

# SPRINGFIELD LODGE #217 AF&AM

Chartered February 12, 1958

April 2026  
Issue 4



MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD  
GUIDING LIGHT

wmspringfield217@gmail.com

[www.springfield217.org](http://www.springfield217.org)

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																									
			1	2	3	4																																																																																									
5 Easter	6	7 Stated Meeting @ 7:30pm DEO Presentation	8 Fort Hunt-Skidmore Stated 11:00am	9	10	11																																																																																									
12 Rainbow Girls 5:00pm	13 Occoquan Stated 7:30pm	14 Ritual Practice @ 7:00pm Cleop's Needle Presentation @ Mt Carmel Lodge No. 13	15 Order of the Eastern Star 7:30pm	16	17 Dale City Stated 7:30pm	18																																																																																									
19 DeMolay 3:00pm	20 John A. Lejeune Stated 7:00pm	21 Ritual Practice @ 7:00pm	22 District School @ 7:00pm	23	24	25																																																																																									
26 Rainbow Girls 5:00pm	27 Mount Vernon Stated 7:30pm	28 Officers' Meeting @ 6:00pm Ritual Practice @ 7:00pm	29	30																																																																																											
		<p>March 2026</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p>May 2026</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							Notes:
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Upcoming	Date	What to Expect
April Stated Meeting	4/7/2026 7:30 pm	- Quarterly report of Lodge activities - Presentation by our DEO, WB Alfred Tecson

### Recent Highlights:

- DDGM Official Visit to Springfield Lodge (page 5)
- Multiple Official Visits to Occoquan Lodge and Dale City Lodge (page 5)
- Cleopatra's Needle Presentation at Naval Lodge #4 (page 6)
- Passing two brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft (page 6)

# AROUND THE LODGE

## April Masonic Birthdays

Sherwyn Anabo	3 years	Charles Mercer	53 years
Michael Beck	3 years	Chris Nittle	26 years
Romano Calma	3 years	Jared Nystrom	2 years
Fernando Casaje	49 years	Ulysses Pascua	30 years
George Chapin	57 years	David Pell	39 years
Ryan Cvik	3 years	Henry Quinto	3 years
Jason Dillon	4 years	Evan Reese	24 years
Jose Eijansantos	3 years	Sundeepr Ruprai	7 years
George Hall	62 years	Kamal Soni	28 years
Henry Hansen	49 years	Renz Tabil	2 years
Chris Kater	18 years	Eddie Toler	38 years
Tony Marquez	3 years		

**MASONIC BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS** are encouraged to attend Lodge so we can recognize your special day.

## April Birthdays

Evan Reese	April 3	James Alderson	April 22
Mark Hobbs	April 7	Ryan VandenHeuvel	April 22
Michael Beck	April 10	Sam Flores	April 23
Michael Cook	April 13	Sukhwinder Ruprai	April 23
Bayani Pioquinto	April 13	Michael Ramirez	April 27
Mark Tudor	April 14	Nicolas Christian	April 28
Reynaldo Costa	April 17	Roy Eller	April 28
Alfred Tecson	April 19	Phillip Sager	April 29
Larry Johnson	April 20	Carlos Farfan	April 30
Jesus Marin	April 20		

### 50-year Members

Kenneth Richard Sheesly	Raised March 29, 1976
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### 25-year Members

Jon Kevin Carpenter	Raised November 28, 2000
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Franklin Ray Yarboro	Raised May 22, 2001
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### 10-year Members

Michael John Brennan	Raised December 8, 2015
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John Joseph Pardalis	Raise December 5, 2015
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Tyler James Cousins	Raised January 9, 2016
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## Hosting the District Deputy Grand Master

We kicked off March on a high note by hosting the **DDGM for his Official Visit** during our Stated Meeting on **March 3**. It was an honor to welcome the Deputy and his delegation to Springfield Lodge No. 217 for this significant evening of inspection and fellowship. The night was a great success, allowing us to showcase our Lodge's vitality and receive a timely message from the Grand East as we continue to build upon our goals for the year.



## Traveling and Fellowship

March was a month defined by getting out and seeing the District in action. On March 9, a strong delegation from Springfield headed to **Occoquan Lodge #310** for an Official Visit and to deliver the traveling gavel. Later in the month, on March 20, we hit the road again for an Official Visit to **Dale City Lodge #319**. These trips are a great way to support our neighbors and see how other lodges conduct their labors.

