



The Ashlar



September 2020

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvillelodge.org

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75th Anniversary of V-J Day and the End of WW II

On September 2, 2020, the United States marked the 75th anniversary of V-J (Victory Over Japan) Day. This recognizes the formal surrender ceremony that was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the battleship USS Missouri on September 2, 1945. With the defeat of Nazi Germany in early May, 1945, this effectively ended World War II, the bloodiest conflict in human history which left over 70 million people dead.



The Japanese surrender followed the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th, respectively. On August 9th, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. The Japanese government on August 10th communicated its intention to surrender. On August 14th, Allied governments announced the surrender of Japan, and the Emperor of Japan informed his people of the fact in an unprecedented radio broadcast. Japanese forces remained in combat with Soviet forces on several fronts for two weeks following the August 14th announcement. In the United Kingdom, V-J Day is marked on August 15th, the date (due to time zone differences) that the Japanese Emperor Hirohito broadcast his country's surrender.

Many Masons fought in World War II, including several living members of Kempsville Masonic Lodge. A number of Masons were highly distinguished during the war, winning the Medal of Honor. What follows is a short description of two of these men and their accomplishments, one from the European and one from the Pacific theater.

One of the most well known Masonic heroes, and the most decorated soldier in WW II, was Brother Audie Murphy. Murphy enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 after having been turned down by the Navy, Marines, and Army Air Corps. He spent 30 months in combat in World War Two and earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his single-handed defeat of an estimated 250 enemy soldiers and six King Tiger tanks. For over one hour he remained alone atop a burning tank destroyer calling artillery adjustments and manning a .50 caliber machine gun. He was personally responsible for protecting his sector and certainly saving his unit from destruction.

After the war, Murphy became a best-selling author and a very successful motion picture actor, and portrayed himself in the autobiographical film "To Hell and Back" which became the highest grossing film in the history of Universal Studios until it was finally knocked off the charts by "Jaws" some 20 years later. In all, he starred in or produced a total of 44 feature films. He was a member of North Hollywood Lodge No. 542 in Dallas, Texas and was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

In the Pacific Theater, Brother Jimmie Doolittle won the Medal of Honor for his planning and execution of what would be known as "Doolittle's Raid", the first attack on the Japanese homeland on April 18th, 1942. The Raid was flown off of the USS Hornet using 16 B-26B bombers. Due to poor weather and a lack of fuel in the case of at least one aircraft, all of the crews were forced to ditch and parachute into China. Although the Raid itself did minimal damage, it had a direct impact on the war in the Pacific. The Raid embarrassed Japanese military leaders and forced them to redeploy their troops.

Doolittle was promoted to lieutenant general and commanded the Twelfth Air Force over North America, the Fifteenth Air Force over the Mediterranean, and the Eighth Air Force over Europe. He was a member of Hollenbeck Lodge No. 319 in Los Angeles, California and was also a 33rd Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

From The East



Last month I provided all of you with an update on the way ahead for Kempsville for the remainder of 2020 in light to the restrictions placed upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our annual Lodge picnic and Bull Roast fundraiser because we cannot serve food at the Lodge, either for our own consumption or for fundraisers. We do not expect this situation to change until at least the fall, and then only if the virus has significantly abated. The Grand Lodge has, correctly, prioritized the health of our members and their families over Lodge events.

In August I sent out a letter to each of you asking you to make a one-time donation to the Lodge equal to the amount you would have spent on tickets for the Bull Roast. I did this because our Bull Roast is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need to make up the approximately \$6,000 shortfall created by its cancellation. As is our tradition here at Kempsville, I have already made a personal donation equal to 10 Bull Roast tickets, and I have asked each of my Officers to do the same. Thank you in advance for your support!

You may also be aware that, due to the virus, we have been prohibited by the Grand Lodge of Virginia from performing degree conferrals. This has resulted in us having 9 candidates who have been ready to receive their next degree for several months. We are pleased to announce that District 56 will be holding a one-day degree conferral on October 3rd during which our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts will be able to complete all their degrees at one time. Although this is not the path we would have preferred to take, it will enable us to make them all Master Masons before the end of 2020.

Even though we will be limited in some of our activities for as long as COVID-19 is a threat, we still have a lot of good work to accomplish in 2020. We will continue to regularly conduct ritual training and Masonic education, and we will continue to serve our community through food bank food collections, purchasing Thanksgiving dinners for needy families, and collecting donations of new clothing and toys for the Salvation Army Angel Tree program in late November. Please continue to look out for each other and contact me personally if you need any assistance.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

From The West



Another month passes and the hourglass of time continues to tick away. Here we are in September already with “normalcy” in a constant flux of change. Take a deep breath, step back, relax, stay grounded, and be sure to keep all things in perspective. This is something you can find in your Fraternity and the strength of our Brotherhood. Do not allow yourself to get too caught up in the moment of sensationalism and hype.

September is the officially recognized signing month of the U.S. Constitution. 13 of the 39 members of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 were Masons. Our founding fathers, many of whom were Masons, chose not to follow the easy path of reversion back to failed forced compliance demonstrated by the British monarchy or popular opinions. They instead chose to recognize individual rights and equality endowed by our creator. Ultimately, they created the greatest Republic known to history.

Our craft instructs us to study. This is not just in the history, ritual, or symbolism of our craft but in all things in our lives. The study of the sciences and thus logic and reason will carry the day. Be a man of truth, logic, reason, charity, and compassion towards your fellow man. Do what is good and right although not always popular. As Edmund Burke (a member of Jerusalem Lodge No. 44) stated, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” We are an organization of good men.

