



FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND



VOLUME 45, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2020

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
January 16, 1947-February 17, 2020
Grand Master-2011-2012



FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES
AND ADVERTISEMENTS

The *Free State Freemason* is published bi-monthly from September through June (there is no issue in July or August). Deadlines for submissions are the 1st day of February, April, August, and October for publication in the following issue. These dates **ARE FIRM** and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

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FREE STATE Freemason

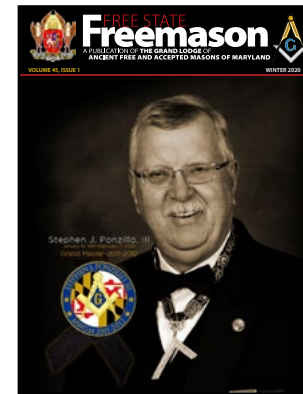
A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 1

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

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COVER: Stephen Joseph Ponzillo, III will be long remembered by all whose lives he touched. His warm greeting, resonant voice, and commitment to doing right were a constant. His love of family, country, and Freemasonry never wavered. See page 18.



FREEMASONRY is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

THE MASONIC FRATERNITY contributes over \$1 Billion each year to its philanthropic pursuits. Over \$750 Million of that in the United States alone. The Crippled Children's and Burns Hospitals sponsored by Shrine Masons are world famous for their ability to help those most in need.





GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Winter has set in and the renewal of Spring is around the corner. Leaving the old behind for a change to new things can be difficult. Moving from your childhood home to a new residence in a different area can be scary. This is also true for our Lodges. Maintaining the traditions of the past can be great but the need arises to break from some of them. How often you meet can be a great hardship on your members, but more importantly the officers. Outside of degree work, what other pieces of business requires 2, 3 or 4 meetings each month. Educational experiences should be done out of the normal Lodge setting, when possible. These should be in a more relaxed setting that will be more engaging for the membership. You need to change the thinking of "it's been okay for the last hundred years what's wrong with it now".

Times have changed and so must the way we do things. Reverting back to the past can have some benefits but in general is detrimental to the growth of an organization. Just because "we've always done it that way" doesn't make it right. In MWPGM Poyner's address to Grand Lodge in 1964 he noted "It is a rapidly changing world and we must be ready to try new approaches, new ideas and new methods if we want to survive..."

This statement shows the same things we are going through today over 50 years later. Philosophy on what Masonry is does not change, how we should enact it does. MWPGM Hosphehorn in 1954 noted "we need to put more Masonry in men." I believe that is everyone's desire but how to go

about it has caused some conflicts.

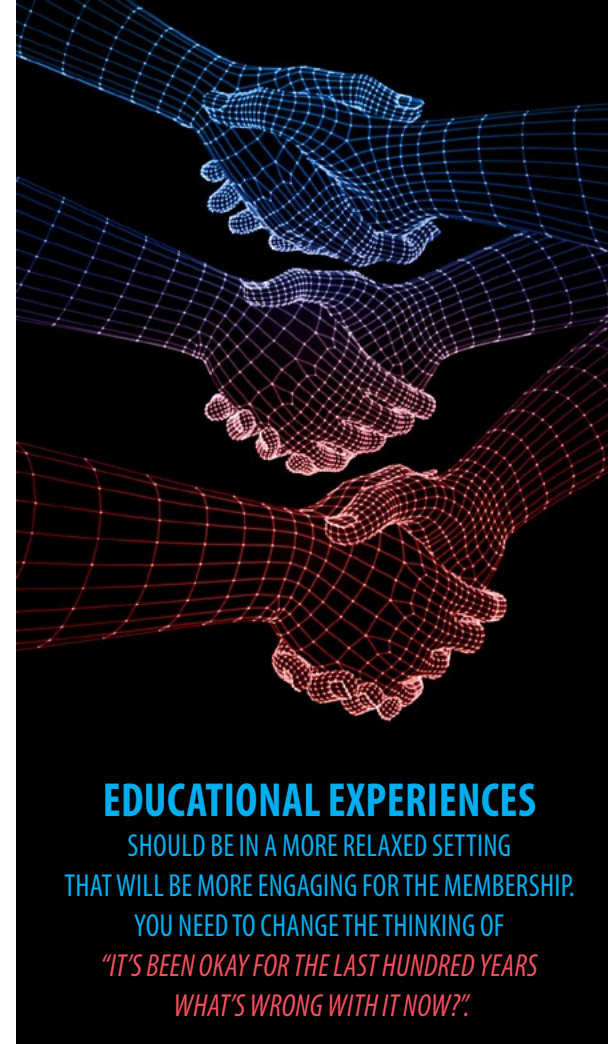
In thinking about the many teachings we have in Masonry one that comes to mind is the Mosaic Pavement – emblematic of human life checkered with Good and Evil. Another way to look at it is honesty verses deception. This is a choice every Mason makes every day. Our leaders must at all times choose what is best for the organization.

