## VIRGINIA

# MASONIC HERALD

**FALL 2025** 

PUBLISHED SINCE 1925



## A VOICE FOR LIBERTY

From incarceration by Manuel Noriega in a Panamanian prison—where by fate he met a significant ally and Mason—to his own Virginia Masonic Lodge today, the story of Kurt Muse defines the principles of courage, fraternity, and the relentless pursuit of freedom.



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### THE VIRGINIA MASONIC HERALD

M.W. Gary Dwight Huffman Editor-in-Chief

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R.W. Jesse S. Lyons Editor Official publication of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The views expressed in the Virginia Masonic Herald do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge or its Officers. The Herald is published three times annually and has applied for registration with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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# **GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Brethren,

I am proud to serve as your Grand Master!

I strongly believe that Freemasons should be involved in our communities. We should not just sit in our Lodges once a month. Our communities need what Freemasonry has to offer and we have existing programs that help us accomplish this.

I ask that you continue "Acts of Community Service." Your reward will be how it makes your heart feel. I ask that you not only continue to work as a Lodge on these efforts, but extend it further, by making such acts of kindness a routine in your daily lives.

I have a great fondness for our Masonic Youth and I ask that you support and participate in the Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay programs and activities. These young men and women are our future and they inspire me on a routine basis. We need to give them our full support. I believe they are the hope for a better tomorrow.

We have been offering Community Builders Awards and Scholarships from many of our lodges for many years. I would like to see these efforts grow and more Lodges participate. We can let the world know who we are and still remain humble.

My wife Paula and I have three main charities for this year. We have planned a Raffle for a Henry Masonic rifle along with the sale of a numbered commemorative Challenge Coin to raise money for our Masonic Youth Foundation, our goal is to raise \$75,000 for our Youth.

We encourage you to support MA-HOVA—Your Masonic Community. It is a true Crown Jewel. Our Tiler this year has offered a Tiler's challenge to have all lodge Tilers participate in raising money for MAHOVA with the chance to win an engraved Tiler's Sword based on most money given by a per capita of the membership formula.

We have started a new focus on raising money for our Grand Lodge of Virginia Library and Museum. We need to seriously look at collection and preservation of our history, many items being priceless. We know that we need to plan for the need of increased space. We have such a rich history and together we can work to protect it for many years to come.

The Future of Freemasonry is bright. Hold on to your Masonic values: our foundation should be built upon our faith, allow Truth to be your compass, and let Harmony be the strength and support of our institutions.

Fraternally,

GARY D. HUFFMAN
Grand Master



We have been offering Community Builders Awards and Scholarships from many of our lodges for many years. I would like to see these efforts grow and more Lodges participate.

## **Gary Dwight Huffman**

179th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia Born May 6, 1964, in Roanoke, Virginia

#### **EDUCATION**

- Virginia Western Community College/Radford University
- National Fire Academy
- Professional Career Development Institute of Atlanta, Georgia.

#### **CAREER**

- 1986–2014 Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department
- · Retired as Fire Marshal
- Law Enforcement Academy, Virginia Department of Fire Programs
- Two-term President, Virginia Fire Prevention
  Association
- Code Development Committee, International Fire Chief's Association
- Two-time recipient of Governor's Award for Fire Service Excellence
- Two-time recipient Firefighter of the Year Award, Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department
- Fire Safety Commendation Award, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
- Fire Service Award, local Jaycees Chapter

#### **MASONRY**

- Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 21, 1999, in Vinton Lodge No. 204
- Worshipful Master, 2015
- Dual Member, Boone Lodge No. 247

- Grand Purveyor, 2011
- Grand Tiler, 2015

- Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master, 2018
- Elected of Grand Junior Deacon, 2018
- Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Queensland, Australia, near Virginia

#### Memberships include

- Valley Roanoke, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
- Scottish Rite Research Society
- DC Shanks Royal Arch Chapter No. 31
- Bayard Commandery No. 15, Knights Templar
- Kazim Shrine Center, served Unit Captain and Secretary-Treasurer in the Provost Guard Unit
- Chief of the South Atlantic Shrine Association for Provost Guard Units
- Unit Captain, Mystic Pirates
- Roanoke Valley, Clifton Forge, Giles County and Lynchburg Shrine Clubs
- Honorary membership, Acca, Oasis, Sudan, Khedive, Omar, and Hejaz Shrine Centers
- Greenville, South Carolina Shriner's Hospital Board of Governors, and Chairman of the Building and Equipment committee

#### FAMILY/PERSONAL

- Married to the former Paula Ann Compton
- Two children: a daughter, Jordon Nicole Huffman, and a son, Mason Cole Huffman

# **LABOR & REFRESHMENT**

## ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

By Chuck Shotton, Hamilton-Thompson No. 37 (Purcellville)

Recently, our Lodge used this Masonic Quiz, in our Trestleboard. Then, at the next Stated Communication, we asked everyone to stand. As the questions were asked and answered, those with incorrect answers were asked to sit, with a round of applause reserved for those brothers who made it through to the end.

### What time of day is "Low Twelve"?

A.12:30 AM

B. 12:00 AM

C. 12:30 PM

D. 12 PM

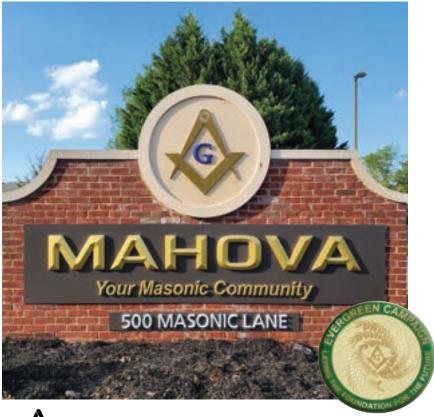
#### What is a cowan?

- A. An uninvited member of another lodge
- B. A person listening at a lodge window
- C. A purveyor of beef products
- D. A person pretending to be a Mason

## What do the two pillars represent?

- A. Hiram Abiff and Hiram, King of Tyre
- B. Strength and Beauty
- C. The Holy Saints John
- D. The Terrestrial and the Celestial

[Editor's Note: The correct answers are B, D, and B.]



## A DUE NOTICE

#### **MAHOVA Family Day**

MAHOVA Campus, Richmond, Virginia

October 4, 2025

## 247th Grand Annual Communication

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia

Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/ Short Pump, Richmond, Virginia, commencing

November 7-8, 2025

## **♦** BROTHER'S GEAR



## PAST MASTER BUNDLE - \$89.00

Honor the dedication and leadership of a Past Master with this distinguished Past Master Apron Bundle, thoughtfully curated for a meaningful presentation or commemorative gift.

#### • Past Master Apron

Measuring 13" x 15", this elegant apron is crafted from smooth white satin and trimmed with classic royal blue moiré ribbon. The satin backing ensures a refined appearance from all angles. An adjustable waist belt offers a secure, comfortable fit for all sizes.

#### • Navy Blue Past Master Tie

A traditional navy-blue necktie adorned with the Past Master emblem—perfect for lodge events or formal Masonic occasions.

#### • Gold-Plated Lapel Pin

A finely detailed Past Master pin with a polished gold-plated finish. Ideal for everyday wear or formal regalia.

#### • Certificate & Presentation Folder

Recognize a Brother's service with a customizable certificate, elegantly enclosed in a navy-blue folder with a gold-stamped emblem. A perfect keepsake to commemorate the honor of Past Master status.

#### www.macoy.com

## FREEMASONRY POCKET KNIFE - \$35.00

This beautiful pocketknife comes in a wonderful gift box. It is a nice gift to give to brothers or guest speakers. It can also be personalized on the other side if you would like.

