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RITENEWS

OF MARYLAND

Honors Day September 30, 2023







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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

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ON THE COVER: Honors Day— September 30, 2023



Sovereign Grand Inspector GENERAL Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Editor Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



DRESS CODES
SUCH AS "BLACK
TIE" PROVIDE
CLARITY AND
HELP TO CREATE
A SENSE OF
OCCASION.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL:

I hope this issue of our Rite News finds all well and ready for the rapidly approaching fall season. This article may be one of my "rants." However, it is not intended to offend anyone!

As I travel about the Orient, and even to other jurisdictions, I am often asked, "when are you going to relax the dress code in Maryland?" or "when can we wear casual dress to meetings?" Here we go again. What is wrong with having a dress code? My answer is always "never in Maryland, as long as I can help it!"

I often hear that dress codes are too rigid and we should not be told what to wear to a regular meeting. It seems to me that some are trying to get rid of these protocols and are, in fact, throwing out the very valuable rules of dress for very specific events. Putting the idea of comfort above all other considerations leads to the false idea that informal equals pleasant, sociable, and friendly. It has also resulted in the most illogical dress anyone can imagine. Jeans with holes everywhere, tennis shoes with the suit, "sack dresses" that look like they just came out of the hamper, and the list grows longer every day. I have heard "my jeans with holes cost more than that tuxedo." Then, I must wonder about the wisdom of buying clothes with holes that were once thrown away. I can also remember when patches

were ironed or sewn on to jeans with holes in them and saying, "I wouldn't get caught dead in public with holes in my jeans" (as if it would matter, when you were dead). Unfortunately, today looking like a slob seems to be acceptable.

Formal wear is distinctive, but the term has become subjective in today's world. I must admit that, today, tuxedos with tails are seldom seen at any event and the tuxedo jacket is now the "formal attire"; but the words "black tie" or "suit and tie" do not need to be intimidating. Dress codes such as "black tie" provide clarity and help to create a sense of occasion. It elevates the event to another level; an occasion more elegant than a "bull roast." I suppose it may be soon (if not already) that the suit and tie is to be considered formal dress. In some lodges today, the "turtleneck" replaces the necktie, and a bolo is worn in place of a bowtie. It is enough to give one a headache!

Yes, interpreting a dress code today is much more complicated than it was just a few years ago. However, it seems much easier to me to be overdressed than to be underdressed. I can always take my tie and jacket off if not needed, but it is hard to put one on if you don't have it. I guess a dress code is just good manners. Formal attire seems to bring out the best in people

continues on page 8



I never knew my great-grandfather

BY: BRO. CHRISTIAN J. MIELE, 32°, VENERABLE MASTER—ALBERT PIKE LODGE OF PERFECTION

HEN I BECAME a Master Mason on June 22, 2011, I assumed that this was a "first" for my family. That assumption, however, would be short-lived.

On Christmas Eve that year, my dad's brother took notice of the shiny new Masonic ring I was wearing at our family holiday party.

"You're a Mason, Christian?!" asked my Uncle Tony surprisingly.

"I am!" I replied.

"You know," he said, "I used to have your great-grandfather's double-headed eagle Scottish Rite ring."

It was at this moment I realized that I was evidently not the first man in my family to join the Masonic fraternity. I quickly pressed my uncle for more information, but he could tell me little else other than the fact that the ring had been stolen from his home some years earlier. I will admit that I was more than a bit crestfallen when I heard this. It sure would have been nice to see it, especially since I never met Otis Ray Horton, my dad's maternal grandfather. Sadly, it seemed that our fraternal ties might forever remain a mystery.

Fast forward nine years later. My dear friend and brother, Richard E. Thurfield, Jr., 32° KCCH, had recently begun working at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. I had joined the Scottish Rite via the Valley of Baltimore several years earlier, but had not yet had the opportunity to visit the headquarters of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction (although it was certainly on my to-do list). Well, once Brother Thurfield heard this, it was not long before he invited me to accompany him to work one day.

Upon first stepping foot into what is truly a magnificent building in the heart of our nation's capital, I was instantly jealous that *this* was where Rich spent eight hours a day! As we toured the library, I marveled at its sheer magnitude and the thousands of volumes of Masonic history on its shelves.

Rich introduced me to one of his colleagues on the library staff and I quickly shared with her the story about my greatgrandfather and his apparent membership in the Scottish Rite. When she asked which Valley he belonged to, I shrugged my shoulders and told her that I unfortunately knew nothing about his Masonic record.

"That's okay," she said as she sat down at her desk. "What's his name?"

"Otis Ray Horton," I responded, as she logged into her computer to access the Scottish Rite membership database.

"I found him!" she exclaimed seconds later. My eyes grew wide with excitement as I heard her printer revving up. She then handed me a print-out of my great-grandfather's Scottish Rite record, which also contained information about his occupation as well as his Blue Lodge.

The document indicated that he was a railroad conductor by trade and a Scottish Rite Mason from McAlester Valley in the Orient of Oklahoma. He took his Scottish Rite degrees in December 1947 and, prior to that, had been initiated, passed, and raised at Trinity Lodge No. 502 in Muskogee, which about a year or so ago was consolidated into Muskogee Lodge No. 28.

The woman assisting me suggested we call over to McAlester Valley to see if they had any additional information on Brother Horton. As it turns out, they did. In their Valley archives, they had original prints of my great-grandfather's Scottish Rite class photo from 1947! For just eight dollars, they mailed me one, which I will soon have framed alongside my own class photo from 2015.

Otis Ray Horton died in 1968, over a decade before I was born.

continues on next page

Valley of Baltimore

BY: ILL. E. RAY LEPPO, 33°, GC—PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



TO MAN KNOWS better the worth of good works than a Brother of the Scottish Rite. They think not simply of their own personal advantage but of their contribution, through the Rite, to the world at large. Those who are enlisted in our great institution understand its full significance and potency for human service. They calculate not simply that they may receive good but that they may impart good. They think not only of what they may get, but what they may give, through the cooperation of this great institution. It is this spirit

and synthesis of Brotherly love that has made Masonry the great builder of civilizations. It is this spirit that has built the great Masonic works of history. It is this spirit that will prevail for years to come.

