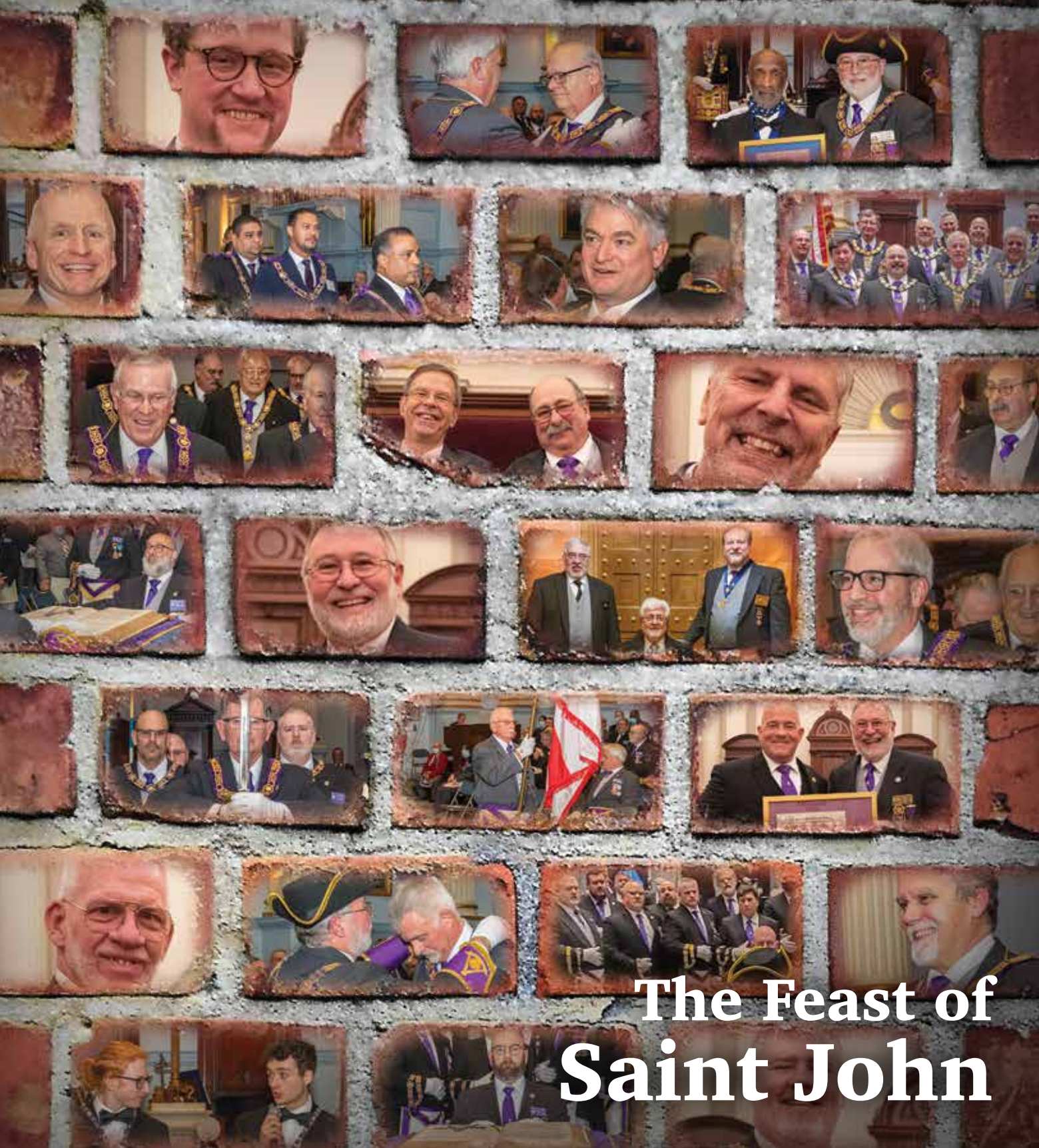


TROWEL



GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS WINTER 2021-22



The Feast of
Saint John



From the East of Grand Lodge
MOST WORSHIPFUL RICHARD MAGGIO

Brethren,

As I write this, we are approaching 680 days held hostage, COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, who would have ever thought we would still be dealing with this pandemic in 2022?

Despite the challenges our Fraternity has faced, we continue to persevere. When most buildings closed, we opened ours to the Red Cross. When our members were in need, we helped them. When others outside of our Fraternity were in need, we took care of them. It continues to amaze me how strong you are and how generous you are. I am so proud to call you all Brothers!

Despite entering 2022 under the crippling effects of the Omicron variant (I hope when you read this the Omicron variant has passed) we continue to strive forward. Our efforts to improve ourselves individually, thereby improving our families and our communities, continues with even greater zeal, despite pandemics, tornadoes, or other calamities that we have faced and continue to face.

In March, I look forward to greeting our brethren in Florida and presenting 50-year Veterans Medals. This event has been cancelled the last two years which makes this year even more exciting. This coming year we expect to celebrate numerous lodge anniversaries that were delayed due to the pandemic. We will perform rededication ceremonies (the Masters Carpet Ceremony) and participate in many social events.

The phenomenally successful Golden Gavel Awards are coming up May. To be considered for an award, be sure to get your submissions in (online) by March 18th. We will continue to march in local parades, often teaming up with Aleppo Shrine. If your lodge or body is marching in a parade and you would like Grand Lodge to support you by attending, just ask! Stay tuned for future Grand Lodge Town Hall Listening tours where everything is on the table. Share your experiences, good or bad, so that we all may learn and improve the way we do business.

Brethren, for our traditions and our great Fraternity to continue, consider starting a conversation with a friend, coworker, or family member, one who you consider to be a good man, a man just like you. Continue the conversation by sharing your story of how you became a Mason and why you continue to live your Masonic life. Share the light, share the experience, share the brotherhood.

Stay healthy. I look forward to seeing you in my travels. God bless you, your families, and our great Fraternity!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Most Worshipful Richard Maggio

Grand Master

P.S. "Brother, when you are in need, lean on me..."

Magazine of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts

- 12** *The Grand Master Escorted by the*
Low Twelve Riders
- 13** *The Storm, The Tankers And The*
Masons of Coast Guard 36500
- 14** *Grand Masters of Massachusetts*
Most Worshipful Timothy Bigelow
- 15** **The Feast of Saint John**
- 16** *Remarks by*
Rt. Wor. John F. Sullivan
- 17** *Remarks by*
Bro. and General John Driscoll
- 23** **The Masonic Historical
Preservation Society**
- 24** *Waltham Triad Lodge*
Preserving History, Again
- 26** *Waltham Triad Lodge*
Honor
- 27** *Waltham Triad Lodge*
200th Anniversary



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>

REGULAR FEATURES

- Lodge & District News 3**
Chaplain's Column 4
Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication 5
The Prodigal Mason 22
News from the Overlook 28



SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS

Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
Most Worshipful Richard Maggio



TROWEL Staff

Executive Editor
Lee H. Fenn

*Design and
Production*
Kevin J. Papierski

Copy Editor
Brian McHale

Consulting Editor
Robert W. Williams III

Editorial Staff
Stephen C. Cohn
David P. Newcomb
Richard Thompson

Office Staff
George S. Fontana
Helena M. Fontana

Information Officer
Elliot Chikofsky

Photographers
Marcus Griep, Jim McIntosh, Joshua Mantello,
Joe Raviele, Allan R. Sinclair, Bob Wallace

Editorial Board:
Richard Maggio, Stephen H. Burrall, Jr.,
Jeffrey L. Gardiner, Donald G. Hicks, Jr., David A. Libby

E-mail all stories to Executive Editor:
editortrowel@gmail.com
Telephone: 617-401-7587

Address Changes for Massachusetts lodge members, and notifications of deaths should be sent to the individual's lodge secretary, and **not** to TROWEL Magazine. All other inquiries should be sent to the Grand Secretary's Office, Masonic Building, 186 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111

*E-mail: grandsecretary@massfreemasonry.org
Grand Lodge telephone: 617-426-6040*

Grand Lodge web page: www.MassFreemasonry.org

TROWEL prefers electronic submissions and will accept unsolicited articles, with the right to edit and use when space permits. Articles and pictures, unless specified, become the property of the magazine. Submitters are requested to provide name, address, phone number, e-mail, and Masonic lodge, if any.

TROWEL Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, A.F. & A.M. © 2022: all rights reserved. Published quarterly for members of Massachusetts lodges. Subscriptions for brethren of other Jurisdictions and non-Masons are \$6.00 for one year, \$10.00 for two years, and \$12.00 for three years in the U.S. only; other countries add \$5.00 per year. Mailed at standard A special rates, prepaid at Manchester NH. Printed in U.S.A.

ISSN 2372-5710

Neutral Drop

We were quiet. The pandemic slowed us down as we protected ourselves and others from infection, hospitalization, and possible death. We did the right thing: we took care of ourselves and our community. Slowly, the pandemic receded and then resurged. We were steadfast: we made adjustments, we continued, we endured.



During the pandemic, we were revving our engines. We were in neutral and the scream of our need for Masonry powered up our desire to help and be together. But we could do nothing. Government and family concerns held us in neutral.

Then came the neutral drop. The restrictions started to loosen, the vaccine was prevalent, and the virus mutated to the current catchy, but less serious Omicron variant. We slammed into gear, our engines revved up, and we hit the road with smoke and fury.

But that is our nature: we are Masons, and we are builders. We are the men who step up, who help, and who enjoy fellowship of our brethren. The list in the Quarterly is an example: Grand Lodge is moving and helping. My lodge, Mount Olivet, continues to raise new Brothers, supply food to shelters and churches, and reach out to our absent Brethren. There are so many stories of all the lodges running to reactivation.

Every lodge has a story. I hear about a lot of them but even more never come to me. You all know your lodge's story. The story of our brethren and their lodges are a testament to our devotion to the Craft. While Freemasonry is a craft and while we are Masons, Masonry is a verb. We do. We work to work. Whether on our lodge, our buildings, our community - we do the job.

With every parade, with every spume of white smoke from our tires, with every community we help, with every squealing of our wheels, our Fraternity gets stronger, our Brotherly Love stretches further to every man who wants to be better.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 6, 2022



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>

*Do you have an experience from seeing or having a
Masonic plate? Send it to the Editor of TROWEL at
editortrowel@gmail.com.*



A Martial Artist and a Mason

As a Freemason begins his journey utilizing his spiritual, mental, and physical powers in pursuit of the transformation from a “rough to perfect ashlar,” so too does the Chinese martial artist employ his mind, body, and spirit in pursuit of his art. Bro. Alex Woo, raised in the Grand Lodge’s One Day Class in 2019, and a member of Dalhousie Lodge, as is his father Bro. Theodore Woo, is a kung fu (wushu) practitioner in pursuit of excellence. What is kung fu? As Master Iain Armstrong explains, “The Chinese words kung fu translate more or less as a ‘man at work over a long time.’ If you want to unlock the full power of *continued on page 23*

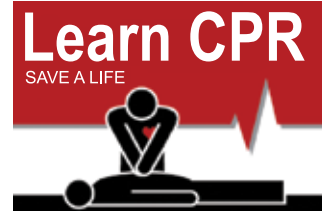


DeWitt Clinton Lodge, Sandwich, MA Decked out for the season.



Warren at Winslow

Wor. Gerren Kopcinski of Winslow Lewis Lodge was presented with the Joseph Warren Medal at our November communication. *-Rt. Wor. Geoff Kromer*



C.P.R. for Adults, Children & Infants

You can save a life by doing C.P.R.

Ask about scheduling a class at your lodge.

Contact
R.W. Robert Stanley
starsh@comcast.net
(617) 921-8555
or your
District Deputy Service Officer

ECSI EMERGENCY CARE & SAFETY INSTITUTE
Life Saving Training. Simplified.

www.ECSInstitute.org



Chaplains Corner

by *Rt. Wor. & Rev. Matthew Wissell, Grand Chaplain*

My brother took part in the Teddy Bear Classic this past summer. He plays with me in Masonic related tournaments from time to time. He recognizes I am active in the Fraternity and knows that our grandfather was a Mason as well. As a non-member, he has his thoughts about what the Craft is about. But sitting at the table after the round was over, he began to realize how long many of us knew each other and had been friends. I think he began to understand. At its heart, Freemasonry is about relationships between men who come to consider one another brothers. Those relationships begin at a variety of points. Some are well-known family members. Some are work buddies. Some are lifelong friends. Some share memberships in church or other community groups. Some meet one another for the first time at lodge. No matter where the relationship began, it takes on a whole new dimension when both are members of the Craft.

We teach one another that a lodge is not a building. It is not a physical location. It is not a room with chairs and benches. A lodge is a group of Masons. This definition speaks volumes about how we define ourselves. To go to lodge is to gather with brother Masons, not to travel to some location. It is about relationships. Our rituals are impressive and impart valuable life lessons to those who are initiated. But they serve a far greater purpose than to merely instruct the Craft on how to be better members of society. They are a foundation, the building blocks of the relationships that are the heart of the Fraternity.

First and foremost, the ritual creates a shared experience for everyone who is a candidate. It establishes a neutral ground where the new relationship can blossom and grow. Your backgrounds become less important as you have the degrees in common. It doesn't matter if you grew up in the city, or the suburbs, in a small town, or on a farm. Where you got your education, be it high school, trade school, or college is secondary. What you do for work is not the most important thing about you. None of those matter as much as that you both were

raised a Master Mason in the same form and manner. It allows those who might otherwise have nothing in common to engage in a meaningful relationship.

The ritual also sets certain expectations of behavior within that relationship. We agree to act in specific ways that will enhance our relationship. We also agree not to participate in activities that would injure our relationships or cause them to deteriorate. Together, we have an environment where new relationships can prosper among those where it would probably not be possible. Herein lies the genius of the gift of the Craft. I think about the many friends I have come to know in the 28 years I have been a part of this great Fraternity. They are from all aspects of society. They are from all over the country, dare I say all over the world. We

have different interests, different political views, different religious beliefs, yet we are friends. We are united by the bonds of a shared experience and some agreed behaviors. It really is quite beautiful when you think about it.

