



The Ashlar



March 2022

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

Volume 67-03

Brother Carl Alan Barber



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 Brother Carl Alan Barber.

Barber was born in 1956 in Fort Eustis, VA to James & Charline Barber. His family would relocate to the Kempsville area of VA Beach, where he graduates from Kempsville High School in 1974. Yearning to become a firefighter his entire life, he began his career with the VA Beach Fire Dept. in 1975. He was a staple in the Dept., treating everyone with care and respect. Always positive and enthusiastic, he could be found at the station in the early morning hours, where he would prepare equipment and vehicles for the next service call.

Since VA Beach is among the most populous jurisdictions in VA, through the years Barber would respond to countless calls for service, many of which required his presence in unsafe environments. Among the most prolific were explosions and fires, automobile crashes, and (most notoriously) exposure to smoke. His navigation of these exposures culminated in his promotion to master firefighter. Serving as such, he was one of many responding firefighters during the 1995 Princess Anne High School fire.

When he wasn’t on duty, Barber occupied himself with the VA Beach Professional Firefighters Assoc., of which he was a charter member. He was also active in the Intl. Assoc. of Firefighters Local 2924, and worked as a drafting technician for the VA Beach Mapping Dept. At home, he took pride in maintaining his cars and lawn. Family was a passion that Barber held in equal esteem to firefighting. He met and would eventually marry Carolyn Spivey, adopting her daughters as his own. Relocating to Chesapeake, they were a fixture at Hickory UMC. Ever supportive of her husband’s career, Carolyn was a dedicated firefighter’s wife, and encouraged her husband in his endeavors to become a captain in the Dept.

In 2007, Barber passed his captain examinations. Unfortunately, within months, he (a lifetime nonsmoker) would develop occupational lung cancer from exposure to smoke. This resulted in his retirement later that year, concluding 32 years with the Dept. As a thanks to him, his coworkers took him to NY, where he visited Ground Zero and rode along with the members of Rescue 1, many of whom were surviving responders of September 11. A member of our Lodge for 10 years, Barber was initiated, passed, and raised from 1997-1998- his signers were his father and Brother George Hughes. After an 11 month battle, he succumbed to cancer in 2008 at age 52. He was survived by his mother, wife, children, and grandchildren. His wife continues to serve as secretary of Vigilant Watch, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to Hampton Roads public safety officials and their families who have experienced hardships as a result of their public service.

Barber’s lifelong fealty to firefighting, emergency services, and public safety certifies his character as one dedicated to the preservation of property and human life. In his personal and professional devotions, he applied the passions of his character with the identical selflessness of his coworkers, family, and friends to guarantee the extrication and rescue of all of those who he was called to assist- even if it meant the loss of his own life. This attribute of self-sacrifice ensures his acclamation in this series as a literal lifesaver. If you’re aware of a deceased member of our Lodge who may fit “The Lifesaver” criteria, please email johnrs4@vt.ed

From The East



The process in which Masons vet and vouch for one another is a sensitive but sacred process that has persisted and consequently preserved the secrets of the Craft for the entirety of its existence. Whether this process occurs at the onset of a Lodge meeting or during the opening of a just and legally-constituted Lodge, vetting and vouching for our Brothers is integral to the protection of the sanctity of Masonic Light. However, great care must be instilled into the process to guarantee the Lodge's positive image as a haven for Masonic fellowship, in addition to our reputations as purveyors of Brotherly Love.

In the event that an unfamiliar visiting Brother arrives at our Lodge to attend a meeting, great care must be taken to guarantee his Masonic validity. In a semi-private setting, a Brother or Brothers selected by the Worshipful Master must query the visiting Brother for his dues card, in addition to other relevant information that only a Master Mason would know. In some Lodges, once the authenticity of a visiting Brother's Masonic credentials have been deemed probable but not conclusive, it is not uncommon to place the visiting Brother under oath, during which they swear and affirm that their membership and statements are legitimate. Given the austerity of the situation, it is imperative to assume a neutral attitude to avoid upsetting the visiting Brother's sentiment- such an unfortunate outcome could have severe consequences for the reputations of our Lodge and ourselves.

From time to time, Brothers who rarely attend meetings will reappear for one reason or another. We may find ourselves seated adjacent to such a Brother. During the collection of the word, it could occur that the Brother is unable to recall the word necessary to remain in the meeting. In the event that the identity of the Brother is well known to us, a simple reminder of the word at low breath is more than sufficient to resolve the situation. Inversely, the Worshipful Master must be informed of the Brother's predicament so that another Brother familiar therein may avouch for him. Once avouched for and found worthy, he may be reinvested with the word. The tactful navigation of this rare event may embolden the returning Brother and inspire him to become a regular attendee.

Vetting and vouching for Lodge Brothers is a fragile and sanctified process that is only compounded in difficulty by its sporadic and infrequent necessity. Regardless, the vigilant anticipation and rehearsal of these processes will secure the value of Masonic Light at no cost to the reputation of our Lodge, our perception in the eyes of forgetful and/or unfamiliar Brothers, and/or the feelings of the Brother avouched for.

Brother John Settle, III, Worshipful Master

From The West



Kempsville Masonic Lodge is off to a great start this year. Although we had two snow events in January, one prevented our first breakfast and several brothers were ill, we persevered to continue training and supporting our lodge and the 56th District. We raised Brother Christopher H. Kammerer, assisted other lodges in our district, and had representation at all the District Deputy Grand Master official visits. Our sweethearts attend our Valentine's Dinner in February and received the Royal Arch masons for "Red Coat night" for our guest speakers who presented a stimulating program. Your Junior Warden, Doug Dunn has started an initiative to get our Past Masters more involved in degree work. This was exhibited by many Past Masters assisting in raising our first Master Mason for 2022.