As our Charles Street Temple approaches 100 years old, you have the opportunity to become a part of the preservation of this beautiful edifice. The call goes out to the greatest builders the world has ever known-MASONS-SCOTTISH *RITE MASONS*—to preserve and restore our home dedicated to God and to the ideals of which you have each pledged yourself. "This Temple will be our legacy and its preservation will speak for us long after we are gone." If Masonic teachings are not merely like the sands in the hourglass and Masonic symbolisms have greater substance than just the things that dreams are made of, then let us preserve our beautiful home;

a home for you, your Brothers, your family, and generations to come. For information on a naming right or other charitable gift opportunities, please contact the Scottish Rite office at 410–243–3200.

Every two years the Supreme Council elects members to receive the honors of the Scottish Rite. This is in recognition of their dedication and contributions to the Rite, Freemasonry, and their community. These honors cannot be purchased or solicited. If they are asked for, or even hinted at, they must be refused. To the men who have been elected to be invested as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and to receive the 33° and become Inspectors General, honorary, I offer my congratulations. I also offer my thanks; not only for what you have done, but for what you continue to do for our Rite, now and in the future.

continues from previous page

And though I never met my great-grandfather in life, I feel a special connection to him after this experience.

According to its website, it is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth, while actively promoting fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family, and country. That Otis Ray Horton sought out and joined an organization like the Scottish Rite tells me all I need to know about his values and the type of man he must have been.

I never knew my greatgrandfather. But I know him now.





Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: BRO. GEORGE G. CHRISTOFF, 32°, WISE MASTER—WARREN LODGE #51



onflict, in many forms, is with us every day.

Physical conflict, intellectual conflict and even spiritual conflict are a part of the human condition and have been from time immemorial. It is neither good nor bad. It does, however, create uncertainty in thought and action, ultimately leading to questions such as what is right or wrong, good or evil, and what is proper for us to do.

These are monumental questions but there is guidance to be found within the Scottish Rite. And, although its lessons may not provide specific actions to be taken, it does provide a framework to assist us in our path forward. As Wise Master of the Chapter of the Rose Croix, I tend to focus on the degrees that fall within the

responsibility of the Chapter. In this case, it is the Seventeenth Degree, Knights of the East and West, which provides some assistance and insight into these difficult questions.

The Degree of Knights of the East and West speaks to social and moral behavior. It presents the idea that the primary responsibility of man should be to act in such a way as to demonstrate our desire to act in accordance with the word of God, thus bringing the mind of man into unity with God.

Physical conflict, intellectual conflict and even spiritual conflict are a part of the human condition and have been from time immemorial.

To achieve this goal, the Seventeenth Degree seems to present three guidelines. First, man's loyalty should be to God. We should not be focused on ourselves or any of the words and agendas of men that do not adhere to and advance the purposes of God.

Secondly, we should not dwell in the past. It is our duty to recognize the errors of the past, learn the lessons they present and be certain that they are not repeated. The goal is not to focus on the past but to decide what to do next to serve humanity. And hopefully, through our example, bring the minds of men a little closer into unity with God.

And thirdly, it is our duty to serve humanity. It is not only significant acts and sacrifices that demonstrate this service. It is in everything you do; even the most innocuous things, the everyday small acts of kindness that define continuous service to others. These simple things are truly important in reflecting the unity of your mind on a fundamental level, with commitment to your fellow man as prescribed by God.

These lessons can be quite personal in nature. You may read the Seventeenth Degree and find even more profound insights than those listed above, or you may not. Either way, the Scottish Rite can provide valuable and thought-provoking ideas and I urge you to periodically revisit our degrees and attend the presentations during our degree cycles.

TO ALL SCOTTISH RITE MASONS

This is your invitation to attend

Honors Day Saturday, September 30th, 2023



Honors Day is a Biennial Event when the Scottish Rite confers the 33rd degree and the Knight Commander Court of Honour. While the 33rd degree is a closed rite, only open to Inspector Generals – Active and Honorary, the KCCH Investiture and Capping are public ceremonies and open to all. Afterwards, there is a Gala Banquet again open to all, to celebrate this auspicious occasion and the elevation of the honorees.



Noon - 1:45pm	Ladies Program – Colonnade Hotel
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Honoree's Lady - No Charge, All others \$30.00

12:45pm – 1:15pm Registration for 33rd Degree Candidates – Classroom

1:30pm – 3:00pm Conferral of the 33rd Degree

Admission to the 33° conferral is for 33° Scottish Rite Masons Only—Must Present Current Dues Card to Enter, Dress is Tuxedo, White 33° Cap & Jewel

Tresem Garrent Dates Gara to Emer, Dress is Taxetto, White 35 Ga

2:30pm – 3:15pm Registration of 32° – KCCH Candidates—Banquet Hall

Set Stage and Floor for KCCH Investiture

3:30pm – 4:45pm Open conferral of the KCCH Investiture

Capping Ceremony to follow the 32°-KCCH Investiture

5:30pm Pictures of new Honor Men in Classroom

6:00pm – 8:00pm Honors Banquet—Reservations Required, \$50.00 per person

Grapes of Wrath Salad, Warm Sourdough Rolls and Butter, 10 oz NY Strip Grilled on Open Flame, Twice Baked Potato, Oven Roasted Asparagus,

Coffee and Tea Station, Cash Bar

New Honorees and 1 Guest—No Cost, Assigned Seating—No tickets Issued.

