



T E X A S

# FREEMASON

**FEATURE**

## On the Masonic Road

Remembering our Veterans,  
many of whom were and  
are Texas Masons.

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One of the many Veteran's Cemeteries across the United States appropriately honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

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**Contributing Writers**  
Craig Enderli

**Image Credits**  
Robert Marshall

**Editor**  
Larry FitzPatrick

**Associate Editor**  
Bruce W. Hammond

**Staff Writers**  
Ruben Bazan III, Bill Crow, jim hoffpaur, Jerome Weilmuenster, James C. "Chris" Williams IV

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Please continue to send your articles and Lodge events and news to the Editors of The Texas Freemason Magazine.

The preferred method of submission is via email with an attached Microsoft Word document. Pictures should be separately submitted in JPEG format to [TexasFreemason@grandsecretaryoftx.org](mailto:TexasFreemason@grandsecretaryoftx.org). If you do not have email, submissions may be sent to the Grand Lodge of Texas, Attn: The Editor of The Texas Freemason Magazine, PO Box 446, Waco, Texas 76703. All materials become property of the magazine and cannot be returned.

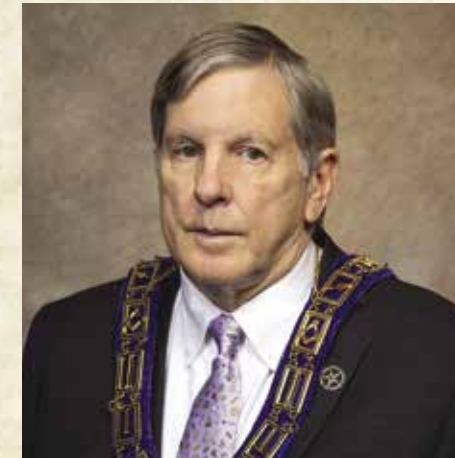
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## A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brothers,

I pray that this message finds you and yours safe and sound.

As schools have reopened, the weather cooled, and high school football is once again the king of Texas, it is time to revitalize our commitment to bringing Brothers back to Texas Masonry. Take time to call a Brother who you have not seen in the past couple of years. Ask him how he is doing and inquire if there is anything you can do for him. If you want him to be a Brother, then treat him like a Brother.

**Whither do Lodge officers lead?** Often a popular song or a line from a movie will spot on describe some situation we are facing or provide an allusion that will explain our circumstances. Not many of us can say we never visualized ourselves as Clint Eastwood saying, "Go ahead, make my day" or "You have to ask yourself one question: Do I feel lucky? Well do ya?" or "A man's got to know his limitations."

The "Wizard of Oz" is a great movie. I like the songs, the people, and the imagination of the show's creators. It brings back memories of my childhood and the endless road that stretched out before me. At many installations this year I used the lyrics from the song "Off to See the Wizard" to point out that Lodges are on a journey. A journey that is bright with promise, fun, and rewards. A journey led by our elected lodge officers. A journey down the yellow brick road to, in the words of the installation ceremony, "...the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness."

But now, as I reflect after all the installations are done, I consider the lodge leaders you and I have chosen. Some will be excellent and will surpass our hopes for them. Some will be good, and their lodge will be better off for their service. Some will be adequate, and

their lodges will not suffer by their tenure. But then there are the rest. Those who cannot see (or refuse to see) the yellow brick road of the lodge's journey to happiness. Those who will refuse to follow the yellow brick road and go cross country despite the perils and risks to their lodges. Those who will not know whether they should go right or left and will just sit and do nothing. Some who will imagine ghosts and demons and flee back the way they came. And lastly, there will be some who will blame the Craft for their failure to lead the lodge.

What is to be done? First steps are to select better leaders, insist they get training and stop electing Wardens who have only two or three years in the Craft. But the real remedy is to insist that your Master and Wardens have a vision of the yellow brick road that lies before your lodge; that those leaders plan how they intend to shepherd your lodge down that yellow brick road; that those leaders articulate that vision and plan to your lodge; and lastly, those officers shepherd your lodge as servant leaders.

While I am using lines from movies, my favorite movie of all time is "The Searchers." There are many quotes from that movie which fit some of my days. The one that seems fitting just now is where Ethan (John Wayne) says to Reverend Clayton (Ward Bond) "Well Reverend, looks like you've got yourself surrounded" and the Reverend replies "Yeah and I figure on getting myself unsurrounded."

I would like to hear some of your favorite movie and television lines. After all, "all of life's riddles are answered in the movies" – Steve Martin from the movie "Grand Canyon."

**Masonic Airplane Pilots** – In my travels, I have come across many Masons with unique skills and hobbies. We have artisan wood and metal workers. We have groups who would rather go to the shooting range than eat dinner. There are gun collectors, fishermen, and motorcycle riders, who share their hobbies and interests with other Masons. A Brother approached me inquiring how Texas Masons who are commercial and recreational pilots could share that interest and benefit Masons. Grand Lodge is unable to maintain or support such a group because of liability and insurance issues. But if you are interested in sharing flying with Masonic Brothers send Brother Kent Shaffer an email at [kentshaffer74@gmail.com](mailto:kentshaffer74@gmail.com)

**Statewide Lodges** – Grand Lodge has two unique statewide lodges. Texas Lodge of Research and Tranquility Lodge 2000.

The **Texas Lodge Of Research** is a statewide Masonic lodge, instituted December 4, 1958, at Waco, Texas "for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting, and fostering Masonic research and study." Anyone who is interested in the history, philosophy, and symbolism of Freemasonry will find the publications of TLR of great interest. They are easy to read and indispensable to any serious Masonic library. For more information go to the TLR website at <http://www.texaslodgeofresearch.org/>.

In 1969 Brother Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., a member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417, walked on the moon. On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Texas and at the direction of the then Grand Master, Brother Aldrin claimed at least a portion of the moon as Texas Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction. To commemorate this historic event and to further solidify and establish Texas Freemasonry on the Moon, **Tranquility Lodge 2000** was constituted for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting, and fostering the principles of Freemasonry and to assist in promoting the health, welfare, education, and patriotism, of children worldwide. Tranquility Lodge 2000 monetarily supports two great programs: the Conrad Challenge and the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. For information on these programs please visit their respective websites <https://www.conradchallenge.org/> and <https://astronautscholarship.org/index.html>. For more information about Tranquility Lodge 2000 visit its website at <http://tl2k.org/>.

In closing, thank you again for all you do for Texas Masonry. And in the words of Sgt. Phil Freemason Esterhaus of the TV series "Hill Street Blues" "Let's be careful out there."

Ken Curry  
Grand Master 2021



## GRAND LODGE

### A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

On September 21, 1850, Masons traveling to and from California through Panama gathered at the American Hotel and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Texas for a charter. The brethren assembled elected Bro. George Fisher to be the first Worshipful Master and “passed the hat” to help defray the cost of the charter and other startup expenses. They collected 50 dollars in gold which would be almost 1,700 dollars in today’s money. Bro Fisher was one of the charter members of the Grand Lodge of Texas and served as the Grand Secretary from 1838-1840 and Grand Orator in 1849. The brethren met on December 20, 1850, and read the dispensation letter from the Grand Lodge of Texas and Union Lodge No. 82 was officially set to work.

The lodge begins to meet and starts to confer degrees on candidates. In January of 1851, the lodge meets and forms a committee to dispatch a letter

to the Grand Lodge of Texas, “to inquire into the expediency of soliciting our parent Grand Lodge to declare Panama in the republic of New Granada a Masonic missionary station, and this lodge, the agent for the purposes of aiding the poor distressed worthy Brethren crossing this isthmus.” The committee is charged with, “creating a plan for soliciting voluntary contributions from the Masonic world, in money, clothing, medicine, and other necessities and comforts, to be ministered to the sick and worthy brethren visiting this part of the globe and to bury those who may die in this place.” From the proceeding of the Grand Lodge of Texas, “Your Committee deem it proper for one moment to draw attention to the position of Panama, situated as it is at one end of the bridge connecting the two oceans. Even now, as has been shown, the travel through it is immense; and as commerce and the mechanical arts shall further demonstrate the advantages of its geographical position, we may reasonably feel every assurance that the tide of emigration for years to come will constantly be an increasing one. Among the vast multitudes who thus flock to it in transit are Masons, good men and true, some of whom are suffering sorely from the vicissitudes of fortune, and who require at our hands all the succor and aid which not only the tenets of our time-honored and beloved institution but also humanity, teach us to extend to the weary and heavy-laden”.

Union Lodge No. 82 continues to meet until 1854 when the members decide to surrender their charter for unknown

reasons. Grand Secretary Ruthven in his report to the Grand Lodge says” I have also received from Bro. George Fisher, several documents appertaining to the affairs of Union Lodge, U.D., Panama, at the time of its demise, but nothing amongst them which requires any action on the part of your M.: W.: Body. The documents alluded to evince on the part of the R.: W.: Bro., the same untiring energy in the cause of Masonry for which he has always been distinguished, and particularly so in the early and dark days of Masonry in Texas.” The minutes and the original charter of Union Lodge No. 82 were safely tucked away in the archives of the Grand Secretary’s office for 170 years until last year (2020) when several brethren petitioned Grand Master Underwood to restore the charter of Union Lodge No. 82.

