



The Ashlar



July 2017

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

Volume 64-07

Brother Shaquille “Shaq” O’Neal

Brother Shaquille Rashaun O'Neal (Widow's Son Lodge No. 28, Boston, Massachusetts) is considered to be one of the most dominant basketball players in NBA history. At 7 feet 1 inch tall and weighing 325 pounds, Shaq's larger-than-life personality and powerful athleticism have resulted in worldwide adulation and one of the most passionate fan bases in sports and entertainment.

O'Neal played for six teams throughout his 19-year NBA career and was announced as a nominee for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on December 21, 2015.

Following his career at Louisiana State University, O'Neal was drafted by the Orlando Magic with the first overall pick in the 1992 NBA draft. He quickly became one of the best centers in the league, winning Rookie of the Year in 1992–93 and later leading his team to the 1995 NBA Finals. After four years with the Magic, O'Neal signed as a free agent with the Los Angeles Lakers, where he won three consecutive championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002. In 2004, O'Neal moved on to the Miami Heat and won his fourth NBA championship in 2006. Between 2007 and 2011, Shaq took his talents to Phoenix, Cleveland and finally Boston where he finished out his illustrious basketball career.



Shaq's individual accolades include the 1999–2000 MVP award, the 1992–93 NBA Rookie of the Year award, 15 All-Star game selections, three All-Star Game MVP awards, three Finals MVP awards, two scoring titles, 14 All-NBA team selections, and three NBA All-Defensive Team selections. He is one of only three players to win NBA MVP, All-Star game MVP and Finals MVP awards in the same year. He ranks 7th all-time in points scored, 5th in field goals, 13th in rebounds, and 7th in blocks. Largely due to his ability to dunk the basketball, O'Neal also ranks 3rd all-time in field goal percentage (58.2%).

Shaquille O'Neal's off-court accolades rival his athletic accomplishments, having found success in acting, music, television and gaming. Currently, Shaq is an analyst on Inside The NBA.

O'Neal maintained a high level of interest in the workings of police departments and became personally involved in law enforcement. O'Neal went through the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Reserve Academy and became a reserve officer with the Los Angeles Port Police.

On March 2, 2005, O'Neal was given an honorary U.S. Deputy Marshal title and named the spokesman for the Safe Surfin' Foundation; he served an honorary role on the task force of the same name, which tracks down sexual predators who target children on the Internet.

Philanthropically, Shaquille's relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of America dates back to his youth in New Jersey. As a national spokesperson for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, he has been participating in campaigns with the non-profit company for the past 15 years.

From The East



June was a very successful month of Masonry in Kempsville Lodge. Our Senior Warden, Brother Chris Anders led the way to another profitable Bull Roast wherein the Brothers collective efforts produced revenue of over \$7,200. Later in the month I accompanied our Scholarship Chairman Worshipful George Fausel to the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center to present our annual scholarships. Our collective hard work made those scholarships possible, and brought smiles to the faces and joy to the hearts of the two young ladies who received them, and similar feelings to their families in the audience at the graduation. Notably both recipients were also 2017 graduates of Kempsville High School.

We are progressing well toward achieving our year-end award goals for 2017. Our Lodge (as well as the 56th Masonic District) Blood Coordinator Brother Pat Blankenship advises that we have already surpassed the minimum requirements for the Levy Award. Please continue your efforts in this vital community service endeavor. We have also achieved the point total required to earn the Hillman Award, but please don't let that early success stop you now, there is more Masonry to do regardless of any award. Finally, we are at 50% achievement of \$5 donations (31 of 62) toward achieving the Morlock Award.

Our Temple Building efforts are on track and I anticipate receiving a bid on our down stairs bathroom and elevator projects as soon as a final survey has been received. Our Lodge Building efforts have gained a new project, we are in the final stages of solidifying our support to Kempsville High School in the form of volunteer services pledged for concession sales during Kempsville High School home football games during the 2017 season.

Our Budget Committee presentation originally scheduled for the June Stated was postponed until the July Stated in order to bring more in-depth facts to the attention of the Brethren. So put on your Hawaiian shirts for Junior Warden's Night and come out to hear this important information. I am sure that Brother Roger Taylor will appreciate a full house during his night in the East.

