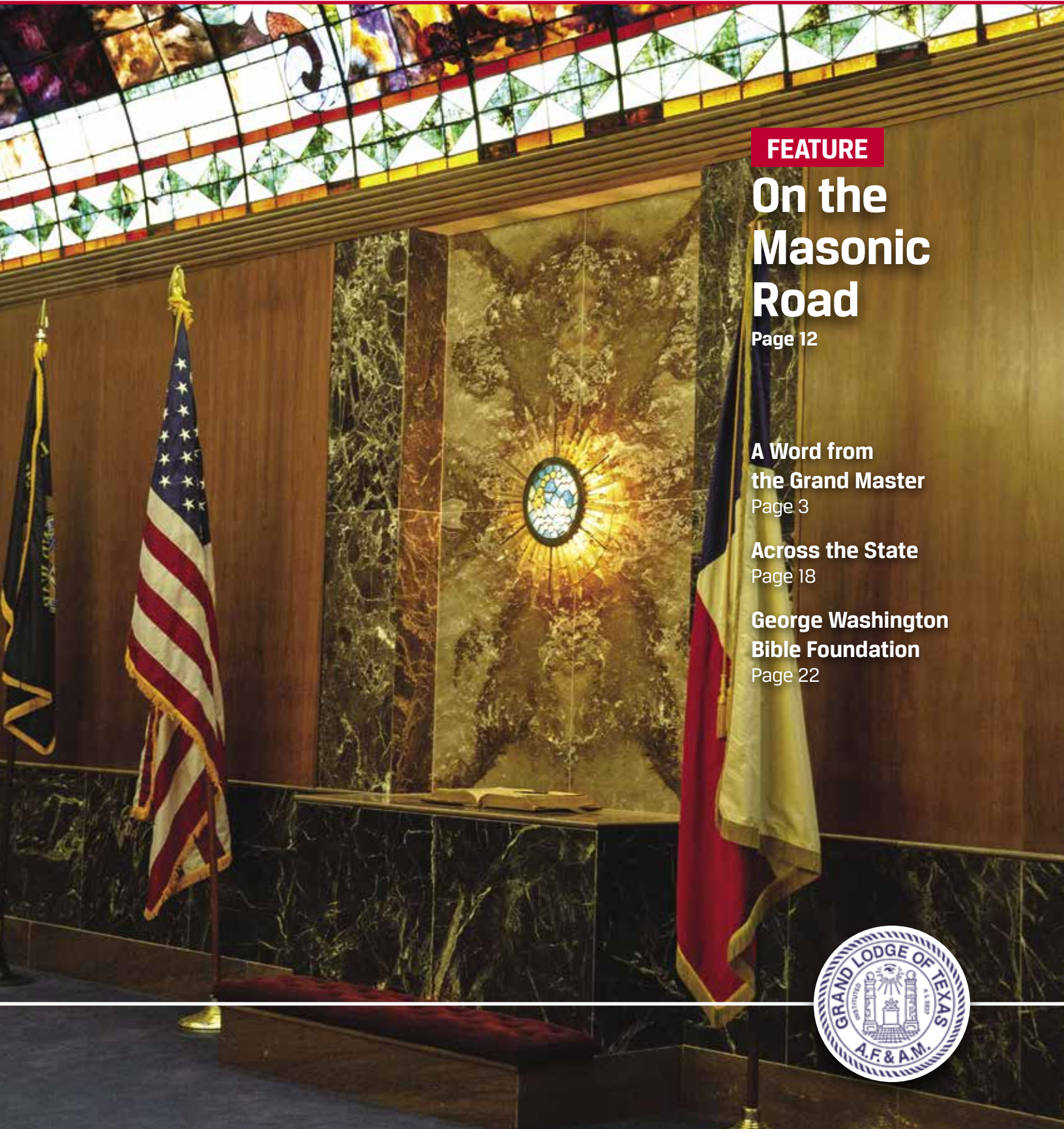




T E X A S

FREEMASON



FEATURE

On the Masonic Road

Page 12

**A Word from
the Grand Master**

Page 3

Across the State

Page 18

**George Washington
Bible Foundation**

Page 22



★ **Grand Annual Communication Schedule
at Grand Lodge January 20 - 22**
PAGE 8



Grand Lodge Memorial Room – Stained Glass Mural

GRAND LODGE

- 3 A Word from the Grand Master
- 4 A Word from the Deputy Grand Master
- 5 Grand Master's Gala and Live Auction
- 6 A Word from the Grand Secretary
- 7 Memorial to Brother Chalfant
- 8 Summary of Resolutions and 2022 Grand Communication Schedule of Events
- 10 Statements of Availability

FEATURE

- 12 On the Masonic Road

ACROSS THE STATE

- 18 Dr. Alexander Joseph Di Caro

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

- 17 TMRC
- 20 Masonic Home and School Article
- 22 George Washington Bible Foundation

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 15 The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon
- 16 A Look Back
- 21 Grand Lodge Committee Profile
- 23 Merchandise Order Form

ON THE COVER

Grand Lodge Memorial Room - Back Wall

The Texas Freemason Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Lodges and subscribers. Opinions expressed by the Editors and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Grand Lodge of Texas - Copyright 2021, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

Publisher

The Trustees of The Grand Lodge of Texas

Editor

Larry FitzPatrick

Associate Editor

Bruce W. Hammond

Staff Writers

Ruben Bazan III, Bill Crow, Bruce W. Hammond, Jeff Haven, Jim Hoffpauir, Jerome Weilmuenster, James C. "Chris" Williams IV

Image Credits

Doug Fitzjarrell, Mark Daniels, PM (Handley Masonic Lodge - On The Masonic Road), Ms. Brenda A. Ortiz (Di Caro Article)

The Texas Freemason Magazine encourages submission of articles and photographs of general interest to Masons in Texas, reserving the right to edit and use the articles and pictures as needs and policies dictate.

News and articles from around the state will continue to be published in a web-based format on the Grand Lodge of Texas website. The Grand Lodge website is accessible at <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org>

Please continue to send your articles and Lodge events and news to the Editors of *The Texas Freemason Magazine*. texasfreemasonmag@gmail.com

The preferred method of submission is via email with an attached Microsoft Word document. Pictures should be separately submitted in JPEG format to texasfreemasonmag@gmail.com. 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.

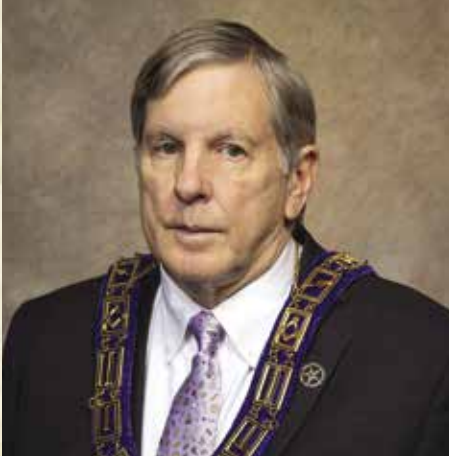
Subscriptions

\$12.50 per year U.S. and Canada, \$31.25 for three years; \$20.00 per year in foreign countries, \$50.00 for three years

Permission to Reprint

Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Texas Mason Magazine* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications, provided that credit is given to the author and attribution to *The Texas Freemason Magazine*.

A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brothers,

This is an incredible year in our Fraternity! Lodges have conferred many degrees and lots of Missing Brothers have returned. The Bring Back a Brother program is simply calling a Brother you have not seen in a while and inquiring how they are doing. If you are a Brother who has not been around his Lodge for some time, call the person who taught you your work or mentored you when you joined the lodge and ask him how he is doing. If those Brothers have passed on, call the Worshipful Master of your Lodge, and ask him how he is doing.

Fellowship. In our Fraternity we talk a lot about Fellowship. At each of the Grand Master Conferences we asked Brothers what they most need from Masonry. The overwhelming response was “FELLOWSHIP.” Yet those same Brothers struggled when asked to tell us what Masonic Fellowship is. Following are three examples of Masonic Fellowship I have witnessed this year.

