

**32° Scottish Rite,  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction  
Valley Talking Points Handbook  
2019-2020**

**Ready-to-Present Short Talks**

*SCOTTISH RITE*



## **To Valley Secretaries and Brethren of the 32° Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction**

We are pleased to present to you a Talking Points Handbook. You may be wondering what it is, and why do you need it?

At reunions there is often time to fill between degree presentations or other activities. The Talking Points handbook is designed to make it easy for you to present interesting and accurate information to candidates – all in the form of ready-to-read short talks.

Each section of this handbook is written as a ready-made talk you can present on topics related to Scottish Rite degrees, activities, awards, charities, and more. All you have to do is find a talk of interest and present! It's all done for you.

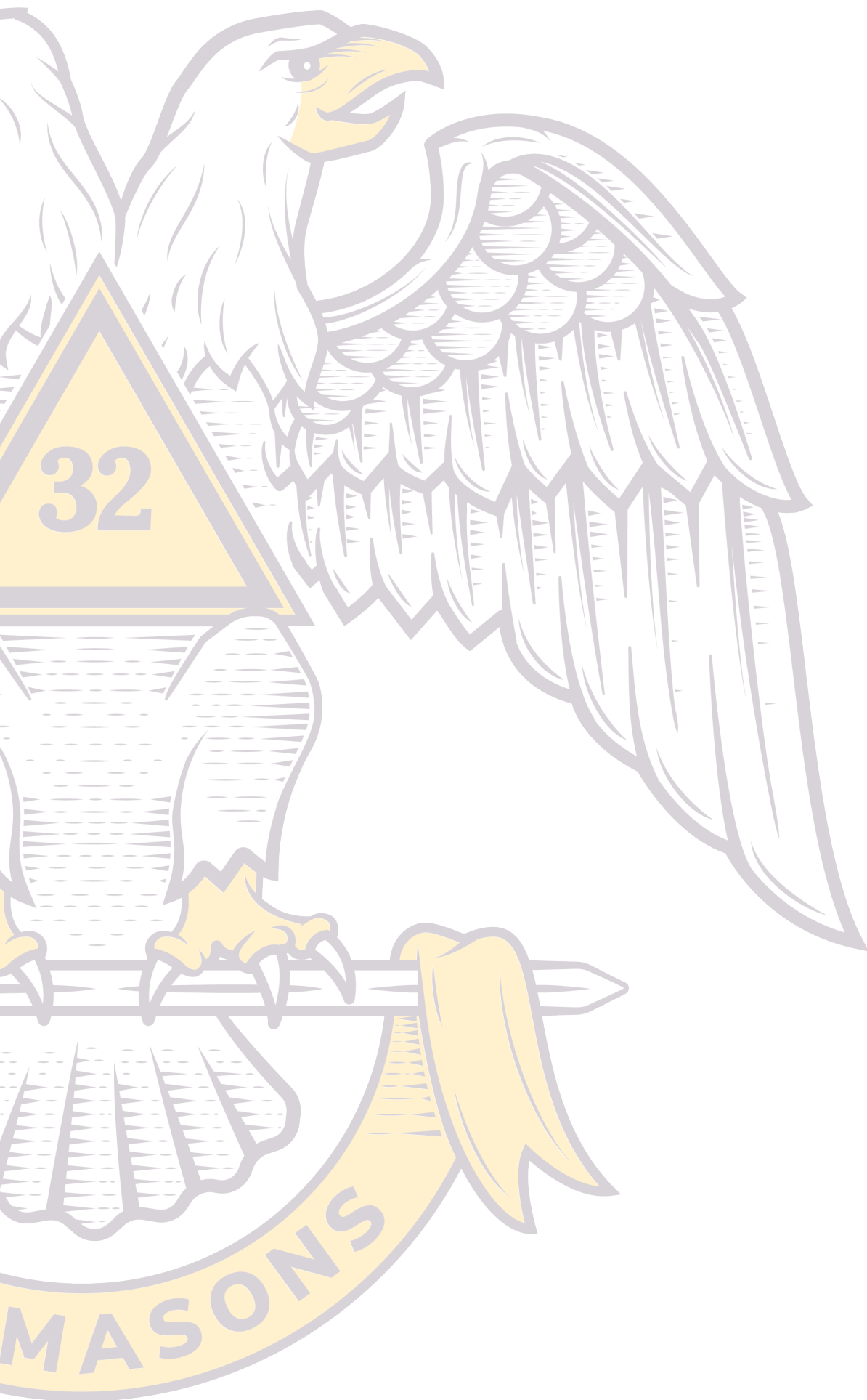
The handbook will be updated twice each year to be sure all information remains accurate. New versions will be distributed as needed.