All told, we are steadily making Kempsville Lodge a force in our community and amongst our members and families. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



Over the past six years I have watched roughly fifty men be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Sadly, many have dropped out of sight, rarely coming to lodge anymore. This concerns and saddens me deeply. I often wonder why someone would petition our lodge to be initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, progress through the degrees, and then disappear. Perhaps they found that Masonry was not quite what they expected. I get that, it's not for everyone and you really don't know that much until you are in it. Perhaps they didn't get involved. If that's the case, that's on them. Masonry is a "you get out of it what you put into it" kind of organization. However, if it's because we dropped the ball and didn't do what we needed to do to aid their development, that's on us! After all, the primary function of a Masonic Lodge is to train new members to an understanding of the truths our rituals and ceremonies are calculated to inculcate, to develop members as benevolent men, to cultivate the social virtues among men, and to promote knowledge of the Craft. Adding new members to our rolls is great but it's certainly not our primary function. The chief concern of our Lodge lies in the welfare, happiness, and Masonic development of the brethren. The beauty of our ritual and the good fellowship among our members will only be sustained by the contribution we make to society through the good men we have helped become better men by indoctrination into what we know as Masonic character. If we do so we will have less member fallout in the future. It's up to each and every one of us. Make an effort to engage with new brothers, call a new brother who has been absent, never let a new brother sit alone in lodge, and be the Masonic brother we should all strive to be. This will be a great thing, if we just commit to doing it and doing it consistently. See you in Lodge!

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

From The South



The July Stated Communication (July 9th) will be an exceptional evening and is certain to enlighten and entertain all those present. It's not only Junior Warden's Night it is also Hawaiian Shirt Night. Come out with your favorite colorful island shirt, there is something special in store for the "best" shirt.

50 Year Veteran



On May 1st, Brother Earl Spruill, Sr., a member of Kempsville Lodge who lives in Roanoke, VA, was presented his 50-year Masonic Veteran's emblem as a courtesy by the brethren of Vinton Lodge No. 204. Brother Spruill, Sr. was accompanied by his son, Brother Earl Spruill, Jr., a member of Vinton Lodge. Worshipful Marvin Spruill of Kempsville Lodge, a 60-year Masonic Veteran, is Brother Earl's brother.

Masonry Universal

Brethren, this is the first in a series of articles about the history and practice of Masonry in other countries (including South Carolina). It seemed appropriate to commence with the "Premier Grand Lodge": The United Grand Lodge of England. That august body recently celebrated the 300th anniversary of their founding, and with it, the birth of organized Freemasonry.

The Grand Lodge of England was founded on St. John's Day (June 24th), 1717. Before this, lodges met by "immemorial right" since no higher Masonic authority existed. As was often the case during this period, all four of the original lodges under the Grand Lodge met in ale houses; the innkeeper was frequently the Tyler. One of these ale houses was the "Goose and Gridiron", and was the place where meetings to organize the first Grand Lodge were held. By the middle of the 1700s the practice of drinking in public, and with it the hosting of Masonic Lodges in ale houses, began to end due to an increased condemnation of drinking

by religious and medical groups.

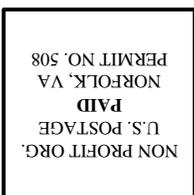
A second Grand Lodge was established in 1751 by the so-called "Ancients", who claimed to adhere to the Ancient Landmarks of the Order. They claimed that the other Grand Lodge (dubbed "the Moderns") had departed from this because of the "modern" innovations they introduced to Masonry. It was not until the Union of 1813 and a three-year "Lodge of Reconciliation" that this division was healed. By that time, separate Grand Lodges had already been long established in the American colonies, and later, the United States. Virginia, at one point prior to 1778, had lodges chartered under the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania and America.

(Source Material: "The Masons Words", Robert G. Davis, 33° GC)

David Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Deacon

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Greg Muir	676-3761
Senior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Warden	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Deacon	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	John Settle, III	675-9695
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Justin Gray	338-7218
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539



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