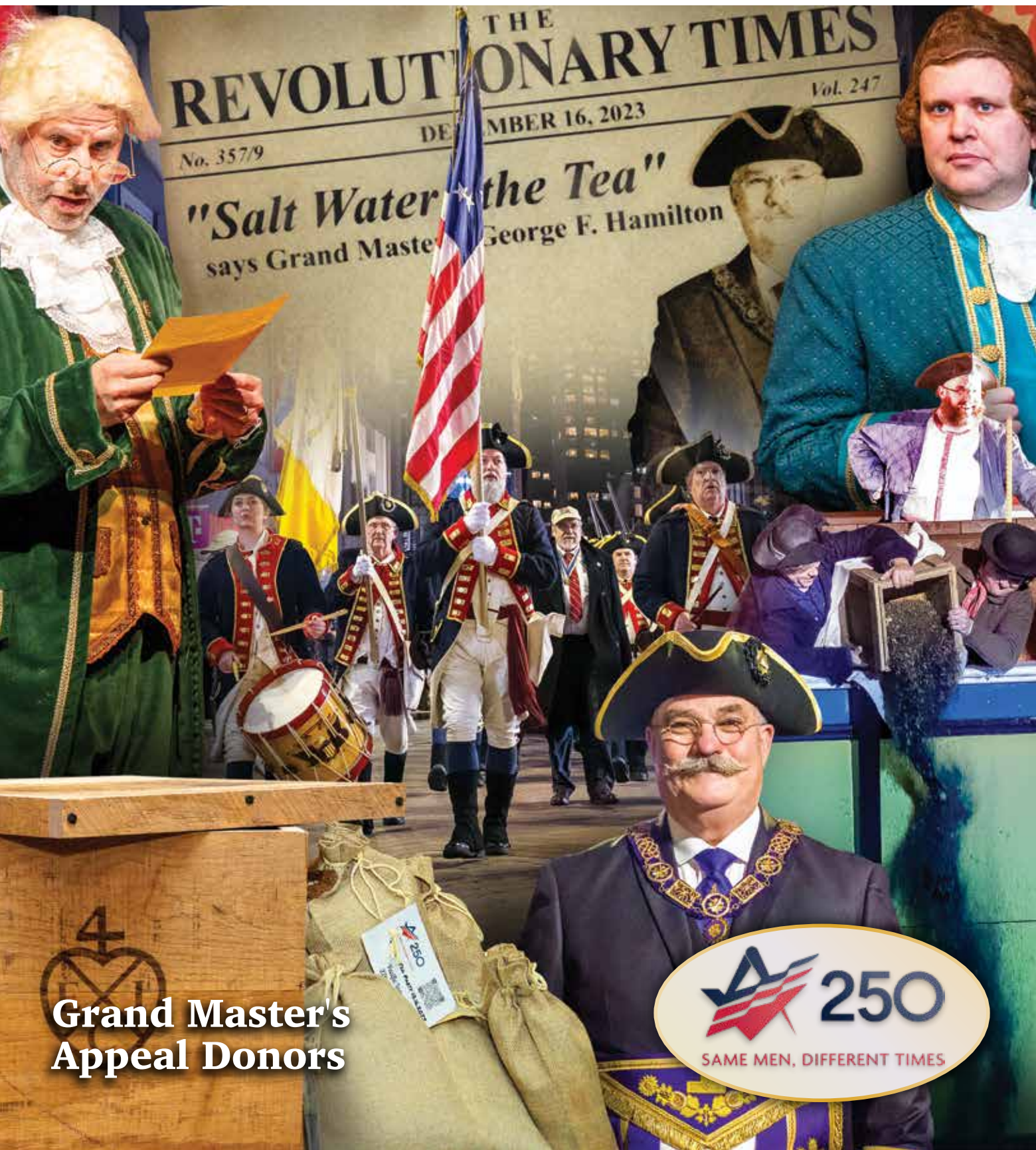


TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS WINTER 2023-24



Grand Master's
Appeal Donors





From the East of Grand Lodge MOST WORSHIPFUL GEORGE HAMILTON

Brethren,

What a thrill it was to see over 1000 Masons dressed in commemorative aprons filling the streets from Grand Lodge to Griffin's Wharf! I want to thank the 250th Committee for making the Tea Party celebration a wonderful weekend. It was my privilege to be able to record video remarks which were displayed at the Faneuil Hall celebration and put up on the jumbotron screen for the community to see at the Tea Party.

We attended a celebration at Forest Hills Cemetery on November 22nd to place a bronze marker on Joseph Warren's grave, identifying him as one of the principal architects of the Tea Party. At M.W. Bro. Warren's gravesite, there stands a bronze statue of the General. There had been no such statue until a small number of brethren took the initiative to raise funds and erect a monument in 2016 to commemorate the often-forgotten role that Dr. Warren played in the early events of the American Revolution.

A similar situation exists regarding the memory of Major General Henry Knox. While there are markers along the Knox Trail commemorating movement of that noble train of artillery, and Masons are well familiar with the story of Henry Knox, we feel that a bronze statue of Henry Knox should be suitably positioned in Dorchester Heights. Without Henry Knox, there is no Evacuation Day, and the revolution may have ended very differently. While it may be an ambitious undertaking, we intend to present a plan to the National Park Service, the city of Boston, and other civic groups, to donate a statue for that purpose.

The 250th Committee also plans to cast a bronze memorial cannon as a replica of one of the 59 cannons transported by Brother Knox from Fort Ticonderoga in the fall of 1775. This cannon will serve as a mobile exhibit which can be transported to figuratively represent the progress of the Knox Expedition, holding historical celebrations at the various lodges from Great Barrington to Boston over 2025 and 2026. The 250th Committee will be raising funds to support this endeavor and there will be ways for lodges, groups, and individuals to contribute. We are also looking for volunteers to participate in these activities and put the cannon to good use. Would you like to be a Knox Cannoneer?

The 250th Anniversary of our country is the perfect opportunity to show our communities who Masons are today, to explain the role that they played in the birth of our nation, and let them know that we are "*The same men in a different time.*" Those are the remarks I made at the Tea Party and I need your help to bring that message to every community, and make sure that good men of character are aware of the opportunities that exist for them in Freemasonry.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."

God bless our beloved fraternity and God bless America!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Most Worshipful George Forest Hamilton
Grand Master



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Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts
Most Worshipful George Hamilton



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Tea Party On!

The Old South Meeting House shook from the pounding of the angry citizens of Boston within, and the riot shaking the building from without. In the crowd, sitting in the front row, next to an actor playing M. Wor. Prince Hall, our Grand Master, M. Wor. George F. Hamilton heard the arguments about the tea. There were many actors playing different parts of Loyalists (boo, hiss), or Sons of Liberty and other co-conspirators (huzzah). The Grand Master was flanked by Masons for security. A woman asked me, "Who is he?" "He's the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, the 3rd ranking Mason in the world," I said. Later, everyone knew who he was, he was on the big screens addressing the tea-hungry crowd.



The anger was real. The different opinions were firmly held. The arguments were loud and vehement. Paul Revere pounded his points home. John Hancock stood tall on virtue. The Loyalists had a voice as well, but they were hard to hear because of the shouting and the shaking building. The crowd, the actors, and the Masons are proof that the Revolution that is America is ongoing; we are still here, still talking, still trying to listen, and trying to preserve the freedom granted us by our Creator. Masons are part of the beginning of the American experiment, and we are here to assure that this great nation "might long endure."

But we Masons, in the practice of our Craft and the development of our character, are not satisfied with endurance. We strive for thriving, personal and worldwide. We are part of the America that cringes at infringements of freedom here and elsewhere. The American spirit that threw the tea into the harbor, and preserved the other goods on the ships, is a Masonic spirit.

It is our duty to oppose injustice, work with our Brothers, and produce a nation, and world, that is more virtuous than the one into which we were born. We learn virtue in lodge, practice it with our Brothers, and revolutionize the world, starting with our own lives.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 10, 2024



<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.

18th District Lodge of Instruction Helps Seven Towns

Every month, the 18th District holds its Lodge of Instruction (LOI) at a different lodge and asks each member to bring an item for the food pantry. The host lodge donates all of the items to their local pantry. Each month, pictures of the drop-off are taken and put on social media to show our communities what we do. Eight lodges are in the 18th District's seven towns, so the impact is very large on the South Shore. Prior to each LOI, we reach out to the local pantry and ask what they need. The photo was at our Lodge of Instruction in Scituate on the 16th of November. The donation was three carloads. The food pantry was stunned as this was one of their biggest single donations. They currently assist nearly 200 households in Scituate, nearly 10% of the town, and add 1-2 households each week.

-Rt. Wor. Lawrence P. Friedman



Pumpkins for Charity in 22nd District

Wor. Chris Tortellot, Master of Hope Lodge, raised over \$8,000 for Hope Lodge, St. Paul Lodge, Eastern Star Lodges, and others. While it is always a group effort, Wor. Bro. Tortellot spends every day for over 30 days selling pumpkins, many times all by himself, dedicating his time and effort. We took over sales in 2022 and 2023 from a church across the street from our lodge and kept the pumpkin patch going for the community.

-Bro. Carleton Hall



Fourth Generation Mason Raised in George H. Taber Lodge

Bro. Gunnar A. Berg was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by his Grandfather, Wor. Gunnar V. Berg, a Past Master from 1965. His father, Past DDGM Rt. Wor. Eric M. Berg was overjoyed and stated, "He has a son and now a Masonic Brother."



Memento Mori: A Call to Remember

by Rt. Wor. Rabbi Benjamin Flax

A few weeks ago, my father saw a pin of the Square and Compasses with a skull at the center. He asked which lodge it was from—the response, memento mori, remember you will die. [Editor's note: *The Widow's Sons motorcycle club and others use this modification of the Square and Compasses.*] The symbol of death surrounds us not just in Freemasonry, but throughout society, bringing into focus the temporary status of our latest endeavors.

Death, however, is the manifestation of the ultimate end. It is a reminder that what we have will not always be. The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana touches on the concept in *The Life of Reason, Vol I*, by writing, "Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness.

When change is absolute, there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement, and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual."

This brings to mind a famous story, told across many societies with no clear origin, but summarized so aptly by President Abraham Lincoln, "It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentiment, to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words, 'And this, too, shall pass away.' How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride; how consoling in the depths of affliction!" [From the National Park Services website.]

The idea of memento mori can thus be not merely a reminder that we will die, but that our situations will change. In darkness, we can look for light. In times of joy, we remember that sorrow does exist. This concept is illuminated millennia before Lincoln by the Prophet Isaiah who cries out, "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all you that did mourn for her." (Isaiah 66:10) Commentaries on the prophet highlight how the fall of the Second Temple is foretold by the generations forgetting their struggles, by relying too much on the comfort of the moment and being lost

amidst destruction.

The duality of emotions are highlighted by the words of Ezra, "...old men who had seen the first house; when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; but many shouted aloud for joy: so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off." (Ezra 3:12-13) Historically, this is a scene of those who

are completing the rebuilding of the Temple at Jerusalem, following the Edict of Cyrus, allowing for the Jewish people to return to their land and restore the rites and practice that was destroyed under

Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian exile around 586 BCE. Now, nearly 25 years after the edict, the Second Temple is nearly completed and Ezra records both the joy in the moment and the sorrow of loss they all experienced in recent memory.