Looking back to the Annual Communication I want to congratulate all who received recognition for achievements over the years. Those recognized were:

T. J Shryock Award – **Paul Fishell** (No. 189) and **Simon LaPlace** (CT); W. Seipp Medal – **Bradley Andrukitis** (No. 174), **Joseph Creamer** (No. 93), **Arthur Tawes** (No. 147) and **Rolland Vincent** (No. 221); F. Larrimore Award – Baltimore Forest No. 45 TCL, Boumi Shrine Sheppards, Ali Ghan Transportation, Grand Chapter of Maryland OES, **Step Mika** (MCM); J. Naquin Youth Leadership Award– **Mary Lou Walter** (IOJD), **Annie Kahn** (Rainbow), **Gilbert Ruddle** (DeMolay); E. Kraft Ritualist Award – **Randall Watson** (No. 195) along with 6 Zerubbabel Medals, 1 Master Ritualist and 15 Grand Master's Awards. **Patuxent Lodge** No. 218 was again named Lodge of the Year for its outstanding work by its members all year under the leadership of **WM Terry Royce**.

On the weekend of March 13–15, we will once again hold our leadership training for potential Worshipful Masters. It will take place at Boumi Shrine Center under the leadership of Harold Garren. Some of the same valuable topics will be covered with focus more on Strategic Planning, Community Relations, and Brainstorming/Networking. We hope this will improve what is already a great program and be useful for our new leaders.

The following weekend, March 22nd, we will be celebrating **Job's Daughters Centennial Anniversary**. It will begin with a Church Service followed by a Festive Board designed with Jobs Daughters in mind. It is open to the entire family and we hope you will support this great organization of



EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

SHOULD BE IN A MORE RELAXED SETTING THAT WILL BE MORE ENGAGING FOR THE MEMBERSHIP. YOU NEED TO CHANGE THE THINKING OF "IT'S BEEN OKAY FOR THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT NOW?!"

character development and leadership training for young women.

On Monday, March 30th we will be honoring, along with the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, our Vietnam Veterans. All Veterans should be honored but this group more especially. The event will begin at 10AM in the ballroom with light refreshments following.

This brings us again to May 1st, **Masonic Awareness Day**. This is a day to celebrate your Masonic membership and heritage. Wear anything to show your pride and share with others. This is starting to catch on in other areas of the country and hope to see the square and compasses emblazoned on Social Media.

As always I hope everyone is living their lives with integrity and uprightness as we continue to expand this great fraternity.

Richard Naegele
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of Masons in Maryland



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MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

by Marlin L. Mills, RW Deputy Grand Master



I hope this issue of our Free State Freemason will find you well and the winter almost over. January was a very busy month for your Grand Master and his line of officers. It was really good to see new Masters who were certified to be installed. I want to wish each of them, as well as their officers, a wonderful year filled with great memories. While attending one of the installations one of the

Brothers asked me to walk out into the hallway with him—something I always do cautiously. He asked me to look at the photos on the wall. I did, and they dated back to the early 1800's. I said he had a lot of history that could be told if they were still around. He then asked me if I thought they would be happy with the officers of today; a very loaded question that could be answered by going in a lot of different directions, but I will leave that for another issue...

This issue is full of events that you and your family can enjoy across our Grand Jurisdiction. Masonic Awareness Day on May 1, 2020 kicks everything off. Everyone is encouraged to wear something conspicuous to show off Maryland Masonry: Shirts, Hats, Patches – anything in good taste. This is for all of our collateral bodies as well, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Tall Cedars, Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, Eastern Star, DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow. Show your pride in your fraternity. If you have never attended the Towson-town Spring Festival, you have missed on of the largest spring festivals on the east coast. This year our Lodges in Towson and the surrounding area will be there to be a part of the 53rd annual event that takes place on Saturday, May 2. Please try to come out and support our Lodges. Once again, we will hold a Masonic Wellness Day. This event will take place on May 31, in the Grand Lodge Ballroom and is packed full of things to do: K-9 demonstrations, fire trucks with hands on exhibits for the kids; not to mention food, drinks and many wellness activities for all – this event is a lot more than the name!