## Fraternal Travels and a Lodge Staple

Our month of traveling was highlighted by an official visit to **Naval Lodge No. 4** in Washington, D.C. During our time in the District, we were honored to present our signature Masonic Education program: **Cleopatra's Needle**. This presentation is a true cornerstone and staple product of our Lodge, having been developed by our own members and shared with the Craft for decades. It was a privilege to bring this long-standing Springfield tradition to one of the oldest lodges in D.C., exploring the ancient history and Masonic symbolism behind the great obelisk and further strengthening the bonds between our two jurisdictions.



## Advancing the Craft

We closed out a productive month by conferring the **Fellowcraft Degree** on Brothers **Zach Van Nuy** and **Owen Bliss** during a called communication on **March 31**. Both brothers have shown great dedication to their studies, and seeing them take this second step in their Masonic journey was a proud moment for the Lodge.

I want to extend a sincere **thank you** to all the Brethren who stepped up to fill the chairs and deliver the lectures. Degree work is a team effort, and your commitment to excellence on the floor ensures that our newest Fellowcrafts received an experience they won't soon forget. Please join me in congratulating Zach and Owen as they continue their transition from the "Rough" to the "Perfect" Ashlar.



# THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

**Dear Brethren,**

March was a busy and productive month for Springfield 217. From the DDGM's Official Visit to our three official visits, the energy in the Lodge has been fantastic. It is a privilege to see the benches filled and the Craft engaged in our shared traditions.

As we move into April, we are shifting our focus toward the "living stones" of our Lodge—our candidates—and the personal fellowship that keeps our fraternity strong. Of note, we passed two brothers from Entered Apprentices to Fellowcrafts at the end of March.

## **The Work of the Craft**

Our **Catechism practices** continue every Tuesday at 6:45 PM. Watching our new brothers move through their proficiency is a reminder of the strong foundations we are all building together. If you have an hour to spare on a Tuesday, please stop by. Your support and mentorship are the best gifts we can offer a new Mason.

In addition, WB Kris Bough our Lodge Instructor of Work has plenty of wisdom and masonic education to share every Tuesday as we learn about our ritual and more. I know I've personally learned a lot from him just in the past few months.

## **Looking Ahead**

With more degree work planned in the coming months, we are always looking for brothers who want to step onto the floor. Whether it's a small part or a lecture, we have a place for you. Please reach out to me or the Wardens if you'd like to get involved.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Craft and to each other. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Stated Communication on **April 7**.

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## **Lodge Updates & Calls to Action**

1. **Modernizing Our Communications:** To ensure every Brother stays informed while reducing postage costs, we are updating our digital directory. Currently, only 110 of our 218 members are on our email list.
  - o **Action:** Please email WB Sam Flores (slsecretary@gmail.com) and myself (wmspringfield217@gmail.com) to confirm your current email address.
  - o **Join the "Lodge Lounge":** We have launched a group chat on the Signal app for real-time updates. Reach out to any officer to be added.
2. **Website Refresh:** Our website ([www.springfield217.org](http://www.springfield217.org)) is undergoing a total transformation. Look for the "New and Improved" site to go live in the coming months.

Blessings to all of you, S&F,  
Jason Dillon  
Master, 2026

[wmspringfield217@gmail.com](mailto:wmspringfield217@gmail.com)



# SECRETARY'S CORNER

APRIL 2026

Dear Brethren:

Fraternal Greetings and Happy Spring!!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all the Brothers who have sent their dues payments for the year 2026, especially those making generous donations to our very own Springfield Lodge No. 217 and to the Masonic Home of Virginia.

## **Our Third dues notices are coming out soon for the remaining few...**

If you don't have your dues cards for 2026 please send in your dues payments as soon as you can. And if your dues are current and have not received your dues card, please contact me right away. We might have an incorrect mailing address for you.

Remember if you need anything from me the secretary or your lodge please do not hesitate to contact me at (slsecretary217@gmail.com) or send me a text or call me at 202-641-0195.

We are always here for you our dear brothers of Springfield Lodge,

And should there be changes in your situation or information please reach out to your lodge.

HAPPY EASTER!!!

Take care and be safe.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Bro. Sam Flores, PM

Secretary

[slsecretary217@gmail.com](mailto:slsecretary217@gmail.com)

202-641-0195

# MASONIC EDUCATION

## *From Youth to the Sublime: The Journey of the Master Mason*

Bro. Ryan Cvik, Chaplain

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The path to becoming a Master Mason is more than a simple progression of titles; it is a profound transformation of the self, moving from the vigor of youth to the enlightened wisdom of maturity. In the final stages of being "raised" to the degree of Master Mason, the candidate undergoes a symbolic preparation that aligns their physical, mental, and spiritual faculties with the higher principles of the Craft.