#### www.macoy.com



## MINIATURE MASONIC WORKING TOOLS - \$31.00



These are a great gift for new masons. It is a perfect way to mentor a brother in the meaning behind each tool he memorizes in his catechism.

https://www.macoy. com/Miniature-Working-Tools-Set

# **LABOR & REFRESHMENT**

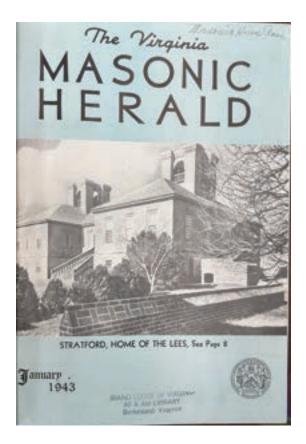
## A HERALD HISTORY

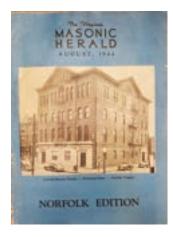
## Celebrating 100 Years of the Virginia Masonic Herald

For a century, the Virginia Masonic Herald has stood as a stead-fast beacon of communication, heritage, and brotherhood within the Commonwealth's Masonic community. Since its inaugural issue in 1925, the magazine has chronicled the rich tapestry of Freemasonry in Virginia—highlighting lodge activities, honoring traditions, and documenting the lives and legacies of its members.

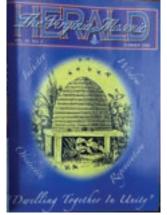
Each evolution of the magazine's masthead and cover design over the decades reflects not just a shift in style, but the enduring spirit of the Craft through changing times. From elegantly typeset beginnings to vibrant, modern layouts, the Herald has continuously adapted while staying true to its mission: to inform, inspire, and unite.

As it turns 100, the Herald remains an essential link between generations of Masons—past, present, and future. It is more than a magazine; it is a living archive of Masonic values, brotherly love, and service. We honor this centennial milestone with a showcase of its diverse visual history, reminding us that while covers may change, the heart of the Virginia Masonic Herald beats with the same resolute dedication as it did a century ago. Here's to the next hundred years of storytelling, tradition, and light.













## **A** THE QUERY

## ONE QUESTION ANSWERED BY SEVERAL MASONS!

We reached out to the 2025 District Deputy Grand Masters to ask them one question:

What is your favorite tradition or event you've come across in your district this year, traveling as DDGM?

#### R.W. Mark Mustard, District 42

We have one new tradition that we believe will become annual. Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82 (Wytheville), executed their first Bib Overall night, with white shirt and bow tie. With thirty-four brothers attending from five different lodges, and of course a great meal, the fellowship was felt by all.

#### R.W. Jason Lotz, District 1A

One of my favorite traditions is the 1A (district) dinner at Grand Annual Communication. All the brethren from the district go to a nearby Hibachi place, and it's grown to where

we take over several tables. It's a lot of fun with the camaraderie. Also, our District stopped doing an annual picnic several years ago, and started doing random events; several years it was billiards, this year it is bowling. We're already selling out our group!

#### R.W. Steven McNeil, District 20

Milboro Lodge No. 28 (Milboro) hosts an annual "Wild Game Night." Their members bring all kinds of wild game—squirrel, rabbit, bear, deer, and sometimes goose. They've even had elk on occasion. You name it, they've probably served it at some point. The best part, beyond the food itself, is the excitement and energy of everyone being there. It's something you really have to experience to understand not just for the members of Milboro Lodge, but for the folks who make the annual trip and for first-time visitors. Seeing their faces light up as they try foods they've never had before is something unique. I've never seen anyone leave dissatisfied—with the meal, the hospitality, or the fellowship. It's just a great time all around. I

always encourage people to come and try it—you won't regret it.

#### R.W. Jake Trenary, Research District

The most interesting tradition in the Research District is the annual sojourning travel of the Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865. This research lodge visits and studies at Civil War battlefields on the east side of the Mississippi. They consistently work as a Virginia Lodge representing the Grand Lodge under dispensation. They focus on Freemasonry's impact on the battles themselves, period Masonic stories, and on wartime society in general in the War Between the States. There is always a historic lodge near the battlefield selected to host their quarterly Stated. Freemasons attend from all over the country. Our last meeting in Ringgold, Ga., was held near the sites of the Chickamauga Battlefield and the Great Locomotive Chase. Twelve states were represented. We also had a visit from the "Wool Hat Boys" reenactment group from Grand Lodge of Georgia who showed up in full period accurate Confederate regalia.

# **LABOR & REFRESHMENT**



## John Nicolas Malliarakis

Grand Junior Deacon, elected November 2024 Born on August 21, 1958 in Newport News

#### **PROFESSIONAL**

Calhoon School of Marine Engineering in Baltimore Shipboard engineer and Port Engineer, retiring from the maritime industry in 2021

#### MASONIC

Raised on May 10, 1990, in Warwick Lodge No. 336 LMIP and Trustee Worshipful Master, 2013 and 2019 DDGM, Masonic District 14B, 2018

#### **PERSONAL**

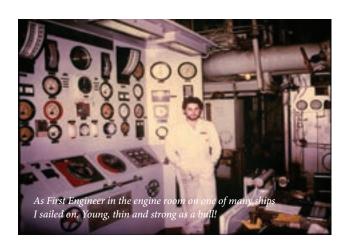
Married to Deborah Kay Rust, on August 25, 1984
Reside in Newport News
Saints Constentine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
One daughter, Evangeline, husband Tore DeBella
One son, Nicolas, wife Lauren, and grandson, John.

## **WHO COMES THERE?**

## Share a memory or experience from your career while shipboard.

My career consisted of two 20-year periods. The first 20 years, I sailed worldwide aboard American Flag merchant vessels as an engineer (1980 to 2000). The second 20 years (2000 to 2021) I was promoted to Port Engineer and managed all aspects of ship operations, maintenance, and repair. One that stands out and that I will never forget happened in December 1983. I was the 2nd Engineer aboard a container ship returning to Norfolk from Felixstowe, England. Anyone who has crossed oceans on ships for a living will tell you that the North Atlantic in the wintertime can be a very inhospitable place. A day after exiting the English Channel, we ran into one of those Winter North Atlantic monster storms that, contrary to what we may see in movies and on television, every professional mariner dreads. Winds howling with 60-to-80-foot seas with the occasional 100-foot rogue coming through. And all this on a 40-year-old ship. How many storms like this has she lived through in those 40 years? And is this one the last? We made it back to Norfolk but the usual 10-day trip took 19 days. With 10 of those days making only 85 miles. By far, the worst trip I ever made on a ship. Really didn't think we were going to make it back that time.

On a lighter note, I was the first engineer on a ship and the cadet (a college-age student still in maritime school but having to obtain some experience before returning to school) came into my office crying like his whole world was about to end. I asked him what's wrong. He managed



to respond through the tears that he's seasick and that he went to the chief mate (who's known as "The Mate" and is second in command and also the medical officer on a merchant ship) for some medication. The Mate told him he was going to die. And here come the tears. I told him that nobody, to my knowledge, has ever died from being seasick on a modern merchant ship "however, you may wish you were dead before it's over with."

## Who was your Masonic mentor and why was your relationship special?

Brother C. C. Covington was both the first line signer of my petition and mentor to me until he passed away. He taught and examined me in all three catechisms in open Lodge. Calm, gentle and always with a smile and a good word. Who could ask for more than that?