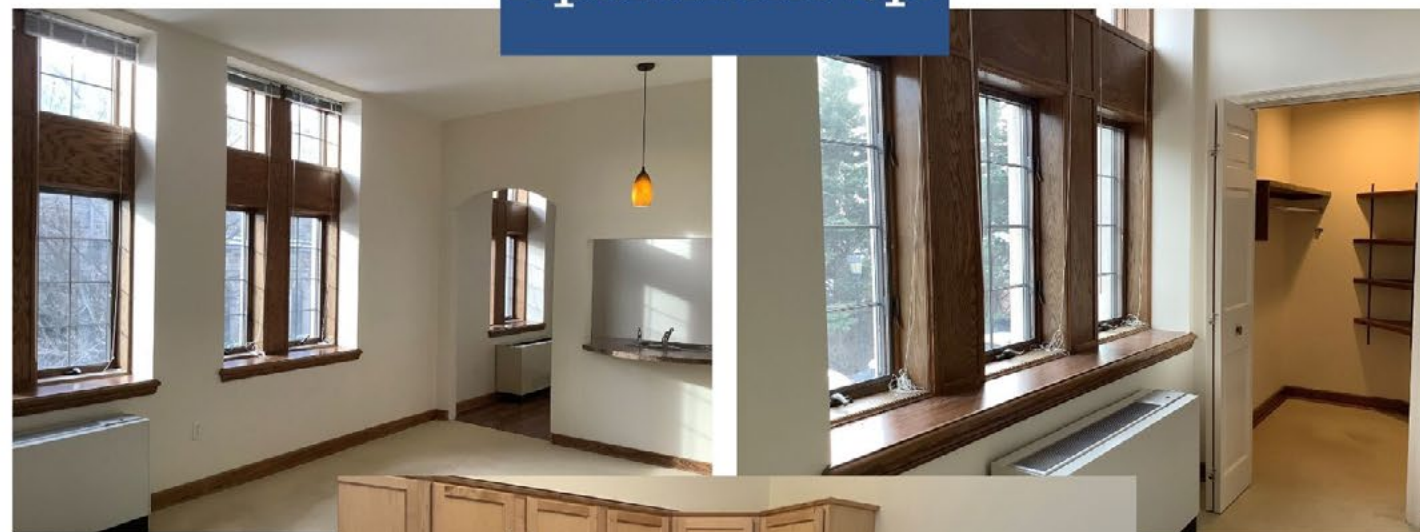


Our newest and most exciting event is our participation in the Maryland State Fair. Our Grand Master has been able to get us into the Fair to present Maryland Masonry and the CHIPS program. We will be in an air-conditioned building for the entire fair, which runs August 28th through September 7th. The event will require a lot of people to cover from 10AM to 10PM. Why not consider coming out and volunteering a few hours for our newest opportunity to show Maryland Masonry at its best!? For more information about signing up, and about getting free admission, please call the Grand Lodge Office at 410-527-0600.

As you can see there is a lot going on this spring and summer; more than I can list in this short space. So please check out some of the many, many things in store. I hope to see you at as many events that you can squeeze in.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Marlin L. Mills, RWDGM

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REFLECTIONS OF A NEW WORSHIPFUL MASTER



When I reflect on my early months or years as a Master Mason, I recall my first presentation on an issue in which I am deeply interested and in which I have a footprint: leadership and leadership development and opportunity. At the second installment of the leadership seminar for Worshipful Master hopefuls back in September, a good discussion on Masons as public servants occurred. For a person, some may perceive as a weird blind guy with a dog, I have, in this life, been blessed with many leadership opportunities. I hold most dear among these experiences: the craft. It has shaped me as a man and as a leader. Then, as now, I find unquantifiable benefits that generate from serving as a Mason officer, including, the opportunity to grow as a public servant.

Corner Stone: I have this two-part question. If public servants need to be Masons, or in a Masonic appropriate way, Masons can be shaped to be better public servants?

A presentation, Four Great Men, I provided at Lodge as a young Master Mason discussed leadership and the power of human connections in fostering Masonic and public service. I discussed specifically how Masonic leaders, such as our notable Grand Master Shryrock, stood dually at the highest pinnacle of Masonic leadership while also advancing community and public service. I tried to stress that, in the history of our craft, this has traditionally operated in parallel streams. If we look to his bio, as one example, the business leader served as Grand Master. If that was not enough, he also served as State Treasurer and as Chairman of the Republican Party of Maryland. I urge all of us to find how we can

leverage tools learned through the craft to increase our impact in our human systems.

Recently, a member of government – possibly, a Prince Hall Mason or a A.F.A.M. Mason -- stressed that I should apply for Leadership Baltimore, a program of the G.B.C. While these programs are of value; we can stress qualitatively and quantitatively the benefits of serving as Mason officers. For me, the craft has reinforced some of the God given gifts I already possessed with an even better ability to lead in new ways, while also dealing with my unique journey as a blind leader in new ways.

Considering our community and our political divides as well as the disharmonies this fosters, I must respond affirmatively. Our goal of no disharmony in Lodge alone is a building block for healing our polity. Moreover, so is our goal of “*taking good men and making them better.*”

Later this year, a Festive Board will occur that explores Masons as high-level public servants. The Worshipful Master of Highland Lodge and I, who are both visible public servants, are co-leading this. We welcome Mason public servants to serve on the steering committee.

Brother Gary Norman serves as the 2020 W.M. at Mt. Moriah. He serves as Chair of the Md. State Commission on Civil Rights. He is the first with a guide dog to be in a leadership role at both.