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### The Rite of Circumambulation

A central element of this transition is **circumambulation**—a formal procession around the altar. This ancient religious rite serves several symbolic purposes:

- **Harmony with the Universe:** The candidate is said to walk in harmony with the sun, connecting Freemasonry to sacred traditions of the past.
- **The Masonic Triad:** In the Master Mason Degree, this circuit is performed three times, representing the core virtues of **Faith, Hope, and Charity**.
- **Spiritual Readiness:** By this stage, the Mason's physical nature is purified, his mental faculties are sharpened, and he is ready to receive the **Trowel**—a symbol of the soul's relationship with the Spirit.

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### The Illumination of Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

The journey is further illuminated by the poignant verses of **Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**, which serve as a metaphorical map of human life and its eventual return to the Divine. This scripture urges the Mason to "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," where "remembering" signifies a call to **reverence, honor, and worship**.

The text uses vivid imagery to describe the "evil days" of old age—the natural decline of the physical "house":

- **The Keepers of the House (Hands and Arms):** They begin to tremble with age.
- **The Strong Men (Legs):** They bow as the body loses its former strength.
- **The Windows (Eyes):** Vision grows dim and "darkened".
- **The Doors (Ears):** Hearing weakens as the world outside grows quiet.
- **The Almond Tree:** Represents the flourishing of gray hair, turning white like the tree's blossoms.

## The Final Return

The passage concludes with the striking imagery of a golden lamp crashing as its silver cord is loosed, symbolizing the extinguishing of the light of life. Yet, for the Master Mason, this is not a message of despair, but of completion. It teaches that while the dust of the body must return to the earth, the spirit returns to God who gave it.

This transition represents the ultimate goal of "making good men better"—moving from the youthfulness of the **Entered Apprentice** through the manhood of the **Fellow Craft** to the maturity, wisdom, and knowledge of the **Master Mason**.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

