

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brothers, I hope that all is well with each of you. I am pleased to report to you that your Grand Lodge is moving in the right direction and that I could not be prouder to be a Mason in South Carolina! I have received several emails from Worshipful Masters letting me know of the outstanding work that their Lodges are doing. The reports are that Community Services are being performed with a great number of Brothers participating and that those Brothers are looking to do more. We are having many degrees that have been well attended, and the fellowship was wonderful. Brothers, with all the positive activities going on in our Grand Jurisdiction, we should all stop and reflect on the Brothers that are not including themselves in those activities. We should consider reaching out to any Brother that is in arrears in his dues this year and communicate with him to find a solution to getting him current with his dues. We must not allow these Brothers to drop from the rolls of Free Masonry without speaking with them in a Brotherly matter and helping if needed.



We have successfully completed this year's District Instructional Meetings and these were well attended, but as always, we could do better with attendance. The instructions provided were presented in a very professional matter and well received. Opportunities were given for questions, and it was very interesting and engaging to be able to have the chance to field those questions and

answers. Thank you for not trying to stump the Grand Master!

The Worshipful Masters Workshop was held Feb. 3 at the Scottish Rite Center in Columbia, SC and I would like to say thank you again to the Brothers of the Columbia Valley and our Deputy to the Supreme Council for South Carolina, Illustrious Brother, Michael Broom, for allowing us to use the building. We had 357 total in attendance and a great number of Worshipful Masters totaling 205 of 265. I hope each Master was able to return to his Lodge with something that would help him in his duties as Master to better serve the Craft in his leadership role. Always, Worshipful Sirs, if at any time your Grand Lodge Officers can assist you, please let us know and we will do our best to assist.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming events that are posted on the Grand Lodge Website Calendar. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Annual Communication of your Grand Lodge to be held in North Charleston on April 25th and 26th, 2024.

Brothers, it has been a great honor to serve you as Grand Master this year. Time flies when you enjoy what you are doing. I would like to say thank you for your support and warm welcome everywhere that I have been. Brothers, keep up the great job each of you are doing and continue to be the Masons we should be working to be, a better man each day.

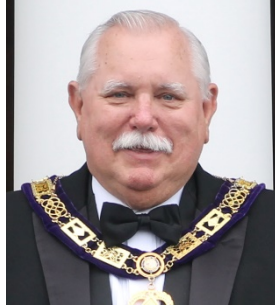
"Our Best Is The Least We Owe Each Other"

Steven D. Hames
Grand Master

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

“DANCE LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING”

You have heard the expression, “Dance like no one is watching”. Mark Twain says that this means to him that we should be ourselves. A lot of the time we will put on different faces according to the people we are around and who we want to impress. But if you are true to yourself, no one will have to guess who you are and how you are going to be today.



Are you the person that you see in the mirror each morning, or do you have to decide who you will be each day? Life and education teaches us that our forefathers, both Country and Masonic, were passionate about their causes, and danced like no one was watching. No one had to wonder where they stood. They were true to themselves all the time. We should Dance like no one is watching, but we should **Act Like Everybody is Watching**.

Even when we are alone, we should conduct ourselves the same way we do in public. A study from the European Journal of Social Psychology found an average of 66 days is required to form a habit. We develop habits based on the way we live all the time, even when we are alone. Dance like no one is watching, but make sure you keep your dance card with people you attract by your actions. Do not be that one person standing in the corner that nobody wants to dance with.

Who we are is a choice. How we dress, how we smell, how we talk, and how we act helps determine who we are. Sit down and take a look at yourself and ask the question, what do I see? Are you the same person driving down the highway that you are at a Lodge meeting? Do I look like I am proud of who I am? Do I talk like I am proud of who I am? Do I project the Image of a True Mason? Do I hang out in places fit for a Mason? If you do not feel good about your answers, start your 66-day journey to better habits.

Just recently, I found myself in a situation to act like everyone was looking but failed miserably. I was taking my clothes to the cleaners and as I approached the drive-through, I was cut off by another driver. I immediately called the driver a **Beast of Burden**. I dropped off my laundry and started to leave when the young lady working the counter said, “the driver ahead of you ask me to tell you that he was sorry he cut you off.” The damage had already been done, because I was on the phone with a Brother when the incident happened. He will never forget my actions when I was supposed to **act like everyone was watching**.

