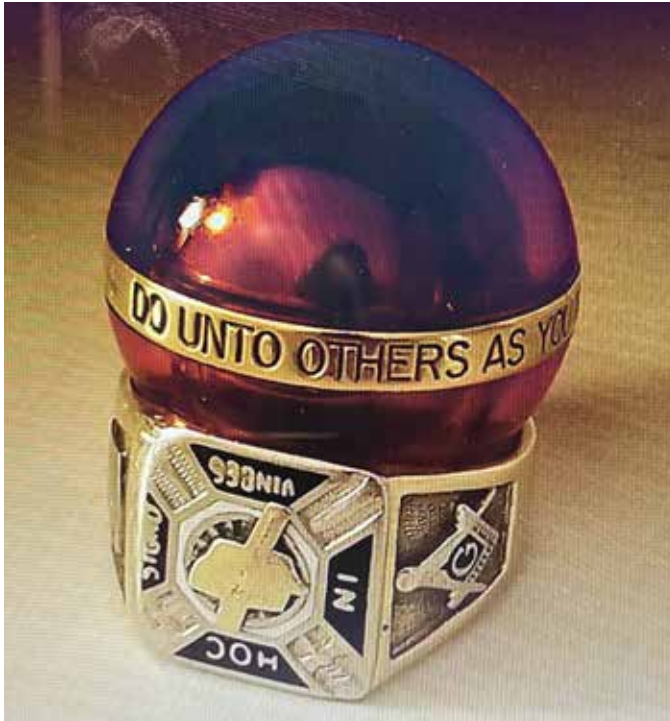
Right Worshipful Michael Cockerham, District 107, District Deputy Grand Master (D.D.G.M.) presenting Brother Kyle Winklemann an appreciation plaque for his service as the District





Val, The Ring, and the Fork

By James C. "Chris" Williams IV, Staff Writer



We had just finished a fabulous meal and I was hoping John was ready to talk. So far nothing crazy had happened and with a little luck, we might get out of here without anything weird catching up to us. I had taken him to Maggiano's but thankfully this time we weren't crashing a wedding. Nope, I brought him to Val. Now who, you ask, is Val? Well Pam and I come here at least once a week and we always sit in the bar area and only where Val will be our server. We have been going to Maggiano's for several years and for us it is only what it is because of Val. Val is of course short for Valerie and although the food is fabulous, if it was not the best, we would still come because of her. Yes, this is our place and she, along with Will and Becky, and Cynthia and all the others, makes the experience the best it can be. John had, as usual, ordered almost everything on the menu.... Lasagna, fried zucchini, cheese ravioli, chicken alfredo, and chicken piccata, all with generous amounts of warm bread and Caesar salad...and that was just for John. I just had Lasagna and a salad, and it was all I could eat. There we were just basking in the warm and fuzzy that comes with a full stomach.

"Brother Chris," he asked slowly. "Have you ever had something happen to you that you just couldn't explain? Something so profound that it changed forever the way you thought about

things... something that just had to be the work of the Great Architect of the Universe?" "Actually, I ha**," I tried to respond, as he cut me off. Obviously, he did not expect, nor did he want an answer. "This is one of my favorite stories and I don't tell it often, but sometimes it is just the right time," he said, pulling several folded pages out of his shirt pocket and beginning to read. "This story begins with a Brother Mason who was on his death bed.... he knew his earthly life was about to be over. His family gathered around his bed wanting to be with him until the end. He asked for one of his daughters and when she bent close, he whispered to her a dying man's request..... that she make sure that her son.... his Grandson would someday become a Freemason. She readily made the promise to him as any good daughter would.....and he smiled.....and thenhe was gone.

The next day a six-year-old boy was presented with a cardboard box by his Mother. The box contained several books with some unusual markings and pictures on them, a Bible..., a funny cocked hat, and a sword with some of the same markings on it as the books.