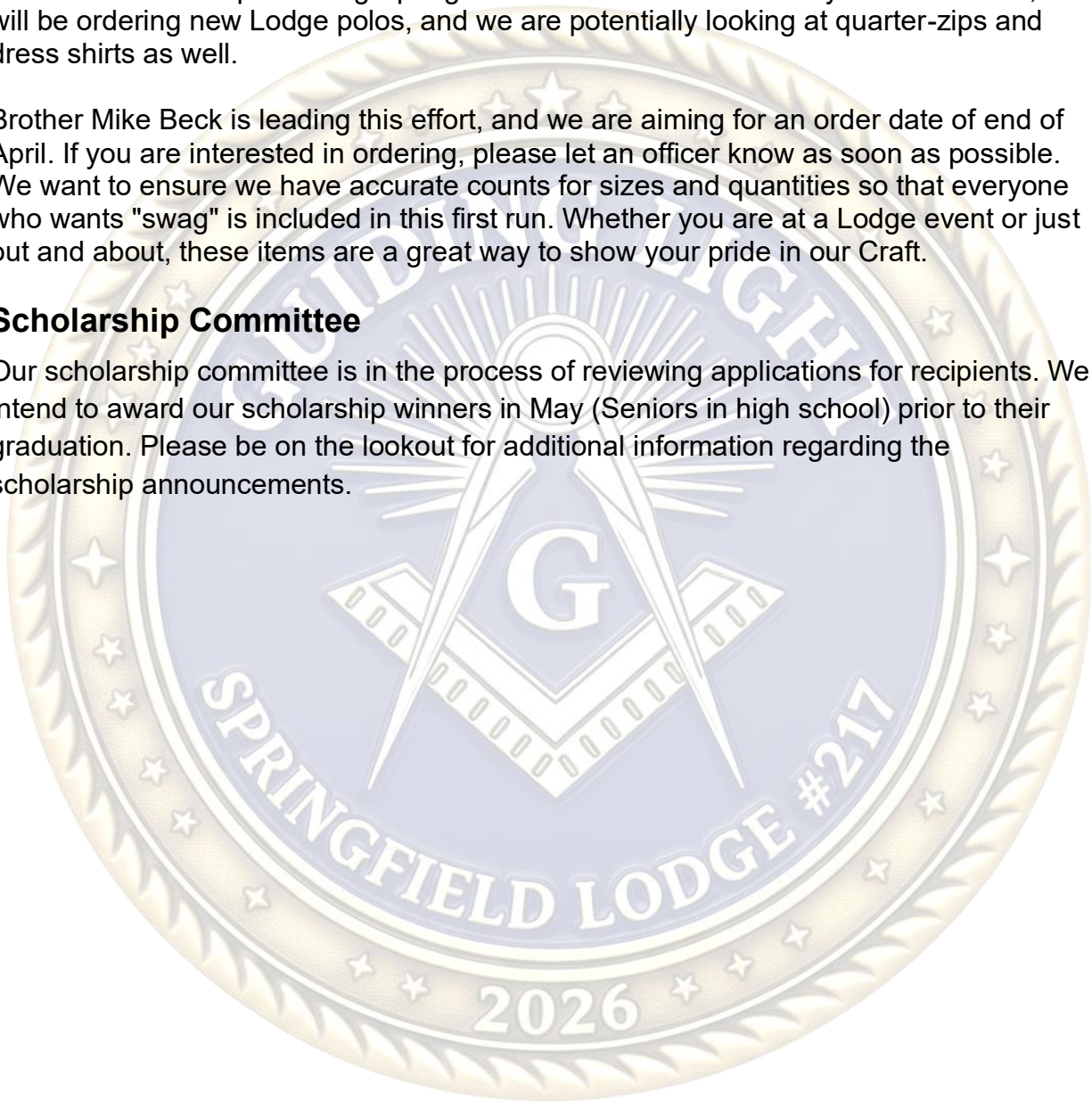
## **Lodge Merchandise and Swag**

We are in the process of finalizing new designs for our Lodge merchandise, and I am excited to see us representing Springfield 217 out in the community. At a minimum, we will be ordering new Lodge polos, and we are potentially looking at quarter-zips and dress shirts as well.

Brother Mike Beck is leading this effort, and we are aiming for an order date of end of April. If you are interested in ordering, please let an officer know as soon as possible. We want to ensure we have accurate counts for sizes and quantities so that everyone who wants "swag" is included in this first run. Whether you are at a Lodge event or just out and about, these items are a great way to show your pride in our Craft.

## **Scholarship Committee**

Our scholarship committee is in the process of reviewing applications for recipients. We intend to award our scholarship winners in May (Seniors in high school) prior to their graduation. Please be on the lookout for additional information regarding the scholarship announcements.



# CONTACT INFO

## 2026 LODGE OFFICERS

Jason Dillon	<a href="mailto:wmspringfield217@gmail.com">wmspringfield217@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jasonydillon@gmail.com">jasonydillon@gmail.com</a>	(301) 980-0213	Worshipful Master
Mario Clanor	<a href="mailto:mclanor1@yahoo.com">mclanor1@yahoo.com</a>	(571) 224-3653	Senior Warden
Mike Beck	<a href="mailto:mike.w.beck@gmail.com">mike.w.beck@gmail.com</a>	(314) 807-2719	Junior Warden
Kevin Torres	<a href="mailto:sltreasurer217@gmail.com">sltreasurer217@gmail.com</a>	(917) 601-9337	Treasurer
Sam Flores	<a href="mailto:slsecretary217@gmail.com">slsecretary217@gmail.com</a>	(202) 641-0195	Secretary
Renz Tabil	<a href="mailto:trenzoliver@gmail.com">trenzoliver@gmail.com</a>	(202) 894-1649	Senior Deacon
Jared Nystrom	<a href="mailto:nystromjared@gmail.com">nystromjared@gmail.com</a>	(520) 678-8203	Junior Deacon
Jeff Lavallee	<a href="mailto:Straygoose1@gmail.com">Straygoose1@gmail.com</a>	(703) 994-6504	Senior Steward
Matt Wall	<a href="mailto:mowall1876@gmail.com">mowall1876@gmail.com</a>	(540) 717-7153	Junior Steward
Ryan Cvik	<a href="mailto:rgcvik@gmail.com">rgcvik@gmail.com</a>	(571) 275-5145	Chaplain
Rick Tolentino	<a href="mailto:ricardotolentinojr@gmail.com">ricardotolentinojr@gmail.com</a>	(619) 952-7694	Marshal
Mel Geminiano	<a href="mailto:mlgeminiano@yahoo.com">mlgeminiano@yahoo.com</a>	(904) 881-4579	Tiler