We are living in a time when our society is divided. People do not want to speak with those with whom they disagree about life. There is much anger and disharmony. We have trouble agreeing on what is true. Some folks are basically resigning themselves to world where compromise and unity is an impossibility. As Freemasons, we do not have to fall victim to that kind of thinking. We have a forum where we can have meaningful relationships with those whom we do not agree with about everything. We belong to a Fraternity that is about relationships. Let us spend our time together focusing on those things that unite us. Let us work to improve our relationships with one another. Let us endeavor to witness who can best agree. After all, that is the heart of the Fraternity. It really is about the relationships. ■



Grand Chaplain Rt. Wor. & Rev. Matthew Wissell is pastor of Holy Trinity United Methodist Church in Danvers.

THE DECEMBER 2021 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

The clock, that no one notices above the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts banner, showed 1:30pm on December 8, 2021, as the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio entered the Lodge room along with dignitaries and District Deputy Grand Masters for the Winter Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.

“Thank you for joining me today,” welcomed the Grand Master, “We have a full house, with a heavy agenda. We will continue to live stream and record our meetings for those who are not able to join us. For those online, thank you for tuning in. Our Colors will be presented today by the Hellenic Square and Compass Club. Brethren, please rise for the presentation of our Nation’s Colors.” Some of the Brethren present with Greek heritage wore Greek flags throughout the Communication and waved them as the Hellenic Square and Compass Club presented the colors and joined in pledging allegiance to the flag and a loud and proud singing of the Star Spangled Banner. The Color Guard was comprised of Rt.Wor. Chronis Kalivas, Rt.Wor. Evangelos Liapis, Wor. Constanine Colliontis, Wor. John Galvin, and Wor. Anastasios Miliotis, President. The Color Guard retired, and the Brethren sang the hymn Oh God Our Help in Ages Past and joined Rt. Wor. Keith Alderman, Grand Chaplain Emeritus, in prayer before the Grand Master opened the Regular Quarterly Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts in ample form.

“Welcome Brethren,” said the Grand Master before an



The Color Guard: Wor. Taso Miliotis, Rt. Wor. Chronis Kalivas, Rt. Wor. Evangelos Liapis, Wor. Constanine Calliontis, and Wor. John Galvin

important housekeeping issue. “More than 60 lodges were not in compliance with reporting requirements. Therefore, they are not qualified to vote in the election.” The Grand Master issued a dispensation allowing all lodges to vote today on December 8, 2021. The Grand Master required, however, that the necessary “paperwork must be supplied to Grand Lodge by Wednesday, January 5, 2022.” He instructed the “District Deputy Grand Masters to suspend the charter of any lodge that is not in compliance with submission of their Form 990 by January 5, 2022.” While “the

Government does not require Form 990 submissions until January 15th following the Fiscal Year End of August 31, because our deadline of 12/1 conflicts with the Government’s 1/15 deadline, Grand Lodge will accept the previous year’s Form 990, in this case, 2019. Any lodge not in compliance with submitting either a 2019 or 2020 Form 990 will have their charter suspended and it will not be reinstated until they comply. Please note a lodge would need to be over 15 months in the arrears for suspension of their charter. Additionally, if needed, I

will instruct District Deputy Grand Masters to plan for candidates in progress to finish their degree work in another lodge.”

“Brethren, on a lighter note,” sighed the Grand Master, “While travelling to Delaware recently I acquired the Clap.” As the giggles and guffaws waned, the Grand Master continued, “Let me explain. When long lists of introductions are made, they give each one, one clap. When I introduce the following lengthy list of those in attendance, either

online or present, in concert, you will imitate me.” He clapped his hands once, as did the Brethren.

Through the introductions, the clap was spread to all present. The following were introduced:

M. Excel. Ernest A. Bean, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts
M. Ill. Andrew C. Maninos, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts
Sir Knight Peter A. Mooradian, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America:

Ill. George F. Hamilton, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts
Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Ill. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Ill. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Ill. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Ill. Robert E. Godbout, Jr., 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

M. Wor. Thomas Edward Pulkkinen, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Maine
Rt. Wor. Oscar Zepeda, Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Baja California, Mexico
Ill. Robert S. Johnson, Potentate, Aleppo Shrine

Rt. Wor. & Dad Philip Drouin, Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts
M. Worthy Charles H. Jones, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star
Sir Knight Mark Z. Stought, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth

Streaming:

Rt. Wor. Albert C. Hopper, District Grand Master, District of Panama
Rt. Wor. Anand J. Murti, A member of Sinim Lodge of this Grand Lodge, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Japan

Mexico

M. Wor. Gabriel Benitz, Grand Master, Mexican United Grand Lodge of the State of Veracruz
M. Wor. Fernando Valenzuela, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the state of Jalisco
M. Wor. Agustin Aguilera, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the state of Zacatecas
M. Wor. Benjamin Woolfolk Gonzalez, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the state of Baja California
M. Wor. Carlos Humberto Cervera, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the state of Nuevo Leon

Past Grand Masters:

M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames
M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr.
M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon
M. Wor. Richard James Stewart
M. Wor. Harvey John Waugh
M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason

Rt. Wor. Charlie Briggs, 83 years old and the Grand Organist for Maine, is filling in for our Grand Organist this afternoon. Wor. George Wiseman took a little spill this weekend and we are wishing him well.

[It is with sadness that we must report that Wor. Bro. Wiseman passed away after the quarterly—Editor.]

The First Responders, Rt. Wor. Jerry Bergeron (Captain, First Responders), Rt. Wor. David Maxim, Rt. Wor. Kevin Hamel, Wor. Jack MacNeill, and Wor. Ed Burg. Wor. Charles Caroselli produced the audio and sound. Information Services (providing our live stream today) was provided by Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky, Wor. Patrick DeVal, Wor. Scott Sherman, and Bro. Timothy Maxwell. M. Wor. Bro. Ames went over the voting power of lodges and the recognition of proxies, which was voted on and passed. The Grand Master gave the final warning and a five-minute break for the Brethren to pick up their ballots.

Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Peter M. Culbertson sadly delivered the necrology of the newest Brothers who had, up to that time, joined the Brethren in the Celestial Lodge. We lost two Brothers who took over 120 years Masonic experience with them. Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson directed the Grand Marshal to escort Grand Historian Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt to the East for the reading of Remembrances.

DONALD PRIETO GARRIDO 1927-2021

The author gratefully acknowledges the personal contribution of Rt. Wor. Ronald Lavallee, Past District Grand Master, who preceded Rt. Wor. Brother Garrido as District Grand Master. For a century, our Panama District has gained from the contributions of men from many parts of the United States, who have come to the Isthmus to work and to serve. Our late Brother, Rt. Wor. Donald P. Garrido, was one of those men, and today we honor his memory.

Brother Garrido was born in New Orleans in October 1927, and became a sailor at age 15, serving in the Merchant Marine during World War II and the United States Navy during the Korean War, and was the recipient of various service medals, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He retired with the rank of Captain. He came to Masonic light in New Jersey, receiving the Blue Lodge Degrees at Zeredatha Lodge #131, in Jersey City in 1952, but in 1962 a job opportunity in Panama presented itself, and he relocated there, where he would spend most of his Masonic career.

Our Brother served as a pilot, aiding vessel transits through the Panama Canal, and was elevated to the office of Chief Pilot, a position created specifically for him. He would serve in this capacity until his retirement in 1994. In 1970, he married Lydia Wing, and he and his wife raised their children in Panama. For more than a quarter-century he was involved in every aspect of Masonry in our district, and according to contemporary accounts, it – after family and profession – was the center of his life. He affiliated with Sojourners’ Lodge in 1965 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1975. He was active in the Scottish Rite and was made a 33° Mason in 1983. He joined all of the York Rite bodies, serving as presiding officer in each, and was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Panama. He received the Royal Arch Distinguished Service Medal and was decorated with the Joseph Warren Medal in 1984. He also served as Potentate of

the Abou Saad Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., and was extremely active in both Rainbow and DeMolay.

His predecessor in office, R. W. Brother Lavallee, described him as “gung-ho” and always active, devoted to Masonry, outgoing and friendly, caring, and always engaged in the service of his fellow man. In the 1970s and 1980s, those active in the Craft in our Panama District were involved in many organizations – blue lodges, York Rite and Scottish Rite, the Shrine, and the District Grand Lodge, and according to Brother Lavallee, whenever something was happening, Brother Garrido was always “Johnny on the Spot” – supportive and a valued participant. This clearly applied to public life as well. He held the rank of Commander in the Order of Manuel Amador Guerrero, awarded by the President of the Republic of Panama, and was a recipient of the Honor Public Service Award from the Panama Canal Commission.

Brother Garrido retired from Panama to Texas in 1994, but continued to be involved in the Fraternity, serving as Master of Cibolo Lodge #151 in San Antonio, and as Chairman of the Crippled and Burned Children’s Committee for Central and South America, which provided services for hundreds of children to receive prosthetics and burn treatment in Texas. We lost our Brother only recently and far from Panama and far from Massachusetts as well. His life of service is a worthy example for us to follow, and for those whose lives he touched, it will be long remembered and cherished. The Grand Master directed the Brethren to pay heed to the Grand Chaplain, Rt. Wor. Hank Peirce and be in prayer for our lost Brethren.

“Brethren we will now vote for the Office of Grand Master. Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master, you will assume the East and I will retire,” said the Grand Master prior to being escorted from the lodge room to rousing applause. “Brethren, we will now vote on the office of Grand Master,” announced the Deputy Grand Master before entertaining nominations from the floor then declaring the ballot open. The Grand Lodge Stewards collected the ballots. When all had voted, the Deputy Grand Master declared the ballot closed. “I appoint a committee of Past Grand Masters to count the ballots. As chairman of the committee, I appoint the Senior Past Grand Master present, M. Wor. Albert T. Ames,” Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson proclaimed.

While the committee was in the counting room, reports from the Records and Charters and By-Laws were read and

accepted. After an organ interlude, the Grand Marshal retrieved the Committee of Past Grand Masters from the west of the altar to announce the results. M. Wor. Ames announced the results, “The current Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, has been re-elected to another year.” After being reconducted into the lodge room, the Grand Master was asked if he accepted the position. He humbly accepted the honor.

The Grand Master then followed the same procedure for the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens. Rt. Wor. Glenn Lawrence Kubick was elected Senior Grand Warden and Rt. Wor. Russell E. Lowe was elected Junior Grand Warden. They both humbly accepted the positions. During the elections, a report from Committee on Foreign Relations from M. Wor. Bro. Hicks, Jr. was accepted.

The Grand Master directed the Grand Marshal to present Rt. Wor. Samir Bichara to the East. “Bro. Bichara has been appointed the Grand Representative from the Grand

Lodge of Masons of the State of Rio De Janeiro near the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Congratulations,” said the Grand Master as he presented his commission. The Grand Master entertained a motion for the Grand Secretary to cast one ballot for the remaining slate of Officers. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. The Grand Secretary cast one vote for the remaining slate.

The Grand Master moved on to the sad duty of pointing out those

Freemasons who have not behaved in a “civilized, lawful, and neighborly manner at all times.” There was one member who was suspended indefinitely from all the rights and privileges of Masonry for not adhering to our “strict code of conduct.” The Grand Secretary moved for approval, seconded by Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson and passed by the Brethren.

Leaving those who failed to meet our high standards of conduct behind, the Grand Master turned to the wonderful and recognized the anniversaries of three lodge: 100th, Budleigh Lodge, Chartered 1921; 150th, Mariners Lodge, Chartered 1871; and 225th, Thomas Lodge, Chartered 1796.

The Grand Master received checks from Rt. Wor. Tim McGavin and the members of the William D. Deadman Society; Rt. Wor. William Yanakakis, Chairman and the members of the Membership and Development Committee to the East; Wor. Jeffery Miller, Wor. Thomas McClintock, and Rt. Wor. Gordon Craig of the Brothers of the Single Malt [Rt. Wor. Bro. Craig kindly pointed out an error in the prior TROWEL: the haircut fundraiser was the 7th District



Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson casts his vote for the Grand Master.

LOI, not as I presented it. Special thanks to Rt. Wor. Bro. Craig—Editor]; Rt. Wor. John Carlson, Rt. Wor. Lee Cleveland, and Rt. Wor. Alfred Canhoto of the 15th North and 15th South Past Master's Association; Wor. Robert Lindberg, Master of Caleb Butler Lodge; Rt. Wor. Stephen Cohn, Master of The Masters Lodge to the East; Rt. Wor. Matthew Niedermeier, Captain of the Consistory Guard, Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston to the East; Ill. David S. Sewall, Commander and Chief of the Massachusetts Consistory, Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston; Ill. Richard B. Taylor, Sovereign Prince, and M. Wor. Harvey J. Waugh Past Sovereign Prince, from the Giles Fonda Yates Council, Princes of Jerusalem, Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston.

The Grand Master then entertained three more presentations from Prospect Lodge, Wor. Bro. Stought for the Order of the Amaranth, and Rt. Wor. Joshua Montello and Bro. E. Gary Blake.

The Grand Master thanked Rt. Wor. Bro. Briggs for filling in as our Grand Organist.

“Good afternoon, Brethren. Every large event we have at Grand Lodge, the Red Coats are present. No, not the British,” the Grand Master began to the chuckles of the Brethren, “but our First Responders under the leadership of Rt. Wor. Gerald Bergeron, Captain of the First Responders. They are almost invisible, but spring into action upon even the slightest chance someone is in distress, as we continue with the work of the day. Often, we are not aware of what transpires under their care. Thank you all for your resolute and professional service.”

