



# The Ashlar



November 2020

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

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## 31 Miles for 31 Heroes

On August 6, 2011, a tragedy shook the military community and Americans everywhere. In a single instance, America lost 30 military service members, many of whom were members of the Navy SEAL community—and one military K9—when a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, call sign Extortion 17, was downed in Afghanistan. Of these, 25 were Navy SEALs, three were United States Army Reserve, and two were United States Army National Guard. An additional eight were members of the Afghan National Security Forces. Extortion 17 was on its way to reinforce an operation against a senior Taliban leader when it was shot down. At 31 U.S. military personnel killed, the loss of Extortion 17 was the greatest single-incident loss of U.S. lives in Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan,

Brother Keith Ingraham, our Lodge Chaplain, was deployed, worked with and knew many of these men. But for the fact that he had transferred one month prior to the shutdown of Extortion 17, he might have been among their number. Each year, Brother Keith, a Senior Chief Electronics Technician in the United States Navy, and other Service members and Veterans who worked with and knew these men, honor their memory and sacrifice in a very special way.

In the wake of this unimaginable tragedy, a mission was born. Following the downing of Extortion 17, a fundraising workout day - hosted at more than 430 gyms around the country with more than 10,000 participants - raised \$300,000 over a four-week period to support the 30 families affected. This success prompted the organizers to create the “31Heroes” organization to remember our fallen heroes and take care of their loved ones. This eventually led to the establishment of the “31Miles for 31Heroes” event.

“31Miles for 31Heroes” is a 31-mile march with a ruck sack through the night to honor the lives of the Heroes of Extortion 17. Some participants carry 2 bricks in their rucks - one to represent the lives of the fallen and the other to represent the burden carried by their families. Some carry 31 pounds of weight to represent the 31 US lives lost. The main march starts each year at the Lincoln Memorial and visits 30 other monuments before ending up at the memorial to the men of Extortion 17 at Arlington National Cemetery. Similar marches are also conducted in Tampa, Florida. All funds raised benefit 31Heroes and the families who are similarly affected both today and in the future.

Although Brother Keith regularly participates in the march, this year the event had to be done “virtually” with smaller groups of people due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For Brother Keith, this meant marching 31 miles in one day in our local area with his ruck sack to honor his fallen comrades. Well done Brother!

You can get more information about 31Heroes and to make a donation to the organization at their website at: <https://www.31heroes.org/>.



## From The East



It is hard to believe that there is only one month left in the Masonic year. When I took the chair in the East in December of 2019, there was no way I or anyone else could have predicted the disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic would create in our community and throughout the world. Given current trends in the spread of the virus, I expect that we will continue to be impacted well into next year, or at least until a safe and tested vaccine becomes available and widely distributed.

However, as we say during the Fellowcraft degree (this part is in the Manual of Work so I can quote it): "Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived. The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue, and the mysteries of Freemasonry are safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts." This was beautifully exemplified by the raising of seven of our members to the sublime degree of Master Mason during the one-day conferral held at Princess Anne Lodge No. 25 on October 3rd (See article below). In addition, we added a new member to the Lodge at our October Stated meeting when Brother Tom Melling, Sr. successfully petitioned for affiliation. Kempsville is the type of Lodge that Brothers want to join due to our enthusiasm for the craft and the high level of activity we maintain.

In addition to our normal routine of ritual schools, online Masonic education, Stated meetings, food drives, and work with our candidates, we have started a new tradition of meeting online on Sunday afternoons at 4 PM with our English Brothers from the Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity No. 261 located in Somerset, England. Their Worshipful Master, Peter Bland, visited our Lodge several times in the past and kindly invited us to join him and his Lodge back in September. This has been a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to learn more about Masonry in our respective countries. All Brothers are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Although there is only one month left in this Masonic year, we still have a lot left to do, including collecting contributions for Thanksgiving dinners and the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, delivery of poinsettias to our Widows, and preparations for our Annual Stated meeting and Officer installation on December 8th. We are looking forward to it all!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

## From The West



In early October I had the opportunity to sit in the East for two of the degrees at the one-day conferral. It was wonderful seeing all our Brother Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts finally be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason after waiting more than six months due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Hopefully, we will be able to start doing degree conferrals on our own at our Lodge before too long. Until then, we will continue working with our new Master Masons to help them learn the Master Mason catechism so they can receive the beautiful certificate from the Grand Lodge. We have been putting in a lot of effort to both maintain our ritual proficiency and to be fully ready for our new positions in January. I think you will all be pleased with the Officers in their new positions!

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

## From The South



Through our masonic education, we solemnly and sincerely promised and swore to adhere to the rules and regulations imposed by the tenets of our Fraternity. As we mature in this promise, our commitment to the Lodge matures in a like manner. Although we are expected to have fraternal duties to attend to, personal duties to our faiths, families, and professions are of equal importance. Our Masonic journeys to the East instill in our hearts and minds the importance of balancing our personal and fraternal lives.