## What are your hobbies?

I've always had a pool table, and I play in a local league and hit balls every day. My team and I got to compete nationally in Las Vegas in 2013, 2014, and 2016. I started playing at the early age of 13.

## Do you play any musical instruments?

I started playing the violin in 1981. I took classical lessons



on and off for fifteen years, on and off because when I was sailing. I stopped playing a few years ago due to sore joints and donated three of my four fine violins to The College of William and Mary. I kept my best one though.

## What is the last book you read?

I started reading as a hobby when I first went to sea as a cadet in 1977. In the era that I sailed, there were no cell phones, movies on discs, laptops, etc. But there were plenty of books. The last book I read was titled *Un-Cancel Robert E. Lee.* I also completed a bio on Wyatt Earp around the same time.





# **LABOR & REFRESHMENT**

## WHY I ... AM A CHANDLER (CANDLE-MAKER)

By Jesse Wingate Central Lodge No. 300 (Onley)





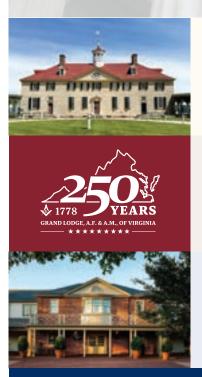
I began making candles at home as a hobby in 2021 as a way of unwinding from an often busy and stressful schedule as a healthcare professional amidst the global pandemic. Friends approached me in early 2022 and asked if I would consider selling candles at their new general store, which they had hoped to locally source with farm goods and crafts. I agreed to consign candles at their new store and was quite surprised when the first case sold within two weeks.

Over time, I gradually developed a habit of pouring a dozen candles in a two-hour period each Sunday afternoon. However, demand and word-of-mouth resulted in a need to increase my production during the few hours that I had each week to prepare candles. Thus, what started as a hobby interest has gradually developed into the Willis Wharf Candle Co., LLC, a small-batch candle company based on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

By late 2022, I had used the profits from the sales at the general store to invest in new equipment, specifically a Digi boiler which helped me to prepare wax evenly and in greater quantities. My new equipment helped me to maximize productivity in the 2–3 hours that I had each week to pour. By 2024, I had developed a comfortable routine of pouring candles and preparing cases of 15+ scents for three retailers in the nearby towns. Tipping my hat to the peculiarities and nuance of our beloved Eastern Shore–each candle scent is named for a town, area, or characteristic of the geographic expanse stretching from the southern end of Northampton County to the northern section of Accomack County.

I'm often asked to sell online or to ship, but I've learned by my involvement in Freemasonry that it's important to cede my involvement in any one particular endeavor only so far as my other duties and obligations permit. To that end, I have captured a wonderful balance where I still enjoy making candles for a few hours each month for a limited number of retailers in the area.





#### SEPTEMBER 2028 - Date TBD

## Mt. Vernon Gala

George Washington's Mount Vernon 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon

#### **OCTOBER 13TH 2028**

**250th Anniversary** of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Virginia 1778-2028

## **NOVEMBER 8-11TH 2028**

## 250<sup>th</sup> Grand Annual Communication

Williamsburg Lodge, Autograph Collection 310 S. England St, Williamsburg

Mark Your Calendars

For more information about these and other events for the 250th anniversary please visit **glova250years.org** 





From Panamanian Prison to the Master Mason Lodge, the story of Kurt Muse defines the relevance of courage, fraternity, and the relentless pursuit of freedom.



Opposite page: Muse and President George H. W. Bush with his wife Anne and children Kimberly and Erik, following Operation Acid Gambit.

Above: A painting by James Dietz depicts Operation Acid Gambit, a U.S. Delta Force mission to rescue Kurt Muse, an American held in Panama during Operation Just Cause. The painting was auctioned by the Silent Warrior Foundation. The operation involved extracting Muse from the Cárcel Modelo prison in Panama City.

# K

urt Muse's story as a U.S. Army veteran, freedom fighter, and Freemason reflects a remarkable chapter of courage and resilience. His challenging experience in Panama during the late 1980s, including a bold rescue mission, highlights the determination of those who oppose oppression. Muse's journey from a Panamanian prison to the brotherhood of Freemasonry underscores his commitment to liberty and the value of fraternal bonds.

## THE VOICE OF LIBERTY: DEFYING A DICTATOR

Born in the United States but raised in Panama, Kurt Muse developed a deep affection for his adopted homeland. His family's printing business thrived in Panama City, embedding them within the local community. However, the rise of General Manuel Noriega's oppressive regime in the 1980s cast a shadow over the nation. Noriega's government was marked by corruption, human rights abuses, and a stranglehold on free speech.

Determined to challenge this tyranny, Muse, alongside a group of like-minded Panamanian patriots, established an underground radio station aptly named "The Voice of Liberty." Broadcasting messages of hope and resistance, the station became a beacon for those yearning for freedom. Their most audacious act was interrupting one of Noriega's annual addresses, replacing it with calls for democracy and liberty. This act of defiance did not go unnoticed.

## IMPRISONMENT AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

In 1989, Muse was apprehended by Noriega's forces and incarcerated in the notorious Cárcel Modelo prison. Subjected to nine months of solitary confinement, he endured psychological torment and the constant threat of execution. The prison's conditions were deplorable; Muse had to sleep on the bare concrete floor of his small cell. He could see sunlight but not the sun. In his nine months of solitary confinement, he was allowed outside to see the sun only four times.



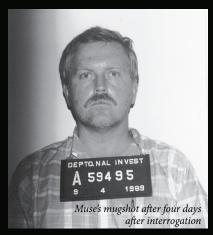
Despite these dire circumstances, he remained resolute, drawing strength from his convictions, his faith, and the knowledge that his actions had ignited a flame of resistance.

## OPERATION ACID GAMBIT: A DARING RESCUE

As tensions escalated between the United States and Noriega's regime, the U.S. government initiated Operation Just Cause in December 1989 to depose the dictator and restore democracy in Panama. A critical component of this operation was the extraction of Kurt Muse, who had become a symbol of resistance and a high-value hostage. General Noriega publicly announced that if a rescue attempt were made, Muse would be immediately executed. To that end, he stationed an executioner near Muse's cell to carry out his orders.

Dubbed Operation Acid Gambit, the mission was entrusted to the elite U.S. Army's 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment – Delta





(Delta Force). In the early hours of December 20, 1989, under the cover of darkness, Delta operators executed a precision assault on Cárcel Modelo. Landing helicopters on the prison's roof, they swiftly neutralized guards and reached Muse's cell. After breaching the cell door, they equipped Muse with protective gear and escorted him to the rooftop for extraction.

However, the mission faced an unexpected hurdle. The helicopter carrying Muse crashed shortly after takeoff due to enemy fire. Demonstrating remarkable adaptability, the rescue team secured Muse and navigated through hostile territory, eventually reaching safety with the assistance of armored personnel carriers. The initial rescue, from landing on the roof to takeoff, was completed in six minutes.

## A HERO'S RETURN AND RECOGNITION

Following his rescue, Muse was reunited with his family and honored by President George H. W. Bush at the White House. His story captivated the nation, symbolizing the triumph of courage over oppression. Muse chronicled his experiences in the memoir Six Minutes to Freedom,





## **BROTHERHOOD FORGED IN CAPTIVITY**

By Marcos Ostrander

They say Freemasonry calls you when the time is right. For Kurt Muse and me, that moment came in one of the most unlikely places: a Panamanian prison, in 1989, during a time of upheaval and uncertainty.