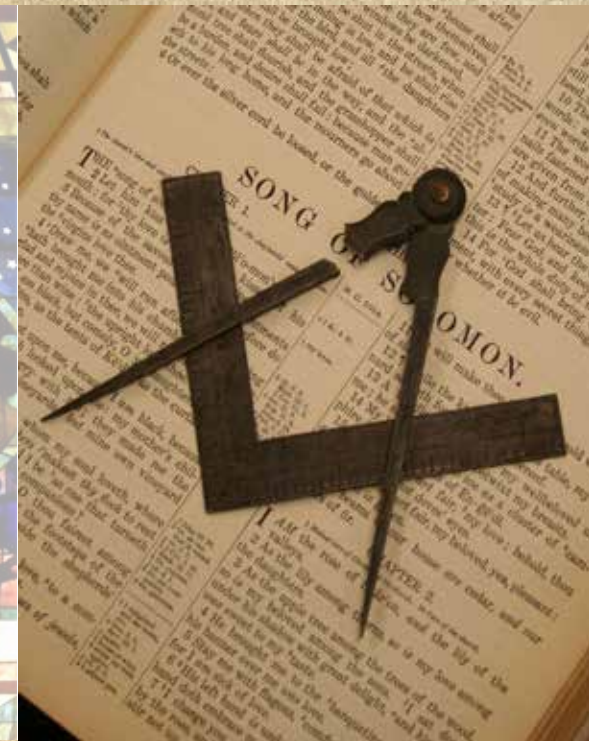
Brethren, each of our lodges has a unique and interesting story and I encourage each of you to discover that story for yourself. My office is ready to assist you in any way we can. Call me the next time you are in Waco and we’ll go down to the archives and see what we have in your lodge’s file.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Justin B. Duty  
Grand Secretary

# MEMORIAL MASONIC GRAND LODGE TEMPLE

**The broken compasses have Not broken our spirit in our support of our Masonic Memorial Temple Building Let us start today and continue the legacy that our forefathers did some 75 years ago when they decided to create and build the Memorial Temple in honor and recognition of our Brotherhood and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our GOD and our great country for the Liberties we continue to enjoy today.**



ERECTED AND DEDICATED FOR THE USES AND PURPOSES OF ANCIENT CRAFT FREEMASONRY AND TO HONOR AND PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THOSE VALIANT FREEMASONS WHO SERVED IN ESTABLISHING AND PRESERVING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN THIS LAND OF LIBERTY EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY

# Internet Committee Update

By Craig Enderli, Chairman

For the last year and a half the Masons of Texas have been presented with many challenges. The Internet Committee has led the digital charge and will continue to do so for the Masons of Texas. The Internet Committee is comprised of seven members: Craig Enderli (Chairman), Justin Bauer (Vice-Chairman), James Kirkpatrick, Dusty Piper, Tim Smith, and our newest additions to the team, Stephen Berryman and Francisco Xavier Garcia.

In the coming months we will be working with Grand Master Curry and the Grand Lodge Trustees to prepare for the Grand Annual Communication. We are investigating the possibility of audit and visual improvements in the Auditorium. We are working on some major developments on the TX Mason APP planning to launch those in 2022. Also working on a Lodge electronic reporting system embedded into Grand View which would allow for electronic submissions of forms.

### 4 Tips from the Internet Committee

#### Best Online Masonic Calendar

Masons have always found that work and personal life intertwine, and calendaring is the best weapon against missing the essentials in either world. With scheduling and calendaring, besides work requirements, your schedule also includes gym appointments, concerts, and your kids' games or recitals.

The Regional Calendar in the TX Mason APP allows you to review what Masonic events are happening in your region. These events are added by District Communication Officers (DCO) in a single convenient location. Download the TX Mason APP from your devices APP Store to help you juggle everything in your business and life.

#### Social Media Engagement Strategies

Audience Engagement is one of the biggest ways to make — or break — your lodge online reputation. A great way to engage with your online audience, whether it's on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or other platforms, is to communicate with them via comments. If someone reaches out with a question, comment, or concern, you should reply as quickly as possible. They, as well as others, will see that, and you would be saving yourself, and others, time.

Shoutouts are also very meaningful to your target audience and social media followers — no matter the platform. Shoutouts are anything that publicly recognizes things such as new partnerships, sponsors, or engagements. They are also very



useful when a Lodge wants to thank people or companies for their support. Companies appreciate the love on social media, as it gets them more brand recognition. Furthermore, it will help build Lodges brand credibility.

#### Grandview Member Portal – Spouse / Widows List

The Grand View Member Portal is a tool for each and every Mason in Texas to manage their Masonic Information. Every Mason in Texas has access to the system to update personal information. A lesser known feature of the portal is the ability to maintain spouse information. Lodges with the member's assistance can maintain spouse and widows contact information.

To sign up for your Grand View Portal Access go to <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org> and click on the Member Portal graphic in the top-right corner. The first time you visit the Member Portal, you will be asked to register. All you will need is your last name, your Lodge number, and your member ID number found on your dues card.

#### Forms

All Lodge forms and Lodge Awards are now available for purchase online. There is also an option available to pick up your online orders at Grand Lodge.

Visit: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/shop>

Thanks,

Craig Enderli  
832-675-1024 mobile



*“Enlightenment through education attained through service”*

## Randall E. Briscoe Workshop Fall 2021

*Committee on Masonic Education and Service  
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M.*

The Committee on Masonic Education and Services is pleased to announce that the Randall E. Briscoe Fall Workshop Program will be administered again in 2021. The program, presented by your District Service Team, was established to help Lodge Officers understand the day-to-day operation of their Lodge. While the program is designed to assist the Lodge officers in the running of the Lodge, the program is open to all Master Masons.

The workshop is presented as a series of scenarios that represent difficult situations that may arise for the leaders of the Lodge to address. Through the efforts of your District Service Team, this program is delivered in a group setting that promotes discussion, consideration, and fellowship. The primary focus of the workshop is on the application of Grand Lodge Law. The scenarios are intended to represent unexpected situations that may arise during an Officer's tenure as he moves through the chairs on his way through the Wardens' stations and into the East. A Lodge may experience difficulties or unforeseen challenges to which the leadership will be tasked to resolve. This workshop is designed to prepare the Lodge officers to recognize when these situations are arising and to promptly address them with the careful consideration required to successfully find resolution.

The Briscoe Workshop is a revived format of a program delivered in the 1960s, at that time used to prepare and inform leadership of our Lodges of what can be expected during their service to their Lodges during their tenure. The positive impact on the quality of Lodge leadership during that time elicited the workshop's revival in 2011. The Briscoe Workshops also work hand-in-hand with the weekend Officer Leadership Training programs (OLTs) which were introduced in Texas in 1995 by Past Grand Master R:W: David Dibrell. While the Briscoe Workshop focuses on the challenges awaiting the Worshipful Master in the East, the Officer Leadership Training program focuses on Lodge administration and leadership skills which prepare the Mason while on his way to the East. These programs combined effectively prepare Officers to manage and guide their Lodges to future successes.

Contact your District Service Team for more information about a workshop near you this fall.

## The Gift

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

Do you remember the best gift you ever received? Was it a birthday gift, maybe a Christmas gift or just something special that was gifted to you at a special time in your remembrance?

As we recollect and review our lives, all of us have something we are most grateful for and can draw “solid-lines” to the difference it or they may have had on our lives.

I remember the pair of ice-skates I didn’t receive, but instead was given an electric drill for Christmas when I was eight years old in 1947. And, I also remember what a profound difference getting the electric drill made in my life. Instead of becoming a hockey player or a stylish ice-skater (which I would have been an absolutely failure), I became interested in mechanical things and enjoyed building things and enjoyed a great career in aviation and the construction of large commercial buildings.

As a boy, I was devastated in continuing to try to borrow ice-skates at the pond and was disappointed not getting what I had asked my parents to gift me for Christmas. I kind-of let go of that disappointment as I grew into adulthood, and did not really revisit the disappointment until one day when I was quietly looking at an old picture album of Dad, Mom and my siblings.

I realized had aged into my maturity as a senior citizen without fanfare and was somewhat upset that I could no longer do the things I did with little effort as a young man and median adult. I was feeling the some of the pains and issues that were stated in Ecclesiastes 12 in the Holy Bible ...

Yes, I am also a proud Master Mason, senior citizen, and hopefully, mature, sound in mind and members, at least for the time being. Reminiscing into my Masonic past, I began recalling when I was Initiated into Masonry as an Entered Apprentice, and again when I was Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft ... and finally, Raised as a Master Mason. I recalled the Ritual and Lectures that accompanied the degrees and began to specifically recall the correlation

comparing the three degrees to the stages of life; youth, adulthood, and maturity.

As an Entered Apprentice, a Fellowcraft, and as an aspiring young Master Mason, I worked hard to learn and present my proficiency to the lodge. I did a great job and I remembered congratulating myself on my performance back then. And, after a brief interlude of slipping off to head-nodding, I remembered Ray Gillespie, my mentor in Masonry back then in 1971. I began to think about the time and work Ray invested in me as I received the three degrees, and how much he gave to see me succeed. That was a gift I needed to remember ...