He was as aware as a six-year-old boy can be ...that his Grandfather had gone to be with the angels and he would never see him again. Standing there, a little bewildered.... his Mother told him that the box was from his Grandfather and that he had wanted his Grandson to be a Freemason someday. The boy nodded.... without understanding whyand took the box to his room where it stayed for the next 16 years. During those years as he was growing up, he had often seen the box packed away in the back of his closet without thinking too much about it or the promise his Mother had made to his Grandfather.

Eventually, he moved out of the house and along with all his belongings the box went with him. It wasn't long before he was married and at one point his wife had seen and asked about the old, now tattered box and he had mumbled something about his Grandfather had given it to him and offered no explanation beyond that.....

The box with its contentsand the promise..... went unfulfilled for many years until one day the Grandson met a man who was a salesman who was calling on the business where the Grandson worked.....

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine> for the rest of the story.



Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Service

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer

In this issue we will profile the newly established Committee on Masonic Service.

In 1921 the Committee on Masonic History and Research was renamed as the Committee on Masonic Education and Service. Grand Master Randell was a member of the Executive Commission for the recently founded Masonic Service Association of the United States. Grand Master Randell felt that only a dedicated committee could do the work of the Association in a state as large as Texas.

As alluded to above, the Grand Lodge of Texas had provided for the committees in the following articles:

Art. 111. Masonic Education and Service. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service to formulate and promulgate a system of instruction in the ... teachings and practical application of Masonry; to aid the Grand Master in extending aid and relief in case of public disaster arising from cyclones, earthquakes, floods or other catastrophes.

In case of any public calamity, the activities of said Committee shall be subject to the personal supervision and direction of the Grand Master.

Art. 112: Masonic Education and Service: Rules. The Committee on Masonic Education and Service shall adopt such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the administration of its duties, subject to and in conformity with the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge. It may designate one of its members to act as Treasurer and may require him to give a bond for the safekeeping of all funds entrusted to his care.

In terms of the “service” aspect, there have been very few specifics added to these two articles.

At the Grand Lodge Annual Communication of January 2023, the Grand West adopted Grand Master Billings’ Recommendation No. 4 to divide the committee on Education and Service. This action created two committees: the Committee on Masonic Education and the Committee on Masonic Service. This action also sought to define more clearly the duties of the Committee on Masonic Service.

The first thing that should come to mind when one thinks of the new committee is how it will help Masons of Texas when disaster strikes. Unfortunately, Texas sees its fair share of natural disasters

such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, and our Brothers are often caught up in the wrath of nature. The Committee sees a need to establish effective communication and a support infrastructure to ensure that the resources at hand are readily available to the Brothers in need.

Texas is already divided into five regions, and the Committee on Masonic Service wants to compile a list of Brothers who are able and willing to help in each of the regions. They want to be able to get immediate temporary relief to Lodges and communities for the essentials they may need during an emergency to help them get by until insurance and other resources are available. The committee will need Brothers on the ground to help coordinate this effort. The District Communications Officer (DCO) can be instrumental in this effort, but he will need the assistance of other willing and qualified members.

Regional storage facilities will be needed to act as staging and distribution centers. If you are willing to help and have or know of any type of resources that may be available, please contact the committee or your DDGM.

The committee also wants to be of assistance to our widows. The Committee on Masonic Widows and Orphans as well as the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation are there to assist with many of their financial needs, but there may also be a need for things that these committees do not provide. For example, if a storm damages a fence or causes a tree or large limb to come down, Masonic widows need to know they can reach out to the Masons of Texas for assistance. The Committee on Masonic Service wants to ensure that all the needs of our widows are covered.

The last task, but certainly not the least important, is that of locating and identifying the graves of our Past Grand Masters. If anyone has information on the location of a Past Grand Master’s grave that is not marked, please contact the committee. The Committee on Masonic Service will endeavor to coordinate the marking of as many Past Grand Masters’ graves as the budget will allow and families will permit. Lodges will be responsible for hosting the Grand Lodge Ceremony.