8:00pm - 10:30pm Music & Dancing

PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, 2023

Scottish Rite Office; Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm, or by calling 410-243-3200

Cash, Check and Charge Cards accepted



The Maryland Council of Kadosh

BY: BRO. SHANE T. COLLISON, 32°—COMMANDER—CONCORDIA LODGE #13



RETHEN, as summer comes to a close, it is time once again to prepare for the Fall Class and Honors Day. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, taking time to relax with family and friends. The seasons may change but Masonry is a constant. It is an organization composed of like-minded volunteers who contribute as they can. As the work resumes, it is easy to forget that everyone lives different lives. How can

we expect the new members to become active and inspired in the Rite if we ignore this? In a recent article from the Ill. Marlin L. Mills 33°, he wrote "Men and women usually associate with (or join) organizations that they feel have value and benefit. Therefore, we must show that Masonry is worth their time, energy and money." Respect for the resources that brothers and their families give will go a long way for the continuation of the Fraternity.

Additionally, for those looking for opportunities to get involved, we are looking to form a degree team for the Twenty-Ninth Degree, Knight of St. Andrew. The second of the Chivalric Degrees, teaches of Humility, Patience, and Self-denial. There are thirteen roles to be filled in this degree, and they are:

The Venerable Master The Senior Warden The Junior Warden The Orator
The Almoner
The Expert
The Assistant Expert
The Treasurer
The Secretary
The Master of Ceremonies
The Warder
The Captain of the guard
The Prelate
As of this writing, all roles

are open, but there has been a lot of interest. If you are interested in being part of this degree, please contact the Scottish Rite Office or me directly. Additionally, if you wish to become involved, the Knights of St. Andrew, a voluntary service group to the Valley, is always accepting petitions.

Message from Marlin continues from page 3

(most of the time) - better conduct, better language, and beautifully dressed ladies. Who remembers the Gillette razor slogan: "look sharp, feel sharp, and be sharp!"? Now, in Maryland, the Scottish Rite has an established and clear dress code, just like our Blue Lodges. Members are expected to be in a coat and tie or suit for meetings and degree conferrals. Officers, as well as KCCH & 33° Honor Men, are expected to wear

tuxedo. Shouldn't members be respectful enough to honor it? By doing so, it not only makes one look his or her best, but it also shows respect for the organization, fellow members, and guests. Yet, trying to ignore the dress code makes it clear that you could care less.

Chesapeake Consistory

BY: BRO. SCOTT G. LAPP, 32°-VENERABLE MASTER OF KADOSH-WARREN LODGE #51



OOD DAY MY BRETHREN! I want to say how great the spring class went and how nice it was to see the enthusiasm of the new class. I hope all our new Brothers enjoyed the ceremonies that come with the Reunion Day class. It was a pleasure for me to be able to open the meeting for the group, and fun as always to perform with other great ritualists, including some new ones that have stepped up and taken parts on. Also, the renewed efforts to memorize much of the

meeting work is refreshing and welcomed and I look forward to more of that in the coming months. Kudos to those who have committed to doing so.

Sadly, one of the reasons we had more ritualists step up is because we have lost some fantastic members this year. I won't list them all, but Brother McDonald and Brother Disney will be particularly missed by myself and it has changed the face of my Scottish Rite experience. Remember their families in your prayers and aid them in their healing if vou can. While our hearts are heavy with their parting, we look forward to pressing on and providing wonderful ritual work in the Temple, as they would want us to.

The fall is shaping up to be even better than the spring. The Consistory has committed to a donation towards the costumes and wardrobes for the degrees for much needed improvements, which only come from direct

donations. If you are looking for a reason to give to the Temple, this is not a bad way to consider doing it. It's also a great way to thank Brother Dave Ente and his crew for all the hard work and effort on their behalf to keep the degrees flowing and looking good. Be sure to thank them when you see them.

I am also looking forward to Brother Matulewicz's presentation at our fall meeting on the correlations between the Knights Templar and the Scottish Rite, something near and dear to my own heart. Charles is a fantastic speaker in his own right, but even better on the rich topics he has recently been putting together! If you can, try to attend the meeting and discussion afterward. And if you enjoy what the Scottish Rite has to offer, why not invite a Brother from your lodge or AMD chapter along and show him all that the Temple has to offer new members.

On September 30th, we will be investing the KCCH and conferring the 33° on those men who were elected to receive them by the Supreme Council. These honors are marks of distinction for the individual and the Rite as a whole and calls for distinguished attire.

I will close this rant with the assurance that it is meant to edify, not offend. My best wishes to all that the blessings of good health and much happiness be with you now and forever more.



Sincerely and Fraternally,

III. Marlin L. Mills, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland





ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Hosts 5th Annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan

MEMBERS OF EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL

Church joined Cumberland Scottish Rite for an annual blessing of the tartans. Pictured left to right: Scott Riley; Ill. Kenneth Robertson, 33°; KSA Venerable Master Bro. Michael Kerns, 32°; KSA Past Venerable Master Bro. Dwight Metcalf, 32°; Barbara Townsend; The Rt. Rev. Martin G. Townsend; Bro. Jesse Walker; Robin Paulman; Ill. Jerome Robinette, 33°; Ill. Jamey Hill, 33°; and Ill. Robin Summerfield, 33°.

The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew and our neighbors at Emmanuel Episcopal Parish co-hosted a Kirkin' o' the Tartan service at Emmanuel on April 16, 2023. The service led by The Rt. Rev. Martin Townsend featured special music by Bro. Jesse Walker of the MacMillan-Dunn pipe band and a blessing of the Tartans of congregants and Cumberland KSA members. The complete service can be viewed on Facebook at @EmmanuelEpiscopalChurch Cumberland.

While the tradition of blessing tartans may have roots in Scotland, the contemporary Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service was actually established in the United States by the



Rev. Peter Marshall who was the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington DC and served as Chaplain of the United States Senate until his untimely death in 1949. Rev. Marshall, who was originally from Coatbridge, Scotland, held prayer services during the Second World War to raise funds for British war relief. During one of these services, in early 1941, Marshall gave a sermon entitled "the Kirkin' o' the Tartans" that began the annual tradition at New York

Avenue before the services were moved to the National Cathedral in Washington, where they are still held today.

Many Scottish, Caledonia, and St. Andrew's Societies hold Kirkin' o' the Tartans services across the United States and Canada in churches of various denominations. The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew began partnering with congregations to host annual services in Western Maryland in 2019 and it has become a wonderful community tradition.

