



# The Ashlar



July 2021

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

Volume 68-07

## Celebrating Freemasonry in America



The adoption of the Declaration of American Independence, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 is a part of the history of our country and the history of our Craft. It is our belief that a people who forget, or treat lightly, a great past, cannot have a great future. If people are indifferent to, or take as a matter of course, what cost so much in suffering and sacrifice, they are not worthy of the treasure they possess.

From thirteen thinly settled states, united in the struggle for freedom and in loyalty to a newly written Constitution, our Nation has grown to be one of the greatest, strongest, more far-reaching nations on earth; a human marvel and a social wonder. Never has there been such a flowing together of peoples, such a blending of bloods, as in America; it is a fraternal achievement in which many races and many faces mingled to build a freer and gentler land.

Among the creative forces by which America has been made so great, none has been more benign than the influences of Freemasonry. Silent, ever-present, always active, by its constructive genius our Fraternity built itself into the very foundations of the Republic. When our fathers affirmed that "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," Masonry was present assenting to one of its own principles. Green Dragon Tavern in Boston, where the Boston Tea Party was planned was also the headquarters of Freemasonry.

Masonry was active everywhere, indirectly as an Order, but directly through its members, in behalf of a nation "Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal;" which is one of its basic truths. It was not an accident that so many Masons signed the Declaration of Independence, or that Washington and most of his Generals were members of the Craft. Nor was it by mere chance that our first President was a Mason, sworn into office on a Bible taken from a Masonic Altar, by the Grand Master of New York. Such facts are symbols of deeper facts, showing the place and power of Masonry in the making of a nation.

As Freemasons we believe that the things that made our Republic great in the past are the things that will make it still greater in the future. What has made America great? Not its rich resources because other lands are equally rich. Nor is it intelligence and enterprise of our people, because others are also intelligent. What has made America great is its form of government. Our form of government, in which individual initiative is united with social responsibility - liberty under law, liberty founded in right and reason, modified by private duty, public obligation, and a sense of the common good.

For that reason, we need today, all of us, a new baptism of the spirit of citizenship, of public-mindedness, of devotion to the state for what we can put into it and not for what we can get out of it.

This is where Masonry can render a real service, as well as in helping to create a more vivid sense of the sanctity of law. The increase of lawlessness in America has been appalling. For anyone to think lightly of our constitution, or any part of it, is to strike a blow at the basis of ordered civic life. To obey only such laws as suit our fancy or interest our appetite, is to lead the way to anarchy. Others may disregard other laws - even those protecting life and the ownership of property - and the result will be chaos. The growth

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## From The East



The July Ashlar, my how time flies. As I reflect on the last seven months it seems like yesterday. From complete shutdown, a maximum of 10 people for "closed" practice, varying changes, and now we are opening back up. This is a great time and Masonry is alive at Kempsville Lodge.

Your Lodge is open. We have full practice every Monday and Tuesday. Please come and join us, the fellowship is beyond reproach. Your Lodge has candidates in the process from first readings to EA catechisms, to Fellowcraft passing. I am hopeful that we will raise a Master Mason this year. Stated dinners are happening again. Monthly breakfast is back in full swing. Fraternal visits are happening. It is such a joy to see the Lodge active and alive.

We have awarded our annual scholarships to two deserving candidates. Last year's winner has excelled with the assistance of your generosity and is continuing his education. These honors are made possible by your continued contributions and the success of our annual Bull Roast. By the way, planning is in full swing for this year's event which will take place on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar and join your Brothers for all you can eat and unparalleled comradery.

To tag onto the cover story, do not forget the sacrifice those before us have generously given. As my coin represents service, this month is a setting tribute of selfless service our military and first responders provide on a daily basis.

Brother Mike Denning  
Worshipful Master

## From The West



Masonic Lodges of all sizes, in all locations, and in all Masonic jurisdictions maintain libraries. These libraries are typically comprised of a culmination of works amassed by the many Brothers who have focused their memberships there. When examined individually, these works serve their intended purposes as sources of Masonry-oriented literature. However, upon an examination of the entire collection, these works form a written portrait of the Brothers, past and present, who together comprise the character of a Lodge.

In a similar manner, the character of a man may be deciphered by the books that he reads. History tells us that many of our illustrious Brothers, such

as George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Wolfgang Mozart, were all avid readers. In fact, Washington is known to have left a library of over nine hundred books to his heirs. The contents of these Masons' collections are certain to have included works of a Masonic nature, and, regardless of such, illustrate the literary diversity that would have assisted in influencing their hearts and minds.

