

THE
NORTHERN
LIGHT

The magazine of 32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry

THREE HEROES

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Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33°
Morton N. Katz, 32°
A. Edward Pierce Jr., 32°

THE TOMPKINS AWARD

p. 4 | The recipients of the award

ON THE COVER:

Morton N. Katz, 32°, photographed while serving in the military during WWII

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

SCOTTISH
RITE

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David A. Glattly, 33°

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MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519

EDITORIAL OFFICE:

33 Marrett Road (Route 2A),
Lexington, MA 02421
Ph: 781-862-4410 • Fax: 781-863-1833
email: editor@srmnj.org

WEBSITE:

www.ScottishRiteNMJ.org

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CONTRIBUTORS

Hilary Anderson Stelling

is the director of collections and exhibitions at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library.

George T. Taylor, IV

is the director of membership & Valley relations for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Jeffrey Croteau

is the director of the library and archives at the Van Gorden-Williams Library.

Leigh E. Morris, 33°, works in corporate communications for a major utility company and is a regular columnist for this magazine.
He is a member of the Valleys of Milwaukee and Springfield, IL.

S. Brent Morris, 33°, is the editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, a publication of the Southern Jurisdiction, USA.

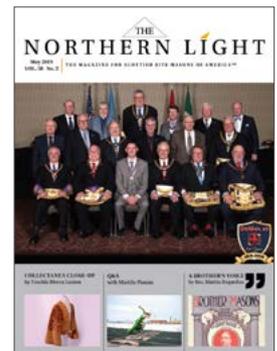
ON OUR PREVIOUS COVER

From left to right.

Top row: Craig Davis, PGM & GS of Iowa
Ted Praria, PGM - Michigan
David Hill, Grand Master - Michigan
Patton Hart, PGM - Kentucky
Harvey Waugh, PGM - Massachusetts
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David A. Glattly, 33°

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings!

In this issue of *The Northern Light*, we honor our veterans. We owe nothing less than our freedom to the men and women who serve, fight, and lay down their lives for our country. This issue of the magazine is a small way to pay tribute to those who give all to defend our liberty and our way of life.

The Greatest Generation

A few years ago when I was the Deputy for New Jersey, we interviewed several Scottish Rite Brothers who served in World War II. From those talks came our video “The Greatest Generation,” which you can find on the NMJ web site. We interviewed seven Brothers who served in various capacities – a Navy air gunner, a Marine in the Pacific theater, a Navy SeaBee on Iwo Jima, a Merchant Marine gunner, a Navy PT Boat officer, an Army soldier who survived Omaha Beach, and an Army private who helped free the Dachau concentration camp. The video is very moving. As young men, these Brothers fought valiantly and their stories needed to be captured for future generations.

The Tompkins Award

A few years ago, the Supreme Council introduced the Tompkins Award. The Award is named after Daniel Tompkins, our first Sovereign Grand Commander and the sixth Vice President of the United States. The Tompkins Award is presented to Scottish Rite Masons who have rendered outstanding, distinguished, and exemplary service to our country or the Masonic fraternity at large. The first award was presented posthumously to Bro. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32°, our 32nd President of the United States.

The second Tompkins Award was also presented posthumously to Leonard “Bud” Lomell, of the Valley of Central Jersey. The medal was presented to Bro. Lomell’s widow at the 200th anniversary meeting of our Supreme Council in New York City in 2013. Brother Lomell is noted by historian Stephen Ambrose as being the person most responsible for the success of D-Day in 1944, second only to Dwight David Eisenhower. His heroics as a lieutenant in the Army Rangers at Pointe du Hoc remains one of the most

distinguished battle stories in our history. Lt. Lomell led a group of Rangers that disabled five Nazi guns ready to fire on Omaha Beach. The History Channel has a great story on Bro. Lomell including an interview with him.

Another recipient of the Tompkins Award is Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33°, Valley of Indianapolis, a hero of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Medal of Honor. Bro. Davis was presented with the Tompkins Award at the 2018 Indiana Council of Deliberation. Sammy, who does not call himself a hero, has a book about his service and is a sought-after speaker about his time in Vietnam. Our “Sammy L. Davis Peace and Freedom” pin is named for this hero. All Scottish Rite Masons in the NMJ who served our country are entitled to this pin and certificate.

In March of this year, at The Villages in Florida, I had the honor to present the Tompkins Award to Ill. Emmett W. Mills, 33°, Valley of Detroit. Bro. Mills served as a Navy Seal in the Vietnam War. A witty conversationalist, he shared some great stories with Michael Russell and myself out on the golf course, along with his good friend, Ill. Erwin “Doc” O’Dell, 33°.

Fall Reunions Honor Veterans

This fall, we will honor all veterans at our reunion classes in all Valleys. All candidates will receive a “Veterans Class” medal. The medals for those members who served in the armed and uniformed services will denote that fact. We hope all Scottish Rite members who served attend their Valley Reunions in the fall to be honored.

God bless our veterans and God bless the United States of America.

Fraternally,

Dave Glattly

“We owe nothing less than our freedom to the men and women who serve, fight, and lay down their lives for our country.”

- David A. Glattly -



The Daniel D. Tompkins Award



In 2013, Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton created a new recognition known as the Daniel D. Tompkins Award. It is intended to honor both its namesake and the recipient. The first time that the medal was presented was on Aug. 5, 2013, the exact anniversary of the passing of the charter of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. As part of the bicentennial observance of the jurisdiction, held at the Grand Lodge building in New York City, the two initial presentations were made.

The first was given to Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32°. Roosevelt was, of course, the 32nd president of the United States. Accepting the award was M.W. James E. Sullivan who was Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York at the time.

The second Tompkins was awarded to Bro. Leonard “Bud” Lomell. As a U.S. Army Ranger, he landed at Pointe du Hoc on the east coast of Normandy on D-Day. He found and quickly disabled the German Army’s largest coastal weapons: five 155-millimeter weapons with a 25-kilometer range that endangered thousands of landing troops. Historian Stephen Ambrose recognized Lomell “as the single individual – other than Dwight D. Eisenhower – most responsible for the success of D-Day. Accepting the award on behalf of Bro. Lomell was his widow, Charlotte Lomell.

Daniel D. Tompkins Award Recipients

From its inception there have been 17 recipients of the award.

- Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 33°** — Aug. 5, 2013
- Bro. Leonard G. Lomell, 32°** — Aug. 5, 2013
- Ill. William D. Sizemore, 33°** — Aug. 26, 2013
- Ill. William G. Batchelder, 33°** — Oct. 16, 2013
- Ill. John Surbeck, 33°** — June 21, 2014
- Ill. Jeffrey B. Hodgdon, 33°** — June 15, 2016
- Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°** — July 9, 2016
- Ill. Robert Hannon, 33°** — Mar. 11, 2017
- Ill. William E. Holland, 33°** — June 21, 2017
- Ill. Robert G. Elrod, 33°** — July 1, 2017
- Bro. Robert P. Hunt, 32°** — Mar. 3, 2018
- Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33°** — June 30, 2018
- Bro. A. Edward Pierce, 32°** — Mar. 16, 2019
- Ill. Emmett E. Mills, 33°** — Mar. 21, 2019
- Ill. Thomas N. Moe, 33°** — May 15, 2019
- Ill. Jeffrey S. Greene, 33°** — May 17, 2019
- Bro. W. Daniel Hill, 32°** — June 7, 2019



In 2016, SGC John Wm. McNaughton presenting the Tompkins Award to Ill. Jeffrey B. Hodgdon, 33°, and Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°.