The Past Master honored the Worshipful Master and Wardens in the beginning of the year by sharing their wisdom and experiences. The Worshipful Master was able to identify his initiatives and goals for the year. His motto of "Freemasonry The Lifesavers" will take the lodge into new directions as well as make our lodge a safer place to meet. I look forward to trying to "fill his shoes" next year in the East.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Senior Warden

From The South



Over the past several years, except during the shutdown, our lodge has gained quite the reputation for serving rather elaborate meals at our stated meetings. This really started in 2017 when Brother Todd Moissette became our Senior Steward. Brother Todd had already served as Junior Steward the previous two years so when the late Dennis Eaton was ready to step

down from Senior Steward Todd stepped up. So did the dinner fare!

Masonic dinners have long been defined as overcooked beef, mashed potatoes, green beans that taste fresh out of the can and usual fare such as that. Todd wanted to serve the brethren a dinner they would be happy to be served in a restaurant! Not being chef himself, Todd leaned heavily on his Junior Steward and Brother Pat Blankenship who is always a fixture in the kitchen. Pats brother, Mike Blankenship also moved to the area and became a regular worker in the kitchen as well. Some of the meals Todd's teams have served have been Chicken Parmesan, Stuffed Shells, Baked Rigatoni, Pork Tenderloin, Fish-n-Chips, Chicken Cordon Bleu and many other exotic entrees. When serving up vegetables, Todd has made sure we have green beans, only once per year!

One of the biggest challenges for Brother Todd has been serving such fancy fare on a very limited budget. When asked how they do it, they explain there is no one single Way. They shop comparatively and design the meals based on current costing trends. Our kitchen runs on the same budget they have for the last ten years however, we all know how costs have increased. Why hasn't the budget? Well they operate based off donations. Stated dinner donations rarely break even with the actual cost of most meals. When asked how he does it, Brother Todd replied, "Well, it is a balance between portion control, buying in bulk when possible, and trying to make as much as possible in house." Brother Todd, while serving as our Senior Steward, has proven himself an excellent steward of the kitchen finances. Each year he has served, he has ended the year with a slight profit in the kitchen budget. Now that is an accomplishment. Make sure to let our Stewards know how much you appreciate the 196 traditions.

Brother Doug Dunn, Junior Warden

Bull Roast

Our Bull Roast is swiftly approaching! Mark your Calendars! Our Bull Roast will be on May 14th this year. This is our main fundraiser that will need each of the Brethren to sell tickets and participate in the work if you are available. This fund also pays for our scholarships that we award every year to two deserving youths to help them with their college expenses. Look for your tickets with the

April Ashlar for you to sell. If more tickets are needed you can see Brother Patrick Blankenship or Brother Doug Dunn. We are looking forward to the fellowship and a successful fundraiser.

Meet Your Lodge Safety Coordinator



Your 2022 Lodge Safety Coordinator is Brother W. Lawrence "Larry" Daniels, PhD. Larry grew up in Richmond and began volunteering with the Henrico Rescue Squad at age 16. In 1976, he moved to Norfolk to attend ODU, where he earned a BS in EMS in 1981. After graduation, he was hired by ODU to teach EMT programs part time. He would further his career as a first responder for the Cities of Chesapeake (5 years), Hampton (14 years), and Suffolk (30 years).

During the 1980s, Larry embarked on a life changing medical mission trip to Liberia. Upon his return, he re-entered school to become a nurse, eventually earning a PhD in Family & Family-Related Nursing Research. Since this time, he has served as a pediatric nurse practitioner for children and adolescents with mental health issues.

While on a business trip in the Philippines in 1994, Larry met his wife, Lyn. He regards marriage, fatherhood, and Masonry as his finest life achievements. A proud father, he has raised two daughters from an earlier marriage, and assists his wife in raising her four children.

Trestle Board

February 26	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
March 8	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
March 26	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
April 9	Area Ritual School Lake Drummond Lodge, 8AM-12PM
April 11	Area Ritual School Bayside Lodge, 6-9PM
April 12	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

Masonic Birthdays for March

Franklin L. Beard, Jr. '73	Wayne S. Flora '67
R. Craig Belda '00	Ivan Godinez '16
Jackson R. Bell, Jr. '09	Christopher J. Jaeger '58
Orlando C. Bitanga '98	William M. Johnson '93
Donald R. Blair '77	J. Duane Johnstone '64
James D. Boone '76	Thomas W. Lang '05
William E. Combs '80	Robert L. Lankford '72
Michael L. Denning '15	R. Dale Leonard, Jr. '05
James F. Dombey '11	Thomas E. Lindner '83

These Brethren have a total of
549 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in March:

Edna St John	March 1 st
Kaye Peters	March 18 th
Mary Nickerson	March 22 nd
Carol Wicks	March 24 th
Mary Hawker	March 25 th
Betty Williams	March 26 th
Carol Leszczynski	March 27 th
Sharon Nolan	March 29 th
Elizabeth McBride	March 30 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.

EGGcelence In Charity

In anticipation of the snowstorms of January 28th and 29th of this year, we were forced to cancel our January Lodge breakfast. Fortunately, the Lodge was able to make good use of the surplus eggs by

donating them to the food pantry of Nimmo United Methodist Church and Station No. 3 of the Virginia Beach Fire Department. Brother Todd Moissett, Senior Steward, enlisted the help of his son, Luke Moissett (pictured below), to package the eggs in preparation for their deliveries.



Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	John Settle, III	675-9695
Senior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Warden	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
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



Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM
 4869 Princess Anne Road
 Virginia Beach, VA 23462
The Ashlar