



# The Ashlar



August 2022

**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
**[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)**

Volume 67-08

## **Brother Joseph Henry McCoy, Jr.**



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. Joseph Henry McCoy, Jr.

McCoy was born in Norfolk in 1933 to Joseph & Frances McCoy, and graduated from Maury High School in 1950. He later attended the College of William & Mary’s Norfolk Division (now ODU), where he was enrolled in its pre-dental program under an ROTC scholarship through the USAF. Outside the classroom, he made many friends through his membership in Alpha Kappa Psi, and was a star player on the baseball team. After graduating in 1953, he moved to Richmond to attend MCV, where he earned a DDS in 1957.

Upon the completion of McCoy’s formal education, the terms of his scholarship catalyzed his commissioning as a USAF officer. His first assignment took him to Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS, where his first dental patients were fellow servicemen. He continued military dentistry until retiring as a Captain in 1959. Later that year he returned to VA, where he focused his efforts on growing his career and family. At this time he would establish his practice, J. Henry McCoy, Jr., DDS, in the Pembroke area of VA Beach.

McCoy was regarded as an outstanding dentist, and, when he wasn’t working, sought out ways to give back to his community. His aspirations for community service began with his 1968 induction onto ODU’s Board of Visitors. Over the course of his 8 year tenure on the Board, he assisted in its maneuvering of the Leland Peterson Affair, in addition to the replacement of beloved presidents Lewis Webb and James Bugg. Beginning in 1970, he simultaneously served for 4 years in a similar capacity as Vice-Chair of the Tidewater Community College Board.

Between his profession and his roles with some of Hampton Roads’ largest academic institutions, McCoy became a well-recognized figure in the region, inspiring his decision to run for public office. In 1974, he was elected to the Kempsville seat of the VA Beach City Council, and would remain on Council for the next 12 years. In 1980 and 1982, he was appointed by the Council to serve as Vice-Mayor and Mayor, respectively. The prevailing themes of his political career with the City were the many transportation projects he championed, which were influenced by his simultaneous service as Chair of the Tidewater Transportation District Commission (now HRT). Also while serving as mayor, he met and was photographed with Muhammad Ali during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Virginia Beach Pavilion Convention Center in 1982.

In 1988, McCoy married Carolyn Taylor- the pair would travel the world together, venturing to Europe on 3 occasions, and embarking on over 20 cruises. When he wasn’t traveling, he cultivated his passions for darts, gardening, golf, painting, sports (especially the Redskins), hosting pool parties, and spending time with his family.

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## From The East



Every Masonic journey begins with the Blue Lodge. It is here that Masons receive the first three degrees of our Fraternity—the first, or Entered Apprentice's degree, followed by the Fellowcraft's degree, and culminating in the conferment of the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The successful completion of these degrees entitle candidates to Masonic membership, while simultaneously familiarizing them with the ritual, symbolism, and tradition necessary for them to proceed beyond the Blue Lodge into a wide array of fraternally-interconnected appendant bodies, some of which feature names that are abbreviated with colors of their own (i.e., the Red Lodge, etc.).

There is much speculation as to the nomenclature behind the Blue Lodge name. The most widely accepted theory is that the name originated in the ancient age of operative Freemasonry, when our fraternal ancestors met atop high hills or in low vales beneath a canopy of nothing more than the blue sky above. This careful selection of topography allowed our Brothers to better observe the approach of all cowans and eavesdroppers, while the sky afforded transparency and illumination to deter any clever intruders who may have otherwise avoided detection. As such, sky blue holds the distinction of both the original and earliest official color of our Fraternity.

For reasons that are still not understood, white became the official color of Freemasonry in the centuries succeeding biblical times, most likely due to the color's significance in our ritual and its presence in our iconic garb (i.e., our aprons, gloves, etc.). What is known, however, is that upon the proliferation of speculative Freemasonry nearly three centuries ago, the Grand Lodge of England returned blue to its rightful place as the official color of our Brotherhood in 1731. At least one source records that this was done to amplify Freemasonry's appearance, as blue had been a color affiliated with knighthood in England for nearly four centuries by that time. This also explains why "garter blue" was selected as the official color- this was the same color worn by Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter since the advent of the fifteenth century.

In modern times, blue remains the official Masonic color. Although no longer garter blue, the current selection of "celestial blue" is a welcome

intermediary between the colors featured in the origins of both operative and speculative Freemasonry. Together, these backgrounds embolden the heritage of our official color and chromatically illustrate relief and truth, which are among the most sacred tenets of our Craft.

Brother John Settle, III, Worshipful Master

## From The West



I AM PROUD TO BE A MASON - I shall never forget becoming part of Kempsville Lodge. I was immediately made to feel that I was surrounded by Brothers. I felt there were no strangers present. This was one big family that seemed to have adopted me, and I, in turn, was elated to adopt them as my family.

Once I completed my degrees, I couldn't wait to be able to confer the Degrees on others as there was so much, I wanted to explain and elaborate about each Degree.

I was offered this opportunity and immediately began to study and memorize many parts, and over the years I became very active, holding office, lecturing, and taking an active part in every phase of Masonry where my talents and abilities could be used.

I am proud to be a Mason and a part of an organization that is devoted to helping, without question or embarrassment, widows, orphans, and those in need.

I am proud to be a Mason and to be a part of a Fraternity dedicated to the upholding of the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to be a Mason who believes in God, in the freedom of mankind and the sanctity of human life.

I am proud to be a Mason who opposes hatred and bigotry, and stands for truth, justice, kindness, integrity, and righteousness for all.

I am proud to be a Mason and shall always be happy to number myself among those who uphold those cardinal principles and moral standards of life that are so needed in society today. May God grant our lodge continued strength to go, to grow, and to glow so that I and all Masons can exclaim: "I am proud to be a Mason!"

Brother Pat Blankenship, Senior Warden



& Thomas McMillan of Berkley Lodge No. 167. He was also active in the Scottish Rite, and Khedive Shrine's Golf Club and Drum & Bugle Corps. A member of our Lodge for 56 years, he died in 2019 at age 86, and was survived by his wife, brother, daughters, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

McCoy's ingrained distinction in dentistry, volunteerism, and public service epitomize him as a selfless and interminable proponent of education, health, and medicine. For the better part of his life, he dedicated his aptitude and talents with those of his clients, neighbors, and colleagues to secure a brighter future for his community. His undertakings are indelible, and ratify his adoration in this series as an evident lifesaver. If you're aware of a deceased member of our Lodge who may fit "The Lifesaver" criteria, please email [johnrs4@vt.edu](mailto:johnrs4@vt.edu).

### 56<sup>th</sup> District Blood Drive

Where: Kempsville Masonic Lodge  
 When: Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Time: 2:00pm to 7:00pm

Why: The biggest benefit of blood donation is that it saves lives. Donations are essential for trauma patients and people undergoing a variety of situations, including surgeries, transplants, chronic illnesses, blood disorders including sickle cell disease and hemophilia, preterm birth and cancer



### 56<sup>th</sup> District Traveling Gavel



Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296 reclaims the 56<sup>th</sup> District Traveling Gavel at the July Stated Communication. Follow the gavel's journey by visiting our website at [kempsvillemasonic.org](http://kempsvillemasonic.org).

### 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

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