The Grand Master discussed “discouraging participation in charitable events outside the lodge. The Salvation Army was specifically noted along with others.” His position is “first, we take care of our own family, meaning members of the Craft and their families, then our related organizations - DeMolay, Rainbow, etc. After the Brethren in your lodge are taken care of, I would encourage you to then go into the community, donate funds, form community relationships, and donate to those in need.”

After tending our own, then our communities, the Grand Master commended taking the time “to ring the bell for the kettle. Seeing “Masonic Men in Action” in the public can only foster a good opinion for the general public regarding the generosity of not only our money, but our time. So, feel free to don your tuxedo, add your top hat, and go out and help the public.”

The Grand Master announced that the sending of the Lodge Notice via email continues, though slightly altered: 1) The Lodge needs to keep the Brother's okay to send the notice by email on file; 2) Lodges need not do this annually as this is now easier: one request stays in effect until a Brother opts out; 3) If a Brother wishes not to receive the email notice, he must send a request to the Lodge Secretary. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the Grand Master described, has formed a Community Partnership with the 100 Club and raised \$11,000.00 to benefit the 100 Club. 180 people joined together for a 1920s gala style event with

live music and a fine dinner. The 100 Club immediately assists families of First Responders following severe injury or death to a First Responder. “A worthy cause and a wonderful community partnership was formed because of this event,” said the Grand Master.

“The Wamesit building blood drives in Tewksbury have already collected over 1500 units of blood, exceeding their goal this year,” praised the Grand Master. With the 12th Masonic District, collectively they are heading toward their goal of 3000 units collected in 2021 which will help over 8000 individuals. “Kudos to Wor. David Hicks of the Tewksbury Building and Rt. Wor. John Vankuilenburg, DDGM of the 12th Masonic district.”

For our statewide Open House, District 14 created their own street signs to match the big open house sign and spread them throughout all the cities and towns in the 14th. If your lodge creates a program with costs, contact Grand Lodge and it may assist you with some funding.



<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>

Masonic License Plate update: “Brethren, we are remarkably close to our goal of 3000 plates on the road. I continue to seek your support,” requested the Grand Master, “at 3000 plates we will receive \$60,000.00 from the RMV yearly. Think of how many of our Brothers and their families will benefit, not to mention the great Masonic Awareness. Please visit your nearest full service RMV or go online to secure a plate. Grand Lodge will continue to reimburse you upon receiving your application fee receipt.”

“After each Quarterly I am often contacted by many of you, some with praise, some with questions, and some with comments of disagreement on certain items,” remarked the Grand Master, “I do appreciate all of them. One that always intrigued me is the keen interest in the activities at the Grand Lodge and the Officers since the last Quarterly.” Here is what Grand Lodge has been up to: September: 25th, attended a service in celebration of the life of a dear friend, employee of Grand Lodge Bro. David Joseph Harty after he passed to the Celestial Lodge. “We often hear about our brethren passing, but we had another tragic loss in September to one of our ladies. She was a great advocate of the Craft and followed our lead by helping Brothers in need as well as supporting her local lodge. Her name is Lynn Craven, wife of Rt. Wor. Michael Chibiki-Craven of Sinim Lodge in Tokyo. She was the first woman to receive the Lady's Certificate of Distinguished Service Award, aka the Grand Lady's award. The meaning of this award, expressed by her in her own words was “As a Japanese National, it shows the diversity that Masonry celebrates worldwide.” She passed after an



Grand Lady Jody “rocked” the Grand Lodge of Washington DC as evidenced by the Grand Master, M. Wor. Alan L. Gordon proudly holding the rock with M. Wor. Richard Maggio.



Grand Masters, including M. Wor. Richard Maggio and M. Wor. Alan L. Gordon, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

incredible fight with breast cancer on October 1, 2021. She will be missed by all.”

Over the past months the 30 plus committees, the Board of Directors, the Trustees of our Masonic Education and Charity Trust, our Boards at Overlook, and so on continue to meet on a regular basis to find best practices as we oversee the fraternal and business side of the Fraternity while finding better ways to support our members. “Grand Lodge Officers and I attended 9 Installations including Noquochoke Lodge, Rising Star Lodge, Norfolk Lodge, King Solomon’s Lodge, Mount Horeb Lodge, Norumbega Fraternity Lodge, North Reading Lodge, Liberty Lodge, and the DeMolay installation of State Officers,” said the Grand Master. In addition, he completed all the District Deputy Grand Master interviews. Grand Lodge marched with Aleppo Shrine in various parades throughout the Commonwealth, including parades in Manchester by the Sea, Woburn, Quincy, and Merrimac. “Aleppo Shrine does all the behind the scenes work to make these parades happen and invites us to march with them to showcase Masonry and the fact that all Shriners are Masons!” exclaimed the Grand Master.

Grand Lodge in September worked on the following: on the 10th, a Masters Carpet Ceremony rededication of Simon W. Robinson Lodge for their 150th Anniversary; 11th, a One Day Class honoring our 1st Responders equaling 100 new Master Masons; 12th, Rt. Wor. Alan Welch, DDGM of the 4th brought the Grand Master and the District Grand Master of Panama, Rt. Wor. Albert Hopper along with our families to have a private tour of Old Ironsides. “At sunset I was

given the honor of lowering the flag of our great country,” said the Grand Master.

On the 23rd, “The Grand Marshal and I attended the Oppela Temple #50 Daughters of the Nile installation where we met the Supreme Queen Donna Kramer. Daughters of the Nile have raised over \$68 million to date and currently average \$2 million a year for the Shrine benefiting children.” Then on the 30th, there was a Town Hall Meeting Listening tour in Wakefield.

In October, on the 4th, the Grand Master and Marshal attended the Grand Lodge of Delaware’s Annual and Installation of Officers. (“That’s where I got the clap,” laughed the Grand Master.) On the 9th, the Grand Master conducted another One Day Class. The 14th brought Grand Lodge Officers to Stoughton to transfer the title of their building to its members. On the 15th, Grand Lodge performed the Masters Carpet Ceremony for Azure Lodge for their 100th anniversary. The 16th, of course, was the Open House, while on the 23rd the Grand Master’s Table Lodge was held. Good Samaritan Lodge was also rededicated with a Masters Carpet Ceremony on the 30th, for their 150th. Also, during October, Grand Lodge



Michael & Lynn Craven

marched in parades for The North Berkshire Fall Foliage Parade and the Woburn Halloween Parade, installed Officers at Ezekiel Bates Lodge, shot a documentary with the Scottish and York Rites, and the Deputy Grand Master represented the Grand Master at the annual York Rites Sessions for Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

On November 1st, Grand Lodge Officers attended

Prospect Lodge’s “raising of Bro. Tony Semaan, son of Wor. Elias Semaan. I also had the pleasure of presenting the Lewis Jewel. With father and son in lodge, our traditions continue!” said the Grand Master. Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson, Deputy Grand Master, went to Virginia on the 5th to represent the Grand Master at their Installation of Officers. On the 8th, the Grand Master went to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey for the same reason. As the acting Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master attended the St. Bernard Commandery #12’s November Conclave while on the 11th, the Grand Master with the Grand Marshal, attended the Annual Meeting of the Colonial Craftsman. On the 12th, Grand Lodge Officers performed the Masters Carpet Ceremony for Waltham Triad Lodge’s 200th anniversary (see page 27). DDGM training weekend was on the 13th and 14th; also on the 14th, Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. George F. Hamilton represented the Grand Master in Connecticut at the rededication of King Solomon’s Lodge # 7. “They recently found their original charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts dated 1765. Later, in 1790, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut chartered them,” said the Grand Master.

On the 20th, while the Grand Master was in Maryland for their Installation, the Acting Grand Master attended Simon W. Robinson’s Gala Ball in celebration of their

150th Anniversary. Another Town Hall/Listening Tour was hosted by Social Harmony Lodge on the 22nd. The Quincy Christmas Parade was attended on the 28th and on the 29th, “I installed the Officers of the Massachusetts Masonic Secretaries Association,” said the Grand Master.

In early December, Grand Lodge and Brethren marched in the Santa Parade in Merrimac, attended the soft opening of Guy Fieri’s Kitchen, our newest tenant at Grand Lodge, which is now open, and planned for the Feast of St. John and the installation of Grand Lodge Officers on December 27th. (See page 15). The Grand Master announced that the Town Hall Listening Tour Meetings will continue.

He also said to save the date, “The 2022 Golden Gavel Awards will be on Saturday May 14th at the Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington. Submission Forms are only available through MassMason.org, by clicking on the Golden Gavel Stamp before Friday, [March 18th], 2022. You may

enter submission(s) regarding your activity for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for your lodge to be recognized, but it also provides lodges with ideas of what they can do to promote Freemasonry within their community and the Commonwealth! Tickets are also on sale today via MassMason.org.”



Bro. George W. Hamilton, possibly both the oldest and newest Mason in the room, with his son Senior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. George F. Hamilton.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE GRAND MASTER



Rt. Wor. Tim McGavin and the members of the William D. Deadman Society



Rt. Wor. William Yanakakis, Chairman and the members of the Membership and Development Committee



Wor. Jeffery Miller, Wor. Thomas McClintock, and Rt. Wor. Gordon Craig of the Brothers of the Single Malt



Rt. Wor. John Carlson, Rt. Wor. Lee Cleveland, and Rt. Wor. Alfred Canhoto of the 15th North and 15th South Past Master’s Association



Wor. Robert Lindberg, Master of Caleb Butler Lodge



Rt. Wor. Stephen Cohn, Master of The Masters Lodge



Rt. Wor. Matthew Niedermeier, Captain of the Consistory Guard, Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston



100th Anniversary of
Budleigh Lodge, Chartered 1921



150th Anniversary of
Mariners Lodge, Chartered 1871



225th Anniversary of
Thomas Lodge, Chartered 1796



Saturday May 14th

at the
Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington

Tickets on sale at MassMason.org

The members of the Golden Gavel Committee were on the 2nd floor to sell challenge coins, info on the Ad book, and further event details. "I will be travelling to Florida the week of March 20th, 2022, to bring our greetings to our brethren in Florida. This will be the first trip in three years due to COVID," announced the Grand Master. "For details, contact Patty Latham at the office." The Grand Master reflected on the prior year and looked "forward with anticipation to new ideas, innovative programs, social activities, and new members. I look forward to installing the new Grand Lodge Officers, who have worked in the quarries for

many years and who now will be given the opportunity to lead."

"As we adapt to an ever-changing world, we look forward to the new year ahead of us. Let's focus on continuing to adapt to the world around us while maintaining our traditions and great heritage. During challenging and stressful times like we have been experiencing, let us all be kind to each other. Let us continue to preserve our past traditions as we plan for the future while enjoying the present! The most important and valuable thing we have or can possibly offer is not money, or celebrity status, or power, but it is our time. It is the only thing that we truly possess and control, despite its limited and defined quantity. Thank you for sharing your time with me today and thank you for all you do for the Craft. God bless you, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and God Bless the United States of America!" After a standing ovation, the Grand Master closed the Quarterly in ample form. ■



Ill. David S. Sewall, Commander and
Chief of the Massachusetts Consistory,
Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston



Ill. Richard B. Taylor, Sovereign Prince, and M.
Wor. Harvey J. Waugh Past Sovereign Prince,
from the Giles Fonda Yates Council,
Princes of Jerusalem, Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston



Wor. Elias Seman of Prospect Lodge



Rt. Wor. Frank Kautz II and Wor. Marcus
Griep making the Grand Master an
honorary member of Mount Horeb Lodge



Wor. Bro. Stought for the Order
of the Amaranth



Rt. Wor. Joshua Montello and Bro. E. Gary
Blake presenting a coin commemorating the
150th of Williams Lodge

Woburn Parade



The Grand Master Escorted by the Low Twelve Riders

by Rt. Wor. Eugene “Cappy” Capobianco

“Wow, what a wonderful day for a parade,” was the theme and thought behind communicating with the Grand Master for permission to have the Low Twelve Riders Masonic Bikers Association participate with a motorcycle escort for the Woburn parade. Grand Master M. Wor. Richard Maggio received this request openly and excitedly by granting us permission to participate. The call went out and eight riders on their shiny motorcycles showed up, wearing white dress shirts, black pants, and their Masonic Low Twelve vests. We took advantage of the situation and had the Grand Master, prior to the parade, present Bro. Douglass Macone with his vest as the newest member of our group. This was a big surprise as he had no

idea it was coming. The presentation occurred with Brethren in top hats and tuxedos in the background.

The Brethren were so pleased to see us there that we got several requests for applications, as many are motorcycle enthusiasts. When the time came, we fired up the motorcycles, lined up behind the Grand Lodge Banner in a V shape formation, and cleared the way for the Grand Master’s car and all the Brethren. We rode that way throughout the entire parade route.

It was a spectacular day for the Low Twelve Riders Masonic Bikers Association, for the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, and for all those in attendance. We were well received throughout the entire parade route by the throngs of spectators. Everyone was pleased by the reception we got from them throughout the entire route. It was a pleasure to line up our motorcycles on the side of the road, stand at attention, and salute the Grand Master as he passed by. It was indeed a great day for Masonry. ■



THE STORM, THE TANKERS, AND THE MASONS OF COAST GUARD 36500

by Wor. Bill Amaru

It was a cold morning, December 4, 2021. A small group of Cape Cod Masons were aboard restored Coast Guard vessel 36500 for a ride to the Chatham fish pier. While cold and blustery, it was nothing like the morning 70 years earlier, of February 18, 1952. That was the day a vicious gale lashed the waters east of Cape Cod with hurricane force winds and temperatures well below freezing. Snow was closing down the entire northeast coast. That was a storm that had few equals.

Two large T-2 tankers, bound for Boston from the Gulf of Mexico, struggled to stay alive in the freezing wind and 30-to-40-foot waves east of the Cape. I say “alive” because mariners believe a ship is alive when afloat. It dies when it breaks up or sinks. These vessels both succumbed, breaking in half just astern of midships. Their old, World War II steel was tired and brittle and could not withstand the tremendous forces generated by the mountainous seas. They were about 20 miles apart and drifting to the south, sou’west, toward the backside of Cape Cod. Our story concerns one of these two ships.