Spring 2023 4th Degree Cast

TWELVE NEW BRETHREN were initiated during the Valley of Cumberland's 181st Conferral and Reunion along with Anthony J. Glass of the Valley of Baltimore who received the

32°. The Spring 2023 Class was dedicated to Ill. James M. Snider, 33°, a beloved member and leader of the Valley who passed away unexpectedly in November 2022.



The class is pictured here with members of the 4° Cast: Front Row: *Gary A. Shriver, *Roger P. Douglas, *W. Paul Gilbert, *Edward L. Kave, Jr., Christopher D. Ackerman, Gregory M. Zirk II, Larry L. Layton, Cody A. Bramsen, Nicholas S. Feaster, Douglas A. Rumer, William P. Price, Steven R. Shubert. Back Row: Anthony J. Glass (Valley of Baltimore), Benjamin W.B. Grimm, Hayden B. Shircliffe, Christopher N. Rorbaugh, *Benjamin Zamostny, Niles R. Coppe-Ridgeway, *Stephen K. Gaudette, Jesse L. Stawderman. *4th Degree Cast Members

Lane Captures Ritualistic Award for Second Time

HON. SAMUEL J. LANE, 32° KCCH, was recognized by the Valley of Cumberland as Spring 2023 Ritualistic Champion for his exceptional work in the role of Prelate in the Fourteenth Degree and for stepping in to lead the Thirtieth Degree following the recent passing of Ill. James M. Snider, 33°. Bro. Lane is the first cast member to receive this award for the second time after being previously recognized for his distinction in Scottish Rite ritual in Spring 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

Scottish Rite Club of Washington County Meets Monthly Contact President Jim Carraway for Info at 717-387-2311

KSA Business Meeting & Rehearsal Monday, August 21 at 6:30 pm

Visitation to
Meyersdale Lodge
Monday, September 5
at 7:30 pm
Carpool from
Cumberland Masonic
Temple at 6:30 pm

Kid Walk/Kid Talk
RiteCare Walkathon
Saturday, September
16 at 10:00 am
Allegany County
Health Department,
Cumberland

continued on next page





ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

UPCOMING EVENTS cont.

Cumberland Chapter of Rose Croix Monday September 18 a

Monday, September 18 at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Council of Kadosh Monday, October 2

at 7:30 pm

182nd Fall Conferral & Reunion

Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 am

KSA Initiation for New Members Monday, October 30 at 7:30 pm

8th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt

Saturday, November 4 Details and registration at cumberlandscottishrite. org

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, November 6 at 7:30 pm

Feast of Tishri & Fall Capping Ceremony Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 pm

New Members Welcomed

The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew welcomed three new members into their ranks in Spring 2023, including Christopher Lawson, Robert Dawson, and Brent Lewis. *Pictured left to right:* Personal Representative Jamey Hill, Senior Deacon Dylan Keister, Richard Haines, Gary Trail, Mark Weatherholt, KSA Secretary Sam Lane, Christopher Lawson, Venerable Master Michael Kerns, Senior Warden Mark Lathrop, James Summerfield, Dwight Metcalf, Joseph Cushall, and Robin Summerfield.



2nd Annual Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Scramble Slated for September

THE CUMBERLAND SCOTTISH

Rite Foundation will host the 2nd Annual Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Scramble at the Oakland Golf Club on Saturday, September 23, 2023. All Maryland Scottish Rite members and friends are cordially invited to spend the day with us on the links in beautiful Garrett County in support of our regional RiteCare program.

This Tournament is named in honor of our friend, Debra "Debbie" Friend. Debbie was a speech pathologist with the Children's League since 2006 and was instrumental in opening clinics in Oakland and Keyser before losing her

valiant fight with cancer in February 2022. She always gave compassionate and informed treatment to the children in her care at the Children's League.

The inaugural event held in 2022 raised \$15,000 to support Valley of Cumberland RiteCare clinics operated by our clinical partner The Children's League in Cumberland, Oakland, Keyser, and Petersburg. Event Co-Chairs Brent Lewis and Jason Finch look forward to another successful event this year.

Sponsorship and Registration options are available online at cumberlandscottishrite.org or by contacting Brent Lewis at 301-501-3130.

Forty-Five Year Member Recognized for Commitment to Membership

BRO. GREG ZIRK, SR. celebrated his forty-fifth anniversary in the Scottish Rite by demonstrating his continued commitment to the future of the fraternity. In addition to being honored at the Spring 2023 Ring and Capping Ceremony for his lengthy service to the Rite, Bro. Zirk was recognized by the Valley of Cumberland with a Membership Prism for his successful efforts to promote membership in the Scottish Rite. He was top line signer on seven petitions of members of the Valley of Cumberland's Spring Class, including the petition of his son Greg Zirk, Jr., pictured right.





2023 Ladies Night

Brethren and their ladies enjoyed a wonderful night of dinner and dancing at the 2023 Western Maryland Masonic Ladies Night hosted by the Cumberland Scottish Rite in May.



2023 Spring Service Awards

A number of members who attended the Spring 2023 Ring and Capping Ceremony were recognized for their service to the Rite. *Pictured left to right*: Hon. Clyde Bantz, 32° KCCH (50 years); Harry Bowers, 32° (60 years); Gary Upchurch, 32° (40 years); James Hott, 32° (50 years); Charles Hardy, 32° (75 years); Charles Chipley, 32° (50 years); Boyce Rogers, 32° (50 years); Raymond Shipley, Jr. 32° (40 years); Gary Trail, 32° (40 years); and Michael Loy, 32° (40 years).





