



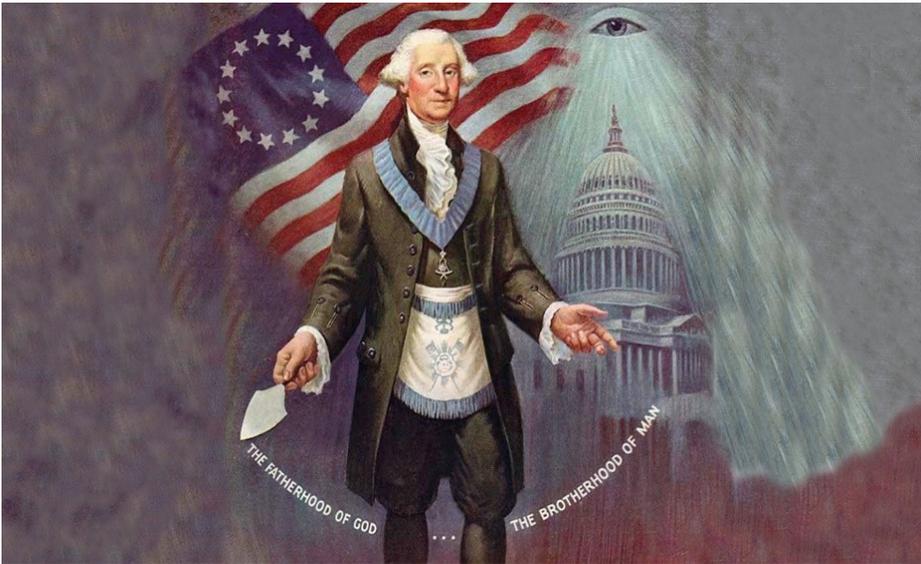
The Ashlar



February 2021

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

Volume 68-02



It is now the middle of the Winter season, and we will soon be celebrating two important holidays, Valentine's Day and President's Day. On Valentine's Day we remember and cherish our loved ones. On President's Day, formerly known as George Washington's Birthday, we join all our fellow Americans and honor the past President's who have led our beloved country for over 244 years. We are all aware that many of our Presidents are also Masonic Brothers. We are most honored that our country was established on Masonic principles.

Washington is probably the most revered and respected Mason for the ages. Sometimes we may forget just how important he was to the birth of our nation, as his birthday is now publicly observed as part of President's Day. But since Washington is so very special to us, I hope you will remember that February 22nd is the actual birth date of Washington, and you remember it with reverence. Brother George Washington is recorded as having been born on February 22, 1732. Happy 289th Birthday Mr. President!

George Washington, a young Virginia planter, becomes a Master Mason at Masonic Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Washington was 21 years old and would soon command his first military operation as a major in the Virginia colonial militia. For George Washington, joining the Masons was a rite of passage and an expression of his civic responsibility. After becoming a Master Mason, Washington had the option of passing through a series of additional rites that would take him to higher "degrees." In 1788, shortly before becoming the first president of the United States, Washington was elected the first Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22.

Many other leaders of the American Revolution, including Paul Revere, John Hancock, the Marquis de Lafayette, and the Boston Tea Party saboteurs, were also Freemasons, and Masonic rites were witnessed at such events as Washington's presidential inauguration and the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.—a city supposedly designed with Masonic symbols in mind. Masonic symbols, approved by Washington in the design of the Great Seal of the United States, can be seen on the one-dollar bill. The All-Seeing Eye above an unfinished pyramid is unmistakably Masonic, and the scroll beneath, which proclaims the advent of a "New Secular Order" in Latin, is one of Freemasonry's long-standing goals. The Great Seal appeared on the dollar bill during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, also a Mason.

Freemasonry has continued to be important in U.S politics, and at least 15 presidents, five Supreme Court chief justices, and numerous members of Congress have been Masons. Presidents known to be Masons include Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, and Gerald Ford. Today there are an estimated million and a half Masons in the United States.