In the handbook you will find ready-to-read talks that include:

- General Address to the Valley
- What is 32° Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction
- The Scottish Rite System of Degrees
- The Passport Program
- Scottish Rite, NMJ Charities
- Scottish Rite, NMJ Member Resources
- November is Scottish Rite Month
- What is The Path Forward
- Scottish Rite Awards & Medals
- The Sammy Lee Davis, 33°, Defender of Peace and Freedom Veterans Recognition Program

We hope you find the Talking Points Handbook makes your job a little easier. Reach out to the marketing team at **[communications@srnmj.org](mailto:communications@srnmj.org)** with suggestions for other topics we can include.

Thank you for all you do for the Scottish Rite.



# Talk I

## General Address to the Valley

Distinguished Brethren, Brethren all, welcome.

The Supreme Council and Sovereign Grand Commander Glattly have been hard at work implementing a multiphase program to improve the membership experience for all our Scottish Rite Brothers, new and old alike.

Within that plan are a number of tools and programs to encourage engagement between members as well as educational resources to help us all journey deeper into the craft. Armed with these new resources, we are excited to venture forth together and make the most of this, the 106th year of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

To our Brother Masons joining us for their first ever Reunion and for those who might be returning for their first Reunion in some time, we extend to you an especially warm welcome.

For those of you who are new to the fraternity of the Scottish Rite, we expect you may have many questions. Perhaps you are unsure what to expect from your experience as part of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Maybe you are unsure of how to get involved or maybe you'd simply like to know more about our history.

While we will strive to answer some of those questions for you tonight, we encourage all our Brethren who recently joined to seek out and share in the insights of their peers. Your Scottish Rite Brothers are a fountain of knowledge about Scottish Rite history, decorum and philosophy. Opening yourself up to your Brothers, learning from them and sharing with them is the surest path to internalizing the teachings of our great fraternity and carrying them with you beyond these walls into your daily life.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk II - What is 32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction?***

# Talk II

## What is 32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction?

32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry is a fraternity which expands upon the fundamental principles of Freemasonry introduced to us in blue lodge. Building upon the ethical and philosophical teachings of the blue lodge, 32° Freemasonry reveals a wealth of knowledge about Masonry not found in the other degrees. Our mission is simple: **enrich the philosophy of the symbolic lodge to help good men become even better.**

Originally chartered in France during the mid-1700s, the Scottish Rite was brought to the United States during the 1760s. The Supreme Council, 33°, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) was formally established in 1813. Today, the NMJ includes fifteen states in New England, the Mid-Atlantic and the Midwest. As of 2019, the Scottish Rite, NMJ has 102,336 members spread across 102 Valleys.

### Our Core Values & Fundamental Goals

Our fraternity is guided by six core values. They are:

- Reverence for God
- Devotion to Country
- Integrity
- Justice
- Toleration
- Service

A member of 32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry has three fundamental goals:

1. Aid mankind's search for identity and destiny in God's universe
2. Produce wiser men in a wiser world, happier men in a happier world, and therefore better men in a better world
3. Promote the dignity of every person and humanity in all activities

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk III - The System of Degrees***

# Talk III

## The Scottish Rite System of Degrees

### The System of Degrees

As we all know, the blue lodge consists of the first three degrees of Freemasonry: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. Scottish Rite Freemasonry continues these degrees, from the 4° to the 32°. All who wish to become a Scottish Rite Mason must first witness the 4°. To become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, you must witness the 4°, the 32° and three other degrees of your choosing, in any order.

