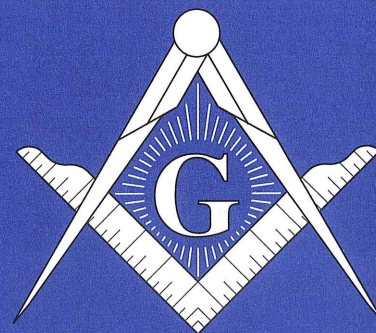


Free State Freemason



Summer 2005

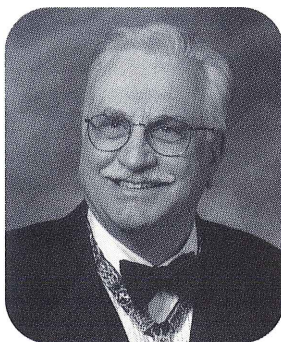
2005 Grand Lodge Officers

M.W. Grand Master - Ronald G. Bélanger
R.W. Deputy Grand Master - John R. Biggs, Jr.
R.W. Sr. Grand Warden - David L. Schneider
R.W. Jr. Grand Warden - Thomas J. Winebrenner
R.W. Grand Secretary - Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
R.W. Grand Treasurer - Wm. Raymond Bosley
W. Grand Marshal - Harold A. Garren
W. Sr. Grand Deacon - William E. Whitaker
W. Jr. Grand Deacon - Robert W. Chase
W. Sr. Grand Steward - Dennis F. Nebel
W. Jr. Grand Steward - James L. T. Knighton
W. Grand Standard Bearer - Bradley D. Andrukitis
W. Grand Sword Bearer - Julius H. Poston, Jr.
W. Grand Pursuivant - Jackie M. Calloway
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies - Charles J. White, Jr.
W. Grand Tyler - Wallace R. Jones
W. Assistant Grand Tyler - Richard H. Uren
W. Grand Lecturer - David L. Schneider
W. Grand Chaplain - Donald C. Stottlemeyer
W. Grand Chaplain Emeritus - Lunda W. Laird
W. Assistant Grand Chaplain - Elwood L. Ulmer
W. Assistant Grand Chaplain - Stephan D. Campbell
W. Grand Organist - Ronald L. Unger

The Grand Lodge of Ancient,
Free, and Accepted Masons
of Maryland

MARYLAND MASONRY MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND MOVING ONWARD!

From the Grand Master:



At the time of this writing the Semi-Annual Communication is history and your Grand Master and Grand Line have done much in the way of travel and in promoting our great fraternity. In May Potomac Lodge 100 and Howard Lodge No. 101 both celebrated 150 years of Masonic history and service to our jurisdiction and it was my distinct honor and pleasure to be in attendance at both celebrations.

While our Deputy Grand Master was spreading the light of Maryland Masonry in New Hampshire and Rhode Island I had the distinct pleasure of joining Most Worshipful Grand Master William French, Grand Master of West Virginia, on a fraternal visit to DeFord Lodge No. 88 in Berkeley Springs West Virginia. We were joined by MWPGM Robert "Bud" Vincent of WVA along with a number of brethren from James W. Bowers Lodge No. 173 of Hancock, Maryland. The evening was most memorable and we all enjoyed the WVA. version of an E.A. catechism. I was especially pleased to see the two Lodges have such a great relationship as they are only six miles and the Potomac River apart from one another. Masonry is indeed alive and well in Western Maryland and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia!

The first of June found your Grand Master in Nashville at the Supreme Forest, Tall Cedars of Lebanon annual communication. Rest assured that our R.W. Grand Treasurer aka the Supreme Tall Cedar runs a tight ship and takes care of business in fine fashion. Everything went on time and without a hitch. Supreme Tall Cedar, Wm. Raymond Bosley and I both commented on not ever seeing Ray Vogle work so hard. As chairman of the event Brother Vogle distinguished himself in his service to Masonry; all of Maryland should take great pride in knowing we have such dedicated members residing in our jurisdiction.

(Continued on Page 3)



Issued quarterly by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, & Accepted Masons of Maryland, U.S.A. This publication serves as a medium for informing the Craft of pertinent activities of the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges and for sharing with the media, community, family, and friends those events, activities, and personalities which exemplify the purposes & objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

Seymour H. Lipshitz, P.S.G.D.
Founding Editor

John R. Biggs, RWDGM,
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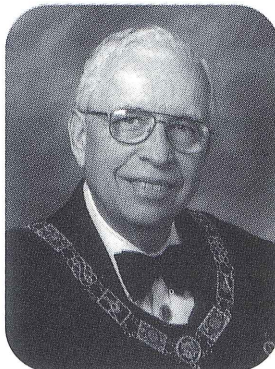
Winter Issue – January 1
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Fall Issue – October 1

Grand Lodge of Maryland
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Cockeysville, MD 21030
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<http://freemasonry.org/maryland/gl>
Send articles to the editor; address changes to the Grand Lodge.

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Editorial



Brethren,

It is somewhat hard to believe that 8 months has passed since you saw fit to elect M.W. Bro. Belanger to Grand Master and me to Deputy Grand Master – how time does fly – the Semi-Annual Communication has passed by, and here we are deep into summer months. It has been, and continues to be a most enjoyable time for me filled with visits to your individual Lodges for the conferral of the Master Mason Degree on new Masons, presentation of Service Awards and the many other events you invite us to attend.

The Grand Master and I recently attended the Imperial Convention and parade held in Baltimore, the first time here since 1939. It was quite an affair, and I hope that you took advantage of the opportunity to attend some of the various events, and march in the parade. It was also the first time that a Grand Master and Grand Line have ever been asked to lead an Imperial Shrine parade – we can thank Bro. Raoul for that one. There was also an attempt to break a “Guinness” record – and that being the most number of clowns ever assembled on one occasion. The record is presently held by a group in England, but I am sad to say the old record still stands.

Illustrious Bro. Raoul Frevel presided over this, the 131st Imperial Convention. The event was attended by Bro. and Congressman “Dutch” Ruppertsburger, Martin O’Malley, Mayor of Baltimore, and Robert Ehrlick, Governor of Maryland. Each of them was called to the podium for comments, and G.M. Belanger, finishing his comments, made everyone in attendance an honorary Maryland Mason through the end of the convention.

John R. Biggs, Editor
R.W. Deputy Grand Master

Article Submission

These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the FSFM:

Original pictures or pictures from a digital camera on disk are fine - use the highest resolution.

Ink jet prints or newspaper pictures **will not reproduce satisfactorily.** Pictures should have submitting individual’s name on back.

Pictures should have accompanying documentation detailing who is in the picture and what the picture represents if not accompanied by an article.

Articles must be typewritten.

Articles can be submitted to the editor by e-mail, fax, regular mail or dropped off at the Grand Lodge office.



(continued from page 1)

I was privileged to attend the Universal Brotherhood Weekend hosted by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. This is a yearly event that invites representatives of Masonic jurisdictions from all over the world. One truly has a greater appreciation for just how universal our fraternity can be after such an event. Represented were the Grand Lodges of Peru, Italy, Romania, Turkey, France, the Philippines, Iraq, Iran (both in exile) and Morocco just to name a few. Despite language and cultural difficulties and differences much was accomplished and I believe a better appreciation of Masonry was achieved by each in attendance. The weekend ended with a gala banquet where our very own Brother "Dutch" Ruppertsberger was the first recipient of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia's "Freedom Medal Award" This award was presented to Brother "Dutch" for his efforts in initiating the "Hero Miles" program. This program allows those with frequent flier miles to donate those miles to service men and women who are trying to get home after being deployed overseas. After meeting with much resistance at the outset, Brother Ruppertsberger, through persistence and determination, was finally able to achieve success and is most deserving of this very special award and recognition. At the invitation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the District of Columbia, M.W. Brother Proden, I

was honored to have been able to take part in this very special presentation. Thank you M.W. Brother Proden and a hearty "Well done!" to our Brother "Dutch" Ruppertsberger.

