



The Ashlar



May 2017

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

Volume 64-05

Brother Bradley Douglas “Brad” Paisley

Brother Bradley Douglas “Brad” Paisley (Hiram Lodge No. 4, Franklin, TN). Brother Paisley is an American country music singer and songwriter, and a 32nd Degree Mason in the Scottish Rite. He has released ten studio albums which have all been certified Gold or higher, and has scored 32 top 10 singles on the US Billboard Country Airplay chart, 19 of which have reached number 1. He set a new record in 2009 for most consecutive singles (ten) reaching the top spot on that chart. Brother Paisley has sold over 12 million albums and won three Grammy Awards, 14 Academy of Country Music Awards, 14 Country Music Association Awards, and two American Music Awards. He has earned country music's crowning achievement, becoming a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Born in Glen Dale, West Virginia on October 28, 1972, Brother Paisley began playing guitar at the age of eight. His first real break arrived when his junior high school principal invited him to play at the local Rotary Club, where Tom Miller, the program director of WWVA, one of the major country radio stations in the market, heard him and extended an invitation for him to play on the station's Saturday night show Jamboree USA. Over the next eight years, he appeared weekly on Jamboree USA, opening for such stars as Little Jimmy Dickens, Roy Clark, Ricky Skaggs, and the Judds. He stayed at Jamboree USA as he graduated high school and enrolled at West Liberty State College, where he spent two years before earning a full scholarship at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

He is the only child of Brother Douglas Edward "Doug" Paisley (33rd Degree), who along with previously mentioned country music superstar Brother James Cecil Dickens (Little Jimmy Dickens) also of Hiram No. 4 encouraged him to join the Craft. Since taking his degrees he has used his fame to benefit the fraternity, by doing several public service announcements on behalf of Shriners International, Scottish Rite Charities, and the Order of the DeMolay.

Brother Paisley has performed charity concerts for Shriners Hospitals for Children, he has made numerous visits to Shriners Hospitals where he met with families, he has supported Scottish Rite Veterans Support Groups such as the Washington, DC based “Tough Mudders,” and has supported veterans groups at venues across the country including The White House. Outside of his Masonic efforts, in 2001 he created his own charitable fund The Brad Paisley Foundation which supports the Children's Miracle Network, Shriner's Hospitals, St. Jude Research Hospital, The American Cancer Society, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, plus many local Upper Ohio Valley Charities from his home area. He set up the Brad Paisley Celebrity Invitational Fishing Tournament in aid of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He has also supported the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease Research, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Wal-Mart's Take a Kid Fishing Day, the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, and the T.J. Martell Foundation. In 2004, he was awarded the Country Radio Broadcaster's Artist Humanitarian Award.

Brother Paisley is a living example of a man who was first prepared to be made a Mason in his heart.



From The East



For those of you who were not able to attend the April Stated Communication, please allow me to provide a recap. As you know our Budget Committee (which was made a permanent committee consisting of the Wardens and Senior Deacon) made a few recommendations during their presentation at the March Stated. One of which was to have semi-annual budget reports presented in Tiled Lodge, this recommendation was opened for discussion and later approved at the April Stated. Subsequent Budget Committee reports will be given at the June and December Stated Communications respectively.

Additionally a report on the Division Leadership Conference was provided. This report highlighted three of the Grand Master's areas of concern: first, an increase in the annual Grand Lodge Assessment from \$45 to \$55 beginning in 2018, the increase would subsequently raise our annual dues to \$117 (\$55 to Grand Lodge and \$62 to Kempsville Lodge); second, to either raise the cost of entry into the LMIP Program from 16 years dues to 25 years dues or to freeze membership in the program at its end of 2017 number; and third, to investigate the establishment of a Grand Lodge policy regarding concealed carry of firearms in Virginia Masonic Lodges. The first two issues will be voted on during Grand Annual Communication later in the year in Richmond. The disposition of the concealed carry policy has not been determined. I ask that you consider the issues and be ready to speak on them during the October Stated in preparation of my representation of you in Richmond in November.

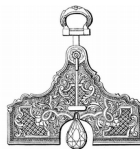
Lastly, I presented a short program on Lodge and Temple building. During the Lodge building segment I presented a community service idea of volunteering our support of Kempsville High School by working in concession sales during football games. As this was only a personal idea, I asked that the Brothers consider the effort and be prepared for further discussion of that and other ideas they may have during the May Stated. The Temple building segment focused on infrastructure improvement, specifically adding an elevator and first floor unisex bathroom to our physical plant both of which would be usable by handicapped persons. The Officers and I intend to acquire cost estimates on the project in order to establish fund raising goals. Once those estimates are acquired I will request your thoughts during Tiled Lodge.

