



The Ashlar



November 2017

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

Volume 64-11

Brother Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr.



In keeping with the spirit of Veterans Day and in support of Freemasons who served our great country as members of the United States Military, we honor the 38th President of the United States Brother Gerald Rudolph Ford (Malta Lodge 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan). When he entered the White House in 1974, Brother and President Ford became the fourth consecutive President (John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, and Brother Ford) to have served in the United States Navy.

Brother Ford enlisted in the Navy following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, HI instead of waiting for the draft. Brother Ford later received a commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve on 13 April 1942. Applying for sea duty, Brother Ford was sent in May 1943 to the pre-commissioning detachment for the light aircraft carrier, USS Monterey (CVL 26) at New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, New Jersey. From the ship's commissioning on 17 June 1943 until the end of December 1944, Brother Ford served as the Assistant Navigator, Athletic Officer, and Antiaircraft Battery Officer on board Monterey. During his service, Monterey participated in many actions in the Pacific with the Third and Fifth Fleets during the fall of 1943 and in 1944. In 1943, the carrier helped secure Makin Island in the Gilberts, and participated in carrier strikes against Kavieng, New Ireland in 1943. During the spring of 1944, Monterey supported landings at Kwajalein and Eniwetok and participated in carrier strikes in the Marianas, Western Carolines, and northern New Guinea, as well as in the Battle of Philippine Sea. After overhaul, from September to November 1944, aircraft from Monterey launched strikes against Wake Island, participated in strikes in the Philippines and Ryukus, and supported the landings at Leyte and Mindoro.

On 3 October 1945, Brother Ford was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and was later released from active duty under honorable conditions on 23 February 1946. For his Naval service, Brother Ford earned the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with nine engagement stars for operations in the Gilbert Islands, Bismark Archipelego, Marshal Islands, Asiatic and Pacific carrier raids, Hollandia, Marianas, Western Carolines, Western New Guinea, and the Leyte Operation. Brother Ford also received the Philippine Liberation Medal with two bronze stars for Leyte and Mindoro, as well as the American Campaign and World War II Victory Medals.

As President and in keeping with his Masonic values to "admonish of error and aid a reformation," Brother Ford introduced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam War evaders and deserters who had fled to countries such as Canada, in Presidential Proclamation 4313. The conditions of the amnesty required that those reaffirm their allegiance to the United States and serve two years working in a public service job or a total of two years service for those who had served less than two years of honorable service in the military. The program for the Return of Vietnam Era Draft Evaders and Military Deserters established a Clemency Board to review the records and make recommendations for receiving a Presidential Pardon and a change in Military discharge status. Full pardon for evaders came during the administration of President Jimmy Carter who also served as an officer in the United States Navy during the Korean War.

From The East



October was another good month of Masonry for Kempsville Lodge. We had an outstanding Stated Communication that included an excellent Founding Fathers

presentation by Worshipful Mike Johnstone, we raised Brother Mike Blankenship to the Sublime Degree, we had our final Family Breakfast, and we were well represented during the Kempsville High School Football game against Princess Anne High School and during the Kempsville High School Homecoming parade. A special thanks to Worshipful Bob Stanek who snuck off with Donna's T-Bird to drive Hannah Cooper (Dickie's daughter) during the parade. Bob was even able to stop the T-Bird on the KHS track and get a picture with the Brothers working the concession stand and grill. Check our Facebook page to see that motley crew pictured around Donna's smooth ride.

Each of you should be very proud of how our football support has developed. To site an example, I'd like to tell a story involving Brother Gil Clyburn. Gil wasn't scheduled as part of the 06 October work team, but he showed up to help anyway. Since he wasn't included on the volunteer list provided to KHS, his name didn't show up on the gate list for free admission. When Gil approached the person checking names, they asked him if he was on the list and he told them that he wasn't. At the same time another person approached the person checking names and said "hey all those guys with the brown shirts get in free, they volunteer at the concession stand." We have made our presence known my Brothers!

Heading into November, we have one more football game on 03 November, the Grand Annual Communication on 10 - 11 November, and our Stated Communication on 14 November. I also plan to visit Union Lodge 48 in Elkton, MD on 07 November, and Stephenson Lodge 135 in Darlington, MD on 08 November. Notable is that my cousin Worshipful Carl W. Lee is the 2017 Master of Stephenson Lodge. Let me know if you'd like to ride up and sit in those Lodges with me, I'm going anyway so the gas and tolls will be free to you. Just be reminded that we'll be heading to Richmond once we finish up at 135.

