



# The Ashlar



August 2019

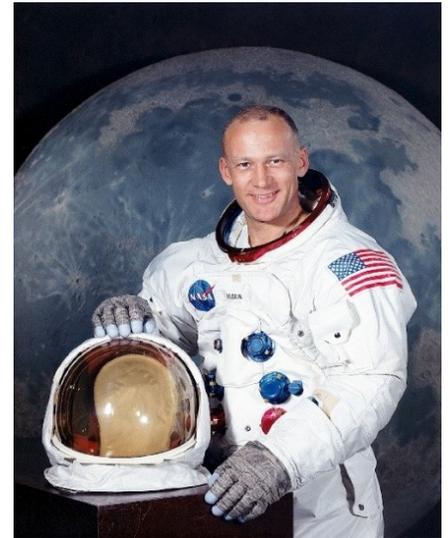
**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)

Volume 66-08

## 50 Years After Apollo 11 Landing

Worshipful Brother Greg Muir in the August 2017 edition of the Ashlar, noted some interesting events that took place during the lunar landing 50 years ago. It is documented that Col. Edwin Eugene “Buzz” Aldrin took communion moments before stepping foot on the surface of the moon. That isn’t the only notable masonic event that took place during that mission.

In an article from the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction's old magazine, *The New Age*, December 1969 issue discusses Neil Armstrong and Brother Buzz Aldrin's historic Apollo 11 walk on the Moon 50 years ago. While Brother Aldrin was on the Moon, he claimed our lunar neighbor for the Masonic jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Aldrin was a member of Clear Lake Lodge # 1417 A.F.&A.M. in Texas when he stepped onto the surface of the Moon. He carried with him special deputation from the Grand Master of Masons in Texas to claim it as being in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. In the wake of Aldrin's Masonic space mission, the Grand Lodge of Texas formed Tranquility Lodge No. 2000, named after Tranquility Base, the location of Apollo 11's landing.



On July 20, 1969, two American Astronauts landed on the moon of the planet Earth, in an area known as Mare Tranquillitatis, or "Sea of Tranquility". One of those brave men was Brother Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., a member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417, A.F.&A.M., Seabrook, Texas. Brother Aldrin carried with him Special Deputation of then Grand Master J. Guy Smith, constituting and appointing Brother Aldrin as Special Deputy of the Grand Master, granting unto him full power in the premises to represent the Grand Master as such and authorize him to claim Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction for The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on The Moon, and directed that he make due return of his acts. Brother Aldrin

certified that the Special Deputation was carried by him to the Moon on July 20, 1969.

Tranquility Lodge 2000 was Chartered by The Grand Lodge of Texas for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting and fostering the principles of Freemasonry, and to assist in promoting the health, welfare, education and patriotism of children worldwide. The Grand Lodge of Texas is the first Grand Lodge to have a Member step onto the Moon, Brother Buzz Aldrin, in 1969. Through this event, The Grand Lodge of Texas has Chartered Tranquility Lodge 2000 for the purpose providing Fraternal Assistance to Masonic Organizations and other worthy organizations who help make life better for all living on Earth. Tranquility Lodge 2000 is based in Texas under auspices of The Grand Lodge of Texas until such time as the Lodge may hold its meetings on the Moon. All Master Masons in good standing are eligible to join this unique lodge that commemorates the extraordinary efforts of so many celebrated artists.



Aldrin also carried a handmade silk Masonic flag with him on his space journey, embroidered with the words, “Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA.” After his mission on September 16, 1969, Brother Aldrin visited the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, and presented the flag to Grand Commander Luther Smith. The flag is now located in the archives of the House of the Temple.

If the goal is to spread light wherever we go, then why not spread light past earth’s boundaries and into the darkest places we can reach? Brother Aldrin did just that, proving the point that “when man reaches new worlds, Masonry will be there.”

## From The East



We are over half-way through the Masonic Year and the tempo has yet to slow down. We are still trying to advance several brothers through the degrees and continue to see potential Masons at our monthly breakfasts and Saturday morning get together. The fellowship and comradery are in my opinion the dominate reasons that Kempsville Lodge continues to grow and be a very healthy lodge.

Over the past several weeks we visited Mann-Page Lodge No. 157 in Providence Forge and observed a contingent of our English Brethren exemplify the Master Mason's Degree in their ritualistic style. Mann-Page was very welcoming and the degree was familiar in some respects, very different in others but entertaining and educational in all regards.



On the Saturday following our July Stated meeting several brothers from Kempsville, 10 to be exact, attend the July stated communication at Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19, the longest continuously operating lodge in the Western Hemisphere. Meetings have been held in that lodge, Mason's Hall, since 1787 and have hosted many notable brothers and served as the Grand Lodge of Virginia for many years.

I want to thank all of the brothers that attended these special visits and those that attend our stated and called meetings. Attendance to all of these events has been exceptional and provides a glimpse into the fraternity that abounds in Kempsville.

Still in planning for the remainder of the year are trips to Williamsburg No. 6 and Fredericksburg No. 4 along with events here at home including the Annual Lodge Family Picnic in September and the Annual Lodge Yard Sale in October.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

## From The West



### A Unique and Treasured Gift

Brother Mike Turner recently presented the Lodge with a truly remarkable gift following the completion of his Master Mason's catechism in mid-June - a replacement Tyler's sword engraved with the name of our Lodge and a beautiful Masonic storage box for it that is decorated with the square and compasses. Mike's dad, Mr. Aldon Turner, fabricated this very impressive lined box, which took a month of hard work to construct. Although Mr. Turner is not a Mason like his son, his representation of the square and compasses was spot on. Needless to say, the whole Lodge was deeply impressed and moved when Brother Mike presented these gifts to us immediately after he successfully completed his Master Mason's catechism (see photo below). His kind and genuinely heartfelt words about the impact that Masonry has had on him will be long remembered by those of us who were present.



Next time you are at Lodge, please take the time to examine at this wonderful gift. Rumor has it that there may be a map to lost Masonic treasure hidden inside a secret compartment in the box!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

## From The South



Brethren, after a couple of weeks slow down on degree work it appears we are back to full operations again. Our candidates are making progress and we are moving from EA work to other degrees. This means we need more degree participants to execute our ritual.

Remember, Kempsville holds ritual practice every Monday night beginning 7PM. Please come out and join us to brush up on various positions you may have done in the past or to learn a new part.



## Community Service

**Kempsville Area Food Bank** - Kempsville Masonic Lodge continues to collect food items and cash donations for a local church food pantry. Canned items of all kinds, rice, sugar, peanut butter, and instant milk are always good donations. Any money collected will be used to help pay off student lunch debt for Kempsville area schools. You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open. For the month of May, we contributed almost 52 pounds of food stuffs and \$202 to the pantry. Keep the contributions coming, it's making a difference.

**Stratford Chase Park Cleanup** - Kempsville Lodge continues to support our community by picking up trash at Stratford Chase Park. Help is needed to support this small but worthwhile service.

## Blood Program



The American Red Cross is currently facing a blood emergency! Your donation is desperately needed now so blood can be available for recipients during this critical time. Medical conditions and emergencies don't stop during these times of shortage. Please do everything you can to recruit more blood donors for our drives.

The next Masonic Blood Drive is August 19th from 2-7 PM at Kempsville Lodge hosted by Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296.

## Lodge Breakfast



Another great breakfast at Kempsville Lodge. Thanks to all the brethren that work so hard to make it happen and the guests that make it such a great event.

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ben Jamal	553-2635
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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