Oak Wood No. 1444. This Lodge closes each meeting with a rousing cheer. When the Master drops the gavel at the end of the meeting, all present raise clenched hands in front of them, shake them, and loudly cheer “GOD it’s GREAT to be a MASON!” Seeing fifty of our Brothers give that cheer caused tingles to run down my spine. Fifty Brothers united in their love for Masonry. **Masonic Fellowship is a common spirit!!**

Fish Creek No. 344. A few short years ago this Lodge was on the verge of demising or consol-

idating. They had only three or four Brothers at their lodge meetings, and it had been years since they had conferred any degree. The Lodge meets in a two-story structure built in the 1800s located at the end a long gravel road several miles from pavement. Fish Creek meets in Marysville, Texas. The town consists of the lodge, a Baptist Church, and a few buildings. The 2000 U. S. Census placed the town population at 15. A few Brothers in the area decided they would not let Fish Creek Lodge die. They started attending lodge, improved the building to make it safe for use, and invited surrounding lodges to participate in their efforts to save the lodge. Fish Creek No. 344 now has thirty-one members and attendance at meetings regularly exceeds its membership. **Masonic Fellowship is unity of purpose!!**

Melissa No. 569. While attending Melissa No. 569 I learned that Brother Joe Walker had passed. Brother Walker was a long-time member of Hella Shrine’s Knights of Mecca Master Mason Degree Team. Joe was one of those gruff old Masons who had a heart of gold and a deep love for the Fraternity. A few weeks before he died, Joe was Junior Deacon in the Master Mason degree conferral on the USS Lexington, the retired aircraft carrier now anchored in Corpus Christi Bay. Joe was wearing a microphone during the degree that was being witnessed by an audience of over 150 Masons. When Joe opened a door, someone must have done something, because Joe’s loudly and clearly said “you little sh...” That scene epitomized Joe for many of us. Upon recounting that event you could loudly and clearly hear and see the love those Brothers have for Joe and his legacy. **Masonic Fellowship is loving our Brothers!!**

2022 Grand Annual Communication. Registration for the 186th Grand Annual Communication has begun. Brethren may register online through the Grand Lodge website. If you are unable to attend in person or feel that in person attendance presents a risk to your health and are a Master Mason in good standing, you may attend the Grand Annual Communication via internet access. Only those who are physically present may vote or address the Grand West concerning any resolution or recommendation. There are many important resolutions and recommendations that will be considered. Those resolutions and recommendations are

summarized in this issue of the *Texas Freemason*.

One schedule alteration this year is the addition of a Thursday night **Welcome to Waco Pizza Party for all Masons, Families, and Friends.** The Party will begin at 6:00 pm at Karem Shrine, 400 Karem Circle, Waco, Texas 76712. The meal is free, but donations will be accepted.

Another change is that the presentation of the Grand Lodge annual awards and medals will occur during the public portion of the Friday afternoon session. I am proud to announce the following recognitions. Susan Myers, President of the International Association of Holocaust Organizations, will receive the W.B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award. The Honorable Robert “Bob” Walker, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and the Honorable B. Glen Whitely, Tarrant County Judge, will be vested with Sam Houston Medals. Right Worshipful Roy Jeffrey Smith will receive the William M. Beck Award.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Grand Master. I have met and visited with thousands of Texas Masons, and I deeply admire our Craft and the work you do to make the lives all those you touch, your communities and our State and Nation better.

And in the words of Sgt. Phil Freemason Esterhaus of the TV series “Hill Street Blues” “Let’s be careful out there.”

Ken Curry

Ken Curry
Grand Master 2021



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve the Grand Lodge of Texas during my tenure as a trustee. Should tradition prevail and the Grand West see fit to elect me as the 184th Grand Master of Masons in Texas, I promise to serve to the best of my skill and ability.

If you attended the 2019 Grand Lodge session you will remember that I accepted the station of Grand Junior Warden with a prayer. Since that day, I have continued to pray for guidance and direction from the G.A.O.T.U., and with His help and that of the 2022 team, we have placed some truly unique and exciting designs upon the trestle board. While it would be impossible here to delve into every plan for the upcoming year, there are some upcoming events that you won't want to miss:

Grand Lodge Communication 2022

Directly after the installation of officers, we have scheduled, with the permission of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, the first-ever Past Master Degree to be conferred in the Grand Lodge auditorium. This degree, with its beautiful examples of guidance and leadership, is highly recommended for those who will lead our Craft and is open to all Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and installed Wardens for a nominal fee of \$15.00.

Later that evening, the newly installed officers will celebrate at a Grand Lodge Gala in the exclusive Baylor Club. This exciting location offers a stunning view of nighttime Waco and the I-35 Brazos River bridge and is the perfect venue for music, dancing, and dining. More details will follow. In the meantime, please make sure your hotel reservations include Saturday night.

Conferences

I am a firm believer that everything great in this Fraternity is built upon the foundation of Brotherhood. This upcoming year, we will go back to the regional conference model to minimize time spent on the road and maximize time spent together in the Masonic Family. Each conference is designed to be a destination with both family events and Masonic events joined together throughout the weekend. The Conferences will kick off in Houston and conclude in the Valley, with San Antonio, a Lubbock homecoming, DFW, and Nacogdoches between. Each event will be unique, revealing a new aspect of the plans for the year and ending with celebratory banquet.

Washington's Birthday 2/18-20

Did you know that Texas boasts the largest George Washington celebration in the world? It happens over the entire month of February in Laredo, and we are excited to visit next year during Washington's Birthday Parade, with an estimated 400,000 attending. Please join us to help celebrate the Father of our Nation and our most Famous American Freemason.

Capitol Degree 2/25-27

Several unique events are planned for late February in Austin. First, we will visit the Bob Bullock Museum to take in the "Mystery and Benevolence" exhibit, including regalia and paraphernalia related to the Freemasons and Oddfellows. Next, we are scheduled to confer a degree at the Texas State Capitol with a centennial festive board at University

Lodge No. 1190 to follow.

Alamo 3/4-6

Join us in our annual pilgrimage to the Cradle of Texas Liberty. This is an event that every Texas Mason should make during his lifetime and, as we will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Alamo Lodge No. 44, next year is the perfect time to stop talking about it and make the trip.

Social Media

Look for the Grand Lodge Facebook page to be a lot more active in 2022. With the help of Internet Committee Chairman Craig Enderli, we have developed a social media calendar to improve the visibility of Masonry in Texas. If you haven't already done so, please subscribe to the Grand Lodge Facebook page so you won't miss any of the excitement next year.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to two individuals. First, over the past four years, Grand Master Curry has been an outstanding mentor. Indeed, he has been a model of leadership for me since I joined the Fort Worth Scottish Rite in 2015. He and Gloria are great examples for us all to follow. Second, and most importantly, my thanks and eternal devotion are extended to my beautiful, loving, and – as you all know – lenient wife Brittany. She and Grayson have traveled the byways of Texas with me and hope to be at several of the events in 2022.

Come celebrate with us as we live our Masonic heritage!

Brad

GRAND MASTER'S GALA AND LIVE AUCTION 2022

Saturday, January 22, 2022
7 p.m. – 11 p.m.
(subject to change)

The Baylor Club
(in McLane Stadium in Waco)

All Masons and their ladies are welcome

Cowboy Formal
(Tux top or suit top and tie, with blue jeans)

Please join the upcoming Grand Line-Up for a night of fine food, drinks, live music and fun at this exclusive cocktail event. A live auction will take place with exclusive items benefiting the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. This will be an event you will not want to miss!

Tickets are \$50 per person

Register via the "Member Portal" Events Tab, by calling the Grand Secretary's office or purchase tickets online at: <https://tx.grandview.systems/events/708>

Ladies' Events

Luncheon

Friday, January 21, 2022
11:30 a.m.
Located in the Hilton
\$20 per person

Painting with a Twist

Friday, January 21, 2022
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Located in the Hilton
\$37 per person

Dress will be casual with suggestion they bring an apron.
Register via the "Member Portal" Events Tab or by calling the Grand Secretary's office.

GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

Preparations for the 186th Grand Annual Communication are underway. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 1, 2021. Brethren can register for in-person or virtual attendance by clicking on the 2022

Annual Communication tile on your Grandview portal. Pre-Registration packets can be picked up Wednesday, January 19th 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 20th 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 21st 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, January 22nd 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing all of you in Waco!

I decided to explore the Grand Secretary's vault earlier this year and discovered several interesting items including the original minutes from the formation of The Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas signed by Bro. Sam Houston and Bro. Anson Jones, as well as a set of Grand Officer Jewels from the late 1800's. These items will be on display in the Memorial Room during the Annual Communication, and I would encourage you to take a moment and view these items.

I want to thank all the Brethren who attended the Lodge Secretary/Treasurer schools that were held this past year. If you

did not have an opportunity to join us for one of the in-person schools, please consider joining one of the upcoming Lodge Secretary Zoom meetings. Details on how to register for these meetings can be found on the Seminars page on Grandview.