JROTC & ROTC—Scottish Rite of Maryland Award Winners for 2023

BY: ILL. JASON Q. STANDISH, 33°—HARMONY LODGE #53

VERY SPRING, participants in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JTOC at High Schools) and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC at Colleges and Universities) are recognized for their contributions and achievements. Among other organizations, the Scottish Rite has an award which recog-

nizes outstanding Cadets who have demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of their class while exhibiting outstanding leadership, dependability, self-discipline, good character, citizenship, and patriotism. For the past few years, I have been privileged to represent the Rite and present

some of these awards. It is a great experience and I have met some amazing young men and women. I would also thank Ill. Harold Garren, Ill Fred Spicer, Ill. Artie Tawes, Hon. Miles Cole, and Hon. Tommy Morris, for assisting with presentations this year. The 2023 recipients are:

JROTC AWARDS

Cadet Erick Young - Patuxent High School
Cadet Milena Cherenkov - Howard High School
Cadet Natalia Y. Flores-Rosales - Atholton High School
Cadet Malaika Ade - Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School
Cadet Sean Flores - Oxon Hill High School
Cadet Gemma Love - Annapolis High School
Cadet Brooke Fitzgerald - Stephen Decatur High School
Cadet Ashley Saenz-Adrade - Oakland Mills High School
Cadet Natalie Lumaro - Parkville High School
Cadet Victor Amaya Gonzalez - High Point High School
Cadet Jaden Lemessy - Franklin High School
Cadet Ahmad Curtis - Bowie High School
Cadet Jessyca Maria Batista - Col Zadok Magruder High School

ROTC AWARDS

Cadet Breanna Appling – Bowie State University
Cadet Benjamin Parker – Bowie State University
Cadet Leslie Gbikpi-Benissan – University of Maryland
Cadet Kaitlyn Sullivan – University of Maryland
Cadet Joseph Kettish – University of Maryland
Cadet Justin Long – McDaniel College
Cadet Luke Hahn – Mount St. Mary's University
Cadet Taj Weems – Hood College
Cadet Gabriel Insler – Johns Hopkins University

Jason Q. Standish pictured right, with Franklin High School Cadet Jaden Lemessy (top) and Parkville High School Cadet Natalie Lumaro (bottom).





One Degree at a Time

BY: HON. RICHARD E. THURFIELD, JR., 32°, KCCH—WISE MASTER—DEER CREEK CHAPTER ROSE CROIX—MT. ARARAT LODGE #44



HOUGH THERE ARE only four degrees in the Chapter Rose Croix, the teaching and philosophies encountered in those degrees are some of the most complex in the Scottish Rite canon. These lessons cover history, religion, mysticism, morality, and symbolism not covered in any other Masonic degrees.

For instance, in the 15°, Knight of the East, of the sword or of the Eagle, we learn how King Cyrus was reminded by Zerubbabel of his promise to free the Hebrews and allow them to rebuild the Temple. But we are also taught that princely titles and worldly riches are worthless if they are gained at the expense of one's integrity.

Are you leaving behind a noble legacy? Not just in material possessions, but in the example

you set in your character and behavior. In this way can you achieve immortality? These are the questions of the 16°, Prince of Jerusalem.

Having seen the symbols of the Tetractys and the Kabbalistic tree of life, can you discern and apply their meanings as presented in the 17°, the Knight of the East and West?

Are you leaving behind a noble legacy? Not just in material possessions, but in the example you set in your character and behavior.

The 18° gives us one of the most haunting and challenging questions of all: how can God allow terrible things to happen to good people? What purpose does suffering serve, and how can we, as flawed men, become more tolerant of Brothers?

When taken in their totality, this can be overwhelming even for the most experienced Scottish Rite Mason, let alone one of our newer Knights Rose Croix. How do we put these into work to improve as Brothers, fathers, husbands, and citizens?

It is extremely important to realize, whether we are discussing the Chapter degrees or one of the other 28 degrees, that none of the teachings of Scottish Rite and indeed *none* of the teachings in any Masonic degree are meant to be absorbed in a single sitting. These are lessons and philosophies that are meant to be contemplated and discussed over the whole of our lives, revisiting them as often.

In the Orient of Maryland, our leaders have the great wisdom to give to each Brother, a copy of Bridge to Light, a wonderful and approachable distillation of each of the degrees. Whether your copy is dog-eared from years of use, or the spine has never been cracked, I encourage you to carry that book with you. When you have free time, read one degree. Or even just one paragraph. Then discuss this with your Brothers, come share your thoughts at a meeting or find a degree that speaks to you and become involved in its conferral.

In this way, one degree at a time you can chip away at the proverbial rough ashlar, and improve yourself in Masonry.





Most Worshipful Grand Master Huether's Address

Excerpts from

Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Baltimore, MD, November 16, 1948





to this, the One Hundred and Sixty-second annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. This is the one occasion when we are privileged to meet together and review the events of the past year and to take counsel with each other upon the best means to promote the welfare of the craft for the future.

......We meet in times of unrest and with the international scene anything but encouraging. Suspicion and mistrust still exist throughout the world and give us pause to wonder if we have, by reason of our past sacrifices in recent

wars, achieved that final peace for which all of us had hoped.

Freemasonry has no thought of political domination, nor do we interest ourselves in maintaining the religious supremacy of any particular sect, but we do seek to awaken and to direct the conscience and charter of our brethren in the Craft. With this accomplished, may we transmit that influence to those with whom we have daily contact. All Freemasons must be considered as one great family with a desire to live in peace and if freedom is to be realized, it must be based on the Will of God, which is essentially the central idea of the Fatherhood of God. We know, as Freemasons, that Light is not self-generated, but is transmitted to us from a source far higher. We acknowledge our Supreme Grand Master as the fountain of Light and it is by His Guidance that we see light and transmit it to others as a sacred trust. That trust is called forth in the life of every candidate for Masonry at his initiation. We are taught, as we proceed through the degrees, the value and meaning of the Three Great Lights. A study of the liberal arts and sciences give us an insight into the marvels of nature and the operations of the minds of men. Freemasons, with such insight, training and understanding can truly be of great assistance with respect to the many

complexities of life today......