Recent Awards

Bro. A. Edward Pierce received the Tompkins Award in June 2019. He was raised a Master Mason in Gothic Lodge No. 270 in Jersey City, NJ, and he is a member of the Valley of Central Jersey. “Ed,” as his friends know him, wrote an essay featured in this issue’s lead story - “Three Heroes.”

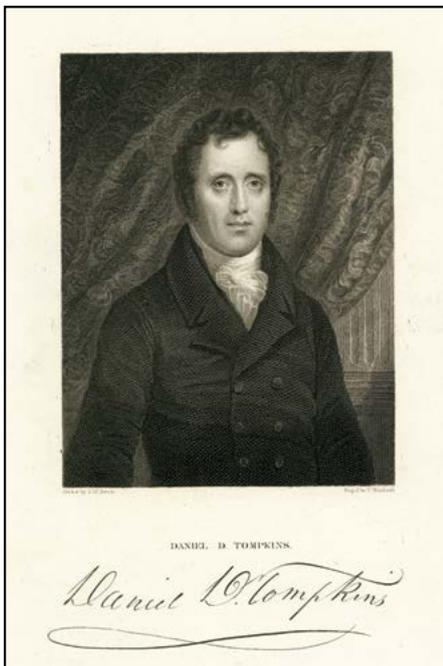
In June W. Daniel Hill was presented with the Tompkins Award. Bro. Hill, who previously was honored with the Meritorious Service Award, has been very active on behalf of widows. He has produced programs for them, such as “Lodge of Remembrance” and “Rose Upon the Altar.” He has been a fixture in the “Feast of the Pascal Lamb” in his Valley as well as degree work. Dan has served as one of the Grand Chaplains for many years and has been recognized by his Grand Lodge for his outstanding service. Bro. Hill is a tireless worker on behalf of our veterans, and his dedication to the veterans’ home in Maine has been nothing short of remarkable. Ill. Jeffrey A. Simonton, 33°, Deputy for the state of Maine, remarked “Dan Hill welcomed me into the blue lodge at Norrigewock many years ago as a first-time visitor. I won’t forget that day because I had made many visits to lodges around the state at that time, but there was a genuine warmth from this guy that made me feel special and appreciated. He is a very kind man, and it doesn’t take long for anyone to see it.”



*Bro. A. Edward Pierce,
Valley of Central Jersey,
accepting the
Tompkins Award.*



At the Maine Council of Deliberation, Deputy Jeffrey A. Simonton, 33°, (R), presents the award to Bro. W. Daniel Hill. On the left is Bro. Jeffrey W. Sukeforth, 32°.



The Award’s Namesake

Daniel Decius Tompkins was the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction’s first Sovereign Grand Commander, serving from the formation of the Supreme Council on Aug. 5, 1813 until his death in 1825. He became a Mason in Hiram Lodge No. 72 in Mt. Pleasant, NY, in 1800. He served as both the Grand Secretary and Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of New York. He was elevated to the 33° by Emmanuel De La Motta just before being named as Grand Commander.

Outside the craft, Bro. Tompkins was Governor of New York and served as Vice President of the United States under President Monroe.

THREE HEROES

by Ill. Alan E. Foulds, 33°



Our fraternity, and of course our nation, is indebted to our veterans who have given so much to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. To honor all veterans, we highlight three of our Brothers who served in different eras, performed varying roles, but all were focused on the same cause and ideals. All three men are still active Masons today.

Sammy Lee Davis, 33° | *Valley of Indianapolis*

Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33°, came from a strong military background. He explains “My daddy’s grandfather was in the Spanish-American War and went up San Juan Hill. Momma’s daddy was in World War I, my daddy was in the second world war, my oldest brother saw Korea, and my second brother was at the Berlin Conflict.”



President Lyndon Johnson presenting the Medal of Honor to Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33rd (3rd from left), at a White House ceremony in 1968.

That day in November 1967, he was a young artilleryman, and his job was “to provide close and continued support to the infantry.” His day started early. They were put down in the jungle at about 8 a.m. with howitzers. He and the rest of the crew began immediately firing as hard and as fast as possible. Because the infantry was always on the move, they had to be able to move with them at a moment’s notice. The routine continued for hours until, finally in the late afternoon, “the enemy broke contact.” It gave them a brief respite and time to clean their weapons.

During the break their colonel arrived via helicopter. He had just flown over the enemy and saw their movements. He announced to the men that the chances of them getting hit that night “was 100%.”

The colonel’s prediction proved correct. At 2 a.m. the enemy began rushing them at about 150 to 200 at a time. A rocket hit Davis’s howitzer. The explosion was less than a foot from his head, knocking him unconscious. When he came to, he remained “in a fog for a couple of hours.”

His head cleared, finally, and Bro. Davis looked across the river. There was a friend of his, right where he had been shooting his weapon, shouting “Don’t shoot. I’m a G.I.” He knew he had to go and get him. He also knew that if the situation were reversed, his brothers – and that’s what he considered them – would have come for him. Davis was in rough shape. He had been badly injured and he had no small arms ammunition. “In fact,” he said, “I had no ammunition at all.” That didn’t stop him, though. He found a piece of air mattress and headed across the water to the spot where he had seen his friend. It took him 45 minutes to get there.

Upon arrival at the foxhole, he discovered that it was not one G.I. but three. One of them, he could see, was dead, but he made the decision not to leave him behind. Using loaded weapons he found along the way, he was able to protect himself and the two survivors.

In November 1968, Sammy L. Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson. The citation reads, in part “Though suffering from painful wounds, he refused medical attention, joining another howitzer crew which fired at the large Viet Cong force until it broke contact and fled. Sgt. Davis’ extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.”

Bro. Davis often says he doesn’t consider himself a hero. Instead he says “I was just doing my job.”

Ill. Sammy L. Davis, 33rd, lives in Freedom, IN. He does extensive lecturing. He is the author of *You Don’t Lose Until You Quit Trying* and recently published a book, with his wife Dixie, called *Endless Love and Second Chances*. He is a member of the Valley of Indianapolis.



Morton Katz (center) with two comrades in arms, Capt. Charles C. Alden Jr. (left) and Capt. Charles Howland (right).

Bro. Morton N. Katz, 32° | Valley of Hartford

When you hear the phrase “liberation of a concentration camp” you probably reach for the history books. After all, the war that eventually ended that terrible chapter of history took place more than seven decades ago.

For Bro. Morton Katz, at 100 years old, is a practicing public defender in Connecticut, it is much more than pages in a dusty library book or an item found on Wikipedia. He was there, and he tells stories of his service to the nation during World War II in vivid detail.

Katz explains how he entered the military and, in particular, how he became part of the 509th Parachute Infantry.

After Pearl Harbor the nation was at war, and Bro. Katz, now in the military, found himself in infantry school. An officer named Shinverger, a man he described in hindsight as an “involuntary recruiting officer,” spoke to the group and gave them a synopsis of parachute school. He listened politely, but did not consider it was for him. At the end of the talk attendance was taken, or so he thought. Instead, he found himself off to learn how to jump out of planes.

He said, though, he never jumped in combat but was instead part of the ground operation.