The tankers Fort Mercer and Pendleton both broke in half around midday. The bow sections drifted away with their officers aboard. The stern sections also stayed afloat with both the engine and steward’s crews desperately trying to maintain steam and power. None of the now four sections of the tankers sank. Their construction and design rendered them able to remain afloat. Neither vessel had time to radio distress calls, but before dark overcame the day, citizens from coastal villages on the outer Cape were able to make out a dark image drifting several miles offshore. A call to the Coast Guard and news from vessels in the vicinity confirmed that the object seen off the Cape was probably part of the tanker Pendleton. She was drifting toward the shores of Chatham on the southeast side of the Cape. Within an hour, the stern section of the Pendleton appeared on the radar screen of Coast Guard Station, Chatham.

Now it was time. It was time to do what U.S. Coast Guard Mariners who rescue other mariners have always done, “You have to go out—but you don’t have to come back.” This was the unofficial slogan of surf men of Cape Cod. The boat crew from CG Station Chatham manned the

lifeboat 36500. It was a double-ended heavy rescue vessel of 36 feet, about 22,000 pounds, a 90 horsepower Sterling gas engine in her engine room. Built in a Maryland shipyard in 1946, it was a proven heavy weather boat. With a crew of four, she headed out for the treacherous Chatham bar just as daylight ebbed. Those who knew the bar conditions did not expect to see the crew alive again. Waves were breaking and the huge seas made crossing seem nothing less than a suicidal mission. Virtually everyone who knew the bar believed it to be more than the little boat could handle. However, the first of several miracles was about to happen.

Somehow, the crew of the 36500 fought their way over and beyond the breakers and headed in the direction of the drifting stern section of the tanker. Without radar, direction finder, or depth sounder, and no way to know where they were, yet determined to do their duty, the crew headed into 20-to-30-foot seas, snow, and the freezing wind.

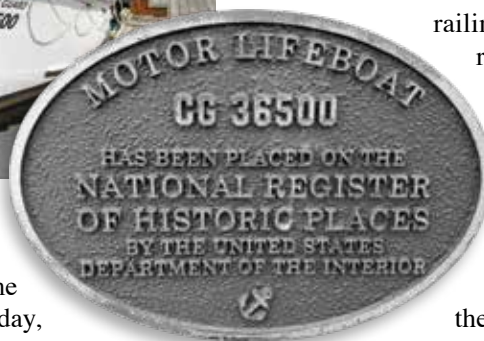
About 45 minutes later, the second miracle occurred. Out of the snow and gloom appeared a dark hulk. The Coast Guard spotlight broke through the shroud of snow and spray. There it was, the stern section of the tanker Pendleton, towering and looming above them. In a few moments, the crew of

33 men were lined up behind the railing, 40 feet above the rescue vessel. A Jacob’s ladder was heaved over the side and men began to come down. The skillful maneuvering of the coxswain positioned the rescue vessel below the terminus of the ladder.

One at a time, down they came, the crew taken aboard, some dropping into the boat, some into the water, and frantically pulled aboard.

Finally, the last man down, the man who had encouraged and helped all the others before him, was at the bottom rung. He let go at the moment the 36500 was nearly below him. He landed forward, sliding off the deck. He was a large man and had no shirt on. The crew grabbed for him but there was no purchase to be had on his cold, slippery torso. The boat drifted closer to the hull of the tanker, the sailor between them. Before anyone could pull him from the icy water, the two vessels came

continued on page 21



Grand Masters of Massachusetts

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt



Most Worshipful Timothy Bigelow 1806-1808; 1812-1814

Able and Distinguished

*The 40th installment in the
continuing series focused on our past
Massachusetts Grand Masters.*

Our Grand Lodge possesses 92 portraits of Past Grand Masters: one for each of the 89 Past Grand Masters, one for R.W. Harvey N. Shepard who completed the term of M.W. Richard Briggs, and one for each of our Honorary Past Grand Masters, Charles W. Moore and Frederick W. Hamilton. Most of them date from after the fire in 1864 that consumed our Masonic Hall and destroyed many that we then possessed. In the decades after that event, considerable effort was made to reproduce the ones that had been lost.

One of those created anew was that of Timothy Bigelow, who served as Grand Master for two three-year terms – an accomplishment unequalled by any Grand Master since the union of our two predecessor Grand Lodges in 1792. Portrait painter Edgar Parker undertook the task of painting the currently extant portrait by working from a miniature created in 1800 that belonged to his granddaughter; when complete, two of Bigelow's sons declared it an excellent likeness, faithful to its subject. It has hung in Grand Lodge since then, and presently occupies a position far in the southeast corner of Corinthian Hall, the fifteenth of the fifteen Grand Master likenesses that adorn that room.

As with all of these portraits, we are presented with a static moment, a picture of a past time, a set-piece that depicts someone long gone. No one is alive who knew him, and no one is alive who knew anyone who knew him. In a room with Joseph Warren and Paul Revere and Isaiah Thomas, Timothy Bigelow is often overlooked – another unknown Past Grand Master, a figure from the past who is no more than a name and a picture. But that belies the significance of Grand Master Bigelow, who was a remarkable man, a well-known Mason, and an able and distinguished citizen, who accomplished a great deal in his relatively brief life.

Bigelow was the son of another Timothy Bigelow, a hero of the American Revolution who served in the Quebec expedition and who helped transport Isaiah Thomas' famous "Old #1" press out of Boston and into Worcester. Colonel Bigelow was the Commander of the 15th Massachusetts Regulars. Our Timothy Bigelow grew up in Worcester and served in Isaiah Thomas' printing office in his youth. He also served in the quarters of the Continental Army in Rhode Island in 1779. He was able to gain admission to Harvard College and graduated with high rank in 1786. In 1789, he was admitted to the bar after reading the law with the Hon. Levi Lincoln, Sr., a State and U. S. Representative who later served as Thomas Jefferson's Attorney General, and he set up a law practice in Groton. It was said of him, even in his earliest years, that "his acquirements are great, his studiousness indefatigable, his fluency astonishing." In 1791, he married Lucy, daughter of the Hon. Oliver Prescott, and they had what is described as "a numerous family."

Brother Bigelow was raised in St. Paul Lodge of Groton during its first year in 1797 and served as Worshipful Master in 1802. In 1800, he gave a famous oratorical memorial on George Washington, which shows the extent and scope of his ability as a speaker. He was elected *continued on page 32*



FEAST OF SAINT JOHN





Remarks of the Deputy Grand Master

Rt. Wor. John F. Sullivan • Feast of St. John • December 27, 2021

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Past Grand Masters,
Distinguished Guests, Brethren All:

It is my sincere honor to stand before you today as Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. It is a truly humbling distinction, one that I am confident that I will only come to fully appreciate in the months and years to come. Thank you, Most Worshipful, for your trust and confidence. I pledge to uphold that trust and to strengthen that confidence. In my preparations for this address, I researched many of the speeches given on this occasion. I wanted to find out why is it that the Deputy Grand Master gives the only speech at the Feast of St. John? And this is what I found. Primarily, and most importantly, this is an opportunity for the Deputy to act on behalf of all of the appointed officers, and to publicly thank the Grand Master for this tremendous opportunity, the opportunity to serve this historic jurisdiction under his outstanding leadership for the upcoming year. Most Worshipful, on behalf of this exceptional group, we thank you!

Secondarily, I found out, one of the less likely reasons, the Deputy Grand Master is offered this opportunity, is, upon being asked to serve in this position, you are essentially quarantined! You agree to keep silent about the honor and must skillfully fly below the radar while the candidates for Senior and Junior Grand Wardens go on a whistle-stop tour of the jurisdiction! Let me take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to the newly elected pillar officers. I look forward to a wonderful year of Masonic labors and camaraderie with you both and also, to the two other outstanding candidates who served to further distinguish themselves in the process, beloved Masons all!

So, basically, this speech is the first opportunity for the sequestered Deputy Grand Master to finally have a voice, to let out all of the pent-up energy that has been festering for these many months. So, here we go! In my research, I read nearly all of the living Past Deputy Grand Master's speeches, and those of a few others. I came across some wonderful works, thoughtful treatises on various subjects of the day, and like the lessons of our degrees, most are truly timeless, their relevance not lost with the passing of time. As I read through the various works, I found that many took this opportunity to give a State of the Fraternity

address, a synopsis of the organization at that moment in our history. Some gave very personal accounts of what Masonry had meant to them, how they had arrived at this moment with the aid and assistance of so many a cherished brother. And still others looked within the lessons of the Fraternity for inspiration, to secure a theme that might resonate with the brethren.

I distinctly remember being stirred by the address of my good friend, Rt. Wor. David R. Lucas in 2015. He rallied us to be shining examples for all Masons, to quote, "Be Brilliant." A decade earlier in 2005, Rt. Wor. William E. Holland carefully described the characteristics of various generations of Masons past and present, in an effort to enlighten us on the need for better communication between the groups. He asked "...whom are you going to help make great?" And, nearly 10 years before that in 1997, Rt. Wor. Ralph I. Sewall addressed the great debate of the time, that of the efficacy of the one-day class membership versus that of a traditional degree sequence. He put the onus of this flawed debate squarely where it belongs, on all of us, declaring in his closing statement, "It is up to us to help the new Masons Build a Worthy Temple."

Although each of these beloved Brothers unapologetically holds a special place in my heart through our association in Massachusetts Consistory, as do so many other Brothers in this room, the message these men affirmed was simple and enduring. The work is never done. Just how will we continue to attract, inspire, and retain the next generation of Masons? We ask so many questions in our travels through the degrees. "Whence came you as a Mason?" "Whither are you travelling?" "Of what are you in pursuit?" And my personal favorite, "What do you most desire?" All of these questions are meant to elicit deep thought and to create an environment in which the Mason's heart and mind are duly and truly prepared for contemplation and enlightenment.

"Will you be off or from?" The question is rhetorical really, because the answer of course is always from! But what happens if the Senior Deacon or any brother, chooses 'off'? We of course take a solemn obligation not to make innovations to the body of Freemasonry, but the question does seem to imply that there is a choice. I submit to you that, in reality there is a choice and it's *continued on page 30*

Remarks of Bro. and General John Driscoll

Feast of St. John • December 27, 2021



Good evening Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Visiting Brethren, Brethren all, my sincerest fraternal greetings to all.

I was truly humbled and honored when the Grand Master asked me to speak this evening. Thank you in advance for your time and attention. For those who served in or [who have] been part of a military ceremony before, and see a General ascend to speak, trust me I know what you are thinking, as I have been there myself. I can assure you I will not use the entire two hours allotted by the Most Worshipful this evening, I will be a good General, what is that you may ask? Be Seen, Be Brief and Be Gone. My talk will be about 15 minutes on how I see similarities with Masonry and the military, leader development, and our mutual desire to develop members of character inculcated with the values and attributes of our respective organizations. I will end with a recap of what your National Guard has done in service to the Commonwealth and Nation these past two years. My intent [is] for you to come away feeling and knowing that Massachusetts is truly fortunate to have the Nation's first and best Grand Lodge and National Guard.

The motto of the Massachusetts National Guard (MANG) is the "Nation's First," founded in Salem in 1636. The Bay State holds many firsts since its colonial days and into modern day - the first college, Kings College know[n] today as Harvard University, the first public school, Boston Latin, first income tax, and public commons and library, and the first and oldest Grand Lodge in the Western Hemisphere. Both the Guard and Masonry reflect the quality of the citizens here in the Commonwealth and each are held in high regard by those fortunate to be members. Yes, there are other Masonic jurisdictions and National Guards, but only one can say they are first. Both the Massachusetts Grand Lodge and the National Guard strive to ensure its value to the Commonwealth aligns with its order precedence. It is with great pride to say I am a member [of] both. One honorable mention that has bearing on being a guest of the Most Worshipful this evening is the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company (AHAC) of Boston, where I had the pleasure of first meeting Grand Master Brother Maggio at the annual June Day Celebration held on the Boston Common. From this event, a renewed fraternal relationship began between two of Massachusetts' laudable organizations

leading to [the] raising of the current Captain Commanding and six other AHAC members to the Craft in October. One being Retired Lt. Colonel Enoch O'Dell Woodhouse, a Tuskegee Airman. If you have not met Woody, please do, he is a young vibrant 95-year-old Energizer Bunny.

I consider being a Massachusetts Mason and Massachusetts Guardsmen a privilege and an honor with many similarities.

Both the Guard and Masonry recruit. In Masonry, one is called the candidate, that person who comes forward, by his own free will and accord. Some like myself needed prodding as I thought one had to be asked. I sat with Leon Vallone in December 1996, who corrected me that I just had to ask, which I did and will be raised 25 years this March. In the military, one is called a prospect, found by advertisement, need, desire for opportunity or adventure, or many various reasons beginning with the All-Volunteer Force in 1973. For those who served or were drafted prior to 1973, thank you for your service and Welcome Home. Regardless of how the candidate and prospect acquired their interests, each came forward, were vetted, and found worthy. There is one slight variation it is fair to say, that the military may be a little bit more hands-on than the Masons. Although all here consider themselves to be Olympian contenders, one still needs to take and pass the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery test and pass the physical examination.

Once found worthy, both the candidate and prospect voluntarily swear an oath to freely obligate themselves, without mental reservation before God, binding themselves to the values and tenets of Masonry and the Military. This character of selfless service seems to be undervalued at times and only appreciated when convenient by others. I attribute this to some being uninformed. Whether by choice or circumstance, some do not stop and reflect on what service really means, because it is being a leader and holding oneself accountable to make the situation better. That is why the Masons, and the military are held in high regard, because they believe in what they say and then do it. This quality unfortunately is not too common but can be acquired by doing the right thing at the right time for the right reason. Simply lead by example and live by the golden rule on treating others.