......It is pertinent, however, in this connection, to point out that organizations often pass high sounding resolutions and then individual members, by their deeds, actions and words, most time unconsciously, deny the very sentiments they have declared. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Many people think a thing has been well done when it merely has been well said". Only as the attitude of our membership, expressed in deeds and actions, square with our Declaration of Principles will these noble ideals have influence and accomplish their purpose.

To say that we believe in the Fatherhood of God and the

"Many people think a thing has been well done when it merely has been well said."

Theodore Roosevelt

Brotherhood of man, that we will do unto others as we would have then do unto us, and then give countenance to prejudice

and discrimination, is certainly beneath the character and dignity of a Mason. It is just good religion and good Masonry to so act that we shall avoid the pitfalls of hypocrisy which says one thing and may mean another......







Spring Class of 2023—Orator's Address

BY: BRO. ANTHONY J. GLASS, 32°—ANNAPOLIS LODGE #89



TTHE BEGINNING of the Spring 2023 class, we were asked to elect four officers to represent us in today's ceremony – president, treasurer, secretary, and orator. Brothers of this class, thank you for the vote of confidence that allows this Orator to speak on your behalf today. Each of us has skills we can bring to bear and the Fraternity is confident that each of us will stand up and give back as opportunities arise.

Many thanks to the veritable army of Brethren that have labored to put on a most excellent series of vivid displays. You were once seated in this auditorium for your own class ring ceremony and were subjected to the blathering of your own duly elected orator. You have now taken time out of your responsibilities to labor for our benefit. There are too many of you to name, yet please know that we are aware of the sacrifice you have laid before us and

we are ever grateful. We look forward to the opportunity to follow in your footsteps and lend a helping hand to the multitude of Brothers that will come after us.

Sovereign Grand Inspector

General Mills, thank you for the example that you provide to us. As new Scottish Rite Masons, we are presented with a multitude of new topics and a whirlwind of examples of great men that have come before us, and truth be told, when we earnestly compare these ideals to the reality of our own lives, it can be overwhelming. You, sir, are a present day embodiment of many of the virtues we strive to uphold, a quiet testament to the truths behind the lofty lessons that we learn. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of the Rite for the steadfast demonstration of grace. You bring honor to us.

Honorable Bro. Washington, Illustrious Bro. Spicer: your cheerful demeanor and pleasant countenance has been a pleasure to witness and you both have been shining examples of Masonic educators. You have inspired us to take upon ourselves the yolk of learning, to dig ever deeper, and – most importantly – to replicate the positivity that you have shown us with the Brothers we encounter as well as with our fellow citizens that do not tread this hallowed path. You bring honor to us.

Appreciation of the Spouses

Before we progress any further, let us take a moment and address a very important topic. Masonry is known as a place where good men are made better. A place where we can gather and learn more about ourselves, each other, and various methods of self-improvement so that we can be more effective husbands, fathers, and participants in society.

We do not live in a vacuum. We meet as Masons to sharpen our skills alongside one another, and we are able to do so because of the support we receive at home. It is often said that "behind every man is a great woman". Although this statement is intended to be positive, a slight alteration is necessary to ensure correctness: "Alongside every

man is a great woman". Make no mistake: we are able to gather as and labor Masonically because of the hard work and support that we receive from our Ladies. Although we intend the best, it is likely that we don't always make things easy for you. You are often the foundation of harmony in our homes and the cornerstone upon which we erect our cathedrals of philosophy, you are the cement that holds together the bricks of our lives. Even though you are not physically present with us in our meetings, indeed, you crucially participate in the work that we undertake.

We thank you for your support and want to publicly profess our gratitude to the tireless service you provide to us and to our families.

Brethren, please join me in a round of applause for our Ladies.

Review of what brought us to the Scottish Rite

Masonry is a vast and varied art, reflecting the wide spectrum of experiences, skill sets, and personalities that make up her constituent body. Although we each stood up to claim a seat at the table of the Scottish Rite, we did so for differing reasons. One impetus is no better than another insofar as they suit our unique needs and bring harmony to the group.

Some came here to explore the alluring whiffs of esoteric philosophy.

Some came here to get a fresh

viewpoint of the mysteries of Freemasonry and viewpoints that are necessarily different than and possibly not available at our beloved Blue Lodges

Some came here to gather with Brothers from across this Valley that we may not have otherwise had the opportunity to encounter; to experience the greater Fraternity of our order

Some came here with reasons we did not fully understand and are only now beginning to realize the unflinching value of following our guide and fearing no danger.

What are some of the lessons that we are taking away from the Spring Class?

One of the charges of this delivery is to discuss what we, as a class, take away from our lessons. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the topics that spoke to our individual intellects throughout these 29 degrees are as varying as the reasons that brought us to this Temple in the first place.

We are all here for different reasons, but when I look around the room, I see men gathered for the same purpose.

We take away increased awe and reverence for the Craft, as we are now seeing that it truly does far deeper than we had originally anticipated.

The revelations and explanations of the lessons in these degrees are both a prism and a kaleidoscope. We can take a note from the vaults of Enoch and Solomon to be aware of the

opportunities to deepen the study of our souls and broaden the vast expanse of our shared human history as well as the natural follies of our nature.

Also, a fun note: when you combine the digits of this year, 2023 (2+2+0+3), we arrive at the highly symbolic number Seven.

Wrestling with some philosophical dilemmas

We were charged with completing the Master Craftsman class to supplement the excellent degree work and the degree work was truly excellent - and although it has been a great many years since some of us have been asked to study so thoroughly, it is evident that there are again many reasons to ask this endeavor of us. Study makes the mind sharp. It shakes off the rust of our routines and sharpens our intellect into fine axes. A tool most apt for a Mason to wield.

With study comes the opportunity for a new perspective, if we are only so bold as to reach out and take it.