Brothers, **Dance** like no one is watching, but **Act** like everyone is watching because they are!!!

Thank you for all you do
Thomas E. Watson,
Deputy Grand Master.

Last Issue's Name this Mason.



RWB A.C. Flora, IV, Senior Grand Warden

Name this Mason.



The first correct guess to our Deputy Grand Master (tommy.watson21@gmail.com) will receive a copy of *A History of Freemasonry in South Carolina The Years 1860-1919* signed by the elected Grand Lodge Officers.

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN'S MESSAGE

My previous article was followed by many excellent opportunities for Instruction. Our Grand Jurisdiction conducted its Annual Instructional Meetings in January. These meetings had a great turnout with 96% of the



Lodges represented. I hope you attended one of these meetings, got the instruction and shared in the fellowship. The First Saturday of February, our Grand Master hosted the yearly Grand Master's Workshop for Worshipful Masters with 77% of the Worshipful Masters present. I appreciate those who helped make these meetings possible and everyone who attended. The Warden's Workshops material is being finalized and those meetings will be held at the District Level and scheduled right after our Annual Grand Lodge Communication. If you are a Senior or Junior Warden, watch out for those dates so that you can mark them on the calendar and attend.

We discussed the plumb previously, which is one of the working tools of a Fellow Craft. In this article, we will discuss the square. Before we explore the idea of the square of virtue, let's pause and think about the nature of Freemasonry. Our Fraternity is based on timeless values of brotherhood, morality, and personal growth. We gather to support each other in our quest for knowledge, virtue, and enlightenment. Just as a square is a vital tool in the work of a stonemason, it also symbolizes the principles we value - integrity, truth, and ethical behavior.

The square is a tool that guarantees precision and accuracy in the work of a stonemason. In Freemasonry, the square has a deeper meaning. It represents the square of virtue, reminding us to match our actions with the principles of honesty and fairness. It is a reminder that, just as the square ensures the integrity of the physical structure, our behavior should maintain the integrity of our character. The square of virtue serves as a guide,

leading us toward righteousness and reminding us of our duties as Freemasons.

Now, let us examine what it really means to be square in our actions. Being square involves living by the values of honesty and fairness in our daily lives. It means telling the truth, even when it may be difficult or unpopular. Think of the square as a reflection, showing our intentions and actions, exposing any inconsistencies or errors. By adopting the square of virtue, we aim to lead lives of authenticity, where our words and deeds are in sync, and our integrity remains solid.

Knowing the square of virtue is one thing, but how do we use it in practical terms? Let us think of some examples. Just as the square guarantees the accuracy of a building's foundation, we must build the foundation of our actions on honesty. Let us ask ourselves: Do our business transactions show fairness and clarity? Do we treat others with respect and dignity, following the principles of equality? By deliberately applying the square of virtue, we create a chain reaction of integrity and righteousness in our daily interactions, both inside and outside the walls of our Lodge.

Let us keep in mind the power and importance of the square of virtue in our lives. It is a guiding star that shows us the way, reminding us of the significance of honesty and fairness in all that we do. By accepting the square of virtue, we respect the traditions of our Fraternity and help improve society. Together, let us try to square our actions, aligning ourselves with the noble principles that make us Freemasons.

Our Annual Communication is quickly approaching. I look forward to seeing you in North Charleston for this meeting.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A.C. Flora, IV

Senior Grand Warden

Chairman, MEC Committee

287TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE ON APRIL 25TH & 26TH NORTH CHARLESTON

The 287th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina will be held on Thursday, April 25 & Friday, April 26, 2024, in the Embassy Suites & Convention Center located at 5055 International Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418. The Religious Service will commence on Thursday, April 25 at 9:00 AM and will be conducted by Reverend and Right Worshipful A. Robert Nix, Grand Chaplain. Following the Religious Service, the Grand Lodge will officially open at 10:00 AM by Most Worshipful Steven D. Hames, Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers. The Annual Grand Lodge Banquet will be held on Thursday Evening, April 25, at 7:00 PM in the Conference Center Ballroom C, connected to the Hotel. Reservations and tickets are required for the Annual Grand Lodge Banquet. As in the past, two tickets have been mailed to each Lodge for purchase. This year, the Banquet Tickets will be \$80.00 each. Those wishing to purchase additional tickets should email debbie@scgrandlodgeafm.org or call the Grand Lodge Office and ask for Debbie.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