This simple deed, to say what you do, and do what you say, comes from being part of an organiza- *continued on page 31*

FRATERNITY News & Events

Corinthian Lodge's Revolutionary History and Future

It's a pleasure to see so many Brothers make it out tonight. My name is Anthony Rooney. I'm the Junior Warden of Corinthian Lodge and one of the members of our Table Lodge Committee. I hope everyone is enjoying their night so far. I especially would like to welcome our head table:

- Rt. Wor. John Kelly, Grand Marshal of Masons in Massachusetts
- Bro. Dan Conseletti, Chaplain of Corinthian Lodge
- Wor. Fred Bowe, District Deputy Youth Officer of the 14th Masonic District, Marshal and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge
- Wor. Paul Hansen, Master of Corinthian Lodge
- Wor. Maynard Forbes, District Deputy Grand Marshal of the 14th Masonic District and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge
- Wor. Charles Davis, Past Master of Corinthian Lodge
- Rt. Wor. John Vankuilenberg, District Deputy Grand Master of the 12th Masonic District
- Rt. Wor. Greg Fulton, District Deputy Grand Master of the 14th Masonic District, and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge
- M. Wor. Richard Maggio, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts.

Thank you all for coming out tonight.

I also want to thank our Brothers from Moses Michael Hays Lodge in the friendly Fifth District who are helping to serve dinner. Back in September, our Table Lodge Committee made it out to their festive board and let me say these guys know how to put on a great show too.

Back in the early spring, as things were starting to open



Wor. Maynard Forbes, District Deputy Grand Marshal of the 14th Masonic district and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge; Wor. Charles Davis, Past Master of Corinthian Lodge; Rt. Wor. John Vankuilenberg, DDGM of the 12th Masonic District; Rt. Wor. Greg Fulton, DDGM of the 14th Masonic District and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge; M. Wor. Richard Maggio, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts; Wor. Paul Hansen, Master of Corinthian Lodge; Wor. Fred Bowe, District Deputy Youth Officer of the 14th Masonic District, Marshal and Past Master of Corinthian Lodge; Bro. Dan Conseletti, Chaplain of Corinthian Lodge; and Rt. Wor. John Kelly, Grand Marshal of Masons in Massachusetts.

up and lodges were beginning to meet again, Rt. Wor. Bro. Fulton was on a fraternal visit to our lodge and talked of the importance of having a welcome back event to bring the brethren back into lodge and have something to be excited about again. It was later that night that the words Table Lodge starting buzzing around. I had heard of them before but had never attended one, but I was intrigued. I had heard about the seven courses and the seven toasts. I listened to the Freemasons podcast give a modified version of the famous toast at the beginning of each episode. I then learned how it's a fully tyled lodge which only Masons can attend. No profane caterers or waitstaff allowed. I wanted in! Ever since then, our Table Lodge Committee has met monthly to present to you this Lodge of Entered Apprentices and one of Table Instruction.

We'd like to dedicate this Table Lodge to the brethren who came out tonight, but also [to] commemorate a special date which we were unable to celebrate due to the COVID protocols, the 200th anniversary of our Lodge building, not our Lodge, which is coming up on 225 years old, but our lodge building. So tonight, we celebrate the past with you, the brethren of the present and future.

Corinthian Lodge, in the heart of the town of Concord, was formed in 1797 under the authority of then Grand Master M. Wor. Paul Revere. We're located right across the street from the Colonial Inn which was a stopping place for the Grand Master when he made the 20-mile trip from Boston to Concord. In its first 22 years, our lodge met in six different halls. The first lodge meeting was held in Joshua Jones' Tavern on Exchange St. Meetings were held in the warmth and comfort of a tavern's hospitality, much like how we're meeting at this very table lodge tonight.

The first permanent meeting place was in this very



Oxford Lodge Delivers Christmas

On Saturday, December 18, 2021, members of Oxford Masonic Lodge delivered Holiday Poinsettias to local Widows and

Veteran Masons of their lodge. Pictured from left to right are: Wor. Jerome H. Michaelson, R.W. Robert Schremser, Bro. Richard D. Majercik II, and Wor. Bryan R. Wilson.

-Bro. Richard D. Majercik II

building which we're dining in right now, well actually, not this dining room. This part of the building was added down the line. But the front part of our building was the original lodge building built back in 1820. The lodge room was located upstairs on the second floor, in the room which currently serves as our library and collation room. On November 13, 1820, Corinthian Lodge and the town of Concord dedicated this brick building that was to be used as a schoolhouse and Concord's first permanent Masonic Hall. It is said that a young Henry David Thoreau was a teacher here for a short time.

To me, this is one of the things I cherish most about our lodge, its rich history. A lodge chartered by Paul Revere in a building where Thoreau once taught. Where else can you find that?

Concord is a town deep in history for its part in the Revolutionary War. So many of our past brethren are a part of that history. Just walk around. You're bound to come across something that emanated from this lodge. Some nights when our parking lot is unavailable, I've had to park my car in the Keyes Rd. parking lot, just out back there. That road was named after Wor. John Keyes, our 12th Master, who was on the committee in charge of building this Masonic Hall. He officiated at its dedication which was "to Masonry, to virtue, and to benevolence." The cost of the building, \$400-. He did all this while serving as a delegate to the convention for amending the US Constitution, amongst many other prominent positions in his lifetime.

Take a walk on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. You'll come across the ruins of an old pencil factory owned by our 14th Master, Wor. Ebenezer Wood. I came across it while taking my dog for a walk one day just outside of Nara Park. I had no idea until I texted a picture of it over to our Lodge WhatsApp group and Rt. Wor. Bro. Ellis chimed in, that's one of our Past Masters! Come on over to my house on Faulker Hill Rd. in Acton. While looking through our lodge history book in writing this speech, I learned my street was named after the grandfather of Bro. Winthrop Faulkner. Bro. Faulkner was one of the original petitioners for our lodge's charter back in 1797. His father, Colonel Francis Faulkner was one of the Acton patriots who marched to the Old North Bridge on the morning of April 19th back in 1775!

Our Lodge history goes on and on, but not only do we have a rich history, we have a strong present and a bright future. We have a young and promising Officers line, we raised four candidates at Past Masters night last June and one in September at the One Day Class. Just look around at all the brethren who came out tonight. The Grand Master himself is in attendance and what an honor that is! So, let's let tonight mark our return to the good times, where we get to meet and celebrate together, where our brotherly love shines brightest, and instant memories are made. I'm so proud to be a member of this lodge, and so proud to celebrate amongst all you Brothers tonight. Welcome back brethren! May the Grand Architect continue to bless us. Long live Corinthian Lodge!

-Bro. Anthony Rooney



Rocks Go National

Grand Lady Jody asked, when she heard about my upcoming trip to Washington state, if I could "rock" a local Lodge there! I knew I could. She was thrilled and got me a "rock." I visited Kirkland Lodge #150 in Kirkland, WA, one of the oldest lodges in Washington, dating back to 1909. The Acting Master, Bro. Ron Quartel was amazed that Marine Lodge, my home lodge, was founded in 1789.

-Rt. Wor. Sean E. LeBlanc



Henry Price for Bro. Woodhouse

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Bro. Enoch O'Dell Woodhouse 2nd celebrated his 95th birthday at the American History Museum. Grand Master M. Wor. Richard Maggio awarded him the Henry Price Medal of Honor for his lifelong dedication and achievements for humanity, God and country, and for his current and future contributions to God, country, and Massachusetts Freemasonry.

-Wor. Lee H. Fenn

CONVERSE LODGE



Converse Lodge Visits Gravesite of Namesake

On July 25, 2021, six members of Converse Lodge paid a memorial visit to our name-sakes gravesite. We placed a beautiful floral arrangement at the memorial to Elisha Slade Converse on

what would have been his 201st birthday. Wor. Steve Butland, Wor. Joe Turner, Wor. Gus Niewenhaus, Wor. Rick Boudreau, Brothers Ed Graffam and Brian Butland, as well as two members of Malden First Baptist church, Marilyn Glover and her sister Linda Glover were there on this occasion. After a few spoken words in his memory, those present attended the First Baptist church of Malden, of which Brother Converse was a huge benefactor. Converse Lodge was allowed to put out the collation which was enjoyed by all as well as to close the worship service with the following benediction:

*Now, brothers, we must part,
Where we have met in peace,
Where harmony its joys impart,
And strife and discord cease.*

*We, on the Level meet,
Upon the Square we part;
May Truth and Love and
Friendship sweet
Pervade each brother's heart.*

*Here, Lord, before we part,
Help us to bless thy name;
Let every tongue, and every heart,
Praise and adore the same.*

-Wor. Steve Butland



Mayor of Malden Congratulates Master of Converse Lodge

Gary Christenson, Mayor of the city of Malden, congratulates Wor. Joseph J. Turner, who was recently installed as the Worshipful Master of Converse Lodge for the 2021-2022 term. Bro. Elisha S. Converse, Malden's first Mayor, had a hugely influential presence in the Lodge. He was not only a Charter Member the Lodge in 1887, but he left a substantial endowment for it after he passed to the Celestial Lodge above.

-Wor. Steve Butland



Wor. Richard Boudreau, Junior Deacon of Converse Lodge, and Ms. Jenna Coccimiglio, representing the Kristin Gennetti Group.

Converse Lodge Donation

On October 12, 2021, Converse Lodge donated to the Bread of Life various drinks and snacks for Bread of Life's Children's Backpack Program, in conjunction with the Kristen Gennetti Group of Century 21 Northeast, at their offices located on Pleasant Street in Malden. Her office and the drop off location are in the former Malden Masonic building.

-Wor. Steve Butland

Blood Shortage: 12th District Answers the Call



With a surge in COVID-19 cases again taking its toll, the American Red Cross is facing an emergency blood and platelet shortage that has brought reserve levels to an all-time low. When many facilities were closing down and no longer sponsoring blood drives, it was the 12th District that opened its doors and increased the number of events it would be hosting. Without the dedication of our district blood coordinators, the original goal of 3000 pints would have never been exceeded with an actual total of 3,192 pints collected in 2021. The team of Wor. David Hicks (Wamesit), Rt. Wor. Archibald Campbell (Lowell), Bro. Tom Masse (Billerica), Bro. Tom Baird (North Andover), and Wor. Chris Gugger (Andover) already has over 50 Blood drives scheduled in 2022 and are again aiming toward a goal of 3000 pints collected.

-Rt. Wor. John VanKuilenburg



Grand Pursuivant Wor. Robert L. St. Cyr and Junior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. Christopher M. St. Cyr.

Open House Heights at Day Spring Lodge

On October 16, 2021, Day Spring Lodge hosted another successful open house. We worked on important outside projects, including our new pavilion that will be used for pig roasts and other outside functions. We were joined by one of our new candidates that day, which gave us a chance to get to know each other and assured us he would be a welcome addition to our lodge. District Deputy Grand Master for District 28, Rt. Wor. Robert S. Wilson stopped by to say hello, as did Junior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. Christopher M. St. Cyr and his father Grand Pursuivant Wor. Robert L. St. Cyr. We all enjoyed lunch and conversation together, while doing a lot for our lodge. **-Bro. Brian A. Leupold**

together with a terrible shudder. The sailor, George Myers, the only man not to survive from the stern section, was seen no more.

All the men who were trapped on the stern section, save one, were now aboard the 36500, 32 survivors and 4 crew. Dangerously overloaded, Coxswain Webber headed to the west and what he thought would be a landing among the giant breakers where every man would have to make shore as best he could. The little boat was well down and overloaded but still afloat and heading toward the same wild bar it had crossed several hours earlier. The snow had let up a bit and visibility was several hundred yards. It was at this point that Coxswain Webber had a revelation. He felt his hands were no longer steering the boat. A force beyond his own took control.

Now the third and final miracle occurred. Somehow, Coxswain Brother Bernard Webber, a man many believed would never set foot alive on land again, steered the little rescue boat, a crew of 3 and 32 rescued sailors in over the bar. The red "safe water light" was off to starboard. They made Chatham Harbor and landed at the fish pier. The sailors were brought to the local Masonic Lodge, St. Martin's, for hot coffee, sandwiches, and a place to warm themselves. Several needed hospitalization, but all survived. The single greatest rescue of survivors by a small boat crew of the U. S. Coast Guard was now history. It resulted in Coxswain Brother Bernie Webber and his entire crew receiving the highest award given by the Coast Guard, the Gold Life Saving Medal.

The pictures you see are of the very vessel used in that dramatic and historic rescue mission 70 years ago. Some of the brothers aboard are volunteers who help keep her in the public eye. We are proud of Brother Bernard Webber and his crew for accomplishing the near-impossible. Along with many others, we dedicate ourselves to the mission of keeping this vessel and its history alive. She is berthed in Orleans, Massachusetts, and is owned and supported by the Centers for Culture and History in Orleans. May the memory of this singular event live on until the seas off Chatham run dry. ■



Master of Webster Lodge, Wor. Mike Chiler, is pictured with the District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District, Rt. Wor. Anselme B. Maxime

Webster Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Webster's Oldest Active Fraternal Organization Installs New Officers. **-Wor. Richard Clark**



Front row left to right: Treasurer Paul H. Horan, Senior Warden Paul Davidson, Master Mike Chiler, Junior Warden Richard P. Clark, and Secretary Daniel Violette. Back row: Senior Deacon Mark A. Swierzbis, Junior Deacon Charles Lamarche, Jr., Marshall Kenneth M. Wilson, Jr., Chaplin Rev. John Shaw, and J.S. Adam Rhor

The Prodigal Mason

by *Wor. Richard Thompson*



I have mentioned before that I am writing a bit ahead for TROWEL readers. You are reading this in the Spring of 2022. I am writing this in the Winter of 2021. It makes it tough to be topical when you are writing three months ahead of publication. I learned this lesson in 2020. In the Spring of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the United States. Lockdowns started

and lodges were postponing meetings. In March, writing for June, I lamented the impact on the Fraternity, but I was sure by the Fall of 2020, things would be back to normal. Did I ever guess wrong!