By the time you receive this issue the Imperial Shrine Convention, July 2-7, will have been completed. While I can't tell you how wonderfully the week went, (it's actually June 23rd as I am writing this.) I can tell you that our Imperial Sir Raoul L. Frevel, has brought great pride and honor to our jurisdiction. In all my travels these past few months I have received glowing reports and accounts of just how special a brother we have in our Imperial Sir. Dedicated not just to the Imperial Shrine but to all of Masonry, Imperial Sir Frevel has spread the light of Maryland Masonry throughout his extensive travels as the Number One Shriner. He has shown a commitment to spreading the word that we who are "Shriners" are Masons first. While the Imperial Sir has been working tirelessly to promote our great fraternity, let us not forget that behind every good and dedicated Mason is the true strength of our endeavors, our wives! We congratulate Lady Rosie for her commitment and dedication to our Shrine Children. Her tie project was nothing short of a spectacular success in raising much needed funds for the care of our Shrine Children. To you both I offer on behalf of the entire jurisdiction a hearty "Well done" and a heartfelt "Welcome home."

As mentioned in my remarks at the Semi-Annual Communication, I have initiated the Grand Lodge Commission. This commission includes all heads of collateral bodies in our jurisdiction. While attendance at our first meeting was not 100% and there remain skeptics as to whether or not we can be successful in this endeavor, I assure you all who were in attendance demonstrated enthusiasm at the prospect of our coming together in support of one another. We can not continue to ignore each other's schedule of events and hope to be successful any longer. It is imperative, at least in my humble estimation, that we start working together as much as possible in promoting the entire Masonic Family here in Maryland. I have given permission for collateral body heads and members to attend Blue Lodge meetings in regalia (without hats of course) in an effort to promote their specific bodies. I know this will be met with some resistance in certain areas but, my Brethren, we must all be Blue Lodge Masons before we can be anything else and it is about time we go about the business of promoting one another's welfare and MARYLAND MASONRY!

Work continues on the development of a new Grand Lodge web site. There is an attempt to make it more "user friendly" and more informative for you, the individual Mason, Lodge Secretaries, and yes our collateral bodies. The idea of a "General Calendar" where all

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bodies will be allowed to list activities is long overdue. Brother Dean Alban is prepared to initiate our "e-zine" or electronic newsletter at a moments notice. The idea is to have an electronic forum where-by every Lodge can list on a weekly basis activities and have them broadcast to the entire jurisdiction. Once again our collateral bodies will be invited to participate in this project. Items for this forum can include just about anything going on in your Lodge. Memorial services, Degrees, District Schools, Ladies nights or fund raisers. So long as it is an event that relates to our fraternity all such items will be welcomed. You will be asked to submit your email address to Brother Alban and a mass mailing will be sent out on a weekly basis only to those Brethren who wish to be on the mailing list.

I am pleased to say Maryland Masonry has been busy. Some of our Lodges have held One Day Classes with as many as thirty new Masons entering our fraternity. Other Lodges are preparing to do the same in the Fall of the year. Still others have just as many petitioners wishing to enter the fraternity in the traditional manner. Some of you out there are hearing me and taking action when I say we have an "identity problem" and not a "membership problem." Yet, others are not willing to hear my message and are growing stagnant and weaker by the day. I have offered to do whatever it is the Grand Lodge and Grand Master

can do to help revitalize our jurisdiction. I will go to the entire "length of my cable tow" to help you promote Masonry in general and your Lodge in particular. The sad truth is I can't do it for you. You must be willing to take the chance in trying to "Make a Difference."

There has been a recent influx of younger men joining the fraternity and we must be willing to listen to their ideas and allow them an opportunity to share in the responsibilities of the Lodge. Telling a young Master Mason (whatever his physical age) "we've never done it that way...." or worse yet. "You haven't been a Mason long enough...." Is a sure way to kill a man's enthusiasm for participation. Finding meaningful work (not necessarily an appointment in line) and encouraging ideas will go a long way in promoting the true meaning of the tenets of our Masonic Fraternity. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth should be more than just words on the printed page. Let us remember that: "...hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us, and the heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare, and in rejoicing in each other's prosperity...." The challenge is before us. Let us be about the business of promoting the world's greatest fraternity and "Making a Difference!" Onward my Brethren!!!

Ronald G. Bélanger
Grand Master

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND CRAB FEAST & BULL ROAST

Join the Grand Master and his 2005 Line of Officers at the Tall Cedars Hall on Putty Hill Avenue for a great social afternoon. There will be plenty of FOOD, MUSIC AND FUN FOR ALL. LADIES ARE INVITED.

To purchase tickets: Please call the Grand Lodge Office at 410-527-0600 or,

Dave Schneider 410-247-4039
Brad Andrukitis 301-738-1932
Dennis Neble 410-442-1663
Bill Whitaker 410-569-6150
Charlie White 410-734-4329

No tickets will be sold at the door.

DATE—Saturday, 8/27/05

TIME—1 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

MENU

Unlimited Steamed Crabs !!!!!

Pit Beef & Ham

Beef Barbecue

All kinds of sides, Music,

Raffles & Prizes

COST

\$30.00 PER PERSON

BEFORE 8/21/05

\$34.00 PER PERSON

AFTER 8/21/05

Help your Grand Lodge by attending and making this a successful event.

Dave Schneider, R.W.S.G.W.,
Chairman

Discoveries are often made by not following instructions, by going off the main road, by trying the untried.
-Frank Tyger



A Stronger Masonic Family

As we conclude the 2004-2005 Imperial Shrine Year, I am encouraged and excited about the future of Masonry.

It is my opinion that the most important thing we can do is to cultivate a stronger bond amongst all the organizations within our Masonic family. As we have all been stating for several years, working together is the key to our future success. I have always believed that keeping strong ties between the Shrine and the Grand Lodge of North America is of the utmost importance.

Since my Masonic career began with the Order of DeMolay, where I had the honor of serving as International Mastery Councilor, I have been proud to be part of this brotherhood. I'm encouraged by the many steps the Shriners have recently taken for the betterment of Masonry. For example, the Year of the Shrine Mason program was renewed last year. We have also been encouraging our Temple leadership to make sure Shriners everywhere are going back to their roots and becoming more active and supportive of the Lodges in their jurisdictions. Standing together as one is so important.

That is why, with the support of the entire Imperial Divan, I introduced a new campaign within the Shrine, which focuses on our Masonic History and the importance of membership to our future. The name of the campaign is "Build on Masonry – Recruit a Shriner," and I have asked each Temple Editor to make an effort to print these ads in their publication as much as possible throughout this Imperial Year.

To compliment the theme of "Build on Masonry – Recruit a Shriner," we also have a campaign with the slogan, "Build on Masonry – Become a Shriner."

In the spirit of cooperation, I humbly ask that you please consider using the ads, and also make these ads available to the Blue Lodges in your jurisdiction.

Doing so, I believe, would be a step in the right direction for furthering Masonic relations and showing all Masons that we believe in building a stronger Masonic family.

Raoul L. Frevel, Sr.
Imperial Potentate
Shriners of North America



Proud to be a Mason's Wife

Written by Sheila McGaughy

When I was young I had no clue. The man I would marry would be from the Lodge of Blue.

Qualities I listed of my husband to be. They equaled a man of the 3rd degree.

When we began our married life. I was instructed as a mason's wife.

If ever I was in trouble, with distance between us. Look for a man who wears the square and compass.

These are my brothers from the Lodge of Blue. They are there to help when I'm not with you.

That when your life in the celestial lodge is to begin, It should be in an apron of white lambskin.

Always striving a better man to be. You achieved your 32nd degree.

When you became a Shriner of nobility. I stood beside you as your lady.

No matter what degrees you've received in life. I am always proud to be a mason's wife.



From Left: M.W.G.M Ronald Bélanger, Paul Linkous, III - Candidate, Harvey Yale - Recipient of 50 year pin, Charles Elliott - P.M. No. 176, R.W.D.G.M. John Biggs.



The Valley of Cumberland (MD) Scottish Rite held their annual ladies night on May 7, 2005, at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club, Cumberland, Maryland. A special invitation was extended to Ill. Curtis N. Lancaster, 33°, Lt. Grand Commander of Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite. Brother Lancaster came from his home in Syracuse, Utah to attend the Ladies Night program. This is the first time in the 105 year history of the Valley of Cumberland that the Supreme Council has been represented. The members and ladies were honored by Brother Lancaster's attendance.



