



# The Ashlar



July 2023

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

Volume 68-06

The first core principle of Freemasonry is brotherly love, which is a lot deeper than just being kind to your fellow man. It includes developing a deep and lasting bond with your fellow Masons by treating each other with respect, lending a helping hand when needed, and being there for one another in good times and bad. Every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and will behave with compassion and understanding to his fellows.

Members come to Masonry for many reasons. Because of a relative, because of a friend, because of fellowship, because of curiosity, or maybe because they think they will get ahead. The reason we joined is irrelevant.

After joining, we found men who treated us with brotherly love. This, in turn relieved the stress of the day. It also gave us a feeling of self-worth and helped us see the true meaning of Freemasonry.

The fast movement of everyday life causes a lot of changes in our lifestyle. We move from one situation to another at such a speed that most of the time, we seldom see the conclusion of one problem before another comes. Except if it doesn't turn out right, then we hear every detail of what went wrong. That is where Masonry comes in.

We come to lodge to meet old and new friends that demand nothing from us. Thus, we demand nothing from our brethren. We teach and are taught a more even way to live and cope with problems. We learn that all that matters is within ourselves. We learn, through watching others, that a better way to do anything is through love, understanding and trust.

In a good book, 'The Magic of Freemasonry,' by Arthur E. Powell, we read, 'Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hill man, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap, we may divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cable-tow of God, running from heart to heart...'"

## From The East



Brethren, this was a difficult ASHLAR article to write in either sense of the word. My heart is heavy from the loss of my friend and brother, Doug Dunn.

From the very beginning I was Gobsmacked at meeting this country music star whom I had listened to on the radio. We became quick friends spending many laborious hours in the kitchen while working on lodge projects and learning catechism together. We worked to improve Kempsville and support the Worshipful Masters that we served under and whispered good counsel in each other's ear when times were

trying. I will surely miss my friend and brother. As we would do for any sitting Worshipful Master who passes to the celestial lodge in office, Brother Hughes has proposed a memorial plaque be made for down in the dining hall.

Kempsville Lodge business must go on. As with back to this Ashlar publication and breakfast, lodge projects must continue to advance. We still have a lawn project planned for the front with brick replacing the rotted landscape timbers around the flagpole and the sign. We also need to define the front flowerbed across the front. I am hoping to coordinate a Fun project/picnic with our youth groups and the masons to make short work of this

and give all something to point at and say I helped build that.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

## From The West



Memento mori: A simple phrase that means "remember that you must die" in the languages of ancient Rome and Greece and exemplified in the Stoic traditions. It serves to remind us of

our own mortality, of our mistakes and failures, of the inevitable transformation of life into death. With the changes wrought upon our lodge by the recent visitation of mortality I am reminded of this phrase.

It is not a morbid phrase, but teaches us the same lessons we all have learned. That death eventually comes to all things, great and small, in its time. In our third degree we are reminded of the broken column and father time. That everything comes in its seasons. We are also reminded though of the immortality of the soul, and our remembrances of our brethren in the open book of our accomplishments upon that column, read forevermore.

So the ideal is that we all know that we will die. That death will come for us all in the end. So remember not to put things off. Accomplish your goals. Do not come "next week" but come today instead! Anything delayed, might be forever, so get in the mix now.

This ideal is the other phrase that we hear in the same vein as Memento Mori, Its Memento Vivere. Remember to Live! Be present in your life, make an impact on your friends and family. Buy the ticket, take the ride. Lean into your life and live it.

I am replacing a true master of this thought. Bro Dunn lived with the aspect of death stalking him, but he chose to live! He played music to his fans, he traveled, he was at lodge. He did not let his limitation limit him and for that he is remembered. He traveled to the east in an upright and vigorous manner, not shirking or dodging his burden, but meeting it head on. I am sure he would have made a noteworthy Worshipful Master if he had the chance.

So now I step forward to fill his ample shoes. To take up this burden that has been laid down, I am hoping, with the brethrens' assistance, to be able to put together a year in the east that will honor this chance I have been given, in recognition of

Brother Dunn's sacrifice to get us this far. Over the next couple months, as I approach many of you for assistance in my coming year, I hope you take this opportunity to grasp life once again and live it to the best of your ability. To say yes to having a chance to once again stand in place in our lodge, to build your ashlar, so it is as ready for that house in the Heavens as Brother Dunn's was when he slotted it into place.

Brother Mike Turner, Senior Warden (elect)

## From The South



Its with a heavy heart and unsteady hand that I mention the fact that I am leaving my station in the South and headed West far earlier than I expect. With the recent death of our Senior Warden Doug Dunn I have been called to pick up the working tools in the West to finish out this year. I will be replaced by Bro. Keith Ingraham moving from Senior Deacon to Junior Warden, and Bro Howard Draper will be moving into the Senior Deacons seat.

Our passed brother Dunn was always clear about the possible, and as it turned out, inevitable outcome of his passing. He made it clear that the line had to be ready to take up the empty space if he left the line. He knew there was a chance that he would lay his working tools down, and that we had to be ready to step in to fill that need.

To that end Bro Dunn always made sure we got our practice in, that the officers behind him where prepared to step up if the need should arise. Bro Dunn, even while suffering with his affliction, made sure that the lodge would be whole. He knew his heart might fail but the heart of the lodge must go on as each of us join that building, not made with hands, eternal in the heaven.

So it is with his steady guiding hand I leave this position and step forward to take up the next burden on my way to the east, Following the path that he has laid down before us.