The information that can be gleaned from just the contents of a prestigious Mason's or a Masonic Lodge's libraries should serve as ample cause for self-reflection on the contents of our own libraries. Our rituals remind us that we should have no less than three books in our libraries- the Holy Bible, the Methodical Digest, and the Presentation Volume. With the advent of the internet and the information age, we now have more information available to us than our Masonic predecessors had ever fathomed- it is imperative that, with their collections and modern technology in mind, we endeavor with equal order and regularity to develop personal libraries that, when the works are read individually and within their contexts, contribute to the perpetuation of the central tenets of our Fraternity. Doing so will only inspire others to keep and perform the same.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

## From The South



What a year this is starting out to be. Kempsville has hit the deck running in MANY ways. We have had successful and proficient Stated Communications, an extremely successful breakfast led by the familiar faces in the kitchen, and many practices with new members in the works as we speak, working on becoming stellar members of Kempsville Lodge. Worshipful Denning led his stationed officers around through lodge visitation and even obtained the State Traveling Gavel! It was good to be able to visit with our brethren in other lodges that we had not seen in over a year! Masonry is based on Friendship and Brotherhood. I for one missed seeing my brothers. What a joy it has been over the past two weeks to share a meal and a good laugh with others. If you are still waiting to return, Why? Look in your heart for the Masonic drive, the brotherly love, and the need to experience the fellowship. COME BACK...come back...!! We Miss You!

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

## Masonic Birthdays for July

Ramon L. Baez, Sr. '97	C. William Nolan '80
Ralph E. Bregant '84	William F. Oliveira '19
Rickey P. Brooks '16	James D. Orlando '19
T. Edward Brown '10	William T. Parks, III '89
David L. Cline '91	William T. Peterson '07
Alexander R. Echols '09	William K. Sheppard '08
Darin M. Ely '04	Scott F. Sherman '17
James C. Gardner '70	Dale E. Smith '79
Brian K. Goodwin '90	Joseph F. Thornton '63
Nazim K. Jamal '16	Dennis G. Tompkins '02
Harry J. Kellett '68	Richard L. Tyson '08
William R. Knowles, Sr. '71	Robert L. Tyson, Jr. '08
O. Eugene LeJeune '90	Robert L. Tyson, Sr. '08
Seth A. Miles '09	Karl W. Wesseler '78
Melvin S. Mizelle '67	Johnny D. Whitley '64
Edward F. Myers, Jr. '76	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 834 years in Masonry!

## Trestle Board

July 13 ..... Stated Communication, 7PM  
 July 31 ..... Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM  
 August 10..... Stated Communication, 7PM  
 August 16..... Blood Drive 2-7PM  
 August 28..... Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in July:

Lee Eaton	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Ouida Young	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara Yarino	July 17 <sup>th</sup>
Ruth Ann King	July 21 <sup>st</sup>
J7ne Lockwood	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Wanda Van Fassen	July 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.

## Celebrating Freemasonry in America *(Cont'd from page 1)*

of racial rancor among us bodes no good for us or for our children. No one race made America; it is a fraternal adventure of many races, each adding something of precious worth to the total achievement. Seven nationalities were represented on the Mayflower alone. We must know only the Human race; of whose future and fulfillment it is the last great hope and promise. There is room for everything in America except hatred.

So, once more, in memory of our national birthday, all Freemasons ask all Americans of every race,

creed and condition to renew their vows of love, honor and loyalty to our Constitution, our President and our flag, which is the immortal symbol of all that is sacred in our life, law and history. We ask all to join hands and hearts on behalf of a greater America tomorrow. Like the men who signed the Declaration of Independence, "We Mutually Pledge to Each Other our Lives, Fortunes and Sacred Honor.

## Scholarship Recipients

It is with great pleasure that Kempsville Lodge presented our annual scholarships to two very worthy and appreciative young scholars.

Kyleigh Milstead received a \$500 scholarship to continue her professional pursuit in nursing. This was Kyleigh's second year in a row to earn these honors.

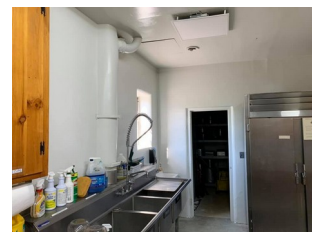
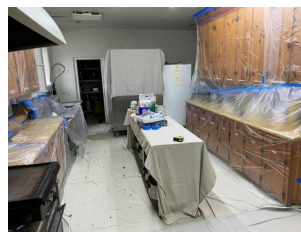
Destiny Ward received a \$500 scholarship to pursue a degree in Psychology this fall.



Congratulations to Clifford Gernandizo, one of last year's (2020) Lodge scholarship winners. He graduated from Kempsville High school this year as well as The Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center where he earned a certificate in nursing. He will be

attending TCC this fall to continue his nursing education.

## Lodge Activity



The lodge is pleased to have our kitchen freshened up with a fresh coat of paint, top to bottom.

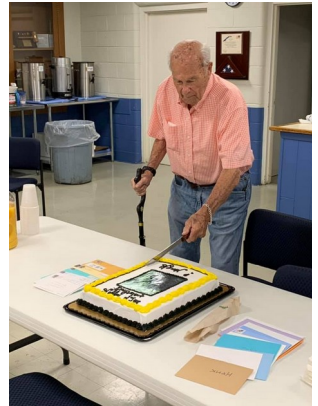




Kempsville Lodge visited every lodge in the 56<sup>th</sup> District during the month of June and captured the State Traveling Gavel during a fraternal visit to Princess Anne No. 25.



Fellowship abounds as Brothers gathered to celebrate Brother Hank Foiles and Brother Lewis Dunn's birthdays.



June saw our first lodge breakfast in nearly 16 months. It was a pleasure to see so many in attendance.



Our Past Masters put on a flawless evening and Roasted our most junior Past Master Worshipful Brother Dave T-Rex.

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