In this tapestry of reflections on memento mori, from the Square and Compasses with a skull, to the rebuilding of the Second Temple, the universal theme emerges. Change is inevitable, and the ephemerality of our experiences serves as a profound call to reflection. Thus, as we contemplate the transient nature of life, we are compelled to cultivate a deeper appreciation for the present, recognizing that our current joys and adversities alike are fleeting moments in the grand continuum of existence. Embracing memento mori extends beyond acknowledging mortality. It invites us to savor the richness of every experience, to learn from the trials of the past, and to approach the future with a tempered optimism that arises from a nuanced understanding of impermanence. The concluding remark of Santayana reverberates as a timeless admonition, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." ■



Rt. Wor. Rabbi Benjamin Flax, Temple Tifereth Israel of Winthrop

THE DECEMBER 2023 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by Wor. Lee H. Fenn

“Good afternoon, Brethren,” said the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful George F. Hamilton, on December 13th, shortly after 1:30 pm, after receiving a standing ovation. “Thank you for joining me today,” continued the Grand Master.

“Before we receive the colors this afternoon, I would like to introduce something new to these proceedings,” the Grand Master announced. “Our Nation, and this Grand Lodge, are indebted to the men and women who served in defense of this country under its flag. The banner in our presentation today was the last shroud of one of these heroes, our Brother. We are proud to display this flag at our Quarterly and return it to our Brother’s family who received it with honor on behalf of a grateful nation. Today we respect the service of Bro. Donald Gardner Hicks, Sr. Born: August 30, 1907; departed: August 30, 1998; entered: April 7, 1930; passed: May 5, 1930; raised: June 2, 1930. Brother Hicks served in the US Navy from May 1941 to June 1946. While serving in the Pacific theater, his ship was hit by a Kamikaze, resulting in his receiving the Purple Heart. Brethren, our colors will be presented today by The Scouters Lodge,” concluded the Grand Master.

The Brethren rose to the presentation of our nation’s colors by The Scouters Lodge. The American flag, on the right in the Grand East, received the Brethren’s Pledge of Allegiance and a rousing version of the national anthem. The Scouter’s Lodge was introduced by Wor. Christopher Hanson. They were Rt. Wor. Jay Jolicoeur, Wor. Thaddeus Owoc, Bro. Josh Lipshultz, and Wor. Adam J. Jolicoeur, all Eagle Scouts and recipients of the Daniel Carter Beard award.

Prior to opening, the Grand Master called M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon and Bro. Travis Liam Simpkins to the East to present his painted portrait, to replace the photograph which had adorned the lodge room.

The Grand Master directed the Grand Marshal, Rt. Wor. Michael R. Durocher, to conduct Ms. Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of the Old North Illuminated to the Grand East. “Ms. Stewart, we are honored to have you join us today for these presentations and thank you for all that you have accomplished in celebration of the Boston Tea

Party,” said the Grand Master as he presented her with a certificate in recognition of her meritorious service. After Ms. Stewart retired, the Grand Master opened the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts in ample form.

“Welcome Brethren,” said the Grand Master. “It now gives me great pleasure to introduce those guests who were invited to join us today.

Rt. Wor. Sammy Belton, Grand Secretary, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
Most Worshipful Kenneth A. Clay, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire (1789)
M. Wor. Thomas E. Pulkkinen, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Maine (1820)
Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge Rio De Janeiro (1927)
Rt. Wor. Leone Brandao, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Minas Gerias (1927)
Rt. Wor. Oscar M. Zepeda, Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Baja California, Mexico (1933)
M. Excel. George Leonard Herbolzheimer IV, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts
M. Ill. Manuel Ferreira, III, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts

Sir Knight James Ian Ogilvie, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Sir Knight Caleb Brown, III, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of New Hampshire

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

Ill. Scott D. Inglis, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts
Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Active for Massachusetts
Ill. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts
Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts (streaming)

Wor. & Dad Matthew S. Gerrish, Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts

M. Wor. John J. Schurman, II, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star

Sir Knight Frederick J. Bowe, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth

Rt. Wor. Kenneth R. Blake, Chairman of the Board, Masonic Health System of Massachusetts



Left: The Grand Master enters the Lodge Room. Right: The Color Guard, from Scouter's Lodge, L to R, Rt. Wor. Jay Jolicoeur, Bro. Josh Lipshultz, Wor. Thaddeus Owoc, Wor. Adam J. Jolicoeur, and their spokesman, Wor. Christopher Hanson.

Streaming

Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocamo, 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

Past Grand Masters:

M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames
 M. Wor. Arthur Eugene Johnson (streaming)
 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
 M. Wor. Richard Maggio

First Responders:

Rt. Wor. Jerry Bergeron (Capt., First Responders)

Production:

Wor. Charles Caroselli, Audio and Sound
 Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky, Information Services (providing our Live Stream today)

The Grand Master called for reports from the Grand Secretary, M. Wor. Bro. Maggio, reports on the voting power of lodges and recognition of proxies. The latter required a vote and was approved.

“Brethren,” said the Grand Master, “This is the last chance for your lodge to pick up ballots in Doric Hall. We will take a very short five-minute break for any lodges who have not yet picked up their ballots.”

The Grand Master called upon the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Kenneth J. Scott, to deliver the Necrology. We lost six Brothers, two with over 70 years as Masons. The Celestial Lodge above was enhanced with over 450 years of Masonic experience. The Brethren bowed their heads in prayer with the Grand Chaplain,



Rt. Wor. Matthew Wissell.

The Grand Master relinquished the East to his Deputy Grand Master to be escorted from the lodge room for the vote for the next Grand Master. Once the ballot was closed, a committee of Past Grand Masters, headed by M. Wor. Bro. Ames went to the counting room. During the count, Rt. Wor. W. Warren Richardson, Jr., delivered the report from the Records Committee. After approval, Rt. Wor. Stephen Cohn gave the report from the Committee on Charters and By-Laws: ten changes were accepted, three were partially rejected. This report was also approved.

The Grand Organist, Rt. Wor. Robert Cook, provided a musical interlude until the count was finished. The Deputy Grand Master, in the Grand East, received the Committee of Past Grand Masters as their count concluded.

“M. Wor. Past Grand Masters, do you have a count on the recent vote?” asked the Deputy Grand Master.

“Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master, we do,” replied M. Wor. Bro. Ames.

“And?” queried the Deputy Grand Master.

“Oh, you wanted it,” said M. Wor. Bro. Ames. “I just answered the question, that’s all,” to the laughter of the Brethren.

M. Wor. George F. Hamilton was unanimously re-elected as the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. M. Wor. Bro. Hamilton was escorted to the East, where he humbly accepted the office of Grand Master and was conducted to the Grand East.

The Grand Master presented the candidates for Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wors. John Craig Toto and William Ernest Yanakakis. After the candidates were escorted from the lodge room, he opened the ballot. When the ballot was closed, the candidates were escorted into the lodge room and a committee of Past Senior Grand Wardens was dispatched to the counting room.

During the count, the Grand Master called Bro. Lanning Levine to the East where they presented the new “Sebastian” for Eagle Scouts, designed by a committee of Scouting



The new “Sebastian” commemorating Eagle Scouts. To purchase, and donate to the Brotherhood Fund, follow the QR code, or go to bit.ly/3HNLFP.



Left: M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon, his new portrait by artist, Bro. Travis Liam Simpkins. Right: Wor. Jefferey Miller and the Grand Master recognize the meritorious service of Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated.

Brothers. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Brotherhood Fund.

The Grand Master called upon his Grand Marshal to present Rt. Wor. John McLeod and Wor. Jon Hinthorne to the East where they discussed Project Delta, out of Delta Lodge. Wor. Bro. Hinthorne's Delta Project, to supply EMT and other emergency responders with "comfort" plushies for children, has grown from the South Shore to seven states, soon to include Puerto Rico. He presented the Grand Master with his customized bear.

The Committee returned to the lodge room to announce that Rt. Wor. Bro. Yanakakis was unanimously elected as Senior Grand Warden. He humbly accepted.

The candidates for Junior Grand Warden, Rt. Wors. Robert Edward Briggs and Christopher Anthony Tonini were presented by the Grand Master. The Grand Marshal escorted them from the lodge room for balloting. "I appoint a committee of Past Junior Grand Wardens to count the ballots," said the Grand Master as he appointed Rt. Wor. Russell Edwin Lowe as committee chairman. After the balloting, the candidates returned.

"Rt. Wor. Grand Marshal, you will present Wor. Barry Kromer to the East." Wor. Bro. Kromer, sad from the death of his Massachusetts Freemasons t-shirt, had some similar t-shirts printed. The Brothers who bought the shirts raised money to be donated to the Brotherhood Fund. Should a Brother be interested in a shirt, they should contact the Master of their lodge, who will contact their District Deputy.

The Grand Master directed that Rt. Wor. Matthew Niedermeier be presented to the East. He requested that Rt. Wor. Michael J. Boucher, also Lt. Boucher of the Massachusetts Consistory Guard, be also present in the

East. From the Consistory Guard's "swag tables," they presented a donation to the Brotherhood Fund.

The Committee returned to the lodge room to announce that Rt. Wor. Bro. Tonini was unanimously elected as Junior Grand Warden. He humbly accepted. The rest of the candidates, all uncontested, were elected with a single vote from the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Marshal conducted Wor. Michael Armisted and Wor. Eric Norton to the East, designers within a committee of the George Washington Military Service Medal, and managers of the construction and distribution of the medals. The Grand Master called on M. Wor. Bros. Ames, Hodgdon, Stewart, and Waugh to the East to receive their George Washington Military Service Medals.

The Grand Master called back M. Wor. Bro. Waugh to present him with sterling silver plates commemorating the State House Cornerstone re-dedication, during which he was the presiding Grand Master.

The Grand Master marked the 200th anniversary of Star in the East Lodge, chartered in 1793. Grand Chaplain Rt. Wor. Benjamin Flax had a blessed event: a daughter. The Grand

Master prepared a onesie for her stating, "Grand Lady 20??." However, Rt. Wor. Bro. Flax was unable to attend because the little bundle has demands. "He's probably home trying to get some sleep," joked the Grand Master.

The Grand Master directed Senior Warden Elect, Rt. Wor. Bro. Yanakakis, to the East for a presentation. The Senior Warden Elect presented a framed poster saying "Hamilton" in nautical flags.

The Grand Master stood on the level to receive further presentations.

Wor. Bradford Turnier, Master of The Henry Price



The Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Kenneth John Scott in the Grand East during the ballot for Grand Master.

Lodge, and Rt. Wor. Ernie Pearlstein, donated to the Brotherhood Fund.

Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara presented a state flag from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to the Grand Master.

Rt. Wor. Jonathan K. Neitz presented the Grand Master the 24th District's donation from their LOI meals, during which the Brethren cooked.

Rt. Wor. Phil Drouin donated The Masters Lodge's holiday purse to the 300th Anniversary of Grand Lodge.

Wor. Phil Privitera and son Bro. Payton Privitera presented a picture of the re-enactment of a moment when Bro. John Joseph Smith received the quill pen in order to sign the petition to create Hiram Lodge, now Mystic Valley Lodge. In addition, Wor. Bro. Privitera donated to the Grand Master's Appeal marking this event, and in memory of Jean Privitera.

Rt. Wor. Donald "Jack" McKinnon donated to the Brotherhood Fund from The Republican Lodge.

