



TEXAS

FREEMASON



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★ **Early History of the York Rite in Texas**

A look into the little known Texas York Rite Masonry.

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Grand Master Paul Underwood

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Mark D. Myer, William Crow, Jerome Weilmuenster and Royce Rose

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Editors

Ken Curry, Deputy Grand Master. Assisted by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education and Service

Associate Editors

Bruce Hammond and Larry FitzPatrick

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A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



The start of a new year brings with it exciting new opportunities and possibilities. This is particularly true of Masonry in Texas. Following the 184th Grand Annual Communication, we hope you are recharged and ready for a move into 2020, we have a lot of work to do and even more we can be eager about. Let's focus on what we do best by being our fraternity's ambassadors and give it our all to Create Excitement.

So first and foremost, we must continue working on the culture of the organization which is dependent on the behaviors of good men in our fraternity. By working together, our interaction with the community is paramount. That is why I have issued a blue envelope appeal which will support the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Texas Masonic Charities Foundation will in turn make funding available to every lodge in Texas in the form of matching funds for scholarships and other benevolent grants. To all who make a \$250 or more donation a beautiful Masonic Case pocketknife will be gifted. This appeal will be part of the remaining balance of our \$400,000 challenge grant introduced in 2019. For more information visit: <https://donate.txmcf.org/underwood>. We truly hope every brother who is able will participate in this worthy benevolent cause.

During the first half of the year I will be traveling across the state using the phrase

Create Excitement to discuss what this means and how it will impact our fraternity. Continuing building and preparing for the future is a top value. Join us at one of the Grand Master's Conferences to learn how you can assist in getting Texas Freemasonry ready for the future. I hope each of you will plan to attend one of the sixteen conferences which are open to everyone, not just Master Masons. Feel free to invite friends and family to attend with you.

Lodges that welcome and encourage family involvement seem to be on to something that is working for retaining active membership. Following by this lead we have arranged for two group trips this year which you may be interested in being a part of. Over the 2020 Memorial Day weekend, we have a Grand Master cruise on Royal Caribbean, leaving out of Galveston for five days. In the fall some of us will attend the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh on October 29, 2020.

Great progress has already been made on our new strategic direction regarding membership. While it is too soon to assess the level of its success for this campaign, rest assured we are monitoring it carefully and it is being handled with the upmost decorum. During the Annual Communication some of you may have seen the public service announcements shown on local television in Waco. I encourage you to get with your District Deputy Grand Master of your district to learn how to get a speaker's template for making presentations to non-Masonic groups. This template gives you the tools to tell the story of our fraternity in Texas and how to answer their questions.

On April 25, 2020 there will be a Grand Master's Homecoming Banquet in Fort Worth at the location of the former Masonic Home & School of Texas. It will be an opportunity to honor and visit some of our fraternal legacy and tour the campus. A limited number of tickets for this event will be available at Grand Master's Conferences and online at <https://events.txmcf.org/e/3/2020-homecoming-gala>. I hope you will join me in going Home again.

Lastly, data and technology clearly are key to the future of the fraternity. We are working with all the various committees to get our short term actions established and ideas on our long term goals. This includes our systems and processes and you will be pleased to see these advancements. Knowledge and share capability, is important to our active membership. We are working with the Grand Lodge Committees on Internet, and Masonic Education and Service to leverage all the capabilities of these groups to provide you with the information that you want. Collaboration is key and you'll be hearing a lot more from us on this subject during the year.

As part of the organizational changes made at the 184th annual communication, I'm pleased that Right Worshipful Allan Lazor has joined us as Grand Secretary. I look forward to working with him as he continues to get settled into the Grand Secretary's Office and leading that charge through the course of 2020.

I'm also really pleased that Right Worshipful G. Clay Smith was elected as Grand Junior Warden. As he will be a great addition to the Grand Lodge Trustees with his extensive service to the craft and business experience.

It's important that we tackle the year with a combined sense of purpose and determination. In anticipation of all your hard work in 2020 on behalf of all the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas I want to thank you for Creating Excitement.

Fraternally,

Paul Underwood
Most Worshipful Grand Master 2020

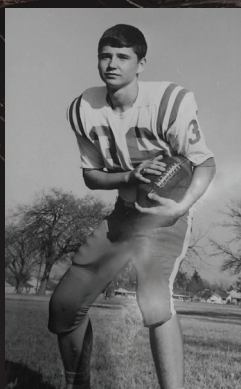




JOIN US FOR THE PAUL D. UNDERWOOD HOMECOMING GALA

Saturday, April 25, 2020
Social Hour 6:00 P.M. | Dinner 7:00 P.M.

**Masonic Home and
School of Texas Dining Hall**



TICKETS SOLD ONLINE ONLY

txmcf.org/underwood

\$40

3712 WICHITA STREET, FORT WORTH, TX 76119

Seating is limited, please order your tickets early.



2020 Grand Lodge Session



Annual Communications are largely reflective of the serving Grand Master and this year was no exception. This Annual Grand Communication can best be described as efficient. The systematic approach by Grand Master Stogner to the formal duties was effective and provided for the orderly dispatch of business. In fact, the process worked so well that instead of the usual rush to finish before the call to refreshment for installation, it was more like a relaxed orderly conclusion than rushing to get everything in. Congratulations to R.:W. Stogner and his team for their handling of this Communication.

If you missed the meeting, you missed a wonderful session of Masonic fellowship and work. There were issues that were debated, elections that were contested and the outcomes will set the direction for the Grand Lodge for years to come. This session did have the usual resolution discussions with members able to hear motions by many Brothers from Past Grand Masters to lodge representatives to table or amend to clarify intent. It also saw Masters of lodges provide insight to various issues as they might affect a lodge in a manner other than that intended by the author. It was very productive and informative to those attendees not familiar with the workings of Grand Lodge. It was also an opportunity for the Grand Lodge members and representatives to see how Grand Lodge law and parliamentary procedure actually work and can be effective when properly handled. Two lodges had their charters restored by the Grand West after they were arrested during the year.

This was a strange meeting for many of the attendees who have been around a while. For the first time in many years, R.:W. Orville O'Neill was neither in the Grand Secretary's

seat nor at the communication. Brother O'Neill resigned his office just a few weeks before the Communication due to health reasons. Brother Allan Lazor assumed the duties as temporary Grand Secretary by appointment of the Grand Trustees. He was later elected Grand Secretary by the Grand West.

There were the usual Opening Ceremonies, presentation by the City of Waco, reception of distinguished guests and other formalities. Several awards were presented such as Masonic Service Awards, Photography Contest Winners, Vanguard Lodge Awards (more than 70 lodges this year), and of course the coveted Masonic Family Day Barbeque Cook-off winner.

On the second day, the real work started with reports from the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and several affiliated bodies whose reports were received by the Grand Lodge including the Grand Lodge Library and Museum, Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, Square and Compasses Holdings, and the Masonic Youth Foundation. The affiliated bodies were reporting to the Grand Lodge as entities of their own, so their reports were received, not adopted as are the other reports.

On Thursday night, Grand Master Stogner held his Banquet where he presented the W.B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award, the William M. Beck Award, and Awarded Sam Houston medals. The Carrell award was presented to Lt Governor Dan Patrick. The Beck award was presented to J.W. Irick, and the Sam Houston medals were awarded to Sam Holden and PGM T.E. (Gene) Carnes.

The elections were set for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday with installation to be at 2:00 p.m. The work of the 2020 Grand Lodge session was

nearly completed by 10:00 a.m. and elections were held as scheduled. The election of Grand Junior Warden and Grand Secretary both went two rounds with four Brothers making themselves available and two dropping out of the voting after the first round in each election. The electronic voting capability once again proved more than its worth by cutting the time down to less than what one round of hand ballots were in the past. It is difficult to see Brethren who put themselves out there not be elected, but as the installation ceremony says, some must lead and some must serve. It is a testament to Masonic etiquette this transition takes place so fluidly. We would hope those who were not elected continue to serve this Grand Lodge in other capacities and possibly make themselves available again.

Congratulations are in order for M.:W. Paul D. Underwood for his election as Grand Master of Masons in Texas, to R.:W. Kenneth C. Curry, Deputy Grand Master, R.:W. Bradley S. Billings, Grand Senior Warden, and R.:W. G. Clay Smith as Grand Junior Warden. A complete listing of other election results is provided elsewhere in the issue.

This was a different Grand Lodge session because of who was not there. In addition to Orville O'Neill it was the first year that a different person sat to the right of the stage, as Brother John Cline who had quietly served this Grand Lodge as its Recorder for fifty years died not long after the 2019 communication.

Congratulations to now R.:W. Terry W. Stogner and his lady Jackie for their hard work, travels, and sacrifices for the Masons of Texas. We hope that you both enjoy your next adventure and realize your work was accretive to the foundations laid by others.

GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



My Dear Brothers and Friends of Masonry,

It is an honor and privilege to serve you as your Deputy Grand Master. It is impossible to express the depth of my respect for the office and the tall responsibility that I have undertaken. With your prayers and support I am confident that you and I will sally forth and fight the good battle and come home happy and confident in our Fraternity.

The Grand Lodge of Texas exists to serve the Brethren with forethought, earnest effort, and spirit. We must be forward looking if our Fraternity is to prosper and bloom. We cannot repeat the mistakes of our past. History exists for those who survive because they are the ones who learned its lessons and, in the end, wrote the history.

Whether a lodge is suffering or prospering, its members and leaders must continually stop, look, and listen. To borrow some lines from the 60s era protest song, "For What It's Worth," written by Stephen Stills...