We are obligated by our Craft to foster faith, hope, and charity inside and outside of our Lodges. This obligation takes a lifetime to fulfill, and the volume of attention that it requires is expected to expand and contract in our progressions to the East. In our personal lives, faith serves as the foundation upon which all of our doings are done, family comprises the walls and cornerstone of our private lives, and our occupations figuratively and literally necessitate the provision of the roof above our heads and the nourishment of our bodies. Sufficient detail to these crucial components will ensure that the house representing and facilitating the enjoyment of our personal lives will stand soundly, thereby enabling us as Masons to invest the necessary attention to our fraternal lives.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

## Masonic Birthdays for November

Warren L. Aleck '66	Philip R. Jennings '94
Patrick D. Blankenship '12	Michael D. Johnstone '05
Albert L. Bonney, Jr. '63	Jerry W. Ledbetter '83
Joe E. Brown '64	John L. Long '01
Gordon C. Burton '71	Andrew C. Mahrenholz '07
Harold A. Campbell, Jr. '10	Richard D. McCollum '95
William K. Cole '89	Matthew G. Millott '15
Roger Cort '65	Charles C. Mills, Jr. '79
Brian L. Cox '77	River D. Morris '11
Lewis A. Dodson '77	Robert J. Oliver '08
Michael C. Elliott '65	Edward F. Parton '05
Matthew D. Esper '14	Paul W. Pennybacker '68
C. Raeford Eure '59	James S. Perry '79
Christopher J. Evans '09	Philip Poffenbarger, Jr. '80
Clarence G. Felts '69	William H. Rawson '04
Michael P. Fitzgerald '92	William L. Rice '83
Rolfe M. Fleming '72	Steve A. Ridgeway '77
Franklin M. Gamage '59	Charles G. Ryan '07
Timothy D. Givan '93	Henry Sargent '68
Justin L. Glasgow '78	Jerry Silla '99
Joshua M. Gooch '13	Cecil C. Smithson '98
Cecil A. Goodwin '71	Logan R. Spruill '15
Justin M. Gray '06	William J. Swanner, III '74
Arthur J. Guarino, Jr. '92	Charlie B. Taylor, Jr. '81
Raymond E. Hall, Jr. '76	Robert R. Teller '88
James T. Hare, Jr. '73	Prentice G. Tuck Jr. '98
W. Thomas Haste '61	Peder K. Wennberg, III '13
Donald O. Hawkins, Jr. '97	Ronald H. Whitehead '67
Michael C. Jacob '14	Scott H. Wade '19
Ronald S. Jacobson '03	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,849 years in Masonry!

## September Beehive Award

The winner of the September Beehive Award is Right Worshipful Bill Knowles, Past Master of Kempsville Masonic Lodge in 1982. For many years Right Worshipful Bill has taken on two significant positions in our Lodge as Chairman of both the Building and Grounds committee and our Widows committee. Whenever something in the Lodge needs to be fixed (which is often), Right Worshipful Bill immediately jumps on the task and ensures that it is done correctly, safely, and with minimal impact on the Lodge. He is also in constant contact with our Widows and takes care of getting birthday and Christmas cards for each of them to the Worshipful Master for his signature and a personalized message. Of all our Past Masters, Right Worshipful Bill has been one of the most active and hardworking, and for that we are truly grateful.



## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in November:

Ruth Simpkins	November 1 <sup>st</sup>
Irma Porter	November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ruth Litchfield	November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Merlene Balance	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Mary Ann Monahan	November 20 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara McGregor	November 24 <sup>th</sup>
Iris Midgett	November 25 <sup>th</sup>

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.

## Food Bank Collection Smashing Records!

As of the end of September, the Lodge has collected a total of 2,665 lbs. of food for the Church of the Ascension Food Bank. This included a very generous total cash donation of \$1023, which was used to purchase additional food. Our collection at the Lodge on September 26th was a big success, with a total of 617 lbs. of food collected directly or purchased with cash donations. We will publish the totals for our October 31st food bank food collection in the December Ashlar, but I am sure it will put us over the 3000 lb. mark for the year. Thank you all again for your remarkable generosity during this time of great need!

## Christmas 2020 Angel Tree

For the second year in a row, Kempsville Masonic Lodge and our appendant bodies will be participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks involved with handling thousands of packages of donated clothing and gifts, this year the Salvation Army is asking for donors to donate money to them which will be used to purchase gift cards to be used by the children. As of the writing of this newsletter we are waiting for more details from the Salvation Army on the specifics of how this will be done, but they have assured us that we will still be able to donate to specific children and that they would control what could be purchased using the gift cards. More information to follow soon!

## 2020 Thanksgiving Dinner Contributions

For the third year in a row, Kempsville Masonic Lodge will provide fully cooked Thanksgiving dinners to needy families from several of our local schools. These dinners, which are prepared by a local food store, include all the fixings and feed a whole family for only \$49.99 each. This year we are supporting three schools: Kempsville Meadows, Kempsville, and Providence Elementary. It is a blessing to be able to help these families have a wonderful and memorable Thanksgiving. If you'd like to contribute please give your donation to our Secretary – any amount is appreciated! You can also make payments online on website at our Payment Center. Please make your donation to our General Fund and let the Secretary know that you made the contribution and how much it was for.

## Welcome to Our New Master Masons

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kempsville Masonic Lodge participated in the one-day degree conferral that was held at Princess Anne Lodge #25. During this event, which took about seven hours, all three degrees were conferred on our candidates during one session. This is normally done for the benefit of those Brothers who personal schedules do not support them getting the degrees in the regular manner, which is conferred one at a time after the candidate has learned and been examined in the catechism for each degree. This year the one-day conferral was held because the individual Lodges have been restricted from conducting degree work

on their own since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kempsville had seven Brothers passed to the sublime degree of Master Mason at the one-day conferral: Brother Raymond Nathallean Wilson Jr., Brother Kody Chyane Davis, Brother Connor Jacob McMillan, Brother Patrick Michael Cooney, Brother Jean Marken Damus, Brother Robert Lee Huff, and Brother W. Lawrence Daniels. These Brothers patiently waited six months to finish their degrees, and we were proud to have many of them subsequently join us at our October Stated meeting. Well done Brothers!



Our proud (and masked) Worshipful Master with Kempsville's newest Master Masons following the one-day conferral held at Princess Anne Masonic Lodge on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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