Wor. W. Lee Cleveland donated to the Brotherhood Fund on behalf of the Past Masters Association of the 15th District.

Bro. Macel H. Laberge donated to the Brotherhood

Fund from Family Fun Day, which was put on by Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge, Mount Hope Lodge, King Philip Lodge, and Abraham H. Howland, Jr. Lodge. These funds came from a dunk tank at the Family Fun Day.

The Grand Master thanked the Grand Organist for his inspiring music and commenced his remarks.

"We finish 2023 as busy as we started the year! Grand

Lodge has attended 35 events during this quarter, and we have logged over 30,000 automobile miles since last February," said the Grand Master.

He attended installations for four Lodges: Union Lodge (N), Major General Henry Knox Lodge, King David Lodge, and Winslow Lewis Lodge; the anniversary of Phoenix Lodge, and Joseph Warren-Soley Lodge for the Warren Bible Dedication and Carpet Ceremony.

"We are proud to promote the welfare of these lodges and we rejoice in their prosperity.

We attended all of the appendant sessions and installation of officers, including the York Rite Grand Conclave, Scottish Rite One Day Class, and the Grotto Ceremonial."

"It was my honor to receive the Abraham A. Dame Medal from our Grand Council on Dec. 2nd at Adoniram Council," recounted the Grand Master.



Wor. David T. Stentiford, the Grand Standard Bearer, assures that all voted.

PRESENTATIONS IN THE EAST OF GRAND LODGE



Members of The Henry Price Lodge donate to the Brotherhood Fund.



The Grand Master holds his special bear from the Delta Project, created by Wor. Jon Hinthorne.



Rt. Wor. Jonathan K. Neitz donated to the Brotherhood Fund the proceeds from the 24th District LOI meals.



Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara presented a State Flag from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to the Grand Master.



The Past Grand Masters who served in the military receive their George Washington Military Service Medals.



M. Wor. Harvey Waugh receives the silver plates that honor the cornerstone at the State House, originally placed by M. Wor. Paul Revere.



The Grand Master commemorates the 200th anniversary of Star in the East Lodge, chartered in 1793.



Rt. Wor. William Ernest Yanakakis presents a nautical Hamilton piece of art to the Grand Master.

“The Youth Committee is actively working to coordinate and support all the efforts of DeMolay, Rainbow, and the BSA. I thank Rt. Wor. Arnie Johnson, Wor. Matt Garrish, and Sister Susan Torrey for their continued efforts.”

“With the help of our Pillar Officers, the Grand Lodge attended the nine annual sessions held during this quarter,” said the Grand Master. These included North Carolina, JGW; Illinois, DGM; Delaware, SGW; West Virginia, DGM; Ohio, SGW; New Jersey, GM; Virginia, GM; Maryland, GM; and Washington, DC, Gr. Sec.”

“We put on our regalia and marched in a couple of parades across the jurisdiction, including the Yankee Doodle Parade with Thomas Talbot Lodge and the Brockton Holiday Parade.”

“It was our pleasure to attend the September meeting of The Massachusetts Lodge and witness the Raising of Brother Rocco Telese on Sept 18, 2023. Bro. Rocco Telese is a 98-year-old, young, Mason, a Purple Heart Recipient, and a Veteran of the Italian Campaign during the Second World War. An outstanding man and a Mason, and we were happy to be able to attend that ceremony,” recalled the Grand Master.

There was a District Deputy Grand Master Training Weekend. The “DDGM Resource Team continues to do a

great job preparing our District Leaders,” praised the Grand Master. “Grand Lodge hosted twenty-two Rookie Award Recipients and six Master Builder Award recipients at a Dinner in Grand Lodge last week.”

The Grand Master was happy to announce that over 2,000 George Washington Military Service Medals have been distributed. In addition, many Veterans that were not noted in MORI, the database, have been discovered. Thanks to the Committee, Wor. Eric Norton, Wor. Michael Armitstead, Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky, the District Deputies, Lodge Secretaries, and Masters who made this happen.

Several special events were held across the jurisdiction, which the Grand Master or Grand Lodge Officers were pleased to attend, including the Feast of St. Andrew, Lodge of St. Andrew, GM; Feast of St. Andrew, Pentucket Lodge, JGW; District 6 Christmas Gala, GM; Holiday Dinner, Hellenic Square and Compass Club, GM; Masonic Secretary Association Installation, GM; and the 1st Responder Dinner, District 17, DGM.

“The 250th Committee, under the leadership of Rt. Wor. Bro. [Bryan] Simmons has some exciting plans for the Tea Party this week. The Boston Tea Party was executed by the



M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames presents Senior Warden Elect Rt. Wor. William Ernest Yanakakis, after the count.



Bro. Lanning L. Levine presents a new “Sebastian” of an Eagle Scout to the Grand Master.



Wor. Barry L. Kromer presents a donation to the Brotherhood Fund from t-shirt sales.



Rt. Wor. Phil Drouin donated to the 300th Anniversary of Grand Lodge the holiday purse from The Master's Lodge.



Rt. Wor. Donald “Jack” McKinnon donated to the Brotherhood Fund from The Republican Lodge.



Wor. W. Lee Cleveland donated to the Brotherhood Fund on behalf of the Past Masters Association of the 15th District.



Rt. Wors. Michael J. Boucher and Matthew A. Neidermeier present a donation to the Brotherhood Fund from the Consistory Guard swag tables.



Bro. Macel H. Laberge donated to the Brotherhood Fund from a Family Fun Day, put on by Massasoit-Narragansett Lodge, Mount Hope Lodge, King Philip Lodge, and Abraham H. Howland, Jr. Lodge.



Wor. Phil Privitera and his son, Bro. Payton Privitera, presented a photo of a reenactment of the Master of Hiram Lodge, now Mystic Valley Lodge, petitioning for the original charter, and donated to the Grand Master's Fund in honor of Jean Privitera.

Sons of Liberty. Among their prominent members were Massachusetts Freemasons John Hancock, Paul Revere, and Joseph Warren, who were members of the Lodge of Saint Andrew. The last two were my predecessors as Grand Master. The Sons of Liberty met at the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston, which was owned by the Lodge of Saint Andrew. It is believed the Tea Party was planned there. The Lodge of Saint Andrew has in its archives a note from their Secretary written on December 16, 1773, that reads, ‘Lodge closed (on account of the few members present) until tomorrow evening.’”

“Dr. Warren was one of the most active and outspoken patriots pushing for independence in the decade leading up to Bunker Hill. He was involved in every insurrectionary event in the greater Boston area, including planning and organizing the destruction of the tea. Warren was a young, popular, gentleman physician amongst both Patriots and Tories. His vast network and organizational abilities made him a natural choice to try and broker a solution to landing the tea in Boston Harbor. Most of the tea consignees and ship owners were Warren’s friends, patients, and former Harvard classmates.”

“Given that he owned part of one of the wharves along the Port of Boston, he was closely connected to the seaport community. In the weeks leading up to the event, Warren was brokering meetings and having conversations with the tea power brokers, but no resolution was reached. Warren was one of the speakers at Old South Meeting House on the evening of Dec 16th, along with other top leaders from the Sons of Liberty. When the meeting concluded with a pre-arranged signal, Warren’s friends, colleagues, patients, and Masons from The Lodge of St Andrew, descended on Griffin’s Wharf that fateful night.”

“This iconic event pushed 13 colonies to the brink of revolution, and 16 months later Bro. Warren, who was our Grand Master at the time, set off the shot heard around the world when he dispatched Bros. Paul Revere and William Dawes on their famous midnight rides. While Warren may not have physically tossed chests of tea into the harbor, he was, nevertheless, the main architect of the event and thus rightfully deserves to be recognized. It was our pleasure to attend the ceremony at Forest Hill Cemetery on November 20th, and place a marker on M. Wor. Bro. Warren’s grave which identifies him as one of the principal architects of the Boston Tea Party.

“This is just one of many examples when Freemasons

and the events that led our new nation were intertwined. The 250th Committee has worked diligently over the past year to offer a weekend of commemoration that will be remembered for years to come,” said the Grand Master. He explained the plans for the then coming Tea Party event, featured on page 14, and invited the Brethren to join in the event.

He addressed the leaders of the Craft, from Lodge Wardens through to Grand Lodge members.

“I want to talk to you today about two aspects of member retention. If we expect to attract new members, it is critical that lodges offer a pleasant place for Brethren to gather and that lodges offer our members the best fraternal experience. We need Brethren to be willing to invest in their lodges with both their time and their finances and to be willing to pay lodge dues because they see the value it brings in their lives, for their families, and in their community life.”



Rt. Wor. Russell E. Lowe presents Junior Warden Elect, Rt. Wor. Christopher A. Tonini to the Grand Master.

“Where lodges do a good job of taking care of their members, it is a place where new men will want to join our Fraternity. In a situation where we are losing members and they question this value proposition, how can we expect to attract new members? Taking care of our Brethren must be our highest priority before any recruiting efforts are successful.”

“I’m happy to report that the demits overall appear to be dropping on an annual basis. I hope the trend continues and that this indicates

that most lodges are providing good value to their members. This is something that we can all make an area of constant improvement.”

“There is one aspect of member attrition, however, that I find troubling, and it pertains to our older members.”

“Our Grand Secretary receives requests for demits from Brethren. Lodge Secretaries forward the requests to his office in accordance with our Grand Constitutions and they are processed and incorporated into MORI. Many demits are for plural members or for members who are in the process of moving or relocating. It is heartbreaking to read a request for a demit from an elderly brother who clearly does not want to leave our fraternity, but feels compelled to withdraw because of financial circumstances. Some of these members are in their 80s or 90s, and in many cases have been members for a long time. All too often, the member indicates that they have had little contact with their lodge. Lodges should find a way to remit a Brother’s dues and keep him as a member rather than losing them to demit or NPD.”

continued on page 29



Massachusetts Visits Chile: A Friendship since 1862

Translated from Masonería Al Día

By District Grand Master Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocamo

The Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Rt. Wor. Kenneth J. Scott, and the District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge at the Panama Canal, Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocamo, have arrived in Chile to install the Venerable Masters of the Bethesda and Huelén Lodges, which have existed in Chile for 170 and 150 years, respectively. Grand Master Sebastián Jans Pérez welcomed the distinguished visitors with special expressions of affection in his office, together with some of the dignitaries of the Grand Lodge of Chile (GLCH), pointing out the high importance of this visit due to the long relationship that unites both Grand Lodges, for more than a century and a half.