In 1942, he was sent to North Africa. While there, he was promoted to first lieutenant. Next up was Italy where his unit was ordered to knock out a radar station at Salerno, and later the group fought at the Battle of Anzio. Katz was on the first boat into the battle.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Katz says they knew little of what was going on at Normandy. They knew an invasion was planned, but had no details. Their job was to concentrate on their mission in Italy. His memory of the day was chilling, but for a different reason. They reached a beach where some of the men, tired and dirty, wanted to go for a swim. The order went out that they were not allowed to do so until after the harbor had been cleared of mines. Three men disobeyed the order and were killed by an explosive booby trap.

Another story he told was a time when he nearly shot other American soldiers. The men were dressed in long coats, generally worn by the German army, while his own troops wore short jackets. He said that he spotted the men, and had his finger on the trigger before realizing who they were. He said the clouds broke just in time, allowing the sun to shine on them so that they could be recognized.

During the Battle of the Bulge, the last major offensive by the German army, his unit suffered very heavy losses. The survivors were transferred to the 82nd Airborne in Germany. While there, scouts in his unit found a warehouse full of well-worn clogs. As it turned out, they had been worn by prisoners at a forced labor camp where many of them died. Later, they found piles of bodies. On May 2, 1945, the Wobbelin Concentration Camp was liberated by them. General James Gavin was sickened by the sight. Although the townspeople said they knew nothing of the goings-on there, Gavin did not believe them. He ordered the villagers, who he felt were complicit in the actions, to march out to view the



Bro. Morton Katz explaining his photos.

remains, then bring the bodies back to Ludwigslust for burial. Katz says the cemetery is still there today.

A week later the war in Europe was ended. He says there were no celebrations; in fact, no official marking of VE Day. He was sent on to Berlin for occupation duty while many of his comrades were sent to the Pacific where the war still roared on.

Bro. Morton was raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M., in Hartford, CT, following his father. He served as Worshipful Master and as a District Deputy Grand Master. His cousin recruited him into Scottish Rite in the Valley of Norwich and is today a member of the Valley of Hartford. He is still a practicing attorney as a special public defender and as a magistrate.

Bro. A. Edward Pierce Jr., 32° | Valley of Central Jersey

Bro. Amos Edward Pierce Jr., known to his friends as Ed, worked in shipbuilding until he was inducted into the Army in October 1942. He was shipped overseas and served as a combat infantryman. He is the author of two books on his military service: *Reminiscences of the Big One* and *More Reminiscences of the Big One*. He wrote an essay on a pact he made with a friend before they shipped out.

OUR PACT

By Bro. A. Edward Pierce Jr.



Harold K. Wells and I had been friends ever since the days of our inductions; he from Michigan and I from New Jersey. We met in November of 1942 at Camp Campbell in Kentucky. Shortly after participating in the Tennessee Maneuvers, he was transferred to Service Company of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion and I was transferred to "A" Company of the 56th. Despite being members of different companies, our friendship continued.

In August of 1944 at the Camp Berkeley parade grounds, we were awarded the Expert Infantry Badge together from the hands of Major General Douglass T. Greene. Prior to being shipped overseas and while stationed briefly at Camp Shanks in New York, Harold and I received 24-hour passes that enabled us to visit my home in Camden, NJ, and for him to meet the members of my family and my girlfriend at the time.

To digress for a moment, while still at Camp Berkeley just prior to our leaving for Camp Shanks each member of the Battalion was asked to make a cash contribution toward the purchase of a 16 millimeter sound movie projector and a short wave radio. The solicitation was a success and the items were purchased.

Harold and I were able to see one film on the new projector. It was prior to our initial assault on Herrlisheim. We were in a small town in France and the picture that was shown was "Rhapsody in Blue." It was about the life

of George Gershwin and it starred Robert Alda, Alan's father. After the film ended and Harold and I were on our way to our billets, he said to me, "I would like to make an agreement with you that if either of us does not survive this war that after the war ends the survivor will visit the other's family for the purpose of explaining to them just exactly what happened." Jokingly I retorted, "Do you really want to make another visit to Camden?" He assured me that he was quite serious, so I agreed and we shook hands to make it official.

To make a somewhat lengthy story a bit shorter, Harold was killed in action on the 26th of April 1945 when German artillery bounced a shell on to the hood of the half-track he was driving. After the war's end, I performed occupational duties with the 12th and 2nd Armored Divisions. I was mustered out of the service at Fort Dix, NJ on February 7, 1946. I was somewhat reluctant to make the trip to Michigan, but my parents insisted that I fulfill my part of the agreement so, before returning to work, I took a train trip to Holly, MI, where I met Harold's mother, dad, brothers, and sisters. It was a very pleasant and comforting visit, and I have remained a close friend with the members of the Wells family right up to the present time.

Bro. Pierce is a member of the Valley of Central Jersey and is a recipient of the Meritorious Service Award and the Daniel Tompkins Medal.

COLLECTANEA CLOSE-UP

From the Museum & Library

Objects Tell Stories of Masons Who Served

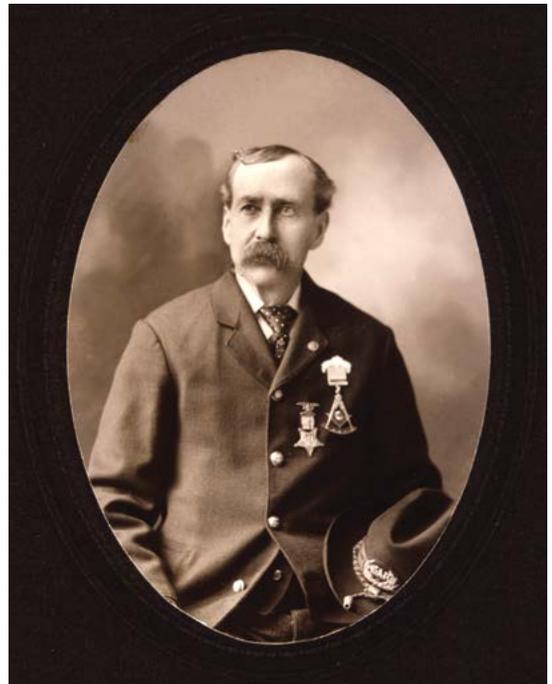
Over the years, Masonic lodges have honored veterans in many ways. The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library holds many objects and images in its collection that speak to how Freemasons have paid tribute to Brethren who have served in the armed forces or how veterans have expressed pride in their service.



Plaque for “Capt. D. Allen,” ca. 1866. Julius Felix Rabardy, Gloucester, MA. Special Acquisitions Fund.

In this photograph, Theodore Tripp wears both a Past Master’s jewel and a membership badge for the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Tripp also secured his tie with a Masonic pin in the shape of a square and compasses and, in his left hand, holds a hat bearing a GAR emblem. These objects all proclaimed his association with the two organizations. Founded in 1866 the GAR provided camaraderie and advocacy for Civil War veterans who fought for the Union. At its height in 1890, the GAR counted over 490,000 men as members. Theodore F. Tripp of Lane County, Oregon—the likely subject of this portrait—helped found the GAR post in Florence, Oregon—Gen. Lyon Post No. 58.

Theodore Tripp, ca. 1885. Gift of Jacques Noel Jacobson Jr.



“Honor Night at King David Lodge” 1919. Taunton, MA. Loaned by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.