In the Winter of 2021, the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is surging in the U.S. By Spring of 2022, the Omicron variant could still be surging. It could be leveling. It could be diminishing. It could be gone. It could be replaced by something else. So, I am not making any predictions. Wor. O. David LaPlante, when he was master of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, came up with a way to attract members back to lodge meetings. He called it Call a Brother / Bring a Brother. It is simple: call a member who has not been at a meeting for some time, invite him to attend the next meeting and offer him a ride. The member you call may not choose to attend a meeting, but you called him. The lodge reached out to him! He will remember that.

With the pandemic, some of our members, especially our more senior members, may be cautious about attending meetings. I can completely understand that. We may want to slightly change Wor. LaPlant's program to Call a Brother / Visit a Brother. A senior member may not be comfortable going to a meeting, but he may like a visit from one or two brothers. We can also change the program to make it Call a Brother / Help a Brother. A brother may need a ride to the store, someone to pick up his groceries, someone to accompany him to a medical appointment, someone to help clear his driveway, or anything at all.

And while we are at it, we can also Call a Widow. I'm sure our widows could use a bit of help and might like a phone call now and again. If you can, it is best if someone

Richard Thompson is a Past Master and the Secretary for Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge in Tewksbury, MA.

who knows the widow can make that call. Most widows like to talk to the men who were her husband's friends. There are many stories to share. I have always advised lodges to send two letters each year to the widows. You can send one in November/December, possibly a holiday card. The other letter should be sent in May/June. This letter would simply be an offer to help with some household or yard chores. Sending two letters a year will allow the lodge to capture changes of address. Too often we lose track of a widow because she moved and we can't find her.

There's another reason to keep close contact with the widows. When a brother dies, we lose a brother. If he was active in the life of the lodge, we lose a friend. When a brother dies, his wife loses a husband. If he was active in the lodge, his widow may lose her social life. Wamesit Lodge, as well as lodges all over the state, held an annual dinner-dance called a Ladies Night. It was a way to thank the ladies for allowing us to be active in the life of the lodge. At one time, the Wamesit Lodge Ladies Night was the social event of the year for the Town of Tewksbury. It was so big you can read about the Ladies Nights in the town's annual report.

During the time I was an officer in Wamesit Lodge, about 200 people attended the Ladies nights, 20 tables with 10 at each. Right in the middle there was a table for the widows. When I was Master, I got the bright idea to spread the widows out, put them on different tables. When the first widow arrived and found what I had done, she proceeded to hand me my head. They wanted to be together. We immediately had a major change to the seating plan. Later that night, I realized why they wanted to be together. When they accompanied their husbands to Ladies Night, they were all there. They knew each other because their husbands were all friends. It was then I realized we should be inviting the widows to every social event on the lodge's calendar, including the installation of officers.

Wouldn't it be great if we could bring members back into the active life of the lodge? And wouldn't it be great if a brother's wife remained active in the social life of the lodge even long after our brother sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above? All it may take is a couple of phone calls, a visit or two, and the determination to reach out to everyone. ■

kung fu, it is not going to be easy. You are going to have to work, you are going to sacrifice, and you are going to suffer over a long time. There is no such thing as a free lunch.”

Bro. Woo has been training in kung fu for 20 years - since he was 8 years old. Long bouts of grueling, arduous, and constant training can be characterized in the words of Bro. Winston Churchill as “blood, toil, tears, and sweat,” but they build a man and a Mason with qualities of patience, perseverance, fortitude, and resilience. Three sifus (masters) have been credited for his skills. His first and main instructor was Sifu Calvin Chin who taught him the Lam Family Hung Gar Kuen (a southern Chinese kung fu) and the Wu and Chen Style of tai chi. Sifu Rick Wong was his second teacher who taught him modern wushu, sanda (Chinese kick boxing), and Chen Tai Chi. His third instructor was Sifu Calvin Wang who “helped me with a lot of wushu skills and has taught me stunts and fight choreography.”

Wushu is an art form infused with “quickness, explosive power with natural, relaxed movements. A combination of flexibility with strength, speed with flawless technique, fierce intent with effortless execution.” Years of training has culminated in achieving 150 first place trophies in martial arts competitions as well as a performer in the Cirque Du Soleil tour. “I first saw Cirque Du Soleil’s show called La Nouba at Disney Springs in Orlando, Florida. I became a huge fan after seeing the show, but then around middle school I saw their show called KA in Las Vegas. This show has the perfect marriage of martial arts and acrobatics in one amazing production. After seeing this show I said to myself, “This is it. This is what I want to do when I grow up. Around 2018, I auditioned for Cirque Du Soleil’s database and made



it through. A few months later, I got called to be the martial artist for their new touring production called Axel. After spending a few months in Montreal rehearsing and helping create the show, we set off on tour, traveling around the United States with our show.”

Bro. Woo has toured in many states including Tampa and Jacksonville, Florida; Worcester, MA; Nashville, Tennessee; and Greenville, South Carolina. “What I loved most about being in the show is being able to show people who I am and what I can do every time I walked out on that stage. What was thrilling about it is how thousands of people were watching me every night. So just seeing how my many years of hard work and dedication to my skills have paid off is very rewarding.”

The pandemic has sidelined the tour and there has been no announcement when it may resume. “I am hoping I can return to a Cirque Du Soleil show at some point in the near future!” Bro. Woo, your martial arts journey, like that of Masonry is not over and we hope to see you perform again, perhaps at the Dalhousie Lodge Chinese New Year Dinner to usher in the Year of the Tiger! **-Wor. Richard Leung**



by Wor. Keith MacKinnon

The Masonic Historical Preservation Society was founded in Cambridge to help preserve Masonic history and Masonic artifacts. The Society has moved from being a group of librarians, curators, collectors, historians, and members with similar interests into the podcast field of presenting short segments of Masonic history and Masonic memorabilia. We wish to visit numerous lodge buildings

within the state of Massachusetts and record a number of segments which will air on YouTube under the site of Masonic Curators. These short segments will have members from these fields present artifacts and portions of the history of Freemasonry. If we visit your lodge, and your lodge, body, or building has a curator or historian, they can also present short segments about their lodge, building history, or an important piece of their lodge’s memorabilia. If your lodge, Masonic body, or building would like to host us, please contact Keith MacKinnon via email at MasonicPreservationSociety@gmail.com. ■



PRESERVING HISTORY, AGAIN

by Wor. Robert A. Caron

If you read the Spring 2019 TROWEL, you saw an article about repairing and preserving a historic Bible bearing a Grand Master’s signature. Some may have a sense of awe about a Grand Master Bible, but what about a Charter?

Waltham Triad Lodge is in the midst of its 200th anniversary celebration, albeit so rudely interrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Though we will probably end up stretching the year-long celebration to 24 months (hopefully no longer), we are still excited to carry out special recognitions and activities in celebration of this milestone.

Our excitement includes a recognition of our responsibility to act in such a way as to preserve the ongoing life of the Lodge so there can be a 250th, 300th and further anniversaries. As mentioned above, we already restored and preserved a Bible given to the Lodge by a Past Master who, a few short years later, went on to become Grand Master. That was M. Wor. Melvin Maynard Johnson.

Probably the only other item a Lodge has that’s more valuable than a Bible is its charter. As with the vast majority of other Lodges in Massachusetts, ours has spent its life rolled up in a metal tube and kept in a vault. But, we really don’t know what else it’s been through over those 200 years. And being locked away in the dark is a poor fate for anyone or anything. So we decided to give our charter the same professional treatment we gave our Bible. We should note here that “our” charter is actually the Monitor Lodge charter, it being the oldest predecessor to Waltham Triad Lodge. More on that later.

This charter was granted by M. Wor. Samuel P. P. Fay, one of two he granted in 1820, but the only one remaining operational. (The other to Seven Stars Lodge in Edgartown was surrendered in 1824, that Lodge only operating for four years.) And M. Wor. Brother Fay only served as Grand Master for one year – 1820. It is believed he voluntarily stepped down after one year because he was appointed a Probate Judge for Middlesex County and thought it unwise

for a sitting judge to be the presiding Grand Master.

Wor. Caron brought the charter to Matthew Jones at Green Dragon Bindery in Shrewsbury. This was his initial reaction:

“Robert Caron came to the bindery in September with a beautifully printed and handwritten charter. It was on a lambskin parchment and inscribed on both sides. We immediately noticed that it firmly held its rolled-up condition and was difficult to spread out. This would be a challenge if the Lodge ever wanted to frame it for display.”

The bindery then began their magic. To get the charter to give up its scroll-like state, a gentle steaming was in order. After spending some time in a steam cabinet, it took on a more document-like posture. Matt Jones was then able to assess its condition and see if any remediation was in order.

Not surprisingly, being kept in a tube all its life, with the possible exception of exposure at an annual official visit, the charter was in relatively good shape. There was some glue residue found along its edges suggesting that at some time someone decided to display it by taping it to some kind of backing. That was fairly easy to clean up. There was also a piece of the blue ribbon detached. Fortunately it was from the back side of the charter, the ribbon having been woven through slots in the parchment. It was the tail piece on the back that separated.

Aside from that, the normal wear and tear was left as is, befitting a 200 year old parchment. There was the expected fading of some sections of the inscriptions, so a general cleaning was not undertaken. One surprising aspect is that, even though 200 years old, the charter appeared to be a pre-printed form with blank spaces to insert particulars like the lodge name and location. As it is printed in a calligraphic script, a supply of blank charters was probably hand lithographed from a stone plate rather than a movable type press.

But this charter has additional inscriptions relating to its history and they were all hand scripted in black ink. Most



The front of the restored charter of Waltham Triad Lodge.

significant is an entry on the reverse of the charter inscribed by Rt. Wor. Charles W. Moore, Grand Secretary, in 1846. Monitor Lodge had been “dark” for about 15 years due to the Morgan incident’s anti-Masonic period. In 1846 nine members petitioned Grand Lodge to be “re-activated” a working lodge. The Grand Secretary essentially copied the petition and its approval onto the back of the charter, and both he and the Grand Master, M. Wor. Simon W. Robinson, endorsed it.

Monitor Lodge (and other Masonic occupants) suffered the loss by fire of their building in Waltham in 1982. (The charter and the aforementioned Bible being the two most significant items saved from the fire.) The intention was to rebuild but after six years of futile attempts, the three dispersed blue lodges decided to merge to bolster that effort.

So, in 1988 when Isaac Parker and Waltham Lodges merged with Monitor Lodge and chose the new name Waltham Triad Lodge, Rt. Wor. Robert P. Beach, Grand Secretary, inscribed the authorization for that name change in the front lower right and endorsed it. Though the merged lodge was meeting in Newton, it still wanted to return to Waltham.

After operating as the merged lodge a number of years, Victory Lodge of Watertown approached to talk merger as well. While all were amenable to a merger, there was also a realization that the now 20-year attempt to return to Waltham could not happen. So in January 2003, M. Wor. Albert T. Ames as Grand Secretary called for the charter and inscribed on the back that Waltham Triad Lodge was to be situated in Newton. That left a clear path for the June 2003 merger of Victory Lodge into a Waltham Triad Lodge now officially chartered in Newton.

So, we can see that the charter records the major milestones in Waltham Triad’s history, and is not merely a certificate of organization. With that renewed importance, and Matt Jones’s recommendation, it was decided to archivally frame the charter for posterity. Given the Green Dragon Bindery’s reputation with antique object preservation, we believed their expertise would serve us well.

There was only one framer Matt would recommend, Master Certified Picture Framer John Gaston of Gastonart & Frame. Once John Gaston saw the charter, he knew only a custom made frame would do. Several factors went into that decision. Foremost, the charter had important inscriptions on both sides, so it had to be framed double sided. Next, as a lambskin parchment is organic in nature, it was important that it be in an ambient environment with normal temperature and humidity. It would be unwise to hermeti-

cally seal it in glass as this would lead to breakdown and disintegration of the organic material. Its size also suggested a custom frame so it would appear in balance instead of being forced into a stock size. And the desire to preserve it indicated a museum type glazing with ultraviolet light protection would be needed.

We had indicated to John that we did not want to hang it on a wall in the lodge building, but wanted to be able to use it for meetings and events as needed. Drawing on their past experience with historic documents, John in consultation with Matt Jones decided the best mounting method would be to suspend the charter by its edges in a double sided mat, and use a UV filtering, conservation grade acrylic glazing. This would be enclosed in a quarter sawn oak frame made up as essentially two frame fronts put together back-to-back.

The end result is quite impressive. The heavy oak frame with unbreakable acrylic glazing is beautiful, practical and safe. It can be easily displayed at lodge meetings, open houses and other occasions. The 200-year history of the Lodge can be pointed out to new members by reading through the various inscriptions on the front and back. And just as other Lodge regalia and equipment are stored in cases and shelves in the regalia closet, the framed charter is kept in its own padded storage box.

Doesn’t your charter deserve to be treated this well? As you look about your Lodge, consider what you value most and would like conserved. For example, do you have all your Bylaw books with every member’s joining signature? That would be a tremendous piece of history. How about that photo of your first line of officers?

Wouldn’t that look great restored, framed and displayed?

Brethren, as the unsparring ravages of time take their toll on us, we will eventually fail, but our historical treasures can be given a much, much longer life.

The Green Dragon Bindery, in Shrewsbury Massachusetts has been conserving, restoring, and rebinding books since 1964. The staff has expertise in the restoration of books, prints, maps, documents, and other works on paper as well as globes, instruments and small objects. Please browse their website at www.greendragonbindery.com or visit them in Shrewsbury.