Bro. Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
Looking the Part

On February 21, 2005, Tuscan Lodge No. 202 met on President's

Day, and invited Bro. Stephen J. Ponzillo, III to speak on Masonry and the 14 Masonic presidents.

He came "looking the part" and gave a very informative talk to the Lodge. The information was well received and brought out many members to hear about our past leaders and their Masonic connections.

Members Seeking Elected Office

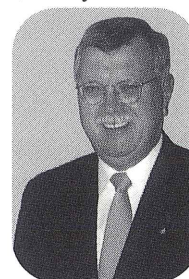
Sr. Grand Warden

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III

Candidate for Sr. Grand Warden.

In April of 1968, at the age of twenty-one, I became a Freemason. I grew up in Dundalk, Maryland, graduating from Dundalk High School in 1965.

At the age of fourteen, I had the good fortune of becoming a member of Dundalk Chapter, Order of DeMolay and twice served as the Master Councilor. I later served Maryland and D.C. as the State Master Councilor of DeMolay. As an adult advisor, I was able to "give back" some of the benefits DeMolay gave to me by serving as Chapter Advisor. I have been honored by DeMolay as a Chevalier,



received the Distinguished Service Award and the Active Legion of Honor.

Upon graduation from Towson

State College, I entered the employ of the Board of Education of Baltimore County and during my thirty-five years served as a high school Social Studies teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal. For nineteen years, I served as principal at three Baltimore County Middle Schools and one of the Alternative High Schools. I have earned a Masters degree from Towson University and continuing education with the University of Maryland, Loyola College, Morgan State College and Johns Hopkins University.

I have served as the President of two administrative/supervisory organizations, one of which was the administrative/supervisory bargaining agent, and have been honored by the Maryland State PTA, the Children's Cancer

(Continued on Page 7)



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Foundation, the Maryland Music Educators, and the Jaycees. After 35 years in public education, I retired on July 1, 2004.

I was raised by my father in Liberty Lodge No. 219 in April of 1968. In 1973, I followed my father as the Worshipful Master of Liberty Lodge. I have served the Grand Lodge as a Grand Inspector for eight years at four different lodges, the Worshipful Grand Pursuivant in 1982, the Worshipful Grand Marshal in 1995 and 1996, and the Grand Historian in 2001 and 2002.

I have had experience with all three Boards of the Grand Lodge serving on the Board of Managers from 1995 to 2000, chaired the joint Board of Trustees and Managers Personnel Committee, served on the Board of Directors of Masonic Charities and chair the Scholarship Selection Committee.

I represent our Grand Lodge on the National Masonic Foundation as the Student Assistance Coordinator for Maryland. It has been my particular pleasure to assist in the reestablishment of the Grand Lodge's Library and Museum.

I currently serve as the Librarian and Curator of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. In 1999, for these efforts, I received the Warren S. Seipp Medal for meritorious service.

I have spoken to numerous Masonic bodies as well as other organizations about the Grand Lodge Library and Museum,

Masonic Charities and other topics. Since 1984, I have presented on a variety of subjects at various Grand Lodge regional meetings.

Active in the York Rite, I have served as the presiding officer of each York Rite Body (Chapter, Council and Commandery) as well as Grand Master of the Grand Council of Maryland, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland, and currently serve as the Right Excellent Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland. It is my honor to be a Knight of the York Grand Cross of Honor with two quadrants. In the Scottish Rite, my activities on the degree teams and on the Brockman Speech Language Fellowship Committee have been particularly enjoyable. In 1995, the Scottish Rite honored me as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor; and in 2001 at Charleston, I received the 33°.

I am privileged to be a Past Sovereign of St. Cyprian Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine, Vice President of the Past Commanders' Association.

I also belong to the Grotto, the Tall Cedars, the Shrine, am an officer in components of the Allied Masonic Degrees, an officer in the Knight Masons, and an officer in the Francis Scott Key Priory, KYCH, a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, the Masonic Veterans Association, the Eastern Star, as well as many other Masonic organizations. I am honored to be elected to receive the

Order of the Purple Cross from the Sovereign York Rite College of North America in July, 2005.

I have been married for 31 years to a wonderful lady, and we have two daughters and a son-in-law who is a Freemason and Senior Deacon of his lodge.

My father, uncle, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, great uncles and father-in-law are or were Free-masons. The fraternity means a great deal to me. I have had the privilege to be a Freemason for more than thirty-seven years and have been active with Grand Lodge for over twenty-six years. I have had the privilege of serving in leadership positions in many Masonic and non-Masonic organizations, and, if elected, would bring that experience to the office of Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden and would loyally serve as a member of Grand Master Bélanger's team.

Spyridon G. Treklas

Candidate for Sr. Grand Warden.

Personal/Professional Career

I was born and raised in Athens Greece. Migrated to the US for further studies. Graduated from Towson State University with dual major in Computer Science and Mathematics. Received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Johns Hopkins University. For the past eighteen and a half years I have been employed by Baltimore Aircoil Company Inc. Going through several positions in the Information

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Technology Department; currently I am the System/Database Administrator for the company's Oracle-PeopleSoft Enterprise



Resource Planning system.

For the past twenty years married to Rita Beran and together we have been blessed with two beautiful daughters, Eleftheria and Georgina.

Masonic Career

Blue Lodge

I joined St. Johns Lodge No. 34 in 1986 and served as Worshipful Master in 1991. I have been a member of the Past Masters Association for Baltimore since 1991. Served as a Grand Inspector 1995-2001. In 1997 served as Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer for the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master John C. Naquin. Currently serving as Vice-President for the Board of Grand Inspectors for Baltimore South. Chairman of the Masonic Law School. Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Greece to the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Scottish Rite

Joined Scottish Rite in 1991. In 1997 invested with the rank of Knight Commander Court of Honor. Served as Wise Master for the Lodge of Rose Croix during 2001-2002. Multiple involvements with the degree teams since 1992.

In 2004 joined the diplomats group. Currently assist the degree master with the casting of degree members.

York Rite

Member of the Royal Arch Tuscan Chapter #42. Member of the Hiram Council #5. Petition pending for Monumental Commandery #3.

Other Masonic Affiliates

Member of the Royal Order of Scotland. Member of the Scottish Rite Research Society

Brethren if you give me the honor of electing me Senior Grand Warden, I will bring my love for our rituals, my dedication to Masonry in general and serve our Grand Lodge as the Most Worshipful Grand Master directs me.

Jr. Grand Warden

Michael S. Sirk Is a candidate for Junior Grand Warden.

Education

Associate in Arts Degree in Business Administration, College of Southern Maryland.

Associate In Arts Degree in Computer Data Processing, College of Southern Maryland.

Community Involvement

Supervisor, Board of Elections for St. Mary's County, 24 years (1979-2003).

Alternate Member, Resource Conservation & Development Inc., 2001 - Present.

President, St. Mary's County Forest Conservancy Board, 2004 - Present.

Member, Department of Natural

Resources, St. Mary's County Forest Conservancy Board, 1990 - Present.

Gubernatorial Appointee, St. Mary's County Foster Care Review Board, 1982-1992.

Masonic

Raised to Master Mason on October 19, 1966, West Gate Lodge No. 220, Mt. Rainier, MD.

Member, St. Columba Lodge, La Plata, MD, 1975-1983.

Member, Thomas J. Shryock Lodge No. 223, Hollywood, MD, 1984-Present.

Worshipful Master, Thomas J. Shryock Lodge No. 223, 1995.

Contractor for construction of new wing to Thomas J. Shryock Lodge, 1995.

Wise Master, Scottish Rite Valley of Southern Maryland, 2000

Appointed Worshipful Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Lodge of Maryland, 2002

Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH), 2003

Member, York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery

Venerable Master, Scottish Rite Valley of Southern Maryland, 2004.

Awarded the York Rite Order of Ish Yodi

Senior Advisor, Mervel M. Dean Chapter, Order of DeMolay, 1985

Member, Pa Po Peake Shrine Club, Shepherd, 42 trips to Philadelphia to date

Member, Bourni Shriners

Member, Tall Cedars of Lebanon #142, Baltimore, MD

Honorary Member, International Order of Job's Daughters Bethel

(Continued on Page 9)



(Continued from Page 8)

#42, Hollywood, MD

Personal

Retired carpenter, 43 years of service, Washington District Council of Capenters Local 132

Owner & Operator, Caywood Farm, Mechanicsville, MD 1971 - Present.