### The Four Degree Bodies

Each Valley has up to four Scottish Rite bodies, each of which confers a set of degrees. In the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, these bodies are as follows:

#### The Lodge of Perfection (4° - 14°)

Commonly referred to as the “Ineffable Degrees,” the Lodge of Perfection involves the investigation and contemplation of the ineffable name of the Deity. The degrees amplify the legend of the Master Mason degree, and stories of the biblical era, leading up to the building of King Solomon’s Temple. These degrees impress more forcefully the teachings of the first three degrees.

#### Council of Princes of Jerusalem (15° - 16°)

Known as the historical degrees, the second degree body is known as the Council of Princes of Jerusalem. The two degrees in the Council examine the individuals and events related to the end of the Babylonian captivity of Israel and the rebuilding of Jerusalem by Zerubbabel follow the release of the Israelites from Babylon.

#### Chapter of Rose Croix (17° - 18°)

This third body. Also known as the “Philosophical and Doctrinal Degrees” are among the most important in the whole body of

Freemasonry. As the spiritual center of the craft, they attempt to provide the candidate with a deeper understanding of religion, philosophy, ethics, and history through a variety of complex historical degrees.

### **Consistory (19° - 32°)**

The fourth and final degree body of the Scottish Rite is comprised of fourteen traditional, chivalric and modern degrees. Each degree in this body depicts a unique message and applies to a familiar life situation. Certain degrees teach the victory of good over evil, the dignity of labor and the sacredness of duty. They teach toleration for the opinions and religious convictions of others while maintaining faith in himself, his fellow man, and in God.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk IV - The Passport Program***

# Talk IV

## The Passport Program

The passport program is a popular feature of membership. When you earn the 32°, you will be issued a degree passport. The passport is stamped when you witness a degree in any one of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Valleys. When a member has witnessed all 29 NMJ degrees, the Valley Secretary certifies the completion of the passport.

The secretary then submits it to the Supreme Council. A “Gold” passport is then issued to the member as recognition that he has completed the degree cycle at least once.

What happens if you complete the gold passport? There is a special Scottish Rite medal issued by the Supreme Council in recognition of that accomplishment.

If you see a gold passport, congratulate your Brother on his impressive achievement.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk V - A Talk About Scottish Rite NMJ Charities***

# Talk V

## A Talk About Scottish Rite NMJ Charities

Nothing embodies our commitment to caring for one another more than the work of the Scottish Rite, NMJ charities. Since 1913, the Scottish Rite charities and the Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation have been doing remarkable things to make a difference in the lives of our Brother Masons, their families, and in our communities.

During the 2019 fiscal year, the total number of donations during the past year included **10,800 gifts** from nearly **7,500 donors** – **952 of whom had never donated before.**

These figures reflect a sustained donor base dedicated to:

- Taking care of members and their families in need through our Grand Almoner's Fund
- Helping children overcome a devastating learning issue through our Children's Dyslexia Centers
- Aiding college students across our 15 states with financial support through our Abbott Scholarships.
- And, preserving Masonic history through the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

As Masons, we take seriously our oath that we made at the altar when we took our degrees: brotherly love, RELIEF, and truth.

To that end, we would like to share a bit more about the inspiring work coming out of our individual charitable endeavors.

**The Grand Almoner's Fund** – As Freemasons, helping others is in our DNA. The Grand Almoner's Fund fulfills the Scottish Rite mission to care for members and their families. Every dollar donated goes towards helping those who have faced incredible hardships. During our 2018-2019 fiscal year, The Grand Almoner's Fund assisted more than 100 Masons, their families, and widows. Whether it be a natural disaster or personal tragedy,

the fund exists to make certain a helping hand is there in times of crisis.