## TRUSTEES

WB Dan Abarquez, PM

WB Kris Bough, PM

RW Romi Capuno, PDDGM

## PROGRAM OFFICERS

**Lodge Instructor of Work**

WB Kris Bough, PM

**Lodge Blood Coordinator**

Bro. Jeff Lavallee

**Lodge Education Officer**

WB Peter Terrill, PM

**MAHOVA Ambassador**

Bro. Fernando Aquino

**Lodge Catechism Chair**

WB Ramon Llamas, PM

**Lodge Scholarship Coordinator**

WB Kris Bough, PM

**Prospect Manager**

Bro. Jared Nystrom

# STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee	Chair	Functions	Lead
Steering	Jason Dillon	Strategic Planning	Jason Dillon
		Finance & Investment	Kevin Torres
		Audit & Reporting	Mario Clanor
Membership	Mario Clanor	Candidates & New Members	Renz Tabil Jared Nystrom
		Investigative	Mario Clanor
		Philanthropy & Charity	Fernando Aquino
		Funeral Services	Alfred Tecson
Masonic Family	Mike Beck	Social & Refreshment	Jeff Lavallee Matt Wall
		Sunshine (Sickness & Distress)	Tyler Cousins
		Widow's	Halim Ezzedine
		Appendant Bodies & Youth	Sam Flores Jared Nystrom
Lodge Operations	Renz Tabil	Building & Grounds	Dan Abarquez
		Education & Ritual	Kris Bough Peter Terrill
		History & Archive	Renz Tabil

# AFFILIATED BODIES

Fort Hunt-Skidmore Daytime Lodge #353	Ernesto Hernandez, III, WM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month at 11:00 am
Order of the Easter Star Nellie Custis Chapter #169	Susan Geisler, Worthy Matron	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Order of DeMolay, Woodlawn Chapter	Esteban Aquino Isasi, Master Councilor	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 3:00 pm
International Order of Rainbow Girls, Springfield Assembly #14	Abby Nystrom, Worthy Advisor	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5:00 pm

# THANK YOU

<b>Living Past Masters</b>			
George Harry Chapin, PGM	1975	Guilford Christopher Kater	2013
Barry Alan Mensh	1987	Jay Jesus Zayas	2014
Lee Neal Schofield	1996	Daniel Cabayan Abarquez	2015
Larry Edwin Johnson	1998	Christian Bautista Alfonso	2016
Ernesto Cacal Apaga	2000	Walter Frank Thomas	2017
Sukhwinder Singh Rupral	2002	Samuel Abarquez Flores, Jr.	2018
Noe Rondina Poblete	2003	Fabio De Vera Crisostomo	2019
John Wesley Pearson	2004	Michael Patrick McGrath II	2020
Norberto Manimtim Chavez	2005	Kristopher John Bough	2021
Donald Joseph Ridley	2007	Kevin Edgar Torres	2022
Romulo Magnaye Capuno	2008	Tyler James Cousins	2023
Peter Edward Terrill	2010	Leomeldo Layag Geminiano	2024
Alfred Castro Tecson	2012	Thomas Francis Nance IV	2025

<b>Legacy Members in Perpetuity</b>	
Daniel C. Abarquez	Warren L. Henderson
James M. Alderson	Charles P. Hurley
Christian B. Alfonso	Dwight G. Hutchinson, III
Michael T. Andrews	Larry E. Johnson
Ernesto C. Apaga	Guilford C. Kater
Stephen R. Autry	Charles A. Kimmey
Robert J. Bartruff, Sr.	Michael J. Kuhlmann
Michael W. Beck	Ramon M. Llamas
Walter P. Benesch	William U. MacBrayne
James S. Boren	Michael P. McGrath, II
Kristopher J. Bough	Barry A. Mensh
James A. Brown	Charles D. Mercer
Drew H. Buckley	Joshua A. Messersmith
Ronald D. Butler	Thomas M. Ogles, Jr.
Romula M. Capuno	Gerald C. Pate
George H Chapin, PGM	John W. Pearson
Norberto M. Chavez	Bayani E. Pioquinto
Paul F. Coles	Jesse H. Procter
Fabio D. Crisostomo	Sukhwinder S. Ruprai
Ryan G. Cvik	Sundeeep S. Ruprai
David O. Doss	Lee N. Schofield
Roy A. Eller	Peter E. Terrill
Samuel A. Flores, Jr.	Walter F. Thomas

Jeffrey R. Fuller	James C. Vandeneuvel
Timothy R Gibbs	David K. Waller
Allen L. Gibson	Jacob B. Waltermire, Jr.
Matthew T. Gilchrist	Jeffery L. Westbrook
Mark A. Harford	William A. White
Jeffrey L. Harrison	Franklin R. Yarboro
Marcus A. Harrison, III	

