



The Ashlar



February 2022

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

Volume 67-02



In keeping with "The Lifesavers" theme for 2022, the Worshipful Master has requested each issue of The Ashlar to feature an article honoring a deceased member of our Lodge who has preserved life in addition to being a distinguished community member. "Distinguished" could mean anything from notable military service, an esteemed political career, or virtually any other qualifying instance elevating that member to recognition on a local, statewide, and/or national scale.

For this month's article, we feature Bro. Sylvester John "Joe" Smith, Jr. Born in Suffolk in 1921, Smith began his career as a reporter for the Suffolk News-Herald and the Associated Press. Enlisting as a Marine in 1943, he was eventually assigned to the USS Cabot, on which he served in 9 major WWII engagements, including Okinawa. Smith would earn numerous awards and medals, most notably the Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1945, he left the Marines for the Virginia State Police (VSP), where he served in Hampton Roads, where he met and married his wife Adele. Moving to Virginia Beach in the 1960's, they would raise 5 children together. Smith left the VSP in 1973 after 27 years of service, and was elected City Sheriff later that year. While Sheriff, Smith oversaw the construction of the VA Beach Correctional Center, a \$5 million project in its day, and still one of Virginia's largest jails. It was the first to achieve accreditation from both the American Medical Assoc. and the Virginia Dept. of Corrections.

Smith retired in 1986, dedicating himself to community service in Kempsville. He was a longtime member, deacon, and Sunday school superintendent of Kempsville Baptist Church, a lifetime member of the Parent-Teacher Assoc. of Kempsville Middle and High Schools, an honorary member of the Kempsville Volunteer Fire Dept., and an active member of the Kempsville Sports Booster Club, Kempsville Band Parents Assoc., and the Kempsville Ruritan Club.

Affectionately called the "Mayor of Kempsville," Smith would often give presentations at civic organization meetings on topics like bicycle safety, traffic laws, and public safety. A member of our Lodge for over 33 years, Smith was initiated, passed, and raised in 1962. His signers were George Denney and Right Worshipful Bill Pierce. He was also a member of Khedive Shrine Center and the Virginia Beach Shrine Club. Smith died in 1996 at age 75 and was survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. In appreciation of his lifetime of service, Smith was honored posthumously by the Virginia Senate in 2004.

Smith's lifelong devotion to corrections, emergency management, and law enforcement distinguish him as an ardent practitioner of volunteerism and an indefatigable advocate for public safety. For decades, he applied his experience and knowledge alongside those of colleagues, public officials, and civic associations to insure the protection and safety of his fellow servicemen, neighbors, and community. These altruistic efforts guarantee Smith's commendation in this series as a certifiable lifesaver.

If you're aware of a deceased member of our Lodge who may fit "The Lifesaver" criteria, please email johnrs4@vt.edu.

From The East



The title "Mason of the Year," or "MOTY," is bestowed annually to a Lodge Brother who epitomizes Masonic leadership, fosters fellowship and brotherly love, and offers unwavering service to both his Lodge and the Craft at-large during the preceding year. Needless to say, the recipient of this award is a valued member of his Lodge, whose role has been (and will continue to be) integral in its future successes. Interestingly, and not unlike our rituals and catechisms, the consideration of candidates for this award is guided largely by unwritten factors, namely those grounded in recalled precedent in the selection of prior recipients. However, in addition to those factors, there appear to be three primary criteria for the consideration of the title, and they are presence, participation, and patronage.

A candidate for MOTY must maintain a presence at all Lodge functions. It would not be difficult to confuse presence for attendance. In actuality, these terms are not as interchangeable as one might think. Attendance is merely showing up, whereas presence is assumed availability. In other words, a candidate for MOTY may elect not only to appear at all Lodge meetings, funerals, and other events- he will also make himself available and present in the event that an emergency meeting or situation arises, and his presence is required.

Participation in Lodge functions is the cherished extra step that distinguishes Masons. Although attendance at Lodge functions is always welcomed and appreciated, participation therein lessens the strain on all participants, and contributes to the enjoyment of all who are in attendance. Whether your participation takes the form of filling a chair during degree work, helping in the kitchen, or contacting a deceased Brother's widow, frequent participation is an integral quality of any aspiring MOTY.

Finally, and perhaps the most diverse criteria for the consideration of MOTY candidates, is patronage. Patronage does not mean that financially philanthropic actions are required. Instead, Masonic patronage is simply the investment of any resource for the betterment of the Lodge, the Craft at-large, and/or the community. For instance, the actions of cleaning the building's gutters, contributing to the scholarship fund, or giving blood at the blood drive

are all equally exemplary actions of a Mason with an enthusiasm for patronage.

Although the title of MOTY is a great honor, and is understandably sought by many Brothers interested in the challenge-, the competition itself fosters numerous benefits to Masonry in general. As such, the annual consideration of the MOTY title serves as yet another reminder of the adage often recited to new and prospective Masons, which is that you will always receive from Masonry a like amount of what you choose to invest in it.

Brother John Settle, III, Worshipful Master

From The West



Are you a source of light, or of darkness?

We create our own reality. What we expect from life is what we receive. If we expect and look for the trouble, disagreement, and negativity in situations that is what we are sure to find. If however, we expect and look for the good, cooperative, and positive outcomes in situations that is what we will experience.

Life cannot and does not always go smoothly. We cannot appreciate the good times and the joys that life brings without the rough times and the sadness that must cross our path on occasion. It is our response to these times that defines who we are.