As I began to try to recall all of those Master Masons, who planted a “hard-work” ethic into my Masonic career, I could see in my mind’s eye those that were responsible and helped me through youth and young adulthood in my Masonic life. Their efforts given to me were all gifts I needed to remember ...

I remember a time when I was disappointed and planned to quit Masonry. it was a difficult time for me ... But fate came

to my rescue in the form of two Masonic brothers, Billy and Jim who “took me under their wing.” Had it not been for those now best friends and their interest in me and Masonic brotherhood and fellowship, my life would have been much different than it is today. I needed to remember the gift of brotherhood and fellowship they gave me ...

After a needed cup of coffee to keep me awake and stop the “head-nodding” I began to think about what I had done for Masonry. Sadly, I don’t recall ever putting as much work into helping the young Masons that I should have. Sure, I worked in ritual and the lodge, but I could have done more. I hoped I just had forgotten all that I may have done and decided to return to things I could remember.

As we travel through life in our youth, adulthood and then in maturity, things often get “wound around the axle of life.” We often wish we had not made those mistakes and are somewhat blessed that we finally succumbed into maturity. As a young man, I often carried anger with me as a tool to prevent being hurt. I sometimes ignored the wishes of others around me and went my own way generally into another mistake. Adulthood brought new things to consider, Vietnam, Libya, Central America, and other places around the world that began to mature me, hoping to not have to do some things again...ever. Adulthood brought new and diverse opportunities and problems to me. And, I was learning to handle both, thanks

... I have received so many gifts in my past 82 years that I might not have wanted for myself, but were necessary to help me, to build God's plan for me and hopefully finish me and help me be helpful to someone.

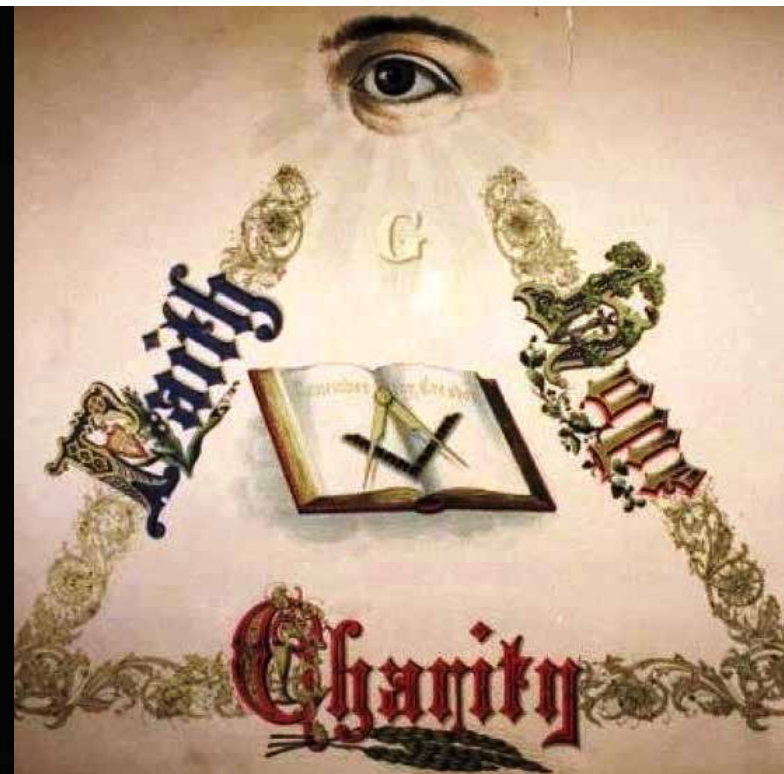
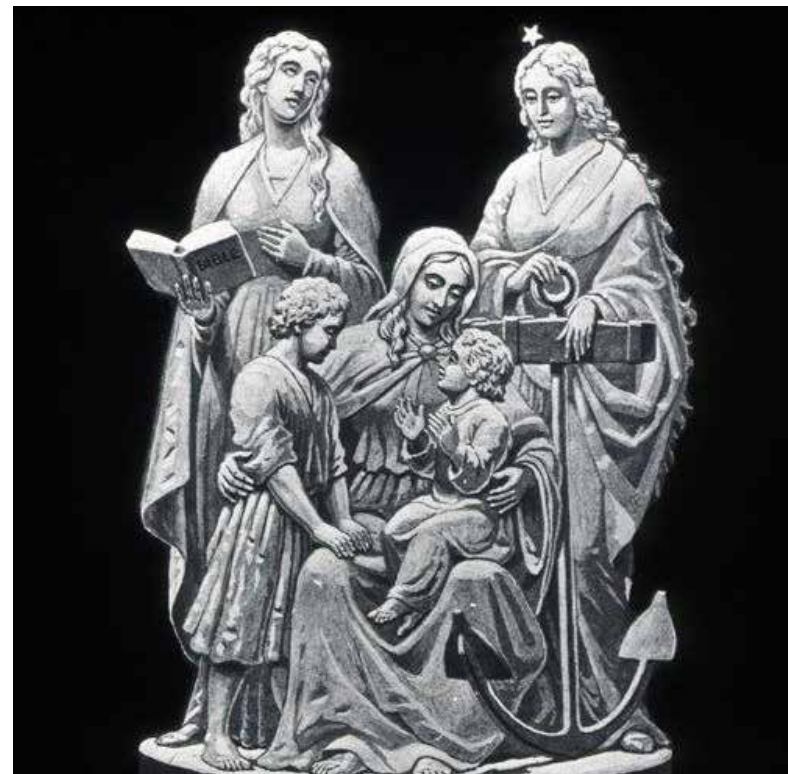
to my parental up-bringing and Masonic fellowship with my brothers.

Now here I am reflecting on my life, and realizing how much I owe my parents and my brothers in Masonry, not only for my “watch-care”, but for about all that I may be ... Just like the electric drill, I have received so many gifts in my past 82 years that I might not have wanted for myself, but were necessary to help me, to build God’s plan for me and hopefully finish me and help me be helpful to someone.

Masonry has refined me; I hope to be a good mature Mason. Masonry has gifted me with a desire to be a helper, a mentor, a leader, and until I can no longer do what is asked of me a facilitator and supporter of the Masonic way of life.

Some of the gifts of Masonry that were given to me were Integrity, Honesty, Tolerance, Forbearance, Faith, Hope, and Charity, to name a few. These are the gifts Masonry and my brothers in Masonry, have gifted me. I need to remember all of those gifts.

But right now, I need a nap.



# On the Masonic Road

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

## Remembering Masons, Veterans, and Men



It was a damp and overcast morning on November 6, 2020 when I departed home for the Dallas Fort Worth Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Today was to be the interment of a good friend and fellow veteran with whom I served for many years. He had been as close to me as my paternal brother, and I knew if I needed help, he would most likely be the one I would have contacted first.

Life has a way of teaching us most of the real important stuff when we are older, matured, slowing down a little, and when we become vulnerable. Remembering the younger days of our friendship, I recalled the strong brotherhood we enjoyed together in the military and the fellowship we shared during good times, difficult times, and the real hurtful times we don't want to remember that often rise in our memories, more often than we want.

I was early for the 9:00 AM gathering of the procession to the funeral kiosk where the final words would be said, laying our Brother to rest. It was still dark and overcast when I arrived at the gate to the cemetery. I was the first one to park at the gate before it opened. I turned off the engine and sat silently in my car and contemplated the finality of the day.

After a little while, I paused in my memories as the quietness of the day overtook me for a moment. I looked up towards the sky and at the flag pole near the gate. I was alone in the morning darkness and the quietness of the cemetery. The Flag had not yet been posted. I looked down and the sight I began to see through

the darkness and the coming light through the fog grabbed me by the throat and caused tears to well-up in my eyes.

I began to behold a sight that I will remember forever. The sun was rising in the East but not yet over the hills that surround the cemetery, but filtered sunlight began to light various places near and far within the cemetery. I could see near and far, more than 100 yards distant where the sunlight pierced the darkness. I could not see all of the light, only a portion of the light, but it gave me a view of what I would later behold in the full light of the day.

As the sun began to rise, the sight I beheld was surreal, framed by boundaries of the cemetery and filled to overflowing with flags, hundreds or thousands of flags, the great flag of our country, posted at each burial marker. There was no wind, not even a light breeze, the burial markers stood silent as ancient crosses, reminders of what once was a veteran, a man, and often a mason.

I began to understand the finality and solemnity of this place. The burial marker flags were hanging straight down, with no wind or breeze to lift them, the leaves on the trees and shrubs were silent and unmoving, and not a sound could be heard. The finality of death and sorrow permeated this place, and as I watched in the final moments before the sun appeared over the hills, as if on command, our great Flag was posted by the cemetery staff, then the fog began to lift into full sunlight, a slight breeze began, then all of the flags that were silent, marking the veteran's burial places,

began to rise and wave in the breeze. It was as if a great concert was about to begin and those interred there were shouting, "Here I am, a Veteran, Please Remember Me"!

