



# The Ashlar



October 2022

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

Volume 67-10

## Brother John Washington “Johnnie” Hamilton



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. John Washington “Johnnie” Hamilton.

Hamilton was born in Grady County, OK in 1913 to George & Minler Hamilton. He and his five siblings spent their childhoods in Cornish, OK, working on their parents’ farm and attending school. During his adolescence, Hamilton took a keen interest in mechanics and utilities. He initially worked as an amateur lineman servicing his neighbors’ telephone lines, while simultaneously working as a mechanic for a nearby Ford dealership. After graduating from high school in 1931, he was accepted to Oklahoma State. However, upon his arrival there,

he was unable to pay a \$50 admissions fee. With no other option but to return to Cornish, he continued his work as a farmer, lineman, and mechanic.

In 1933, Hamilton joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Stationed in Bootjack, CA, his camp was responsible for infrastructure maintenance and construction. Owing to its location in CA’s fire-prone forests, his camp also assisted in firefighting. Due to his early work experience, he was a well-regarded laborer, and was entrusted with specialized tools, heavy machinery, and dynamite. However, it was his typewriter skillset that elevated his title to camp librarian. The near entirety of his earnings were sent home to help support his family.

By 1940, Hamilton reached the cutoff age for CCC service. To continue his service to his country, he enlisted in the Navy, where he advanced to machinery repair by the onset of US entry into WWII. In 1944, he was stationed in Reno, NV, where he would welcome his son into the world. By the end of that year, he was deployed aboard the USS Dyess, where he supervised the engine control room. A dedicated leader, he slept on a cot there to ensure his presence in the event of an emergency. This selfless decision would later cost him his hearing.

After WWII, Hamilton visited his sister in Washington, DC, who introduced him to her friend Kay. The couple married in 1947, and were stationed in Norfolk in 1948. In the first years of their residency there, Kay gave birth to their two daughters just in time for Hamilton’s deployment in the Korean war. Upon his return to Norfolk in 1953, he split his time between fathering his children and his work in the Naval Base Machinery Repair Office.

By 1964, Hamilton was a Chief Petty Officer on assignment in the Vietnam War. First deployed on the USS Vulcan, by 1967 he was aboard the USS Forrestal in the Tonkin Gulf. While there, he applied his firefighting skills during the USS Forrestal fire. He and his crew’s actions preserved many lives in the greatest Naval tragedy since WWII. This event affected Hamilton, who concluded his 30-year Navy career after returning to Virginia in 1970.

*Continued on page 3*

## From The East



Each December, our Lodges elect a Junior Deacon, Junior Warden, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Senior Warden, Treasurer, and Worshipful Master. It is the duty of the Worshipful Master to select appointees for the offices of Chaplain, Junior Steward, Marshal, Musician, Senior Steward, and Tiler, among others. Each of these officers, whether they are appointed or elected, serve in such capacities for one year.

Appointed officers serve at the will and pleasure of their corresponding Worshipful Masters, and are either reinstated or replaced each year. The Secretary and Treasurer, although elected, are also either reinstated or replaced each year. The remaining officers are referred to collectively as the "line officers," their officership beginning upon their elections as Junior Deacons, and concluding after serving as Worshipful Masters.

Under the line officer system, the officers develop a familiarity with the rituals and roles of their respective positions over the course of a five-year period. At the end of each year, and with their Lodge Brothers' election, they advance to a new office while vacating their previous one. This gradual progression of officers serves to cultivate a natural command structure, while simultaneously fostering a built-in mentorship network.

Our Lodge is unique in the sense that we have always encouraged the expedition of Masonic experience and knowledge through the implementation of Junior Warden's Night and Senior Warden's Night. These events refer to two stated meetings each year in which the sitting Junior Warden and Senior Warden act as Worshipful Masters for the duration of the meetings. This serves to provide these officers with invaluable experience far in advance of their service as Worshipful Masters, in addition to affording the lower-level line officers with the opportunity to act in higher offices.

After transitioning from a Worshipful Master to a Past Master, the duties of a line officer are not over. From that day forward, he assumes a role of stewardship to ensure that his Lodge is well supplied with good Masonic counsel. From his first day beyond the East, to his entrance into the Celestial Lodge above, he serves as a priceless

resource to advancing, prospective, and sitting Lodge officers below.

Brother John Settle, III, Worshipful Master

## From The West



The role of a Mentor is much more than a teacher, being more of an advisor, coach, confidential counselor and sounding board. There is a lot for a new Mason to learn that will require explaining from a seasoned Masonic Brother. As the candidate progresses through the three degrees, Mentors and Coaches not only possess a learned knowledge, but the specific talent on how to achieve the best from men who are seeking to become better. They also possess specific knowledge on how to handle crisis situations or knowledge on who to seek to get advice from. For a Mentor to maintain their credibility they 1) must be true to their selves 2) be clear on their strengths 3) be clear on their limits and 4) Be available as a Role Model. They provide examples that a new candidate may wish to emulate. Getting involved and 'Binding Yourself' to Kempsville Lodge is very important. Just attending and sitting along the sidelines does not fulfill "Making Good Men Better" as a Masonic Motto. If you are just observing and not participating how are you making good men better? Get involved again and support your lodge!