The Committee on Masonic Service is certainly the epitome of the virtue of charity. If there is anything you can contribute, please contact the Committee Chairman Brother Bill Jacobs by Email at: billat201@gmail.com or your DDGM.

ACROSS THE STATE

Brother Jason Bradley Cloud

By jim hoffpaur, Staff Writer



Our travels across the state bring us to a screeching halt in Abilene where we meet up with a kind soul indeed. One who has been described as a hubby, father, songwriter, star radio disc jockey, Texan, Texas Navy Admiral, Tennessee Squire, Kentucky Colonel, and most interestingly of all – a *sho'nuff* paper airplane pilot.

That's right fellow Freemason and Brother Jason Bradley Cloud: creator, host, owner, and producer of Red Dirt Proud – a broadcasting syndicate which has grown into unimaginable proportions in the last several years to the No. 1 ranking in Texas Regional Radio. Since starting Red Dirt Proud December 21, 2012, J B has watched it bloom into a 41-station network broadcast in twelve states, and four countries. Canada, France, and The Netherlands, as well as the United States, have affiliates on the Dirtproud.com network.

Curiosity, always the demise of a feline, led us to ask J B just when he first realized he suffered from a rather somber, introverted, stoic

personality. J B thought about it a while and then casually said, "Guess I'm just a natural." That he is!

Cloud has won nine Texas Regional Radio Music Awards. Two for Large Market Personality (at 6-4 ½ in height with girth to spare, how could he miss) and Syndicated Show of the Year in December of 2022. Last fall J B was nominated for the Country Radio Hall of Fame. It being the custom that no one is selected for that prestigious honor their first year of nomination, it is presumed, if renominated in 2023 he has a likely chance of selection. J B collaborated with Mark Fielding Darden on the country tune Alcohol of Fame recorded by Zach Edwards several years back. Among the celebrity singers he has mingled with through the years are Eddie Arnold, the Bellamy Brothers, John Conlee, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Shania Twain, and Brother Brad Paisley. For his daughter's 10th birthday, he called Nashville and set up a backstage meeting with Carrie Underwood on a road trip to Texas – truly a birthday to remember.



The home studio J B has been working from these past several years producing, directing, and starring in Red Dirt Proud

And, with his success to date, it is not out of the realm of possibility that a nomination to the Texas Radio Hall of Fame looms in the not-too-distant future.

“I grew up listening to all kinds of music and wanted to be on Radio since I was a kid,” J B reflects. “Didn’t want to be someone people forgot. KOUL in Corpus was my big chance in 1993.” Then in 1995 Cloud moved to KBST in Big Spring making only \$1100 a month, but feeling fulfilled helping numerous charities and boards, including Freemasons and Shriners. In 1998 Abilene station KBCY, where he stayed 23 – and – one-half years, took him on board. Unable to take required vaccination due to medical issues, he was forced to leave the station in 2021. At that point he launched Red Dirt Proud radio.

Among the many charities he participated in was one in conjunction with Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene and the US Marine Corps in Fort Worth sending music and care packages to bases in Iraq and Afghanistan and renewing vows over radio of wives and husbands separated by the distances of service obligation. For this he was awarded, by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, an Admiral commission in the Texas Navy in 2018. As a member of the Kentucky Colonels Shriners group, he is involved in a new project to raise money and promote fun activities among its membership across the nation. Phone and Zoom meetings quarterly or monthly endeavors for participants in their own local communities are planned.

Cloud’s Masonic history began with a childhood fascination with his great grandfather’s brother’s Masonic ring. “I was fascinated with the Square and Compasses on his ring,” remembers J B. Great uncle Kayo Cloud was a Shriner and Freemason. Through a conversation with a fellow Texas radio personality, Cloud got involved at Abilene Lodge No. 559 – being raised on June 9, 2005. He was Master of the Lodge twice, last serving in 2021-22. He joined the Suez Shriners of San Angelo and served in Public Relations there for 10 years. He served as Public Relations and Marketing Director for the Imperial Session of Shriners in Houston in 2021 at the behest of incoming Potentate Jim Smith. He is currently Texas Region 5 of Shriners International Public Relations Director. He received the Golden Trowel Award from Abilene Lodge No. 559 in 2019 and has been a member of the York Rite since 2005.