On this July 4, 2021, as I began to prepare the final copy of this article, I sat quietly pondering the days, months and years that our founding fathers met secretly, purposefully, and with great dedication to the task of planning, and preparing for the Declaration of Independence.

It became clear, no, greatly manifested to me, the necessity of a standing militia for the protection and preservation of our country and its inalienable rights. As I began to recall the number of times our country has sent forth our young men and later, women, to stand for democracy and decency around the world, I began to grasp the unmeasurable value of those who have lost their lives in battle and what value their sacrifice means to all of us.

November 11, 2021, is Veterans Day, a federal holiday in the United States observed annually to honor our living and serving military veterans, those who are and have served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I.

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. Armistice Day was

renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day in May each year honors those who had died while in military service. While Memorial Day is a day set aside each year to enjoin our memories of those deceased Veterans, who in peace, at war, or special service have reached their final resting place, it is also a time when we should give thanks to God for the service our deceased Veterans have given. In addition, with the same great respect, we should also give thanks to the Veterans of the today who continue to do their job tirelessly, often in extreme danger at home or abroad.

A Veteran is a person, a Father or a Mother, a Brother or a Sister, a Grandchild, a Cousin, an Aunt or an Uncle, or a friend who has given up a portion of their individual rights to become a part of "something larger than themselves." A Veteran takes an oath upon enlistment or during acceptance as an officer in the military, to protect and serve our nation against all enemies foreign or domestic, and to place his or her life in jeopardy to save or protect the lives of others.

It is so important for all of us to remember the sacrifices Veterans have made for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and for the continuing purpose of providing safety and freedom for peoples around the world.

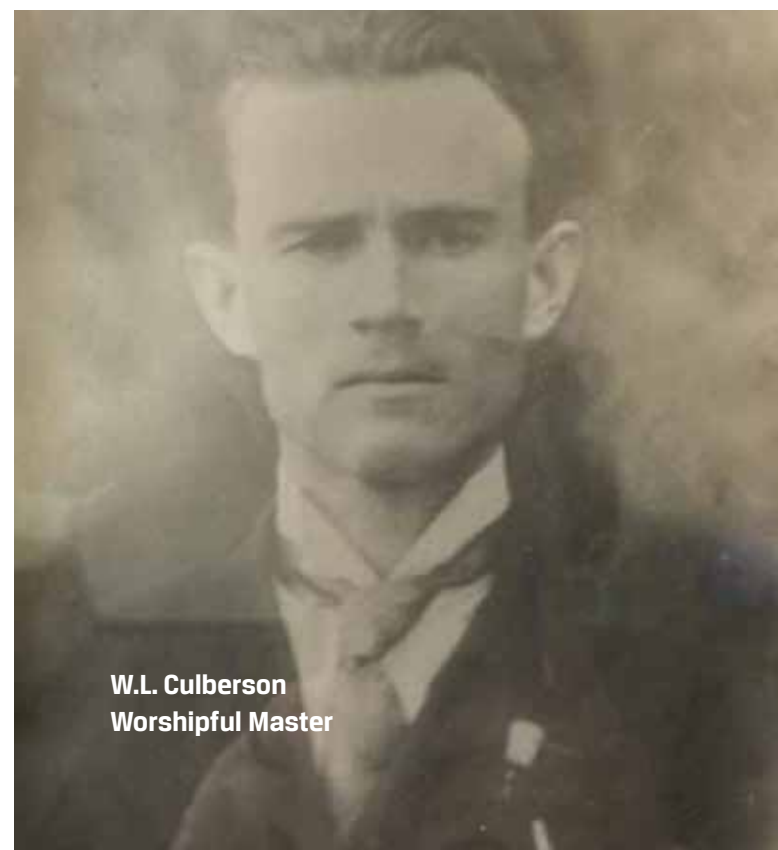
As we look in the "rear-view mirror" at Veterans past and those currently serving we would be remiss to not recall the history of sacrifice of our Veterans. Here are a few numbers that painfully tell the story of sacrifice of American Veterans past and present, of Veteran deaths at war:

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Revolutionary War - 4,435</b>   | <b>World War I - 116,516</b>        |
| <b>War of 1812 - 2,260</b>         | <b>World War II - 405,399</b>       |
| <b>Indian Wars - 1,000</b>         | <b>Korean War - 54,246</b>          |
| <b>Mexican War - 13, 283</b>       | <b>Vietnam War - 90,220</b>         |
| <b>Civil War - 498,332</b>         | <b>Persian Gulf - 1,565</b>         |
| <b>Spanish American War -2,446</b> | <b>Global War on Terror - 6,852</b> |

It must also be noted that less than 1% of the American population have ever served on active military duty and or the reserve forces during all wars.

As the title of this article "On the Masonic Road, remembering Masons, Veterans, and Men" might suggest, there are commonalities and similarities that are shared between Masons and Veterans that cause one to wonder if they might be one and the same. Here are some things to consider and seriously think about.

All Masons are not Veterans. All Veterans are not Masons. However, many Masons are Veterans, and as we consider the



W.L. Culberson  
Worshipful Master

commonalities between the two, we find Masons and Veterans are all American Patriots. Most, if not all, believe in a supreme God, most are married with children and often grandchildren. They range in age from 18 to their 90's. Both have taken an oath or a solemn obligation to civility, morality, and to the public good. Both have sworn to give their life if needed, to save the life of another, and, both deeply live the life they have chosen.

Following World War I, the Memorial Day observation was expanded to honor those who had died in all American Wars. Then in 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday throughout the nation. It continues to be observed on the last Monday of May each year.

Significantly, the Month of May also had many events that altered the world and one particular instance, ended six long years of war. On May 7, 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender, ending six years of war in Europe. This event precipitated, along with other causes, the surrender of the Empire of Japan on September 2, 1945, three months after the German surrender, following 45 months of fighting in the Pacific.

Three years after the Civil War ended on May 5, 1868, Major General John A. Logan, the head of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead. General Logan declared that Decoration Day, later named Memorial Day, should be observed on May 30th of each year.

General Logan was a Brother Mason, as were many Union and Confederate leaders and militia-men during the Civil War. The following is a brief Masonic history of Gen Logan:

*General Logan was raised in Mitchell Lodge No. 85 of Pinckneyville, IL and affiliated with Benton Lodge No. 64 in 1851. General Logan received his 32o in Oriental Consistory, in Chicago, IL, in 1880.*

*He also was exalted in Washington Chapter No. 43, Royal Arch Masons, Chicago, IL, in September of 1885 as well as being knighted in Chevalier Bayard Commandery No. 52, Knights Templar, Chicago, IL, in December of 1885.*

*On September 15, 1886, he was elected to receive the 33o, but died on December 26, 1886 before it could be conferred. Logan Lodge #575 in Indianapolis, Illinois is named in honor of General Logan.*

Recently, our Right Worshipful Grand Orator, Brother William Rhitland (Rhit) Moore, has been making as many presentations as possible to bring a memory from a magnificent letter, written by Lieutenant Colonel Culberson, a Veteran of World War I, a Brother, a Past Master, and a Past Member of Hillsboro Lodge No.196.

The letter and presentation describe the horror of war in 1917, and the declaration of an emergency representation of a Master Mason Lodge of Sorrow following a heinous and devastating battle in France. The representation of the Lodge of Sorrow was held on the field of battle among the dead and wounded. It is a reminder of the horrors of death and dying of Allied brothers and brother combatants. Sadly, little is spoken or recalled, that in all wars, we often find our brother Masons, members of the military, in mortal combat against other foreign brother Masons, who at that at that time in history, may have been an enemy.

This presentation is a "Must Hear" historical marker, and a Masonic blessing that grips all Texas Masons who have heard the presentation. Contact Right Worshipful Rhit Moore and schedule a time for him to bring the presentation to your Lodge.

Now, back to the top of the article for a thing or two ... If you have never visited the Dallas Fort Worth Veterans Memorial Cemetery, you should do so. Visit it on Veterans Day or a day after. It is a magnificent place to feel the reality of the consequences Veterans face. Not all interred there are combat deaths, but all interred there took the same duty oath, "So Help Me God" and if called upon would have given their life to save yours. Honor them and pray for those in service today. They were and are real people, men, and women, who love their country and some who made or may make the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

This November 11, 2021, Veterans Day, please take the opportunity to thank and pray for the Veterans of our armed forces and for the families that have suffered the ultimate sorrow. Take time to look them eye to eye with sincerity and thankfulness and say their name as you talk to them. Remember the Gold Star families and their loss and continue to be supportive of our Veterans.

And, as you may have opportunity, go visit or lodge with the Hillsboro Masonic Lodge, No. 196 in Hillsboro, Texas and find out more about Past Master, LTC Culberson. They are a great Lodge and welcome all visitors. The Lodge meets the first Monday of each month. Meal at 6:15 PM and Stated Meeting at 7:00 PM. The Worshipful Master is: Mark W. Parsons. You can visit and or contact the Lodge at: 212 Happy Lane, Hillsboro, Texas 76645 or call: 254 582-2142

Just about out of gas so ... **It's Great to be a Texas Mason and a Veteran!** See you soon "On the Masonic Road" ...