When soldiers and sailors who were members of King David Lodge in Taunton, MA, returned home after World War I, the lodge presented a program to mark their service. Organizers asked for all members who were veterans to wear their uniforms—including those of the Spanish-American War and the American Civil War. The blue stars on the front of the program represent the 37 lodge members who served. The single red star symbolizes Andrew Leslie Jencks. He died of disease in France, in 1918—the same year he was initiated at the lodge.

BY HILARY ANDERSON STELLING

Director of Collections
and Exhibitions at the
Scottish Rite Masonic
Museum & Library



The maker of this cane and its case, Reuben Reed, constructed it from over 40 different pieces of wood from national landmarks, including the Old State House in Boston, Mount Vernon, and the USS Constitution. Reed manufactured the cane “in honor of the heroes of the land, [and] sea” believing, “it is our sacred duty to preserve and perpetuate their memory and deeds.” By tradition, the oldest veteran who belonged to Charles A. Welch Lodge of Maynard, MA, carried the cane as a mark of his Brethren’s respect.



Cane and Case, 1920. Reuben L. Reed, South Acton, MA. Loaned by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.



John J. Columbo Jr. of Staten Island, New York, was in the Navy during World War II. He was an active Mason and served as Master of his lodge, Great Kills Lodge No. 912, in 1971. He was also a member of Masonic War Veterans S.I. Post #6 and its Commander in 1977. In this photograph, Columbo proudly wears the uniform of that organization. Columbo’s daughter, Jeanie, noted that her father, “...enjoyed life, but most especially his Masonic life.”

John J. Columbo, ca. 1977. Staten Island, New York.
Gift of Jeanie Columbo.

Do you have any photographs or objects related to Masonic veterans or have a question about the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library’s collection? We would like to hear from you. Send any comments or questions to Hilary Anderson Stelling: hstelling@srmml.org.

with

Ill. George Nakonetschny, 33°



A few months ago we had the opportunity to speak with Ill. George Nakonetschny, 33°, an Active Member from Pennsylvania. You can see the entire interview on *TNL on Air*, as Bro. Nakonetschny relates the story of his family's escape from war-torn Eastern Europe in the closing days of World War II.

They eventually made their way to the United States where he grew up.

Part of the interview deals with his military service which he volunteered for in order "to thank the nation for offering he and his kin a new life." In this Q & A he talks about how he became a footnote in the story of the space program. Specifically, he performed a role in the Gemini IV mission in which Astronaut Edward White became the first American to walk in space. We pick it up as he explains the path in life that he chose:

TNL: How and why did you decide to join the military?

GN: From the time I was 14 years old I decided I owed this country an obligation - basically as a thank-you for allowing us to live in this country. We definitely had a much higher standard of living than we would have if we remained in Europe.

TNL: Why the U.S. Navy?

GN: I wanted to fly, but my eyes weren't good enough to be a pilot, but the Navy would fly people as crewmen if their sight could be corrected to 20/20. I eventually joined a helicopter crew, got my gold wings, and became a dedicated air crewman.



“[Yuri Gagarin]...hoped that our two countries will further the exploration of space in peace and brotherhood.”

TNL: Tell me about your connection to the space program. How did that come about?

GN: Our squadron went out with the USS Wasp. The ship was assigned to astronaut pick-up duty. When the Gemini IV astronauts were plucked from the sea they were taken to sickbay to be examined. After all the pomp and circumstance was over we went back to our daily duties. Meanwhile the ship received a telegram from Russia, and there was no one available to translate it. The admiral heard about it. The captain heard about it, and, worst of all, NASA heard about the telegram and the inability of the crew to find out what it was all about. Everybody was asking “What is this telegram?” Everybody was scrambling with their Russian-English dictionaries.

TNL: How did you get involved?

GN: The executive officer of the ship happened to be in our squadron. He knew my background. He got wind of what was going on and said “We have a guy who can speak Russian.” He was told “then get him up here.” I was working in the nose of a helicopter with a buddy and I heard my name on the loudspeaker.

“1st class Petty Officer George Nakonetschny, report to Radio Room One immediately.” Now, no one was ever mentioned by name on the loudspeaker except the captain. I said to my friend “Did I just hear what I think I heard?” He said “Yeah. What the heck did you do?”

I got up to the squadron area. The place is crawling with officers. I went up to the duty officer and said “Yes?” He handed me a piece of paper and said “Can you translate this? It’s from Russia.”

I looked at it and said “This isn’t Russian.” I didn’t see any Russian characters. Now the officers were all upset. They had told everyone it was from Russia – the government, NASA, everyone. They didn’t know where to turn.

Then, I said “Whoa. Wait a minute. It is from Russia after all.” I realized that American teletypes would not have Russian characters so the person tried to phonetically spell the sounds he heard. I sounded everything out, and I was able to figure out what the telegram was all about. It was from Yuri Gagarin, the Russian cosmonaut who was the first human in space, and he was congratulating James McDivitt and Edward White on their space accomplishments. He said he hoped that our two countries will further the exploration of space in peace and brotherhood.

TNL: What happened next? I assume you were thanked somehow.

GN: No, I was sent back to work on my helicopter. My 15 minutes of fame were over.

TNL

Q
&
A



High-Achieving JROTC Cadet Wins Atlanta Scottish Rite Essay Prize

Commencing in 1998, and approved by the assistant secretary of defense, the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction initiated a program of recognition for outstanding Junior ROTC students. Relative to this, a unique event took place recently in Georgia. Each year, the Valley of Atlanta, East Side Scottish Rite Association, invites area schools to a presentation at Golden Fleece Lodge in Covington. East Side Scottish Rite makes the occasion especially exciting by asking each cadet to submit an essay. The essays are

evaluated, and the author of the best composition is presented with a \$1,000 check. The second and third best essays receive \$250 each. The remaining cadets are honored with a check for \$100. The funds for the prizes are donated by families and businesses.

On March 6, nine cadets from nine high schools received the medal and certificate honoring their achievement, including Cadet Ashley G. Clegg, who was honored as the first-place Atlanta Scottish Rite Essay winner. Prior to joining JROTC, she had never handled



Cadet Ashley Clegg receives award at the Atlanta East Side Scottish Rite from SGIG Ted C. Collins, 33°.

a firearm, but just a few years later, her uniform is decorated with medals for the many competitions she has won.

Fifth Annual Luncheon at Dallas SR Hospital Raises \$8,855—in 1 Hour!

The Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, TX, just celebrated

its fifth annual luncheon for non-Mason donors in order to increase public awareness of the hospital. Masons also were in attendance. This year the luncheon set a milestone by raising \$8,855 for the children in the one-hour event. The entertainment was a singer from “The Lucky Strike Hit Parade” era, Little Bobby Phillips, accompanied by Attorney/Musician and new volunteer at the hospital

Bryan Dunklin. As is the case each year, Drake Patterson was honored for organizing the Buddies Lunches on a weekly basis in Dallas. Five years ago, Drake agreed to come to the hospital for the annual fundraiser, and he just kept coming back. Bro. Burrell Poston, a 43-year employee of the hospital, serves as host of the event.



Photo credit: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital.