**White Flower Society** – The White Flower Society is a fund dedicated to helping Masonic widows in need. The women in our lives often form strong bonds of friendship and support through Freemasonry, and this fund exists to assist those who are particularly vulnerable and in need of support.

**Children’s Dyslexia Centers** – Our flagship charity, the Children’s Dyslexia Centers (CDC) have been providing tutoring for over 25 years to children with dyslexia, helping them not only learn to read but regain confidence in their academic abilities and self-worth. The Centers also train tutors in the Orton-Gillingham method, giving them tools to take back to their community and help thousands more for years to come.

In our 47 Children’s Dyslexia Center locations in 13 states, we helped 1,549 children this past fiscal year.

**Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library** – The home of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library serves as both the headquarters of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and as the premier “historical society” of American Freemasonry. It collects, preserves, interprets and celebrates the history of fraternalism. A leader in Masonic research, the Museum & Library tells the story of Freemasonry in the context of American history.

**Leon M. Abbott Scholarships** – One of Freemasonry’s fundamental principles is a belief in the importance of the educated mind. The Scottish Rite is committed to fostering the value of education and helping deserving students. The Abbot Scholarship Program provides financial support for the continuing undergraduate and graduate education of Scottish Rite Masons, young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic-related youth groups. This past year, we awarded scholarships to more than 353 undergraduate and graduate students.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk VI - Scottish Rite, NMJ Member Resources***

# Talk VI

## Scottish Rite, NMJ Member Resources

One of Sovereign Grand Commander Glattly's goals for the fraternity is to become more member-focused. He wants us all to know that he and the Supreme Council take the concerns and needs of all brethren seriously. As a result, he and the team at the have been working hard to implement programs that bring us all together between Reunions and maintain our connection to the fraternity.

Here are a few of the member resource available to us:

### Hauts Grades Academy

The Scottish Rite's Hauts Grades Academy (HGA) is a program designed to promote the education, knowledge, and engagement of members in the Scottish Rite, NMJ. The name is fitting as the Scottish Rite was known as the "higher grades" in its early beginnings.

The program has three exciting levels open to all NMJ members in good standing:

- **Level One** – During this part of the program, you will delve into the ritual of ALL 29 Scottish Rite, NMJ degrees
- **Level Two** – The essay portion of the curriculum allows you to reflect on and review Scottish Rite degrees that mean the most to you.
- **Level Three** – Is a written research paper on a topic of your choice, pre-approved and reviewed by the HGA committee. Research topics can vary between history, ritual, and the philosophy of the Scottish Rite.

At full completion, you will earn the honor of becoming a Scottish Rite Hauts Grades Academic and will be entitled to include the letters HGA after your name. A certificate and HGA jewel are also awarded upon completion. For those interested in participating in the HGA, add your name to the waitlist for the next class on the NMJ website.

# Talk VII

## November is Scottish Rite Month

Each November, the Supreme Council strives to strengthen our bonds as Brothers by fostering positive conversations, sharing inspiring stories, and encouraging socialization.

In 2019, the Supreme Council will celebrate Scottish Rite Month with the launch “33 Days of Brotherhood,” which will run from November 1st through our Giving Tuesday Telethon on December 3rd. For 33 days, a new tip will be shared each day to help all of us connect more deeply with the Scottish Rite as well as to each other. These tips will be available each day on Facebook, Twitter, and through email.

How can you, as a Scottish Rite Freemason, get involved in Scottish Rite Month?

- **Connect directly with your Brothers:** With Reunion season underway, use this chance to approach a new Scottish Rite Brother in your Valley. Sit down with him and discuss the fraternity. Discuss his goals, answer any questions he might have and use it as a chance to welcome him into the fraternity. Honoring our veteran brothers is the theme of our fall’s reunions. Be sure to reach out to our vets and thank them for their service.
- **Give back:** Charity is at the center of all that we strive to accomplish as Freemasons. In honor of Scottish Rite Month, consider donating to the Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation or a Scottish Rite charity to help make a difference in your community.