**May God bless you and keep you and yours from harm and, May God continue to Bless the United States of America. ★**

GOOD HUMOR



The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon

## Beulah, Gertrude, And The One And Only Chester's

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



This last month was strange and bizarre in many ways and it is a little painful to relive...but in some weird way I needed to tell the story. And, if you are reading this you are one of the ones that get to hear the whole story. I sent John and a few of those closest to him a slightly different version ...because ...well...you will understand after you get done reading it. As most of you know, Davy Crockett Lodge conferred our 8th annual "Widows' Degree" last month and it was a great success as were the previous 7. For those of you who are new to this article, this is a program which was created to honor all wives and ladies of Masons and letting everyone laugh at us Masons by presenting a ceremony in which we initiate the ladies of Masons into a "secret"... wink, wink.... sorority of Masonic Widows. Not Widows in the traditional sense, but widows as in hunting widows or football widows or golf widows. To keep it fresh every year, we tweak it slightly and add or subtract a small part, always keeping the main body of the program intact. It is always a super funny program and everyone has a load of fun. This year the Brothers talked me into dressing as an older woman and portraying a member of the Grand Council of the Organization to confer the degree. At first I wanted nothing to do with that idea but I was reminded that our Brother Brad had dressed "in drag" the year before and everyone loved it. Soooo, reluctantly, I agreed to become Ms. Beulah Mae Beanblossom with the stipulation that we would keep it secret from everyone until I was introduced in the degree. Little did I know that Brad was going to surprise everyone and become Gertrude Shufflebottom once again. We sent out all the advertisements for the

degree and started getting RSVP's back. Now, that is all the background I am going to give before I tell the story.

It was a couple of days before the night of the Widows' Degree when John called and said he had a big sales meeting in Houston and would be spending the night in San Antonio on Tuesday before continuing on to Houston the next morning. He wanted to meet for dinner and talk about the article for September. I told him that I couldn't because of the Widows' program that night...but I talked him into coming to Lodge and watching the program and told him we would try to meet before for a few minutes. I greeted him when he came in and we talked for a short time but couldn't spend much time with him because not being used to dressing like a woman and knowing it was going to take a while, I had to disappear early to get it done. I told him I would meet him for lunch the next day and we could talk about the article. He knew a lot of the Brothers at our Lodge and he knew Pam so I wasn't worried about leaving him alone. I also warned him about his behavior since I was going to have my Daughter Brenda with me at lunch, who was visiting from Oregon. As it turned out, the degree went fine and everyone had a great time. We initiated twenty-one new Masonic Widows with the usual ceremonies. I looked for John afterwards but couldn't find him. Pam told me that he had told her he was tired and was going to the hotel to sleep.

Visit [https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/mrs\\_beulah\\_mae\\_beanblossum](https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/mrs_beulah_mae_beanblossum) for the rest of the story.

## A LOOK BACK

# “We, the committee ...” – November 1921

By Brother Mike W. Conn, Secretary, Tarrant Lodge No. 942, Ft. Worth

Among the many finer traits of American civilization brought out by the World War was that quickening of the Masonic conception of charity which found its expression in the inclination of petition investigation committees to lower the curtain of fraternal toleration on individual foibles and submit a favorable report on applications which, under normal conditions, might not have been accepted.

It was a fine thing for Masons to do. With all our social structure so arranged as to respond quickly to any generous plan laid out for the idea of furthering the comfort and contentment of our youthful manhood who were called upon to shoulder the burden of fostering our American ideals and perpetuating our national integrity; it was meet that our beloved fraternity should fall in line with that commendable spirit of charity and send away the young soldier, not as one wholly without fraternal affiliations, but bearing that mark of distinctive selection which would open for him at once the treasure store of our vast accumulation of inspiring love.

Those in the highest places of Masonic trust were most gracious in granting special favors for applicants who were eager to be equipped for the beginning of their education in the study of the practical application of the principles of brotherly love; and the subordinate lodges, situated at concentration points made a noble response to the Macedonian cry which went out from those lodges throughout the land which had applied for and received the necessary special authority to confer the work upon a candidate ere departure had been made, and, at the last moment, found it would be impossible for the work to be performed except through the courtesy of a sister lodge.

Under these trying conditions of feverish nationwide haste, it was inevitable that some mistakes would be made. Some applicants would gain admission to the Order who, under the searching rays of the prerequisite qualifications of a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry, would have shown a flaw. It is fortunate indeed that so few errors were made. While it was noble to yield to the promptings of patriotic feeling and the charitable insistence of fraternal equality, such a course, long pursued, would lead into paths fraught with danger.

We cannot indefinitely postpone the rigid tests of character which must be applied to every application for Masonic privileges, because to do so would be inviting disaster to our cause and the swift undermining of the very foundation stones of our existence.

The black war clouds of a world on fire have drifted away. The caressing breath of a dawn of peace is felt, and the glow of an enduring prosperity is seen in the eastern sky. Let us then, my brethren, rouse ourselves and take our proper place in the onward march of the mighty forces of civilization, and resolve firmly that Masonry shall shine the bright beacon light of all fraternalism and shall be lifted again to that high plane of respect and esteem which once was her undisputed realm.

It is not given to each of us to be endowed with the wisdom of Solomon, the ingenuity of Pythagoras or the genius of Hiram Abif, but the opportunity is now at hand for every Mason to serve the craft in a manner which will bring credit not only to himself now, but will reflect his better judgement and safeguard his lodge for years to come.

There is no work for each and every Mason to do that is of greater importance to the fraternity than that of serving on these committees. On him alone devolves the responsibility of determining for his lodge whether or not the applicant is worthy to be taken into our confidence. He is the special representative of his brethren and has been given a position of trust; a mission important. The quality of the timber selected today is a potential strength of the building tomorrow, and the individual member of an investigation committee is the one who is called upon to choose the material which enters into the Masonic edifice.

To the Masters of the lodges, it should be pointed out that one of their serious duties is constantly to instruct the new member in the things he should do upon his being appointed to act in the capacity of investigator. Let the Worshipful Master outline, from time to time, the course to be pursued. He should insist that the committee call upon the applicant without delay, as the prospective candidate has been told a ballot will be had within a month, and, if it is found necessary for letters of inquiry to be written to a former residence, there will be sufficient time for the return message to be received before the report back to the lodge is due.

In this connection, it is of the utmost importance that a tracer to the lodge in the home town of the applicant be sent. Depend upon the brethren at the place of original residence to furnish reliable information regarding the habits of the petitioner while a resident of their community. Often there will be brought to light by such means of communication things which will change entirely the report of a committee.

In the course of the personal interview, determine the motives which prompt the man to send in his application. Question him concerning his religious beliefs, leaving him to understand, however, that Masonry recognizes no sect and no creed save the omnipotent dominion of God and the universal brotherhood of man. Inquiry should be made as to his inclination to incur and willingness to discharge financial obligations. It is a gross injustice to your lodge to accept a candidate who, in all probability will become a charge on its membership and contribute little or nothing, in either time or substance, to the great fraternity to which he has been admitted. Parasitic growth will flourish, but in so doing it saps life-blood. With this in mind, exercise keen fore-thought in handling the petitions of men who have passed the meridian of life and are traveling down the farther slope.

When a time for an interview is set, arrange if possible to meet the applicant in his own residence; because what a man is at home, he will be elsewhere. Take cognizance of the surroundings. Ascertain what kind of husband, father, son, or brother he is. What is his standing and reputation in the community in which he lives? Determine the exact status of his citizenship and test him on his justice to the country to which he swears allegiance.



# Leave a Legacy of Love



## Make a Difference

For many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference - to leave a lasting impact on the people and causes most dear to us.

## Ways to Give

### BEQUEST

A bequest is an easy way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. Bequests through a will, trust, or retirement account are popular because they cost you nothing now, and beneficiaries can be changed at any time. They can also be a way to reduce the tax burden on your family and estate.

#### Bequests may be made in several ways:

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific dollar amount or asset
- Gift of the residue of your estate

### GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE

Donating appreciated real estate, such as a home, vacation property, undeveloped land, farmland, ranch, mineral interests, or commercial property, can make a great gift to an organization.

### GIFTS OF RETIREMENT ASSETS

Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets such as a gift from your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension, or other tax deferred plan is an excellent way to make a gift to our organization.

### GIFTS OF STOCKS AND BONDS

Donating appreciated securities, including stocks or bonds, is an easy and tax-effective way for you to make a gift.

### GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

As an asset of your estate, an insurance policy is generally not taxable at your passing. There are a few exceptions, such as when a death benefit is paid to an estate, the person or persons inheriting the estate may have to pay estate taxes on it. Beneficiaries can be changed at any time on a life insurance policy.

Contact your charitable estate planning representative to discuss your many giving options.

## Planned Giving

Through a legacy gift, you can assure that Masonic Children & Family Services continues to provide services to Texas children, families and widows long after you are gone.

MAKING A PLANNED GIFT IS EASY TO SET UP IN YOUR WILL OR BY CHANGING BENEFICIARIES.

## About Us

Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas has been upholding a legacy of helping children, families, and Texas Masonic widows for over a century.

Today, we continue to provide innovative programs to assist with food, clothing, medical care, dental services, counseling, living accommodations and even emergency relief during times of statewide crisis.