*There's something happenin' here
what it is ain't exactly clear*

*There's battle lines being drawn
nobody's right if everybody's wrong
young people speakin' their minds
getting so much resistance from behind*

*It's time we stop,
hey what's that sound
everybody look what's goin down*

We must examine how we do business. We must understand our Brothers and their needs. We must plan for and conform to those needs. We cannot follow the dinosaurs into oblivion.

I have been told that many of my Brothers do not know me. In the last few years I have met and shook hands with thousands of Masons. In the whirlwind of our fraternity I often have not stopped and listened to you. Likewise, I failed to give you a view of the real me.

I became a DeMolay in 1966. I received great life lessons from my parents but the lessons I gathered from DeMolay were moral training on steroids. The Seven Cardinal Virtues have forever guided my life's journey. Those virtues were exemplified by many DeMolays and Advisors. Dads Bill Corder and George Koenig are constant reminders to me, fifty plus years later, of what it means to be a man. Many of the companions who have journeyed this life took and believed the DeMolay obligations. Stan and Brian Bass, Noel Harris and Ricky Brent Keis come to mind.

**Whether a lodge is
suffering or prospering,
its members and
leaders must
continually stop,
look, and listen.**

There is a time in life when a man is ready to listen and understand what Masonry is about. I was raised in 1978 in my home lodge, Handley No. 1140. I served a few minor offices before the complications of life caused me to step back from Masonry. I became a card-carrying Mason for about twenty-five years. In 2005, my youngest child was on the verge of graduating high school and I worried about what I was to do with my time with her gone. I decided to go back to Masonry to learn the ritual work. I showed up at a stated meeting of Handley Lodge and recognized only one person. It was a good thing he was there because I probably could not have earned entry. Finn Watkins welcomed me with open arms and Don Cowley taught me my work. The intervening years since then have been hectic and busy. I hold lots of memberships, degrees, and titles. In my Masonic journey there have been lots of hills and valleys, curves and straightaways, rest stops and gas stations. In addition, great and good men, but the

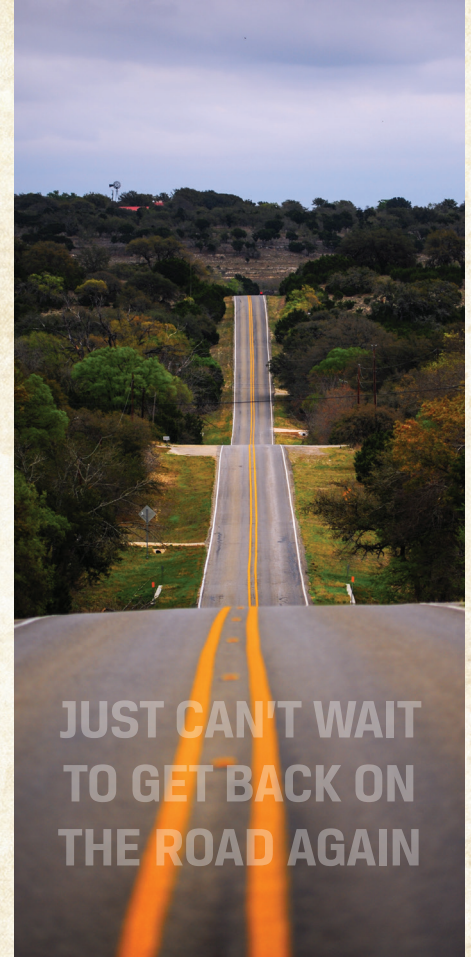


image in that journey I hold most dear is that of an altar adorned with the great lights in Masonry.

The essential me: When I die, I want to be remembered as the guy who in 1975 married the sweetest, kindest, and nicest person in the world, that I had two wonderful kids who called me Poppy and who blessed me with five great grand-kids, that I lived a life as best I could by following the guideposts of Masonry, that I believed it when John Wayne said, "A man's got to have a code, a creed to live by," and finally, at my funeral the last song played was Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again." "On the road again... I just can't wait to get on the road again..."

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Ken Curry, Deputy Grand Master

A WORD FROM THE Grand Senior Warden



My Brothers all,

Texas' own Brother Art de Hoyos once penned the words, "...There are patterns in the fabric even deeper than the weavers know..." An incredibly powerful phrase that, like the all-seeing eye or blazing star, remind us that all of life is connected according to the Grand Geometrician and the designs He lays out on His trestle board. Many times, to a pattern we cannot see.

It is early in this Grand Lodge year but the following three stories of how things have just "happened" may leave you pondering divine providence.

First, the book *12 Mighty Orphans* by Jim Dent was published in late 2007 and focuses on those legendary Mighty Mites football teams from the Masonic Home and School (MHS). Fast forward twelve years to the end of 2019, when they wrapped up the movie that is now schedule to debut in Ft. Worth, Texas later in 2020. A year that just so happens to coincide with our Grand Master, Paul Underwood, himself a Mighty Mite and graduate of the MHS. One of only four Grand Masters who are also graduates of the MHS the last one being over 40 years ago, PGM Tom Land (1981). A happy coincidence, maybe but not even our Grand Master knew this film would be made when he made himself available for GJW.

Second, I was making plans to visit University Lodge No. 1190 in Austin, Texas as they are looking to celebrate their Centennial in 2022. While attending, I met PM Rod Welch who explained that the Bullock Museum was set to host an exhibit of Masonic and Odd Fellow regalia later this year! When I approached the Grand

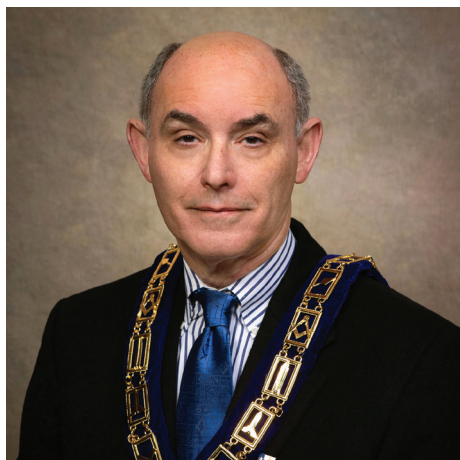
Master to see if he would be interested in setting up an event, he informed me that he worked for Brother Bullock for nearly 30 years; one of the locations being a short walking distance from where the museum is located. Coincidences abound.

These back-to-back events of seemingly "dumb luck" or "right living" got me to thinking about the quote of the patterns in the fabric and I wanted to include the quote in this story. So, I texted Brother de Hoyos to see if the quote was published, thinking Albert Pike had written it back in the 1800's. Funny, I had texted the exact guy who wrote those words during the last revision of the Scottish Rite ritual.

Life will happen. Great things and tragic things will ebb and flow in our lives, but it is reassuring to know that God is in control. So next time you notice the patterns in the fabric, deeper than anyone could plan or foresee, take a second to appreciate the handiwork of the Author of the Universe!

Fraternally,
Bradley S. Billings, Grand Senior Warden

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



When I was driving home from the Grand Lodge Building this week, I thought to myself someone should put a sign out front that declares "under new management." Of course, my thoughts were about the

new office I occupy, though the functions of my office are largely executive and administrative, and less managerial than some might think.

While I like to think of myself as being well known among Masons in the Houston area, I certainly do not think that is the case across this Grand Jurisdiction. A day or so after the Grand Master appointed me to serve Acting Grand Secretary following PGM O'Neill's resignation, I sent out a mass email to the Masons of Texas giving a brief sketch of my Masonic history because it is important that you know your servants.

That brief statement was not a complete description of who I am. Even a very detailed list of the specifics of my life to date would only provide a few not very interesting highlights of my journey. What is important for you to know about me is that I am a man, just like you, who irrespective of the differences or similarities of our politics, religions, occupations, educations, or families, is seeking the same fundamental things that you are. We share a common desire to create a better world by being better men, the best

versions of ourselves, and see in our Craft a means by which we can achieve that goal.

As I take on the new role you have entrusted to me, I want you to be aware that we will make forward-looking changes in the operations of the Grand Secretary's office. My goal is to improve responsiveness, efficiency, and communications. I cannot promise that every innovation will be popular or that everything we try will work as hoped. I will promise that no Mason will ever be left behind!

The Grand Lodge of Texas is not under new management. The Grand Lodge of Texas has and will always be under your management, no matter who goes to work there every day. It will always be about you, the Masons of Texas.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Allan R. Lazor, Grand Secretary

GRAND LODGE

INTRODUCTION TO THE Grand Junior Warden



G. Clay Smith was born on October 2, 1961, in Duncan, Oklahoma to Martha J. and George J. Smith. Growing up on a cattle ranch, Clay learned the true value of country living at a young age. Following his graduation from Waurika High School in Waurika, Oklahoma, he attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and majored in biochemistry and chemistry, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1983.

Clay moved to Dallas in 1983 and succeeded in finding employment as a sales representative with ADSCO Inc. in Addison, Texas. He became

Sales Manager and subsequently in 1986, he became Southwest Regional Sales Manager of that firm and remains in that position to this day.

On July 31, 1993, G. Clay Smith met the love of his life, Miss Teresa Gilmore in Dallas, Texas and they were married in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 31, 1995.

In 1993, Clay realized his dream of becoming a Freemason when Keystone Lodge No. 1143 favorably received his petition. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on June 26, 1993, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on September 29, 1993 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on October 30, 1993. He purchased an Endowed Membership in the Lodge shortly after his Raising. Clay served as Worshipful Master of Keystone Lodge No. 1143 (now James A. Smith No. 395) during the 1998-1999 Masonic Year. He is a plural and Endowed Member of Sweet Home Lodge No. 576. Clay is also an affiliated member of Comanche Lodge No. 41 in Comanche, Oklahoma and is an Endowed Member of that Lodge.