NOT JUST A MAN— A MASON

The following is an abridged version of the address delivered by Christian J. Miele upon his installation as Worshipful Master of Highland Lodge No. 184, A.F. & A.M. Highland Masonic Temple, Baltimore, Maryland | January 8, 2020

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Line Officers, Past Masters, Fellow Line Officers, Brethren, Family, and Friends: It is truly one of the great honors of my life to stand before you as the 111th Worshipful Master of Highland Lodge.

Now you'd think after being a politician for the last five years that I'd be able to deliver a speech on just about any subject off the cuff, “*but it is my duty to inform you such is not the case.*” Masonry, as any brother can attest, is one of those things that is extraordinarily difficult to explain to the non-Mason. So, rather than speak on this subject extemporaneously and risk falling short in my task of extolling the virtues of this ancient and honorable institution, I'll be reading from prepared notes. And even still, the task will likely be futile.

You see, Freemasonry is not something you can come to know or understand by listening to a speech or reading an exposé; or by watching movies like *National Treasure* or *The DaVinci Code*; or even by tuning in to one of those sensationalized documentaries on The History Channel (which sometimes convince even me that the Masons know the true whereabouts of the Holy Grail). And while it's certainly possible that Grand Master Naegle sips his morning cup of Joe from that sacred chalice of legend and myth, Masonry, as portrayed in the media, usually misses the mark by a mile.

The truth about Masonry is that it's an experience; a feeling that cannot be described nor conveyed. It's a state of mind, really. Because, believe me, knowing the secret grips and passwords will not help a Brother land a better job nor will these “*secrets*” unlock the mysteries of the universe. Instead, what these modes of recognition do succeed in doing is establishing an immediate level of trust between men who, absent their shared membership in the Fraternity, would likely be perfect strangers.

The Fraternity, or the Craft as we like to call it, creates an immediate and deep-rooted level of comfort and understanding between men who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. When you meet another Mason for the very first time, you know instantly and with certainty that he cares about, strives for, and values the very same things that you do. Things like creating a world where there is harmony among men of all races, nations, creeds, political persuasions, occupations, and orientations. Things like charity and service, and relieving the most vulnerable and distressed in our society. And things like perceiving life as the limitless foundation upon which each of us can build and adorn the great edifice of his own existence; the construction of that spiritual building which equates metaphorically to the pursuit of a purposeful, meaningful, beautiful, and good life.

In my eight years in this Fraternity, if I've learned one thing about Masonry, it's that the world would be a far better place if there were more Masons in it. The world we Masons strive for is the world that I want for my children, and my children's children. And so as we, the newly installed and invested officers of Highland Lodge, embark upon this new journey together, let us endeavor to do our part as builders, starting first with ourselves from within that we might build a better world for our fellow creatures without.

Christian J. Miele, Esq., is Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities in the administration of Governor Larry Hogan. He previously served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, representing Legislative District 8 in Baltimore County from 2015–2019. In addition to serving as Worshipful Master of Highland Lodge, Brother Miele serves as Grand Master of the First Veil for The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland; High Priest of Tuscan Chapter No. 42, R.A.M.; Captain of the Guard of Hiram Council No. 5, R. & S.M.; Junior Warden of Monumental Crusade Commandery No. 3, K.T.; Orator of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection, Valley of Baltimore, A.S.S.R.; and Chaplain of Euclid Council No. 14, U.C.C.E. He is also a member of Templeno Council No. 78, K.M.; Boumi Shriners; Kallipolis Grotto; Baltimore Forest No. 45, Tall Cedars; and Gleaner Chapter No. 49, O.E.S.





MARYLAND MASONIC MUSEUM PICTURE PERFECT: PAINTING RESTORATION AT THE MUSEUM

By Edward Heimiller, Curator—Maryland Masonic Museum | The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland

Conservation, which encompasses the treatment, preservation, and technical study of works of art and artifacts, is critical for the preservation of our collective cultural heritage. With specialized training in chemistry and art history expertise, conservators develop solutions to problems encountered in preserving and treating condition issues. With a better understanding of the physical nature of objects, conservators aid in the preservation of museum collections ranging from lighting, climate control, storage, disaster preparedness, and integrated pest management. These efforts often encompass not only conserving the item, but restoration. Restoration is an aspect of conservation that involves the addition of new material to reduce the appearance of damage or other physical condition issues in order to allow an object to be better aesthetically appreciated.