Licensed owner & CEO, Doncin Construction firm

Former Vestyman, Christ Episcopal Church, Chaptico, MD

Married to Gretchen, 4 children, 5 grandchildren.

Honorably discharged United States Marine Corps, 1958

Avid hunter and fisher.

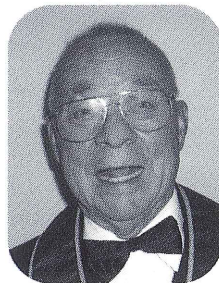
Carl W. Todd

Candidate for Jr. Grand Warden

I am Carl W. Todd and a candidate for the office of Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden. Why? I want to serve in Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald G. Belanger's 2nd Grand Line. He and I go back many years to a Masonic Study Group I started in Southern Maryland in 1986. I was the study group's President and he was Vice President. I am most proud of his achievements since that time and now want to serve and support him and the Grand Lodge of Maryland, trying to make a difference and caring none whatsoever about our reverse roles. Bottom Line: I have tails, love Masonic ritual and will travel.

I was born in Washington, D.C. but grew up in Nokesville, Va., where I was raised by a blind grandmother who instilled in me the values which prompted me to eventually petition

Freemasonry. After graduation from high school, being 18 and knowing it all, elected to join the U.S. Navy instead of going to college. After boot camp and Submarine School, I served on submarines from 1951 to 1955. After 4 years of cruising in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea on board a submarine, I realized I did not know it all. After honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, I



enrolled at George Washington University under the GI Bill for a degree in Foreign Affairs. In the same timeframe I also began work with the Central Intelligence Agency. I served that agency for almost 33 years with increasing roles of responsibility. During my first 28 years with the Agency, I was involved in every aspect of intelligence information processing, and during my last five years I served in the Office of Communications, the largest element of the agency, with the Budget and Planning Staff. During that time I monitored a worldwide upgrade of all Agency communications systems.

On a personal note, I am a widower and have two grown daughters from two separate marriages, a deceased son, and two grandsons who love to ride with me on my Harley.

My Masonic history: I was initiated, passed and raised in Centennial Lodge No. 174, Upper

Marlboro, Md., between June and November 1974. I was fortunate to be appointed into line as Marshal in 1975. I served as Worshipful Master of my lodge in 1979. I served as Chaplain in 1981-82 and was appointed Treasurer in 1982 after the passing of the sitting Treasurer. I served as Treasurer from 1982 to 2004, with a three year break in 1991-1993 when I temporarily turned the Treasurer duties over to another Lodge member while serving two years as Senior Warden and as Worshipful Master in 1993. I was appointed a Grand Inspector in 1986 and served six years until 1991, serving five different lodges. I was re-appointed a Grand Inspector in the summer of 1996 and served three different lodges. I opted to sever my Grand Inspector duties in 1997 when I was asked if I would serve as the 'Deputy Grand Lecturer of District 17 in Southern Maryland. Two lodges have honored me by making me an Honorary Member - St. Columba Lodge No. 150 and Perseverance Lodge No. 208. In 2002, I proudly served Grand Master Bennie G. Owens as Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer. I have been a member of Marlboro Chapter No. 61, Order of the Eastern Star since 1993 and served as Worthy Patron in 1996 and in 1997. I do not belong to any other collateral bodies. I have put my total Masonic effort into Centennial Lodge from day one, being an officer for 30 of my 31

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years there and I have faithfully served Grand Lodge for 15 and one half years as a Grand Inspector or Deputy Grand Lecturer. I have marched into Grand Lodge near the head of the procession as a Grand Inspector and I have marched in at the head of the procession as a Deputy Grand Lecturer and now, for 2006, I would like to enter Grand Lodge as your Junior Grand Warden.

My other Masonic endeavors are as follows: I formed a Southern Maryland Masonic Study Group in 1986 which eventually became the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Philalethes Society (the first and only chapter in Maryland). I was President of that chapter from 1989 to 1993. Unfortunately, it is now inactive. I was Bethel Treasurer of Bethel 45, International Order of Job's Daughters in 1984-85. I served in the Southern Maryland Past Masters Association from 1993 to 2002, when I served as President. I am a Charter Member of Bonnie Blink Daylight Lodge No. 1 as well as a member of the Civil War Lodge of Research, 1865, Southern California Research Lodge and Missouri Lodge of Research and the Philalethes Society. I have been Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education from 2001 to present and was recently inducted into the Maryland Masonic Veterans Association.

Approaching 73 years of age, one might ask why do this? I stated my first reason for so doing at the beginning of this message. My second reason is that I want to serve this great fraternity and to continue meeting and becoming friends with yet more of my Masonic brethren, especially those in Western and Eastern Maryland, who I see too seldom. If elected, I will serve you and the Grand Lodge of Maryland to the utmost of my ability.

Grand Master's Appeal

The Most Worshipful Grand Master would like to thank the following who made a contribution to the Maryland Masonic Homes or the Masonic Charities of Maryland:

Gordon T. Adams, Elmer G. Adams, Robert T. Adkins, Elmer F. Adler, Benjamin H. Alder, Jr., Charles C. Agnew, Guy M. Albertini, Robert K. Alexander, Ronald T. Allen, William G. Allen, Constantine Anagnos, Alva Appel, William L. Armiger, Franklin Arnold, Jr., Howard F. Ashburn, Jr., Edward Ashley, Leonard J. Attman, Ray G. Bailey, Robert L. Baldwin, G. Raymond Bankert, Charles B. Bardette, Robert Bare, Wilford E. Barnes, Melvin H. Barrett, Michael S. Bass, Frederick W. Bauer, Harry Bayne, William H. Beall, John C. Bechtold, Jr., Phillip R. Becker, Charles A. Beckhardt, Jr., Gregory G. Benedict, Grayson A. Bennett,

Jr., Harry Bennett, Charles R. Berry, Harold H. Betsworth, James Bibb, Terry E. Birkelien, Daniel Blake, James Bland, Ron Block, Warren G. Blosser, Joseph Bonner, Steven G. Borbely, Lawrence M. Bowen, Ralph S. Bower, George E. Boyd, Russell I. Boyd, Elroy G. Boyer, Dennis A. Brekhus, W. M. Brewington, Milford C. Brillhart, Warren D. Brill, Robert Briscoe, Francis E. Brittingham, James E. Brown, Joseph Brown, Norman A. Brown, Charles Brundick, Christopher Bryan, Walter E. Buck, Jr., Chris Buehler, Eugene G. Bujac, Charles Burdette, Frederick Burdette, Donald L. Burgess, Marshall Burgess, Towson P. Burkindine, Charles F. Burrows, William O. Butler, Jackie M. Calloway, Scott J. Cameron, Louis Capetoon, Robert Carlton, James Carmen, J. D. Carmen, Malcolm E. Carrick, Elra M. Carter, Norris Cartwright, Jr., Bayani Casanova, Norman J. Case, Edward Cathell, Robert P. Chandler, Sr., George H. Chaney, Lawrence M. Chard, Charles Management, William M. Chelton, William Chewning, Silvin Chiarizia, Kenneth Chrissinger, John W. Clabaugh, Jr., Glenn L. Clark, Glen B. Clary, William Cleland, Howard E. Clifford, William Clements, Roland Cody, Ronald H. Coffman, Leonard E. Cohen, James Coker, Earle Coleman, Ernest E. Combs, Henry S. Cone, Jr., Richard R. Connelly, Jr., Owen Connolly,