Brother Mike Turner, Junior Warden

## Past Masters Night

Each year, Kempsville Lodge honors the Past Masters of our lodge. The brothers who have sat in the East know it is an honor and a huge commitment to those who have come before and those brothers who follow. Those who have waked the path to become the Masters of the lodge have

given their time and talents. The time it takes to reach this place of honor is a commitment of no less than 4-5 years as they have moved through the different chairs in the lodge. During each Masters time the impact in the community is hard to miss.

On Tuesday, July 25, 2023, we will say thank you to all of the Past Masters of our lodge. At this time, many of our Past Masters will sit in the chairs they sat as they were moving through the chairs. It is a night of fun as they regale us with the stories of their time and the relationships they made. Join us on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 6PM for dinner as we honor and remember all of our Past Masters.

## Trestle Board

July 11 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
July 25 .....	Past Masters Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
July 29 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
August 8 .....	Stated Communication Hawaiian Shirt Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
August 21 .....	District Blood Drive, 2-7PM
August 26 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

## Food Pantry

Through the generosity of Kempsville Lodge, we have collected \$268 and received 150 pounds of food and purchased another 160 pounds of food, for a total of 310 pounds of food.

As I delivered our donations this week, I overheard the director of the food pantry at Courthouse Community United Methodist Church tell the volunteers working that day "this is from the Masons in Kempsville". We at Kempsville are making a difference in the lives of the food challenged, we are also, by example, showing the community that Masons are truly Stewards of the community.

I humbly thank all of you for your donations of food and cash. In these challenging times we are indeed testing the length of our Cabletow.

The next article I hope to bring you all up to date with cash totals and pounds of food donated along with the number of families helped for the first six months.

Brother Bob Hughes  
Food Pantry Coordinator

## Masonic Birthdays for July

Ramon L. Baez, Sr. '97	Melvin S. Mizelle '67
Ralph E. Bregant '84	Edward F. Myers, Jr. '76
Rickey P. Brooks '16	William F. Oliveira '19
T. Edward Brown '10	James D. Orlando '19
David L. Cline '91	William T. Parks, III '89
Alexander R. Echols '09	William T. Peterson '07
Darin M. Ely '04	William K. Sheppard '08
James C. Gardner '70	Scott F. Sherman '17
Brian K. Goodwin '90	Dale E. Smith '79
Nazim K. Jamal '16	Joseph F. Thornton '63
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

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in July:

Lee Eaton	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Barbara Brown	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ouida Young	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
Beverly Hanly	July 15 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara Guarino	July 17 <sup>th</sup>
Ruth Ann King	July 21 <sup>st</sup>
Wanda Van Fossen	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.

## Life Membership in Perpetuity

At the June Stated Communication of the Lodge, Article II of the by-laws was amended to increase the annual dues to \$95, plus Grand Lodge assessments, effective January 1, 2024. Total dues will increase to \$150. (Lodge dues plus Grand Lodge assessments)

If you have ever considered investing in the Life Membership in Perpetuity program (LMIP), now might be the time to do so. Until December 31, 2023, the cost to purchase the LMIP is 25-times the annual dues (having your current year's dues paid). On January 1, 2024, the LMIP cost will increase from 25-times \$117., to 25-times \$150. Payments may be in full, incremental, or by credit card.

If you might be interested in the LMIP program, contact the lodge Secretary. An investment in LMIP benefits you by never paying dues again, even if there is an increase. It also benefits the lodge beyond your lifetime.

Right Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

## Brother Doug Dunn

Our Senior Warden, Brother Doug Dunn, passed to the Celestial Lodge on June 6, 2023. Masonic Rites will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:30PM, at Rosewood-Kellum Funeral Home in Virginia Beach.

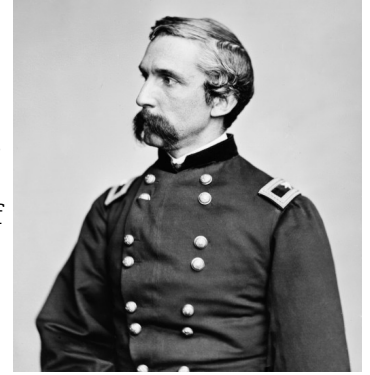


## The Final Act by a Mason in The American Civil War

It was an April morning three days after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant. The Southern troops, led by General John B. Gordon, a Mason, were marching in columns towards the Northern troops who were standing in formation waiting for the Southerners to stack arms and fold their flags. Suddenly a shifting of arms was heard. Gordon looked up with alarm, but there was nothing to fear. General Joshua Chamberlain had ordered his troops to assume the position of "honor answering honor." Immediately, the Confederate troops snapped to attention and returned the honor. It was the first act to heal the

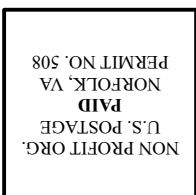
wounds of a nation that had spent four years and 618,000 lives in a civil war. That command of "honor answering honor" was ordered by a Mason.

Major General Joshua Chamberlain was a member of United Lodge 8, Brunswick, Maine. After the war, he became Governor of Maine from 1866-71 and President of Bowdoin College from 1871-83. He is also featured in the movie "Gettysburg" for his role in holding Little Round Top.



## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Warden	Michael Turner	581-4239
Junior Warden	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Howard Draper	515-3540
Junior Deacon	Chris Kammerer	348-9822
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		
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
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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