Let us remember that the legal existence of the GLCH was thanks to the recognition of Massachusetts in 1862, shortly after it was incorporated in Valparaíso. The representatives of both Grand Lodges departed, and after the protocol greetings and the exchange of gifts, a banquet was held in honor of the visitors in the dining rooms of the Club de la República. M. Wor. Sebastián Jans Pérez, Grand Master of GLCH, was invited to participate in the festivities commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party,

which marked the beginning of the struggle for independence for the United States. At the end, M. Wor. Sebastián Jans Pérez highlighted the fraternal relations that unite the GLCH with the third oldest Grand Lodge in the world, and that sheltered in its lodges the fathers of the independence of the United States. ■



250th Anniversary

TEA PARTY ARCHITECT: M. WOR. DR. JOSEPH WARREN

by Christina DiSpigna



Two hundred and fifty years ago, Dr. Joseph Warren and Samuel Adams orchestrated what would become one of the most iconic events in American history. On the night of December 16, 1773, approximately one hundred patriots destroyed 342 chests of tea in Boston Harbor. On November 22, 2023, the Grand Lodge, in partnership with the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, dedicated an “Architect of the Boston Tea Party” grave marker by the Grand Master and Sarah Hamilton, Warren’s 7th Great Granddaughter, at the final resting place of Dr. Joseph Warren in Forest Hills Cemetery. Following placing the marker, the procession ushered into the chapel for speeches from Evan O’Brien of the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, Jonathan Lane of REV250, and the Grand Master, who delivered a moving speech about Warren’s participation and meaningful legacy. Thanks to the dedication of the Grand Lodge and the 250th Commemoration Committee, our beloved Brother Warren will be remembered for his dedication to the cause of liberty for many years to come. ■



JOHN HANCOCK DOCUMENT RESTORED

by Rt. Wor. Fred Dobson

Sometime in the late 1950s to early 1960s, John Hancock Lodge Chaplain and long-time Grand Chaplain Egbert 'Skip' Jenkinson procured a document signed by John Hancock and presented it to the lodge. It spent the next 50 plus years hanging in the old lodge room in the center of Methuen. At this time, it is not known where he found it or how much he paid for it. The document is a commission for a 2nd Lieutenant in the Massachusetts Militia, signed by the Governor, in 1781.

It was framed and matted with a drawing of John Hancock attached to it that was not part of the original document. It was also missing the big, red wax seal.

When the old Searles Memorial Masonic Temple in Methuen was sold in 2015, the lodge wasn't sure what to do with the commission. For a number of years, it sat in the home of a lodge Past Master before ending up in the Andover Masonic building, where John Hancock Lodge now meets. We learned there is a company the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library and our own Grand Lodge has used to properly restore and preserve key documents, and they are located in Andover. Founded in 1973, the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) is a non-profit organization that specializes in the preservation of paper-based library and archival materials. A meeting was set up with NEDCC, and the document was handed off to one of the teams to look it over to decide what needed to be done to properly

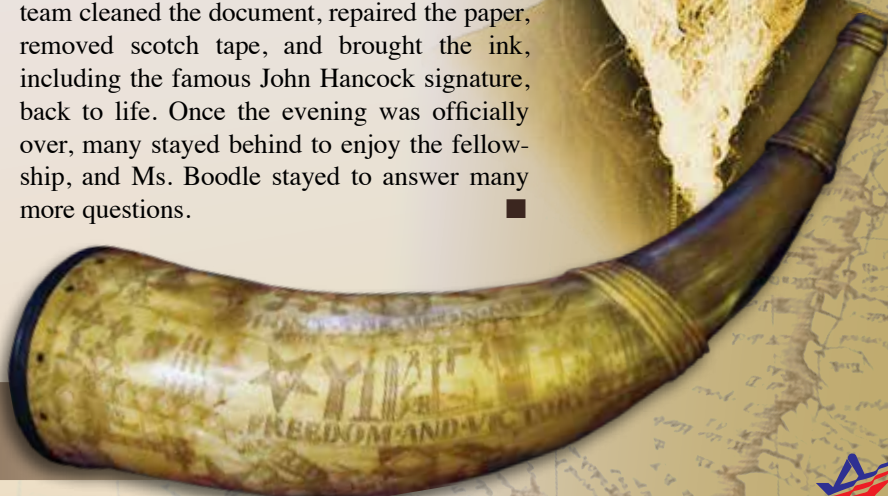
restore and preserve it. When that was complete, they provided the lodge with an estimate.

The estimate was brought before the lodge and we voted unanimously to set aside the money needed for the preservation. The lodge also began to plan ways to raise funds to offset the cost of the work. Once approved, and a down payment sent, work on the document commenced. The NEDCC spent the next four months painstakingly cleaning and restoring the document to its best possible condition. Part of the estimate included properly matting and framing the commission as well. Once completed, the lodge planned a big unveiling in the dining room after our June Communication with a presentation on how the work was done by lead team member Katie Boodle, Senior Conservator. Close to 60 people joined together in the dining room for a great meal, the unveiling, and the presentation.

Ms. Boodle did a great job telling us in layman's terms how the team cleaned the document, repaired the paper, removed scotch tape, and brought the ink, including the famous John Hancock signature, back to life. Once the evening was officially over, many stayed behind to enjoy the fellowship, and Ms. Boodle stayed to answer many more questions. ■



*Revolutionary War Masonic Powder Horn
photo by Wor. Darrell Thomas English*



250th Anniversary

TEA PARTY STARTS AMERICA

by Rt. Wor. Bryan Simmons

It was impossible. The ships with the tea had to leave the harbor by midnight. But they couldn't. The customs agency controlled the port and would not let them leave without "landing" the tea. The British Crown controlled the customs agency. If the tea landed, it would be taxed - whether it sold or not. The Grand Master, M. Wor. George F. Hamilton was in the Old South Meeting House, listening to the arguments, and they were vehement. Over 1,000 Masons and hundreds of others gathered outside the meeting house. Their chants and cheers sounded through the walls. It sounded like a riot. When the meeting



of AMERICA

ended, those inside joined the riot that had assembled on Milk Street.

M. Wor. Bro. Hamilton said, as he exited the hall, "Salt water the tea!" The Masons shouted, "Hip, Hip, Hooray, Grand Master!" The riot proceeded to the harbor, where they enjoyed the first salvo of the American Revolution - the tea was salt-watered. The destruction of the tea was only one of several events that took place over a weekend that will be remembered for generations. The largest Boston Tea Party symposium on record was held in Gothic Hall, the 290th installation of officers of St. John's Lodge was held in Ionic Hall, a multi-faith, non-denominational ecumenical service was held that Sunday morning, highlighted by a rousing Boston Tea Party sermon by Rev. & Rt. Wor. Richard Haley. These weekends are the ones that sow the seeds of history for the next generation, while strengthening the connection with our early brethren and their selfless service to our nation. ■



THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

DONORS DURING 2023

The Grand Master's Appeal is the foundation of the charitable and educational programs of Massachusetts Freemasonry. Each year, your Grand Master sends a letter to every Massachusetts Mason encouraging him to make a tax-deductible donation to support programs such as The Brotherhood Fund, Grand Lodge Scholarship Program, the Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library, and many other great and important undertakings.

In 2023, we received over 1,100 contributions totaling almost \$300,000. Following is a list of donors whose cumulative giving throughout the year totaled \$50 or more.

To everyone who gave a gift to the Grand Master's Appeal: Thank you very much! Because of you, we are able

to help others every single day.

I am very appreciative of the support we have received, but it does not diminish the continuing need for the Relief we can provide. Please consider a donation within the length of your cable-tow to the 2024 Grand Master's Appeal as part of your charitable giving this year. A convenient reply envelope has been included in this magazine for your use.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration.

And thank you for everything you do on behalf of Massachusetts Freemasonry!

Sincerely & fraternally,

Most Worshipful George F. Hamilton, Grand Master

\$30,000

Giles F. Yates Council Princes of Jerusalem^{BF, BMB}

\$15,000

Mount Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix^{BF, 250}

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Massachusetts Consistory^{BF, SP, 250}

Richard J. Stewart^{BF, 300}

\$5000 TO \$9999

Boston Lafayette Lodge of Perfection^{BF}
Philip J. Privitera, *in commemoration of the 225th Anniversary of Hiram Lodge's petition and in memory of Jean Privitera*

Union (D) Lodge F. & A.M.^{BF}, *in appreciation of the Grand Master attending the Lodge's 250th Anniversary celebration*
Walter L. McCammon Educational Trust^{SP}

\$1734 TO \$4999

7th Masonic District^{BF}, *in memory of Bro. Eric D. Wickberg*
Kenneth M. Andrews^{BF}
George J. Bibilos
Brothers of the White Ash^{BF, 250}
Columbian Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}
George L. Herbolsheimer IV
Donald G. Hicks, Jr.
Richard G. and Naomi Howarth
Barry L. Kromer^{BF}
The Lodges of Fall River^{BF}, *from the proceeds of their Family Fun Day Dunk Tank*
Richard D. Marden

Marine Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}, *in honor of the Lodge's 225th Anniversary*
Massachusetts Consistory Guard^{BF}, *from the proceeds of their merchandise table*
Norfolk Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}, *in memory of Wor. Warren W. Morris, Jr. and the other Lodge Brethren who departed for the Celestial Lodge above in the past year*
Walter Peterson
Prospect Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF, SP}
St. Bernard Commandery No. 12³⁰⁰
Worshipful Masters Association of SE MA^{BF}, *from contributions received passing the Master's Hat and a match from the Association*

1733 IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR GRAND LODGE IN 1733

Kenneth R. Blake^{BF, 300}
Paul F. Gleason^{BF, 300}

George F. Hamilton
Donald H. LaLiberte^{BF}

\$1000 TO \$1732

4th Masonic District Lodge of
Instruction^{BF}, *from the proceeds of the*
LOI's "Master's Hat Appeal"
6th Masonic District^{BF}, *from the proceeds*
of the "Ladies of Masonry" fundraiser at
the District Holiday Party
24th Masonic District^{BF}, *from the*
proceeds of the District's LOI Dinners
John W. Alden
Thomas R. Appleton II
Jonathan J. M. Arata
Azure Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}, *from the*
proceeds of the Lodge's Burns Night and
1000th Communication celebration auction
Jeffrey A. Blum
Brothers of the Single Malt^{BF}
Alfredo J. R. Canhoto

John L. Carlson
The Colonial Craftsmen's Club of
Colonial MA^{BF}
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Frank W. Thompson Lodge A.F. & A.M.
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Robert D. Gilligan, Jr.
Golden Rule Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}
Sean M. Guilfoyle
The Henry Price Lodge^{BF}
Larry E. Houston^{BF}
Richard E. Johnson^{BF}
James B. Kershaw^{BF}
William D. Kessler^{BF}
Geoffrey Kromer^{BF, SP}
Richard P. Legier, Jr.^{BF}

Ian C. Mackenzie
The Masters Lodge A.F. & A.M.³⁰⁰
Michael E. McKelvy
Gary C. Miller^{BMB}
Donald M. Moran
Norumbega Fraternity Lodge A.F. &
A.M.^{BF}, *from the proceeds of the Lodge's*
inaugural Cribbage Tournament
Philanthropic Lodge F & A.M.^{BF}
Leland F. Ross, Jr.
Eric J. Rzepka
Robert F. Stanley^{BF}, *donation for CPR*
training
Donald S. Stevens^{BF}
David L. St Onge
Basilios E. Tsingos^{SP}
Harvey J. Waugh
The William D. Deadman Society^{BF}

\$500 TO \$999

15 N & S Past Masters Association^{BF}
23rd Masonic District^{BF}, *from the*
proceeds of the District's Night
with the WooSox
Abraham H. Howland, Jr. Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}
Christos P. Alex
Herbert G. Bell II
Matthew W. Bell^{SCL}
Mark G. Cere^{BF}
Charles A. Welch Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}
William K. Clapp
Thomas W. Davies
Alan T. Gorrie

Grand Chapter of MA Order of
the Eastern Star^{BF}
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David R. James
Robert V. Jolly, Jr.
Glenn L. Kubick
Frederick E. Lavergne
David R. Lucas
Alan J. Mackinnon