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

From The South



COVID-19 not only limits our personal interactions with our Lodge Brothers - it hinders our motivation to stay proficient in Masonry. It is our job to motivate others, and ourselves, to remain current, positive, and ready.

The restrictions imposed to combat COVID-19 entail half-covered faces, muffled voices, and closed fist bumps- these normally cumbersome elements of communication have unfortunately become a regular reality. Temptations to remove our masks and fall back on normal, now-risky behavior not only threaten our Lodges, they jeopardize the safety of the Craft.

To cultivate enthusiasm towards these preventative measures, consider steps to incorporate Masonic identity into them. For instance, the crafting of a mask that displays Masonic symbolism or iconography would be a welcomed task. Challenging your Brethren to create a mask that rivals yours may foster a wholesomely competitive Masonic contest! In doing this, you have developed a means by which safe and healthy behavior comes naturally, while perpetuating Masonic affairs. The cultivation of Brotherly levity through this example, especially in the face of the pandemic, serves as a stellar testament to Masonic leadership.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

Masonic Birthdays for September

Christopher K. Adkins '99	Larry R. Hale '03
Christopher M. Bardin '07	Larry M. Maples '82
Patrick F. Barnes '95	William D. Masters '15
James M. Beighley '08	Shepherd W. McClenny '92
David Borntrager '87	Blake C. Miller '14
Earl F. Bray '83	R. Scott Nester '11
Fred A. Brewer '68	Archie R. Nobles '64
Ronald W. Clark '16	Larry D. Rummel '95
Gregory R. Cort '11	John Paul Tewalt, III '92
Richard A. Davis, III '75	John M. Thomas '10
Cacey E. DeFord '11	Fritz E. Trojahn '14
Todd C. DeFord '11	Richard W. Walker, II '93
David J. Dutton '13	Mark R. Wegesin '05
Robert D. Eberle '11	Christopher C. Widen '96
Robert J. Eisenberg '88	Clifton J. Williams '19
Charles M. Forbes '86	Glenn R. Wintemberg '76
Claude Q. Fulcher '82	Matthew H. Zardeskas '09

The Brethren shown above have a total of 739 years in Masonry!

July Beehive Award

The Beehive Award winner for the month of July is Worshipful Bill Rawson. Worshipful Bill fills several important roles at Kempsville, including District and Lodge Funeral Coordinator and Lodge Education Officer (LEO).

It is for this latter role, LEO, that he has been awarded the Beehive Award for July.

Each month at our Stated meetings, Worshipful Bill provides informative, well-researched, and entertaining Masonic educational talks. Ever since the beginning of 2020, Worshipful Bill has also regularly stepped up and filled in as our Stated meeting guest speaker when the scheduled speaker was unable to attend, particularly after the



COVID-19 pandemic started to impact our area. His love of Masonic knowledge and ability to present it in such an entertaining way have significantly benefited all our Brethren. Many thanks Worshipful!

July Food Bank Donation Drive-In

Many thanks to everyone who came out and donated food for the food bank on Saturday, July 27th. We collected 250 lbs. of food as well as \$80 which was used to purchase more food. Our year to date total is an incredible \$643 and 1513 lbs. of food! Our goal is to collect over a ton (2000 lb.) of food by the end of October.



As always, special thanks to MOTY Bob Hughes, our Lodge Food Bank Coordinator, for being at the Lodge to accept donations that weekend and for delivering the food to the Church of the Ascension food bank next door.

Worshipful Master Visits Norfolk Lodge No. 1

On August 6th, the Worshipful Master was honored to be the guest speaker at venerable Norfolk Lodge No. 1 for their Senior Warden's night, with Brother Jay Wycoff in the East and Right Worshipful Wayne Golden, Worshipful Master. Worshipful T-Rex had a great visit with the Brothers and presented them with his talk on "Masonry Universal" about the history and practice of Masonry in other countries. This talk was developed from a series of articles of the same name that he wrote for the Ashlar in 2017 available on our Lodge website at:



kempsvillelodge.org/ashlar/

Norfolk Lodge No.1 was originally constituted in August 1732 under the name "Royal Exchange Lodge No. 172" due to the fact that it met above the Royal Exchange tavern in Norfolk. It was then established by English Constitution on December 22, 1733 as one of the earliest Masonic Lodges in

Virginia, America and the first Masonic Lodge in the Colony and Dominion of Virginia. The Lodge participated in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia during the years 1777-1778. After giving up its English charter and applying for a charter from the new Grand Lodge of Virginia, an examination of the historical evidence led the Grand Lodge of Virginia to formally designate Norfolk Lodge as lodge number 1 on October 20, 1786.

Hawaiian Shirt Night



The Brothers of Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 enjoying the annual Hawaiian Shirt Night at the August Stated meeting. Congratulations to Brother Doug Dunn for winning the best shirt competition!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in September:

Kathy Whitehurst	September 8 th
Linda Ferris	September 14 th
Judith Moyers	September 20 th
Lilz Driscoll	September 28 th
Linda Moore	September 29 th
Carolyn McCoy	September 30 th

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Senior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Junior Warden	John Settle, III	675-9695
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Deacon	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Senior Steward	Bill Oliveira	748-3206
Junior Steward	John Gabor	408-1541
Chaplain	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Eddie Foley	581-8144

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