GWU Scholarship Luncheon at the House of the Temple

On Tuesday, February 14, more than 30 members of The George Washington University community ascended the front steps of the House of the Temple to attend the annual Scottish Rite Scholarship Luncheon. This event is a special opportunity for Scottish Rite Scholarship recipients at GWU to express their appreciation and explore the Temple alongside Grand Commander Ronald Seale, Grand Executive Director William Sizemore, and the incredible Supreme Council staff. Both GW graduates and current

Supreme Council staff members Alexandra Hale, development coordinator, and Daniel Matsumoto, internship director, offered words of encouragement to the students and shared stories of their own academic and professional journeys. Concluding remarks were given by David B. Anderson, senior associate vice president for Principal Gifts and Planned Giving at The George Washington University. Anderson voiced his sincere thanks, noting that the Scottish Rite Endowment

has helped hundreds of students with a Scottish Rite legacy pursue their academic passions while easing their financial burden. This endowment is one of the oldest at the University.



Photo credit: Kia C. Boone

TRY GIVING THE DEVICES A REST

“Most people are on the world, not in it – have no conscious sympathy or relationship to any-thing about them – undiffused, separate, and rigidly alone like marbles of polished stone, touching but separate.”

Powerful words penned by naturalist John Muir in his 1938 book, *John of the Mountains*.

Fast forward 81 years. What would Muir now say about our so-called connected society? What would he say about those who stare at a little screen as they walk? And then there are those who text and drive. That surely would give Muir a bad case of heartburn.

As Muir wrote, far too many are “undiffused, separate, and rigidly alone...”

Yes, this is the so-called “connected” society. I say so-called because I wonder what it is to which we are supposedly connected. Instead of connecting, many are simply isolated.

Of course, there is nothing in the world wrong with our array of magical electronic tools. The problem is far too many people do not know how to properly use these tools. Do people really need to talk on their phones from the moment they leave work until they arrive home? Must they text while behind the wheel or in a restaurant or theater?

Here’s an idea: consider disconnecting – just a little.

Next time you jump in the car, turn off your cell phone. And make your passengers do the same. Believe me, nothing will happen that can’t wait. This may come as a shock to some, but we were able to drive just fine without cell phones for decades.

Consider the following data:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that every day about eight people are killed and 1,161 injured in motor vehicle crashes that involve a distracted driver.
- At 55 mph, the average text takes a driver’s eyes off the road long enough to travel 300 feet – the length of a football field, according to the CDC.
- According to Icebike.org, a poll found that 77 percent of adults and 55 percent of teens believe they can safely text while driving.
- Cell phones are a factor in 64 percent of all traffic accidents according to Icebike.org.

BY LEIGH E. MORRIS, 33rd

A regular contributor to
The Northern Light



Law enforcement, health care, safety, and insurance officials all have labeled distracted driving an extremely dangerous and growing threat to all Americans.

And you need not search far for distracted drivers. Head to any parking lot. Often people are on their hand-held phone as they walk to their vehicles and they stay on that phone as they drive away

You may not be able to do much about others on the road, but you can increase your chances of avoiding an accident or surviving one by making driving your only job when behind the wheel. Please do because we want you and your family here for years to come

But safety is just one reason to disconnect. Courtesy is another.

Ever notice how people talk loudly – sometimes yell – into their cell phones?

Of course, there is a reason. Landlines have a microphone in the receiver to amplify the voice. When you talk, you actually hear your own voice. Cell phones have no amplifier. So the only way to hear yourself is to talk louder. When people do, we often are forced to listen to their inane drivel – and they ours.

Just because we have a cell phone, we don’t have the right to annoy everyone around us. Maybe it is time to put the privacy back in phones.

Turn the cell off when you are in the restaurant, shopping, at the movie theater, or waiting for a haircut. As for those who use cell phones in museums, galleries, national parks and, of all places, the Lincoln Memorial – banishment to Elba might well be appropriate.

The bottom line is this: put the tools into their proper place. Remember driving is a difficult and fulltime job. Be respectful of others when you must use your electronic gadgets. Try connecting with the world around you.

Sadly, electronic gadgets can and do isolate people from the world around them.
Too bad - they miss so much.

If you have specific questions or just want to make a comment, send them to me at cpstlrr@gmail.com and I will reply as promptly as possible.



THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES

During their Spring Reunions many Valleys continued to highlight their connection with the Order of DeMolay, and help celebrate its 100th Anniversary. Valleys got very creative and had a little fun by having classes in honor of, or, by having members of DeMolay as a component of, the reunion. In May the Valley of Cleveland hosted the Ill. "Dad" Martin R. Woodworth, 33° Class to honor his commitment to both organizations. "Dad" Woodworth is the Executive Officer for Ohio DeMolay and the new Deputy's Representative for

the Valley. The goal was to initiate 100 members as part of this special class, not only did they meet this goal, there were a few special members of the class as well. Among the new Sublime Princes were four active DeMolays; Ohio DeMolay State Master Councilor Brady Woodworth, State Marshal Nick Gardner, State Senior Steward Trevor Cutts, and Zach Ratliff.

While these festivities were going on in Ohio, across the jurisdiction in New Jersey the three Valleys held their own "DeMolay Class" in honor of the DeMolay Centennial. During the day the Scottish Rite Degree Teams exemplified several of their degrees to a packed house at the Valley of Central New Jersey. In the afternoon, the New Jersey DeMolay State Officers exemplified the DeMolay Degree for the 350 brothers and members assembled. A unique part of the day,



was the conferral of the Chevalier Degree on one of the members of the class. Bro. Henry G. Felstedt had been nominated to receive the degree, however, he had been drafted before the conferral and was unable to attend. Bro. Felstedt also received his 70 year DeMolay service award.

As we continue to celebrate this milestone anniversary and the impact the Order of DeMolay has had on our Masonic Family, we also look forward to the future of Freemasonry around the world. In one of our DeMolay chapters today will be a Worshipful Master of a lodge, a mayor of a city, a CEO of a company, a general in the armed forces, or even a President of a country. Let's keep supporting these young men and the mission of the organization, so there will be a fraternity for young men to grow and develop as leaders 100 years from now.



Bro. Henry G. Felstedt receiving the Chevalier Degree.



BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO TOMORROW



A

AROUND THE JURISDICTION



ME



NH

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Valley of Concord celebrates its installation of officers for the coming year on May 4, 2019. Congratulations to Scott Borthwick SP, James Triacca TPM, and Larry Sprague, MWM.



VT

VERMONT

Active Member William G. Basso, 33°, delivers Scotty the Eagles to the Children's Unit of the Rutland Regional Medical Center.



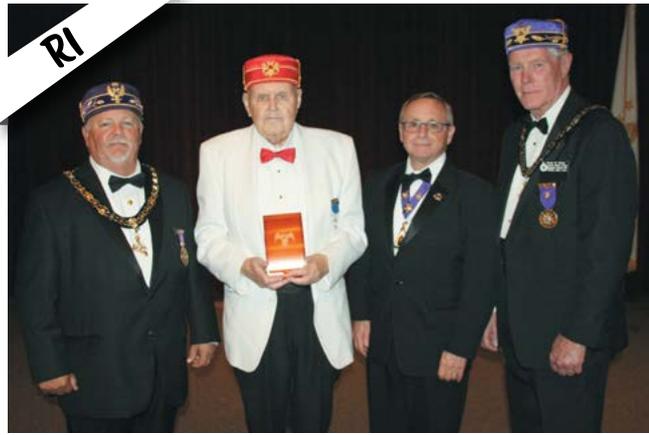
MA

MASSACHUSETTS

Bro. Robert Matley, 32°, of the Valley of Lowell was presented with his 50 year membership certificate from SGC David Glattly, 33°, at the Membership Celebration and Luncheon in Naples/Bonita Springs, FL on March 5, 2019.