Bringing the lessons to bear in life

To directly address the Brothers of this class:

- Remember the reasons that brought you here.
- Remember the essays that you wrote and what has struck a chord in your soul.

continues on page 28



Illustrious W. Kenneth Lyons, 33°, GC

Grand Chaplain of Supreme Council 33°—Southern Jurisdiction

BY: BRO. SETH W. LYONS—WORSHIPFUL MASTER, ODENTON LODGE #209

N SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND at Odenton Masonic Lodge #209, we had the honor of celebrating my father, W. Kenneth Lyons Jr. 33°, and his 50 years in Masonry with an Open Table Lodge. His journey began with his father at Potomac Lodge #5 in Washington D.C. where he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on May 21, 1973. Since then, he has gone on to become the Grand Chaplain of the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite Masonry, Recipient of the Grand Cross, Intendant General for the Division of the District of Columbia Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, Past Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, Past Celebrant of the Maryland Rosicrucian College, and Chaplain and founding member of Scouters Lodge #236. Currently, he is the Chaplain of Odenton Lodge #209 where he has supported me as the Worshipful Master, and his other Masonic Brothers.

The best moment of the evening was when he arrived. He knew we were holding a Table Lodge, but he had no idea it was to celebrate him or who was on the guest list. As he walked through the front door and saw who was there to greet him in the vestibule, his first

words were, "Are you kidding me!" From then on it was an evening to remember.

As the dinner began, it was a wonderful time of Masonic friendship and Brotherhood, which then led us to the speakers and 50-year presentations. We were all fortunate to hear the wise words and anecdotes of several prominent Masons such as Bro. Brent Morris 33°, GC, James D. Cole SGC, Supreme Council 33°, RWB Jacob Bressman DGM of DC, as well as our GI Andrew Martinez. The one thing they all had in common was the respect they shared for my father while reflecting on his ability to connect with people spiritually, emotionally, masonically, and more. Yes, he is a great preacher, but there is so much more that shows he is a great person.

For me, as his son and a preacher's kid, I always saw what my father did. But he was still Dad. But, as I grew up and began to understand how much he helped people, meant to people, and how they responded to him, it became so much clearer to me how other people saw him. So, I began to see him in a different light. I am so incredibly proud of him and always honored to say, "Yes,

that's my dad."

So as the evening ended with the words of our MWGM Fred Spicer who shared some great memories, as well as details from one of my father's sermons from many years ago, he graciously gave the final moment of the evening to my father.

Yes, he is a great preacher, but there is so much more that shows he is a great person.

My father compared Masonry to life and how it continues to move on, recalling his Masonic brothers who he knew many years ago with my grandfather who are not with us anymore to the brothers who he joined the fraternity with. He spoke of the new masonic friends he has made that are continuing to carry the torch to new generations, and how honored he has been to call them all his Brother. So, in the end, for such a rainy Saturday, the smiles could not have shined any brighter as we celebrated a man who has spread so much light to so many people.











Brockman Scholarship Awards for 2023

BY: HON. CHARLES F. REID, III, 32°, KCCH—CHAIRMAN

HE SCOTTISH RITE Education Committee is pleased to announce the John W. Brockman Fellows for 2023! On May 18, 2023, the Committee met to interview candidates for the Brockman Fellowship. The purpose of this Fellowship is to identify and provide monetary awards to graduate students in Maryland universities who are preparing to become speech and language therapists. This fellowship has been awarded to over 100 students since it was established in 1982.

This year, the committee interviewed four candidates from Towson University, Loyola University and the University of Maryland: Awards totaling \$20,000 were made to Margaret Kudzy from Loyola University Maryland (top left), Emily Valazza (top right) and Julia Dougherty from Towson University (bottom left), and Amy Yoon from University of Maryland (bottom right).

This year's committee included Ill. Marlin Mills, 33° S.G.I.G, Ill. Frederick A. Spicer, 33° G.C., Ill. Jason Q. Standish,

33°, and Hon. Charles F. Reid. III, 32°, KCCH, Committee Chair.

Congratulations to the Brockman Fellowship award winners for 2023!

Please remember that your financial contributions to this important fellowship offering that supports not only the graduate students receiving the award but also the many speech/language disabled children who will receive services throughout the therapist's career. How many investment opportunities yield such long-term benefits?













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Dat	te Port	Arrive	Depart	
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30-Aug	Goulaine .			Cruising
31-Aug.	Beston, Massachusetts	8.00 AM	6:00 794	Doctool
01-Sep	Portland, Mains	8:00 AM	6:00 794	Docked
02-Sep	Saint John of Thay Of Europy)	11:00 AM		Docked
03-Sep	Saint Jaho ob / bay St. (Sandy)		10:45 PM	Docked
04-Sep	Crysing			Crulning
05-Sep	Halifax - None, Scotia	MA 00:8	6:00 PM	Docked
06-Sep	Crucking			Christny
07-510	Case Liberty, Nt (nv. Metro)	7:00 AM		



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Valley of Southern Maryland

BY: HON. DENNIS LELAND, 32° KCCH-VENERABLE MASTER

Maryland has emerged from the darkness of Covid to bring three new brothers to further light. One of the brothers had to leave town on business after receiving the 14th degree and will complete in the fall. The other two are our new

masters of the royal secret. Our ring ceremony was held on May 3rd (pictures below). All of our meetings, not involving degree work, contain Masonic education. The brothers in attendance appreciate the additional light.

We are working to encourage more brothers to attend our

meetings and join our ranks. Brothers from other Valleys and Orients are welcome to our meetings. Our meetings occur on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 pm in the hall of Thomas J. Shryock Lodge No. 223 in Hollywood, MD.