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Stephen D. Cook, Howard F. Cooper, Kenneth P. Cornelius, Paul Cornelius, Clarence A. Cox, Rush Cox, William H. Cox, Jr., Woodrow A. Critzer, Ronald L. Crosby, Melvin C. Croucher, Norman F. Cumberland, John E. Cummins, Raymond W. Daehnke, Richard D. Danielson, Warren E. Darby, Joel S. Davenport, David W. Davis, Harold Davis, William K. Davis, Donald J. Dean, Antonius M. Delange, Willis Dennis, John Devitt, Richard K. Diekmann, Henry C. Diener, Leroy W. Dill, Vernon Disney, Phineas S. Dixon, Charles Dobry, Jr., Jerry L. Doering, John C. Doran, John O. Duguid, William Dulling, Russell F. Dunker, Earl Earling, Clyde F. Ebersole, Donald E. Edge, Carl E. Eicker, Robert Elkner, Kim E. Engman, Paul E. Ergler, Paul R. Evancoe, John T. Evans, Hobart N. Falen, David L. Farnsworth, John F. Feezer, Jr., Fred Glaeser, Donald L. Flax, Roland F. Flinton, Iredell Fontz, John A. Foster, III, LeRoy Fothergill, Jr., Bernard Fowler, Chester Foy, Joel Frankle, John Freeburger, Randall Freysz, Manuel H. Friedman, Ronald Froede, H. Allen Fyle, Sr., Robert A. Gabbel, Robert Gambill, Paul J. Gaspich, Jr., Paul E. Geiser, Herman S. Gelman, Isaac S. Gemmell, Frederick German, George Ginn, George W. Glew, Richard H. Good, Kenneth C. Gossett, Reese C. Gott, F. R. Graninger, Patrick Grantland, Sr., Nolen Graves, Jr., James K. Gray, Jr., William Grose, Charles E.

Grosh, Fred W. Gross, William A. Groth, Jr., Robert Grove, James Groves, Kenneth E. Growden, Charles K. Grund, Sr., Roger L. Gumbs, Jr., Fred Hagelgans, Jr., John Hahn, Charles Hahn, Joseph Hajek, Coleman M. Hall, David A. Halley, Jr., Dean A. Hancox, Richard Happel, John Hardesty, Jerry Hardy, Tom Harner, Frederick S. Harris, Arleigh Hauser, Robert J. Hawkins, Glenn Haynes, John C. Heil, Howard H. Heinbuch, Golden Helmick, Charles L. Hendricks, Jr., Ernest O. Hendrickson, Jr., Bernard Henthorn, Frank M. Huegele, Douglas Huether, Earl Hewitt, Charles Hiob, Albert B. Hitt, Walter Hoffman, M. G. Hoffman, James Hoffman, R. Paul Hoffman, Martin A. Hofmann, Richard Holler, Chester P. Holloway, Jr., John W. Hooks, Harry L. Hopkins, Jack Horner, Lloyd D. Hosfeld, Robert L. Householder, William Howard, Robert S. Hoyert, Robert R. Hruby, Clifford S. Hubbard, J. Richard Hudson, George V. Hull, John Huntington, Clyde P. Hyatt, Alfred H. Innvers, C. A. Irish, Albert Iten, Raymond L. Jackson, Robert Jackson, Carson James, Robert H. Jenkins, Edgar A. Jennings, Dennis C. Jensen, Julian Hyman, Ralph S. Johnson, George H. Johnson, James Johnson, Maurice F. Johnson, George M. Jones, Harry V. Jordan, John E. Justice, John R. Kalista, Efstratios Kaminis, Thomas Kane, Ray W. Kauffman, Dennis Kavanaugh, III, John

Kearney, Paul L. Keener, Thomas Keller, Cecil Kelley, Walter G. Kelly, Christian Kessler, Jr., Dennis W. Kevari, Ike L. Kibbe, Joseph J. Kiester, William C. King, Jimmy Kirk, George H. Kirkpatrick, Thornton R. Klakring, C. Fred Kleinknecht, Norman S. Kline, Hollis Knicely, Guy Kolb, Fred A. Kolle, Joseph Kopp, Charles E. Kozlowski, Raymond G. Kraft, Edward Kyckman, Chris Lambros, David A. Lane, John Langenfelder, Peter Lapetina, Edwin W. Lard, Francis E. Larrimore, Richard J. Law, Glenn Legal, Arthur H. Lehmann, Donald L. Leifert, Arthur F. Lembke, Robert Liberty, Tom Lindsay, Jim Linton, Leonard Lockhardt, Arthur L. Long, Gardner R. Long, William L. Long, George Lovas, William J. Lowe, Jr., Carroll Lucas, Stewart MacDougall, Robert Madel, Charles Mades, Edward L. Malan, Earl Malwitz, J. Edward Markline, M.C. Martin, Jr., Charles P. Martin, Melvin J. Mason, Jr., Harold E. Matter, Bruce J. Mattheiss, Lawrence C. Mauck, Theodore Mauldin, Joseph H. Maurer, Middleton McAbee, Russell McCarty, John McCleary, Thomas P. McCoubrey, Elwood McCullough, Jr., Philip C. McCurdy, Marc McDermott, Jared E. McEachern, Frank E. McGee, Jay F. McGrath, William A. McGrath, Jr., Terence A. McGuire, Michael P. McLaren, Edgar McMullen, Dewey F. Meadows, Jim Mehring, Donald Mergler, Walter R. Merrifield, Jr.,

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Thomas Mewshaw, Charles Meyer, Jr., Michael Miginsky, Charles H. Miles, Douglas W. Miller, Henry E. Miller, John R. Miller, Lawrence A. Miller, Robert D. Miller, Sloan Miller, William Miller, Karl N. Milligan, Jr., Harold Mills, John L. Mills, Jr., Marlin L. Mills, Charles Moore, Edwin B. Moran, James Morris, Elmer L. Morsberger, Bert F. Morton, Richard Mullinix, Garey E. Murphy, Robert Murphy, James E. Murray, Mark Muse, Donald W. Myers, Terry L. Myers, William H. Neff, Jr., Bruce C. Nelson, George Nemphos, Paul Newcomer, Maurice Newman, III, Leonard Nichols, Angelo S. Nopulos, Louis Norbeck, William Von Nordeck, Harry O'Neal, Michael W. Paal, Charley J. Page, Thomas A. Page, T. T. Palmer, Michael Parameros, David Park, Levin Parker, James W. Paterson, James R. Patterson, Edward S. Paylor, George F. Payne, Charles Pearce, Roscoe L. Pearce, James Pedrick, Harold Peters, Calvin Peterson, John E. Pierce, Phillip E. Plitt, Anthony G. Ponzillo, Stephen Ponzillo, John M. Poster, James Potter, David H. Powell, Robert F. Price, Julius F. Prieto, William Prinn, A. William Pulket, William Punko, John Querfurth, Jr., Troy Raines, Raymond Ralston, Charles Ramsay, Jr., Charles E. Ransom, James Reck, Frederick P. Reed, III, Raymond L. Reed, Howard Reel, Sr., John C. Reinhart, Sr., Jean Remmel, Eugene Resnicoff, Richard J. Rhinehart, Donald

Rhody, Charles S. Rhoten, Carl T. Richards, Carroll Richardson, Preston Richardson, J. M. Robbins, Dale A. Roberts, Robert S. Robertson, Earl J. Robinson, Robert H. Rock, Edgar Rohde, Jr., Albert A. Romser, Barry Rosen, Harvey M. Ross, George Rothermel, John D. Rowling, Henry W. Rudolf, David R. Rudolph, George H. Ruggles, Edward L. Rutledge, Sr., Gilbert F. Sachs, John C. Sachs, Stephen Salaris, Joseph Sanchez, George Schafer, John R. Schaffner, Louis Scheeler, Robert D. Scheller, Earl Scheminant, Herbert Schwartz, Leonard C. Schweb, Harry S. Scott, Nathaniel Seidman, Adoph Seligman, Harry T. Sell, E. M. Shank, Michael B. Shatarsky, Raymond K. Shaver, Raymond Shaver, Rev. Robert W. Shaw, Benjamin F. Sheppard, Jr., Ronald L. Sheridan, Milton Shimmel, Robert C. Shinnick, B. Jack Shirk, Lester Shockley, John Shriver, S. C. Shores, Clyde Shugart, Albert H. Silke, Alvin Simon, William Skinner, Allen F. Slagle, Ernest E. Sligh, Calvin C. Smith, Carson N. Smith, Paul Smith, Ronald L. Smith, Willis A. Smith, Donald L. Smith, Owen C. Smith, Jr., Walter Smith, George W. Smouse, William Snyder, Joseph J. Sonntag, Ralph W. Souder, Spencer & Associates, Inc., Fred Spicer, H. N. Stadler, Jr., James G. Stamas, Clinton L. Stansfield, Joseph G. Stapleton, Robert Starkey, Jr., John T. Staub, Arden K. Stauffer, Ronald Steinmetz, Robert A. Stevens, Clifford A.