Meridian Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}, *in appre-*
ciation of the Grand Master attending the
Lodge's 225th Anniversary celebration
Mount Horeb (W) Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}
Kenneth W. Pfeiffer^{BF}
Republican Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{BF}
Mason W. Russell
Saint George Lodge A.F. & A.M.^{Trowel}
Star of Bethlehem Lodge Charitable
Foundation^{BF}
Martin E. Schmieg
James R. Tedford
Roger W. Waugh
Joseph S. Zuffanti^{BF}

\$291 TO \$499

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Clayton A. Bemis
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Stephen DiMarco
Lee H. Fenn
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Clarence O. Gay, Jr.
James A. Gilrein II^{BF}

James Giragosian^{BF, 300}
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William R. Long

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Frederick L. Sewall^{BF}
Ralph I. Sewall
Arthur H. Sharp³⁰⁰
Stanley I. Strachman
John M. Vining
Craig W. Walsh

continued on next page

BF: designated for The Brotherhood Fund BMB: designated for The Boston Masonic Building SP: designated for Scholarship Program
SCL: designated for The Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library Y: designated for Youth Programs 250: designated for America's 250th Anniversary
300: designated for Grand Lodge's 300th Anniversary TROWEL: designated for TROWEL Magazine

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 Michael D. Grim
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Joshua D. Hall^{BF}
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 Patrick J. McNulty
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 Richard V. Minns
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 Philip A. Nowlan
 Douglas E. Obey
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 Peter K. Prime
 Philip W. Read
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 Joyce C. Robinson, *in memory of*
Wor. Frederick H. Robinson
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 Elden C. Tabora
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 Robert J. Bach
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memory of Wor. William P. Renny
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 Louis S. Hadaya
 Richard E. Haley^{SP}
 Stanley F. Hanson
continued on page 20

MASONS CELEBRATE MARINE CORPS' 248TH BIRTHDAY

by Wor. Lee H. Fenn

On November 10th, a huge crowd of Marines, future Marines, and some of their Ladies gathered to celebrate their beloved Corps' 248th Birthday. The Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, M. Wor. George F. Hamilton was among the many Masons, many of them Marines, to celebrate the Corps and the freedom they have fought for since their inception. The Brotherly love of the Quarterly communications, our Lodge communications,



and other Masonic events, was paralleled by the joy of these Marines in seeing each other.

Everyone stood with devoted attention when the National Anthem played. No one sang. No one flinched. Just devotion to the country. Gold Star families, those who lost their loved ones in battle, were honored, some of which were Masonic Gold Star families. Bro. Steven B. Sammis and his wife Beth, Gold Star Parents, met not only the Grand Master, but also General Christopher J. Mahoney, the keynote speaker, who served with their son, Capt. Benjamin W. Sammis who is resting in Arlington National Cemetery.

The oldest Marine, who had for *continued on page 32*



\$100 TO \$289 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

George W. Haroutunian	Mervin A. Locke	Ulrick Petit-Homme	Peter R. Smith ³⁰⁰
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Ernest C. Hill ^{BF} , in memory of	<i>Wor. William P. Renny</i>	Kevin B. Prescott	Richard G. Thomson
<i>Wor. William P. Renny</i>	George Makredes	George S. Pultz	Russell L. Tibbetts
Nathan J. Hindemith	Alan V. Malkasian	Pedro Ramos ^{SP}	James H. Tietje
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Charles R. Laforme	Michael A. Nepi	Timothy M. Sawyer	Philip J. Wildman
Erlind Lamce	Hugh R. Nisbet	Uwe Schneider	Thomas L. Winter
Peter W. Landerholm ^{BF}	Roland L. Noel	Frederick H. Schulenburg	Frederick R. Wise, Jr.
William E. Landry	James A. Noyes	Robert S. Sedlacek ^{BF}	Max J. Wolf
Gerald R. Latham	Scott P. Nussey	Brian R. Sewall	Steven H. Wolfe
Ernest W. Lattanzi	Randall C. Oxley	Jordan L. Shapiro	Harold W. Woodbury
Roy I. Lederman ^{BF}	David E. Pace	Carlton J. Sherman	Enoch O. Woodhouse II
David R. Lee	Thomas S. Page, Sr. ^{SP}	Sidney L. Sherter	Sylvester M. Wrenn, Jr.
Michael A. Lescarbeau	George F. Parker	Edward W. Shore, Jr.	Donald R. Wright
John M. Leslie	Harold L. Parsons	David J. Silva	Paul R. Yarmey
Philip Lirk	Pentucket Lodge A.F. & A.M. ^{BF}	Waldo W. Simpson	Clifford E. Young
Robert N. Littman	Stephen H. Perry	Leon H. Small	Eric J. Zimmerman ^{BF}

\$50 TO \$99

Edward R. Allen	Kenneth A. Brown	Philip A. Christensen, Sr.	Doug and Janet Daddario ^{BF} , in
Lawrence J. Anderson	Budleigh Lodge A.F. & A.M.	Paul D. Clapp	memory of Bro. Steven L. Swinhart
Sherman R. Anderton	Robert M. Buoniconti	Cochichewick Lodge A.F. & A.M.	Paul Davis
Anthony A. Anello, Jr.	John D. Burns	Stephen C. Cohn ³⁰⁰	Steven R. Day
Ralph H. Arabian	Claude W. Burr	Joseph F. Cole	Joseph N. Dellolio
Edward J. Banzy	Lawrence R. Burr	Robert W. Comeau	Raymond A. Demboski ^{BF}
Harvey E. Baskin ^{SP}	David M. Byron	William R. Conary	Mark W. Dickinson
David R. Beckman	Sean A. Carollo ^{BF}	Leslie E. Cook, Jr.	Robert J. Disario
John L. Bell	Thomas D. Carriaveau	Emery C. Corey	Joseph Dumornay
James H. Birch III	James D. Cattoggio	Robert J. Cotton	George E. Durfee, Jr.
Wayne A. Braley	Fred C. Chrisbaie		<i>continued on page 29</i>

The Prodigal Mason

by Wor. Richard Thompson



I often say our fraternity's hidden gem is Daylight Masonry. This sense came to me sometime after I first visited Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, now in Tewksbury, but at that time in North Andover. I was the District Deputy Grand Secretary, and what was known as the Lowell 12th had been reorganized and renamed the 12th Masonic District. The district lost Corinthian Lodge

in Concord, but picked up St. Matthew's Lodge in Andover, and Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge. Until that time, all I knew about the Daylight Lodge came from Wor. Don Robinson, who was a member of my lodge, Wamesit, and the first Master of Daylight Lodge. After my first visit to Daylight Lodge, I learned daylight Masonry is different from what I knew attending lodges that meet only at night.

I am a Scottish Rite member in New Hampshire, where I now live. At the first Council of Deliberation meeting I attended, Rt. Wor. Mark Roth, then the Active Member, later the Deputy, and now an Active Emeritus, gave a brief talk on the tenets of our fraternity – Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. He said men join our fraternity for the reasons you find in the tenets. Some come for the lessons we teach – Truth. Some come for our charitable efforts – Relief. And some come for the camaraderie – Brotherly Love.

What I discovered when I first visited Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge is that lodge, and I suspect it is true for other daylight lodges, specializes in Brotherly Love. Daylight Masonry can be thought of as social Masonry. I observed this on every visit, and it gave me such a powerful feeling that I joined Daylight Lodge. I'll give you an example. Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge normally opens at 11am on the third Tuesday of the month. The only exception is when the District Deputy visits. On those days, we open at 10:30am. In any case, the members start arriving at 10am because they know the coffee pot is on, there are donuts in the banquet hall, and there are brothers awaiting their arrival. The lodge has christened this 10-11am gathering "Donut Lodge."

You see groups of Masons – two, three, maybe four

Richard Thompson is a Past Master, Secretary of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge, and one proud and happy Daylight Mason.

members each, gathered in the banquet hall. And you see members moving from group to group, joining in whatever the discussion point is at that moment. Our attendance is normally 15 to 20. When you have just 50 members, that is 30 to 40 percent. If you deduct those members who live too far away to regularly attend, the percentage is more like 40 to 50 percent. How many lodges would like to have that?

Another indicator is that according to the lodge bylaws, the lodge can choose to go dark in January and February, the months when many elder members go south for the winter. The lodge has not voted to go dark for more than five years. Daylight Lodge has not performed any degrees in a few years, but the lodge keeps getting new members, all affiliates. In fact, there are only some five members who claim Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge as their primary lodge. As I said, Daylight Lodge meetings open at 11am, you can be sure they will end at about noon. That is when a

full-blown dinner is served. We have full dinners, in part, to help the widowers in the lodge. This is their big meal of the day. Besides, nutritionists keep telling me the big meal of the day should be the one in the middle.

There is one other tenet Daylight Lodge practices – Relief. When you are at the table getting coffee and collecting donuts, there is a clear cylinder on the table. This is for donations. This year we donated the contents of that cylinder, \$300, to the Children's Dyslexia Center

– Boston North, based in Lowell. Thanks to our Grand Lodge's matching gift program, that \$300 grew to \$600.

As I said, I'm a Scottish Rite Mason in New Hampshire. I'm also a member of the Board of Governors for the Nashua Children's Dyslexia Center. And I have a son who is dyslexic. I know the difficulties dyslexic children have to face. I have seen countless cases of children who hate school turn into children who love school and love learning. The money my lodge and my Grand Lodge gave to that center is money well spent.

So Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge is like any Masonic lodge, but with a bit heavier dose of Brotherly Love. There are four daylight lodges in Massachusetts. If you're free in the hours of daylight and live close enough to one of those lodges, I recommend you go for a visit. You may well be surprised at what you find. But I will warn you, the first time you walk out of a lodge meeting and the sun is still shining can be a shock. ■

**Daylight Lodges in
Massachusetts**
Euclid Lodge
Weymouth, Third Thursday, 11:03am
**Merrimack Valley
Daylight Lodge**
Tewksbury, Third Tuesday, 11am
Mount Sugar Loaf Lodge
Greenfield, Third Saturday, 9am
Rose of Sharon Lodge
Charlton, Third Saturday, 9am



Remarks of the Deputy Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Matthew A. Niedermeier • Feast of St. John

Notwithstanding Freemasonry Can Thrive!

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Brethren, Worshipful Brethren, Brethren, and guests all, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure to be with you this evening! Grand Master, thank you again for the opportunity to continue serving our Grand Lodge and the Brethren across the jurisdiction. It is an exciting day to be a Mason in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts! I am extremely humbled to be standing before you to carry on our time-honored traditions dating back nearly 300 years, a position I surely never expected to be in! Even though they are not with us, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my lady Elaine and daughters, Madison, Courtney, and Autumn, without whose support and encouragement, I would not be here today.

Shortly after the Grand Master inquired if I might be interested in serving as DGM, he reminded me that I would have to make remarks at the Feast. To ensure I cover everything, I've come prepared with a dozen or so pages of type-

written text. In all seriousness though, as I began to contemplate what I might speak about, I pored over the many remarks of Past DGMs, many of which bear common themes across the years. As I often do, I asked my wife Elaine what she thought I should talk about as she often has creative ideas and sound advice to offer. This time was no different, sort of. Upon asking her, she looked at me, and in a dead-pan delivery, said, "There was an old man from Nantucket," turned, and walked away. After I had stopped laughing and gained some composure, I said, "I can't use that!" Well, here I am using it. After reflecting for another few weeks, I finally determined that I should talk about something important to me personally that will aid the Grand Master and all the Brethren in achieving his vision for this year. Therefore, I would like to talk to you about improving three pillars of our personal relationships as Masons. I can promise there will not be any more witty limericks, but I can't promise there will not be a quote or two.