Gastonart & Frame has been doing custom framing and preservation work since 2004. Principal John Gaston has a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts and Art History, is a PFFA Master Certified Picture Framer and has been in this field over thirty years. Please browse their website at www.gastonframes.com or visit them at their Shrewsbury, Northborough or Brookline locations. ■



The back of the charter.

HONOR

by Wor. Robert A. Caron

Honor is a word we use a lot in Freemasonry. “Upon the Honor of a Mason, ...our ancient and honorable institution,” and “Do you seriously declare upon your honor...” are some of the ways we invoke the concept of honor. We hope that our brethren will always use honor as a guidepost in their dealings with fellow Masons and others alike. We hope that our commitment to honor will prompt us to always do the right and honorable thing. Freemasonry is not alone in placing a value on honor and using it to express the highest of ideals. One significant invocation of honor is the awarding of the military Medal of Honor by the Armed Forces of the United States as a recognition of individual effort. For the highest award a service member can receive, an individual effort that rises to a level above and beyond normal expectations is required. Because of our view of honor, when we hear of a brother being awarded the Medal of Honor, we might proudly say “of course, he is a Mason.”

Waltham Triad Lodge recently had the opportunity to work with the Waltham Historical Society to renew a memorial plaque for one of our members who was a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, Brother George Henry Maynard. Brother Maynard was born and raised in Waltham, was a watchmaker by trade (what else in Waltham!), and along with many friends and neighbors answered his country’s call at the start of the Civil War. While a Private in the 13th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, he fought at the Battle of Fredericksburg. During this fierce battle, he had occasion to rescue a wounded fellow soldier from the front lines. Bro. Maynard’s Medal of Honor citation reads “a wounded and helpless comrade, having been left on the skirmish line, this soldier voluntarily returned to the front under a severe fire and carried the wounded man to a place of safety.” This comrade was George Emerson, also a native of Waltham and his friend.

In researching Brother Maynard’s Medal of Honor, we were impressed by the Medal of Honor’s history. The Medal of Honor was created in 1861 through Congressional legislation signed into law by Abraham Lincoln on

December 21. Initially an honor for U.S. Navy “seamen and marines,” it was quickly extended to the other armed services. The Medal is awarded to those who distinguish themselves in the line of duty. For an act to be considered meriting the Medal of Honor, it must be in combat and involve the risk of the servicemember’s life. The act must be so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes gallantry beyond the call of duty and must be the type of deed which, if not done, would not result in any justified criticism.

These criteria are indeed difficult to meet. As of this writing, despite the millions of military personnel who have fought here and abroad since the Civil War, there have only been 3,527 Medals of Honor issued to 3,508 recipients (19 recipients were awarded two Medals of Honor for different actions at different times). Approximately 43% of these (1,523) were awarded for actions in the Civil War with World War II coming in second at just 13% of the Medals awarded.

Over the years, there have been nine different versions of the Medal of Honor. The now familiar sky blue neck ribbon with 13 stars was adopted in 1944. Currently, there are three versions, all using this light blue neck ribbon. The Army version is awarded to U.S. Army personnel, the Navy version is awarded to U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps personnel, and the Air Force version is awarded to U.S. Air Force personnel since shortly after the Air Force was separated from being the U.S. Army Air Corps/Forces. U.S. Coast Guard personnel receive the Navy version when awarded and there has been one awarded to a Coast Guardsman in World War II. The differences between these three versions are minor design elements and include devices particular to that service (e.g., the Navy version incorporates an anchor).

In 1994, Wor. S. Kenneth Baril, a Past Master of Temple Lodge #16 A.F. & A.M. in Cheshire, Connecticut

wrote a book titled *The Medal of Honor: The letter G in Valor*. After considerable research, Wor. Brother Baril was able to identify 204 recipients of the Medal of Honor as Freemasons. Additional research since has revealed many more. Those who receive the Medal of Honor are said to be recipients. Over the years, they have often been referred to as ‘winning’ the Medal. It is the recipients themselves who always insist they did not ‘win’ the award as the actions undertaken that lead to an award are never done with ‘winning’ it in mind. Virtually every recipient of the Medal of Honor has at some point said, “Why me? What did I do? I was just doing my duty.”

Wor. Brother Baril’s book, having a medal recipient in



The Medal of Honor Poster as it appears at Grand Lodge.

our lodge, and the respect the Medal of Honor commands inspired me to conduct further research. I reviewed the detailed information on all 3,527 Medals of Honor awarded as maintained by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Cross-referencing them with Grand Lodge membership records and a number of other internet-based sources such as newspaper archives and Find-a-Grave.com, I have been able to identify 30 recipients who were raised Master Masons in Massachusetts lodges. The earliest, and the most recipients, were awarded the Medal for their actions during the Civil War. The latest, for actions during the Korean War. One was a Marine, seven were in the Navy, and the rest were in the Army. Four were raised at Panama Canal Zone lodges, two at China lodges. They range from Private to Major, and even include a Bugler. Unfortunately, all are deceased so we cannot salute them personally.

Our lodge's member, Brother George Henry Maynard, was raised in Monitor Lodge, Waltham (one of our predecessors) on August 12, 1867. There is also anecdotal evidence that he joined the York Rite. It is likely that he would have joined the Waltham Royal Arch Chapter formed a few years earlier, and either DeMolay Commandery or Boston Commandery in Boston. He also joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, the oldest chartered military organization in the western hemisphere. This phase of Brother Maynard's life came long after his military action. Brother Maynard was born in 1836, and the Battle of Fredericksburg was in 1862. Brother Maynard was just under 27 years of age on that battlefield when he saved his friend's life and had been a soldier only 16 months. Certainly, that was gallantry beyond the call of duty. It was some five years later that he decided to become a Mason.

Knowing that puts it in a different light. Instead of saying we are proud our brother received the Medal of Honor, we instead say we are proud a Medal of Honor recipient chose to join Freemasonry and our lodge! This is exactly the kind of man we look for, in fact, 24 of the 30 medal holders who are Massachusetts Master Masons joined Freemasonry after being awarded their Medal of Honor. So, next Veterans Day or Memorial Day, when you're watching that parade and a Medal of Honor recipient goes by, why not introduce yourself and ask him if he's ever considered becoming a Mason. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society maintains an excellent website with the complete histories of all Medal recipients and the background and statistics of the award. It can be found at <https://www.cmohs.org>. ■



200TH ANNIVERSARY MASTER'S CARPET CEREMONY



The Overlook Welcomes Key Executives

Joining The Overlook in 2021 are three exceptionally talented Executive Leadership Team Members who will be instrumental in accomplishing and supporting the great initiatives planned for our future!



**Kristine Binette,
Executive Director,
Overlook Communities**

- Kristine believes in developing relationships and partnerships, not only with team members and residents, but also with families and the greater community at large. She is

“passionate about evolving her [my] work in the senior living industry through innovative and creative growth and expansion of the seven dimensions of wellness.”

- Kristine is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and Occupational Therapist with a commitment to patient safety, operational efficiency, and high-quality outcomes. Under her leadership she has achieved several 5-star ratings and deficiency free surveys.

- She graduated from Anna Maria College with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and from Worcester State College with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy.

- Kristine’s career has been steeped in healthcare the past 25-plus years, working in skilled nursing homes, long term care, rehabilitation centers, sub-acute care, and continuing care retirement communities (CareOne, Kindred Healthcare, Salmon Health and Retirement, AEGIS Therapies, Millbury Health Care Center, and Life Care Centers of America).

- She spent the last ten years as the Nursing Home Administrator at CareOne at Millbury. CareOne is an integrated health care system, offering assisted living, post-acute and rehabilitation, long term care, home health, and other services to multiple facilities across Massachusetts and New Jersey.

- While at CareOne, Kristine provided leadership and oversight to two other facilities, in addition to her own, as well as serving as a licensed preceptor, coaching and mentoring administrators.

- Kristine resides in Spencer with her partner and their three dogs. In her free time, she is a board member for the

Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and involved in a myriad of volunteer activities.

- Kristine practices meditation and yoga daily, enjoys hiking and paddle boarding, and is a dog and animal lover. Her favorite place to travel to is India, having made 6 trips.



**Shawn Bertram,
Chief Operating Officer,
Masonic Health System**

- The Overlook’s mission and guiding principles were what initially drew Shawn to the organization and position, as they are very aligned with who he is as a person. Shawn has

been working in the senior living industry for over 20 years and has always been driven by the philosophy that “you can do well by and for people and still operate a very profitable, successful business.”

- Shawn earned his Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health Education and Health Policy and Management and an undergraduate degree in Legal Studies, both from UMass-Amherst.

- Shawn spent the past 17 years with Northbridge Companies, a senior living community offering independent living, assisted living, and memory care services in 15 communities, serving 850 residents across New England.

- Shawn resides in Connecticut with his wife Susan of 17 years, and they have 6 children - Cara, Joe, Logan, Lucas, Lily, Liam and 2 fur babies - a Golden Doodle name Benny (after Benny from the movie The Sandlot), and an orange cat named appropriately OJ.

- Shawn, along with his family and friends, enjoy stay-vacations in their backyard where Shawn continues to perfect his BBQ rib recipe. Benny also enjoys the occasional droppings. When they do venture out of Connecticut, they love to cruise to the Western Caribbean with a stop at his favorite place, Seven Mile Beach!

- Three years ago, Shawn took up ice hockey with a few friends on Sunday mornings, and he loves it!



**Candice Chamberlain,
Director of Nursing,
Overlook Health and
Rehabilitation Center**

- Candace loves advocating for residents and families. She consistently encourages Overlook’s dedicated Certified Nursing Assistants and Nurses

to “do what’s best for those we serve” (Overlook’s Guiding Principle 2), while simultaneously doing their best for

themselves and each other. As a Disney enthusiast, one of Candace's favorite quotes comes from Cinderella, "Have courage and be kind. Always."

- Candace received her Licensed Practical Nurse degree in 1996 from the State of Connecticut Practical Nurse Education Program and subsequently received her Registered Nurse license at Goodwin University in East Hartford, in 2015.
- Candace has held varying clinical and leadership positions in healthcare in Connecticut, mostly in Long Term Care and Skilled Nursing Facilities, including employment as a floor nurse, nurse supervisor, and an MDS coordinator.
- Candace encourages fun at work, while also reinforcing the personal and collective responsibility of each team member. When not working at the Overlook, Candace enjoys camp-

ing, time at the beach, movies, reading, and music.

- Candace and her husband Phil recently purchased a new condo in Chicopee to downsize, in preparation for Phil's retirement scheduled at the end of the year. Candace still has a good decade at the Overlook before she joins him. Both Candace and Phil are retired from the United States Air Force. They still reside near Westover Air Force base and live half the year at their camp in Brimfield.
- Candace has a daughter named Lynda and a stepson named Ben. She is looking forward to becoming a first-time grandma to granddaughter Sophia in 2022!

The Overlook looks forward to 2022 and beyond, as we resiliently rebuild and continue to grow. With these newest members of leadership joining our Overlook heroes, our future is brighter than ever! Happy New Year! ■

Overlook Veterans Day Program

On Tuesday, November 9th, the residents of The Overlook gathered to honor and pay their respects to the servicemen and women who protect our nation in times of conflict and peace. We are indebted not only to those that paid the ultimate sacrifice, but to all those that served to protect our nation. Over 50 percent of the residents participated in the program. The program was opened by our Life Enrichment representative, Heather Villamaino. She introduced Pastor John Lindsay, who led us in prayer. After pledging allegiance to the flag, Heather gave a speech honoring our veterans and had members of each branch of the armed forces stand and be recognized. She introduced Sarah the Fiddler who entertained us to some great fiddle playing of traditional American songs. The audience was truly moved by the performance.

The walls of the Performing Art Center served as a poster board where over 80 posters were on display reflecting our residents' military service. One participant, US Army soldier Bob Mirick, who was stationed in Japan during the Korean conflict, attended the event dressed in his uniform and was seen standing next to his poster. The Performing Arts Center has three display cases at the entrance. Displayed in them were the various uniforms of those that served, along with some mementos. On Thursday, Veterans Day, bagpiper Matthew Phelps played "Taps" on the common. He formed a line of veterans and residents that marched across the common and into the Performing Arts Center, where he played the pipes for an hour. It was a very moving event with remembrances being exchanged among the veterans. Good feelings among the participants usually are evident and this year was no exception.

-Bro. Bill Kenyon



Above: US Army soldier Bob Mirick, who was stationed in Japan during the Korean conflict, attending the event dressed in his uniform. Below: Sarah "the fiddler" fiddles in the Performing Art Center.

made more often than we realize. Let's explore that choice as a distressing, yet all too real part of many a Masonic brother's experience. Will you be off or from? I believe this exchange conveys both a choice and an opportunity. Each of us must decide if we are moving forward, from a point to a line, from a line to a superface, and so on.... All of us here have chosen from. We choose to persist. We choose to remain teachable. We know that there is always more to learn, more to experience, and therefore more to contribute. You are all indeed just and upright men, who honor their obligation to pass on these principles to the future generations so skillfully described by Brother Holland.

But if a Brother makes the alternate choice, what key elements of the Craft have not resonated? What opportunities have we failed to convey? What are we doing within the length of our cable-tow, to help aid and assist each brother to build their Worthy Temple?

In another program I belong to, you often hear the phrase, "You have to give it away to keep it!" This divine paradox clearly demonstrates that the personal and spiritual gain from giving, is one-hundred-fold of that of receiving. This is each of our opportunity within the question. Will you actively enrich your own journey with the gift of truly mentoring another Mason, perhaps through committed involvement in the newly formed Deacon's Academy, or with actively sponsoring two, three, or maybe ten men over the course of time? Will you act as the surety that a brother Mason in your care does not choose of before the miracle happens and they too may become a light to others?

I believe the lessons inherent in the Entered Apprentice degree are perhaps some of the most impactful. We are taught in the first degree that that brilliant point within the circle represents you and me, the individual brother. That the circle represents the boundary line of our duty. That going around the circle we necessarily touch upon the two parallel lines representing Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist, the Saint whom we celebrate here today, and more essentially upon the Book of Holy Scripture.