Finally, I want to thank Grand Master Curry for his leadership during this Masonic year. 2021 has been a year of continuing tribulations and has required adjustment from everyone, and through it all Grand Master Curry has shown great fervency and zeal in all his endeavors. Grand Master Curry should be commended for his tireless commitment to our Fraternity during this Masonic year and it has been my great honor to serve with him.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Justin B. Duty
Grand Secretary



Carl B. Chalfant, Sr.
July 3, 1943 - August 25, 2021

Among the multitude of Brothers and family members lost to the COVID-19 pandemic in recent months was Carl Chalfant. Along with his many other contributions to Freemasonry in Texas, Brother Chalfant served our Grand Lodge in 2014 as Grand Musician. His family asks that each of us consider being vaccinated and extends the following message of appreciation – a message that exemplifies the essence of our fraternity, but sadly, in these times, could apply to many other Masonic families as well.

The family of Carl Chalfant would like to thank their Masonic Family for all of the cards, calls, messages, emails, and other forms of comfort extended to us upon his death. We have no words that will ever be enough to thank you for all you have done

for us during our time of grief upon the loss of a husband and brother. It has meant the world to us.

Janet Chalfant, Carole and David Mather, Karyle and Ralph Chalfant, Beth and Gary Skinner, Janice and Don Hull, Dottie and Gregg Williams.

Brother Chalfant's son, Carl Jr., also died from COVID-19 this past September.

*Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.*

– Author Unknown

2022 Grand Communication Schedule of Events

FIRST SESSION – Thursday Afternoon January 20, 2022

1:00 p.m. Musical Prelude, W.⚔. Michael J. Coté, II – Grand Musician

1:30 p.m. Pre-formal Opening Ceremonies, R.⚔. W.⚔. Thomas Griffin, Past Grand Master, Presiding

1:45 p.m. Formal Opening Ceremonies, M.⚔. W.⚔. Kenneth C. Curry, Grand Master, Presiding

Masonic Service Awards, M.⚔. W.⚔. Kenneth C. Curry, Grand Master

Vanguard Lodges Awards, M.⚔. W.⚔. Kenneth C. Curry, Grand Master

Memorial Service R.W. Kevin T. Binder, Chairman, Committee on Memorials

6:00 p.m. 2022 Grand Annual Communication Welcome Party for all Masons and Guests, Karem Shrine, 400 Karem Circle, Waco, Texas 76712

SECOND DAY – SECOND SESSION Friday, January 21, 2022

9:00 a.m. Opening of the One Hundred Eighty-Sixth Grand Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, by M.⚔. W.⚔. Kenneth C. Curry, Grand Master, Grand Master

12:00 Noon (approximately) Grand Lodge Called From Labor

12:00 Noon - Sam Houston Hall of Fame Luncheon

11:30 Ladies Luncheon and Activity- Waco Hilton – Painting with a Twist

SECOND DAY – THIRD SESSION Friday, January 21, 2022

1:00 p.m. Prelude of Percussion Music by W.⚔. Michael Coté II, Grand Musician

1:15 p.m. Grand Oration by R.⚔.W.⚔. Rhit More, Grand Orator

Followed by presentation of W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award, Sam Houston Medal Award, and William M. Beck Award.

Masonic Home and School Ex-Student speakers

2:00 Grand Lodge called from Refreshment

5:00 p.m. (approximately) Grand Lodge Called from Labor

THIRD DAY – FOURTH SESSION Saturday, January 22, 2022

9:00 a.m. Coffee honoring Gloria Curry and Brittany Billings in the Lower Level, Grand Lodge Building. All Ladies are invited.

8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called from Refreshment (Elections at 10 am)

THIRD DAY, FIFTH SESSION Saturday, January 22, 2022

1:30 p.m. Musical Prelude

2:00 p.m. Open Installation of Officers

Remarks by the Most Worshipful Grand Master

Closing of Open Installation by M.⚔. W.⚔. Bradley S. Billings, Grand Master

Grand Lodge Called From Refreshment to Labor

Closing of the One Hundred Eighty-Sixth Grand Annual Communication of the M.⚔. W.⚔. Grand Lodge of Texas by the M.⚔. W.⚔. Bradley S. Billings, Grand Master.



2021-2022 Summary of Proposed Resolutions and Recommendations

Resolution No. 1: Amendment of Article 225 to add Philaethes Society as an authorized user of Lodge Rooms – Refer to Fraternal Relations, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 2: Amendment of Article 105a to create a Grand Lodge Committee on Disaster Response – Refer to Civil Law, Masonic Education and Service, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 3: Change name of La Marque Lodge No. 1325 to Cliff Guidry Lodge No. 1325 – Refer to Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 4: Amendment of Article 648 to require that Lodges holding raffles must submit a raffle ticket and receipt for prize to the Grand Secretary prior to selling any tickets – Refer to Civil Law and Masonic Jurisprudence.

Resolution No. 5: Creation of regions – Refer to Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 6: Creation of the office of Grand Parliamentarian – Refer to Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 7: Amendment of Article 405a to add language banning publication of candidate information on social media sites – Refer to Civil Law, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 8: Change name of Pentagon Lodge No. 1080 to Pentagon – Highland Park Lodge No. 1080 – Refer to Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 9: Create office of Lodge Historian – Refer to Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 10: Prohibit the streaming of audio and visual representations of Grand Lodge sessions – Refer to Civil Law, Internet, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 11: Allow photography in tiled lodges by Photography Committee or persons designated by Grand Master and photographs made of bible and apron in the Master's degree – Refer to Masonic Jurisprudence, Photography, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 12: Amendment of Article 14 requiring the Grand Secretary to send service awards and certificates to lodges without waiting for a request – Refer to Finance, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 13: Cause the filing of charges to be with the Grand Secretary and not the Grand Master – Refer to Civil Law, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 14: Redistricting of Dallas Lodges – Refer to Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 15: Amend Article 339a to allow lodges to form non-profit corporations for scholarship purposes – Refer to Civil Law, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 16: Delete Article 339 which prohibits lodges from sponsoring any organization other than DeMolay and Rainbow – Refer to Civil Law, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 17: Exempt endowed members from per capita calculations and dues payments to local lodges – Refer to Finance, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 18: Change name of Port Neches Lodge No. 1163 to Port Neches-Groves Lodge No. 1163 – Refer to Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 19: Move Evadale Lodge No. 1366 from District 25A to 25B – Refer to Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 20: Add Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors to list of organizations which can meet in lodge rooms – Refer to Fraternal Relations, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 21: Move Canyon Lake Masonic Lodge No. 1425 from District 39C to District 50 – Refer to Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 22: Establish a procedure by which a Lodge may move from one District to another District – Refer to Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 23: Create office of Lodge Historian – Refer to Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 24: Provide for standardized sheet music and vocals for lodge rituals and ceremonies – Refer to Committee on Work, Masonic Education and Service, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 25: Prince Hall use of lodge room – Refer to Fraternal Relations, Masonic Jurisprudence and Purposes and Policies.

Statements of Availability

Resolution No. 26: Institute a 5% annual distribution from endowment units – Refer to Civil Law, Finance, Purposes and Policies.

Resolution No. 27: Add Prince Hall as a group which may use lodge rooms – Refer to Fraternal Relations, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1: Restrict EAs and FCs from pro temping offices of Secretaries and Treasurers except during degrees – Refer to Committee on Work, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 2: Require EAs and FCs to complete proficiency within two years – Refer to Committee on Work, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 3: Require Worshipful Masters and Wardens to attend Committee on Work forums unless they meet certain criteria – Refer to Committee on Work, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 4: Allow streaming of the non-secret portions of the Annual Communication – Refer to Civil Law, Internet, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 5: Change name of Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee to Masonic Widows and Orphans Committee and provide for a registry of widows and orphans and the support of the same – Refer to Finance, Masonic Graduates Advisory, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 6: Create authority for Trustees to create a lodge building improvement fund – Refer to Civil Law, Finance, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 7: Create a committee for the revision of the Monitor – Refer to Committee on Work, Masonic Education and Service, Masonic Jurisprudence, Purposes and Policies.