Special Communication at Amity Lodge No. 340 has been cancelled and may be rescheduled at a later date by request of the Worshipful Master.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024: For the purpose of a Cornerstone "Plaque" Laying Ceremony and rededicating Six Mile Lodge No. 339 in celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served in the Lodge Hall's

Dining Room at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Six Mile Lodge No. 339 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Cornerstone "Plaque" Laying and Rededication should begin at 1:00 pm with the Rededication Ceremony following. The Ceremonies are open to the public. Six Mile Lodge No. 339 is located at 102 Main Street, SC 29682.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024: For the purpose of rededicating St David's Lodge No. 72 in celebration of the Lodge's 175th Anniversary. Lunch will be served in the Lodge Hall's Dining Room at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and St. David's Lodge No. 72 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. St. David's Lodge is located at 1205 Periwinkle Street, Darlington, SC 29532.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024: For the purpose of rededicating Cedar Lodge No. 184 in celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served in the Lodge Hall's Dining Room at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Cedar Lodge No. 184 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. Cedar Lodge No. 184 is located at 135 Lee Street N., Wagener, SC

NOTE: Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers, and the District Deputy Grand Master of the Host Lodge's District should be present at Special Communications. The dress for Special Communication is Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear black tails with a black bow tie, black vests, jewels, and aprons. All other Grand Lodge Officers should wear black tuxedos with black bow ties, black cummerbunds, or black vests, jewels, and aprons.

IN MEMORIAM

SAMUEL ELMORE "BUCK" BECKHAM
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

May 1, 1932 Rock Hill, SC
January 7, 2024 Rock Hill, SC

JAMES RAY DODGEN, SR.
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

December 18, 1933 Greenwood, SC
February 7, 2024 Greenwood, SC

DELBERT ROSCOE HAYDEN
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

December 5, 1945 Vincennes, IN
January 29, 2024 Lugoff, SC

Worshipful Brother Vannie Edward (Eddie) Porter,
PM and Treasurer of Lockhart Lodge No. 244,
Lockhart, SC passed away December 22, 2023.

Worshipful Brother William Clifford Ketchum, WM
of Ornan Lodge No. 69, AFM, Fork Shoals, passed
away on January 24, 2024.

Patricia Henslee, wife of Michael Henslee, PM and
Secretary of Mariner Lodge No. 2, AFM, Charleston,
SC, passed away January 29, 2024.

We wish to express our deepest sympathies, to the
family, friends and Lodge Brethren.

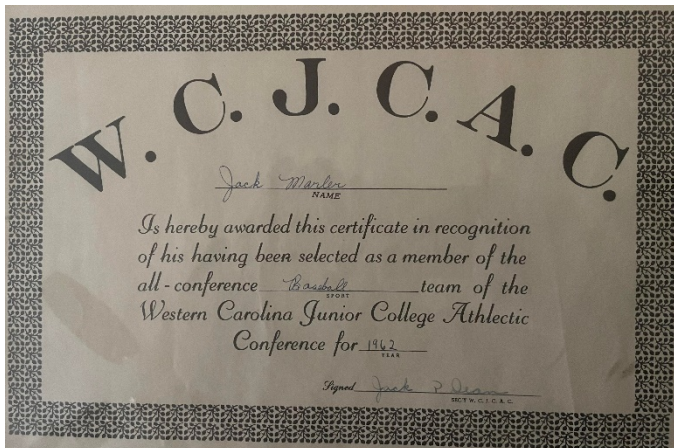
AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Brother Terry Orland Connell receiving his 60
year award and Brother Dale Norris and Brother
James Moore receiving 40 year awards at Wade
Hampton No. 404.