G. Clay Smith became active at the Grand Lodge level in 1996, when Right Worshipful W. M. "Mike" Gower asked him to serve as a member of the planning team for the 1999 Grand Lodge Year. Later, Right Worshipful David Dibrell asked him to serve on the planning team for the year 2001. He served the Grand Lodge of Texas as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 14-F in 2002, for Grand Master Michael D. Nanny. Again, Clay was asked by, Right Worshipful Thomas E. "Gene" Carnes to serve on the planning team for the year 2011. Clay served on Right Worshipful Wendell P. Miller's planning team 2016 and served as the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Texas in that year. He also served on Right Worshipful Jerry N. Kirby's Planning team in 2017. He served on Right Worshipful Terry W. Stogner's planning Team in 2019. He also served on Right Worshipful Paul D. Underwood's planning Team for 2020. Clay has served as the Training Coordinator for the District Deputy Grand Masters in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020. He served on the Grand Lodge Credentials Committee from 2005 to 2018, serving 4 times as Chairman of that Committee and 6 times as its Vice Chairman. More recently Clay has served as Vice Chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee in 2018. Clay served as Asst. State Coordinator for Right Worshipful Jerry Kirby in 2017, and for R.W. Terry W. Stogner in 2019.

G. Clay Smith has not only been a very active and engaged Blue Lodge Mason, but he has also devoted exceptional service to the Appendant Bodies. Clay was exalted in George Washington Chapter No. 422, Royal Arch Masons and served as Most Excellent High Priest of that Chapter 1999-2000. He is a dual member of Love Field Chapter No. 478, and San Angelo Chapter 170. Clay is also an Endowed member in both George Washington Chapter and Love Field Chapter. He was elected and served as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas in 2011. He is a member of the Order of High Priesthood and is a Past Grand High Priest of the Order of High Priesthood. Clay is also serving on the Committee on Finance of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.

Clay was greeted in George Washington (now John C. Callahan) Council No. 408, Royal and Select Masters. He served as Thrice Illustrious Master of that Council in 1996-1997. He is a dual member of Love Field Council No. 396 and San Angelo Council No. 110. He is also an Endowed member of both John C Callahan Council No. 408 and Love Field Council No. 396. Clay served as Right Illustrious District Deputy Grand Master of Cryptic District No. 14, of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of

Texas in 1999. He was elected and served as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Texas in 2006. He is a member of the Order of the Silver Trowel of Texas and is a Past Thrice Illustrious Master of that Order. Clay is currently serving in the Finance Committee of Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas.

Clay was knighted as a Knight Templar in Dallas Commandery No. 6. He also holds memberships in Alexander C. Garret Commandery No. 103 and Denton Commandery No. 45. He has served as Commander at Denton Commandery in 2007, 2008, 2009. He is a Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

He received the Order of Knight Preceptor in 2008. In 2008 he was also Knighted in Texas Priory No. 23 of the Knights York Cross of Honor and holds the Knight Grand Cross of Honor with Two Quadrants. Clay also currently serves the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of Texas as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

G. Clay Smith's quest for more Masonic light led him to petition for the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, which he received in the Valley of Dallas in the fall of 1994. Clay was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 27, 2007. He presently serves as Degree Master of the 23rd Degree team and is a member of the 27th Degree team. He also serves as a member of the North Dallas Membership Committee of the Dallas Scottish Rite.

He is Past Excellent Chief of Rose of Sharon Knight Masons Council No. 49, a Charter Member and Past Sovereign Master of Col. William Barrett Travis Council No. 344, Allied Masonic Degrees and received the Red Branch of Eri in July 2003.

In 2009 Clay became a Knight Commander of the Red Branch of Eri. Clay is a Past Governor of Lyle L. Cross York Rite College No. 147 and received the "Order of the Purple Cross" on July 31, 2004. He is a member of Crusader Conclave Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine. Clay is also a member of Texas College, Masonic Societas Rosicruciana Cibatibus Foederatis. Clay is member of Texas State Capitol Assemblage of the Worshipful Society of Operative Freemasons, and a Past Worthy Master of the St. Thomas of Acon. He is also a member of Ascension Grand College of American Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.

Other Masonic related activities include Charter Membership in Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, member of the Texas Lodge of Research, The Royal Order of Scotland, The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, a Charter member of Tejas Chapel No. 47, Masonic Order of the Bath, Hella Shrine, Suez Shrine, Hella's Gun Club and a member of the 100 Million Dollar Club.

A dedicated and devoted Mason, G. Clay Smith is also an avid hunter and firearms shooter, a fisherman and an aviation enthusiast. Clay holds memberships in Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, National Rifle Association, National Sporting Clays Association and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Clay also holds a Single Engine Land pilots license.

Prepared by: Thomas E. "Gene" Carnes, PGM

My Dear Brethren,

I can't begin to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the Masonic Grand Jurisdiction of Texas and each of you as your Grand Junior Warden. What a great honor it is to be chosen for such a tremendous responsibility.

The Grand Lodge Session of 2020 will remain as one of the fondest memories in my Masonic journey. I realize that with honor comes responsibility and it is my promise to you, the Masons of Texas, that I will attempt to fulfill those responsibilities to the best of my ability.

To my loving wife Teresa, I know there will be many times when you will have to give of your time to support the challenges of the next few years and I look forward to your continuing support as we walk this path together. May God bless us and the Masons of Texas.

Fraternally,
G. Clay Smith, Grand Junior Warden

2020 Grand Lodge Resolutions and Synopsis of Resolutions

2018 Hold Over Resolution No. 12: Repeal Paragraph 9 of Art. 163, and add \$0.10 to Paragraph 10, \$19.65 to \$19.75 and \$20.15 to \$20.25.

Adopted

Resolution No. 1: The Resolution would reorganize Masonic Districts 32, 34 and 36 by placing six Lodges in each District based on location.

Adopted

Resolution No. 2: The Resolution would modify Art. 634. When Suspended for Definite Time. The Brother will be automatically reinstated in his Lodge and Grand Lodge unless a protest is filed with the Worshipful Master by a Member of the Lodge.

Failed

Resolution No. 3: The Resolution would create an Honesty and Integrity Award under new Art. 14f to be awarded to outstanding high school Juniors.

Adopted

Resolution No. 4: The Resolution would require all business of Grand Lodge, with exception of the Final Report of the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee, to be concluded before the election of Grand Officers.

Failed

Resolution No. 5: The Resolution would amend Art. 318a. (2)(a) by setting the price of an endowed membership to ten times (10x) the amount of the Lodge's annual dues.

Failed

Resolution No. 6: The Resolution would delete Art. 434a. Procedure After Lapse of Time, which was passed in 2018 and replace it with the same language that existed prior to 2018.

Adopted

Resolution No. 7: The Resolution would amend Art. 75 Masonic Districts by stating that no realignment of Masonic Districts shall be made without the approval of the Lodges and members of Grand Lodge.

Failed

Resolution No. 8: The Resolution would recognize the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors under Art. 225.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 9: The Resolution would amend Art. 302 to permit the Lodge to install officers in either the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master's Lodge.

Failed

Resolution No. 10: The Resolution would give Lodges the option to allow the Worshipful Master to recite the Entered Apprentice prayer either in the East or on the floor while conferring the Entered Apprentice degree.

Failed

Resolution No. 11: The Resolution would amend Art. 543 to allow the Grand Master to assign the hearing of a Masonic Disciplinary Violation to the Grand Lodge located in Waco, TX or to a Lodge within a 100-mile radius of the Lodge in which the Masonic allegations originated.

Amended and Adopted (Amendment allowed for a location at which a fair hearing could be had)

Resolution No. 12: The Resolution would recognize the Independent Order of Odd Fellows under Art. 225.

Amended and Adopted (Amendment removed Philalethes Society)

Resolution No. 13: The Resolution would amend Section 8 of the Constitution - District Deputy Grand Masters. by adding new paragraphs stating (a) that no sitting Worshipful Master can serve as a DDGM in the District in which the Worship Master's Lodge is a member, and (b) when the Worshipful Master/DDGM is presiding as Worshipful Master he shall wear the regalia of Worshipful Master.

Tabled

Resolution No. 14: The Resolution would amend Form 28 - Investigation Report - by requiring additional employment, personal and telephone information about the Petitioner.

Failed

Resolution No. 15: The Resolution would amend Art. 630 by requiring a suspended or expelled Mason, except for non-payment of dues, to file a written petition for reinstatement with the Grand Secretary. The petition would be considered by the Grievance and Appeals Committee and its findings would be included in the Committee's Final Report.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 16: The Resolution would amend Art. 245 by having the majority of members of a Lodge that are present decide whether to consolidate with another Lodge.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 17: The Resolution would create a new Art. 20.1. Approval of Masonic Educational Programs. by allowing any Mason in attendance to object to the factual nature of any material presented at a Masonic educational program. If objected to, the material must then be presented to the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees for review and approval. Disapproval will require the presenter to remove the material from his program.

Failed to obtain the 2/3 majority required to be considered

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1: The Recommendation would amend Art. 292 to allow a Worshipful Master the option to hold a called meeting for the purpose of electing a Lodge officer if the previous elected Lodge officer, prior to his installation, is found to be disqualified, dies, or becomes unable to perform his duties by reason of sickness, relocation to another city, state or country, or any other legitimate extenuating circumstance.