Russell C. Brown For Director (Grand Lodge Library and Museum)

LUFKIN LODGE NO. 669

Raised: July 25, 1980
Endowed Member
Worshipful Master: 2014-15

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Morton Lodge No. 72 – Master: 1985-86
Clinton Lodge No. 23 – Master: 2003-04

Endowed Member, Golden Trowel: 2000, Treasurer: 2005-present
Robert E. Lee Lodge No. 431 – Charter Restoration Master: 2004
Endowed Member, Golden Trowel: 2010, Treasurer: 2005-2020;

Sec.: 2020-present
Texas Lodge of Research: 1984
Full and Endowed Member
Union Lodge No. 82, Senior Deacon
Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450
Endowed Member
Ocean Lodge No. 230
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000
Endowed Member

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Grand Orator: 2004
Petitions No. 2: 1992
District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District 21B: 2001
District Instructor – Masonic District 21B: 2002-10
District Instructor at Large: 2019 – present
District Education Officer and Briscoe Workshop Leader: 2000
John Sayles Award: 2004
Masonic Jurisprudence: 1999 - present, Chairman: 2008-09
Civil Law: 2006-07, Chairman
Grand Master's Planning Team: 2003, 2004
Grand Representative - Grand Lodge of New Zealand

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Board of Directors: 2020 to present; President: 2021 to present

EDUCATION

Lufkin High School, Lufkin, Texas: 1977
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas,
Bachelor of Science: 1981
Houston Baptist University, Post-grad: 1981-82
South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas,
Doctor of Jurisprudence: 1989

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL

Gulf Oil Exploration and Production Company, Houston, Texas
Consultant: 1981-85
Shell Oil Company, Houston, Texas
Corporate O&E&T Consultant: 1985-89
United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas
Senior Law Clerk to Chief Judge Emeritus, Joe J. Fisher: 1990-91
Wellborn * Houston Law Firm, LLC, Henderson, Texas
Partner – 1991-2006
Law Offices of Russell C. Brown, P.C. – 2007 to present
Board Certified, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2001 to present
National Order of Barristers
American Board of Trial Advocates
Super Lawyers, 2002 to present
AV Preeminent® (highest) Peer Review Rating
U.S. District Courts for Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Texas
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
United States Supreme Court
Rusk County Bar Association, President: 1997-99

CIVIC ACTIVITY

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Trustee
Henderson City Council: 2001-07
Mayor Pro Tempore: 2003-07
First United Methodist Church of Henderson, Finance, Staff Committees
Kappa Alpha Order, Former National Vice-President
NRA – Certified Shooting Coach – Rifle, Pistol, Handgun
Quail and Ducks Unlimited
Sponsor – Rusk County Youth Livestock and Exhibition Show: 1992 - present
Sons of the Republic of Texas – Life Member
Admiral in the Texas Navy: 2011

FAMILY

Wife - Elizabeth Kelly Williams, Married: August 17, 1985
Children – Katy, Clay, and Tom Brown

Statements of Availability



George Duke Moxley
For Grand Junior Warden

T. NEAL PORTER LODGE NO. 1354
Raised: September 18, 1974
Worshipful Master: 1978 - 1979, 2018 - 2019
Secretary: 2009 - 2018, 2019 - Present
Endowed Member: 2011
Golden Trowel Award: 2012
25 Year Service Award: 1999
40 Year Service Award: 2014

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576, Endowed Member, 2013
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000
Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Deputy Grand Master, District 50: 2013
Class A Esoteric Certificate: 1977 - 1985, 2011 - Present
District Instructor, District 50: 2014 - Present
Grand Lodge Special Assignments Committee: 2015 - 2018
Member Texas History Committee: 2019 - Present
Vice Chairman Texas History Committee: 2019
Member Security and Threat Assessment Committee: 2020 - Present
2020 Grand Master's Regional Coordinator

EDUCATION

Sidney Lanier High School, Austin, Texas 1968
University of Texas at Austin, 1968 - 1972, Music Education

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL

Austin Police Department, Police Officer, 1972 - 1998, Ret.
Austin Independent School District Police Department, 1999 - 2004
Austin Police Department, Background Investigator, 2005 - 2017, Ret.
Founder and operator, American Karate of Austin, 1999 - Present

CIVIC ACTIVITY

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children,
Board of Trustees: 2015 - Present
Member University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band: 1972 - Present
President, University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band: 2005 - 2006
Austin Area Representative, University of Texas Longhorn
Alumni Band: 1985 - Present
Longhorn Alumni Band Board of Directors: 2000 - 2004,
President 2004
Longhorn Alumni Band Board of Trustees: 2006 - 2010
Life Member University of Texas Alumni Association
Member Austin Police Association
Member Austin Police Retired Officers Association

FAMILY

Married to Linda Seigny Moxley: May 23, 1981
Three children: Garrett Moxley, Ashley Bruno, Brandon Moxley
Seven Grandchildren: Ethan, Yalena, Gwenyth, Colin, Brayden,
Blake, Charlotte



Raborn L. Reader, Jr.
For Grand Junior Warden

LEAGUE CITY LODGE NO. 1053

Raised: December 6, 1982
Endowed Member: 1992
25-Year Service Award: 2007

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

Meyerhardt Lodge No. 314: Kennesaw, Georgia: 2001
Magnolia Lodge No. 113: 2006
Endowed Member: 2006
Worshipful Master: 2010-2011
Washington Lodge No. 18: 2009
Endowed Member: 2009
Secretary: 2012-2013
Worshipful Master: 2021-2022

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 - 2010
Endowed Member: 2000
Junior Deacon: 2021 - 2022
Montgomery Lodge No. 25 - 2011
Endowed Member: 2011
Secretary: 2012 - Present
Golden Trowel: 2015
W. J. Nixon Lodge No. 421 - 2012
Endowed: 2012

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Grand Marshal: 2018
State Coordinator: 2018
District Deputy Grand Master - District No. 28: 2015
Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Luxembourg: 2015 - Present
Texas History Committee: 2015 - Present
Vice-Chairman: 2015, 2016, 2018
Chairman: 2017
Grand Master's Planning Committee
2012 - 2015 for R. W. Michael L. Wiggins
2016 - 2018 for R. W. Tommy F. Chapman
2020 - 2021 for R. W. Kenneth C. Curry
2020 - 2022 for R. W. Bradley S. Billings
District Deputy Training
2017 for R. W. Tommy F. Chapman
2020 for R. W. Kenneth C. Curry
2021 for R. W. Bradley S. Billings
Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award: 2009
Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member: 2011
Grand Lodge of Texas Library and Museum Patron: 2015

EDUCATION

Clear Creek High School, League City, Texas: 1979
Associate of Science, San Jacinto College, Houston, Texas: 1982
Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering, University of Houston, Houston, Texas: 1991

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL

Houston Lighting and Power Company (CenterPoint Energy), Houston, Texas
Engineering Technician: 1981 - 1992
Engineer: 1992 - 1995
Account Service Manager: 1995 - 1997
Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bloomington, Indiana
Key Accounts Manager: 1997 - 2001
Printpack, Inc, Atlanta, Georgia
Utilities Manager: 2001 - 2004
Colonial Pipeline Company, Alpharetta, Georgia
Power Optimization Leader: 2004 - 2005
Enterprise Products Company, Houston, Texas
Regional Energy Manager: 2005 - 2008
Director, Energy Utilization: 2008 - Present
Registered Professional Electrical Engineer - Indiana: 2002 - Present
Registered Professional Electrical Engineer - Georgia: 2003 - Present
Association of Energy Engineers: Life Member
Certified Energy Manager: 1999 - Present
Certified Business Energy Professional: Life Certification
Owner, "Painting with a Twist" franchise, 2019 - Present

CIVIC ACTIVITY

Sons of the Republic of Texas - Life Member
Sendera Lake Estate POA - Architectural Committee Chairman: 2007 - 2017
National Rifle Association - Endowed Life Member
Texas State Rifle Association - Life Member
The 100 Club - Houston - Life Member
Volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America - Various Leadership Positions: 2000 to 2013
Member of Sam Houston Area Council Board of Directors: 2008 - 2010
Chairman: Polaris District (2008 - 2009), Orion District (2009 - 2010)
James E. West Fellowship Award - Sam Houston Area Council: 2008
Distinguished Commissioner Award - Sam Houston Area Council: 2012
Silver Beaver Award - Sam Houston Area Council: 2010

FAMILY

Wife: Loretta Annette. Risacher, Married January 22, 2011
Children: Wesley, Cameron, Carly, Virginia, and Devon



Steven Ray Pepper For Committee on Work

Orient Lodge No. 905

Raised: May 20, 2007
Endowed: 2007
Worshipful Master: 2009-2010
Secretary: 2011-2016
Treasurer: 2019-Present
William Beck Award / Sam Houston
Member: 2009
Golden Trowel: 2016