Stevens, William A. Stoll, John Stone, Larry Stotsbery, Mark Stover, George T. Swayne, III, Michael Swigert, Arlie Taylor, Robert Taylor, Jack Taylor, Donald L. Tedrick, Clarence O. Theis, Jr., Alfred L. Thomas, Burton C. Thomas, Sr., Cody D. Thompson, Joseph J. Thompson, Col. H. G. Tillman, Richard H. Timm, Carl W. Todd, James E. Todhunter, Jr., William P. Towles, George F. Tracey, Roy W. Trimmer, Dale O. Troll, Thomas C. Trumpower, Burleigh Turner, III, Robert Turner, George Uebersax, James M. Underwood, Walter Urgas, William Urie, Richard Utyro, Harold R. Utz, Jr., Joe Varnadore, Michael Vaughn, Vincent Versace, Harry F. Vollmer, III, William E. Voyce, T. M. Wagner, David Waite, George Wakeling, Frank O. Wallace, Howell Wallace, W. Edward Wallace, Elwood L. Wallich, Fred Wells, G. Edward Ward, J. Willard Warfield, Louis A. Warner, Jr., Carl J. Varner, Leonard C. Waters, Jr., Elwood F. Watkins, Edgar W. Weal, Jr., Fred Wells, Leonard Wells, John Whitaker, George White, William E. White, Richard L. Whithead, Hans R. Wilhelmsen, Hyman B. Willen, Robert H. Willen, John B. Williams, John T. Williams, Robert Williams, Harry Williamson, Richard B. Willson, Joseph S. Wilson, Carl E. Winters, Carl J. Winterwerp, William Frank Wirtz, Furman D. Wise, Jr., Edgar W. Wolfkill, Fay C. Woodford, James E. Woolery, Guy Wright, Robert L. Wright, John Wright,

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Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr., Franklin Yale, Harvey E. Yale, Seymoor Yanofski, Charles Yeager, Arthur Young, Jr., Donald Young, Dr. Richard A. Young, John A. Young, Jr., Dimitri Zafirooulos, MD, Milton Zavadil, Jr.

HISTORICAL EVENT FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND

On June 13, 2005 the M. W. Grand Master Ronald G. Belanger signed the land-lease between the Shelter Group and Grand Lodge.

Looking on is Bro. Lenny Cohen, Co-Counsel for the Grand Lodge and Dave Schneider, Chairmen of the Land Lease Committee.

How We Got Where We Are:

A committee was formed to investigate the possible use of 40 plus acres located behind and to the left of the Grand Lodge. The Board of Mangers approved entertaining proposals to develop the land. The land could only be leased as NO SALE of the property was approved. After a formal "Request for Proposal" was created and issued, the committee - using a formal process - selected The Shelter Group as the most favorable developer.

The first proposed lease was reviewed by the committee on December 24, 2004. The committee began their review and provided comments through our attorney to The Shelter Group. Your committee had several requirements to preserve through this entire process. They dealt with evaluation

of the facility for appearance, construction, number of buildings and locations among other considerations. The proposed construction will include a maximum of 288 luxury apartments, 154 luxury senior living units, pool, clubhouse, and be fully landscaped. When completed this facility should be a showcase area for all of us to be proud of.



The agreement to enter a lease, which began on June 13, began with a \$25,000 deposit at signing placed in escrow. A second deposit of \$125,000 will be deposited four months after the signing and a third deposit of \$350,000 will be deposited in escrow no later than 22 months after the signing date. The final money due to the Grand Lodge will be paid in a single lump sum payment totaling \$8,450,000 (which includes the deposits) at closing or about 23 - 29 months from June 13, 2005. The lease of 99 years begins at closing.

There are several areas that need to be worked out and your committee is presently working on them to ensure that this process goes as planned. We all know that we may hit some bumps in the road before this project is fully completed. Your committee has

worked long and hard to bring this project to a successful conclusion and will continue to support the Grand Lodge during the complete construction phase.

The LAND-LEASE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Dave Schneider, Chairman
R.W.S.G.W., W.G.L.
Wm. Ray Bosley, G.T.
Ron Block
Tommy Chagouris
Leonard Cohen
Charles Hahn
Assisted By Bill Hooper
Grand Lodge Counsel

Maryland DeMolay

Maryland DeMolay attended their annual International Supreme Council Sessions in Orlando, Florida from June 15th through the 19th. Maryland received several awards this year. Brother Raoul Frevel was awarded the Grand Master's International Supreme Council Member of the Year Eagle Award for his outstanding service to DeMolay International. Maryland DeMolay received the Frank S. Land Membership Growth Award for securing more initiates than majorities in 2004 and contributing to the membership efforts of DeMolay International. The jurisdiction was third internationally in positive membership growth. Maryland was recognized with the distinguished Gorman A. McBride Membership Award for its successful membership efforts by initiating more new members in 2004 than in 2003. The jurisdiction also received the outstanding

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communication award for our news publication "Reflections".

Several Senior DeMolay members from Maryland were honored with the Legion of Honor, the highest award to honor Senior DeMolay. Brothers William Newton Carey, Michael Paul Hoglund, Melvin Norman Tefteau, William Raymond Bosley will be invested with their honors in a public ceremony to be held on October 2, 2005 in the Commandery Room at the Grand Lodge beginning at 2:00 p.m.

DeMolay Cross of Honors were awarded to Brothers Crawford Lester Thompson and Todd Christopher Hoglund. Active DeMolay members who will be receiving the Chevalier Award, the highest honor available to active DeMolays, include Brothers Jeffrey S. Burch, Charles Isaac Cartwright, Salvatore Cremona, Jan Thompson and Benjamin Adler Walker. *Bob England*

*Executive Officer
Maryland DeMolay*

Note to Lodge Secretaries:

Please make sure the Grand Lodge has the necessary paperwork for anyone due a service award for 2005.

Remember: 2006 service awards do not have to be voted on – only read in lodge. Send all requests for 2006 service awards at one time to the Grand Lodge Office.

"Success, as Freemasons measure it, is not in the result but in the attempt...trusting in ourselves to be the best we can be."

*From the book, **Reflections** by James I. Miller*



Members of Prudence Lodge No. 190 of Mt. Airy, MD, awarding a \$1,000 Scholarship to senior Heather Lawson, of South Carroll High School. On June 7, 2005 at the school awards ceremony.

Pictured from left to right are WM Richard Mullinix, Heather Lawson and JW Ronald Burner. Each year Masonic Charities of Maryland gives two \$1,000 awards in each of the state's counties.



6 Brothers Standing Proficiency in the 3rd Degree catechism at Ionic Lodge No. 145 on December 10, 2004. These men completed a one day class held on October 9, 2004

From Left: Ronnie C. Clifton, PM - Instructor; New Members - Joe Sill, Jr., Ken Strevik, Steve Jones, Rick Strevik, Charlie Frock, and Robert Conrad

License Plates

Masonic License plates are available to Maryland Masons, with vehicles registered in Maryland, as well as their wives, widows, and sons and daughters living at home.

You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. Ray is available during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

Be proud of your fraternity and display these plates on your car this year.

Chair Plaques & The Tree of Life

Chair Plaques are for chairs located in the Corinthian Room on the second floor of Grand Lodge. You may have your own name on a plaque, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Tree of Life is located in the main lobby of the Grand Lodge Building. You can sponsor a leaf on the tree, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Chair Plaques and the Tree of Life leaves cost only \$200.00 each. This provides you with up to four lines on either, with twenty-one characters per line. What a wonderful way to remember someone.

Call Ray Vogel at the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 to make arrangements for yours.



GRAND MASTER'S BOOK CLUB

Having the firm belief that there can be no dedication without education, I am pleased to offer the following five selections as the first publications in the:

"Grand Master's Book Club."