The museum's move from the Charles Street Masonic Temple in Baltimore to Cockeysville over twenty years ago was a mammoth task. In the process two important and large portraits

Painted by Norval H. Busey (1845-1928) were damaged. Norval Busey, a noted Baltimore portraitist, trained abroad in France for eight years where he received tutorage under the acclaimed French academic artist, William Adolph Bouguereau (1825-1905) in Paris and studied for another three years in Milan, Italy. He painted the portraits of Benjamin N. Duke (1855-1929), his wife, Sarah Pearson Duke (1856-1936) and their children, Angier Duke (1884-1923) and Mary [Duke] Biddle (1887-1960) that are today displayed at the Duke University Lilly Library, Durham, North Carolina. The commission from the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland of ten portraits painted between 1891 and 1892 is his single largest known commission. These paintings were commissioned in an effort to replace some of the portraits lost in the fire that devastated the Baltimore Masonic Temple in December 1890. Uncertain how to address the damage the two damaged paintings were placed on display with the other eight to highlight conservation needs of the collection to visitors and

allow time for treatment options to be evaluated. The two paintings were taken down this past September for closer inspection and to be treated.

In an effort to save money the museum was in a unique position. Instead of outsourcing the work elsewhere, museum curator Edward Heimiller, hired in 2010, happens to be a trained painting conservator and was elected by the museum board to treat the paintings onsite. He interned in the painting conservation studio at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, Winterthur, Delaware and obtained his Bachelor of Art History and Bachelor of Art Conservation from the University of Delaware in 2008 and received his Master's in Arts in the History of Decorative Arts from the Smithsonian Associates and the Corcoran College of Art & Design, Washington, D.C. in 2010.

The portrait of Jacob Medairy (1822-1904) was selected to be treated first. Medairy was a member of Adherence Lodge, No. 88 (Initiated February 13, 1846) and served as the Senior Grand Warden in 1850 and as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland from 1863 to 1902 (Adherence Lodge, No. 88 merged with Liberty-Pickering Lodge, No. 219 in 2011). He was instrumental in the development and construction of the former Masonic Temple located on Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland (now the conference center of the Embassy Suites Baltimore Inner Harbor & Hilton). Due to a failed tacking edge along the top of the canvas the painting detached from the stretcher and sagged causing numerous tears along the sides from the stress and breaks along folds where the canvas wraps around the stretcher as well as developed distortions in the canvas from the sagging. It was decided that the painting needed to be relined to reinforce and strengthen the canvas and create the needed long-term support. Strip lining, a more localized repair that involves attaching strips of new fabric to the sides of a canvas in an effort to strengthen weakened edges and enable restretching of the canvas, was also considered. The benefit of relining the canvas to give added support to the overall brittle canvas was considered critical to prevent unnecessary stress that

could result in new tears appearing when restretching the canvas. The fabric typically used for this is linen as it is generally stronger and more durable than cotton and has been proven to stand the test of time.

Before the canvas could be relined, the painting had to be removed from the stretcher, cleaned of debris that had accumulated on the back over time, and the canvas relaxed to reduce the ripples from the canvas sagging. Moisture, heat, and pressure were used to flatten and smooth the canvas and to remove the ripples. The combination of moisture, heat, and pressure relaxes the canvas fiber enabling the painting to become flat.

Once the canvas was flat a heat-activated and reversible film adhesive was used to attach a piece of Belgian linen to reinforce the canvas and tacking edge and in some areas create a new tacking edge where the original tacking edge had been lost. This approach gives structural reinforcement where needed while also preserving the original canvas. BEVA 371 was selected as it is a stable heat-activated adhesive specifically formulated to meet conservation standards. As a liquid solution it is a hazardous material and should be handled with care. Beva 371 film is the same formula as liquid BEVA 371 adhesive, but in a dried film that comes sandwiched between a sheet of thin silicone-coated Mylar release film and a sheet of silicone-coated release paper. The benefit of using a film adhesive compared to a traditional liquid adhesive is that the film is uniform in thinness, has a guaranteed amount of tack, wonderful adhesive qualities, and is completely reversible. The reason for using a reversible adhesive is in the event that the painting is in need of repair in the future it enables any new material to be easily removed.

After the painting was lined it was restretched on the original stretcher. In order to properly stretch the painting new keys (a wooden wedge device used to regulate the tension of the canvas) had to be hand cut to replace missing and damaged keys. Finally, the painting was cleaned to remove an amber layer of nicotine buildup from smoking in the former Baltimore Ma-

Continued on Page 14



GRAND LINE
 GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND

Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard P. Naegele; R.W. Deputy Grand Master Marlin L. Mills; R.W. Senior Grand Warden Walter F. Burgess; R.W. Junior Grand Warden Bradley D. Andrukitis; R.W. Grand Secretary Kenneth R. Taylor;
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 W. Grand Photographer Terry L. Royce; W. Asst. Grand Photographer Thomas W. Foster; President, Board of Grand Inspectors Robert W. Reynolds



Continued from Page 11

sonic4Temple. This revealed Medairy's eyes to be blue instead of green in addition to making the colors overall more vivid. Areas of paint loss along the edges from frame rubbing were filled and inpainted. The original custom frame featuring Masonic emblems in the corners made of oak and gesso (a plaster like material) was also treated to stabilize the gesso layer that became unstable over time with fluctuations in the oak substrate due to changes in humidity. A back board was added to help stabilize the expansion and contraction of the pine stretcher and prevent dirt and insects, such as Halyomorpha halys (commonly known as stink bugs), from getting behind the painting. After over 50 hours of dedicated attention Medairy's portrait is set for the next hundred years.