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

Tranquility: 2000
Endowed: July 2014
Chaplain: 2014-2015
Junior Steward: 2015-2016

ESOTERIC

Class B: 2008
Class A: 2011-Present

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Grand Chaplain: 2009
District Deputy Grand Master District 91: 2011
District Deputy Grand Master District 91: 2012
District Instructor District 91: 2012 - Present
District Instructor District 95: 2019 - Present
Grand Orator: 2014
Grand Senior Deacon: 2016
Grand Chaplain: 2019
Grand Master's Planning Team: 2017-2019
State Coordinator: 2019
District Deputy Grand Master at Large: 2021

GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE

Finance: 2013-2017
Finance Chairman: 2019-Present

TEXAS MASONIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION

Board Member: 2013 - Present
President: 2015 - 2019

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL

Area Manager KMA Well Service Inc.: 1976 - 1981
President & General Manager Rolling Plains Well Service, Inc.: 1981- 2004
President & General Manager Chap Operating, Inc.: 1985 - Present
Owner & Operator Pepper & Associates: 2004 - Present

CIVIC ACTIVITY

School Board Member Knox City / Obrien CISD: 1990 - 1996
Pastor First Christian Church of Knox City: 1996 - 2004
Councilman City of Knox City: 2006 - 2012
Board Member Knox City Economic Development Corporation: 2006 - 2012
President Knox City Chamber of Commerce: 2000 - 2010

FAMILY

Married L. Kay Walton Pepper July 2, 1971 49 years and counting
Daughter Stephanie & son Jarred; 2 Grandsons & 6 granddaughters;
1 Great Grandson



Timothy Wayne Smith For Committee on Work

Mackenzie Lodge No. 1327

Raised: April 16, 2005
Worshipful Master: 2009
Secretary: 2017, 2018
Endowment: 2017

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

Wolfforth-Frenship Lodge No. 1447

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Esoteric "A" Certificate: 2005 - Present
District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District 93B: 2020
District Instructor - Masonic District 93A: 2021
Grand Lodge Committees - Internet Committee: 2020, 2021

PERSONAL PROFILE

Attended Texas Tech University towards a B.S. in
Computer Science
Enterprise Systems Analyst, Texas Tech University:
2005 - 2021
Civic Activity: Active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of America
Member of Victory Life Baptist Church, Lubbock Texas

FAMILY

Married to Shanna Smith: May 2009
Son: Alexander Smith



Those attending the Service Award evening 25, 40, and 50, Year Service Award recipients

On the Masonic Road

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

Just a thought, how often do you look in the rear-view mirror when driving in traffic? How often do you glance at the road passed when on an interstate highway? How often do you look at the road behind you on a rural or scenic road?

Most of us would respond we do all three regularly, but how often to you look back at the road of life that you have travelled? It would be fair and somewhat accurate to say that the road of life travelled was filled with great and wholesome things, difficult and hurtful times and in more than a few times, times we might want not to recall to presence of mind.

Life and remembrance has a way of making men humble and even thankful, that we did not walk the path of life without help from our spouses and family, best friends and mentors, and of course, God Almighty. Life paths are often formed more by our relationships, than our forethought. A wise man might tell you that family and best friends are the vehicle that makes a man of character.

Those of us that are considered seniors can surely recall all of the events that were significant in our lives, and we often attempt to recall noteworthy and special times in the lives of folk that are special to us and to others. Often the heritage and legacy of folk being remembered can only be presented through the keeping of family records and in the case of Masons, Masonic records and to a degree, what our friends, and Brothers can recall about us. Funerals seem to be the time and occurrence when memories and past times are remembered and surface to accomplish this service for a deceased brother.

It seems as if, as seniors and 50-year Masons get older and often less dynamic in presence, memories sometimes fade or are forgotten, and our recall efforts are less than fruitful when called upon. We often choose to move or are relegated from leadership positions, as our roles as leaders and mentors slow, or stop. I sometimes think our younger friends and family think our thoughts and hopes and desires are “old” and we think abstractly as old people.



Grand Master pinning a 40 Year Service Award recipient



All attending award recipients and their Ladies

50 Year Award recipients

We seniors know this is not true, because many or most of us still think like we did as teens and younger men, but we just cannot perform at that level any longer.

So, what is this “On the Masonic Road” about?

It’s about being the older Mason in the room, the Mason that may have been a member of the Lodge before many of the members were born, it’s about being a Past Master, a leader, a mentor, and a friend to many or most of the present Lodge membership. It’s about caring for our Brothers, it’s about crying with a Brother who has lost a loved one, and it’s about spending night after night mastering ritual, preparing for degrees and leading fundraisers. It’s about being the friend when needed, it’s about giving of yourself so others do well, and it’s about giving more than you receive without any expectation of return.

This “On the Masonic Road” is about our 50-year Masons, it’s about our 60 and 70 year Masons, it’s about you and your perceptions of those men that have “built” Masonry and kept Masonry alive, it’s about remembering them and what they did that makes our Masonic walk today possible.

What is a 50-Year Mason, a 60 or 70-Year Mason? Is he just a

guy that has been around a long time, an older man with a cane or walker or sitting on a chair, receiving a due award for service? Just a member needing a ride to Lodge, or needing help but too proud to ask for help? A man neglected by others in Lodge or at home?

No, the man is much more than that. Most often he is highly respected and acknowledged at every Lodge stated meeting. The man receiving the award for service is a complex person consisting of many things, not the least of them; his family, his Brothers, his friends, his heritage and the legacy he leaves behind.

To serve a company for over 50, 60, or 70 years is a very high mark. In business, that service generally receives a fiscal retirement, the preverbal gold watch, health benefits, and a gathering, of friends and co-workers. Afterwards, seldom remembered or heard from again.

In Masonry, for a 50-Year Mason, there is no monetary reward, no gold watch, no health benefits; his service has been given freely to his Lodge and Brothers with no expectation of any reward. In Masonry, we hope he is never forgotten, and his legacy succeeds him.

The Grand Lodge of Texas provides an award for such men who have attained the stature of reaching 50 years or more of Masonic service. During the presentation of the award, it is stated;

“My Brother, within the Sacred Book of Law, which always rests upon our Holy Altar, it is written that length of life is an award bestowed by the Grand Architect of the Universe upon the righteous. The Psalmist has declared that “The days of our years are as three score and ten” and “if by reason of strength they be four score years” the additional days are the heritage of those who fear the name of the Lord. It has been your blessed privilege to be a Mason for fifty years. For half a century, you have given of your time and your substance. “

It is important that we remember when we present a brother a 50, 60, or 70-year service award, his spouse and family gave an equal amount of time supporting, helping, and preparing him for that service. The many-times sacrifices made by a spouse and family were the strengths of the man as he continued his Masonic career. If it were not for the support a spouse gives a man, a Mason, there may not be 50, 60, and 70-year Masons.

On October 21, 2021, Handley Masonic Lodge No. 1140 held a called meeting to award several Brothers 25 and 40 Year Service awards. And, followed that by awarding several 50, 55, and 65 years’ service awards. It was a grand time with dinner, ceremony participation by Lodge Past Masters and 50-year and older Masons. The following Brothers were eligible to receive the following service awards:

FEATURE

25-Year:

Hiram Lee Jackson
Charles Douglas Boggess

40-Year:

George Richard Burt, Jr.,
Michael Joseph DeVito, Sr.
Roy Egbert (Buddy) Bean
Donald C. Brown

50-Year:

John J. Desilets
Larry Lane Kilgore
Gary Eugene Reynolds
Harroll Finlay Watkins

55-Year:

Don Larry Bergeron
Don Lee Cox
Thomas Jack Kell III
Roy Leihman Manly

65-Year:

Reggie Conn Collet
Royce Wayne Williams

Handley Lodge recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, a Past Master and endowed member of Handley Lodge, supported the Lodge celebration as guest speaker, careful to recognize the Past Masters and the many 50 years and over Masons in attendance.

During the October awards ceremony, Worshipful Master Otis Burkett, asked several Past Masters and 50 years and over Masons to participate with the spouses of the awardees in the pinning and escorting of the recipients to the Altar, and to the East. During the presentation and celebration for the men receiving the awards, great pride, a strong binding Brotherhood, and sincere fellowship, flourished with all present. Great moments and sincere appreciation were the hallmark of the evening because of the spirit of Handley Lodge and its members.