Let me start by laying the foundation for our pillars by providing some useful and personal context. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our great nation and the 300th

GRAND LODGE INSTALLATION



anniversary of our Grand Lodge, there are many stellar events on the horizon with great opportunity. We often hear the adage that notwithstanding Freemasonry survives, but I would submit to you all that notwithstanding, Freemasonry now has the opportunity to thrive. Our most precious resource and the catalyst for future success and growth is the brethren and time they generously devote to the Craft. The remainder of my remarks are not about recruitment or retention, but indirectly they positively impact both. The three pillars are improving the depth of our personal relationships, seeing challenges as opportunities for growth, and mentorship of future leaders. As I continue my remarks, I would ask you to keep in the back of your minds your first degree when for the first time you took the hand of a friend whom you later found to be a Brother.

My personal passion for this is best illustrated by three worthy brethren who were integral in my growth as a new Mason. Those that know me best may recognize them through the stories but know that they are emblematic of the countless brethren who have made my journey possible. It is often said that Masons join the Craft for a diversity of reasons and I think we can all agree that is true. That diversity of background, experience, skill, and motivations is what makes us strong. I would submit to you, however, that Masons largely stay active as Masons for one reason, and that is for their fellow brethren. As a new Steward in Caleb Butler Lodge, one of my earliest mentors and friends was a senior Past Master and cornerstone of our lodge who has since departed for the Celestial Lodge above. I have no doubt he is watching us now as he often would volunteer to drive us in to the Quarterly or other Grand Lodge events. I learned early on that he was a retired Warrant Officer and as some may know I am also a Warrant Officer. Despite our age differences, this provided a strong early connection to

build our friendship. This Worshipful Brother was a regular instructor in the candidate cipher instruction in the lodge. In the lodge, we had a tradition that a prospective Senior Deacon needed to deliver the Middle Chamber lecture during a step-up night as a Steward. In preparing for that, I spent many nights with him in the lodge and at his home around his kitchen table learning the lecture. It was during those times that I learned of his activities in Scouting and as a Scoutmaster of his son's troop. I learned of his love of hunting and his role as a founding member of the Shirley Rod and Gun Club. I had largely quit hunting in my youth, but began to actively hunt once again when Gene invited me to go out with him. I will never lose the vision of him crashing through the thickest laurel I've ever seen, and watching him roll rear over tea kettle, in his 80s trying to get the deer moving so we might have an opportunity. That was this Worshipful Brother, he put his arm around you, got to know you outside of Masonry, and made you feel like a part of his family. He epitomized what it meant to improve the depth of a relationship with a Brother.

The second Brother was much closer in age to me, also a Past Master of CBL who went on to serve as a DDGM and pillar officer of this Grand Lodge. Despite being a vastly more experienced and accomplished Mason, he also put his arm around me to demonstrate the value of traveling to see the opportunities that existed across the jurisdiction and in the appendant bodies. The Right Worshipful Brother and I were both Eagle Scouts. While I was still an Entered Apprentice, he orchestrated a visit by the brethren of the Massachusetts Masonic Eagle Scout Association to welcome me. Some of my earliest travels as a Mason outside my mother lodge were with him and the brethren that eventually became The Scouters Lodge. He similarly took the time to invite, drive, and introduce me

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AND THE FEAST OF SAINT JOHN





From The West...of Boston

by Bro. Brian McHale

A Texas Knight



It started simply enough, with a text from my stepson, Griffin, containing photos and a question. As my wife showed me the picture, I said reflexively, “That’s Knights Templar. I recognize the medals. I have ones that are the same or similar.” The second photo had a red cross on the cuff, confirming my initial assessment. “Where did he get it? It looks old.” He told me it was in the attic of his great-grandmother’s house, in an old trunk. “Can you find out about the jacket for me?” Of course I would try. Who doesn’t like being a detective? Philip Marlowe with less skulking in hotel lobbies.

Fortunately, he was able to provide

me with a name and dates of birth and passing. Apparently, nobody remembered a Mason in the family. It is unsure what became of his other Masonic belongings. The Brother’s name was Roy H. Barham, Griffin’s great-great-grandfather, who was born Sep 4, 1887, and died Oct 11, 1950. Bro. Roy spent the majority of his life in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. This gave me more than I was expecting to go on, so my first step was to contact the Grand Lodge of Texas, as well as their Knights Templar Headquarters.

I emailed both entities on the weekend, and surprisingly received responses from both the same Sunday. Bro. Christian Moore, a Past Master of Texas Lodge of Research, from the Grand Lodge of Texas, said he would look in the available records for any information regarding Bro. Roy, as did Bro. Ronnie Wilson, Grand Recorder of the Grand

Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. Bro. Moore was able to supply me with a link to photos of the headstone of Bro. Roy, which has a Square and Compasses on it. Bro. Wilson sent me a full account of Bro. Roy’s Masonic journey, including a later lodge change. Bro. Roy was a busy man, holding ten Officer positions, including three turns in the East as Worshipful Master, and four (!) as Lodge Secretary.

I cannot thank these Brothers enough for their assistance. When Bro. Roy was born, Grover Cleveland was President and Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, celebrated the first Groundhog Day. In the year he died, Bro. Harry Truman was in the White House, and we were still 19 years from putting a man on the moon. They helped bring the past a little closer. My wife said, “Griffin was able to resurrect a piece of history, thanks to a memory he shared with you.” ■

To the Moon, or Masons Really Are Everywhere

During the process of investigating the provenance of Griffin’s Knights Templar jacket, I visited the Grand Lodge of Texas’ website. An item of curiosity caught my eye, Tranquility Lodge 2000. Was this for meditating Masons? Not even close. Tranquility Lodge 2000 is the moon lodge. Yes, that moon.

I always thought the ‘Moon Lodge’ was a legend, one that Masons tell to show just how far and wide our reach goes. I knew that some astronauts were Masons, including John Glenn, Buzz Aldrin, and Gordon Cooper. What I did not know was that on July, 20, 1969, Bro. Buzz Aldrin “carried with him Special Deputation...constituting and appointing Brother Aldrin as Special Deputy of the Grand Master, granting unto him full power in the premises to represent the Grand Master as such and authorize him to claim Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction for The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on The Moon, and directed that he make

due return of his acts. Brother Aldrin certified that the Special Deputation was carried by him to the Moon on July 20, 1969.”

I contacted Bro. Randal Smallwood, Sr., the Secretary of TL2K, and received a response within a few short minutes. I introduced myself, and he informed me that his son, Randy Smallwood, Jr. is a Massachusetts Mason. Bro. Randy is a Past Master of Mt. Horeb Lodge in Woburn, and also a member of TL2K. I asked how many countries had Masons who were affiliated with TL2K. Bro. Randall (Sr.) told me “it would probably be easier to list the countries that don’t have members.” I also learned that TL2K has over 1400 members worldwide. “The lodge supports several scholarship programs,” said Bro. Randall. When I mentioned I might have more questions, Bro. Randall responded in the most Masonic way possible. “Anything I can do to help, Brother.”

Please visit their website - tl2k.org - to see their historical documents, as well as the items you can purchase to support their charitable endeavors. The application to join Tranquility Lodge is found at tl2k.org/join. As of this writing, my application has been sent. I hope you join me. ■



Commandery Armory in Boston Renovated

by Bro. Charles L. Bovaird II

Boston Commandery just completed a multi-year renovation of its armory in the Boston Masonic Building, and the results are simply dazzling. Project Manager E. Sir Nathaniel R.J. Ulrich, who spearheaded this initiative, described the restoration as being one of the highlights of his Masonic journey. “Working with Sir Knight Joe DeNicola and Eminent Commander Mark Barrett, we designed a room that keeps true to its history while increasing its overall function and modern day comforts. No detail was overlooked, including the same rarified sconces and chandeliers found in the Library of Congress,” Ulrich stated.

Once the room had been restored in this manner, succeeding E. Commander Dan Daley appointed a committee to help ensure the armory had the perfect furnishings. Members of this committee saw to it that many of the original pieces were profes-

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FRATERNITY News & Events

Gavel Raiders Take Home Quinebaug Lodge's Sword

On Monday, Nov 6, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge held its regular monthly meeting. Some unexpected visitors were in attendance. A group of Brothers not seen in our lodge before had come for a Fraternal visit. This group was from The Meadows Lodge in East Longmeadow, in the 28th Masonic District, near Springfield, MA. They were on a mission, having heard about the Traveling Regalia Gavel that Quinebaug Lodge had in its possession. They wanted to take it back to their home lodge. While in the lobby waiting for the meeting to start, the leader of the Gavel Raiders, Rt. Wor. Joseph Wescott, noticed a beautiful Tyler's Sword standing in a wooden display case.

On this case was a dedication plaque, a Masonic door knocker, a peep hole, a logbook with a photo, and a story about our past Tyler, Bro. Armand Richards, to whom this sword was dedicated, back in 2019. Rt. Wor. Bro. Wescott was impressed with the display case and the story behind this sword. He wanted to take the sword back to his home lodge in East Longmeadow instead of the big, heavy, and in his words, dusty gavel. Everyone started laughing after he



1st row L to R: Bros. Michael Clark, Richard Goldrick, Donald Sacco Sr., Wor. Will Proper (Quinebaug Lodge), the Traveling Tyler Sword, Wor. Joseph Wescott (The Meadows Lodge), Bros. Donald Sacco Jr., Sam Moriarty, James Bellomo.

2nd row L to R: Bro. Brent Thompson Jr. and Bro. Arvi Roffe.

gave his reason why he was at the lodge during the meeting.

Other Masonic lodges throughout the state may come to a regular monthly meeting to retrieve the Traveling Regalia Gavel, or in this case, the Traveling Regalia Tyler Sword, at Quinebaug Lodge. To collect this gavel or sword and return it to their lodge, they must have a minimum of three Brothers, including a Worshipful Master, an Officer, and a fellow brother, or a Tyler if they want the Traveling Tyler Sword.

-Bro. Jimmy Falzone

Two Royal Arch Masons Receive Benjamin Hurd Medal

On October 17th, 2023, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge was packed full of family, friends, and dignitaries from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts. M. Ex. Ernest A. Bean, Grand High Priest of Massachusetts, along with his officers, arrived to give



two worthy local men the surprise of their lives. The two men of the Southbridge Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons are the recipients of the Benjamin Hurd Service Medal, which is the highest honor and award given by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts. They are Ex. Norman Cloutier of Southbridge, a Mason for 42 years, and Ex. Gary Clifford of Sturbridge, a Mason for 23 years. This medal was given to these two Masons for exemplary and distinguished service, above and beyond the call of duty in the Fraternity, and the community.

The Southbridge Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was formed in 1867. It was originally started at Webster Masonic Lodge and was called the first Webster Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. In 1871, the Webster Chapter voted to move the meeting place from Webster to the Southbridge Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. In 1872, The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts was asked to approve a merger and the name of this new Chapter was henceforth called Doric Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

-Bro. Jimmy Falzone

From left to right: Rt. Ex. George Makara, recipient Ex. Gary Clifford holding his medal, M. Ex. Ernest A. Bean, Grand High Priest of Massachusetts, recipient Ex. Norman Cloutier holding his medal, and Rt. Ex. Jay A. Jolicoeur.