Our hope is that by the end of Scottish Rite Month, you’ll know a little more about your Brothers, yourself, and what it means to be a 32° Scottish Rite Freemason.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk VIII - What Is The Path Forward?***

# Talk VIII

## What Is The Path Forward?

Brethren, we'd like to discuss something the Sovereign Grand Commander considers of great importance. If you have been on the Scottish Rite, NMJ's website or visited our social media pages, you may have heard about the program called The Path Forward. Perhaps you've been wondering what exactly The Path Forward is?

The Path Forward is the NMJ's official, strategic marketing and outreach initiative with two objectives:

1. Improve the overall Scottish Rite experience for Brothers throughout the Jurisdiction.
2. Help Blue Lodge masonry grow across our great land.

The Path Forward began in 2016 after the Supreme Council and former Commander McNaughton decided to explore the state of Freemasonry in the United States. They undertook a comprehensive research study which proved to be the most in-depth analysis of its kind in more than 20 years.

The data gained by surveying both current and potential Masons revealed that the values and messages of Freemasonry – fraternity, integrity, compassion, and becoming a better man – still resonate deeply with men across the country. In fact, the survey data showed that as many as *57% of American men today would consider joining Freemasonry* based on our values alone.

Ultimately, the Supreme Council utilized the research data to establish The Path Forward. So, what exactly does the program endeavor to accomplish?

**The first goal is to increase engagement with members by embracing technology**

While membership in the NMJ is increasing at the fastest rate in more than 20 years, we recognize we all need to feel connected to the brotherhood. Using technology, the Supreme Council is

focusing on connecting our brotherhood each and every day. Given the six-month gap between degrees and Reunions, we should no longer rely on these gatherings alone to help Freemasonry maintain a steady stream of Brothers who are as excited about the craft as we were when we first joined.

The Path Forward survey findings revealed that members value the use of technology to augment in-person interactions. While technology can never serve as a replacement for in-person events, the Supreme Council is reflecting the needs of its members. Its website, social media channels, livestream events promote interaction between Brothers. For those of you on social media we encourage you to follow our active channels on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter if you haven't already.

**Secondly, make the Scottish Rite, NMJ and its members a strong, clear voice of Freemasonry**

You and the members of your Valley serve as the best advocates for relaying the benefits of Freemasonry. We encourage you to be that strong and clear voice for our great fraternity, working with your brethren to attract good men to the craft, and in turn, advance the Scottish Rite.

Many of you have likely seen The Path Forward tagline, **“Not Just A Man. A Mason.”** Created by the Supreme Council, “Not Just A Man. A Mason.” aims to instill pride in Brother Masons from the Entered Apprentice all the way to the 33°. It is a rallying cry and an anthem aimed at evoking the strong sense of brotherhood gained from Freemasonry and encouraging others to answer the call.

The nine ads in the campaign are being used across the nation (up to 45 states and counting). Internationally, the campaign is being used in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, and in every Canadian province. It has been translated into Spanish per the request of the Grand Lodge of Mexico, into Portuguese for the Grand Lodge of Brazil, and it is appearing throughout Quebec translated into French. “Not Just A Man. A Mason.” is the core of the Path Forward – we call it a revolution in six words.

If you would like to obtain any of the “Not Just a Man. A Mason.” campaign images and videos, you can do so online, free of

charge. Lodges need only provide their logos, seals and URLs to the Supreme Council through **NotJustaMan.org** and they will customize them to meet your specifications.