Our older members and 50-year Masons of our Lodges, when asked what they need, often answered in the same manner of those asked by our Grand Master at his conferences. They seemed confident in the Brotherhood aspects of their relationships in Masonry, but when probed a little said this; "Fellowship is what is needed for all Masons, both young and senior Masons. As senior Masons, often the days are filled with being a caregiver or being taken care of, or long quiet lonely hours, wishing for company and fellowship with those known for so long."

An important duty of Masons is to care for and fellowship with those who cannot come and go readily, especially those that



The original Lodge Building

Current Handley Lodge Building

need encouragement, assistance or help at home, or to attend Masonic functions.

Our Grand Master has keynoted the importance of fellowship in his governance of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. As we actively participate in the "Bring a Brother Back" initiative we will be fulfilling the needs of our older Masons and will be encouraging them to "let us help." Let's all get on board and participate with our Grand Master.

As we begin this winter season and in particular, the Christmas worship and gifting season, let's give the gift of fellowship. Let's be the one in the "group" to initiate the "Bring a Brother Back" gift to all of our missing Brothers, young and senior alike. Let's be proud Texas Masons, working to build a greater Texas Masons' Fellowship.

In case you want to know, Handley Lodge No.1140 extends an invitation to all Brother Masons to visit the Lodge for fellowship. Handley Lodge meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month for a meal at 6:30 PM and the Stated Meeting at 7:30 PM. The Lodge is located at 2501 Pollard in Fort Worth, Texas 76112. Worshipful Master is Otis Burkett. Contact the Lodge by phone at 817 451-4005 or email at LodgeHandley@gmail.com

In closing this "On the Masonic Road" we hope that each of you have a happy and prosperous, Merry Christmas and a great New Year, and that you will always remember; The best gifts a person can give to one another is love and kindness. Brotherly love is the foundation of Masonic Brotherhood and kindness encompasses all of the positive virtues that identify men of character.

Do something great for a Brother today.

It's great to be a Texas Mason! ★



Maggiano's and The Greatest Lesson Ever

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

It was a Saturday after a particularly tough week at the shop. Pam and I had just sat down at the bar in our favorite eating place. So favorite that we have a standing reservation every Saturday at 5PM to sit at the bar and have a delicious dinner and our favorite adult beverage in the company of a special server named Val. Val is short for Valerie and our favorite place is Maggiano's Little Italy. We have been coming here for several years and when it comes to a nice relaxing and delicious dinner, it is the best. And, it is not only Val. There is also Cynthia and Josh, and the maître d' Eddie who always comes over to say hi and chat, along with several others who we see regularly. Lastly, there is Will the manager who has made it his duty (and I am sure he treats all his customers the same) to make us feel special and to make sure we have a great time. It is no wonder we continue to have our Saturday dinner there.

Now, I know this is a John Deacon, article and you are probably wondering where the heck John is. You all know that over the years I rarely see John except during the week because his job is traveling the great State of Texas calling on his customers. So, I was not even thinking about his hugeness. But just as we were starting to enjoy a fabulous appetizer of fried Zucchini sticks, my phone rang and the display showed it was my Brother Big John Deacon. This presented a bit of a dilemma. Pam was probably not going to be happy with John interrupting our special weekly dinner.

I looked over at her and saw that she had seen the screen name and then all of a sudden the ringing stopped. And as we looked at each other with puzzled looks, my phone started ringing again. Pam

finally broke the spell and said you need to answer it. He may need something important. As I pushed the talk button I thought, "yeah he probably needs something important all right...his belly filled.

"Hey Brother Chris," he said calmly and totally out of character for John. "Sorry to bother you, but I had to come take care of one of my customers just South of San Antonio and I am heading back home." "Are you all right John," I asked a little concerned about his calm demeanor. "You don't sound like your usual self." "I am ok my Brother, but I was hoping I could bend your ear for a few minutes. I need to tell you about something that happened in my Lodge this week. It has left me a little overwhelmed."

"Overwhelmed?? I don't think I have ever heard you use a word that big," I said trying to get him back to being John. I was starting to get a little worried.

"You know," he growled. "I have told you many times that you better not take that comedy show on the road cause it's a loser." Ha ha, now that was the John I knew. What is it that you want to talk about? Can it wait until you come through later this month? Ouch!" Pam, who could hear most of the conversation had just punched my arm and said, "Didn't you hear him say the word overwhelmed? You need to tell him to join us." Knowing I was taking a big chance, I asked him if he wanted to join Pam and me for dinner and I cringed when he said that he hadn't even thought about eating, but realized he was starving. I told him where we were and asked Val if she wanted us to move to a table because John did not partake of adult beverages. She shook her head and said he could join us right at the bar.

When he came in, he spotted us and came over looking and acting like he hadn't a care in the world. He gave Pam a big hug and kiss on the cheek and then proceeded to give me one of his Big John bear hugs. Instead of sitting next to me he sat on the other side of Pam. Val came up and we introduced him and she asked John what he wanted to drink. Boy was I shocked when he said in too loud a voice, with one of our zucchini sticks hanging halfway out of his mouth. "Why, purdy lady, I think I will have me a tall rum and coke with a big lime slice to squeeze in it. Val smiled and arched one eyebrow in my direction and all I could do is hold my arms out and shrug.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Maggianos-and-the-Greatest-Lesson-Ever.pdf> for the rest of the story.



“Masonic Beginnings in Texas, and Part Played by Saint John’s Lodge No.5” – December 1921

By Brother J. P. Underwood, P. M., Columbia, Texas (From a lecture first delivered to Saint John's Lodge No. 5 in 1896.)

The inauguration of Masonry in Texas, and the history of the local lodges, is so intimately interwoven with the early political struggles of our State, that it bears with it peculiar interest, not only to those who are of the mystic tie but also to every Texan who feels a pride in the achievement of that gallant band of patriots who beat back the hordes of barbarous Mexicans from our soil.

For such men as Austin, Houston, Archer, Jones, and the Whartons, whose names are inscribed upon fame’s eternal roll of honor, are prominent among the charter members of the Craft, who gave birth, in the wilderness to our lodge and the Grand Lodge of Texas; now only second, in Its number, wealth and influence among the jurisdictions in the United States – the Grand Lodge of New York only taking precedence over that of Texas.

In 1828 Stephen F. Austin, the political Father of Texas, became essentially the Father of Masonry in this jurisdiction by the organization of a lodge at the town of San Felipe, aided and seconded by a number of worthy brothers.

But the Catholic Church, ever arraying itself against Masonry and all secret societies, used the mighty influence of Church and State to destroy this germ of fraternity, and succeeded all too well through its servile agent, the Mexican government, in accomplishing this end. So for a period of six or seven years Masonry in Texas was dead save in the hearts of the brothers who were devoted to its tenets and principles; but the torch that was lighted upon the altar of Masonry on that memorable occasion was not extinguished, but only smothered for a season, to burn more brightly as a beacon to the good who seek “Light further Light and more Light within the sacred precincts of our Sanctum Sanctorum.”

In the winter of 1834, in a grove near the town of Brazoria, five Master Masons, imbued with the zeal which inspires the Craft, having made themselves known to each other, decided to inaugurate a lodge of their Order in Texas, and It being essential for the accomplishment of this purpose that they should obtain a dispensation from some Masonic Jurisdiction, and knowing that the institution was odious to the Catholic priesthood, who had at that time absolute control of the Mexican government they decided to make application to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a warrant or charter to organize the Masonic Lodge of Texas.

We have today our revered institution as the result of their efforts. The five Master Masons were John A. Wharton, Asa Bringham, James A. E. Phelps, Alexander Russell, and Anson Jones, names that are household words among the descendants of the pioneer Texans,

who built this mighty empire in the wilderness, the greatest among the sisterhood of States. These brethren were afterwards joined by J. P. Caldwell and Warren D. C. Hall, men also eminent in early Texas history.

On the night of December 27, 1834, these brethren met and opened Holland Lodge No. 36, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

About this time or soon thereafter, active hostilities broke out, and the members of the lodge joined the patriot army. The advancing Mexicans under Urea captured Brazoria, and Masonry for a time became extinct as an active organization.

But the tenets and principles of Masonry ever existing in the breasts of the pure and good can no more be destroyed than the godly attributes of justice and truth, and if for a time the persecution of its foes and the corruption of man seem to stamp it out of existence, it eventually arises with renewed strength. So it was with Masonry in Texas. The seed sown by these five brethren fell in good soil, and are today still introducing an abundant harvest.

In 1837, Holland Lodge No. 36 was reorganized under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, but was changed to No. 1 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, which was organized in 1840.