8th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt to Support Rite Care

Saturday, November 4, 2023 On Point Outfitters, Addison, PA



Limited Space Available! \$185 per Shooter (\$75 Deposit)

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Brothers Called From Labor To Eternal Rest

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Randolph S. Disney, 32°

Eric D. Dallas, 32°

Gerald H. Laird, 32°

Carl A. Michel, Sr., 32°

Kenneth J. Krach, 32°

Louis E. Fritz, 32°

William E. Gyr, 33°

AUG/SEPT/OCT 2023 | RITENEWS of Maryland 27





2023 Class Essay

MASTER CRAFTSMAN -CANDIDATE ESSAY FROM QUIZ #5

I found the five vows to be the most interesting part of this lesson. More particularly, the Minister of State's discussion of work as it relates to prayer. It seems that today, most people don't value doing a good day's work. In fact, it's hard to get most people to put in a full day's work. They arrive late, then go back to breakfast and, afterwards, into the office. They then do fifteen minutes of work and take a twenty-minute smoke break. This continues throughout the workday, well, until they leave anyway. A few will awaken to the problem of their behavior and become valued team members. The rest will leave in less than a year and complain the entire time that they are under too much pressure. They never realize that all their issues are self-created. They will never be happy, let alone content with anything

in their lives because they take no pleasure in doing a good job. This bleeds over into their personal lives also. All they do is drink; play video games and wonder why they are unhappy. It seems the concept of personal responsibility is foreign to them. Until they find something other than hedonism to embrace, they will always be empty inside.

MASTER CRAFTSMAN -CANDIDATE ESSAY FROM QUIZ #6

This felt like doctorate level studying, where you are presented with a semester's worth of studying and given a week to learn it.

While it is incredibly intense, it did get two jobs done:

- 1. It got me to read nearly 1000 pages of philosophy and rituals in a month
- 2. It sparked a deeper curiosity to go back and read it again, but at a much slower pace, maybe completing it again in one or two years.

The discussions were crucial to my learning. I would arrive conflicted in my understanding after reading a few hundred pages, only to have my mind contorted by a single question, such as: "but what does that mean?" or "and how does that relate to......". Without the discussions, I would have only read, where with the discussions, I reflected and further questioned my own understanding which leads to a much deeper appreciation for what is being taught.

Honestly, I would change nothing. Making it shorter makes it impossible to comprehend; making it longer will make it appear to be an insurmountable task. One month sounds easy enough to learn 4–32, but telling someone it will take 20 years to fully comprehend all the details will scare them away. It is very intense, but very doable.

Spring Class Orator's Address continues from page 19

- Remember that brotherly love, relief, and truth are virtues to be shared with all, regardless of the titles, degrees, and symbols that we can affix to our given names.
- Remember the knightly mantle that you chose during

- the 18th degree, and why you chose it for yourself-.
- We are each necessary reflections of the Ineffable, always Remember that you have a place and you have an irreplaceable role to play. Even if it's not readily apparent.
- Be fearless as you plunge into the depths of duty
- Remember that when we leave this Temple, just as when we leave our Lodges, the dawn of our day of labor truly arrives. And on this Empire, the sun will never set.

May the candelabrum of faith, hope, and charity guide your way.

Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 12th	. Lobsterfest	2pm to 5pm
Wednesday, September 6th	. Albert Pike LOP	6:30pm Dinner
Wednesday, September 13th	. Meredith CRC	6:30pm Dinner
Wednesday, September 20th	Maryland Council of Kadosh	6:30pm Dinner
Thursday, September 21st	. Susquehanna—4th & 14th	7pm
Thursday, September 21st	Frederick—Council Festive Board	7:30pm
Wednesday, September 27th	. Chesapeake Consistory	6:30pm Dinner
Saturday, September 30th	. Orient Honors Day	
Wednesday, October 4th	. Baltimore—Fall Class Orientation	6:30pm Dinner
Wednesday, October 11th	Baltimore—4th & 5th	7pm
Wednesday, October 18th	. Baltimore—11th & 13th	7pm
Thursday, October 19th	Susquehanna—18th	7pm
Thursday, October 19th	. Frederick—LOP	7:30pm
Wednesday, October 25th	Baltimore—14th & 15th	7pm
Saturday, October 28th	. Frederick—Reunion Day	7am
Wednesday, November 1st	Baltimore—18th & 20th	7pm
Saturday, November 4th	. Reunion Day (Baltimore)	7am Coffee
Sunday, November 5th	.Baltimore—Ring Ceremony	2pm

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The Master Mason Friend Who:

1.

Is interested in learning of the philosophies of the World, both of this and other ages.

2.

Would like to join with other earnest men in an absorbing study of present day problems;

3.

Would appreciate turning, for just a little while, from the constant struggles of day to day existence to commune with the noblest intellects of all time, brought to him in matchless degrees.

4

Enjoys viewing worthwhile drama, well presented;

5.

Finds the hearty fellowship and good-will of other men inspiring and enjoyable.

6.

Is willing to enter into true fraternity with other men when he finds them worthy; and

7.

Has caught the gleam of Masonic inspiration from his Blue Lodge work and is ready to seek the truth still further;

Should petition to become a Scottish Rite 32° Mason!

Visit www.mdscottishrite.org to download a petition

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Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland

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Meets on Wednesday 7:30 P.M.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center 3800 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Ill. E. Ray Leppo, Jr., 33°, GC

Personal Representative

Ill. Frederick Spicer, 33°, GC

Executive Director, 410-243-3200

CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

Meets Second Wednesday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple

710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646

Hon. William A. Zarychta, 32°, KCCH

Personal Representative

Bro. Reginald J. Eda, 32°

Secretary, 301-910-1906

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Meets on Monday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple

15-21 Green Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°

Secretary, 301-729-2491

FREDERICK VALLEY

Meets on Thursday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple

6816 Blentlinger Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702

Ill. Creed F. Parker, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Scott Cameron, 33°, Secretary, 301–471–8777

SALISBURY VALLEY

Meets on Monday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple

110 N. Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Samuel Walker, 33°, Secretary, 410-742-6548

SOUTHERN MARYLAND VALLEY

Meets on Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

Masonic Temple

24410 Mervell Dean Road,

Hollywood, Maryland 20636

Ill. Richard C. Miller, 33°

Personal Representative

Ill. Alfred Girard, 33°, Secretary, 301-904-6468

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

Meets Third Thursday 7:00pm

www.susquehannasr.org

Masonic Temple

20 Howard Street, Aberdeen, MD 21001

Ill. Ralph L. Perry, 33°, Personal Representative

Bro. David E. Martak, Jr., 32°

Secretary, 443-686-0853