Adopted

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 2: The Recommendation would amend Art. 245 to allow the majority of Members of a Lodge present, after a ten-day twenty-day notice, to vote on Lodge consolidation. It would eliminate the requirement to have a majority of Members of a Lodge approve such action. **Amended and Adopted (Amendment allowed for a twenty-day notice rather than ten)**

Election Results

Grand Master - Paul D. Underwood
 Deputy Grand Master - Kenneth C. Curry
 Grand Senior Warden - Brad S. Billings
 Grand Junior Warden - G. Clay Smith
 Grand Treasurer - Tommy Ellison
 Grand Secretary - Allan R. Lazor
 Committee on Work - Kenneth D. Young
 Masonic Home & School Board - John R. Clements
 Grand Lodge Library & Museum Board - Don P. Payton

2020 Grand Lodge Officers



**Most Worshipful
Paul D. Underwood
Grand Master**



**Right Worshipful
Kenneth C. Curry
Deputy Grand Master**



**Right Worshipful
Bradley S. Billings
Grand Senior Warden**



**Right Worshipful
John E. Wood
Grand Chaplain**



**Right Worshipful
Joseph R. Barron
Grand Orator**



**Right Worshipful
Don O. Angell
Grand Marshal**



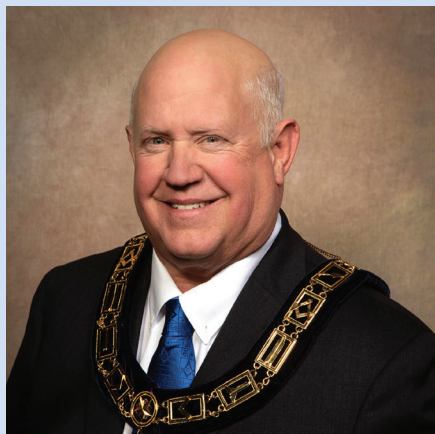
**Worshipful
Jason P. Coffelt
Grand Junior Steward**



**Worshipful
Justin C. Bauer
Grand Pursuivant**



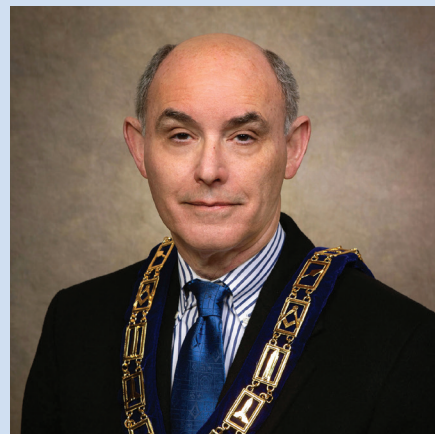
**Worshipful
Michael J. Coté
Grand Musician**



**Right Worshipful
G. Clay Smith
Grand Junior Warden**



**Right Worshipful
Tommy Ellison
Grand Treasurer**



**Right Worshipful
Allan R. Lazor
Grand Secretary**



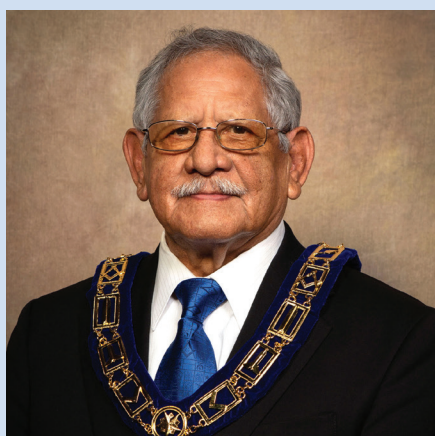
**Worshipful
Samuel R. Gibbins
Grand Senior Deacon**



**Worshipful
Jimmy R. Rumsey
Grand Junior Deacon**



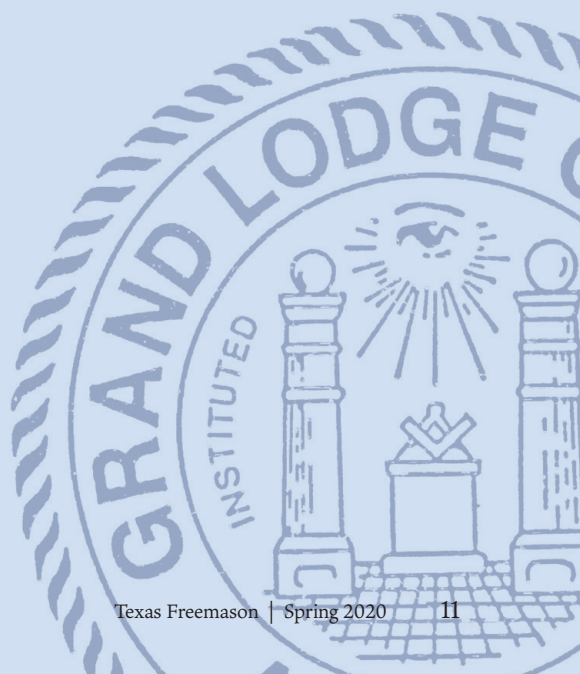
**Worshipful
Raymond M. Wiggins
Grand Senior Steward**



**Worshipful
Arturo M. Loera
Grand Photographer**



**Worshipful
Peter E. Grish
Grand Tiler**



Early History of the

To date, there has been very little written about the beginnings of the York Rite in America, and almost nothing at all about Texas York Rite Masonry.

However, an examination of the early proceedings of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Texas reveals some interesting and surprising facts.

To place events in their proper perspective, it is important to look at several key historical events, both Masonic and political, in Texas history. Early in 1832 the arrest of William B. Travis and two other Masons by Mexican military authorities near Anahuac triggered a conflict, which is considered to be the beginning of the Texas Revolution. In March of 1835 the now famous meeting under the oak tree at Brazoria was held, in which several prominent Masons, including Anson Jones, agreed to request a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana to form a Lodge in Texas. John Henry Holland, then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, granted the Dispensation and on December 27, 1835, Holland Lodge No. 36 was instituted and opened in the second story of the old courthouse building in Brazoria. A month later, on January 29, 1836, Holland Lodge No. 36 was granted a Charter by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana with Anson Jones designated as the first Worshipful Master. On December 9, 1835, three weeks prior to the first meeting of Holland Lodge in Brazoria, the General Grand Chapter of the United States granted a Charter to San Felipe de Austin Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 to form and meet at San Felipe de Austin. However, due to unforeseen events, the Chapter was never opened there. Because of events surrounding the Texas revolution, it was almost two years before Holland Lodge No. 36 was able to hold another meeting.

On March 2, 1836, at a Convention assembled at Washington-on-the-Brazos, a Declaration of Independence was drawn up and signed, declaring Texas' independence from Mexico. Two days later, on March 4, 1836, a Constitution of the Republic of Texas was drafted and an ad interim government created and installed with David G. Burnet as the first President. Sam Houston was also elected commander-in-chief of all Texas land forces. While this Convention was in session the Alamo was under siege by the Mexican army under Santa Anna. Two days after the ad interim government was formed, the Alamo fell, on March 6, 1836, and

its defenders were massacred. On April 21, 1836, one and a half months after the historic stand by the Texas defenders at the Alamo, Sam Houston, commanding an army of 783 Texans and volunteers, won the decisive Battle at San Jacinto against Santa Anna and a Mexican army numbering well over 1200 men. Santa Anna himself was captured the next day and held as prisoner until the end of the Texas conflict a few months later. On September 1, 1836 a general election was held, Sam Houston was elected President and the Constitution of the Republic of Texas was ratified. Texas remained a sovereign Republic for only nine years, until it was annexed to the United States of America on December 29, 1845.

Due to the many tasks at hand for the new Republic of Texas, it was another year before Masonry saw any prominent activity. In late August or early September of 1837 McFarland Lodge No. 41 at San Augustine was set to work under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. Their Charter, dated September 22, 1837, was received some time later. At the same time, Milam Lodge No. 40 at Nacogdoches was issued a Charter with the same date from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. On November 8, 1837, Holland Lodge No. 36, with Anson Jones as Worshipful Master, reconvened in Houston for the first time since its original meeting at Brazoria. On December 20, 1837, representatives of Holland Lodge No. 36, Milam Lodge No. 40 and McFarland Lodge No. 41 met in convention in Houston to establish the Grand Lodge of Texas. The convention elected Anson Jones the first Grand Master, a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution, and the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was called to meet at Houston on April 16, 1838, at which time the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was ended.

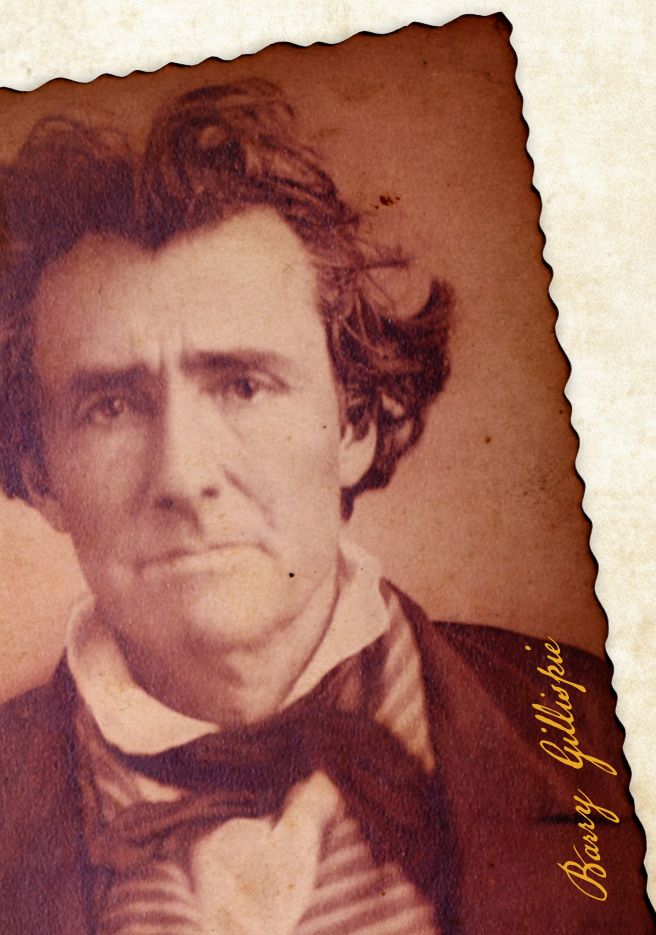
In March of 1835 the now famous meeting under the oak tree at Brazoria was held, in which several prominent Masons, including Anson Jones, agreed to request a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana to form a Lodge in Texas.