Our programs make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Contact Sandy Shelby Lawrence:  
817-503-1510 • sandy@mcfstx.org  
or visit [www.mcfstx.org](http://www.mcfstx.org)





## Grand Lodge Committee Profile

By Bruce Hammond, Associate Editor

In this installment of our recurring column where we detail the duties and purposes of various Grand Lodge Committees, we will examine the permanent Committee on Grievances and Appeals. Ideally, unlike the other Grand Lodge committees, this is a committee that we would never have to put to work.

This committee's duties are defined in Grand Lodge Law Articles 109 and 110 in the following manner:

**Art. 109. Grievances and Appeals: Duties.** *It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to receive transcripts of appeals, and to examine and report upon same to this Grand Lodge. All reports of such Committee shall be governed by the regulations provided in Articles 110 and 616. The Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall also advise the Grand Master regarding his selection of venue for Masonic trials. (Revised 2000)*

**Art. 110. Grievances and Appeals: Reports.** *The Committee on Grievances and Appeals, in reporting on Lodge trials, shall embody in its reports only the name of the Lodge, the initials of the accused, the charges preferred, the action of the Lodge, and the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee, in making its reports on the floor of this Grand Lodge, may accompany it with such written statements of the details of the case as may be necessary for the information of the members. The full reports of the Committee shall be filed with the Grand Secretary and there shall be printed in the Proceedings only the style of the case, the initials of the accused, the result of the trial, and the action of this Grand Lodge thereon. In the consideration of any case appealed to this Grand Lodge nothing that does not appear in the transcript shall be considered by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals. (Revised 2000)*

To better appreciate the duties of this committee, we must first understand the circumstances under which the committee would be called upon.

First, as outlined in Chapter 18 of Grand Lodge Law, whenever an appeal is properly submitted to the Grand Lodge as the result of the outcome of a Masonic Disciplinary Proceeding, "It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to examine and report its recommendations upon each case referred to it at the first Annual Communication thereafter." If after hearing the recommendation of the Committee, the Grand Lodge reverses and dismisses the case, "the accused shall thereby be restored to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, and reinstated to membership in his Lodge, if he was a member of a Lodge when convicted, and reinstated to membership in the Grand Lodge, if he was a member thereof when convicted."

The second instance in which the Committee may be called upon is to assist the Grand Master in selecting a neutral Lodge in which to conduct a Masonic Disciplinary Proceeding in an effort to ensure a fair and just outcome.

In speaking with the Chairman of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, Brother Al Holomon, he remarked that the committee's biggest challenge is having to sit in a position of judgement over men who at one time may have been good Masons – "It is difficult to be both compassionate and ensure that the high standards of our fraternity are being maintained."

My Brothers, I would challenge you to not only do your very best to guard the "West Gate" and allow only the very best into our fraternity, but to also be aware and caring enough to catch those Brothers about to fall and whisper wise counsel in their ear; by so doing you will help minimize the need for this committee.

## Liberty Lodge et al.

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer

Over the years, approximately three hundred lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas have demised, and approximately two hundred fifty have merged. While many of the lodges in Texas did not meet in their own building, their location certainly put a stamp on the community. So what happened to these places that were once the center of fellowship?

To name just a few demised lodges, Blossom No. 303 in Blossom lasted over one hundred years, from 1868 to 2017; the address of the lodge is now a vacant lot. The location that once was the home of Hamlin Lodge No. 958 (1907-2015) is also a vacant lot. Nixon No. 985 lasted for one hundred years (1908-2008) and their site is now a church.



Memphis Lodge No. 729

Odessa No. 955

The buildings for two merged lodges (Memphis No. 729 and Odessa No. 955) each met a different fate. Memphis No. 729 (1891-2014) merged with Childress No. 695, but their building in Memphis still stands, and is a very nice building. Odessa No. 955 (1907-2015) merged with McFarland No. 1338. They had moved from their location downtown and that building was razed.

There are certainly many lodge buildings around the state that are worthy of restoration, and one of those is the previous home of Liberty Lodge No. 48, set to work in 1848. The Masons of Liberty came together in 1848 to open a lodge under dispensation, with a warrant issued on 27 April 1848. Liberty Lodge No. 48 was then chartered on 30 January 1849. But by the end of 1848 (before receiving their charter) they had raised twelve master Masons. This would be no small feat in a town with only about 600 people.

Liberty Lodge first met on the second floor of the courthouse. The second floor had not been finished out, so the lodge undertook the task and met there until 1850. The first lodge building was completed in 1850 and Liberty Lodge moved to the corner of Main and Trinity.

In the first of several tragedies, the original lodge building was destroyed by fire in 1858, not to be rebuilt until 1867 on the same site. That building was used until 1909 when it was destroyed by another fire. These two fires destroyed several downtown buildings, but Liberty Lodge prevailed and built their third building in 1910. Although Liberty Lodge moved to a new building in 1979, the building built in 1910 is still standing on the site occupied by the lodge for 128 years. In its long history, Liberty Lodge has raised two brothers that should be familiar to Texas Masons: Governor Price Daniel and Past Grand Master and current SGIG in Texas, Ill. Michael L. Wiggins.



Liberty Lodge No. 48

The 1910 lodge building is currently unoccupied and is scheduled to be razed. Unless a dedicated group of citizens can save it. The original beauty of this turn-of-the-century building is still apparent on the building's second floor, with soaring 12-foot high original beadboard ceilings, transoms over every door, a grand staircase, an atrium, and original oak floors. Neighborhoods for Hope, a non-profit organization, is trying to raise money to buy the property and will then apply for grants to refurbish the building in order to maintain the historic flavor of downtown Liberty. HOPE's goal is to have retail and office space on the first floor and luxury apartments on the second floor. For more information you may contact them at neighborhoodsforhope.com. Hopefully, an old lodge building can be put to use once more.

## First Street Cemetery – Waco

By jim hoffpaur, Staff Writer

Our journey this month takes us to Waco, home of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. We visit the First Street Cemetery, part of the Fort Fisher Park complex alongside the Interstate 35 Brazos River crossing on the northeast side of the city. Fort Fisher Park contains the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Texas Ranger Company F Headquarters, the Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau, Texas Sports of Fame, as well as First Street Cemetery.

To get there from the Grand Lodge location on Columbus Avenue, we travel northeast on Jefferson Avenue six blocks, turn right onto N University Parks Drive, travel two blocks past Franklin Avenue onto S University Parks Drive, then go another six blocks turning left under Interstate 35 onto Jack Kulten Expressway, finally left into Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum, then first right into cemetery area past the convention and visitors bureau.

First Street Cemetery is the historic designation for three continuous cemeteries on the south bank of the Brazos River. Two of the cemeteries, the City Cemetery and the adjacent Masonic Cemetery acquired by Bosque Lodge No. 92, were established in 1852. They were then combined with a 2.54 acre plot purchased from Waco Lodge No. 70 International Order of Odd Fellows between 1868 and 1869. Within three decades the City Cemetery reached capacity. In 1882 the City of Waco purchased additional acreage, doubling the cemetery size.

Swedish and German immigrants, African American men's and women's fraternal organization members, veterans of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, city and county representatives, clergy, physicians, lawyers, Baylor University trustees, and Bosque – Waco Lodge No. 92 members are among those interred.

George E. Edwards conveyed five acres to City Cemetery and two acres to trustees of Bosque Lodge No. 92 on April 16, 1852. In 1869 Waco No. 70 IOOF conveyed 38,240 sq. ft. to Waco Mayor C. B. Way. In 1878 Oakwood Cemetery was established and some graves were moved there during the period of 1878-1912.

Following a 1963 Waco Chamber of Commerce proposal to construct a Fort Fisher replica adjacent to the Interstate 35 bridge over the Brazos, Waco Lodge No. 92 ceded the two-acre Masonic Cemetery to the city of Waco – citing “unauthorized burials at the location.” In August 1968 McLennan County Judge Carl C. Anderson ruled that the City of Waco proceed to disinter and re-inter graves and relocate markers within the cemeteries. Since that time much of the original location has changed greatly.

Waco village, the original name of Waco, sat on the site of the Hueco Indians agricultural village. The Hueco, a sub-tribe of the Wichita Indians, were driven from their lands in the 1830s by Cherokee attacks and pressure from intruding white settlers. They were eventually removed and resettled by the United States government around 1859.

Fort Fisher was established in 1837 by a company of Texas Rangers before being abandoned due to its remote location. Population of the area was 151 in 1851. A branch of The Torrey's Trading Post was established in 1844 by George Barnard. This chain of trading posts was a significant player in the establishment of Sam Houston's later peace policy with Indian nations. In 1849 Jacob De Cordova, Texas colonizer and politician, laid out and sold plots of land in the new town for \$5 apiece. Farming plots went between \$2 and \$3. Most property owners wanted to name the town Lamartine in honor of a French poet. George Erath, surveyor of the town, convinced them to name it after the town's predecessors: hence Waco Village was established. Today's population hovers around 128,000 and the city of Waco is best known nationally in association with acclaimed television Fixer Upper stars Joanna and Chip Gaines – residents of nearby Crawford.