From Esoteric-Sherwood Lodge to All Masons

We all know that being bigger does not necessarily make us better but, it does allow us to do more. More impact in our community, more opportunities to grow personally, and more opportunities to mentor good men, to name a few. That said, please make no mistake, why are these men joining our Fraternity? They are joining because of you. They want mentors, they want Brothers, and they want friends. They're coming to be with YOU! I assume, if given the chance, most of you would love to serve as a mentor, a Brother, and a friend more often. We always say that we make good men better, it's time to prove it. My message this month is very direct. Be that One Man.

Each of us knows that one man can make a difference. There are countless examples throughout the history of our country that prove this. Where one man has made the decision to do something, and it has dramatically changed the future. I'm asking you today to make the decision to be that One Man. First and foremost, retain yourself! Have you been to an Esoteric-Sherwood Lodge, or your lodge, meeting lately? If not, why? What could you do to make them important to you? How could they be better? Take an active role. Make your meetings better. Better for yourself, better for your Brothers. Do they need better facilitation? More fellowship? More education? More events? Whatever it is, I challenge you to take an active role in working with me, or your Worshipful Master, to make that happen. Each of us needs to find value in the Fraternity. It is up to us. The amazing lessons this Fraternity teaches are available to us. Many degrees are being conferred throughout our districts and state. Be a part of it. There is plenty of value in this Fraternity.

What I'm asking is to create that tipping point in someone's life. Be that One Man. Call and invite a Brother to come back to the lodge. Speak with someone you identify as good and invite them to be "crowned with Brotherhood." I hope this message inspires you in your efforts to be that One Man

who makes a difference, not only in your life, but also the life of another Brother, or someone who may soon be a Brother. It is time for us as Freemasons to take personal responsibility. You could be that One Man to generate a change in someone's life. Bring them back to an activity or introduce them to the greatest Fraternity in the world. Esoteric-Sherwood Lodge looks forward to working with you in this endeavor. Whatever we can do, please let us know.

-Wor. Lee Oscar Perez



M. Wor George F. Hamilton with the newly installed Prince Hall Grand Master, M. Wor. Justin A. Perry.

Brotherly Love

By Rt. Wor. David P. Newcomb

*It's happening all around the world.
White is black. Black is white.
So many things just don't make sense.
It seems what's wrong is right.*

*We all see bitterness everywhere.
Quarrels and conflicts abound.
When people speak without listening,
It's hard to find common ground.*

*If some folks see things one way,
While some see quite another,
They should agree to disagree,
And simply to act like Brothers.*

*We need behavior adjustments,
For people of every age.
Politeness, respect, and courtesy,
And manners should take center stage.*

*Focus on things that money can't buy.
The populace needs changing.
Our ups are downs. Just look around.
Priorities need rearranging.*

*The time has come for everyone,
To stop and make a decision.
We all need to swallow our pride,
And put an end to division.*

*Let's try a little compromise,
Between opposing folks.
Let's cancel being offended,
At harmless, silly jokes.*

*It's simple. Decide to just get along.
Have the Golden Rule guide our ways.
Respect and honesty serve us well,
Now and for all our days.*

*Really, what's more important?
Regardless of who's right or wrong,
The Father above has shown us that Love,
Was the best gift to give all along.*

*As humans, we're all in one family.
From now on, let's endeavor,
To aid, support, and protect each other,
As Masons have done forever.*

*Imagine a world of Brotherly Love.
How wonderful that would be -
The first tenet of our profession
As members of Freemasonry.*

*Behold how good and pleasant life is,
When we dwell in unity.
May Brotherly Love and peace prevail,
Forever. So mote it be.*

*We give a little, we get a lot.
T'is true for all good men.
May the blessings of heaven rest on us,
Forever and ever. Amen.*



Youngest Master in Phoenix Lodge's 150 Year History

Bro. Tyler MacGregor made history at Phoenix Lodge in Hanover when he was installed as Master this past October. Wor. MacGregor is 26 years old, becoming the youngest man to be installed as Master in Phoenix Lodge's 150 year history. One of his goals as Master is to

encourage young men to join and participate in Freemasonry. He's well on his way as five men serving in line with him are under the age of 30: Bros. Nicholas Bunker, Tyler; Eric Visser, Inside Sentinel; Joseph Powers, Electrician; Ryan Dean, Senior Steward, and Jeffrey MacDonald, Junior Deacon. **-Bro. Jonathan Bond**

Wor. Tyler MacGregor is shown taking his obligation as Master with R.W. Thomas Morris of the Kilwinning Club of Boston Installation Team.



“There are several financial options when it comes to taking care of these brothers. Lodges can remit their lodge dues and make a request that Grand Lodge dues be remitted also. It has been our policy for many years to do so whenever a lodge takes the initiative to remit a brother’s dues. In this way, the cost to keep a member on the rolls is minimal. In addition, you should be aware that Grand Lodge no longer collects dues after a brother’s 89th birthday. Lodges could follow suit in this practice and save a lot of trouble with billing and follow-up.”

“When it comes to managing operating revenue in a lodge, the circumstances vary for lodges depending on their relative affluence. If a lodge is well off financially, perhaps they don’t really rely on those dues from an elderly member for their operating budgets. It is true that many lodges struggle to make ends meet financially, but when you realize that those dues will be lost in either case, perhaps retaining our senior members is more important to the harmony and well-being of the lodge for the members who remain. Most lodges have relief funds that can be used to aid a brother. There is no reason that relief funds can’t be used to replace the dues and thereby fund the operations of the lodge so that an elderly brother can be retained.”

“Some well-meaning Brethren have advocated, in the past, for keeping lodge dues artificially low as a way of making it easier for people on fixed income to afford their lodge membership. This diminishes the

value of the lodge and fails to provide the relief where it is truly needed.”

“In surveying the bylaws of lodges across the jurisdiction, the following provisions serve as examples of actions a lodge can take in their bylaws to address these concerns: age, level of service, or both, or paid directly from the relief fund. I will work with the Charters and Bylaws Committee to develop standard bylaw wording which would present the various options that a lodge could adopt in their bylaws with streamlined approval.”

“I would encourage all lodges to reach out to your elderly Brethren and find out who needs help. Let’s not wait until a brother is several years in arrears or has requested a demit to discover that they need our assistance. British historian Arnold Toynbee wrote much about the rise and fall of civilizations and concluded that a society’s quality and durability can best be measured ‘by the respect and care given its elderly citizens.’ Let this be a hallmark of our fraternity that we value and cherish our elderly Brethren,” said the Grand Master.

“I appreciate all the support I have received from the Past Grand Masters, the business office, the Grand Lodge Officers, and all of our committees. May God bless the United States of America and our beloved Fraternity,” concluded the Grand Master.

He noted that the walnut gavel was made by his father, a replica of the Grand Master’s gavel, and used the same to close the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts in ample form. ■

\$50 TO \$99 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

George D. Erickson
Robert C. Farmer
Ralph L. Fearon
Paul H. Fraser
Walter A. Gabriel
Paulo H. Fraga Gardingo
Allan D. Gilman^{HI}
Paul R. Glossop
Alan D. Greene
Frederick G. Gunn
Robert R. Hall
David W. Hamilton
Stephen Hamilton
John W. Hamlet
Gerald R. Hartling
Donald O. Hartson
Samuel S. Hartson
Andrew G. Hicks^{SP}
Ronald C. Higgins
Paul J. Hogan
James C. Holmes³⁰⁰
June Holt, *in memory of*
Rt. Wor. Frank G. Holt III
L. Bradley Hutchinson
Sylvester R. Jordan, Jr.

William J. Keene
William F. Kennedy
William R. Kennedy
Charles F. Ketchen
H. Lee Kirk, Jr.
William A. Klauer
John E. Knowles
Stephen F. Kosciolk
Constantine N. Kossifos
Martin O. Kyere^{BF}
Ed M. Lacerda
Sean T. LeBlanc^{SCL}
Allen R. LeCours
Roy J. Leone^{BF}
Ann Marie Lind, *in memory of*
Wor. G. Carlton Lind
Curtis R. Litterer
Elizabeth Lynch, *in memory of*
R.W. Frank G. Holt III
Stephen C. Malita
John S. Marini
Fred Marshall III
Earl A. Mason
Elmer L. Maxwell
Samuel R. McClure, Jr.

Timothy S. McGavin³⁰⁰
Howard R. McGlauffin^{BF}
James P. McIlwain
Robert B. McKay
Francis C. Miller
Herbert W. Mower
Richard L. Munroe
Bernard P. Nally
Michael L. Nappi, Jr.
David P. Newcomb³⁰⁰
William N. Pasquill
Gary C. Pentek
David M. Petto
Clifton H. Phillips^{BF}
Charles D. Phipps^{BF}
Kevin J. Price^{BF}
David C. Rand
W. Warren Richardson, Jr.³⁰⁰
William P. Rivard
Neal R. Roberts
William L. Roberts
Clayton T. Ryan, Jr.
Charles A. Saari
John L. Sahagian

Clinton E. Schneyer, Jr.
Robert L. Sherwood
Henry E. Smith, Jr.
Peter M. Smith
Frederick A. Spencer
James I. Starratt
Thomas E. Stoakley
Dale F. Stuart
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Robert D. Tate^{SP}
Robert W. Taupier
Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Gregory L. Thornton
Edgar W. Torell
Gregory J. Tsongalis
Wayne M. Vinton³⁰⁰
James M. Veneziano
Roy F. Walters
William G. Watt
Francis R. Weeks, Jr.
Glenn S. K. Williams
Joseph W. Willman^{BF}
Jamieson A. Wright
William E. Yanakakis³⁰⁰
Paul L. Ziner ■

The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center: A Beacon of Excellence in Massachusetts Senior Care



In a testament to its unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care and an unparalleled lifestyle for its residents, the Masonic Health System of Massachusetts/The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center has been named among the Best Nursing Homes for 2024 by U.S. News &

World Report. This prestigious recognition, achieved by only 19% of skilled nursing communities nationwide, solidifies The Overlook's position as a leader in senior living.

For more than a decade, U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Nursing Homes ratings have guided consumers in search of quality short-term rehabilitation or long-term care for themselves or their loved ones. The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center secured its place as a U.S. News & World Report Best Nursing Home by attaining a coveted "High Performing" rating, the highest possible for short-term rehabilitation. This esteemed designation is reserved for facilities that consistently demonstrate exceptional performance in objective quality measures.

Tameryn Campbell, President and CEO of Masonic Health System of Massachusetts, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "We are honored to receive this distinct award, recognizing The Overlook's high-quality healthcare and services. This achievement is a testament to our exceptional team members, as well as the specialized programming we offer at The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center."

Nestled in Charlton, Massachusetts, The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center boasts 112 private rooms with private bathrooms, providing 24-hour skilled nursing in an intimate, neighborhood-like setting. The center's commitment to personalized care is evident through specialized programming that encompasses social services, recreation, and culinary experiences designed to maximize

▶ **Deputy Grand Master** *continued from page 23*

to the Scottish and York Rite appendant bodies. The countless hours of windshield time with him demonstrated the value of travel and visiting new lodges and appendant bodies and I now count him as one of my closest friends inside or outside Freemasonry.