We, the Brothers of Kempsville Lodge, have much

to consider regarding how we shape the future of our Lodge and I sincerely ask for your attendance in Lodge during these discussions and at any other time you would like to come out and enjoy some good food and good fellowship. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



Brethren, I recently happened upon an article entitled "The True Mason". It originally appeared in an 1823 edition of the Farmer's Almanac and I believe offers an excellent definition of Masonic character. It reads; "The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment that the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine, except those written in the heart by the fingers of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received; and in humble solicitations for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions; he disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense because he does not choose to be offended. He is honest upon principle. Thus, this process is everything for the true Mason, because each removal of a character or personality flaw gives greater discernment to practice of Masonry." Nearly 200 years later these words still ring true. Time has not diminished or changed who we are as Freemasons. Brethren, our fraternity is like no other. We truly take good men and make them better. I believe that. I also know our numbers have been in decline for some years but it remains vitally important to stand vigilant to preserve the character of our membership. We do so by guarding the West Gate as we endeavor to add good men to our great institution. I am proud to sit in lodge with all of you.

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

From The South



The Stars and Stripes are a universally recognized symbol that many see as an emblem of freedom, democracy and liberty. Others see it as symbol of capitalism, greed and godless selfishness. Regardless of your opinion you are free to express it because of the opinions of the many men and women that served in the armed forces or law enforcement. When I look at Old Glory there is a certain level of respect, gratitude and pride. I see the same colors as everyone else but I believe I see how those colors were impressed on that rectangular patchwork of fabrics.

I see stripes that were dyed with the blood of our fathers and brothers, sisters and mothers that sacrificed so much to protect and defend the rights and freedoms that are God given but so uniquely American. I see the white stripes that are bleached from the sweat of the tireless farmers, builders, factory workers and laborers that built this great nation with their tools, strength and dedication to a job well done. I see the field of blue as an ocean of tears shed for the loved ones that left the warm embrace of their beloved to support, protect and defend everything they hold dear. This may have been on foreign soil or on familiar city streets. The white stars remind me that so many individuals can unite in commonality yet remain true to the unique nature of their being. We all know the stars represent the states present in the union but I see it in more individualistic light. The individual like the states endeavor to be separate but when called by a higher order, unite to form one united force that can overcome any challenge.

The next time you see our national ensign waving in the breeze outside a public building, in a patriots yard or on display in one of the many seasonal parades think for a second the cost and value of that flag. Its cost is measured in lives and its value measured in pride, national pride. The lives of our fellow Americans AND other patriots who sacrificed their life to advance the American dream. The lives of our protectors and defenders that keep order and peace in times of calm as well as unrest.

The national pride that we should share is so deeply woven into the American fabric that many people don't notice it. We are a young nation yet one of the most powerful. We are one of the richest nations as well as one of the most charitable. We

have vast resources and one of the most resourceful. We have so much to be proud of if we remove all the descriptive labels except, American. The American Flag is so much more than an artful arrangement of multicolored geometric shapes. It's the embodiment of our unique history, beginnings, accomplishments and cultural diversity.

Brother Roger Taylor Junior Warden

Trestleboard

April 29	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
May 9	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
May 16	Fraternal Visit to Union Lodge No. 48 Elkton, Maryland
May 27-28	Child ID Event Pungo Strawberry Festival
June 3	34 th Annual Bull Roast
June 13	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Masonic Birthdays for May

Christopher Anders, Jr. '11	Joseph W. Miechle '09
Brandon Ray Angel '07	Leslie Hugh Miller '72
George Ray Bunch, Sr. '82	Steve Taylor Miller '71
Kevin Thomas Cotter '11	Larry Montgomery, Jr. '97
Wayne C. DeFord '93	Stanley Drew Moss '96
Frank Filippone '15	Gerald Wilson Nelligar '84
Herbert Boyd Foxwell '70	Joseph R. O'Leary '96
James Olney Freeman '74	Daniel Fidel Oliver '14
James T. Freihofer '15	Gregory Keith Pruitt '02
Goodwin Glassman '68	Joseph Timothy Salt '62
Billy F. Gordon, Jr. '03	Jimmy Bryan Shehan '97
Herbert T. Gordon '86	Larry Leroy Strait, Jr. '12
Adam Hernandez '07	Russell Peter Tjepkema '85
John Matthew Hewitt '02	John B. Whiteman '10
Monte Pearson Howell '70	Joshua Nathaniel Wright '15
Ross Owen McLeod '06	William O. Wyndham, Jr. '83

The Brethren shown above have a total of 719 years in Masonry!