Conservation efforts are a necessary part of preserving the collection. It is a slow process that requires special training, a steady hand, attention to detail, and plenty of patience. The results however ensure the collections' preserva-

tion for future generations. The other damaged painting has a large puncture and depicts Gen. Benjamin Chew Howard (1791-1872), one of the sons of John Eager Howard (1752-1827) of American Revolution fame; he helped defend Baltimore during the War of 1812 and was a Democrat Maryland Congressman. A member of Cassia Lodge, No. 45 (Initiated January 19, 1813), he served as Grand Master of Masons of Maryland from 1824 to 1841 and hosted the Masonic dinner honoring the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) in 1824 (Cassia Lodge, No. 45 merged with Amicable-St. John's Lodge, No. 25 in 2000). Once completed, both paintings will be rehung in the museum.

Interested in learning more about the museum's preservation efforts and collections? Consider becoming a 'Friend of the Museum.' Membership is as low as \$50 a year. Contributions for conservation work for Benjamin Howard's portrait and other projects are also graciously welcomed. Please contact: museum@glmd.org for more information.



Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Maryland

Job's Daughters Centennial

Festive Board

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Devotional Service: 3:00 PM

Festive Board: 4:00 PM



Youth Group Members & Prospects\$15.00
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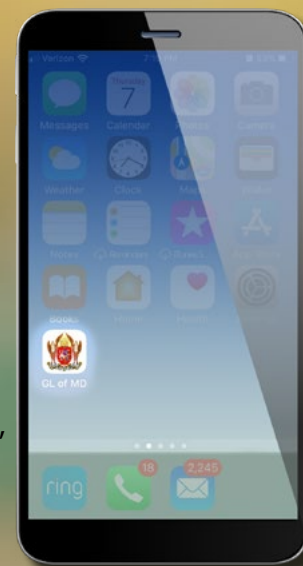
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A United States Flag with a Mission

THE REMEMBRANCE FLAG

It is only a stitched assembly of red, white and blue cloth, but it is a symbol of much, much more. It's a normal 4-foot by 6-foot United States Flag that was obtained through the office of then Representative (now Senator) and Brother Mason Benjamin Cardin having been flown over the United States Capitol on 4 July 2001. The Flag was obtained to "remember" events of historical significance for the United States and it has a name: "The Remembrance Flag."

The idea/mission of the Remembrance Flag was conceived by Brother Ted Severe of Scouter's Lodge 236.

Since 4 July 2001, this Flag has been either sent or physically taken to locations for the anniversary of the events at those locations. Once there, the Remembrance Flag is flown over that location and written certification is returned with the Flag.

Its first "remembrance" was 14 September 2001 at Fort McHenry in Baltimore on Defenders' Day in the State of Maryland where the British navy bombarded Fort McHenry and it survived the bombardment and inspired lawyer and Brother Mason Francis Scott Key to pen the words of a poem that became the National Anthem of the United States in 1931. Since that first date, the Remembrance Flag has made many trips even going halfway around the world . . . twice.

Here is a listing of some of the places and dates where the Remembrance Flag has been:

- Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, 14 September 1814 (2001)
- USCGC *Taney*, the last surviving warship from 7 December 1941 action at Pearl Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland, 7 December 2001
- The United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Statue), Commemoration of two Flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima on 23 February 1945 (2002), Arlington, Virginia
- The American Cemetery in Luxembourg, Europe, 30 May 2002
- The American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandie, France, overlooking Omaha Beach, 6 June 1944 (2002)
- National Powwow 12, Crescent City, Illinois, 13 July 2002
- 125th Anniversary of 1877 Flight of Nez Perce Indians to Canada, The Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, Wisdom, Montana, 9-10 August 1877 (2002)