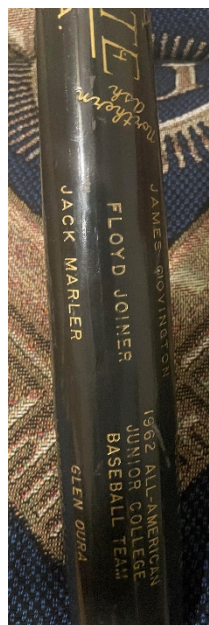


MWB JACK A. MARLER'S INDUCTION

You may remember, from our *May – June 2023* edition, that our Grand Treasurer, MWB Jack A. Marler, was quite the athlete. From Little League in Simpsonville through Hillcrest High School and into North Greenville College he played baseball and basketball. He played on the Western Carolina Junior College Athletic Conference winning



basketball team and had a first team position on the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American Baseball Squad. He was presented a personalized Louisville Slugger commemorating his accomplishments. Last year, MWB Jack threw out the first pitch at the last regular game of the North Greenville University's Crusaders in 2023.



At 10AM on April 6, 2024, MWB Jack will be inducted into the North Greenville University's Athletic Hall of Fame in the Hayes Ministry Center on Donnan Blvd, Tigerville, SC.

Well deserved, Most Worshipful.

MASONIC LIGHT SPEAKS TO US FROM APRIL, 1935, VOL. 8, NO. 1

The New Mason

The problem of assimilating our new material in the proper manner is one which should engage the serious attention of all of us. With few exceptions, our newly made Masons look to us to inspire and instruct them in the ritual, philosophy, history, traditions, and jurisprudence of the fraternity. They are more eager to learn at the time of their reception into a Lodge than at any time thereafter. Their hearts are aflame with a desire to know; their minds are open and receptive to all the new truths which our ritual undertakes to impress upon the neophyte.

But, in many cases, the proper information is not forthcoming. The new brother sits for a while upon the sidelines with nothing to do and with no encouragement or incentive to strive for an improvement in his Masonic experience. It is no wonder, therefore, that so many of our members "lose out," so to speak, and become speedily Masons in name only. There must be something to challenge them and to make them live up literally to their expressed intention "to improve myself in Masonry."

Certainly none of us can be enthusiastic about an organization of which we know nothing. Ignorance always breeds superstition, indifference, and neglect. Hence, the spread of Masonic information among the Craft will be, in great measure, the salvation of our membership. Lodge officers complain of lack of attendance; the ordinary members complain that there is nothing to attract them to the Lodge meetings. Both are right in their viewpoints. As soon, however, as a Lodge shows definite signs of activity in the direction of getting away from the cut and dried routine of opening, reading the minutes, and closing, there will be less and less cause for complaint from any source. My experience has been, that it is by no means always necessary to hold a banquet or to provide a paid entertainer to increase Lodge attendance. Give the brethren more information about the Masonic

institution and present it in such shape that they can assimilate it (not necessarily "sugar-coated," if you please), and many of our problems will be solved.

WILLIAM MOSELY BROWN.

On the Level

As you know, I am a member of the local Lodge of Freemasons. To violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground, where for the time all men are equal and have one common interest.

For example, when I was President, the Master was Worshipful Brother Doughty, gardener on the estate of one of my neighbors, and a most excellent public-spirited citizen, with whom I like to gain contact. Clearly, I could not call upon him when I came home. It would have embarrassed him. Neither could he, without embarrassment, call on me. In the Lodge it was different. He was over me though I was President, and it was good for him and good for me.

Whenever I return from one of my journeys I always go to the Lodge and tell of the Lodges I have visited, in Nairobi in Africa, in Trinidad, or the quaint little Lodge I found up on the Ascension river.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

GRAND LODGE AFM OF SC RAFFLE



Henry Deluxe Golden Boy 45-70 Leaver Action Rifle

Drawing Friday, April 26, 2024

Those wishing to purchase tickets may contact Right Worshipful Ebbie Hodges, Junior Grand Warden or their District Deputy Grand Master.

GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA MWB MICHAEL D. SMITH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PRESENTS
BATTLE OF CHARLESTON
MWB MICHAEL D. SMITH MEMORIAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT
APRIL 24, 2024

TOURNAMENT DATE:
APRIL 24, 2024

LOCATION:
SUMMERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
400 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD.
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483

COST:
\$400 PER TEAM
\$100 PER INDIVIDUAL
(cost includes green fees, cart, breakfast
sandwiches and post tournament meal)

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