“I never finished my degree,” said Cloud who majored in music business. “I was told I could go to radio school, a brick-and-mortar college, or jump in and do it myself. I chose to jump straight into the action. Since then, I have picked up Photoshop, audio editing, video editing, general production, and the nuts and bolts of electronics on my own.” His work has paid off with such recognition as radio artist and video overlay awards for audio production from Children’s Miracle Network Nation in Orlando, Fl. “I want to go back and get a degree in either computer science or applied studies as well as a certification on coding.”

Those in the know understand that Cloud is one of those people blessed with a personality featuring both technical and humanities leanings – something rare indeed. For instance, he is daily in charge of management, content, production, technical operation, and in front of mic personality aspects of Red Dirt Network. A monumental task that he has performed well.

This full-service format offers an entire show from 6 – 10 a.m. weekdays and on Sundays, noon to six. All based out of his home studio consist-



Receiving Golden Trowel Award from Allen Woody, Past DDGM

ACROSS THE STATE



J B strumming his first guitar thinking of all that was to come.

ing of a folding table, two computers, a microphone, and production equipment. All music is logged on to the computer. A chart is available for viewing which manages new songs, those he wishes to keep or discard, or move to another folder. A daily spreadsheet keeps track of one-hour segments of the four-hour show. Folders contain categories: current up/ own charts, 3 -10-year-old songs, and a Gold over 10 years old section. Add three each three-minute breaks allowing for station and regional identifications, open sound editor Adobe audition, open files, voice guides, multitrack music beds, and personal voice overs where they belong, and you have a typical program – all controlled by one person and created on Saturday and Sunday for email release to affiliates the first thing Monday morning. Don't forget the Time Zone difference involving European affiliates.

And, don't forget the all too often occurring “major glitch.” You know, things such as storm outage, lightning strikes, computer failure, transmitter power loss. Still think you are interested?

Brother Cloud is 52 years old. He was born in Taylor and spent his youth in the Austin – Pflugerville area. In 1989 the family moved to Corpus Christi. There getting into radio, he then took a job in Abilene where he met and married his wife of 22 years, Richelle Caton on July 14, 2001. He and Richelle have three children: boys ages 22 and 18 and one daughter, now 14. His late mother, Mrs. Kathy Woodard gave him his first guitar at a rather early age, possibly suspecting things to come.

J B is proud of his family heritage. Rundberg Lane in Austin is named after his great, great grandfather Carl Rundberg, Sr. who settled the area

upon his immigration from Sweden. Fifth in line great uncle Daniel William Cloud, a Kentucky lawyer who joined forces with Davy Crockett in Louisiana before dying at the Alamo and first member of his family, Fleming Van Derrick, who came to Texas in 1843 are heralded in family history. Already a Kentucky Colonel and Tennessee Squire, J B is one legal document away from acceptance into the Sons of the Republic of Texas and proof of his direct lineage in Texas going back to 1835-45.

An unfortunate road accident in July 2022 led to a complicated neck surgery that December. J B's auto went airborne after a postal carrier turned in front of him from a side street. Concussion, double-vision, and upper neck injury has led to weakness on his left side, walking with a cane, constant pain a twice-a-week ongoing physical therapy. Since, he has been working from his home studio. Nothing has, however, quelled his enthusiasm and charitable spirit.

Indeed, J B Cloud is a man personality to be celebrated from sea to shining sea.

You can follow Brother Cloud at any of the following:

Website: www.reddirtproud.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/reddirtproud

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RedDirtProud

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCRrszE86B3BONpTuankxulg



.:A Mason's Duty.:

By Brother J. N. Simmons, Texas Freemason Magazine, June 1923

Foot to Foot, on mercy's errand,
When we hear a brother's cry –
Hungry, naked, barefoot, thirsty,

In God's Mercy let us fly –
This, of all our thoughts be chief,
How we may best bring relief.