As a final note, I'd like to clarify one issue regarding our construction project. A number of you have suggested that we increase the number of downstairs bathrooms included in the project to two. I think this is an outstanding idea and have passed that on to Brother Chris Anders (our Senior

Warden) and Brother Roger Taylor (our Junior Warden). Keep the good ideas and donations coming and we'll be there soon!

I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



At the October Stated Communication the Worshipful Master informed the brethren that our Tiler, Ray Baez had taken a job in Northern Virginia and that this was to be his last meeting

with us. While I am very happy for Ray and his new venture I am saddened to see him go. In addition to being Tiler for the past two years Ray has been very involved with our youth and I know I am not alone in expressing gratitude and appreciation for both. Ray's departure got me thinking and I decided to do a little research into the role of the Tiler and its history. Unlike the Tiler of today who guards against all cowans and eavesdroppers the Tyler (old spelling) of old typically had the job of drawing the Lodge, delivering summonses, and was often in charge of the various assets of the Lodge. The drawing of the Lodge stems from the days when the speculative Masons were meeting in taverns. The rooms available in those inns were usually sparsely furnished with bare floors. On a clear space in front of the Master's pedestal the Tyler would draw with chalk and charcoal a rectangle and therein various Masonic emblems, such as the Pillars, the Tesselated Pavement, the various Working Tools, and many others. The Tyler was also paid for the delivery of the summonses. Modern day Tilers are responsible for the preparation of the candidate. He should be an experienced craftsman well able to ensure, both by his knowledge and personality, that the candidate enters upon his preparation in the right spirit. While the preparation is usually done by a steward or one of the deacons, or as in our case the very capable Brother Bob Metz, it is still the Tilers job to make sure that the preparation is properly carried out. In addition to standing guard at the door the Tiler is responsible for ensuring that every Brother enters the Lodge room properly clothed and properly vouched for. Finally, although the Tiler may be outside the Lodge room, we know that he is carrying out a very important job. Ray's departure has created the need for a Tiler for next year. Therefore, I am looking for a Brother who may have an interest in serving the lodge in that capacity. If that person is you please contact me

and let me know. I normally would not ask in this manner but time is very short and 2018 is drawing near. Thank You!

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

From The South



In our journey through masonry we learn the intimate connection between mathematics, geometry and architecture. We are exposed to the seven sciences, most of which are passed over except the 5th science or geometry. We may also note that the 6th and 7th sciences are music and astronomy. In our masonic education we also learn that the observation of nature and the study of order and symmetry led to the foundation of every useful art.

I have reflected on these principles over the past few years and taken note of some interesting relationships between order, symmetry and the sciences. Without diving into a mind numbing lesson in Euclidean Geometry, I will lightly touch on these interesting points and encourage each mason to discover the curious relationships in more detail.

The number 9 and its tie to so many ancient orders first drew my attention. Before the use of zero as a place holder there were only nine numbers for craftsman, shopkeepers, tax collectors and historians to use. Take for instance the sum of all the whole numbers before 9 equals 9, using an equally ancient arithmetic technique.
 $1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8=36$; $3+6=9$

Taking this a step further, the product of any number multiplied by 9 has a sum of 9, for instance.

$1 \times 9 = 9$; $2 \times 9 = 18$, $1+8=9$; $3 \times 9 = 27$,
 $2+7=9$; ... $8 \times 9 = 72$, $7+2=9$; $9 \times 9 = 81$, $8+1=9$; this order continues for any number multiplied by 9.

In early geometry students are taught that there are 360 degrees in a circle; $3+6+0=9$. Going a bit further students are taught that polygons are made up of sides and angles. The sum of those angles have an peculiar relationship. The sum of the angles in a three sided shape, a Triangle is 180 degrees ($1+8+0=9$). The sum of the angles in a four sided shape, such as a square or rectangle is 360 degrees. This continues for 5 sided shapes such as pentagons which have a sum of 540 degrees, ($5+4+0=9$); 6 sided shapes, hexagons with 720 degrees, ($7+2+0=9$) and so on.

I'm not making a statement about numerology or some larger agenda. I'm simply sharing a relationship that I found interesting.