I was imprisoned for my principles, as were many others. Kurt, an American accused of broadcasting anti-regime messages, was thrown into the same storm. Despite the weight of confinement, there was something different about him. He carried himself with a calm dignity, and even in the bleakness of our circumstances, he sought to uplift those around him. We didn't speak the same language of origin, but we understood each other in the language of values—truth, fortitude, compassion, and faith. Our conversations weren't always grand, but they were honest. In those quiet, stolen moments, I recognized something in Kurt. Though he had never taken a Masonic obligation, he already lived the virtues we hold sacred. After his rescue and return to the U.S., we stayed in contact. I kept encouraging him to seek out the Craft when he was ready. Years later, he did—and I was deeply honored to be part of his journey into the Fraternity. Helping initiate Kurt into Freemasonry was one of the proudest moments of my Masonic life. It felt as though a circle had closed—not from prison walls, but from a shared bond reborn in the Light.

Today, Kurt and I remain dear friends. Our bond is no longer one of survival, but of shared ideals and brotherhood. His story, and our friendship, remind me that even in life's darkest corners, the Light of Masonry can shine through.

If you ever meet Brother Muse, ask him about his path. I promise—it's a journey worth hearing.

co-authored with John Gilstrap, providing an intimate account of his ordeal and the extraordinary efforts undertaken to secure his freedom.

## EMBRACING THE MASONIC BROTHERHOOD

During his imprisonment, Muse was visited by the legal representative from the United States Southern Command, Dr. Marcos Ostrander, a Panamanian who extended kindness and solidarity amidst the bleakness. This individual, whose memory remains cherished, later revealed himself to be a member of the Masonic fraternity. The principles of brotherhood, moral integrity, and mutual support that he embodied left an indelible impression on Muse.

Inspired by this encounter and the values it represented, Muse sought to join the Masonic fraternity upon his

return to the United States. Embracing the tenets of Freemasonry, he found a community that resonated with his ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Through his Masonic journey, Muse continues to advocate for freedom and human dignity, embodying the virtues that sustained him during his darkest hours.

## LEGACY AND CONTINUED ADVOCACY

Today, Kurt Muse resides in Virginia, dedicating his life to sharing his story and advocating for democratic values. As a motivational speaker and author, he imparts lessons on resilience, leadership, and the power of collective action. His experiences serve as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom and the enduring strength found in unity and brotherhood.

Kurt Muse's narrative is not merely a tale of survival; it is a chronicle of unwavering commitment to justice and the profound impact of human connection. His transition from a prisoner of conscience to a celebrated hero and Freemason underscores the transformative power of shared values and mutual support. As we reflect on his journey, we are reminded of the enduring relevance of courage, fraternity, and the relentless pursuit of liberty.

## SIX MINUTES TO FREEDOM: FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

A gripping tale of courage and covert heroism is headed to screens as Netflix develops Six Minutes to Freedom, based on the real-life story of American Kurt Muse.

Co-authored by Muse and bestselling thriller writer John Gilstrap, the non-fiction book recounts Muse's 1989 imprisonment in Panama under the regime of dictator Manuel Noriega—and his dramatic rescue by Delta Force during the opening hours of the U.S. invasion.

The operation, codenamed "Acid Gambit," became the first successful hostage rescue conducted by Delta Force. Muse, an American expatriate accused of running anti-Noriega broadcasts, was imprisoned for months under brutal conditions. As tensions mounted, U.S. planners feared that any delay in rescuing Muse would result in

his immediate execution once hostilities began. With only a six-minute window between the first shots of the invasion and the likely retaliation by Noriega's guards, the elite special forces executed a lightning-fast extraction from Panama City's notorious Cárcel Modelo. Screenwriter Jared Rosenberg (Flight Risk

Screenwriter Jared Rosenberg (Flight Risk) has been tapped to bring this high-stakes rescue to life on film, promising a suspenseful adaptation rooted in real events. The film will shine new light on this lesser-known moment of American military history—and on the man at the center of it.

COMING SOON TO NETLIX.



# **IN THE QUARRY**



## Big Bucks and Bread

Wor. Ricky Light, Great Bridge Lodge No. 257 (Chesapeake), presented a check in the amount of \$500 to the AGAPE Food Pantry at Great Bridge United Methodist Church in Chesapeake. A team of Brethren led by Wor. Lester Tysor of Great Bridge Lodge delivered more than 2000 loaves of bread and countless other food items to the Pantry throughout the past last year.

## **BROTHERS' BOOKS**



From Man to Mason by R.W. Brother Dan Hrinko, Ph.D., is a compelling guide to revitalizing Masonic culture through continuous education. Drawing on his deep experience in the Craft and professional expertise as a psychologist, Hrinko redefines Masonic initiation as a lifelong process rather than a single event. He outlines a clear, progressive path from "Enquirer" to Master Mason, emphasizing mentorship, structured education, and lead-

ership grounded in enduring values. The book offers practical insights for Lodges to foster learning—from effective candidate preparation to meaningful post-degree instruction and independent study. With thoughtful analysis and actionable recommendations, Hrinko underscores the responsibility of Lodges and Grand Lodges alike to provide ongoing opportunities for growth. Dedicated to the late Brother Chad Simpson and featuring his essay as an appendix, From Man to Mason is a heartfelt and essential resource for any Lodge aiming to elevate its educational mission and deepen its Masonic impact.

*From Man to Mason* was published in 2024 by Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply and may be ordered directly at **www.macoy.com**.



## RIDIN' FOR A CAUSE

On December 8, our Boaz Brothers Chapter and Keepers of the Gate Chapter of the Widow's Sons Masonic Riders Association and Fincastle Lodge No. 33 (Fincastle) made a donation of \$1,000 to the Fort Blackmore Center of Excellence to help buy Christmas Presents for the area children. This is the second year the groups have donated to the school and their annual "Hunter Lane Memorial Ride" that fundraises for the school took place on Saturday, April 26.

# **IN THE QUARRY**



## **Building Community in Buckhingham**

In 2024, members of Buckingham Lodge No. 242 (Buckingham Co.), presented Bradley Scott Baker with a Community Builder's Award for his above and beyond service at the local Curdsville Community Center. Baker has been the Treasurer at the community center for the past four years and he has used his experience as a corporate accountant for obtaining a 501c3, Non-Profit Organization designation. He has also championed fundraising efforts that have enabled this rural community center to once again to be fiscally sound and grow in membership and community engagement.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Cody R. Davis, Senior Warden; Carlos Burlar; Brian Davis, Chaplain; Jamie L. Shumaker, Treasurer, H. Spencer Adams, Marshall, Anthony R. Taylor, DDGM District 17, Faron W. Holland, Worshipful Master, and Bradley Scott Baker, Award Recipient.



On November 14, 2024, at Mountain Home Lodge No. 263 (Stuart), there was the honor of having both Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins (1997) and Most Worshipful James E. Litten (2016) sit in the Lodge together. Pictured in the middle, Jason Dillion sat in the East.

# EQUIPING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Orange Volunteer Fire Company was presented a check from Independent Orange Lodge No. 138 (Orange) to purchase an electric vehicle blanket for the Orange Fire Department. This will equip the department with a resource designed to help extinguish fires in the growing number of electric vehicles and help save lives and protect property. This will be the first of its kind for our locality and surrounding areas.

This project began after one of our members viewed the evening news and observed an EV blanket being used to extinguish one such fire.

Thinking this was a good safety project for our lodge, we checked with the local Fire Chief and several Fire Department members regarding this need, who were quick to say they would appreciate this donation.