But the identical lodge organized in Brazoria, as previously stated, is not the present Holland Lodge No. 1 domiciled in the city of Houston, but is Saint John’s Lodge No.5 of Columbia, Texas, of which we are the honored members. And through the light of history it is entitled to stand as No. 1 in the Masonic family of Texas, and should be revered as the mother of Masonry in this grand jurisdiction.

The reorganization of the lodge from which we take No.5 was perfected in 1840, by the conjunction of the Masons of Brazoria and of Columbia, they meeting alternately at Brazoria and at Columbia.

Among the names enrolled among its members we find some of the most distinguished sons of Texas; men who have filled the executive chair with credit to themselves and honor to their constituents; and men who have led the Texan armies to victory in their combats for freedom.

Saint John’s Lodge has ever stood high in Masonic circles for its virtues, the character of its Masonic material and its high intellectual attainments.

No Mason Left Behind Project

Provides amputee with home, meals, & fellowship

In April 2021, Larry, age 71, spent most days in his blue Hyundai seeking food and a safe place to park for the night.

His downward spiral began in 2019, when his job driving for Uber evaporated and the pandemic closed in.

As an amputee, Larry's grim situation took on new levels for concern.

In 2014, he fell while attempting to secure the family RV. With his leg broken in three places, he spent six months in a wheelchair. During that time, he battled continuous infections. Finally, his doctors advised amputation.

"I have a lot of determination about me," said Larry.



Martha Pengelly and Floyd Hall were each honored with a desktop award for their personal donations to the No Mason Left Behind Project



"I lost my job as soon as COVID hit. No one needed a ride. And, then I quickly lost almost everything except my car."
 – Larry, age 71

"Ten weeks after the surgery to remove my leg, I was up and walking on my new prosthesis. I'm very independent and try to take care of myself."

However, Larry's grit and courage were not enough to sustain basic needs like food and shelter.

On a day when the things were particularly bleak after losing his job, he said, "I heard a voice. I think it was God saying, 'You're a Mason. There's a place for you.'"

"I felt better right away. I knew about Texas

Masonic Retirement Community (TMRC). I got in touch with Gary Blair, the Superintendent.

Keith Arterburn and the brothers at Krum Lodge helped me with the paperwork."

"I know I've found the right place for me here at Texas Masonic Retirement Community," said Larry.

"I get the help I need. Plus, I have lots of fun and the food is great!"

To help provide eligible Texas Masons and their families with a place to live and enjoy good times, please

consider donating to the No Mason Left Behind Project 2022 online at YourTMRC.org/donate or mail a check to TMRC, 1501 W. Division St., Arlington, TX 76012.

Based on your level of giving, your donation will be honored with wall plaques, desktop awards, and Honor Roll listings on posters, banners, & websites.

Texas Masonic Retirement Community is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, therefore your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Alexander Joseph Di Caro, Jr. MD.

Freemason, Arabia Shrine, Scottish Rite Valley of Houston – 50 year member of each
By jim hoffpaur, staff writer

Alexander Joseph Di Caro, Jr. can only be described as an unusual man and Freemason. In his 81 years of life, he has walked through the pages of history first in the medical field, in the 1960s when he participated in the growth of the world-famous Houston medical complex. Then, as a Freemason where his adventures in the Scottish Rite and Shrine, have been remarkable.

Brother Di Caro was born of Hispanic heritage, grew up in Houston, and is married to Sandra Whitman, also in the field as a Medical Assistant. From a previous marriage Di Caro was blessed with two sons: Gregory and Bryan, and sixteen grandchildren ranging in ages from twenty-five to eight-month-old Zachery. Di Caro's father, Alexander Joseph, Sr., was a 60-year Freemason. Di Caro is a fifth-generation Mason himself.

Dr. Di Caro's Masonic history is quite extensive. He was raised to the degree of Master Mason at Gray Lodge No. 329 in September of 1970. He endowed as a 32° member of the Houston Valley of the Scottish Rite, and the Houston Arabia Shrine in 1971. He has been Medical Director of the Arabia Shrine for 38 years, served on its Board of Directors nine years, currently serves as Director of the Band, and is also acting Health and Safety Coordinator. He is 2nd Vice President of the Orchestra, and a member of the Dance Band. He has served as Medical Director for Imperial Sessions 141 and 148 – just held in Houston 2021 – for Shriners International based out of Tampa, FL. Di Caro joined the Shrine at the behest of Dr. Gordon Kibler over a beer after work one afternoon. Kibler, now deceased, was a Blue-Lodge member of Concordia Lodge No. 345 in Cleveland, OH, and also served the Arabia Shrine as Medical Director at the time.

Di Caro went into the service as a combat medic after high school. He was stationed with the 8th Medical Battalion in Germany as an Xray Radiologist. An explosion on the base left him with hearing loss and a head wound. He was sent to Walter Reed Hospital in Maryland, and due to 90% hearing loss he received a medical discharge after three years of service. He attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and received a medical degree before serving his residency in an Army hospital in San Antonio. He also attended the Common Wealth College of Science and Pathology in Maryland. He then wrote a paper 'Toxicity of Metal Particles Invitro' for Cambridge University in Cambridge, England in conjunction with the Bone and Joint Journal – to Orthopedic Surgeons International.

Upon completing his medical training, Di Caro went home to Houston and joined Herman Hospital to teach radiology. Later, he joined the surgical team of Doctors Denton Cooley and Grady Hallman at St. Luke's Children's Hospital. There he assisted as a standby surgeon, radiologist, and monitored the circulation of blood using heart-lung machine pump equipment. He also contributed to the development of oxygenator heart lung monitors for the team. After surgery he observed monitoring equipment in the recovery room.

Due to a fire on the launch platform in January 1967, which resulted in the loss of Freemasons Virgil Grissom and Edward White, as well as fellow astronaut Roger Caffee, space suits became a real focus, and NASA began to investigate metallurgy, heat transfer, and gases in space, etc. NASA had no biomedical group on site. However, through the efforts of PE licensed



Dr. A.J. Di Caro who presently is a 50 yr. Mason, Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.



Dr. Bloodwell and Dr. Di Caro in surgery.



Inside the Coronary Recovery Area of the nurses station looking at the patients, as well as the heart monitoring system of which was reised for utilization and post-operative coronary patients.



NASA developed a program to manage and monitor the life support system of the astronauts. This included the development of electrodes that can conform to the body and also function within the space suits.



Medical staff for Imperial Session 2021. From left to right: patient in wheelchair; Barry Podwin, MA, EMT; Craig Bruner, MA, EMT; Sandra Di Caro, MA; Dr. A.J. Di Caro, Medical Director; Henry Gonzalez, MA.

There he assisted as a standby surgeon, radiologist, and monitored the circulation of blood using heart-lung machine pump equipment.

engineer Ed Petrash, Di Caro, due to his work with the Cooley – Hallman group, got involved with the Johnson Space team.

“We studied electrocardiograms (EKGs) for God knows how long,” remembers Di Caro. EKGs record electrical signals from the heart when attached to the human chest. “A group of us were selected to explore development and implementation of the devices within the space suit. This project jump started the field of Biomedical Engineering. A joint venture between Houston cardiac medicine and NASA.”

Dr. Di Caro’s venture into forensic medicine pretty much followed the same path as most of his other adventures. During the days of the NASA project Di Caro and fellow physician Ken Johnson investigated an issue with heart monitors manufactured by a firm in Georgia. The issue: four of the alarms were sounding, and patients were dying; within a week and a half they lost several patients. The monitors were taken out of service and it was discovered that the wiring was going to ground and reversing currents. Instead of monitoring, the units threw electricity back to the heart in alternating – not direct – currents. “Instead of defibrillating the organ, the equipment was fibrillating it,” declared Di Caro. “Who is the insurance company. We have a subrogation case on our hands.” After tireless work and investigation, the issue was eventually solved.

Off goes Di Caro to visit Royal Globe Insurance who, at the time, had St. Luke’s liability coverage. After a fruitful conversation about the monitor case the office agent handling the case asked Di Caro if he had enough time to look into a few other issues on his desk. Di Caro looked at his watch and mentioned that he wanted to get back to the hospital that afternoon. “It will only take a short time” turned into dinner, drinks, and a very long evening as they drifted through ten or twelve pending cases. Offhandedly, the agent asked Di Caro for his home address. A week or so later a check came from the firm for \$7,500.

Wondering minds tending to wander as is often the case, Dr. Di Caro was struck with the notion “If they are having these issues and paying this kind of money, there is a good chance others are too.” It wasn’t long before he had made himself known to other insurance and law firms seeking help in his field of expertise.