Brother Pat Blankenship, Senior Warden

## From The South



The annual lodge family picnic was another successful event. We served over 80 hamburgers and 100 hotdogs. The weather was perfect and we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Job's Daughters participated with a bake sale and face painting. They also sold tickets for a pie-throwing raffle with the Brother Pat Blankenship receiving the pie!



Thanks to all that participated and joined us this day.

Brother Doug Dunn, Junior Warden

## Trestle Board

October 11 ..... Stated Communication  
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM  
October 14 .... Grand Master's Official District Visit  
6PM at Bayside Lodge No. 218  
RSVP with Worshipful Master Required  
October 17 ..... District Blood Drive  
2-7PM at Bayside Lodge No. 218  
October 29 ..... Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM  
November 8 ..... Stated Communication  
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM  
November 11-12 ..... Grand Annual Communication

## Masonic Birthdays for October

Ronnie W. Anglin '71	Rodney K. Griffin '16
Nico L. I. Barbosa '21	Geirge E. Habib '80
Robert H. Barton '90	Zahi A. Habre '19
Michael D. Blankenship '17	Robert L. Huff '20
Joseph S. Bloise '03	Anson T. Knowles, Sr. '76
David W. Broadway '91	Andrew L. Levy '99
G. Ray Bunch, Jr. '80	George H. Lewis, III '70
Jonathan W. Bunch '14	Robert W. Lewis, Jr. '71
Donald S. Cale '92	Ian W. Marks '96
Daniel E. Connor '85	Jimmy R. McDaries '15
Patrick M. Cooney '20	Connon J. McMillan '20
Richard V. Cooper, Jr. '12	Thomas E. Monahan '96
Thomas H. Cutchins, III '87	Henley A. Morgan, Jr. '87
Jean M. Damus '20	Gregory C. Muir '10
W Lawrence Daniels '20	George W. O'Neal '01
Kody C. Davis '20	M. Joseph Orman '82
Robert H. DeFord, Jr. '54	Marc F. Povondra '83
Harold C. Dickerson, Jr. '90	Clyde S. Sheely '69
David E. Dodson '76	Robert W. Stanek '77
Thomas F. Doering, Sr. '92	Thomas N. Thomas '88
John A. Donahue '10	Michael A. Turner '18
George E. Fausel '82	David A. White '00
David H. Foxwell '07	Raymond N. Wilson '20
Jason L. Fuller '11	Robert J. Worthington '04
Tracy L. Gilbert '96	

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in October:

Debbie Collins	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Dorothy Foxwell	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Dunn	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
Millie Maddox	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Jackie Fulcher	October 13 <sup>th</sup>
Sandy Howard	October 17 <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.

## Kempsville Lodge Foodbank

This month Kempsville Masonic Lodge donated over 140 lbs. of food to the food pantry at the Church of the Ascension. Total donations for 2022 is 2,144 lbs. of food partially funded by cash donations of \$2,073.

Brother Bob Hughes, Food Coordinator

## Brother John Washington "Johnnie" Hamilton (cont'd from page 1)

Now living in Virginia Beach, Hamilton became a deacon at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, and a devoted grandfather. After Kay's retirement in 1981, they embarked on trips to Alaska, the Caribbean, Central America, and Europe. When they were home, they enjoyed crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and spending time with their family.

Hamilton's Masonic journey began in 1956 when he petitioned Tyre Lodge No. 42 in Davis, OK, presumably while on a Navy assignment- it is known that he was initiated, passed, and raised there later that year. In 1981, he demitted from his Mother Lodge and affiliated with Bayside Lodge No. 218 in Virginia Beach. He would ultimately demit from this Lodge in 1997 to affiliate with our Lodge. His signers were Worshipful Frank Creasy and Worshipful Henry Rodgers. A member of our Lodge for 13 years and a Mason for 40 more, he died in 2010 at age 97, and was survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Hamilton's entrenched dedication to emergency management, military service, and utilities mark him as a vigorous proponent for the preservation of public health, safety, and welfare. From the earliest days of his adolescence to the latter years of his life, he tailored his career and extracurricular interests to augment these attributes, thereby enabling him to better confirm the well-being of his friends, family, community, and country. His life's endeavors are ineradicable, and sanction his ovation in this series as a keen 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).



Father Howard Dennis Draper, Jr and Son, Howard Lee Draper visit Kempsville Masonic Lodge in August, 2022.

## 2023 Dues Payments

To all “dues paying” members of Kempsville Lodge No. 196. As LMIPs and Masonic Veterans do not pay dues, this message will not apply to you.

If you log on to the Grand Lodge website (Grand View), you will note that your “2023” annual dues are now payable via the electronic payment option. You may choose to pay using your credit card, by following instructions provided you on the website. Please know that you still have the option to pay your dues buy check, money order or cash to the Lodge Secretary. 2023 dues notices will be mailed to all in the near future. Annual dues are payable January 1 of each year to be current for the year (2022 dues cards will expire on December 31). New dues cards will be mailed upon payment as in the past.

If you need assistance to log on to Grand View, please contact the Secretary.

Right Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

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