York Rite in Texas

By Mark D. Myer, Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest

Prior to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Texas, Chapters of Royal Arch Masons were formed and operated as Masonic Bodies appendant to a Blue Lodge and under the sanction and jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. On June 2, 1840, San Felipe de Austin Chapter, having never met at San Felipe de Austin, met and opened a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at Galveston, Texas. The General Grand Chapter of the United States, from whom they had obtained their Charter, did not grant approval for the removal to Galveston until September 12, 1844, some four years later. Meanwhile, in 1841, Cyrus Chapter at Matagorda, Rising Star Chapter at San Augustine and Lone Star Chapter at Austin petitioned for dispensations from the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, and on December 10, 1841 those dispensations were granted. Four days later, on December 14, 1841, representatives of those Chapters, along with those of Washington Chapter No. 2 in Houston, met in Convention in Austin to form the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Republic of Texas. One week later, on December 21, 1841, a Constitution was ratified and adopted. However, San Felipe

de Austin Chapter refused to sign the Constitution and withdrew from the Convention. Upon receipt of a letter informing them of the formation of the Grand Chapter and requesting relinquishment of jurisdiction over local Chapters and Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas adopted a resolution surrendering said jurisdiction and granting recognition to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Republic of Texas as the appropriate head and governing body of Texas Capitular Masonry. However, the General Grand Chapter of the United States refused to recognize the legal authority of the Grand Chapter of Texas. The differences between the two governing bodies were never satisfactorily resolved and in 1847, six years after the formation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, the General Grand Chapter passed a resolution forbidding Masonic intercourse between any Chapters and Royal Arch Masons under its jurisdiction, and those of the Grand Chapter of Texas.





Two years later, in 1849, in an attempt to preserve peace and harmony among the craft, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas adopted a resolution to dissolve itself. During all of this confusion, eight of the nine Chapters of Texas petitioned for dispensations from the General Grand Chapter to open their Chapters under authority and jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. These dispensations were granted from 1848 to 1850 and six of the eight Chapters subsequently received Charters. One year after dissolving itself, representatives from four Texas Chapters met in Galveston, on December 30, 1850, to again form the Grand Chapter of Texas, but this time under authority of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. All but San Felipe de Austin agreed to surrender their authority from the General Grand Chapter and place it under the Grand Chapter of Texas. Charters from the reinstituted Grand Chapter of Texas were granted on June 25, 1851. San Felipe de Austin Chapter did not receive a Charter from the Grand Chapter of Texas until June 22, 1860. On June 17, 1861, no doubt precipitated by the cessation of the state of Texas from the Union during the Civil War, the Grand Chapter of Texas adopted a resolution permanently dissolving any connection with the General Grand Chapter of the United States. This dissolution remains to this day.

While research for this paper has primarily been focused on the birth and growth of Capitular and Cryptic Masonry during the early period of Texas's struggle for independence from Mexico and its eventual graduation to statehood in the United States, it should be noted that during this same period Commanderies of Knights Templar were experiencing a similar struggle and growth. Although more research and documentation is certainly needed, a reference to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia reveals that the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas was organized on January 18, 1855 consisting of 93 individual Commanderies and a total membership of 27,683 Knights Templar.

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas was born from a Convention held on June 24, 1856 in Huntsville, Texas, just 18 years after the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. Representatives from Houston Council No. 10 (chartered from New York), Austin Council No. 12 (chartered from Alabama), Galveston Council (granted a

dispensation from Alabama), and Coleman Council (located in Marshall, Texas; chartered from Kentucky) were present. In the period from 1857 to 1860 the Grand Council of Texas enjoyed a healthy growth, having issued 14 Charters to Councils in Texas and 1 Charter to Marysville Council in California. It seems that events leading up to the Civil War began to take their toll on Grand Council activities from 1861 to 1864, as reflected in Grand Council proceedings. Finally, at the Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas held in Houston on June 16, 1864, a resolution was adopted by the representatives present to dissolve the Grand Council, and to transfer jurisdiction of the Council Degrees, subordinate Councils and their members, and all funds and properties of the Grand Council of Texas to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. The existing Councils were then made appendant bodies of Royal Arch Chapters in Texas. It was not until 43 years later, at the urging of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, that the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Texas was rehabilitated on December 3, 1907. It continues to operate in peace and prosperity to this day. ★

REFERENCES

- Carter, James D. Masonry in Texas, 1955
- Proceedings of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Texas, 1856-1864, 1907-1909
- Transactions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, Volumes I-III
- Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas, 1999
- Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, Copyright 1961 by Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, Inc.



The Chamber of Reflection and a Tater in the Crik

By James C. "Chris" Williams IV



In my business, getting the parts necessary to repair a vehicle can sometimes be the most challenging part of the job. I had sold a clutch job on a truck and was in the process of ordering the parts. I had a choice of having the clutch parts sent to me in the mail with a hefty fee added and not receiving it for an extra day...or... driving the seventy miles to pick it up and getting it the same day. I opted for driving the seventy miles and getting it the same day. As I was walking out the door guess who drove in at the same instant.... yup none other than big John Deacon. I was in too big a hurry to stop and chit chat, so I told him to load it up and off we went.

I thought we could have some really good Masonic conversation in 140 miles but as usual all he was interested in was eating. I kept telling him I had to get that part picked up, but I might as well have been talking to myself. There were a couple of times when I almost pulled over and told him to walk, but I knew that would come back to bite me in the end. We picked up the part without incident and I was unsuccessful in leaving John behind... not that I didn't try.

Halfway back I got to feeling hungry and realized we were pretty close to the Gristmill Restaurant outside New Braunfels. I have to tell you that this is one of my favorite places to go. This restaurant was built literally on the bank of the Guadalupe River overlooking one of the most beautiful and popular parts of the river where tubers lazily float by all day long. John had never been there so I asked for a table halfway down the bank about forty feet up from the water. I started to realize the big guy was leery of heights when it took him 10 minutes to walk down two short flights of stairs to the platform where our table was. He was trying real hard not to let me see that he was petrified but it was obvious. I asked him if he wanted to get a different table but after sitting down, he seemed to be ok and he declined to move. He did mutter something under his breath about our table hanging off the side of the hill.

It didn't take him long to start noticing all the pretty girls floating the river below and I actually had to remind him that we were there to eat. He mumbled something about being concerned about their safety... which I didn't buy. Our waitress, Marcie, wanted to know what we wanted to drink, and I told her to bring two teas and she asked if we were ready to order. John grabbed a menu but before he could open it, I reached over and took it from him and while he scowled at me, I ordered three Chicken Fried Steaks with all the fixins including baked potatoes and a basket of their really good rolls. By the time I finished ordering he had stopped scowling and was smiling. I told him we didn't have time to be picky and their Chicken Fried Steaks were great. He was happy about that and had gone back to watching the river. I just let him watch... heck it is sure relaxing sitting under those huge cypress trees and watching the river... and the tubers go by. He said, "You know Brother Chris, I have never floated down a river in a tube before. It looks like a lot of fun. Maybe I will try it sometime." I must have chuckled too loud because he looked at me and demanded to know what was so funny. "At the risk of upsetting you before you get your food," I said slowly. "I don't think they make a tube big enough for your big....." "There you go again," he interrupted me growling like a bear. "Always saying bad things about me" "I was merely telling the truth and also looking out for your safety." "My safety?" he asked giving me a skeptical look. "Yup," I said. "The chances that you will

find a tube big enough... ahhh... your size... is slim and none. And if you did, considering the shallowness of the river and the expected displacement of your derriere I would expect that the constant contact with the riverbed would render you with extremely scraped cheeks." I delivered the whole thing, seriously, with a straight face while he stared at me with a confused look on his face. Finally, he said, "Displacement... derriere... scraped cheeks? Can you talk in plain talk?" "Ok," I said. "The water is not very deep, and you are going to stick out so low below that tube that you are going to scrape your butt big time." Well he just stared at me with a blank look on his face. I didn't know if he was going to growl or yell or ask me to explain again. Luckily Marcie showed up and set our plates down and all of his attention turned to eating. I was enjoying my lunch and I happened to look up and saw John gazing over the side of the railing looking down at the river. Just as I started to give him a hard time about watching the tubers again Marcie walked up and asked how everything was. John looked up at her with big sad eyes and said slowly, "I knocked my tater in the crik." Marcie just stood there with a confused look on her face and said, "You knocked your what in the what?" I quickly jumped in and tried to explain. "He said he knocked his potato off his plate down into the river." She looked from me to him and he just nodded with a big frown on his face. She chuckled and shook her head and told John not to worry that she would bring him another. Happily, he went back to eating. I told him he needed to hurry because we needed to get back, but it wasn't necessary because he was done in no time. I paid the bill and a nice tip for Marcie who was still giggling about John's tater in the crik.