McLennan County, of which Waco is the county seat, was established in 1850 after settlers arrived in the area throughout the 1840s from Europe and various regions of the United States. Farmers, ranchers, and plantation owners, sold their goods to the Texas Rangers. Waco soon grew into a regional trade hub. Shapley Prince Ross, member of the 1843 Snively Expedition and commander of Bell's Rangers battalion, was one of the public figures invited to the area by De Cordova to enhance area growth. Ross established the town's first hotel and ferry service across the Brazos River. He was the first Junior Deacon of Bosque - Waco Lodge No. 92 and the Waco Masonic representative at the Cornerstone Ceremony at the State Capital in Austin.

The name first selected for the Masonic Lodge in Waco was Bosque Lodge, for the Bosque River which converges with the Brazos River just above Waco, not for the town of Bosqueville. Literally, Bosque means “A place of Thickets.” The original charter was issued to Bosque Lodge No. 92 during the General Session of the M. • W. • Grand Lodge of Texas on January 23, 1852 in Austin. Grand Master W. B. Ochiltree was



James Harrison, Brigadier General in Confederate Army, Native American negotiator, Texas Session Convention delegate, Waco No. 92 member.



Thomas Hudson Barron Captain in Texas Rangers established Fort Fisher in 1837.

the presiding Grand Master. It was not until 1855 that Brother Joseph Speight, one of the founders of Baylor University, successfully lobbied the membership to change the lodge name to Waco Lodge No. 92.

During January 1851 Freemasons assembled in a two-story log building on Bridge Street owned by William B. Walker and James Toole. This structure, the first of its kind in Waco, later became the Lodge's home during its first five years. Those present petitioned Springfield Lodge No. 74 approximately fifty miles away. This was the first step in obtaining formal recognition from the M. • W. • Grand Lodge of Texas. Names on the petition included George W. Edwards, George B. Erath, N. W. Battle, Clairborne Varner, William B. Walker, John R. Harris, and Robert S. Hulme. Hulme, Walker, and Varner, were listed as the top three officers elect. Their petition was approved by Springfield No. 74 on February 11, 1851. The petition was read during the 1851 Grand Session in Houston and granted dispensation on August 1, 1851. First Lodge minutes were recorded on December 27, 1851 listing eight Master Masons, three Fellowcrafts, and four Entered Apprentices in attendance. The name Bosque was chosen in consideration of the heavy forests along the Brazos River surrounding Waco Village.

Waco, spurred on by rapid growth in the cotton industry, was incorporated in 1856. It soon became an important cog in the wheel of industrial and agricultural activities across the South.

Lodge member Lewis Holze led the male choir of St. John's Methodist Church - Waco in a special verse to the Waco Lodge No. 92 membership in 1950: “The eyes of Texas are upon you / Men of Ninety – Two / And now on this your anniversary / We wish to honor you. / May your standards be the highest, / And God your leader firm and true – / Remember Brothers, to be worthy / of Waco Ninety – Two!” This was done during the Lodge's 95th year.

Among the notable people interred in First Street Cemetery is Thomas Hudson Barron (1796-1874), a native of Virginia and Texas Ranger Captain whose company established Fort Fisher. Barron participated in the 1814 Battle of New Orleans, later opened a steam mill on Barron's Branch in the village of Waco, and served as McLennan County tax assessor-collector. His body was moved from its original



Lankford "Lank" N Cassady, owner of the Bar and Ten-Pin Alley, member of Waco No. 92.



John A Winn, confederate veteran and tax collector, Waco mayor pro-tem, charter member of Waco IOOF Lodge 1854, member of Waco No. 92.

resting place at Cox Cemetery near Bruceville by the Waco Bicentennial Commission and buried in its First Street location in 1975. A historical marker was erected there in 1999.

George B. Dutton was 1852 Grand Master of the Minnesota IOOF, a Waco city engineer, and charter member of Waco Encampment No. 24, IOOF 1870.

Confederate Civil War veterans included James Harrison, William Dawson Bedwell, Willis Field Buck, Lankford “Lank” N. Cassady, Alexander Michael Clingman, James Henry Gurly, S. B. Hamlett, John A. Winn, and John Kennedy Street.

Harrison, a Brigadier General for the Confederacy and two-term Mississippi Senator, served under Houston for Texas in negotiations with Native American Indian tribes, and was a delegate to the Texas Secession Convention. He was also a Waco Lodge No. 92 member. Bedwell, Alabama planter was a member of Waco No. 92 and McLennan County commissioner. Buck was a member of Waco No. 92 and McLennan County physician. Cassady was owner of the Bar and Ten-Pen Alley, Texas 19th Cavalry veteran, and Waco No. 92 member. Clingman served the Confederacy as an army surgeon. He later was a founder of the Waco Medical Association and Lodge member. Gurly was Past Worshipful Master of Waco No. 92 and general mercantile owner in Waco. Hamlet, member of the Lodge, was a physician and manufacturing chemist with the Waco Medical Association. Winn, charter member of Waco IOOF 1854, was a confederate tax collector and Waco Mayor Pro-Tem in 1860.

John Kennedy Street, founder of the Waco Reporter, established Street's Monthly, edited the Central Texan, and led the Waco Examiner. He was both a Masonic and IOOF member. Orlando Wheat, also associated with the Examiner, was a notary public, officer of Waco No. 92, and real estate conveyancer.

William D. Eastland was postmaster of Belton, district clerk, physician, and druggist, member of Waco No. 92 and hero when he lost his life combating the First Baptist Church of Waco fire in 1877. Other Waco No. 92 Lodge members include Jacob Long, district judge, city recorder, and mayor (1872-4); Ephraim P. Massey, chief justice of McLennan County; and William M. Anderson, pioneer funeral home director and undertaker.

### Credits/Photos:

Waco Lodge No. 92, Texas State Historical Assn, Waco History, Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, Texas Genealogy, Brother Robert William Marshall

## A Masonry Wall

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

About a week ago, I was working in my “barn” and I noticed a familiar canvas bag behind a seldom used tool box. I paused a moment and recalled that bag contains the tools I made a living with over sixty years past. As I began moving the tool box and some other “treasures” that I never use or had forgotten that I had, I grabbed the bag, and to my surprise, the leather handle separated from the canvas bag.

I unfolded a chair and sat down to “dig around” and see what remained of the tools that I had used as an apprentice and union journeyman brick mason and stone mason. To my surprise and pleasure, I recognized the sixty-year-old Rose 13” trowel, several joiners, some trigs, rake joint tools, brick and stone masons hammer, plumb bob, tuck-pointers, line pins, and a sixty-year-old properly wound ball of line used to lay long lengths of brick on a long masonry wall. I looked up on the wall where my sixty-year-old 4’ level and framing-square (That I still use occasionally) were hanging and began to reminisce those hours and days when I really worked hard and long as an operative brick and stone mason.

After a while, holding and handling the tools, I began to recall what I was taught as an apprentice by other brick and stone masons and began to relive the sessions of learning about building a structural stone wall and the precautions and methods that must be used to ensure its integrity and longevity.

Most important of all was the foundation, and the specification of the materials to be used in the masonry wall and the process of inspecting the stone, the mixture to be used as mortar, and to have a clear understanding of the layout of the wall and the technique to obtain the aesthetic presence of the wall.

I began to see a clear and perfect harmony between what I was taught as a brick mason and what I learned about the speculative Masonic Lodge ...

I was constantly instructed that any stone to be placed in the wall must be structurally sound, no cracks, no voids, proper shape, correct size, and if found to be marginally defective, must be cast aside as a “cull” and hauled away from the work site. Those were the things I remembered that were absolutely necessary to construct a structural masonry wall.

Back in time, brick and stone walls were always constructed by first constructing “leads” on all corners of the building wall by the most experienced brick and stone masons to ensure the building was square and properly laid out where the walls would be plumb, and straight.

Today, brick and stone masons use “story poles” in lieu of building leads where a stick is placed on each corner of the structure and a line block is raised for each new course of brick or stone. This type of “fast-building” seems to be acceptable for non-structural brick and stone veneer but never on a structural masonry wall.

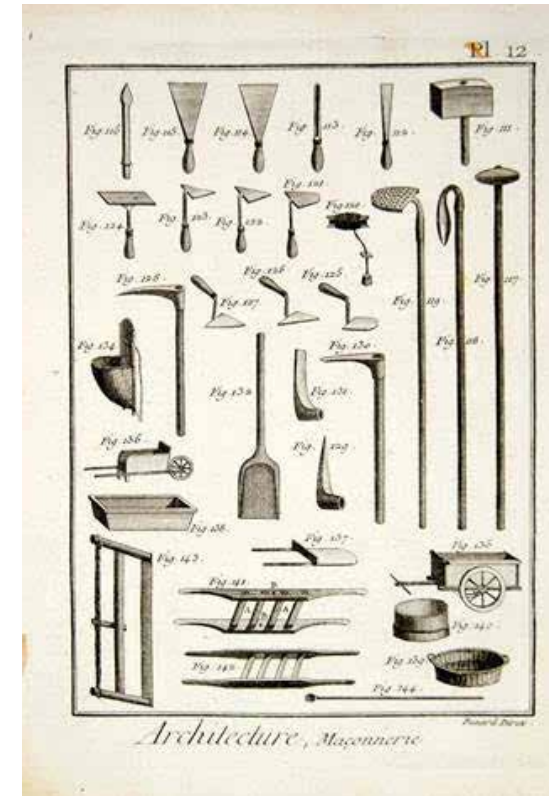
After a while, I began to think about those days and at the same time I began to correlate those thoughts with my experiences as a Texas Mason. I began to see a clear and perfect harmony between what I was taught as a brick and stone mason and what I had learned about the speculative Masonic Lodge and how both fit together like a hand and glove.