MAINE

On June 7, Erik Smith was presented the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship at Presque Isle High School 2019 Class Day by Ill. Milton E. Smith, 33°. Erik is the son of Commander in Chief of the Star of the North Consistory, Valley of Aroostook.



RHODE ISLAND

Ill. Steven E. Smith, 33°, Deputy for Rhode Island presents the Supreme Council Masonic Service Award to Bro. Gordon E. Martin, 32°, Valley of Providence. Pictured third from the left is Grand Master Kenneth F. Poyton, 32°, and on the far right, Active Member Ill. Dennis W. Pothier, 33°.



CONNECTICUT

SGC David Glattly, 33°, presents the Medal for Masonic Service to outgoing Grand Master Marshall K. Robinson.

NEW YORK

Incoming class at the Valley of Rockville Centre.



NEW JERSEY

The Officers of the Valley of Southern New Jersey line up at their installation at the Grand Ballroom in Collingswood, NJ.

A AROUND THE JURISDICTION



PENNSYLVANIA

Members pose with SGC David Glattly, at the class named in his honor at the Valley of Allentown on May 11, 2019.

DELAWARE
Members of the Valley of Lower Delaware travelled to Philadelphia on March 15, 2019 to witness a reunion put on by the Valley of Philadelphia.



OHIO

Members of the Valley of Toledo pose for a photo on May 4, 2019.





MICHIGAN
 The Valley of Detroit's spring reunion candidates pose for a photo on April 27, 2019.



INDIANA
 The Valley of South Bend created a new program for the lodges in the area to assist Masonic lodges in performing degrees.



ILLINOIS
 The Valley of Chicago held a charity walk for the Children's Dyslexia Centers and raised more than \$50,000 on May 18, 2019.



WISCONSIN
 A group of Scottish Rite Masons from the Valley of La Crosse at the La Crosse Masonic Center on March 30, 2019.

A BROTHER'S VOICE

By Brothers across the organization



A Mystery Solved

During my tenure as Worshipful Master I made the decision with my Brothers to do a detailed inventory of all the items in our lodge for updated insurance documentations. After examining items with a lot of history and memories, we accidentally discovered an unusual item not seen for over 40 years.

In our double-layered vault we located what looked like a black crushed door knob made of brass, badly beaten with multiple dents. My first step was to clean its tarnished surface which, when completed, revealed that it had very beautiful detailed scroll work on its surface and an engraving. "Presented to Hiram Lodge No. 9 by Charles F. Rose Sr." There were other names on the three sides, as well. A quartz stone was cemented on top of this beaten ball with a latch. It had a quartz top that revealed a Masonic emblem dated 1850. What I took for granted as brass began to look like pure gold under my kitchen faucet as I cleaned and washed this with soap and water.

I sent pictures to our secretary who forwarded the names to the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire to see if there was a connection to the names.

I sent the knob to a local jeweler known for his work on Tiffany Jewelry to confirm and determine if this was indeed gold and repairable. Our lodge secretary examined the archives in detail to see if Charles Rose was in our documents. We soon received information on all the names, and it was indeed a gold cane knob of 22-carat gold. Disappointingly someone had taken a pair of pliers to remove the knob from the wooden shaft and crushed it to a nearly unrecognizable state. The names on the sides were all members of Hiram Lodge. Our Secretary found a record of Charles Rose having donated the cane and presenting it to the oldest member in the lodge. We located that in February of 1952, when presented to Brother F. W. Densmore that it was given to the oldest Mason of our lodge and to be bequeathed to the next oldest Mason, thus the other names on the cane.

Samuel Rose became a Mason 1844. He was a cigar maker, which provided him with connections to California, and the cane was transported by stagecoach to the New England area. We located one other cane made of silver in a California museum, similar in nature. The following is of course conjecture but it isn't too far fetched to see that he first purchased the cane and presented it to his son when he became a Mason and he in turn presented it to his son after he was raised to the 3°. Charles Rose Jr., had no children and moved to Claremont, NH, where he joined Hiram Lodge. He obviously wanted to pass on this amazing cane to someone who would appreciate its heritage. We are not sure how or when that appreciation failed and left the cane in its present state.



I made the decision to have the cane restored back to its original state. My local jeweler did as much of the repairs as he possibly could but more was needed. The cane was later sent to Michigan State and had further surgical repairs to fix hidden fractures and to be fitted on a new shaft with a ferrule of the exact same time period.

The Michigan jeweler having 30 years' experience in high-priced canes from around the world stated that this was the only one of its kind. He further declared that it could never be duplicated in modern times and was made from three different textures of gold. We further discovered there was one of only 12 wooden shafts left in the United States from the 1850's that could be fitted to the gold top. The knob was fitted to a piece of snake wood, one of the rarest in the world.

After detailed laser repair work it had gone from being something that could easily have been discarded to an item appraised on the Antique Road Show being worth \$5,000 to \$30,000.

I encourage others to take some time to remove the dust off their own archives and appreciate those who lived before us, to use that valuable information and knowledge to learn and educate ourselves in Masonry.

Bro. Michael D. Huse Jr., 32°
Valleys of Keene and Nashua



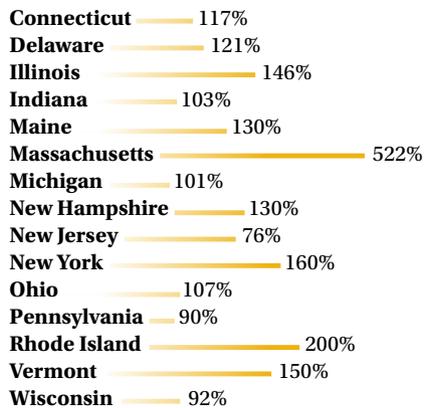
The excitement continues, and our ranks are growing. Our Valleys are adopting new ways to engage their communities, communicate in more ways to their members, and involve members and their families in Valley activities. More Valleys are using “outside-the-box” thinking to increase participation and share the Scottish Rite experience with more people. During our last census year (June 16, 2018-June 15, 2019) we increased initiations by more than 30%. This level of growth has not been seen in modern times, and the energy exists to keep the momentum going.

BY GEORGE T. TAYLOR, IV
 Director of Membership
 & Valley Relations

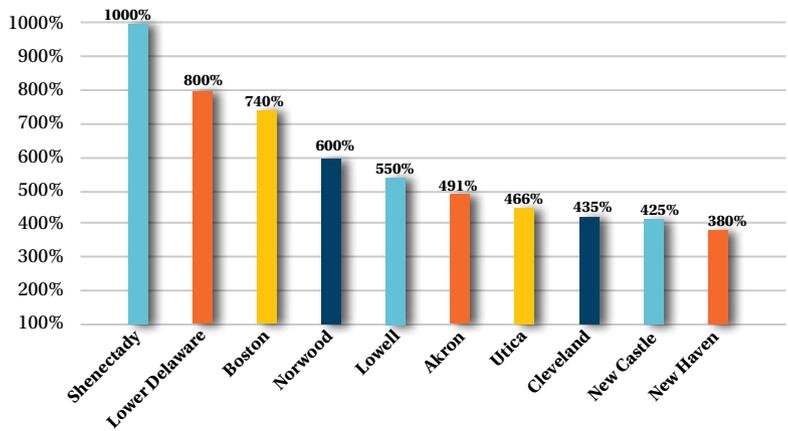


This is a time of resurgence in the craft and rejuvenation in the NMJ. We saw 98 of our Valleys bring in new members over the course of the year. Sixty-one Valleys and 12 states exceed 2017-18 totals. There were several Valleys that had multi-year highs for new member growth. This success was broad in reach and deep in commitment. Members are coming off the sidelines and participating in more degrees. New events are blossoming as more connections are made, and the seats in Valleys are getting full again.