Brother Roger Taylor, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

October 28 Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
November 3 Kempsville High School
Football, 7PM
November 10-11 Grand Annual Communication
Richmond, VA
November 7 Fellowcraft Examination, 7PM
November 14 Stated Communication
Honoring Veteran's Day
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
December 12 Annual Stated Communication
Lodge 6PM
December 16 ... Open Installation of Officers, 1PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at
www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Masonry Universal - France (Part 1)

This month we return from our detour into Continental Freemasonry and start our discussion on the history and practice of Freemasonry in France. Because this is a somewhat complicated topic, it will be divided into two parts. An example of the complexity of Freemasonry in France is the fact that the country has 11 Grand Lodges - some male-only, some mixed gender, and others women-only. Few of these Grand Lodges officially recognize the legitimacy of the others.

According to tradition, the first Masonic lodge in France was founded in 1688 by the Royal Irish Regiment. They had followed James II of England into exile following the "Glorious Revolution" of that year when the Catholic James was replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary II and her husband William III. The first Grand Master of Freemasons in France, Philip Wharton, 1st Duke of Wharton, was an Englishman. He had been Grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of London in 1723 and had become a Jacobite (a believer that James II's heirs were the rightful kings of England) in 1725. He was recognized as the French Grand Master in 1728 while living in Paris.

In 1738, Pope Clement XII issued his papal bull (edict) condemning Freemasonry. Although this created a wave of anti-Masonic persecutions across European countries more loyal to the Pope and the Catholic Church, this did not occur in France since the Parliament of Paris refused to register the bull for political reasons. French Freemasonry thus

very quickly became mainly Catholic in composition, including several priests, and remained so until the French Revolution.

In the 1740s an original and mixed-sex form of Freemasonry, known as The Rite of Adoption, arose among the high French aristocracy. Lodges of Adoption were usually attached to regular craft lodges, but admitted the female relatives of Freemasons to a mixed lodge with its own ritual. The Rite of Adoption is often seen as a prototype for contemporary appendant bodies that admit the wives and daughters of Freemasons, such as the Order of the Eastern Star. It was these Lodges of Adoption who later adopted the Freemasonry of their male counterparts and became the Grande Loge féminine de France which exists today.

Next month: Part II of our discussion of Freemasonry in France.

David Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Deacon

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in November:

Ruth Simpkins	November 1 st
Irma Porter	November 2 nd
Ruth Litchfield	November 2 nd
Merelene Ballance	November 3 rd
Mary Ann Monahan	November 20 th
Barbara McGregor	November 24 th
Iris Midgett	November 25 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.

Masonic Birthdays for November

Warren Louis Aleck '66	Ronald S. Jacobson '03
Patrick D. Blankenship '12	Philip Russell Jennings '94
Albert Lee Bonney, Jr. '63	Michael D. Johnstone '05
Joe Emerson Brown '64	Jerry Wayne Ledbetter '83
Gordon Curtis Burton '71	John Leonard Long '01
Harold A. Campbell, Jr. '10	Andrew C. Mahrenholz '07
Herbert L. Carter '66	Donald Lee McBride '54
William Keith Cole '89	Richard D. McCollum '95
Roger Cort '65	Matthew Gene Millott '15
Harry Lee Cummings '71	Charles Clay Mills, Jr. '79
Lewis Alton Dodson '77	River Douglas Morris '11
Michael Ceroy Elliott '65	Robert Jeffrey Oliver '08
Matthew David Esper '14	Edward Franklin Parton '05
Curtis Raeford Eure '59	Paul W. Pennybacker '68
Clarence G. Felts '69	James Stanley Perry '79
Michael P. Fitzgerald '92	Philip Poffenbarger, Jr. '80
Rolfe Martin Fleming '72	William Harold Rawson '04
Franklin M. Gamage '59	William Lewis Rice '83
Timothy Dwayne Givan '93	Steve Allen Ridgeway '77
Justin Lee Glasgow '78	Henry Sargent '69
Cecil Anthony Goodwin '71	Jerry Silla '99
Justin Marshall Gray '06	Cecil Carroll Smithson '98
Arthur J. Guarino, Jr. '92	Logan Ray Spruill '15
Raymond Elnor Hall, Jr. '76	William J. Swanner, III '74
James Thomas Hare, Jr. '73	Charlie B. Taylor, Jr. '81
William Thomas Haste '61	Robert Ray Teller '88
Donald Orr Hawkins, Jr. '97	Prentice G. Tuck Jr. '98
Russell Lee Houston '85	Ralph Weldon Ward '76
Willie L. Hudson, Jr. '61	Peder K. Wennberg, III '13
Michael Charles Jacob '14	Ronald Hugh Whitehead '67

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,900 years in Masonry!



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