On the way to the truck I reminded him that he hadn't said one thing of value so far and he needed to change that. We got back on the road and he said he did have something to talk about. He said, "I was talking with several Brothers the other day and I asked them what they thought about the "Chamber of Reflection"?

Boy, the discussion went back and forth about whether it was changing the ritual to whether it was legal or not to whether its purpose was necessary at all. What is your opinion, Brother Chris?" "Well I haven't thought too hard about it before," I replied. "But you can be sure I will now, but I have to say I am not sure at this point. I'll bet you have an opinion though.... otherwise this wouldn't be the subject of your conversation today."

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/the-chamber-of-reflection-and-a-tater-in-the-crik/> for the rest of the story.

A LOOK BACK

This article was originally published in April of 1920

Brother John J. Pershing



World-Famed Hero Honored By Houston Masons. Masonic Status Recounted.

The honoring of General John J. Pershing by Nobles of Arabia Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., of Houston, on the occasion of his birthday and also on the occasion of his visit to Texas and Houston a few weeks ago, has received much favorable comment by the Masonic press of the Nation.

A photograph of General Pershing and Potentate Dow and others appears on our cover this month. The General had just been awarded a life membership in Arabia Temple as the picture was taken. Mrs. Hobby, wife of the Governor, stands at his right; Mrs. Dow, wife of Potentate Dow, behind him.

Some Masonic editors, even so notable a one as the editor of the Shrine national organ, The Crescent, reprove the Houston Nobles for thus honoring a demitted Mason, and speak of the danger of making ourselves ridiculous in

the eyes of the profane by laying claim to great men regardless of their present Masonic status.

Cause for this discussion arose from the fact that Gen. Pershing for a period of time carried his demit from his home Lodge in Lincoln, Nebraska, and was without Masonic affiliation. During this time he also allowed his membership in Sesostri Temple of the same city to lapse. No reason has been assigned in any of the published statements coming to the notice of Texas Freemason, and for want of another it is assumed that his constant change of location led to his neglect of the matter of dues and perhaps to lessening of interest in the activities of the local bodies. He is reported to have talked Masonry to various friends and Masons and to have spoken of his demit.

But the undisputed facts of the case now are, according to authoritative information published in a recent number of The New Age (Washington, D. C.), that Pershing is a member in good standing of Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Mount Moriah Commandery No. 4,

and Sesostri Temple, all of Lincoln, Nebraska, his former home.

What is more, our worthy Houston Nobles have put the world on notice that Brother Pershing is a lifetime Noble of Arabia. This is fitting, for the General won much of his fame and promotion in the camps and on the border of Texas, and a large proportion of Pershing's Boys received their training in the camps of this State. He cannot but have a tender spot in his heart for Texas, as all Texas Masons and loyal citizens have a profound affection for him.



Grand Lodge Committee Profile

In this installment of our recurring column looking at the various Grand Lodge Committees, we look at a portion of the Committee on Finance, the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund (Fund). The Fund committee is comprised of members from the Grand Lodge Finance Committee as determined by the Finance Committee members. As new members are appointed by the various Grand Masters to the Committee on Finance, members of the Committee on Finance are rotated on and off of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund Committee.

Administration of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund by the Committee on Finance is defined in Grand Lodge Law Article 123 in the following manner:

Art. 123. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Administration and Duties. The Finance Committee shall exercise control, supervision, and disbursement of the funds of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund under such rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time by such Committee, or by this Grand Lodge. Contributions from the fund shall be limited to those individuals whose sponsoring Lodge also contributes to the recipient. Such limitation shall not apply when the Lodge submits satisfactory evidence of its inability to contribute to such assistance. Provided further that the total contribution of the plan to any recipient shall not exceed an amount as established from time to time by the Grand Lodge Trustees. (Revised 2018)

The background of this fund is long and storied. The Fund was originally setup by a Brother in the early 20th Century as the Tuberculosis Relief Fund, since at that time tuberculosis was rampant, costly, largely untreatable, and there were no, or very limited, resources for payment or treatment. After successful eradication of tuberculosis, the fund remained, and was morphed into the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund, but not as we know it today. The Fund has never existed to benefit individual lodges, or in modern times as a first line resource for individuals.

Over the years, the fund has operated by various rules as adopted by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. The operating rules or procedures exist to provide control over use, purposes, and processes, as well as to ensure long term financial stability. The Fund was never intended to be a replacement for Brother to Brother or Lodge to Member assistance foreseen in the obligations each individual Mason has for other Masons. The work of the Committee is to find that balance between available resources, requests, and where that need fits in the fraternity

Over the past several years with the advent of public and private funding sources, the availability of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, the Masonic Home and School, and other affiliated and unaffiliated entities, the fund has been spared some of the primary funding responsibilities. This is a good development, in that as the number of Masons has declined so have donations to the fund. This coupled with the corresponding increase in the number of older masons, could jeopardize the Funds existence. Prudent disbursement of the fund's income is a fine line to walk as none of the corpus of the Fund's monies can be accessed. Financial performance is extremely important.

Most recently, the Fund has moved from a longer-term support process to a one time, often larger, single payment to provide a hand-up when needed. This is not to suggest the Fund is the first line; that belongs to the



individual Mason and then their local lodge(s). Only after those resources have been contacted is the Fund available for requests, and even then, it is limited to those whose lodges have already provided for the distressed Brother. In the past there was a process that provided for an award of a specified dollar amount, usually on a monthly basis, that would have to be reapplied for, reviewed, and reapproved each year. There were also very loose rules on determination of the maximum amounts to be allocated, but the recent changes look much different.

Current Fund procedures provide for a one-time award, based on need and a maximum amount per award allowed. It is very similar to the approach the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation uses to allocate resources. The process is not simple, nor should it be. In general terms, the lodge is approached by the distressed Brother or widow; the lodge then decides and votes in open lodge to provide some level of assistance. The request for a grant from the Fund is then prepared and sent to the DDGM for that lodge; he reviews the application and makes a recommendation before forwarding it on to the Finance Committee. The Committee then reviews and makes a recommendation to the Grand Trustees. The trustees are the final word in approval for the granting of money from the Fund.

In an interview with Brother Steve Pepper for this article, he related that as a member of the Finance Committee it is one of his most rewarding activities; he also relates that it can be one of the most frustrating when attempting to balance genuine need with limited resources.

The next article will focus on the Gift of Life Committee, be sure to look for that article on a program that is unique to the Grand Lodge of Texas and beneficial directly to those charities Masons support the most, and its connection to help our military personnel.

True Grit: The Real Mighty Mites

By Brothers William Crow, Jerome Weilmuenster and Royce Rose



Bro. John Wayne probably did not know much about the Mighty Mites, but their playing on the football field certainly demonstrated the title of one of his better-known movies. And now Jim Dent's book, *Twelve Mighty Orphans*, has been made into a movie which demonstrates the grit and determination of the Mighty Mites.

If you are not familiar with the Mighty Mites, that was the nickname of the football team of the Masonic Home and School. They were famous across Texas and well known around the nation in the 1930's and 40's for their fighting attitude on the football field. A football team was established by Coach Rusty Russell in 1927. Doc Hall served as school doctor and assistant coach.

The Masonic Home and School opened in 1889 for the housing and education of orphans of Texas Masons. Admission was later granted to any student sponsored by a Texas Masonic Lodge. The site in Ft. Worth was chosen in part because of a donation of 212 acres plus \$5,000 from Ft. Worth Lodge No. 148. The Grand Lodge of Texas made a further donation of over \$40,000.

The staff at the Masonic Home and School did their best to make life as normal as possible. Many of the women who supervised the children were members of the Eastern Star and took care of the students like surrogate mothers, not merely administrators. Masons were well represented among the members of the staff and administration. Local Masonic lodges also made Christmas a memorable event, hosting Christmas parties and providing gifts for all the students.

In addition to providing K-12 education, there were extra-curricular activities and chores. Many of the chores involved tending to livestock and farming because the school was self-sufficient. There was even a boiler for steam heat and electricity. In the early part of the 20th century a printing facility was added, and this provided a source for reasonably priced printing for the Grand Lodge as well as many lodges around the state.

It is not possible to name all the lodge officers in Texas that were students, but the Masonic Home and school produced four Texas Grand Masters: Hugh M. Craig (1949), John T. Bean (1960), Tom Land (1981) and our current Grand Master, Paul Underwood. Additionally, there were other students that went on to make their mark.

Blake Van Leer (class of 1909) was the valedictorian of his class and became president of Georgia Tech. While Van Leer preceded the days of football, three Mighty Mites football players should be noted for their accomplishments. Abner McCall (class of 1932) was the president of Baylor University, a Texas Supreme Court judge and contributed a great deal to the legal profession. McCall delivered the eulogy for Coach Russell. Miller Moseley (class of 1939) was another valedictorian. Moseley earned a bachelor's degree in physics and chemistry from TCU, went on to earn a PhD and worked on the Manhattan Project. Probably the most famous Mighty Mite/professional football player was DeWitt "Tex" Coulter (class of 1941). Tex was an All American at West Point and played professionally for the NY Giants.

For several years all the equipment of the Mighty Mites was second-hand. Their helmets were scratched and abused, and their jerseys did not match. But their record for the 1927 season was 8 wins and 2 losses. That record would steadily improve, sending them to the state semi-finals in 1934, 1938 and 1940. Over 169 games, their record was 122 wins, 30 tied games and 12 losses. And this was against teams that averaged 30 pounds heavier than the Mighty Mites.