Here’s a look at how each state did:



Here are the top 10 Valleys in terms of % growth:



As we move into our fall degree season, the energy will also continue. New members are only one piece of the membership puzzle. A focus on retention and making sure we are living out our Masonic values must also be a priority in Valley operations. Get involved, whether it is a leadership role, a degree part, or Brother-to-Brother calling, and encourage another Brother to join you. You would be surprised by what you get in return when you share your Scottish Rite experience.

Congratulations to all our Valleys on a job well done.

If you know of a Master Mason in your network that has not had the opportunity to experience the Scottish Rite contact your local Valley Secretary or visit www.scottishritenmj.org/join.

Ill. Robert L. Miller Sr., 33°

1920 – 2019



Ill. Robert L. Miller Sr., 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of this Supreme Council for the state of Indiana, died on Tuesday, April 27, 2019.

Raised a Master Mason in South Bend Lodge No. 294, South Bend, IN in 1946.

In June 1948, he was united in marriage to Dorothy June Humphreys. After her death he married Jane Bennett Koontz, who also predeceased him. He is survived by his five children: David Meek, Robert L. Miller Jr., Mindy Jane Moore, Pamela Miller Christian, and Lisa Beth Maguire, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

For the complete baluster on the life of Robert L. Miller Sr., 33°, visit the “Member Center” at ScottishRiteNMJ.org



THE GROWTH OF AN IDEA



Every student deserves a chance to succeed, and with your support, we can make that dream a reality. Since 1994, the Children's Dyslexia Centers have made success a reality for more than 13,000 children.

For more than 25 years, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, a Charity of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, have been providing thousands of children with one-on-one education, resources, and support in more than 40 centers and satellite tutoring locations.

In the summer of 2019, Scottish Rite, NMJ and the Children's Dyslexia Centers proudly launched a full rebrand of the program with the support of new Director of Operations, David L. Sharkis, 33°, and his team. The task of developing the concept and brand was driven by Michael C. Russell, Vice President of Charities, and Matt Blaisdell, Creative Director.

Inspired by a thriving tree, the leaves on the new logo symbolize the growth and depth every student in the program goes through. It is that very growth that creates a center's branch of leaves and is supported by the base of Scottish Rite Freemasonry and its supporters.

It was a sincere goal to develop a full brand system for our corporate, center, and satellite tutoring location teams to give them the opportunity to market their program and bring in support for our students in new and creative ways.

We look forward to what the next 25 years have to offer for our Children's Dyslexia Centers.



Alumni Association

The Children's Dyslexia Centers Alumni Association is a way to give back to a program that has changed the lives of so many young people.

Learn more at: ChildrensDyslexiaCenters.org/Alumni

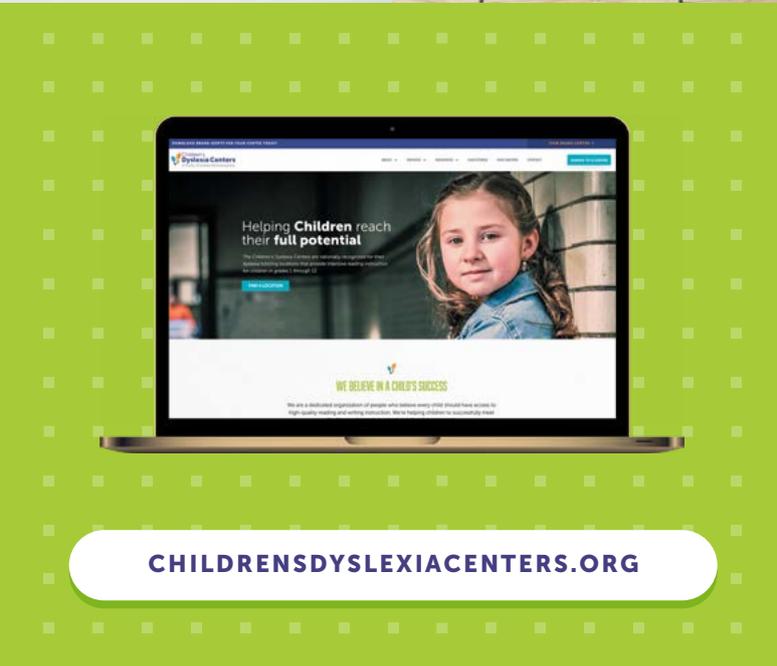


Brand Center

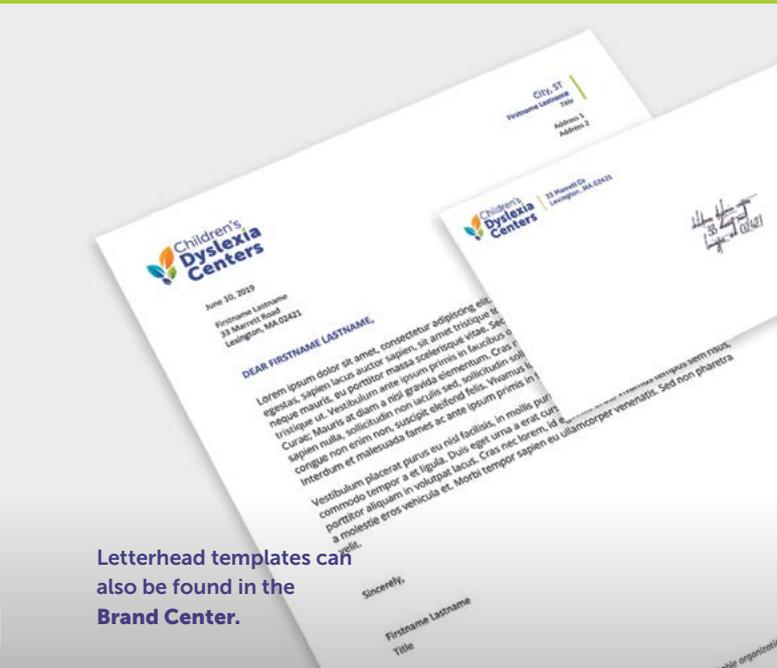
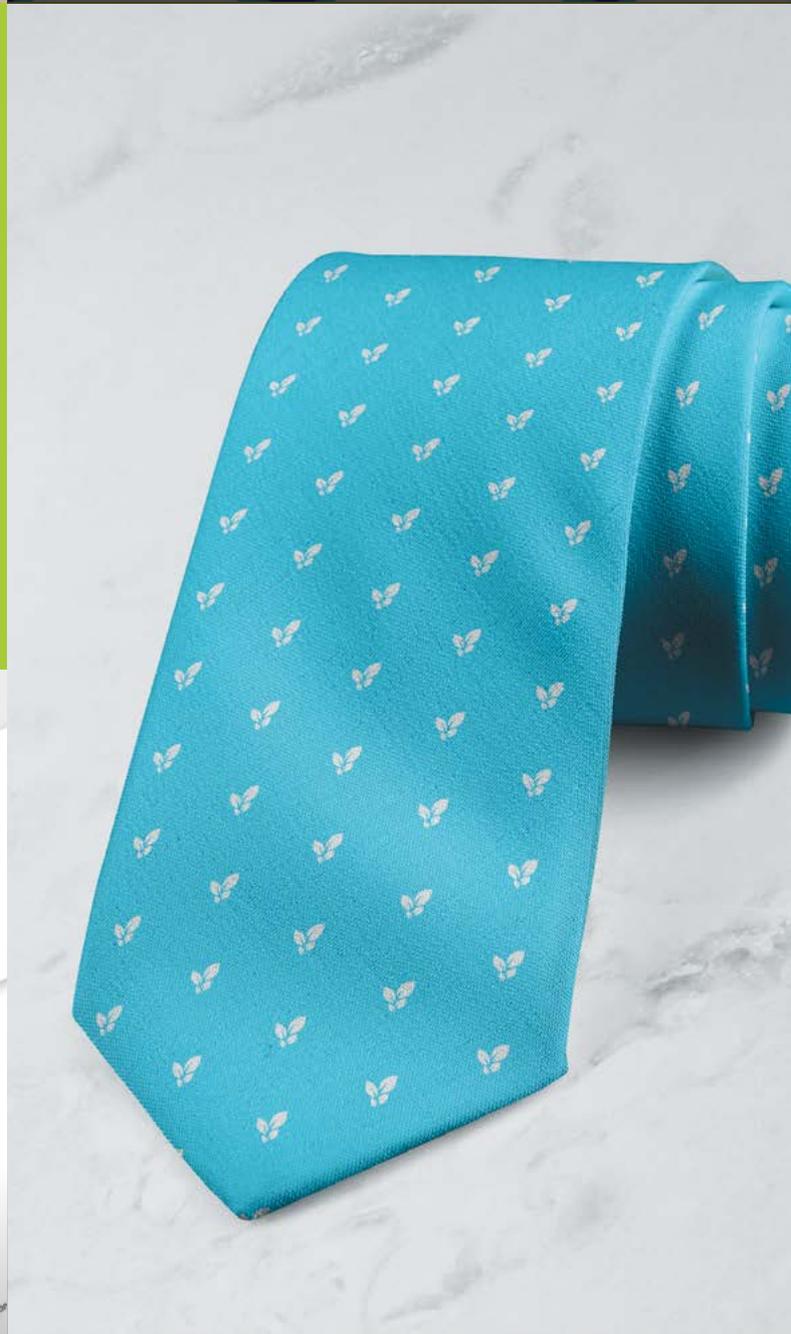
To ensure our centers have the resources they need to implement the brand on the local level, customized logos can be found by going to our Brand Center at: ChildrensDyslexiaCenters.org/Brand