My first appendant body membership was in the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Boston and my first officer role outside a Blue Lodge was as the National Color Bearer in the Massachusetts Consistory Guard. After my initial introduction to the Guard, the Captain of the Guard put his arm around me and said, "So I heard you're in the military?" Like the two previous Brothers, the Captain took the time to understand my skills, interests, and background so that my experience in the Guard might be more fulfilling. He showed me the importance and value of being involved in our appendant bodies and epitomized what it means to care for our brethren. On more than one occasion, the Captain was available to meet for lunch, a quick phone call to offer advice, or to just listen. All three of these Brethren embody what it means to improve the depth of our relationships with every Brother.

The second pillar can only be successfully maintained after the first is built. The second is collectively recognizing and reframing challenges as opportunities to grow. I am sure each of us can recount a particular challenge that we've faced as an individual, lodge, district, or body that

may have seemed insurmountable at the time. In 1982, some of you may remember the Tylenol cyanide crisis. The short version was that someone had laced capsules of extra strength Tylenol with cyanide and at least seven people were killed. The impact of those deaths of course put the brand and parent company Johnson & Johnson into a tailspin. The negative media coverage and the potential liability resulting from the deaths put the company's future viability in doubt. One media personality said, "A name so closely associated with death was un-sellable." I would like to focus on how they saved the company. Instead of changing the name or shutting the brand down, they took an aggressive approach to show the public how Tylenol made people safer than their competitors. They did this by developing tamper-evident packaging and the safety seal. For context, federal legislation endorsed by the FDA requiring similar packaging wouldn't be passed for another seven years until 1989. A short two months after the murders, Johnson & Johnson introduced the new packaging and revolutionized the industry. One short year after the murders, in 1983, they had increased their market share by 300% over the baseline the day before the murders. Like Johnson & Johnson, our lodges and brethren have the skill to reframe challenges, whether they be financial, membership, or leadership, as opportunities resulting in growth that [none] might have imagined just the year before. The bonds of brotherhood, built through the crucible of experience,

residents' independence.

In the meticulous 2024 edition evaluation, U.S. News & World Report assessed over 15,000 nursing homes on various parameters such as infection rates, staffing levels, appropriate reliance on medications, health inspection results, and other quality indicators. Ben Harder, Chief of Health Analysis and Managing Editor at U.S. News & World Report, emphasized the importance of these ratings, stating, "Nursing homes that have earned the recognition of U.S. News & World Report have a track record of achieving better outcomes for patients and residents, and maximizing the amount of care they receive from nurses and other staff."

Beyond this national recognition, The Overlook recent-

ly garnered three "Best of Central Mass" awards, including Best Home Care, Best Senior/Assisted Living, and Best 55+ Retirement Community. These accolades, voted on by members of the greater community, further support The Overlook's commitment to providing top-tier care and lifestyle services. The Overlook stands as a beacon in senior living, offering a full continuum of care to those in need. These recent distinctions reinforce the message that choosing The Overlook means choosing a premier lifestyle and comprehensive care for Massachusetts seniors. As it continues to set the standard for excellence, The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center remains a shining example of dedication to the well-being and fulfillment of its residents. ■



Celebrating the New Year at The Overlook

As the New Year progressed around the world, it paused at The Overlook's second floor skilled nursing facility where the residents enjoyed and celebrated 2024 at a New Year's party and gathering. The residents enjoyed a sparkling refreshment provided by the Rose of Sharon Masonic Lodge. The residents were happy and appreciative with the lodge's generous support that made for a truly Happy New Year.

-H. Richard Cornwell

develop the perseverance, resilience, and creativity to flourish during these times of difficulty, not unlike the bonds that are developed in the military or by first responders.

The third pillar is actively taking a role in identifying, recognizing, encouraging, and mentoring the future leaders of the Craft as was done by the exemplars in the first pillar. There is an adage in the military that the best servant leaders spend most of their time developing their replacement. I would submit to you that most every Brother in the Craft has the potential to be, at the very least, an informal leader. The act of knocking on the door demonstrates their self-awareness and desire to grow as they improve themselves in Masonry. One of the recent great leaders in our country, former Secretary of State and General Colin Powell, distilled the importance, goal, execution, and evaluation of leadership into a few short words. He said, "Leadership is solving problems, the day soldiers or Masons stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them." As we look to identify our future leaders, do we see the depth of their personal relationships? Do they embrace challenges as opportunities to grow? And do others seek them out for assistance in solving problems? In practical terms within Masonry we see this when a Worshipful Master invites a newer Brother to be an officer, or encourages him to attend the Deacons Academy. It can also be seen when a DDGM invites a Brother to be a District Officer, when a Grand Warden or Deputy Grand Master requests their Pursuivant or Standard

Bearer, when the Grand Master selects his officers, and when a Brother invites a young Entered Apprentice to travel with him to a lodge, appendant body, or affinity group.

With these three pillars constructed, we look to the First Degree when we took the hand of a friend whom we later found to be a Brother. Nearly every Brother can recite these words, but we often forget that this is an operative moment in the degree! One Brother guiding, protecting, leading, teaching, demonstrating, and building the foundation of the relationship with that soon-to-be Brother. It is in those actions, and not the words, where the primary instruction and building blocks of our fraternal bonds are created. With the knowledge of coming events and the great opportunities embedded within them, I would like to humbly encourage each of you to actively improve the depth of your relationships, see challenges as opportunities for growth, and when you see potential, or greatness in a fellow Brother, be the one to take the next step and encourage and mentor them in their Masonic journey. Through the construction of these three pillars and a judicious application of patience, resilience, and planning, notwithstanding, together we will see Freemasonry thrive! Thank you again to each and every Brother! I am eternally grateful for your friendship and mentorship, seen and unseen. It is an honor to serve with you and I look forward to seeing you in my travels this coming year! God Bless every Brother wheresoever dispersed, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and our great nation! Thank you. ■



ASK THE GRAND LECTURER

by Rt. Wor. Nicholas J. Mantello

Senior Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts



Q: *Is it permissible to use our grips when greeting a known Brother or someone who appears to be a Brother, because he is wearing a Masonic symbol or a tattoo?*

A: The answer is yes, but be advised to limit it to the first four grips. The EA grip should be used for a known Entered Apprentice and likewise for the Pass Grip and Real Grip of a

Fellow Craft. The Pass Grip of a Master Mason is the most widely used when greeting a Brother or possible Brother. Fortunately, our grips are not very distinguishable to the non-member so if the gentleman who received the grip was not a Brother, he would not recognize it other than a handshake. It would be improper to use the Strong Grip because it is a bit out of the ordinary type of handshake and may be noticeable by the non-member and lead to questions that could be hard to answer.

Q: *Is it proper to address a Brother, outside of lodge as Brother, Worshipful, Rt. Worshipful, or even Most Worshipful?*

A: Again it is, but be aware of your surrounding company. The word brother is used by many organizations, includ-

ing work environment colleagues or just very close friends, and is commonly accepted. But using Worshipful and higher honorific titles may confuse and raise suspicions of the titles to the non-member. Obviously, if you are out of earshot of the public, it would be a recognition of distinction and a compliment. It would be acceptable amongst other members and their families also. They would be more than likely exposed to these titles on occasion. As a reminder, never use these honorifics on mail. If your mail carrier is a member of the Craft, they would know the distinction, but the non-member would have no idea what the title would signify on the envelope. Inside the envelope is another topic, with its own protocol to be addressed another time.

When this article is published, we will be in the midst of Exemplification season. I strongly suggest that you make a sincere effort to attend the workshop near you. We will be exemplifying the Master Mason Degree, and hope all officers are prepared. If an incorrect word is used, don't be embarrassed, it is more than likely you learned it wrong. So, as we move forward, it is the Grand Lecturers' duty to make sure the words are transmitted unimpaired. Good luck. ■

To ask the Grand Lecturers a question, send an email to Rt. Wor. Nicholas Mantello, nicholas.j.mantello@gmail.com.

▶ Marine Corps' 248th continued from page 19

years been our own Rt. Wor. Robert Johnston until he joined the Celestial Lodge above, was honored by the youngest Marine. The Marines were warned to keep respectful during the upcoming solemn service. Immediately, the huge room of Marines erupted into yells and hollering - they saw the poolees enter the hall. There was a large group of young men and ladies in red sweatshirts who had assembled in the back of the hall. They were poolees. They had signed up to be Marines, but had not yet taken the oath that made them Marines. They marched, as best they could, to the front of the hall while hearing "Straighten up," "Hoo Rah," and "Lift those knees," from their laughing brothers-to-be. The hall fell silent, the poolees took their oath, and marched back as Marines to the cheers of all assembled.

The Masonic contingent, assembled by Rt. Wor. Ernie Perlstein, wished happy birthday to the Marine Corps with the keynote speaker, General Mahoney of South Weymouth, after the event. ■

▶ Commandery Armory continued from page 25

sionally restored, as well as contributing new items, including Chesterfield sofas and period rugs. R. Eminent Kenneth Sallale, who was intimately involved with these efforts, singled out his favorite item, the special Captain's chair adorned with a revived Boston Commandery logo from 1875.

Members were given the opportunity to donate one of these chairs to the armory, and the resulting outpouring of support was overwhelming, with 30 chairs being gifted. Sallale described this robust participation as "evidence of the excitement generated by the armory project." Sallale shed some light on what he had in mind during the armory furnishing phase. "My overall approach was to mimic the great hall at the Harvard Club of New York, which the New York Times dubs as 'the Clubbiest club of them all.' Together with committee members Past Grand Master Most Wor. Harvey Waugh and Sir Knight Geoffrey Kromer, we achieved the look we were going for." ■

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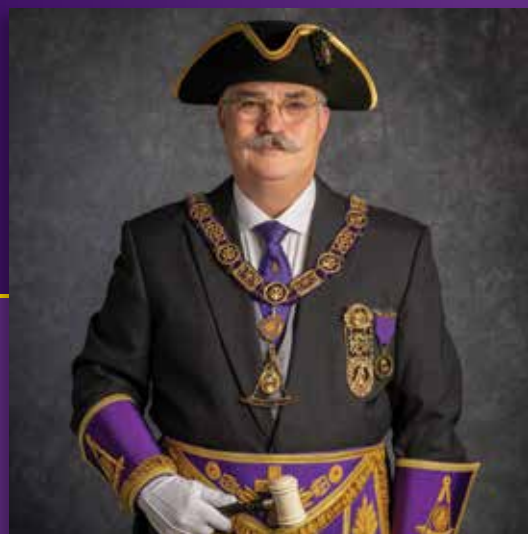
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THE GRAND MASTER'S 2024 FLORIDA TOUR

Continuing the popular tradition of the Grand Master bringing his warm fraternal greetings to our Brethren and their guests in Florida, he is pleased to announce the upcoming dates and locations of his 2024 visit. He looks forward to seeing members who have relocated to the Sunshine State, as well as snowbirds who winter there, and sharing with them news of the happenings with Massachusetts Freemasonry. He will also take advantage of this visit to present Veterans Medals to brothers celebrating 50 years with the Fraternity. The widows of Massachusetts Masons are also warmly invited to attend. We hope you can join the Grand Master and your fellow Massachusetts Brothers! The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Patty Latham, in the Office of the Grand Secretary, at **617-426-6040** or by email platham@massfreemasonry.org.



The Forest Golf and Country Club
in Fort Myers on Tuesday,
April 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.



The Rusty Pelican
in Tampa on Wednesday,
April 10, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.



The Breakers West Country Club
in West Palm Beach on Thursday,
April 11, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

