

EL PASO SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN



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1ST QUARTER 2025

Message from the Venerable Master



I remember the day Brother Joshua and I were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. After the Degree was over Illustrious Brother Tom Higgins approached us and said you can now become Scottish Rites Masons and there is no memory work. Which at that time sounded pretty good! That was in December 2015. The following April we attended the April Reunion. When there were enough Master Masons wanting to join there were two Reunions a year. A one-day Reunion in April and the other in October, a two day Reunion.

Brother Joshua and I started attending the Stating Meetings. Illustrious Brother Higgins always greeted us by our first names. As did other Brothers when they got to know us. That makes for a good feeling. We noticed right away that the more we were active, the more we were able to get of out Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

That following October we showed up and helped with the Reunion. Illustrious Brother Joseph Bailey handed Brother Joshua and I a Duck baseball cap and we became Members of the "Ducks". The Ducks are Brothers who set up the sceneries, props and whatnot back stage for the various Degrees. They are the Brothers behind the scene. You can recognize them by their Duck Hats. This is a very fun and special way to participate at the reunions, a long line of Brothers have served as Ducks throughout the many years the Temple has been in operation.

In those days breakfast was cooked and served. Brothers in the kitchen would prepare the breakfast, all doing various things such as baking biscuits, frying bacon and sausage. I myself would be scrambling eggs, flinging hash browns with a spatula in each hand. That made for Brotherhood, camaraderie and an overall good time. This was always considered as a good way to participate and serve your fellow Brothers.

Once you are initiated and become a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and start to attend the Stated Meetings you'll see that there is a certain hierarchy, an order of things. The best thing I can say is "be active", attend the meetings, the Reunions as well as other special events. They are all truly a good time. Get involved with the Degrees. Find a Degree Master and tell him you want to be part of it. Become a Duck. Help with the meals. Participate in any way you see fit to provide for the Brothers and make your experience at the Scottish Rite worthwhile.

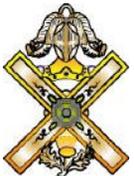
If you have aspirations of becoming a Knight of Saint Andrews, the embodiment of the 29th Degree, talk to a Brother with a Glengary hat. All of your participation will be recognized. Eventually you will be part of the Four Bodies and maybe eventually you too may sit in the East as head of one of those bodies.

I am currently the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection. In the past I was Wise Master of Rose Croix. No matter the positions I have held in the Scottish Rite, all have been very rewarding experiences in my life. I don't believe I did anything special to receive those honors other than being active. Although there is an order to things there is no guarantee. I always have been humble when nominated and elected to an office as I was about being elected Venerable Master. Simply by being active you too could also have the honor of receiving these positions.

Many of the Brothers saw all the damage done by the devastating attack on our Temple. Some have not. Our Temple has been brought back to its former beauty by dedicated Brothers, such as Illustrious Brother Larry Kane, Illustrious Nicholas Quarm and Honorable Brother Juan Navarro, and a host of many other Brethren whom I don't know their names. They should be applauded and praised for the exceptional work they have done. We are always in need and welcome any Brother who is willing to lend a hand with building upkeep and maintenance. The same can be said with any Brother who is willing to become active in the line of leadership. I am proud and honored to serve as Venerable Master.

Fraternally,

Brother Mark P. Miller, 32°



The Scottish Rite Masonic Temple

By Jean Carlo Sanchez, 32°

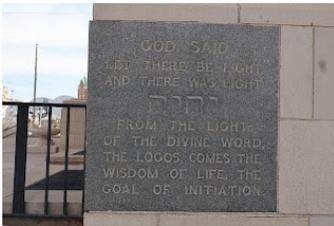


Every city has its special corners—those places that seem to tell stories to those who stop and listen. In El Paso, Texas, one such place is the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple. It is not just an impressive building; it is a silent witness to generations of Masons who have walked through its doors, seeking wisdom, brotherhood, and personal growth.

From day one, the construction of this temple was marked by a very special tradition: the "Cornerstone" ceremony. In the Masonic world, placing the cornerstone is not just a symbolic act but a declaration of intent. It represents the solid foundation upon which not only a physical place is built but also the values that will guide those who inhabit it. This ceremony, filled with solemnity and meaning, took place in 1921 and marked the beginning of a story that continues to be written. The event included the participation of El Paso's mayor, civic leaders, and Scottish Rite Masons, along with Masonic brethren from other jurisdictions.



The Cornerstone ceremony not only marked the physical beginning of the temple's construction in 1921 but also solidified its role as a spiritual and cultural pillar in the El Paso community. The presence of Masonic and civic leaders, including the mayor and Masonic brethren from other jurisdictions, reflected the magnitude of this project, which focused not only on Masonry but also on creating a positive impact for the entire city.



The Scottish Rite temple was born in an era when Masonry was in full expansion in the region. Its members needed a home worthy of their purpose—a place that would reflect the depth of their teachings and their commitment to the community. This majestic structure was designed to evoke a neoclassical façade with imposing columns and ornamental details reminiscent of ancient temples.

The El Paso Scottish Rite Temple was designed by Hubbell and Green of Dallas, Texas, and built in the "Early Revival Style" by the R.E. McKee Construction Company of El Paso. Construction began in 1921 and was completed in slightly over 2 years.



Over time, the temple has witnessed countless ceremonies, initiations, and meetings. But its impact goes beyond Masonry. It has become a symbol of El Paso, a place rich with history that remains a cultural and heritage landmark for the city. Additionally, it has hosted cultural and community events, reinforcing its role as a center of brotherhood and service.

Exploring the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple in El Paso is like diving into a story that is still alive. Through this space, we will discover more about the people who made its construction possible, the events that have taken place within its halls, and, above all, how it continues to serve as a beacon of brotherhood and principles in today's world.

(all pictures provided by Jean Carlo Sanchez, 32°)



Our most sincere sympathies and condolences to all the families of our members who have passed on to a better life



- Donald B. Jones, 32° 07/16/1937-06/24/2024
- James E. McGurk, 32° 11/13/1930-01/21/2025
- David B. Porter, 32° 04/10/1938-11/19/2024
- Frederick K. Richmond, 32° 07/03/1931-12/30/2024
- John W. Smith, 32° KCCH 09/22/1944-02/18/2025



Remembrance & Renewal

April 18, 2025

Program: 6:30 pm

Dinner to follow

Mandatory RSVP by April 04, 2025

If you are planning to attend

By email: Nicole@elpasoscottishrite.org or call 915-533-4409

Scottish Rite Caps required!

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Receiving their Master Craftsman Certificates
Jean Carlo Sanchez, 32° and Israel Gines, 32°

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ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry sitting in the Valley of El Paso, Orient of Texas, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon, of the Thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at the Grand Orient of South Carolina, now sitting at Washington, D.C. of which

ILL. James D. Cole, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Commander
and

ILL. Michael L. Wiggins, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas,
and

Hon. Juan M. Navarro, 32° KCCH
is Personal Representative of SGIG
And Chairman of the Executive Committee
Valley of El Paso

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**A kind request to the family or friend
of the addressed Member:**

Please notify us at the above address or
Phone number if our member
is in the hospital or Nursing home,
or is incapacitated in any way.

NO Stated Meeting in April
May 12, 2025
June 09, 2025
July 14, 2025

Stated Meetings:

Upcoming Events in 2025:
Remembrance and Renewal
April 18, 2025
Feast of Tishri
October 17, 2025
Fall Reunion
October 18, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would prefer to receive your bulletin by email - please email nicole@elpasoscottishrite.org
We will add you to our mailing list - please also let us know if you prefer not to receive our printed bulletin.