Yes, there are problems in every lodge. Yes, we do not always agree with, or get along with each other. But we cannot be negative about these difficulties. Our negative thoughts are like a cancer which spreads and weakens us, and those around us, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

With effort on our part, and the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., we can choose to open our eyes to the light. My Brothers, that light is Brotherly love. Love is being positive and expecting the best life has to offer. Love is knowing that, although our human frailties will result in disagreement, where there is hope and understanding there can be the peace and harmony to work together towards a common goal.

So, for the sake of the Fraternity and your well-being, I urge you to become a source of Masonic Light.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Senior Warden

From The South



We all know a Mason or two who has joined a lodge, maybe ours, maybe another, and for various reasons they stop attending. Yet, these brothers still pay their dues each year. They still proudly wear their Masonic ring. But they don't come to lodge. These Masons we call "Rusty Nails".

March is Junior Warden night. As such, I will be sitting in the East and it is Rusty Nail night. I am asking every member to reach out to a Rusty Nail that you may know and invite him to join us for a fabulous dinner that our Stewards and Worshipful John have planned for March and then upstairs for Rusty Nail night. We saw 15 brethren go to the celestial lodge last year so let's see if we can fill those seats with brothers already on ours or other rolls.

Brother Doug Dunn, Junior Warden

Trestle Board

- February 1 Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master Willis V. Fentress No 296, 7PM
- February 5 Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master Victory Daylight No. 1778, 9AM
- February 8 Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
- February 10 Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220, 7:30PM
- February 21 District Blood Drive Princess Anne Lodge No. 25, 2-7PM
- February 25 Division Leadership Conference Granby Street Temple, 6:30PM
- February 26 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
- March 8 Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

Blood Program

The American Red Cross is currently facing a critical Blood emergency!

Donors are desperately needed now, so blood can be available for patients during this critical time. Medical conditions and emergencies don't stop during the COVID pandemic.

Our blood drives helps to ensure blood is available to support patients' ongoing needs as well as unforeseen trauma situations. Blood donations are currently being distributed faster than they are

coming in, but patients and their families are still counting on us for donations.

Please do everything you can to recruit more blood donors for our drives. If you do give outside the local area, please let us know so we can get credit.

Our next blood drive is scheduled at Princess Anne lodge on February 21st. Please help ensure blood is available to support patients ongoing needs as well as unforeseen trauma situations.

Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator.

Masonic Birthdays for February

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chandler E. Anderson '18 | Robert H. Johns '05 |
| David H. Armstrong, Jr. '77 | Marvin B. Lancaster '05 |
| R. Gillium Clyburn, Jr. '17 | David J. Meers '10 |
| Charles F. Edwards '70 | John M. Nuzum '02 |
| Edward J. Foley '93 | Galen K. Rogers '99 |
| Lewis J. Forrest '85 | Kevin R. Saenz '06 |
| 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 |
| W. F. (Frank) Hill '16 | |

These Brethren have a total of 501 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

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.

Meet Your New Chaplain



Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196's Chaplain for 2022 is Brother James "Jim" Boone. Originally from the eastern Tennessee/western North Carolina region, Jim enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1968. Shortly thereafter, Jim took an interest in Masonry and was later raised in 1976 in Ashe Masonic Lodge No. 594 in West Jefferson, North Carolina- he is active in both the Scottish and York Rites.

During his Naval career, Jim would often be stationed in the Hampton Roads region, where he enjoyed attending our Lodge. After serving over thirty-five years in the Navy, Jim would retire as a Captain in 2004. Jim was so impressed by

Kempsville that, upon his retirement, he elected to join our Lodge. A regular attendee at Kempsville, Jim served as Chaplain for Worshipful William T. "Bill" Peterson in 2015. Jim has been happily married to his wife Susan for forty-nine years, with whom he raised two children. Jim and Susan enjoy retired life and frequently occupy themselves with cooking, fishing, kayaking, motorcycling, skeet shooting, and traveling together in their camper.

Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master



Right Worshipful Robert Wesley Stanek, District Deputy Grand Master for Virginia's 56th Masonic District, made his official visit to Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 on Tuesday, January 11th, 2022.

Worshipful John Robert Settle, III, his officers, and members of the Lodge welcomed Rt. Wor. Stanek to the stated meeting. Many visitors from elsewhere in the 56th Masonic District were in attendance, including (but not limited to) Wor. Rob Shrieves of Bayside Masonic Lodge No. 218, Wor. Frank Beard of Willis V. Fentress Masonic Lodge No. 296, and Wor. Edner Rull of Victory Daylight Masonic Lodge No. 1778.

Right Worshipful Stanek, who has served as the Lodge Secretary since 2009, started the evening with fellowship and a delicious meal in our fellowship hall. During the meeting, Right Worshipful Stanek was received in the East, where he conveyed a warm welcome from Most Worshipful James Winfield Golladay, Jr., the 176th

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. Before he closed the Lodge, Right Worshipful Stanek gave an entertaining and commendably detailed history on the 56th Masonic District, including past District Deputy Grand Masters from our Lodge- his presentation successfully expounded upon Most Worshipful Golladay's emphasis for 2022, "Freemasonry - A Family Affair."

From the Secretary

2022 annual lodge dues are now payable. Please check your dues card now. Promptly remit your dues if it has expired. It should look as below:



Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	John Settle, III	675-9695
Senior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Warden	Doug Dunn	871-389-6557
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Michael Turner	581-4239
Junior Deacon	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Chaplain	James Boone	515-0131
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Dennis Dimaggio	582-3320
Instructor of Work	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
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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