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Brothers Ken Wyvill, Lorris (Buckshot) Clements, Fire Chief Whit Jacobs, Brothers Larry
Lloyd, Wor. George Zerphey, and Leonard
(Cisco) Rodriguez.

## COMMANDERY IN THE COMMONWEALTH

On January 18, 2025, at Unity Lodge No. 146 (Front Royal) a memorable Commandery Festival was hosted, bringing together nearly one hundred Sir Knights and candidates from across the Commonwealth. The day began with breakfast and the conferral of the Orders of the Red Cross and Malta, both delivered in short form. Among the conferring officers were Sir Knights Dakota Burton and Jimmy D. "JD" Davis, supported by an impressive cast of experienced Masonic leaders.

Sir Knight Dewey Cole David presided for the first time as Commander during the Order of the Temple, which concluded with the knighting of 32 new Sir Knights, representing eight Virginia Commanderies. Among those present were Sir Knight Scott Lyons Fielding, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Virginia (2024), and Sir Knight John Harmon "Jon" Austin, Right Eminent Mid-Atlantic Department Commander.

A highlight of the day was the use and presentation of the Grand Master's Sword of Merit, provided by Sir Knight Raymond Douglas Steele, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Virginia (2020). This special sword, earned through Steele's longstanding and generous support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, was used by Fielding during the ceremony. Steele, a model of Masonic charity and mentorship since 2012, was honored for his dedication to chivalric ideals and community impact.





Conner Hatfield and Keith Williams prepare to-go bags with meals for customers.



Wor. Mike Apperson, DEO, signals for two meals as John Anderson calls for the drinks.

# FRYING FISH, FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Purdie Lodge No. 170 (Windsor) brethren are pictured here at their "Captains Bob's Fish Fry Scholarship Fundraiser." Meals for purchase consisted of fried catfish, hush puppies, coleslaw, mac and cheese and a drink—all for \$12. The brethren of Purdie Lodge and neighboring lodgings served hundreds of meals whose proceeds will help fund the three scholarships Purdie Lodge currently awards yearly.

# **IN THE QUARRY**

## SOUTH CAROLINA GETAWAY FOR CIVIL WAR LODGE

The July 12, 2024, Stated Communication of Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865 took the Brethren to Solomon's Lodge No. 1 and other key historic sites in South Carolina.



"The Palmetto State is the place to see if you study Masonic history and the Civil War," said Worshipful Master Creighton Lee Lovelace. "Solomon's Lodge graciously hosted us, and it has a fascinating story. It was originally chartered by the first Grand Lodge of England in 1735. Its famous historical members include Albert G. Mackey."

Presentations during the meeting included Solomon's Brethren discussing the Military College of South Carolina, also known as The Citadel, Solomon's Lodge and its building, and the notable history of the lodge's altar and other furniture.

Civil War Lodge's meetings are built into weekend getaways. The day before the meeting, the lodge visited the Hunley Museum and Hunley Grave Site. Following the lodge meeting, the Brethren and families visited Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.

R.W. Jason C. Trenary, District Deputy Grand Master for the Research District, remarked, "It was wonderful to travel to the beautiful City of Charleston with the brethren and experience firsthand the H. L. Hunley submarine and Fort Sumter. Civil War history that previously was only studied in textbooks became vivid reality for my children."

A Lodge of Research functions as part historical society and part literary society. It does not confer degrees, but members instead read and write about specific aspects of the Craft's history. Civil War Lodge of Research specializes in the War Between the States, and receives dispensations to travel outside the Commonwealth to hold meetings, after which it visits relevant historical sites. Visit cwlr.org for more information.



## RESTORING POWER TO THE CREWS

Newport Lodge No. 261 (Giles Co.) was recently having their annual family picnic for brethren and others. This was after Hurricane Helen, and several members of the Appalachian Power Company crews were in the neighborhood assisting. Wor. Donnie Martin noticed this, with others, and they invited the crews to join in the picnic. That day, the Lodge provided more than 75 meals to hungry power company employees.

## MILESTONES CELEBRATED FOR MASONIC VETERANS

## 50-Year Presentations



#### DALE ROBINSON

DuPont Lodge No. 289 (Hopewell)
February 27, 2024, in home
L to R: Wor. Bunn Armstrong, Bro. Riley Ingram, Sr.,
R.W. David Bland, DDGM 29th District, Bro. Dale
Robinson, R.W. Doyle Miller, Grand Lecturer, and
Wor. Donnie Parr, DuPont Lodge No. 289.



#### **BOBBY BRODZINSKI**

Faulkner Memorial Lodge No. 91 (South Boston) February Stated Communication, 2024, Faulkner Memorial Lodge

L to R: Scott Rogers, DDGM, 37th District, Mrs. Nadine Brodzinski, Bro. Bobby Brodzinski and Wor. Jake Seat.





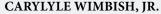
#### JOHN B. CORNETT, SR.

Liberty Hall Lodge No. 104 (Bedford) April, 2024, Liberty Hall Lodge Lodge Officers, led by R.W. Matthew Scott Garrett and the recipient's son, John B. Cornett, Jr.



#### **JAMES EARLIN OLINGER**

Catlett Lodge No. 35 (Gate City) 2024, In home





Faulkner Memorial Lodge No. 91 (South Boston) March Stated 2025, Faulkner Memorial Lodge Wor. Jake Seat presents Bro. Carylyle Wimbish Jr. with his certificate and pin.





## Roanoke Valley Brothers Hard at Work

Last spring, brothers from Taylor Lodge No. 23 (Salem), Lakeland Lodge No. 190 (Roanoke), Cave Spring Lodge No. 230 (Roanoke), and Melrose Lodge No. 139 (Roanoke), joined together for a workday for SARA Roanoke located on Brambleton Avenue. SARA (Sexual Assault Response and Awareness) is the sexual assault crisis center for the Roanoke Valley and several surrounding localities. More than 22 Masons got to work for three full hours of springtime tasks, including:

- $\bullet \ Shrubs \ trimmed$
- Flower beds rakes and cleaned
- 22 Bags of leaves raked
- 1st cutting of the yard
- Metal picnic table put together
- 10 outdoor solar lights installed
- 4 Adirondack chairs put together
- Approximately 35 bags of mulch spread and raked out

# **BETWEEN THE POINTS**



# 43 Years of Dedicated Preservation

Marie M. Barnett served as the librarian and conservator for 43 years for the Grand Lodge of Virginia's Allen E. Roberts Masonic Library and Museum in Richmond. In this role, she was instrumental in preserving and organizing Masonic records and artifacts, supporting researchers, and promoting public understanding of Freemasonry in Virginia. Her expertise was recognized in various Masonic publications, where she was acknowledged for her assistance in providing historical information. Additionally, she contributed to works detailing the history of the Masonic Home of Virginia, highlighting her dedication to documenting Masonic heritage. On November 9, 2024, Marie was honored by then Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis, with a bronze plaque installed at the Library and Museum.



An archival postcard photo of the old Masonic Home front

# LAUNCH OF THE 1890 CLUB

The 1890 Donor Club is a distinguished giving society, with gifts of \$18.90 made monthly, established by the Masonic Home of Virginia (MAHOVA) to honor individuals and organizations that contribute to its mission of providing care and support to Masons and their families.