MORE ABOUT MASONRY

by: H. L. Haywood

THE NEWLY MADE MASON

by: H. L. Haywood

REFLECTIONS

by: James I. Miller

THE CRAFT AND ITS SYMBOLS

by: A. Roberts

A PILGRIM'S PATH

by: John J. Robinson

These books will be sold to the Craft as a set for \$50.00 with no shipping charges. We will have them available at Grand Lodge Summer School in Cockeysville and elsewhere about the state as we travel to Summer Schools during July and August. They may also be ordered by calling the Grand Secretary's Office. We have on hand 50 sets and will order more as needed. This is a great opportunity to start your Masonic Library. This program will be continued next year with five different titles to be determined by the Chairman of our Education Committee.

Ronald McDonald House Pull-Tab Program

On behalf of the families and children at the Ronald McDonald House, I would like to thank you for the wonderful donation of pull-tabs and for your interest in the Pull-Tab Program. You might be interested to

know that in the year 2004, pull-tab collections brought in over three thousand seven hundred dollars for the House! This is an increase of over one hundred percent from the previous year! Because of your help, we are on our way to another successful year!

As you know, Ronald McDonald Houses are able to receive funding from this project. These gifts from the recycling of tabs help enable us to provide our residents with a thirty-seven bedroom facility and many valuable services to our families who need temporary residence as they care for ill children.

We are ever mindful of our friends in the community who sustain us with their thoughtfulness and gifts. Thank you again for your commitment to the community!

In Memorium

James Allen Lytle



James Allen Lytle, age 68, of California, passed away on July 3, 2005, at the University of Maryland

Medical Center in Baltimore.

He was born on August 24, 1936, in Roanoke, Virginia and the son of the late James Bascomb Lytle and Ovelia Phillips Lytle of Norfolk, Virginia. He married the former Glenda Annice Reid in Norfolk on July 23, 1960.

Allen, or "Al", as he was known by his friends, was very active member of Thomas J. Shryock Lodge 223,

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons and served as Worshipful Master in 1981. He also attained the honor of 33rd degree in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and past masters in the Valley of Southern Maryland: York Rite: Red Cross of Constantine, and a member of the Boumi Shrine. He had the honor of serving in the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1997, highlighted by a visit to Prudence Lodge #7183 in Portsmouth, England.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Carroll C. Lytle of Virginia Beach, VA and son-in-law, Ian R. Seeley of Huntingtown. In addition to his wife, Mr. Lytle is survived by a sister, Rebecca Conner of Bainbridge, Georgia; daughters, Kelly Annice Seeley of Huntingtown, and Leslie Reid Hancock and husband, Ralph of La Plata; son, Bradley Allen Lytle and wife, Natalie of Owings; granddaughters, Emily Reid Seeley, Madison Lytle and Brooklyn Annice Lytle, and Randi Lynn Cropper, and grandson, Reid Morgan Hancock.

Masonic Charities of Maryland Scholarship Program

Forty-eight graduating seniors are once again grateful to Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) and the lodges of Maryland. As in the past scholarship applications were received from many areas of the state, reviewed by lodges and submitted to receive the \$1,000 scholarship awarded by MCM and the Masons of Maryland. The following were this year's recipients:



| | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Allegheny Co. | Autumn Apsey Jesse Wilhelm | Allegany High Westmar High | Ohr Lodge #131 George's Creek Lodge #161 |
| Anne Arundel Co. | Lauren Scally Katherine Dykeman Shelby Buckman | North County High Broadneck High North County High | King David's Lodge #68 Annapolis Lodge #89 King David's Lodge #68 |
| Baltimore Co. | Lori Hansell Lindsay Edler Wendy Allison | Perry Hall High Towson High Western School of Technology and Environmental Sciences | Mt. Nebo Lodge #229 Mt. Moriah Lodge #116 Washington Lodge #3 |
| | Rachel Lautenschlager | Patapsco High. | Patapsco Lodge #183 |
| | Ashton Habighurst | Catonsville High | Palestine Lodge #189 |
| Caroline Co. | Robert Satterfield | Cnl. Richardson High | Nanticoke Lodge #172 |
| | Alicia Demerle | North Caroline High | Temple Lodge #128 |
| Cecil Co. | Nicholas Backert | Rising Sun High | Harmony Lodge # 53 |
| | Kristina Moore | Perryville High | Cecil Lodge # 125 |
| Carroll Co. | Sarah Leidy | Westminster High | Door to Virtue Lodge # |
| | Alexia Van Horen | North Carroll High | Lebanon Lodge #175 |
| | Heather Lawson | South Carroll High | Prudence Lodge #190 |
| Charles Co. | Helena Clemons | Thomas Stone High | St. Columba Lodge #150 |
| | Katherine Van Slyke | Thomas Stone High | St. Columba Lodge #150 |
| Frederick Co. | Matthew Sanicoca | Frederick High | Columbia Lodge # 58 |
| | Heather Roberts | Brunswick High | Brunswick Lodge #191 |
| | Kathleen Ballen | Catoctin High | Acacia Lodge #155 |
| Garrett Co. | Tyler Brenneman | Northern Garrett High | Hiram Lodge # 103 |
| | Matthew Bass | Northern Garrett High | Hiram Lodge #103 |
| Harford Co. | Alexander Davies | Fallston High | Esdrealon Lodge #176 |
| Kent Co. | Rebecca Lyons | Kent County High | Chester Lodge #115 |
| | Kayla Blymar | Kent County High | Chester Lodge #115 |
| Montgomery Co. | Jason Pate | Cnl. Magruder High | Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 |
| | Alicia Tito | Cnl. Magruder High | Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 |
| | Emily Schmitt | Cnl. Magruder High | Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 |
| | Aleksandr Gorokhov | Cnl. Magruder High | Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 |
| Prince George's Co. | Dominique Patton | Bladensburg High | Collington Lodge # 230 |
| Queen Anne's Co. | Lauren Conley | Queen Anne's County High | Centerville Lodge # 180 |
| | Lauren Schelts | Queen Anne's County High | Centerville Lodge # 180 |
| Somerset Co. | Kyle Ward | Crisfield High | Chesapeake Lodge #147 |
| St. Mary's Co | Kyle Simpson | Leonardtwn High | Thomas J. Shryock Lodge #223 |
| | Ashleigh Vines | Chopticon High | Thomas J. Shryock Lodge #223 |
| | Kimberly Russell | Chopticon High | Thomas J. Shryock Lodge #223 |
| Talbot Co. | Kaylie Hawkins | Easton High | Coats Lodge #102 |
| | Dang Rousseau | Easton High | Coats Lodge #102 |

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| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Washington Co. | Cally Brandt | North Hagerstown High | Friendship Lodge #84 |
| | Ashley Crist | Clear Spring High | Mediary Lodge #140 |
| | Jordan Appel | Hancock High | James W. Bowers Lodge #173 |
| Wicomico Co. | Ashley Burton | Wicomico High | Wicomico Lodge #91 |
| | Lydia Foxwell | J.M. Bennett High | Centennial High #221 |
| | Hilary Wheatley | Mardela High | Temple Lodge #170 |
| Worcester Co | Kathryn Mulligan | Snow Hill High | Sinepuxent Lodge #193 |
| | Alison Moore | Snow Hill High | Sinepuxent Lodge #193 |

We congratulate all who applied and the lodges who took the time to encourage participation by so many deserving students. The lodges listed above did an outstanding job evaluating the applications. They gave deserving students the opportunity to further their education through this fantastic program.

This year was the first time to institute the new method of awarding scholarships by giving more to the areas with greater populations and therefore more high schools and graduating seniors. As you can see from the list we were unable to enact this new program as designed. Some areas were not represented which included Baltimore City, Calvert, Dorchester and Howard Counties. Prince George's County had only one applicant. This meant that many deserving students were denied the opportunity to apply.

This year we had about half of the number of applications as in previous years. The scholarship program sponsored by MCM is an opportunity for all lodges to get involved in their communities. Many of the lodges that have participated in the program have also

begun programs of their own. The relationships built by these programs have made for a positive view of freemasonry.

The Scholarship Program of MCM just like the Student Assistance Program will continue into a new school year. The applications for the scholarships will again be available to all lodges at the annual communication. It is the responsibility of the Worshipful Master to appoint a committee and see to the distribution of these applications to the appropriate schools. We hope that the 2006 Scholarship Program will prove more fruitful for the students of Maryland and the lodges of Maryland.