- U.S.S. *Missouri*, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 57th Anniversary of Japanese Surrender on 2 September 1945 (2002) in Tokyo Bay, Japan
 - 228th Anniversary of the Battle at the Old North Bridge on 19 April 1775 (2003), Concord, Massachusetts
 - "We Remember," BSA Flag Placement, Garrison Veterans Cemetery, 22 May 2003
 - Kings Mountain National Military Park, 223rd Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, 7 October 1780 (2003), Blacksburg, South Carolina
 - The Statue of Liberty, 117th Anniversary of dedication of Statue, 28 October 1886 (2993, Liberty Island, New York City, NY)
 - U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 62nd Anniversary of the Japanese attack of 7 December 1941 (2003) – In 2003, this was a Sunday morning!
 - The State House of Maryland, Annapolis, Maryland, 220th Anniversary of General George Washington's resignation as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, 23 December 1783 (2003)
 - "We Remember," BSA Placement of US Flags, Garrison Veterans Cemetery, 27 May 2004
 - National Powwow 13, Danville, IL, 6 July 2005
 - Antietam National Battlefield, 143rd anniversary of the battle on 17 September 1862 (2005)
 - 37th Massing of the Colors, United States Naval Academy, 13 November 2005
 - Gettysburg National Cemetery, 142nd Anniversary of dedication of the cemetery and Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" on 19 November 1863 (2005)
 - Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne, OK, 137th anniversary of the 27 November 1868 attack on Black Kettle's Cheyenne village by the 7th Cavalry and George Armstrong Custer, 27 November 2005
 - U.S.S. *Constellation*, 151st Anniversary of the ship's commissioning, 28 July 1855 (2006)
 - 38th Massing of the Colors, United States Naval Academy, 12 November 2006
 - "We Remember," BSA Flag Placement, Garrison Veterans Cemetery, 24 May 2007 and Baltimore National Cemetery, 25 May 2007
 - U.S.S. *Constitution*, Charlestown, MA, 211th Anniversary of the ship's commissioning, 1 October 1797 (2008)
 - Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, 150th Anniversary, 29 November 1864 (2014)
 - 2015 Challenge Trophy Camporee, Camp Babcock-Hovey, NY, 16-18 October 2015
 - Massing of the Colors, Fort George G. Meade, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019
 - U.S.S. *Olympia*, 124th anniversary of its commissioning, 5 February 1895 (2019), Philadelphia, PA
 - Philmont Training Center, 20 June 2019, Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM
 - "Lodge in the Woods," Ephrata Lodge 665, Camp Edward Mack, Newmanstown, PA, 18 September 2019
 - Open Festive Board, Scouter's Lodge 236, 29 September 2019
 - Annual Communication, Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Maryland, 16 November 2019, Cockeysville MD
 - 232nd Anniversary of the Founding of the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Maryland, 9 December 1787 (2019), Cockeysville MD
- There are still more events and places where the Remembrance Flag can be flown and those events and places are being determined. As each location and date has been accomplished, written certification (letters, certificates, etc.) will be provided as a "paper trail" for the Remembrance Flag. Remembering is a "work in progress."
- The Remembrance Flag is often used for Boy Scout Eagle Courts of Honor and other events such as the Massing of the Colors at Fort George Gordon Meade on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day. The Remembrance Flag is also used by the Blue Springs Gilwell Pipe Band and Colour Party at the Gilwell Reunion held at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve near Acton, Ontario, Canada, on the weekend following Labor Day since 2001. The Remembrance Flag has been and will be used by Scouter's Lodge 236 for Lodge meetings and other Masonic events needing a United States Flag.

STEPHEN JOSEPH PONZILLO, III



Stephen J. Ponzillo, III's interest in Freemasonry was encouraged by his father at an early age, culminating in him joining the Order of DeMolay. While attending Towson State College he petitioned Liberty Lodge, No. 219 under the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland (later Liberty Pickering Lodge, No. 219). He was Initiated: March 11, 1968; Passed: March 25, 1968; and on April 15, 1968 was Raised a Master Mason by his father. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1973 and again in 2014 & 2015. He was the Charter Master of Ancient Baltimore Lodge, No. 234 under the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland Chartered in 2011.

He first became active in Grand Lodge in 1980 when he served as the Grand Pursuivant under Bernard E.

Rothman as Grand Master of Masons of Maryland. In 1995-6 he had the unique opportunity to serve as the Grand Marshal under his father, Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr., as Grand Master of Masons in Maryland. His interest in history prompted him to serve as the Grand Historian in 2001-2 under Bennie G. Owens as Grand Master of Masons of Maryland. He served as the Senior Grand Warden in 2005 under Ronald G. Bélanger as Grand Master of Masons of Maryland. In 2008 he was elected and installed as Deputy Grand Master of Masons of Maryland serving under Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. as Grand Master of Masons of Maryland. After his second term as Deputy Grand Master he was elected Grand Master in May 2010 and installed in that office in November the same year. Under his stewardship the first statewide Masonic media campaign to steer those with an interest in Freemasonry to Lodges

was launched in conjunction with a Statewide Open House on April 2, 2011. He also laid the groundwork for a five-million-dollar renovation project and construction of a new maintenance building for Maryland Masonic Homes completed in 2015. A zealous Masonic historian, he was particularly proud of the celebration held in recognition of the 225th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland (1787-2012). However, among his most memorable events as Grand Master was the birth of two of his grandchildren, one each year he was Grand Master. After leaving office he served as the Maryland representative on the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association for several years. He returned to serve Maryland Masonry in 2018 upon being elected to the Board of Directors of Masonic Charities of Maryland, serving as President in 2018 and 2019.