Named after the year MAHOVA was founded by A. G. Babcock of Dove Lodge No. 51 (Richmond) this club recognizes donors who uphold the Masonic principles of charity and brotherhood. Members of the 1890 Donor Club are acknowledged for their generosity, which sustains the Home's operations and services. Their contributions ensure that MAHOVA continues

to offer a nurturing environment for its residents, reflecting a legacy of compassion and community

Portrait of A. G. Babcock, founder of the Masonic Home of Virginia and 1st President



## CALLED TO THE CELESTIAL LODGE

## Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr. *Past Grand Master* • *November* 6, 2024

William Edward "Bill" Hershey, Jr., was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on December 3, 1942. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Campbell University. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1962, and again in 1966, attended Officer Candidate School, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in January 1967. With more than 23 years of military service, he retired in 1986, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was the recipient of numerous military decorations including the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit. Upon retirement from the military, he began a second career in the field of Information Technology and Information Assurance, until January 2008, when he retired.

Brother Hershey was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Hay Market Lodge No. 313 on January 30, 1976, where he is a Legacy Member in Perpetuity, honorary member, Secretary Emeritus, and its Worshipful Master in 1986, and its Secretary from 2003 to 2010. He is an honorary member of Edward H. Cann Daylight Lodge No. 1752, where he has served as Secretary from 2012 to 2018. He held honorary membership in several more lodges. He was District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 58 in 1991 and was honored with the Outstanding District Deputy Award. Brother Hershey served as MAHOVA Ambassador from 1987 to 1989 and again in 1994. He was Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master in 1999. Brother Hershey received the John Blair, Jr., Medal from the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 2008. He was elected as Grand Junior Deacon in 2014 and served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 2019.

Brother Hershey was married to former
Margaret Michele Arlof. They are the proud
parents of three daughters, Margaret Louise
Petrizz and her husband, Urbano; Michele
Rene Hershey, and Theresa Lynne Lewis,
and her husband, Earl. They have two
grandsons, three granddaughters,
and two great–granddaughters,
two sisters and several nieces and
nephews.

## Most Worshipful William Talbott Ellison, Jr. *Past Grand Master* • *April 12, 2025*

Most Worshipful William Talbott Ellison, Jr. was born on September 12, 1950, in Staunton, Virginia. Following family tradition, he spent his high school years attending Fishburne Military School, graduating in 1969. He attended Belmont Abbey College majoring in Political Science. Upon his return home, he became the Superintendent of Public Works Operations for the City of Waynesboro and retired after thirty-five years of service.

Brother Ellison was a fifth generation Freemason and was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 17, 1979, in Lee Lodge No. 209, where he was an honorary member. He was also a Legacy Member in Perpetuity, Secretary Emeritus, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1984. He was District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 19 in 1995. He served as Grand Senior Steward in 1998 and Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master in 2001. He was Grand Provost from 2002 to 2006. He was District Instructor of Work for Masonic District 19 from 2022 to 2025. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Grand Lodge Library, Museum, and Historical Foundation from 2019 to 2024. He was elected Grand Junior Deacon in November 2006, and installed as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in November 2011. He was the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, near Virginia.

Brother Ellison was married to the former Wanda Kay Falls for fifty years. He is survived by his daughter, Ashley Marie Flock, a grandson, one sister and husband, one sister-in-law, and several nieces

and nephews. Brother Ellison was an active member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

A Masonic graveside service conducted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia was held on April 19, 2024, at the Riverview Cemetery, Waynesboro, Virginia.

As of publication, the Herald was aware of the passing of Most Worshipful Edmund Cohen on August 6, 2025. He will be remembered in the next issue.



# **BETWEEN THE POINTS**



# HONORING TRADITION AND PROGRESS

## Highlights from the 246th Grand Annual Communication

The 246th Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M., convened with reverence and formality at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa, November 8–9, 2024. The event brought together Brethren and distinguished guests from across the Commonwealth and beyond for a weekend that honored the deep-rooted traditions of Freemasonry while looking ahead to the future with purpose.

## Leadership and Vision

Most Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis, Grand Master, formally opened the session, offering greetings to attendees and recognizing the many dignitaries and Past Grand Masters present. His address set the tone for a thoughtful and ceremonious weekend, underscoring the enduring values of the fraternity and the strength of its fellowship.

## Celebrating Excellence

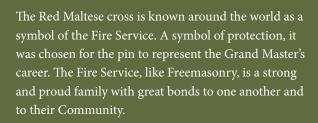
One of the signature moments of Friday's proceedings was the presentation of key awards that recognized extraordinary Masonic service and ritual proficiency. The Perfect Ashlar Award was bestowed upon Brother Dennis John Smith of Marshall Lodge No. 39, while Brother Joseph Harold Crouch of Chester Lodge No. 94 received the Reid James Simmons Award for Ritualistic Excellence—each a testament to the commitment and skill of Virginia Masons. Furthering this theme of recognition, the James Noah Hillman and Seymour Jonas Levy Awards were announced, with presentations scheduled for qualified lodges in 2025 via their respective District Deputy Grand Masters.

#### Governance in Action

Grand Lodge business was conducted with the deliberation and dignity that define Masonic governance. The

## **GRAND MASTER'S PIN**

The Grand Master's pin is made of brass an ancient metal created by copper and zinc.



In the center of the pin is the Square and Compasses, the Masonic symbol that is known throughout the world. It symbolizes this great fraternity, self-restraint, brotherhood, and that man should ever strive to live a balanced life.

The Forget-me-not bloom is displayed at the head of the compasses. In the 1930s, this small delicate flower became a symbol of Freemasonry in the Nazi German era, and exemplified the spirit, dedication and courage of the men who held to their masonic principles and beliefs while faced with the gravest of danger. It was worn by Brethren who's love for the Craft remained strong, even through the worst of times.

#### **GRAND MASTER'S THEME**

Around the outer edges of the pin are the words "Free-masonry Faith, Truth & Harmony," the theme of the Grand Master.

- Prudence arising from Faith.
- Temperance guided by Truth.
- Fortitude sustained by Harmony.
- Justice binding them all together.



Board of Governors of MAHOVA—Your Masonic Community submitted a comprehensive report, which was approved alongside the 2025 budget and the report from the Committee on Finance.

In matters of international relations, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence advanced a significant resolution expanding fraternal recognition to three Brazilian Grand Orients and the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors in the U.S., while reaffirming the decision not to recognize the United Grand Lodge of Georgia. This resolution was adopted, reflecting both strategic fraternity-building and principled governance.

Later that day, following refreshment, the Report of the Past Grand Masters—delivered by Most Worshipful James Dean Cole—was presented and adopted, emphasizing the collective wisdom and stewardship of those who have served at the fraternity's highest level.

Acknowledging Distinguished Service
In a poignant close to Friday's session, the Grand Master honored Masons who have gone above and beyond in service to the Craft. Thirty-five individuals were presented with Certificates of Appreciation or Merit, while four were further recognized with commemorative acrylic plaques. These acts of recognition affirmed the fraternity's appreciation for dedication and excellence at every level.

## A Celebration of Masonic Values

Saturday's public session began with a celebration of individual achievement that transcends the Craft. Two John Blair, Jr., Awards were presented—one to Worshipful Joseph Daniel Grist, Past Master of Monitor Lodge No. 197, and another to Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, Past Grand Master and current Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

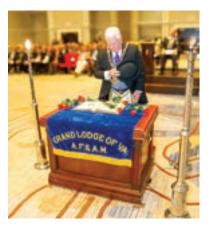
In similar spirit, two George Washington Distinguished Service Awards honored Most Worshipful Gary Wallace Taylor, Past Master of Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82, and Right Worshipful Harvey Lee Fleshman, Past

# **BETWEEN THE POINTS**

Master of Day Lodge No. 58. These awards emphasized the fraternity's dual mission of internal excellence and broader community impact.