From The East



I am delighted to have this opportunity to salute our ladies as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Of course, we should honor and cherish our ladies every day, but Valentine's Day should be a little more ... a little something extra ... a special day. I hope you will convey these thoughts to the women in your life because they are indeed so very special to Freemasonry. Their support is critical to our individual growth and the growth of our Lodges. So, don't forget to say "Thank You!" in a meaningful way to our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters and especially the surviving spouses of our Brother Masons.

The word "love" in the English language has many meanings and is used to describe a variety of feelings. In other languages there is more than one word available to describe different feelings and clearly differentiating between the degree of warmth which is intended when the word is used. For example, in the Greek language there are three words available to describe one's feeling. The word "agape" expresses an unselfish feeling which one person has for another as well as the love of God. The word "eros" expresses the feeling which one person has for a person of the opposite sex, and is reflected in the English word "erotic." The word "philo" expresses the feeling which a person has in other matters.

All the great religions of the world admonish their members to love one another. The use of the word "love" is too broad to be applicable to Freemasonry. Closer are the words "brotherly love." The Holy Bible uses these words in a number of places. in Romans (12:10) appears "Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor." In Hebrews (13: 11) we find "Let brotherly love continue." In Peter II (1:7) we find "brotherly affection with love." Better known are the words of the Gentle Carpenter when He said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." It was intended to call attention to the disputing and arguing that was going on about the laws and customs which amounted to hair-splitting. The Gentle Carpenter was urging his listeners to return to the basic meaning of the rules of human conduct. In a sense, He was restating a universal Truth that has stood the test of time.

Love exists everywhere and permeates all human activities from personal relationships to offices located on Madison Avenue. A consideration of this subject leads us to remember the great part that

the word "charity" plays in Masonic philosophy. It is derived from the Latin word "caritas" which is translated to the word "love." In Freemasonry the problem is simplified because the tenets of the Craft are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

If we substitute the word "kindness" for the word "love" we are really conveying the idea of what is truly meant by "love" in Freemasonry.

Brother Mike Denning
Worshipful Master

From The West



As we begin a new year, we are caused to reflect on our Masonic past to project our future actions within the Craft. 2020 has contained many distractions that either delayed or eliminated fellowship with our Brethren. As we traverse our lighted path for the New Year, we must remember to focus our attention on the compass for direction and, for time, on the clock. Masonic growth is not governed by time, nor is it measured in hours or minutes, but within the degrees of a compass.

Our personal growth and contributions to the Craft should not be influenced by artificial deadlines for organizing and managing budgets, people, and time. A Masonic journey focuses on the good deeds and intentions of men, their characters, and their cumulative moral value. The compass aids us in navigating towards our destinations, regardless of the time it takes to arrive. This lifelong journey keeps our passions within the due bounds of self-restraint and moderation.

Masons of all ages strive to be better men. Emphasis is always placed not on the individual Mason, but on that Mason's participation in the fraternity. Measure your Masonic growth between the two bare points of your Masonic compass- not the movement of hands on a clock.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

From The South



Well, we are off to a stellar start of 2020 (Oops 2021!) which seems like we have been here before. We went from the restrictions of no Lodge to 25 members to the now 10 members. It is extremely difficult to keep Kempsville moving forward. Worshipful Mike has reestablished Zoom stated, for now, Zoom Monday night

discussion and invitation-only training sessions at the lodge. But make no mistake, Kempsville continues to be strong and moving forward! We continue to train to resume advancements as soon as we can start bringing candidates back to the lodge. Please take this time to become proficient in coaching or a portion of degree work and lectures. Or how about presenting a topic in Masonry that interest you to the brethren on a Monday night Zoom discussion.