He soon left St. Luke’s and opened his own business – Di Caro & Associates – in Houston. By 1978 he had moved the company to San Antonio and renamed it Analytical Group and took on twelve to fifteen partners. Analytical now has branch offices in Houston, Brownsville, McAllen, and Monterrey, Mexico. The firm offers expertise in forensic medicine, independent medical exams of alleged certain injury types, vehicular, plant, and structural failure analysis. The total staff at one time exceeded sixty individuals specializing as scientists, chemical, structural, and bioengineers, and medical specialists.

To be continued in the Spring 2022 issue of the *Texas Freemason*.



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.

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

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



Grand Lodge Committee Profile

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

One of the very important Grand Lodge of Texas Committees is the Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation. The committee is noted for its silence and decorum while in work and the results of the committee's work are professionally maintained in a high decorum of reporting, on a need to know basis. The committee is bound by professional ethics while attempting to resolve all Masonic Charges, if filed, in any and all Texas Masonic Lodges, on order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas.

The Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation is a permanent committee with each member of the committee serving seven years. There are two areas of jurisdiction, with two Chairmen and two Vice Chairmen assigned by the Grand Master of Texas.

The following lawfully describes the Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation, its work, lines of authority and reporting structure:

Art. 126f. Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation Nos. 1 and 2.

1. *Mediation defined. (a) Mediation is a forum in which an impartial person, the mediator, facilitates communication between parties to promote reconciliation, settlement, or understanding among them; (b) A mediator may not impose his own judgment on the issues for that of the parties.*
2. *Committee No. 1 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all cases pending in Lodges physically located west of Interstate Highway 45 and US Highway 75 North. Committee No. 2 shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all cases pending in Lodges physically located east of Interstate Highway 45 and US Highway 75 North.*
3. *Any Lodge in which Masonic Charges are filed shall refer such pending charges within 10 days of receipt of the same through their District Deputy Grand Master, to the Grand Master, who may refer it to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Mediation having jurisdiction over its location for binding mediation. The Committee shall proceed to attempt to resolve the charges, if possible, within 30 days of the referral, and report the result to the Grand Master and Worshipful Master of the Lodge in which such charges have been filed.*

The Committee may not act in a manner calculated to abridge or curtail rights granted or protected by the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, or Prakash Paulin matters involving prosecutions for alleged civil/criminal violations, the laws of the State of Texas or any other State, or of the United States of America. Mediation is binding when signed by the parties thereto. A breach of the terms of the mediation agreement shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation that is subject to Masonic discipline pursuant to the provision of Title 5 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Adopted 2000)

If there are questions or comments on the workings of the Grand Lodge Committee on Mediation, contact one of the two Chairmen for Committee No. 1 or 2. The Chairmen are:

Committee No.1: Right Worshipful Jimmy Emmons, at 214-212-5501

Committee No.2: Brother John W. Dunn, at 936-328-7760

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

George Washington Bible Foundation

By Joseph Sticca



The GW Bible foundation (GWbible.org) was founded to preserve, protect and restore not only the George Washington Inaugural Bible but also early colonial American artifacts and/or documents. While our primary focus has been the George Washington Bible we are looking more into expanding our efforts to restore and protect early American artifacts and documents to enable American educational studies. We are in the midst of formulating a process to seek out, evaluate and provide resources to organizations who have educational needs in support of early colonial American artifacts and documents. As part of this process we will be looking to create a special "historical" committee of experts to evaluate organizations that are in need of preservation services, in support of their educational goals. Our efforts in providing these preservation services come through donations (e.g. www.GWbible.org, mini replica bibles, etc.) and fundraising events. If you like to be kept informed of future events or campaigns please go to WWW.ABC to leave your contact information and opt into our communications.

On April 30th, 1789 George Washington took his oath as the first president of the United States on this Bible. The ceremony took place in the open gallery of the city Hall (later to become Federal hall https://www.npca.org/parks/federal-hall-national-memorial?gclid=CjwKCAjwybyJBhBwEiwAvz4G7915FlhjVO_IFVM-FXNkg8nVlzN-HjJExO9d4HouL8bmnuq0iQ6_WQBoCZWUQAvD_BwE on Wall Street, New York City. This important ceremony was performed by the most Worshipful Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, the Honorable Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State.

The Bible has been in the possession of St. John's Lodge No. 1 A.Y.M. in New York, NY since 1770. Lower Manhattan burned down on March 8, 1770, including the Lodge, and was rebuilt in November 1770. Jonathan Hampton was then the Master and he provided a new Bible for the Lodge since it had lost all its furniture, regalia and equipment in the fire. The front and back covers of the Bible bear the following inscription: "God shall establish; St. John's Lodge constituted 5757; Burnt down 8th March, 5770; Rebuilt and opened November 28th, 5770. Officers then presiding: Jonathan Hampton, Master: William Butler, Senior Warden: Isaac Heron, Junior Warden."

Over time, this Bible had been used for the Inaugurations of Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush. The Bible was intended to be used by George W. Bush's Inauguration, but the inclement weather did not permit it. However, in case the weather improved, the Bible was present in the capitol building in the care of three St. John's Masonic Lodge members.

In addition to its inaugural duties, the Bible has been utilized in the funeral processions of President George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor. It has also been used at the cornerstone laying of the U.S. Capitol, the dedication of the Washington Monument, the centennials of the cornerstone laying of the White House, U.S Capitol Building and the Statue of Liberty, the 1964 World's Fair as well as the launching of the aircraft carrier George Washington.

Additional famous events, uses and details:

- o The laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol Building by George Washington in 1793 (and its Masonic rededication on September 1993).
- o The laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument in 1885 (and its re-dedication in 1998).
- o The laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Arch in New York City in 1890.
- o The laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Memorial Building in Alexandria, VA in 1923.
- o It is believed to have been present at the laying of the cornerstone to the plinth to support the Statue of Liberty.
- o It was present in the Funeral processions of Presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Zachary Taylor.
- o It was also exhibited at the 1964 World Fair in New York.
- o On December 20, 1874, His Royal Highness David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands, kissed the Bible after his Third Degree Obligation at New York Lodge No. 330.
- o In 1919, when Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) visited New York City as a young man, and being a Mason, he visited the Grand Lodge building and was presented a miniature Bible for his collection. He signed a second copy which is in possession of the Lodge.
- o Walter Cronkite took his Obligation when he was presented with the highest honor of the Order of DeMolay, upon the Bible.

Some Additional Inaugural Bible Facts

The only people allowed to take an oath/obligation on the Bible are:

- o The President of the United States
- o The Governor of New York
- o The Grand Master of New York Masons
- o The Master-elect of St. John's Lodge No1. A.Y.M , New York
- o Third Degree Candidates of St. John's Lodge No1. A.Y.M , New York

It contains 103 steel engravings of maps and Old Testament scenes by the English Artist John Stuart.

There is a tradition that, when a President takes his oath of office upon the Bible, he is presented with two miniatures, signed by the Master and Secretary of the Lodge, which the President also signs. One is returned to the Lodge for its archives; the other placed in the Presidential Library. Extra copies of these miniature replica Bibles are available for sale to Masons and to the general public from time to time.

Prior to the opening of the 2013 Grand Annual Communication in Waco, the Bible was on display at Tennyson Middle School <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvJxsqWud9c>, that afternoon it was taken to the Grand Lodge to be viewed by the attendees. On Saturday, the Bible was placed on the Altar during the Installation of Grand Master Jerry Martin and his 2014 Grand Lodge Officers. After Grand Lodge, the Bible was then taken to Austin and on display at the LBJ Library and The State Capitol Building.

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-BLKBT	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



Winter: A Dirge

By Brother Robert Burns

The wintry west extends his blast,
And hail and rain does blaw;
Or the stormy north sends driving forth
The blinding sleet and snaw:
While, tumbling brown, the burn comes down,
And roars frae bank to brae;
And bird and beast in covert rest,
And pass the heartless day.

“The sweeping blast, the sky o’ercast,”
The joyless winter day
Let others fear, to me more dear
Than all the pride of May:
The tempest’s howl, it soothes my soul,
My griefs it seems to join;
The leafless trees my fancy please,
Their fate resembles mine!

Thou Power Supreme, whose mighty scheme
These woes of mine fulfil,
Here firm I rest; they must be best,
Because they are Thy will!
Then all I want—O do Thou grant
This one request of mine!—
Since to enjoy Thou dost deny,
Assist me to resign.