## A Fond Farewell and a New Chapter

A moment of heartfelt tribute was reserved for Mrs. Marie Morris Barnett, longtime Librarian and Museum Conservator for the Grand Lodge. After 43 years of service, Mrs. Barnett was honored for her unwavering dedication to



preserving Masonic history. Her successor, Mrs. Elizabeth Judd, was introduced and welcomed, bringing her own distinguished credentials to this vital role. Continuing the weekend's theme

of service recognition, Right Worshipful Arthur L. Pendleton, representing the Virginia DeMolay Foundation, presented the Howard K. Smith, Sr., Leadership Award to Most Worshipful William Talbott Ellison, Jr., for his support of youth leadership and Masonic values.

## Legislative Outcomes and New Leadership

After the public session closed, the Grand Master resumed labor to finalize essential business. The booklet of Committee Reports was adopted as printed, and four resolutions (24-01 through 24-05, excluding the withdrawn 24-04) were passed by the delegates.

The culminating event was the election and installation of Grand Lodge Officers for 2024–2025, with Most Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman ascending to the role of Grand Master. His leadership team, comprising a blend of seasoned officers and promising new faces, represents continuity, vigor, and fidelity to the fraternity's mission. Huffman also announced new appointments to the Board

of Governors for MAHOVA: Right Worshipful Leonard Anthony Rowe, Right Worshipful Frank Lewis Wright, and Right Worshipful Samuel Moseley Jones, each entrusted with a three-year term.

The Committee on Credentials reported strong representation, with 275 Lodges and 560 registered attendees—an encouraging signal of continued Masonic vitality across Virginia.

## A Purposeful Closing

As the Communication drew to a close, a motion was passed to pay the Grand Lodge's bills, and Most Worshipful Huffman formally closed the session in Ample Form. The Grand Lodge will reconvene next on the Friday before the second Monday in November 2025, unless called sooner.

The 246th Grand Annual Communication not only celebrated the milestones of the past year but also laid a solid foundation for the future. In honoring excellence, stewarding governance, and cultivating fellowship, the Grand Lodge of Virginia continues its enduring journey—a fraternity rooted in tradition, committed to service, and ever moving forward.







## Shamrock Soiree

The Virginia Masonic family had a sham-rockin' good time at MA-HOVA's first-ever Shamrock Soirée! From festive green attire to lively music and laughter, it was a St. Patrick's Day celebration to remember! Thank you to our Blue Lodge Sponsors: Manchester Lodge No. 14 (Richmond), Joppa Lodge No. 40 (Henrico) and Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347 (Richmond).







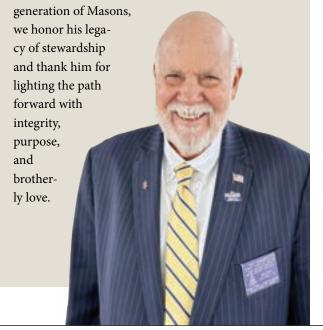
# **COMMITTED TO CHARITY**

## HILTON HONORED

Honoring RW & Ill. Brother Terry F. Hilton for Eight Years of Dedicated Service

MAHOVA extends its deepest gratitude to Right Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Terry F. Hilton for his eight years of outstanding service as Director of Development. His steadfast leadership, deep compassion, and unwavering commitment to our Masonic values have left a lasting legacy—one that has touched the lives of countless residents, families, and Brethren across the Commonwealth.

Under Brother Hilton's leadership, MAHOVA launched both The 1890 Club and The MAHO-VA Evergreen Campaign, two transformative initiatives that continue to inspire generosity and reinforce the solemn obligation Masons share to care for one another. As he now entrusts this sacred duty to the next





# Honor the Past, Sustain the Present, Shape the Future

Join The 1890 Club and become part of a living legacy at MAHOVA - Your Masonic Community. For just \$18.90 a month, you'll help support the daily operations of this sacred Masonic institution, founded in 1890 at the urging of Dr. George Potts, through the remarkable generosity of Captain A. G. Babcock, and with steadfast support from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Masonic Home, formed by members of the Virginia Order of the Eastern Star. What began as a home for the children of Virginia Masons has evolved into a thriving continuing care community for Brethren, their wives, and widows. More than 835 children and over 1,700 adults have found comfort, dignity, and purpose within these gates. Your monthly gift empowers that same spirit of compassion to live on. When you join, you align yourself with a cause that reflects the very best of our Masonic values-brotherly love, relief, and truth. Members of The 1890 Club receive an exclusive lapel pin, official membership card, and two complimentary dining passes each year that they are a member. Help us fulfill That Solemn Obligation in a way none of us could do alone. Stand beside the giants who built this place and ensure MAHOVA's mission continues to thrive for generations to come. Visit www.MAHOVA.org/Donate to enroll and place your name in the archives of one of the most Masonic places on earth.

# IN THY YOUTH

## **VIRGINIA RAINBOW RETREAT: NO ONE IS ALONE**

By Elise Hoglund, Grand Worthy Advisor in Virginia, 2024–2025

Virginia's Rainbow Girls gathered at Camp Overlook in Keezletown, during the last weekend of October, for a fall retreat inspired by the Broadway musical, Into the Woods and the musical's theme, No One Is Alone. The retreat welcomed 68 attendees, including three visiting Rainbow Girls from North Carolina.

Educational sessions focusing on mental health strategies, healthy hearts, basic CPR, and working in healthy teams were led by two Rainbow Adult

Advisors, Dr. Pamela Nystrom and Dr. Leslie Hoglund. A special session that challenged everyone to communicate without words was led by the Grand Provost for the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Right Worshipful Dr. Jonathan Giles.

The retreat service project included building 10 Little Free Libraries, each crafted by the girls and adults to promote literacy and a love of reading within their communities. These libraries will be placed by each Assembly, creating a legacy that will encourage reading and provide resources for years to come.

A highlight of the weekend was a field trip to Luray Caverns, which included a memorable moment of singing together in the Organ Room. The echoes of our voices filled the cavern, creating an almost magical experience and connection as sisters. In the caverns, I introduced the symbol of the "ghost

light," a lamp traditionally left on a dark stage as a sign of safety and continuity. I explained that Rainbow serves as my ghost light—a source of safety, happiness, and connection. Together, our collective light shines bright enough to show others the amazing things we do in Rainbow.

Saturday evening, we enjoyed watching the movie Into the Woods and then our traditional campfire, complete with gooey s'mores. Later we stretched out under the starry sky. Sunday morning included a moving devotional led by our Grand Chaplain Abby, who taught the group how to fold origami hearts as symbols of God's love. She encouraged everyone to be a beacon of love, reminding them that by carrying kindness and compassion, they could have a positive impact on those around them.

Reflecting on the Into the Woods song No One Is Alone, I reminded everyone of the lyrics: "Feel you've lost your way? You decide, but you are not alone."

These words are a reminder that even when we feel lost or uncertain, we are supported by our Rainbow sisters and adults who stand by us on our journey. This retreat was more than just a weekend getaway—it was a time of shared purpose, joy, and growth. We returned home with new memories, lasting friendships, and a sense of belonging that will shine brightly in the weeks and months to come.



# **WELCOME HOME**

# FINDING PEACE, PURPOSE, AND COMMUNITY AT MAHOVA – YOUR MASONIC COMMUNITY



## Brother David & Julie Lloyd

David and Julie Lloyd found more than just a place to live when they moved to the MAHOVAthey discovered a vibrant, welcoming community that feels like home. Julie, a registered nurse who once worked at MAHOVA just before the COVID-19 pandemic, and David, a lifelong Richmond native with ties to the Home since childhood, knew it was the right fit from the moment they toured a "lived-in" cottage. "Once Julie saw

the space, she was sold,"
David recalls. They joined the waitlist, and soon after, made the move that changed their lives. David was raised in Washington and Henry Lodge, No. 344, in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

# WHAT INSPIRED YOUR DECISION TO MOVE TO MAHOVA?

Julie: "Having worked in hospice, I visited many care facilities throughout Richmond, but I always told David, I don't want to go anywhere but MAHO-VA. The compassionate care and incredible staff—it really stands out."