Knee to Knee, in humble praying,
None but God to hear or heed –
All our faults and sins confessing –
Let us for each other plead
By the spirit of our oath,
Let our asking be for both.

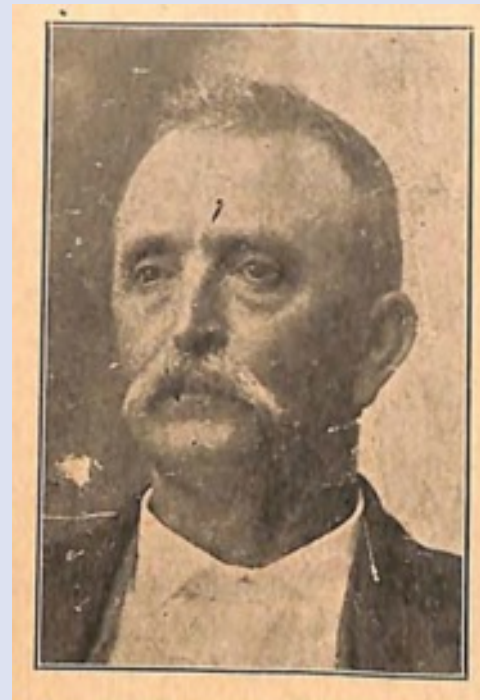
Breast to breast, in sacred casket,
At life's center let us seal
Every word to us entrusted,
Nor one sacred thing reveal –
What each Mason's sworn to shield
Let him die but never yield.

Hand to back! A brother's falling,
See! his burden is too great -
Stretch the generous arm and hold him
Ere, alas, it is too late –
Each right arm is a Mason's prop
Made to hold each other up.

Mouth to ear, in timely whisper
When the tempter tries to win
Warn him of approaching danger,
Warn him of approaching sin;
Warn him of the tempter's snare,
Shield him by a brother's care.

Bro. Simmons first wrote the lines of the accompanying poem, "A Mason's Duty" while in a tie camp at Kildare, Texas, in 1889, over thirty-three years ago. He kept the poem for many years, and finally it was published first in the columns of this Publication, Texas Freemason, in its issue of June 1901, just exactly twenty-two years ago.

It is a most excellent poem from every standpoint. In nobility of sentiment, accuracy of expression, beauty of metre and rhythm and its re-publication after these years is well worthwhile.



¹ **KILDARE AND LINDEN RAILWAY.** The Kildare and Linden Railway was primarily an unchartered facility of the Jefferson Lumber Company. However, the railroad provided common carrier service on its thirteen miles of track between Linden, county seat of Cass County, and Kildare, on the Texas and Pacific Railway. The narrow-gauge railroad opened on February 1, 1889, and was reportedly abandoned in 1900. Source – TSHA.

The Masonry Hidden in Mozart's Opera "The Magic Flute"

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer



Mozart the Man

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was born in Salzburg, Austria. His father, Leopold, was an unremarkable violinist, composer and teacher. Wolfgang was the youngest of seven children, five of whom died in infancy.

As would be expected, Wolfgang was one of Leopold's students. In addition to teaching Wolfgang music, Leopold also taught other subjects that would have been typical for a youngster at that time. Wolfgang played his first music at age three, composed his first pieces at age five, and wrote an opera at age fourteen.

Leopold and Wolfgang made a musical tour when Mozart was only six years old. The senior Mozart played the role of chaperone and agent for the child prodigy. Touring continued from 1762 until 1773 when Wolfgang accepted a position at the Salzburg court. Due to low pay and the lack of a challenge, this situation lasted until 1777 when he resigned. A period of unemployment followed until early 1779 when he returned to Salzburg and a position supported by local nobility. But Wolfgang's goal was to live and work in Vienna.