The basis for a strong structural masonry wall is the foundation, generally engineered to support the entire dead and live weight of the structure. Most often reinforced concrete of sufficient size and strength to support and provide integrity and longevity. And, no fast-build or short-cuts allowed on structural walls.

The basis for a strong Masonic Lodge is the foundation as well. The foundation of a Masonic Lodge is the “Legacy” members of the lodge and those departed “who have gone this way before us.”

The remaining components of a structural masonry wall are the stone and mortar. In a Masonic Lodge, the members are the stones and the ritual and fellowship are the mortar. As in a structural wall, all stones must be structurally sound, meet design specifications and be properly “laid” to ensure the integrity and longevity of the wall. In a Masonic wall, the members of the lodge must be sincere, be of good reputation, and subscribe to the tenants and requirements of Masonic membership, to ensure the integrity and longevity of the Lodge.

Our Masonic ritual and fellowship are the mortar of the Lodge. Our ritual must be sound and it should be as expected to ensure a



proper “bond” between members and it must be evenly and fully “spread” to ensure each member of the Lodge is attached strongly and soundly to the Lodge, confident in ritual, and through fellowship and a distinct brotherhood of mutual respect and support.

If by chance, in a structural masonry wall, a stone of less quality and “slight” of specifications is “laid,” it can be removed if the wall is not complete. Some can, others cannot.

In our Masonic Lodges, we have a process of “Petition” and “Investigation” to “try” and examine potential members. If by omission, we fail to adhere to the policies and procedures of those membership elements, we might find we have a “stone” in our Masonic Lodge wall that does not meet our membership requirements. Just as in a structural masonry wall, a defective stone could eventually be a failure mode of a Masonic Lodge.

Well, after a while I closed the bag, straightened up the barn and went to my office and decided to review the guidance for conducting investigations of petitioners. As I reviewed the procedures, I painfully recalled that I had in the past, signed a petition or two for candidate(s) whom I did not know, but was a friend of a Brother. Thankfully, for me the candidates became strong and very active Brothers...

All of us as leaders, officers, and members of Masonic Lodges, must follow our guidance to ensure our Masonic Wall is sound,

has integrity, longevity, and is aesthetically pleasing to our communities and to ourselves.

In our present conditional, pandemic environment we must continue to be diligent when we interview and investigate petitioners ensuring we will only extend membership to those who meet our requirements. The investigation process is not to disqualify potential members. The process when done correctly ensures to a high level, we are accepting good men who desire to become better men.

Texas Masons are truly blessed to have such a strong legacy and foundation beginning with our Texas Traditions and our Texas History. Those who have gone on before us were strongly tied to Masonic tradition and became the focal points of their communities and founded the great growth in the Republic and State of Texas. Our Masonic foundation is strong and we Texas Masons are strong, even in the face of our current pandemic. Yes, we are looking for a few good men, the right ones ...

So, feeling blessed with my memories and confident in my Texas Masonic affiliation I refiled the investigation guidance in my library, leaned back in my desk chair and contemplated; “Now I understand how Speculative Masonry used the application of Operative Masonry to construct many of the tenets of Freemasonry”

# Join Us For Family Day!

Saturday, October 9, at Texas Masonic Retirement Center



Spending time with friends and sharing days with family means more now than ever.

Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, October 9, at Family Day, the largest Masonic gathering in Texas. Bring your family and friends to the shady pecan orchard at Texas Masonic Retirement Center in Arlington. Gates open at 10 a.m.; festivities end at 4 pm.

**Free admission & free parking!** That's right—you and yours are welcome FREE of CHARGE for event entry and parking at Family Day.

**M:W: Grand Master Kenneth Curry and M:E: Grand High Priest Mark Myer**, plus other Masonic leaders, will be on hand to host welcoming ceremonies and present prizes to winners of the Classic Car & Motorcycle Show and Masonic BBQ Cookoff Contest.

**Bring the kids and grandkids!** Children and teens delight in pony rides, hayrides, games, a petting zoo, and video games. It's a day

to remember and make great memories!

**Shop, shop, shop!** At hundreds of booths featuring arts, crafts, Masonic items, and more. It's a great way to find holiday gifts early. Want to host a free booth for your Lodge fundraising project? Learn more at YourTMRC.org.

**Win a BBQ Championship!** Masons come from far and wide to show off their BBQ brisket skills in a contest for statewide bragging rights. Make plans to bring a



trophy or cash prize back to your hometown today. Entry rules and info at YourTMRC.org.

**Trophies for Classic Car & Motorcycle Show!** Trophies awarded for first, second, and third place in ten classes for cars/trucks and motorcycles. Check out this list and enter at YourTMRC.org: Original, modified, import, street rod, low rider, classic, special interest, pickups, rat rod, and rat bike.

**More questions?** Visit our website at YourTMRC.org. Or, send an email to Info@YourTMRC.org or call 817-275-2893.



## 2021 MASONIC MERCHANDISE - GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

QTY	ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	COST EA.	TOTAL
	521KC	LAPEL PIN	\$5.00	
	521KC-C	CHARM	\$5.00	
	532KC	BAR CLIP TIE CHAIN - w/Charm	\$15.00	
	523KC	2" PM JEWEL - w/29" Chain	\$20.00	
	535FOB	POCKET KEY FOB MM	\$40.00	
	535FOB-PM	POCKET KEY FOB PM	\$40.00	
	CUFFKC	CUFF LINK SET	\$20.00	
	BTNKC	BUTTON COVER SET	\$20.00	
	520KC	BRONZE COIN	\$5.00	
	524KC	ENAMEL COIN	\$10.00	
	525KC	SILVER COIN	\$80.00	
	526KC-LG	LARGE BUCKLE - Enamel w/Grand Master's Logo	\$30.00	
	526KC-SM	SMALL BUCKLE - Enamel w/Grand Master's Logo	\$25.00	
	KC-ECKNIFE	COMMEMORATIVE KNIFE - Boxed & Numbered w/Enamel Coin	\$50.00	
	KC-SCKNIFE	COMMEMORATIVE KNIFE - Boxed & Numbered w/Silver Coin	\$140.00	
	527KC	BOLO TIE - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$15.00	
	528KC	GM LOGO DECAL	\$1.00	
	529KC	TAIL LIGHT DECALS - Pair w/S&C	\$5.00	
	529KC-PM	TAIL LIGHT DECALS - Pair w/PM	\$5.00	
	529SC8	8" WINDOW DECAL - S&C	\$10.00	
	530KC	3" CAR EMBLEM - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$15.00	
	533KC-BLU	SHIRT - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL/Lt. Blue	\$35.00	
	533KC-WHT	SHIRT - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL/White	\$35.00	
	536KC-DEN	CAP - Mesh Back/Denim	\$15.00	
	536KC-NG	CAP - Solid Back/Navy & Gray	\$15.00	
	540KC-LBT	TIE (LIGHT BLUE) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	540KC-LBBT	BOW TIE (LIGHT BLUE) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	540KC-BLKT	TIE (BLACK) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	540KC-BLGBT	BOW TIE (BLACK) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	LADIES-CH	LADIES' CHARM - Chain Bee Hive & Bee Set	\$20.00	
	FIREINGGL	FIREING GLASS - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$20.00	
			SUB-TOTAL	
		Check Enclosed (Make Check Payable to Grand Lodge of Texas)	S/H Under \$50	\$7.00
			S/H Over \$50	\$12.00
			TOTAL	

VISA/MC/DISC ONLY CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

EXP: \_\_\_\_\_ CVN: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:  
GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS  
CHAIRMAN, MERCHANDISE  
PO BOX 446  
WACO, TX 76703

PURCHASE ONLINE AT:  
<https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/shop/>



# TEXAS FREEMASON

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



CONSTITUTED  
**APRIL 1838**



THE GIFT OF LIFE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1995 BY THE 14TH MASONIC DISTRICTS' MASTERS, WARDENS AND SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE THE BLOOD NEEDS OF THE TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

IT WAS EXPANDED IN 1997 TO INVOLVE ALL MASONIC LODGES IN TEXAS AND TO INCLUDE ALL THE TEXAS MASONIC HOSPITALS.

THE OBJECTIVES ARE TO UNITE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND LODGES IN A WORTHWHILE COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORT, AND BRING THE PUBLIC AT LARGE INTO OUR LODGE ROOMS.



For more information on hosting a blood drive in your area, contact your District Communications Officer or Gift of Life Committee Chairman **Brother George Coon** at [georgedcoon@aol.com](mailto:georgedcoon@aol.com) or visit: <https://grandlod-geoftexas.org/gift-life-0/>