David adds, "It's not just the care, it's the freedom. We travel, we still work part-time, and we never worry about maintenance or safety. If something breaks, we know it'll be taken care of."

## HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIEN-CE BEEN SINCE MOVING IN?

Julie and David describe the community as warm, upbeat, and inclusive. "It's like a big family," says Julie. They appreciate the spacious, open cottage floor plan and especially love their patio, and the fact that their 50lb dog Carly was welcomed with open arms. While their children were initially unsure about the move, everything changed after they visited. They saw the beautiful campus and all the amenities, and it clicked-MAHOVA isn't a place you go to slow down;

it's where life continues to flourish. From gourmet dinners and social happy hours to quiet walks and neighborhood gatherings by the gazebo, the Lloyds have embraced all aspects of community life. Julie enjoys staying active at the gym, especially during colder months, and both appreciate how MAHOVA skillfully and respectfully handled their home sale process, giving them time and space to downsize with less stress.

# WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING A MOVE TO MAHOVA?

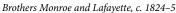
**David**: "Do it. Don't wait—you might miss an opportunity that won't come around again."

Julie agrees: "If you're on the fence, talk to someone who lives here. No one can tell you what it's like better than a neighbor living the experience every day."

# **OUR OBLIGATION**

## Freedom's Friendship: Brothers Monroe and Lafayette





By G. Mark Walsh, Grand Lodge Library, Museum, & Historical Foundation Board of Directors

The October 5, 2024, observance of MAHOVA Family Day at Grand Lodge included the usual coffee hour with a bonus. The Grand Lodge Library, Museum, and Historical Foundation sponsored a presentation on the bicentennial of Brother and General Gilbert du Montier, Marquis de Lafayette's 1824/25 tour of the United States titled, "Freedom's Friendship: Monroe and Lafayette."



Knowing that President James
Monroe was a close friend of General
Lafayette, Congress requested that
the President invite him to tour the
United States. Brother Lafayette was
the last surviving general from the
American War of Independence, and
Brother Monroe and others feared
that the Republic was losing sight of
the patriotic ideals which had fueled
the Revolution. Monroe had a solid
relationship with Lafayette based on
their service in the Revolution, their
individual Masonic journeys, and
their growth as abolitionists.

The start of their relationship was the 1777 Battle of Brandywine, where Brother Lafayette led the 3rd Virginia Regiment and other units on the field. British General Lord Charles Cornwallis was about to overtake the American forces when Lafayette, although wounded in a leg, led an orderly retreat that save many lives. Following the battle, he was sent to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to recover. Worshipful Brother and General George Washington assigned Brother Monroe to attend to him. Monroe, who had been seriously wounded at Trenton, had a rudimentary knowledge of French and even though Lafayette spoke enough English to command the forces assigned to him, Monroe's language skills were seen as something which might comfort the French general.

Their wounds were not the only things they had in common. At the outbreak of the Revolution, Brother Monroe was 18 years of age, and Brother Lafayette was 19. They were both orphans. They both believed strongly that the ideal form of government for their respective countries would be a republic, and they were both committed to a life of public service.

# **OUR OBLIGATION**

Brother Lafayette would turn the tables on Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781. He developed friendships with future presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, both close friends and allies of Brother Monroe. When Worshipful Brother Washington became the nation's first president under the new constitution, he had the executive power to appoint ambassadors and made Brother Monroe the American "Minister" to France in 1794. Brother Lafayette had been arrested in Austria and his wife, Adrienne—along with her mother—had been imprisoned in the Bastille in Paris awaiting execution. James and Elizabeth Monroe contrived a method of rescuing her by claiming that she was an American citizen over whom French courts had no jurisdiction. Her release allowed her to join her husband in Austria, where she stayed until his release in 1797.

The next opportunity for these two Masons to meet officially came with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Monroe and Brother Robert Livingston negotiated the purchase and then President Thomas Jefferson offered Lafayette the governorship of the new territory (which he declined).

There then follows a gap in documentation on the relationship of Monroe and Lafayette from 1803

THE START OF THEIR
RELATIONSHIP WAS THE
1777 BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE, WHERE BROTHER
LAFAYETTE LED THE 3RD
VIRGINIA REGIMENT AND
OTHER UNITS ON THE
FIELD. BRITISH GENERAL
LORD CORNWALLIS WAS
ABOUT TO OVERTAKE THE
AMERICAN FORCES WHEN
LAFAYETTE, ALTHOUGH
WOUNDED IN A LEG, LED
AN ORDERLY RETREAT
THAT SAVE MANY LIVES.

through 1824. Congress knew of their close friendship, and Brother and President Monroe sought to provide relief for a worthy Master Mason when he found that Lafayette had not been reelected to the Chamber of Deputies in France in 1824. The tour of the United States made by Brother Lafayette was filled with visits to Lodges (including several in Virginia). His visit is the story of

the Masonic journeys of two close friends.

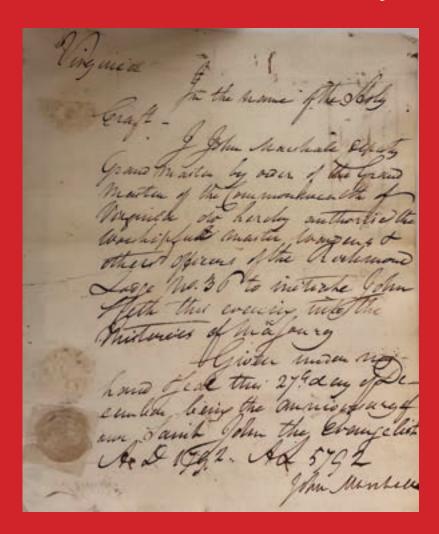
For the video of this presentation, please see <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf4LctuyZlE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf4LctuyZlE</a>.

One of the points made in this talk focused on the lack of documentation on the latter part of the friendship of these two important Masons. Stress was placed om the role of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum in the acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of our Virginia Masonic documentary heritage. Next year will see events marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A mere two years later will be the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Without this institution, how can the archives of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and those lodges holden under its auspices be looked after and preserved for future generations? When it comes time to recall our 250 years of history, let us speak in large part with our own voice through the resources provided by the Grand Lodge Library and Museum.



The Grand Lodge Library and Museum holds treasures untold, and curator Elizabeth Judd is endeavoring to review and catalog all of the documents and artifacts. Here we have a one-page autographed letter, in ink, by John Marshall as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. John Marshall best known for his long tenure as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, from 1801 to 1835. He significantly shaped the judicial branch and its role in the federal government, most notably through the establishment of judicial review in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803). Dated December 27, 1792, the letter authorized the admission of one "John Heth" to Lodge No. 36.



## **TRANSCRIPTION:**

## Virginia

In the name of the Holy Craft-I John Marshall Deputy Grand Master by order of the Grand Master of the Commonwealth of Virginia do hereby authorise [sic] the worshipful master wardens and their officers of the Richmond Lodge No.36 to initiate John Heth this evening into the Misteries [sic] of Masonry. Given under my Hand and Seal this 27 day of December being the anniversary of our Saint John the Evangelist AD 1792 AL 5792





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