After a short time in Munich, Mozart got to Vienna and found stable

sources of income. In Vienna, Wolfgang lived with musical friends of the family, the Weber's. Constanze Weber, an operatic soprano stole his heart, and they were married in 1782. Six children were born of this marriage, but only two sons survived infancy.

These were very busy years for Mozart, but he found time to join Freemasonry, *Zur Wohltätigkeit* (To Charity), in 1784. It is likely that Mozart was drawn to Masonry by its use of reflection and self-contemplation. Leopold joined the same lodge about a year later. Very soon after joining the fraternity, Wolfgang began composing music dedicated to Masonry. These labors resulted in five songs, four cantatas, numerous pieces of funeral music and *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute). This is a bare minimum. There are other pieces that could be construed as Masonic as well as others that may never be discovered.

Mozart's Music

In a life spanning thirty-five years and composing for thirty of those years, Wolfgang Mozart composed over eight hundred works. Contemporaries considered him to be a master of virtually every musical form including symphonies, cantatas, operas and songs. Many students of music today would agree and declare the opera to be his favorite form.

Just a few words from one of Mozart's Masonic funeral songs will convey the Masonic basis of his work. From "O heiliges Band" K. 148:

Most holy tie of brotherhood's deep friendship
Which equals the joy found in paradise.
A true believer, yet not opposed
To this world. This truth is comprehended,
Yet kept secret.

And from another work written for the consecration of a Lodge in Vienna:

Make this place a holy temple
By the bond of brotherhood,
And brothers, all within your hearts,
This day our temple sanctify.
For the first time, noble brothers,
We are met in the great seat of virtue and wisdom and truth,
We consecrate ourselves to the sanctity of our labor,
Which is to discover for ourselves the great mysterious truth.

And finally, from *The Magic Flute*:

Let strength and beauty be your aim and brightness of intellect
your honor.

Clearly, this last quote is a reference to wisdom, strength and beauty.

Mozart's Magic Flute

Composed In 1791, the year of his death, *The Magic Flute* was Mozart's last opera. Without the excellent explanation by R. Stephen Doan in *Heredom*, Volume 28, the Masonic connection is a little difficult to appreciate fully for the following reasons:

- 1) The opera was written in German, and translations into English are not always made to reflect the Masonic symbolism.
- 2) The German language has undergone many changes since 1791.
- 3) The opera reflects Masonry as practiced in Austria in 1791 (or before).
- 4) Current members of the fraternity may be unaware of the symbolism of the degrees.

This opera is based on a fairy tale by Christoph Martin Wieland, "Dschinnisdan." Mozart's librettist (the person who writes the text of an opera), Emanuel Schikaneder, had been writing the libretto for an opera based on this fairy tale, and needed the music to turn the libretto into an opera. During their collaboration Mozart and Schikaneder realized that *The Magic Flute* could be a vehicle for demonstrating Masonic philosophy.

In order to bring out the Masonic philosophy it is necessary to understand the main characters. Although there are several other characters in the opera, the most important are as follow:



Tamino – Prince

Pamina – Princess

Pappageno – “squire” to the prince

Pappagena – the squire's love interest

Queen of the Night – mother of the princess and here “QN”

Sarastro – grand high priest and here “GHP”

At the opening of the opera, the prince is off on a great adventure. He encounters QN (Queen of the Night) who tells him her daughter, the princess, has been abducted by GHP (grand high priest). The death of QN's husband (the king of the day) has disturbed the balance of the cosmos, and QN is afraid for the welfare of the princess. After seeing a picture of the princess, the prince falls in love with her and vows to rescue her. Three handmaidens of QN give the prince a magic flute with the instruction that it will protect him on his mission. The squire (Pappageno) enters the scene and agrees to accompany the prince on his mission.

As the story unfolds, the squire meets Pappagena, and they fall in love. The prince rescues the princess from the palace of GHP, but he is told he must face dangers and trials of fire and water before he can realize his goal of marrying the princess. The squire has already failed in his quest, being tempted by food and drink. Under the protection of the magic flute, however, the prince and princess vanquish their fears and their foes.