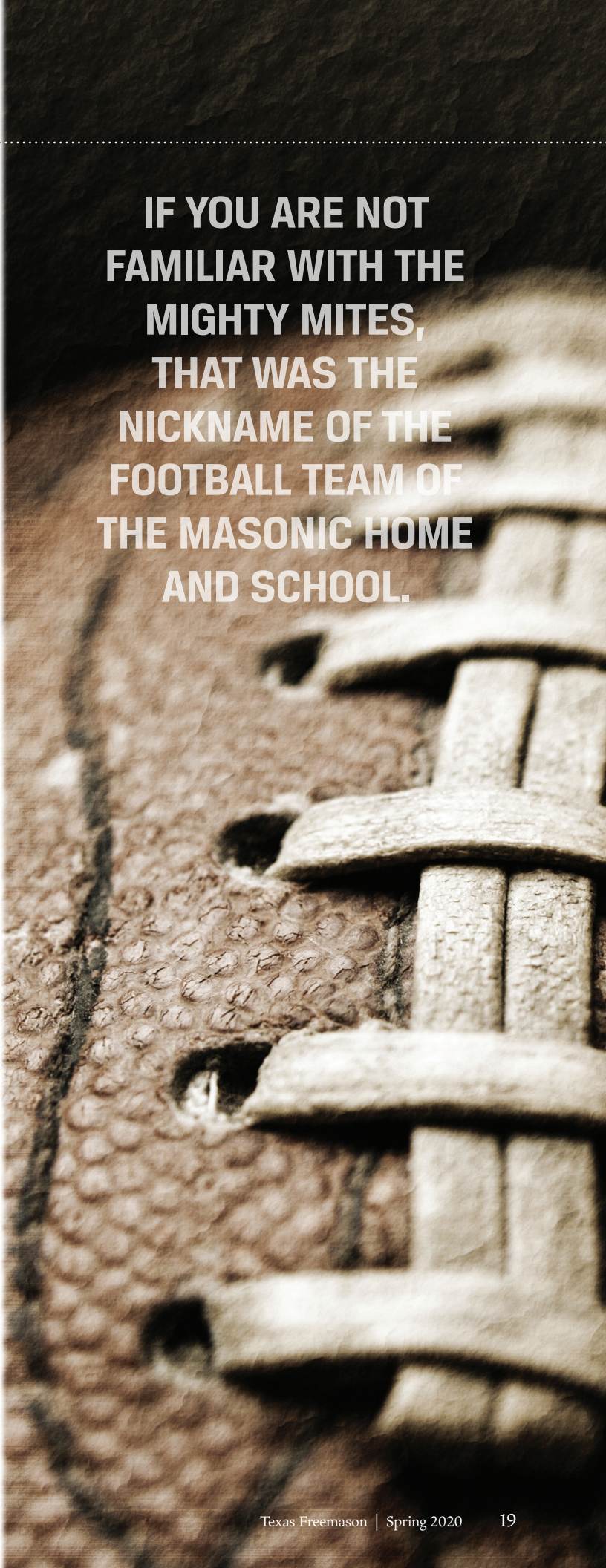
The independent movie Twelve Mighty Orphans is being entirely produced in north Texas, recreating the period as far as possible. Gateway Park in Ft. Worth was the scene for the football games, while locker room scenes were shot at Yellow Jacket Stadium in Cleburne. Since the original Masonic Home facilities are no longer available, the Knights of Pythias Home in Weatherford, Texas served as the backdrop for many scenes reflecting life in the Home and School. The Texas Pythian Home opened on 1 March 1909, as a home for widows and orphans of Knights of Pythias members. The Texas Pythian Home is in operation today and is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The movie crew moved into the Ft. Worth Masonic Temple on 4 November and started building sets. A press box was erected on the stage of the ballroom to be used for a scene at a football game. The first-floor foyer was set up for a scene involving the Texas Scholastic League as they determined the age and eligibility of Hardy Brown. After the hearing, the scene moves to the front steps of the Temple to show crowd reaction to the positive results of the hearing. Period automobiles were parked in the parking lot to add to the flavor of the outdoor shots. Filming at the Temple wrapped up on 8 November.

Even if you are not familiar with the story, you will certainly recognize the main actors: Martin Sheen, as Doc Hall, Luke Wilson, as Coach Rusty Russell, and Robert Duvall as Mason Hawk, who is described as a wise Freemason who had been an orphan and brings knowledge as to what it means to be an orphan. By the way, Luke Wilson is from Dallas.

The book and the film depict the ups and downs of the Mighty Mites both on the field and off. The movie helps bring to life the importance of fighting back and clinging to faith. Participating in football gave the boys hope and the opportunity to be something more than orphans, and they spread that hope and courage throughout the school.

Twelve Mighty Orphans will premiere in Ft. Worth in the fall of 2020 and then go into distribution.



**IF YOU ARE NOT
FAMILIAR WITH THE
MIGHTY MITES,
THAT WAS THE
NICKNAME OF THE
FOOTBALL TEAM OF
THE MASONIC HOME
AND SCHOOL.**

Grand Lodge of Texas Social Media Guidelines

Adopted by GLOT Trustees October 11, 2019

These social media guidelines are promulgated by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas to guide the lodges and membership of the Grand Lodge of Texas as they participate in social media. These guidelines are for the sole use and benefit of the Grand Lodge of Texas, (GLOT), its constituent lodges (Texas Lodges) and the members of its constituent lodges (Texas Masons). Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to establish any right or interest in any person, entity or third party or of any duty or obligation upon the GLOT.

Social media is often the first source of information about Freemasonry, Texas Masons and Texas Lodges for many Texas Masons and the general public. Social media use by Texas Masons must be accurate, responsible, informative, and current. Social media which may be accessible by non-Texas Masons must present Texas Masons and Texas Lodges in favorable and positive light.

Texas Masons are expected to act on social media in the same manner as they would in face to face meetings with another person and on sites restricted to Masons, Texas Masons should act as if they were in a Masonic meeting.

These Social Media Guidelines apply to the lodges and membership of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, including those involving Masonic discipline, apply to social media activity by Texas Masons. While the following are not Masonic disciplinary rules, they are indicative of behavior that may run afoul of the disciplinary rules.

Dos -

- Do use social media to promote and further Texas Masons and Texas Lodges, their history, meaning and public understanding.
- Do be cognizant that not all Texas Masons view and understand social media content in a like manner and due deference should be used for the sensibility of all Texas Masons.
- Do in all social media actively which may be accessible by non-Texas Masons present a positive image of Freemasonry.
- Do consider carefully all social media activity before you participate in the activity and assure compliance with these guidelines. If

in doubt consult the District Deputy Grand Master before embarking on the activity.

- Do post photographs of lodge activities so long as they are positive and a fair representation of the event or activity and do not identify a Texas Mason without his prior consent.
- Do use a closed or membership only channel for communications of a Texas Lodge to its members
- Do separate all Masonic related postings from any political or religious issue posting to not give any false impression that Texas Masonry as such condones, accepts, urges or supports any political issue, party, candidate, office holder or any religious issue position.
- Do use closed or membership only social media channels when posting about or sharing information only relevant to Texas Masons such as Masonic allegory and symbolism, private and personal issues of Texas Masons.

Do Nots -

- Do not be involved in any social media activity that may be considered vile, profane, vulgar, or offensive.
- Do not identify a Texas Mason by name, identifying information or photo unless he has provided his consent, or has already identified himself as a Texas Mason. Except that group photos of Masonic activities of Texas Masons may be used so long as no Texas Mason is identified without his consent.
- Do not discuss, announce, or post names, identifying information or photos of candidates for the degrees.
- Do not discuss, announce, or post names, identifying information or photos of those who have made inquiry regarding membership in a Texas Lodge.
- Do not use social media activity to promote the candidacy of any Texas Mason for any Masonic office.
- Do not discuss, announce, or post names, identifying information or photos of those who have made themselves available for

GLOT elective offices except that such persons may be identified and included in pictures of a Masonic event where the principal purpose of the identification or picture is the memorialization of group event. Individual pictures of such candidates should not be posted except in accordance with Grand Lodge Law.

- Do not post, disclose or discuss thoughts or feelings regarding the outcome of a ballot in a Texas Lodge or in the Grand Lodge of Texas.
- Do not post, disclose or discuss thoughts or feelings about the business of the GLOT or any constituent lodge in any social media activity that is accessible by a person not a Texas Mason.
- Do not post, disclose or discuss in any social media photographs of Texas Masons and Texas Lodges unless you have the permission of the GLOT or the involved Texas Lodge or Lodges to do so. Any photographs used in social media must portray the GLOT, its subordinate lodges and Texas Masons in a positive light.
- Do not be involved in any social media activity that is illegal, defamatory, or likely to offend any Texas Mason or member of the public.
- Do not participate in any social media activity that cause or contribute to any hostile or unproductive arguments regarding Texas Masons.
- Do not participate in any social media activity that cause or contribute to any private piques or quarrels among Texas Masons.
- Do not discuss or allude to any of the elements of the secret esoteric work or any secret Masonic sign, token or word.
- Do not speak for or claim to speak for any organization of Texas Masons such as the GLOT, a Texas Lodge, an appendant body of Texas Mason, a MWSA, or like organizations on whose behalf you are not expressly authorized to speak.
- Do not use any social media activity to promote the pecuniary interests of a Texas Mason by identifying him as a Texas Mason.