Bull Roast - June 3rd

Brethren, it's Bull Roast Time!! Come out and enjoy an awesome meal and great fellowship as we pull together to support the Masonic Home of Virginia and our Lodge Scholarship Fund. We will of course be serving our traditional menu of slow-cooked roast beef, homemade potato salad & coleslaw, the old family recipe baked beans, dinner rolls, and delicious deserts. All active members are receiving four tickets in this issue of The Ashlar to either purchase or sell. Tickets are \$12 each, \$8 for children under 12 and for takeouts and

deliveries. If you need additional tickets please let me know. Cash and checks made payable to Kempsville Lodge No. 196 can be given to me or Worshipful Bob Stanek. If you know of any businesses interested in having a hot roast beef lunch delivered please give me a contact name and number by Thursday, June 1st. If you travel to local Lodges please announce our Bull Roast and sell some tickets. This is the biggest fund raiser of the year and in order for it to be a success we really need a big turnout. For the bakers in the lodge there are boxes of cake mix in the dining hall. It would be greatly appreciated if you take one or two to make for dessert. Please drop them off at the lodge on Friday, June 2nd. Lastly, I want to thank all the Brothers who have volunteered to help out. Your willingness to give of your time and energy to support your Lodge is simply incredible. If you haven't yet signed up to help out and are able to do so please let me know either in person, by email at chrisanders1@gmail.com, or by phone at 635-7617. We still need volunteers!

Brother Chris Anders
Bull Roast Chairman

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in May:

Elizabeth Hutchinson	May 3 rd
Willie Salih	May 5 th
Bonnie Fitzgerald	May 9 th
Barbara Ambrose	May 11 th
Jackie Stephens	May 15 th
Margaret Fowler	May 18 th
Sue Wright	May 23 rd
Grace Jones	May 29 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.

Brother Owen P. (Buz) Mills

One of our lodge members who lives in Arizona reaches the milestone of receiving his 50-year Masonic Veteran's emblem in June 2017. He is Brother Owen P. (Buz) Mills, who received his Masonic Degrees in Kempsville Lodge in 1967; he is of some notoriety.



Brother Mills is the owner of the Gunsite Academy, in Paulden, AZ. This renowned training facility is

often used during filming of the television show "Gun Stories", broadcast on the Outdoor Channel. (<http://outdoorchannel.com/show.aspx?show-id=851>)

From Gunsite Academy's web site: "Gunsite's operation covers 4.5 square miles, with modern facilities, large classrooms, a fully stocked Pro Shop and a full-service gunsmith operation." (<https://www.gunsite.com/>)

Also of interest regarding Brother Mills: He was once a candidate for governor of Arizona in 2010 (dropping out before the primary). He remains active in his community, and is very active with the NRA, serving as a Board Member.



We congratulate Br. Mills on attaining fifty years of Masonic service!

Fraternal Visit

Eight Kempsville Brothers made a fraternal visit to Western Branch Lodge No. 189 on April 17th to assist Worshipful Phil Poffenbarger and his team during the conferral of a Master Mason Degree which featured our Junior Warden Brother Roger Taylor sitting in the East during the Second Section. The Kempsville contingent enjoyed fellowship with their Western Branch Brothers and also received a tour of the new Western Branch facility located in Portsmouth. Notable is that Worshipful Poffenbarger holds membership in both Kempsville and Western Branch Lodges, and is the incoming 2018 District Deputy Grand Master for the 34th Masonic District.

Child ID Program

The purpose of the Masonic Child ID Program (CHIP) is to provide parents with a comprehensive child identification service at no cost to them. The 56th Masonic District CHIP is led by Worshipful Bill Peterson. Please reach out to Worshipful Bill (wtpeterson@aol.com) if you desire to support his next scheduled events on April 29th at two separate YMCAs or at the Pungo Strawberry Festival occurring May 27th and 28th.