As it turns out, GHP has kidnapped the princess to save her for the prince. Once they are united, balance is restored to the cosmos. The trials and dangers faced by the prince and princess are the obstacles that we must all overcome in life's pursuit of our goals. The magic flute is not a musical instrument at all, but is the love and harmony espoused by Masonry and required for the health and progress of mankind.



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Start a New Chapter in 2023

Move to Texas Masonic Retirement Community!

With a big grin and booming voice, Don Cox, 88, welcomes friends and visitors to a late breakfast in the dining hall.

“Hey, how’s it going?” and “Where’ve you been all day?” he asks from his table near the entrance.

They respond with laughter, poke fun at him, and ask about his plans for the day.

A few years ago, Don lived a starkly different life.

“My wife passed away. I found myself in a big house in Fort Worth, with a big yard, and a lot of ghosts from 34 years of living there. I thought I could stay, but everywhere I looked made me sad.

I’ve started a new chapter in my life by moving to Texas Masonic Retirement Community. I’m totally happy here. I’ve made friends, have a beautiful apartment in The Keystone, and sit down to three meals a day. This place is one of the best kept secrets in Masonry.”

Don transformed his apartment into a garden home. Rose bushes,



Don Cox, 88, at home in his new apartment at Texas Masonic Retirement Community.

succulents, and pots of flowers fill his balcony. From his fourth-floor location, he looks down on a flowing water feature and gardens. Open sky, clouds, and gorgeous sunsets float above him.

If your life has changed or downsizing makes sense, Texas Masonic Retirement Community offers luxury high-rise apartments (one and two-bedroom), cozy efficiency apartments, and cottage duplexes.

You’ll enjoy a familiar lifestyle with residents limited to eligible Texas Masons and their qualified wives, widows, mothers, and daughters.



Move In Today – Enjoy!

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Schedule an onsite tour today, as available units move quickly. Contact us at 817-275-2893 or send an email to Info@YourTMRC.org.



From the Desk of: G. Clay Smith Grand Master Grand Lodge of Texas

Per the 1900 Corporate Charter, the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed for charitable and benevolent purposes, and to cement bonds of good fellowship and brotherly love among its members and adherents, and to practice the art of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry as has been done from time immemorial. In my opinion, one of the greatest virtues of Masonry is charity. And what better way to extend our charitable nature than by investing into our leaders of tomorrow?

I am asking the Masons of Texas to join me as benefactors to our young adults in their quest of seeking a higher education. For my Blue Envelope Charity Appeal this year, I have selected the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation (TMCF) Scholarship Fund.

Since its inception, the TMCF has provided more than \$18,000,000 to 20,000 Texas High School students in matching funds. Just last year, 79% of our Lodges participated in the scholarship matching program. That is 600 Lodges! Consider the economic impact to Texas that our Fraternity is making.

Join me in continuing the 186-yr old tradition of Texas Masons supporting public education. This will provide a brighter tomorrow for our future leaders, and in consequence, a greater and more educated society of Texans. Our public presentations of the scholarships will positively affect parents, siblings, teachers, and administrators. The intentional result will be a positive reflection for Texas Masonry.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

G. Clay Smith
Grand Master

Texas Masonic Charities
Foundation
PO Box 2156
Waco, TX 76703
<https://txmcf.org>

YES! Grand Master, I will step up and be counted among the Brothers of Texas who, along with you, support the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

I can help by enclosing: \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to: TMCF or Online contributions @ txmcf.org click DONATE

Texas Masonic Charities Foundation is a Texas non-profit Corporation described in Sec. 501(c)(3), IRC

TEXAS FREEMASON







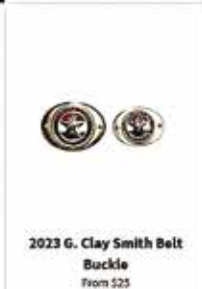



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