Let's consider for a moment our patron for today's feast, Saint John the Evangelist. He was the youngest of the 12 apostles, and purportedly the only one not to have been martyred. As such he lived a long life and was able to give testimony or evangelize the teachings of Jesus for many decades after his savior's death. John the Apostle, as he is also known, was considered one of the pillars of the original Jerusalem church after Jesus' death. He is additionally credited with authoring the Book of Revelations, one of the two sacred Books, along with the Book of Nature, that we reference in the First Degree lecture as key sources of guidance when building our spiritual temple. It is then no idle or unmeaning coincidence that we choose this Saint's day to evangelize our faith in the Fraternity, the ceremony of installation of officers is a testimony of our commitment

and renewal.

The Evangelist served his redeemer, his Master, with the same attributes with which we are all empowered in the First Degree, with Freedom, Fervency, and Zeal. My Brothers, we know this is how Freemasons served their Masters in ancient times. The question is, how will we serve our brothers in modern times? Will we continue to safeguard our fraternal bonds? To ensure the choice is more consistently 'from' and not 'off'?

Brethren, I ask you to be from chalk. Be resolved to freely leave a trace behind in all of your Masonic endeavors. In your mother lodge, in your affiliations, in your rolls as a sponsor or mentor. Be resolved to leave your mark in the hearts and minds of all those with whom you have the privilege to cross paths. The Craft is an inestimable gift from God. Freely share it!

My Friends, I urge you to be from charcoal. Fervently ignite yourself in the Fraternity, spark your personal curiosity and that of others, kindle the fires of inspiration, and like our Grand Master, continue to be an obdurate force in the face of all challenges and obstacles, remembering it is okay to falter occasionally. It is only with prolonged idleness that we allow the flames of Freemasonry to be extinguished. Fervently set the Craft at work and give them necessary instruction. The fire will grow!

My Brothers, I implore you to be from clay. Zealously be of service to your families, to your communities, and to your fellow man. Maintain your malleability, stay teachable and willing to listen and grow so that you can continue to be constantly employed for man's use, knowing that it is by the giving that we receive the true gift of God, love.

In conclusion, it would be disappointing to some, and nearly impossible for me, to complete such an address without at least one gratuitous Grateful Dead reference. I have carefully chosen one of their most beloved songs to weave into this vast fabric so that it might be lain up in the records and archives for Masonic posterity by Rt. Wor. Bro. Hunt. In the song Ripple, the verse that I believe is apropos reads:

Reach out your hand, if your cup is empty; if your cup is full, may it be again.

Let it be known, there is a fountain that was not made by the hands of men.

My dear brothers, Freemasonry is a God-given fountain. Whether you are a new brother, that empty cup waiting to be filled, or you are an experienced Mason, who joyfully discovers the sublime paradox, that the more you give, the more you will receive. Will you be off or from? I urge you all to continue to choose from. To be brilliant, and to "Follow Reason." To actively pursue the opportunities within the question so that you may continue to inspire others in their journeys, and like you and I, find all that they seek in Freemasonry. Thank you Brethren. May the Grand Architect of the Universe continue to bless you all, and may He continue to preserve our beloved fraternity. ■

Due to space limitations, the speeches have been truncated.

-Editor

tion that encourages leadership with development both as a follower and a leader. All are taught what the standard is and are expected to follow it and adhere to a certain set of values. This is what makes both exceptional, to take account of its own actions, each being cognizant [of] the conduct of its members reflecting the values of the organization on all. Regardless of position in life or in lodge or military rank, members expect members to be on the level and to follow the values inculcated. In the military, all are taught from their initial training what right looks like starting with the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

Through experience and instruction, each gains a deeper understanding of how those values, tenets, and virtues, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, are relevant to be a Mason and or a Soldier. As one progresses by time and experience through taking on greater responsibilities, refinement of those values and attributes take place. Expectations are greater for senior and seasoned leaders of each organization. They know what right looks like and develop the junior members by word and deed. When I taught at UMASS Amherst for Army ROTC, an officer-producing program for college students, I told them, "Hey. I am not smarter than you, I am just older and wiser, and recommend you listen first, then make your decision." We teach others to chisel away their rough edges, to smooth out the imperfections and hew them to be solid members of society, to lead by example and inspire others to follow. The goal is to develop leaders of character and continue to challenge oneself and others to live up the values of Masonry and the Military.

We teach leadership in the Army, as well as other services and companies. For the Army leadership, we teach that leaders influence, operate, and improve. The most critical one is the ability to influence, which distills to the leader providing purpose, motivation, and direction to others. One may never know how much influence you have had on person to join Masonry or the Military, to bring a brother back to lodge or motivate a Soldier to drive on, but we lead not for self but for the organization. I have two standing orders for all my commanders and key leaders, "Leave it better than when you found, and set the next person up for success." Whether its 1%, 10% or 100% - better is not the point, the key is to always move forward and improve, to get oneself and others to embody in word and deed the values and attributes to best represent Masonry and or the Military.

Now I will transition to boast a little on how good your Massachusetts National Guard is both here at home, and across the Nation. This is your Guard, as we work for the people of Massachusetts. Be proud, it is a very good organization. For those not familiar with the Massachusetts National Guard, we are nearly 8,000 strong, and have a dual federal and state mission. We are 90% federally funded and train to win the Nation's Wars and preserve peace. We are normally

in a US Code Title 32 state status under the authority of Governor Baker and under the authority of President Biden, can be federalized onto a Title 10 status to work with our active-duty components. The Army has 5,900 Soldiers broken down to 7 BDE size elements and the Air has 2,500 Airmen in two wings, the 104th F15 Fighter Wing in Westfield at Barnes ANG Base and the 102nd Intelligence Wing based at Otis / Joint Base Cape Cod. The MA National Guard has the four oldest serving units who can trace their lineage to Salem 1636, with one being the 1-101 Field Artillery, who had the last kinetic action in AFG before departing this summer. Our headquarters is on Hanscom AFB just up the road in Bedford.

As 2020-2021 showed, we can't do everything, but by God we can do anything. Our Soldiers and Airmen are resilient and talented, showing why the National Guard is the literally the Swiss Army knife of the Department of Defense. The sons and daughters of Massachusetts, trained and developed under good leadership, are our most effective and lethal weapon system. It takes a lot of effort to make something look effortless and the binding agent is earned trust. The success we have in the MA NG over the past two tumultuous years is due to the quality of our Soldiers and Airmen. A good example is the arming of our Military Police. Massachusetts is the only state that grants its Soldiers policing powers to augment local law enforcement.

On 6 January 2021, two things happened that day. First, I received my first of two COVID vaccines, leading by example and showing we do what we say, and second, the attack on the US Capitol. Americans were shocked to see our Capitol under assault. Regardless of political opinion, ingrained in our national psyche is the peaceful transfer of power as a Nation, and what was seen that day was an affront of our core values as a Nation. The call went out and Massachusetts sent 748 to join the 49 other states, and three territories who surged in under two weeks over 20,000 Soldiers to join the DC National Guard to ensure the peaceful transfer of power happened. I can say no other agency could have done this as well as the NG, as the relationships and trust earned over the years came into play to make this happen.

I offer a quick background to illustrate how the NG is called out. Only the governor can activate the National Guard and it is usually in response to a situation when the need exceeds the local capability or capacity. This request flows from a mayor or a town's emergency manager requesting assistance after it exhausts its mutual aid compacts or agreements. Calling out the National Guard is not free, as it has a cost. For example, using Army Aviation is about \$5,000 per flight hour.

After the inaugural, certain federal agencies made additional requests to keep the Guard, one being the U.S. Secret Service, where Massachusetts sent 640 of its Soldiers to assist them in securing the White House and the Naval Observatory from late February to mid-March. What brought me to DC was to accompany the second of Massachusetts' three deployments to Washington. What kept me there was trust *continued on page 32*

▶ **Driscoll** continued from page 31

and relationships. MG Keefe, TAG MA sent a professional courtesy email the DC Guard Commanding General MG Walker, that I was coming down with the MA Soldiers. MG Walker knew me personally and did not read the email and made the assumption I was coming to relieve the current Task Force Commander. He then told two other Massachusetts natives, Army four-star generals, Mark Miley from Winchester, Chief of the Joint Staff and James “Jim” McConville from Quincy, Army Chief of Staff that a Massachusetts general was taking over the Task Force. I do not know who was more surprised, learning I was to command or MG Walker finding out I was in DC only for a week. Needless to say, I stayed and had an eventful tour. Massachusetts was asked again and sent another 450 Soldiers for the third and final request for troops to support the U.S. Capitol Police as it removed the outer security fence and began patrols around the Capitol. The confidence in our Soldiers to understand and recognize we were in the U.S. and not in Iraq or Afghanistan was huge. My greatest fear was that a citizen shoots a Soldier, or a Soldier shoots a citizen, which would resurrect a dark time in National Guard history from the 1970s. With great leadership and training, we did not have any issues that affected the ability to accomplish the mission.

It was an honor and privilege to lead Task Force Capitol Grounds, which defended the U.S. Capitol with 4,000 plus Soldiers from 20 states from January to March, and 2,000 plus from 15 states from March to end of mission on 23 May

▶ **M. Wor. Bigelow** continued from page 14

Junior Grand Warden in 1803 and Senior Grand Warden in 1804 and 1805, showing the esteem in which he was held by his Brethren. At the end of 1805, he was elected Grand Master at age 38. At the time, he had been a member of the General Court (the Massachusetts House of Representatives) for several years, except for a brief term on the Executive Council. In 1806, he moved with his family to Medford, which he represented for the rest of his life. During most of that time, he was Speaker of the House, concurrent with his service to our Grand Lodge. In Medford, he had a home on High Street where the Grace Church now stands. He was the first lawyer in the town, and was also an avid gardener, well known in horticultural circles.

Grand Master Bigelow was highly regarded as an orator, an administrator, and a ritualist. He was very active during his first three-year term, chartering four lodges in each year (five of which were in Maine). Notably, he issued charters to Mountain Lodge (then in Rowe), Pentucket Lodge (then in Chelmsford; Lowell did not exist in 1807), and Jordan Lodge in Danvers. He made a critical ruling excluding blind men from the degrees (it was reversed later in the century). During his second three-year term he granted four charters, two in Maine, and neither of the Massachusetts lodges has survived. He

2021. Our Soldiers and Airmen stood guard along the two barbed wire security fences surrounding our beautiful Capitol, Supreme Court, and Library of Congress. They patrolled the office buildings, the tunnels, garages, and grounds. Assisted in security checkpoints, and saw the halls of Congress, and met our elected representatives. When the outer fence came down, they patrolled and practiced Civil Disturbance training, ensuring they were always ready, always there. I will say the longer I stayed in DC, the more I appreciated and understand the dynamics of Washington. One quote given to me upon my arrival rings true – Welcome to Washington DC, the greatest show on Earth. I personally found, what you see on TV does not always portray what happens when the cameras turn off. Our politicians are people and do care. It is all about being effective and trying to get things done. Every elected representative I met treated our Soldiers with dignity and respect. Politics is a contact sport and it is amazing what you see and hear being around DC. I end with that our representatives also follow the tenets of the Guard and Masonry, each take their professions seriously, understanding they reflect and represent the greater society they serve.

Again, thank you for your time and attention and I look forward to talking about our National Guard with a few more personal moments of my unique and fun time in our beautiful Nation’s Capital. I end with the words of our Brother Irving Berlin - God Bless America. ■

Due to space limitations, the speeches have been truncated.

-Editor

has the distinction of being the only Grand Master to be succeeded by his predecessor (Isaiah Thomas, who served one year). Josiah Bartlett, who was Grand Master for two years in 1798 and 1799, was the Grand Lodge’s choice in 1810. At the end of 1811, after approving a new, extensive revision to the Grand Constitutions, the Grand Lodge turned to Brother Bigelow to again assume the Oriental Chair. He served very ably, and at the end of 1814 turned the Grand Mastership over to Benjamin Russell, an experienced and capable Mason.

His name appears in the records of the Grand Lodge on several occasions, though we know that he traveled. He wrote an extensive account of his travels to Newport, New York, and Philadelphia in 1815, a copy of which is in the Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library. Regrettably, his life was cut short just a few years after he departed the Chair; he died in Medford in 1821, at only 54 years of age.

His portrait remains unchanged, of course - he looks out at the viewer, as unable to see the future as we are to understand his own time. Two hundred years ago, the distinguished legislator, lawyer, and Mason was well known among his constituents, his professional colleagues, and his Masonic brethren. Today he is sometimes overlooked, a single picture among many. A brief examination of his distinguished career shows in ample measure that he should not be forgotten. ■



At The Overlook, You Can See All the Possibilities.

The Overlook is open in accordance with CDC guidelines and the State of Massachusetts. If you would like to come for a visit, we are scheduling one-on-one appointments.

Imagine living where your time is your own. Where you have space and inspiration to stretch yourself in every way, following your own vision rather than others' expectations.

Arts, fine dining, friends, and neighbors are all within easy reach. And you can relax knowing that everything you might need for the future is right here.



Voted "Best Senior Living Community of Central Mass" 4 Years Running

Call 508-422-7244 today to see life from a new point of view.



88 Masonic Home Road • Charlton, MA 01507
508-434-1269 • www.overlook-mass.org

Sponsored by the Masonic Health System of Massachusetts



TROWEL Magazine—Masonic Building
186 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
BOLINGBROOK IL
PERMIT #323



The 2022 Golden Gavel Awards

Saturday May 14th
at the
Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington

SUBMISSIONS FORMS are only available through MassMason.org, by clicking on the Golden Gavel Stamp before Friday March 18th, 2022. You may enter submission(s) regarding your activity for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Tickets on sale at MassMason.org