Like many I know, I miss the fellowship of being able to talk and share laughter, a little brotherly teasing, or sharing a prayer for those in need. These are the basic principles of our brotherhood and especially Kempsville. Please take a moment to remember each other in your prayers or give the one who has sequestered a call and share your day.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

Meet Your Tiler



Dennis DiMaggio, originally from Northvale NJ, is a Retired Navy Veteran, having spent 20 years in the Naval Aviation Community serving on 3 coasts – West, East and Gulf

although the majority of his time was spent here in Hampton Roads. He is currently a Federal Government Employee serving at United States Fleet Forces Command as a Financial Management Analyst. He resides in Chesapeake Virginia with his wife Lori. They are currently empty-nesters, having raised 4 great kids—3 boys and 1 girl. All which graduated with Bachelor Degrees in various fields of study. Additionally, he has two beautiful granddaughters. When he is not working, he spends time with family, traveling when COVID is not around, playing guitar and riding his Harley.

Dennis' association with Freemasonry began in 2010, where he was raised a Master Mason at Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 and completed his Master's Catechism under the tutelage of Brother Hank Foiles.

2021 Monthly Food Bank Collection



Last year, Kempsville Masonic Lodge collected over 3,500 lbs. of food during monthly food bank collections that we held at the Lodge on the last Saturday of each month in place of our canceled breakfasts. We are continuing that important effort this year with a monthly goal of 400 lbs. of food and other supplies that will be donated to the Church of the Ascension Food Bank.

This month, donations will be collected at the Lodge from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, February 27th. Specific items that are needed include breakfast bars, cereal, oatmeal, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauce, rice, and mac and cheese. Personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, and dish soap are also greatly appreciated. Thank you all in advance for your support in helping feed Kempsville during this difficult time!

Masonic Birthdays for February

Chandler E. Anderson '18	Frank Hill '16
David H. Armstrong, Jr. '77	Robert H. Johns '05
R. Gillium Clyburn, Jr. '17	Marvin B. Lancaster '05
Charles F. Edwards '70	David J. Meers '10
Edward J. Foley '93	John M. Nuzum '02
Lewis J. Forrest '85	Galen K. Rogers '99
Glenn D. Fraser II '80	Joseph M. Snook '65
Glenn L. Gilman '78	William C. Vahle '13
William F. Grice '70	Arthur F. Wadford, Jr. '08

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,267 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widow

Happy Birthday to our special lady in February:

Ann Akers

February 17th

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.

2020 District Blood Program Big Success

Well done to our District/Lodge Blood coordinator and MOTY Brother Mike Blankenship, and to all the volunteers and donors from the 56th Masonic District who made the blood collection program a success in the very challenging year of 2020. All six of the scheduled blood drives were completed and an average of 27 units of blood were collected at each, with a total of 161 units collected!

Blood will be needed as much in 2021 as it was last year. The next blood drive will be held at Princess Anne Lodge No. 25 on Monday, February 15th from 2-7 PM. Please sign up at RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment.

Updating Your Contact Information

The Lodge maintains the name, address, phone number and email address for all our members and Widows. If any of this information has changed for you in the past year, please contact the Lodge Secretary so we can update our database. If you are planning on moving anytime in the upcoming year (often the case with our active duty military members) please contact us as soon as you have your new contact information so we can stay in touch with your and ensure you get your copy of the Ashlar each month.



Saturday Work Crew!

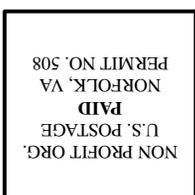


Brothers from around the District and local area joined together Saturday, January 23rd, to assist Brother Justin Gray preparing his house for sale. An active duty member, Justin has received orders to move out of the local area. This is truly what Masonry is about—supporting our

Brothers and their families when they need some assistance. Many hands make light work and the fellowship was appreciated by all!

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Warden	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Junior Deacon	Michael Turner	581-4239
Senior Steward	Thomas Melling, Sr.	403-8881
Junior Steward	Michael Cooney	375-3238
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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