These guidelines are not rules. They were not adopted to limit any Mason's right of free speech or association. There has been, and still is, considerable controversy over what is and what is not proper to be placed in social media by Masons. Brothers disagree as to the proper use of social media and the application of Grand Lodge Law to social media activity. The policies of many other Masonic jurisdictions were consulted, and much thought and discussion went into the composition of these guidelines. Again, they are not rules. They are intended as a "common sense" approach to aid the Mason in his social media activities.

Preparing for Our Second Hundred Years

By Vickie Beck, Senior Editor and Writer, Shriners Hospitals for Children/Shriners International

Shriners Hospitals for Children is Changing to Meet the Needs and Expectations of Today and Tomorrow

We live in an increasingly fast-paced, ever-changing, technology-driven world. Just look at the phone in your back pocket – it's not just a phone anymore – it's a camera, a computer, and your own personal entertainment center.

The health care industry is also undergoing rapid, radical, changes. One big change is a shift to an emphasis on outpatient care.

The members of the Shriners fraternity established Shriners Hospitals for Children® because they wanted to make a difference in the world – they wanted to establish a philanthropy that would help those in need, and make the world a better place. At the time, a polio epidemic was sweeping across the country, and it was apparent that many children were without appropriate care. Consequently, these compassionate visionaries chose to establish a children's hospital to meet this need, and to provide all care and services regardless of the families' ability to pay. The first Shriners Hospital opened in 1922 in Shreveport, Louisiana. What began as one hospital has become a world-renowned health care system with locations in three countries.

Over time, Shriners Hospitals for Children has continued to make a difference by addressing additional medical needs of children, including burn injuries, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate. Driven by compassion and concern, Shriners Hospitals for Children has been committed and dedicated to changing the lives of children for nearly 100 years, and has provided hope and healing to more than 1.4 million children.

Transforming Our Delivery of Care

Shriners Hospitals for Children has historically provided the majority of its amazing, excellent care on an inpatient basis. However, today, approximately 85 percent of pediatric medical procedures in the U.S.

are performed in an outpatient setting, and this trend is expected to continue. We are evaluating our care delivery model at each of our locations, and making necessary adaptations and changes to ensure we are meeting the needs of both the patients and communities we serve.

These changes and evaluations are part of a much larger plan that will create a select number of Centers of Excellence, with more than 200 access points for patients and families (affiliations, partnerships, telehealth sites, outreach clinics, etc.), allowing us to serve more children, wherever they may live.



At Shriners Hospitals for Children, patients are our priority. We continue to change and adapt our care models and services to better serve the patients and families who depend on us.

A Local Perspective

For our locations in Texas, this means consolidating our orthopaedic and cleft lip and palate services in Houston with the burn care programs offered in Galveston. There are many reasons for this. The number of uninsured children in Houston has decreased from 1.4 million to 0.8 million over the last decade; and the need for a hospital offering pediatric orthopaedic care regardless of the ability to pay, or insurance status, has declined commensurately. While our Houston location provides care for many children from Mexico, transportation and border crossings are becoming increasingly problematic, and the trips are long and arduous for the children and families, as well as for our

dedicated Shriners who bring them. We are taking steps to increase our outreach clinics and services in Mexico in order to care for these children closer to their homes.

For several reasons, including strong community support and relationships with other medical entities and care providers, our Galveston location has the potential and ability to become a regional leader in pediatric orthopaedics, maintain its reputation as a global leader in pediatric burn care and to eventually be named one of our future Centers of Excellence. We look forward to this transition and to better serving the region's children, and to furthering our mission to transform lives through medical care, research and education.

GRAND LODGE

2019 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

BEST OF SHOW
"Sharing the Wisdom"
Padini R. Santiago



Judges:
Jeff Haven
Sir Charles Taylor
Darrell Hefley
JDarrell Kirkley

ALTAR CATEGORY



1st Place: "Roots" Marco Banda



2nd Place: Frank Rios III -
"New Beginnings"



3rd Place: Jon K Wych -
"The Checkered Pavement"

LANDSCAPE CATEGORY



1st Place: "Sunrise" Joe Sherwin



2nd Place: Padini R. Santiago -
"Enter Night. Exit Light. Enter Night"



3rd Place: Greg Wright -
"Home"

MASONRY CATEGORY



1st Place:
"Multi-Generation Officer Installation" **Greg Wright**



2nd Place: Keith Arterburn -
"Worshipful Master, This Gavel"



3rd Place: Padini R. Santiago -
"As the day ends"

PORTRAIT CATEGORY



1st Place: "Boss Baby" Cory Harris

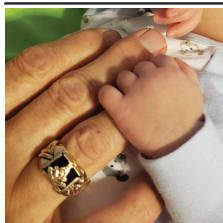


2nd Place: Keith Renolds-
"The Grand Master and his Bologna Sandwich"

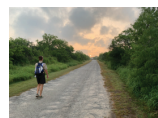


3rd Place: Keith Arterburn -
"Worshipful Master Hobie"

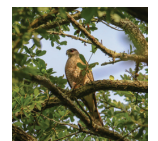
SNAPSHOT CATEGORY



1st Place:
"Meet my Granddaughter" **Robert Keith Wolf**



2nd Place: Ray Kornhoff -
"Traveling East"



3rd Place: David Benoit -
"Cooper's Hawk"

2020 MASONIC MERCHANDISE

QTY	ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	COST Ea.	
	521PU	LAPEL PIN -	\$5.00	
	521PU-C	CHARM -	\$5.00	
	532PU	BAR CLIP TIE CHAIN - w/Charm	\$15.00	
	523PU	2" PM Jewel W / 29" Chain	\$20.00	
	535FOB	POCKET KEY FOB MM	\$40.00	
	535FOB-PM	POCKET KEY FOB PM	\$40.00	
	CUFF-PU	Cuff link Set	\$20.00	
	520PU	BRONZE COIN	\$5.00	
	524PU	ENAMEL COIN	\$10.00	
	525PU	SILVER COIN	\$80.00	
	526PU	LARGE BUCKLE Enamel w/Grand Masters Logo	\$30.00	
	522PU	SMALL BUCKLE Enamel w/Grand Masters Logo	\$25.00	
	526PU-BRZ	LARGE BUCKLE BRONZE w/Grand Masters Logo	\$30.00	
	515PU	MONEY CLIP	\$15.00	
	534PU	Masonic Pasport	\$15.00	
	PU-ECKNIFE	Commerative Knife, Boxed & Numbered W/Enamel Coin	\$50.00	
	PU-SCKNIFE	Commerative Knife, Boxed & Numbered W/SILVER Coin	\$140.00	
	527PU	BOLO TIE- w/Grand Masters Logo	\$15.00	
	530PU	3" CAR EMBLEM w/Grand Masters Logo	\$15.00	
	528PU	LOGO DECALS -	\$1.00	
	529PU	TAIL LIGHT DECALS (PAIR) S&C	\$5.00	
	529PU-PM	TAIL LIGHT DECALS (PAIR) PM	\$5.00	
	529GM	8" WINDOW DECAL S&C	\$10.00	
	536PU-NAVY	Cap - - Mesh Back NAVY	\$15.00	
	536PU-KHAK	Cap- SOLID BACK KHAKI	\$15.00	
	533PU-BLAK	Shirt - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL BLACK	\$35.00	
	533PU-RED	Shirt - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL RED	\$35.00	
	540PU-R TIE	Tie Red w/Grand Masters Logo	\$40.00	
	540PU-BOW	Bow Tie Red, untied w/Grand Masters Logo	\$40.00	
	LADIES PIN	LADIES PIN/PINDANT, SAND DOLLAR	\$30.00	
	LADIES-E R	LADIES EARRINGS, STARFISH	\$30.00	
	LADIES SET	LADIES SET PIN & EAR RINGS	\$50.00	
	LADIES PUR	LADIES PURSE HOLDER	\$10.00	
	LADIES KEY	LADIES KEY FINDER	\$10.00	
	LADIES BAG	LADIES BAG ROYAL/BLACK	\$25.00	
	FIREING GL	FIREING GLASS	\$20.00	
	KOOZIE	Can Koozie W/ Grand Master Logo	\$5.00	
			SUB-TOTAL	
Check Enclosed (Make Check Payable to Grand Lodge of Texas)			S/H Under \$50.00	\$7.00
			S/H Over \$50.00	\$12.00
VISA/MC/DISC ONLY CARD # _____			TOTAL	
Exp: _____ / _____	CVN# _____			
NAME: _____			RETURN TO;	
Address: _____			GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS	
			PO BOX 446	
			WACO, TX 76703	
CITY/STATE _____	ZIP _____			
Phone: _____ () _____ - _____				
Signature: _____				



TEXAS FREEMASON

The Grand Lodge of Texas
715 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701



CONSTITUTED
APRIL 1838



2020 Blue Envelope Appeal to Support TMCF

M.:W.: Paul D. Underwood, has selected the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation to benefit from his 2020 Blue Envelope Appeal. As part of this appeal, a beautiful bone handle Case pocket knife with the seal of the Grand Lodge of Texas and Square and Compasses will be presented to everyone who contributes \$250 or more. Also, the TMCF has had struck a beautiful coin featuring the bust of the Grand Master in the first of a series of coins featuring this year's Grand Master. These coins will be presented to contributors of \$25 or more. An additional envelope is scheduled in this magazine and online donations may be made at: txmcf.org/pu

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

Name

ID Number

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip Code

I can help by enclosing ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$

Make check payable to TMCF

Email Address

Online contributions @ txmcf.org/pu