Story Tellers Remembered

Submitted by Carl Wisner, PM

So much emphasis has been put upon good ritual, in recent years, that little else is generally considered when providing a program in the various units of our Masonic Fraternity. The term good ritual usually means letter perfect ritual which, too often, is described "impressive" when all the words were recited in the proper order. Some of us "Old Timers" can

remember when much more effort given to draw upon the vast amount of Masonic writings and information that is readily available to interest and inform the attendees at Masonic gatherings. In addition and on occasion, some "story tellers", elder members of the Craft, would be encouraged to tell, usually unwritten accounts of past events, humorous or serious, that brought about the development and reasons for present customs and practices.

One such "story teller" was Bro. George F. Flentje, Jr., a prominent Baltimore attorney. He was active in the Grand Lodge of Maryland and was Grand Commander of Knights Templar in 1963. When he gave the Grand Commander's Jewel, which he designed, to the Grand Commandery of Maryland, and which is presently in use, Brother Flentje would delight in recounting stories surrounding Past Grand Master Thomas J. Shryock, the influential leader of Masonry in Maryland and the nation from 1885 to his death in 1918. In his later years, Brother Flentje served as Chaplain for the Masonic Veterans Association and on occasion he would "fill-in" some time not taken by

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the scheduled speaker with an account he had heard told concerning "The General". The title "General" was said to please Grand Master Shryock and therefore was often used. It resulted from his serving on the staff of Maryland's Governor Henry Lloyd as Brigadier General from 1885 to 1888.

According to Brother Flentje, James Cardinal Gibbons and Grand Master Shryock had established a custom of taking turns of visiting each other on New Year's Day and sharing in a toast. Finally, when Cardinal Gibbons was replaced, due to illness or assignment to other duties, on the following New Years Day, the General made a call at the Archdiocese on Cathedral Street and the door attendant returned and informed the Grand Master that the Cardinal's successor was not interested in continuing the practice of toasting the New Year. The high respect for the Fraternity by the Cardinal was evidenced in another account told by Brother Flentje involving a incident that occurred in front of the Masonic Temple on Charles Street by the Knights of Columbus. Baltimore was elaborately decorated in celebration of the centennial of the National Anthem in 1914, when a banner was extended across Charles Street in front of the Masonic Temple with a Masonic emblem in the center of the banner. A very long parade marched under the banner on the day of the celebration. But when the unit of the Knights of Columbus approached

the banner they refused to march under it and dispersed to the opposite sidewalk and reformed again on the other side of the banner and proceeded on their march down Charles Street. After Cardinal Gibbons learned of the insult to the Masons by the Knights, he caused them to reform, march to the front of the Masonic Temple, where they were to kneel and pray for the welfare of Masonry. Brother Flentje would than chuckle and add, "it must have been a bitter pill to swallow".

Another story that I recall, by Brother Flentje concerning the General was about a Worshipful Master of a Lodge that met in the Charles Street Temple. He came to the Grand Master with the dilemma that a former member of his Lodge had just died, destitute, with no one to bury him. The Grand Master told the Master that he would get back to him. Several days later, as the two passed each other in the Temple hallway, the General asked the Master about the matter and the Master, rather exasperated, replied, "Well, we buried him, Grand Master." To which the General said, "I think you did the right thing."

Historical Masonic Facts

Dr. Edward Jenner, in 1789 discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was worshipful master of Faith and Friendship Lodge #270 in Berkeley, England at the time.

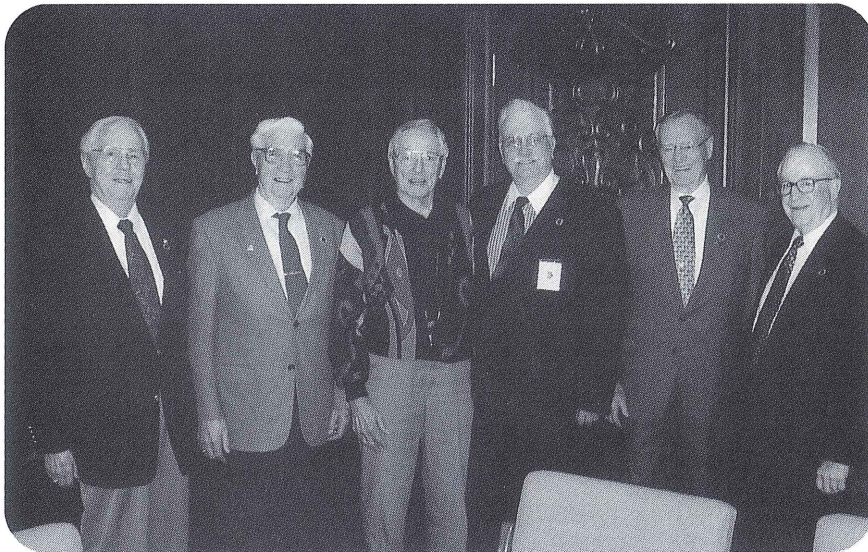
When the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880,

there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, causing some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. This issue is still open to debate.

When asked of Masonry, President William McKinley explained: "After the battle of Opequum, I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where 5,000 confederate prisoners were under guard. As soon as we passed the guard, the doctor shook hands with a number of prisoners and began passing out his roll of bills. On the way back to camp I asked him, 'Did you know those men?' 'No' 'But you gave them a lot of money, do you expect to get it back?' 'If they are able to pay me back, they will. It makes no difference to me; they are brother masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty.' I said to my self, 'If that is Masonry, I will take some of it myself.'"

In May, 1843, a group of representatives from fourteen grand lodges met in Baltimore, MD, with the view of adopting uniform ritual. The mtg. was presided over by John Dove of VA; Charles W. Moore of Mass prepared the proposed ritual. The convention's work was not generally accepted.

"It's not easy to be a Mason - a real Mason. Its hard enough trying to live by all of the principles and tenets and the charges of Freemasonry - you also have to be a brother. Frequently, that's not easy."



Grand Master's Luncheon

The annual luncheon for Past Grand Masters was hosted by M.W. Bro. Ronald G. Belanger.

From Left: P.G.M.s William C. Clark, B. Hope Harrison, C. David Haacke, M.W.G.M. Ronald G. Bélanger, Francis E. Larrimore, Bennie G. Owens R.W. Bro. Jack Biggs attended also and performed the photographer's duties.

Edward B. Kraft: "Thanks to all the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Maryland"

To try to express how I felt on the evening of June 24th is nigh unto impossible. Both Jack Frazier and I were overwhelmed with the outpouring of friendship that you showed at our testimonial dinner. I want to thank the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master for arranging this wonderful evening. It will be a night that neither of us will ever forget. Many of you who were unable to be with us sent congratulations and regrets, which meant so very much to us.

Thank you to so many of our good friends for the wonderful compliments and memories which you shared, along with the roasting. As I said that evening, "It's nice to know that a job that was such an important part of my life for so many years, has been appreciated." From the bottom of my heart...THANK YOU!

Edward B. Kraft



Above: Divan members of the Ali Ghan Shrine: Back row from Left: Fred Widmyer; R. Jeffrey Buser; Gary Miller and James P. Kreiling. Front row from Left: Andrew Sweitzer; Fred Meyers, (middle) Illustrious Potentate and R. Francis Shives, III

Right: Divan members of the Boumi Shrine: Illustrious Potentate Paul Heuther; Henry Hefner; Glen Daniels, C.J. Rex Williams, and Jim Davis.



Maryland Masonic Calendar



Schedule of Events

August

6: Grand Master's Ball at Grand Lodge - Tickets are \$75.00 per person. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 for reservations.

11: Maryland Masonic Homes Resident's Crab Feast.

27: Grand Lodge Crab Feast at Tall Cedars Hall on Putty Hill Avenue.

September

No Events Sceduled at this time.

October

15: Harvest Homes Day at Maryland Masonic Homes from 7:00am to 10:00 am. Blood donations to begin at 6:00 am.

November

18: Grand Master's Banquet in the Grand Lodge Ballroom at 7:00pm.

19: Grand Lodge of Maryland's 219th Annual Communication at 2:00pm.

20: Church Service at 10:00am followed by Open Installation at 2:00pm.

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