A lifelong educator, he began teaching social studies in Baltimore County Schools and served in that capacity until he became Vice Principal. He was quickly promoted to Principal and served in that role for several Baltimore County Schools. While serving as Principal of Ridgely Middle School during a Giant grocery receipt fundraiser, as an incentive to obtain computer equipment, he put his moustache on the line. If receipts exceeded \$1,000 he would shave it off. The students took it to heart, collecting in excess of \$1,100 and true to his word at a special assembly his moustache went – the only time his wife saw him with a smooth unadorned upper lip. His commitment to education and supporting the development of youth continued with his involvement in various Masonic scholarship program committees, notably those overseen by Masonic Charities of Maryland and York Rite Bodies.

A zealous and active Freemason, he was also involved in several of the Masonic affiliated bodies, particularly passionate about the York Rite, serving in various offices. He served as the High Priest of Druid Chapter, No. 28 of Royal Arch Masonry from 1984-6, Thrice Illustrious Master of Hiram Council, No. 5 in 1974, Commander of Monumental Com-

mandery, No. 3 (later Monumental-Crusade Commandery, No. 3) from 1974-1976 and served as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars of Maryland in 1996-7, Past President of the Past Commanders Association, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master, Grand Council R. & S. M. of Maryland in 1984, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Grand Chapter RAM 2006-7, Knights Red Cross of Constantine Past Sovereign of St. Cyprian Conclave. He was also a member of the Chesapeake Consistory of the Scottish Rite, Past Master Association of Baltimore, Boumi Temple Shrine, Baltimore Tall Cedars of

Lebanon, Yedz Grotto, Royal Order of Scotland, Daughters of Job Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, Baltimore Council, Knight Masons of Ireland, York Rice College, Allied Masonic Degrees, Euclid Council Universal Craftsman, Trinity Chapter of St. Thomas of Acon, among others. He was also made an Honorary Past Master of Warren Lodge, No. 51, Mt. Moriah Lodge, No. 116, Oriental Lodge, No. 158, Patapsco Lodge, No. 183, Aberdeen Lodge, No. 202, Tuscan Lodge, No. 202, and Patuxent Lodge, No. 218.

He is survived by his loving wife, Marie, and their children and many grandchildren.

A REMEMBRANCE FROM THE PONZILLO FAMILY

Stephen Joseph Ponzillo, III will be long remembered by all whose lives he touched. His warm greeting, resonant voice, and commitment to doing right were a constant. His love of family, country, and Freemasonry never wavered.

Steve was born in Baltimore, Maryland on January 16, 1947, to Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. and Patricia Rose (Harrison) Ponzillo. Five years later the family moved to Dundalk, Maryland, and Steve became a big brother to Joe.

Steve grew up a proud Dundalk boy, attending Patapsco Neck Elementary School, North Point Junior High, and Dundalk Senior High School. He was an active member of the Dundalk Chapter of DeMolay and served as Master Councilor in 1963 and 1964. He served as State Master Councilor from 1965-1966 and was raised in Liberty Lodge in 1968 by his father. Steve worked summers at Sparrows Point while attending Towson University (then known as Towson State College) earning a B.S. in History, Political Science, and Secondary Education in 1969. Upon graduation, Steve remained in the Dundalk area while teaching at Sparrows Point High School, beginning a 41-year career in public education.

On October 28th, 1972, Steve went on a blind date that would change his life forever. He met and quickly fell in love with a beautiful and intelligent math teacher named Marie Petts. Marie and Steve married on April 7th, 1974 and became partners for life. With the help of friends and family, they designed and built their home, Marsteph Hall, on nights, weekends, and summers when they weren't teaching.

Steve and Marie moved into their home in 1977, the same year that Steve became Assistant Principal of Dundalk High School. A year later their first daughter, Marie, was born. Two years later Steve and Marie became parents again, celebrating the birth of their second daughter, Holly, a Christmas time baby.

Family and holidays played a large role in Steve's life. Christmases at Marsteph were filled with decorations, multiple trees, parties, and of course – Santa Clauses. St. Patrick's Day included leprechaun hunts, corned beef and cabbage, and pitchers of green beer. Fourth of July often included watching the Dundalk parade followed by a pool party to the soundtrack of Souza marches. And on President's Day, Steve hosted a costume dinner party where all the guests wore colonial garb and feasted on colonial food and drink.

During this time, Steve continued his involvement in Freemasonry. He served as Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Maryland, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council and earned the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite. Steve chartered Ancient Baltimore Lodge in 2011. From 2011-2012, Steve served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland.

Even with his many Masonic commitments, Steve made time for family. He was the extremely proud grandfather of five grandchildren. He spoiled them with Starbucks, cookies, and love, and delighted in foiling their parents' rules and regulations. Steve and his family traveled regularly and made annual trips together to Williamsburg, Virginia; Lake Placid, New York; and Gettysburg and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Throughout his life, his commitment to education, leadership, Freemasonry, and a deeply held sense of right guided his actions. We are all changed for the better for having known him.

Steve, Dad, "Hon", Pop, Brother, and dear friend, you will be greatly missed.

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