For those interested in learning more about the data from the study that prompted the creation of the Path Forward, the results and complete analysis are outlined by former Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton in his seminal work, *Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry*. Copies are available for purchase through the Masonic Marketplace or on Amazon.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk IX - Scottish Rite Awards & Medals***

# Talk IX

## Scottish Rite Awards & Medals

The common thread connecting each of the Scottish Rite Medals and Awards is “Service.” Distinguished service to Freemasonry, Country, and Humanity are the hallmarks of each medal. For those wondering, we will discuss the respective medals to help you learn more about their significance and help gain a deeper understanding of the individuals to which these have been awarded.

### Gourgas Medal

This medal is named in honor of Ill. John James Joseph Gourgas, 33°, the founder of the Supreme Council, of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. He is rightly remembered as the “Conservator of Scottish Rite Freemasonry,” reviving the Scottish Rite after the great anti-Masonic agitation of the 1820s-1830s.

The Gourgas Medal is the most distinguished honor conferred by the Supreme Council (or by the Sovereign Grand Commander) to members of the NMJ or any other Jurisdiction with which we are in amity. Thirty-eight Gourgas Medals have been awarded since 1938.

### Supreme Council Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the NMJ’s second highest award. It may be conferred by the Supreme Council or by the Sovereign Grand Commander upon any person, Freemason or not, in recognition of distinguished service to Freemasonry, country, or humanity.

### Daniel D. Tompkins Award for Distinguished Service

The Daniel Tompkins Medal is named for Daniel D. Tompkins, first Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. He also served our great nation as vice president, under President James Monroe.

The Daniel D. Tompkins Award may be conferred by the Supreme Council or by the Sovereign Grand Commander upon a deserving Masonic or Scottish Rite Brother who has rendered exemplary service to his country, or the Masonic fraternity at large. Since its

inception, there have been 17 recipients of this award.

### **Sovereign Grand Commander's Medal for Distinguished Service**

The Sovereign Grand Commander may, at his discretion, bestow this award upon a deserving Masonic or Scottish Rite Brother whom he considers having rendered outstanding distinguished and exemplary service to the Masonic fraternity at large. The recipient of this prestigious award must have demonstrated exceptional service to the Scottish Rite not often witnessed among the general membership.

### **Medal for Masonic Service**

The Medal for Masonic Service may be conferred by the Supreme Council or by the Sovereign Grand Commander upon any Master Mason (from any jurisdiction) who fully embodies the tenets of the Masonic fraternity, based on recommendations from three of his peers in his region.

### **Meritorious Service Award**

The Meritorious Service Award may be conferred upon members of the Scottish Rite, NMJ, who have attained the 32° and who, because of meritorious service of a Masonic character, are deemed worthy of such recognition.

***\*\*Talk can stop here or continue to Talk X - Sammy Lee Davis, 33°, Defender of Peace and Freedom for Veterans Recognition Program***

# **Talk X**

## **Sammy Lee Davis, 33°, Defender of Peace and Freedom for Veterans Recognition Program**

As 32° Scottish Rite Freemasons, devotion to country is a core value that guides us in everyday life. It is fitting that we salute those who served our nation through the creation of the Sammy Lee Davis, 33°, Defender of Peace and Freedom Recognition Program.

### **Who is Sammy Lee Davis?**

Sammy Lee Davis, 33°, is a military hero and Freemason who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery in the Vietnam War. While serving as private first class in Cai Lay, Brother Davis performed an extraordinary act of bravery by saving three American soldiers from an enemy barrage. Despite having a broken back, a perforated kidney, and multiple gunshot wounds, Brother Davis summoned the strength to swim across a river amidst a battle with 1,500 enemy soldiers and carry three of his fellow Americans back to safety.

The Sammy Lee Davis, Defender of Peace and Freedom veteran recognition program is offered to NMJ members honorably discharged from the United States Military or Uniformed Services. Veterans receive a custom-designed pin and certificate to commemorate their military service and honor their dedication to the core values of 32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

If you are a veteran, please go to the member center on the website and update your record of military service if you have not done so already.

Pin and certificate distribution is managed at the Valley level.

And to all veterans here, a sincere thank you for your service.