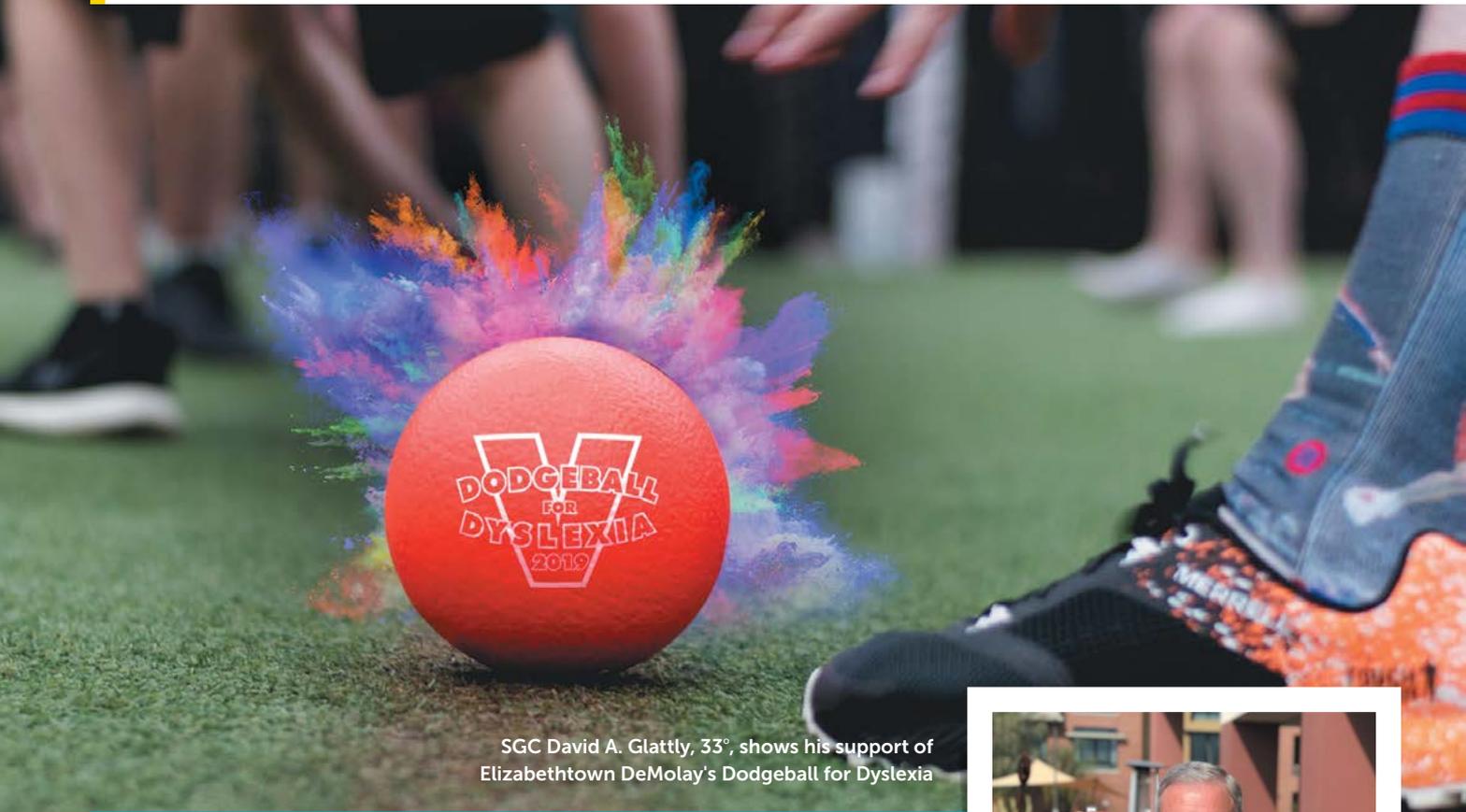
Business Cards template request form available in the Brand Center.



CHILDRENSDYSLEXIACENTERS.ORG



Letterhead templates can also be found in the Brand Center.

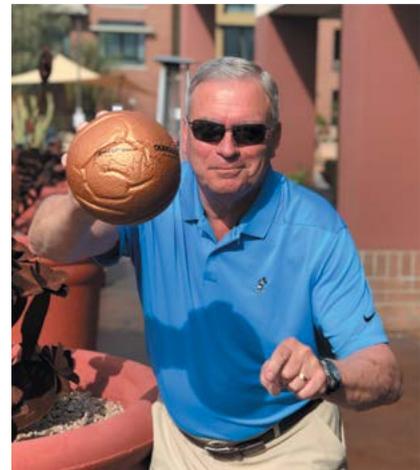


SGC David A. Glatty, 33°, shows his support of Elizabethtown DeMolay's Dodgeball for Dyslexia

DODGEBALL FOR DYSLEXIA

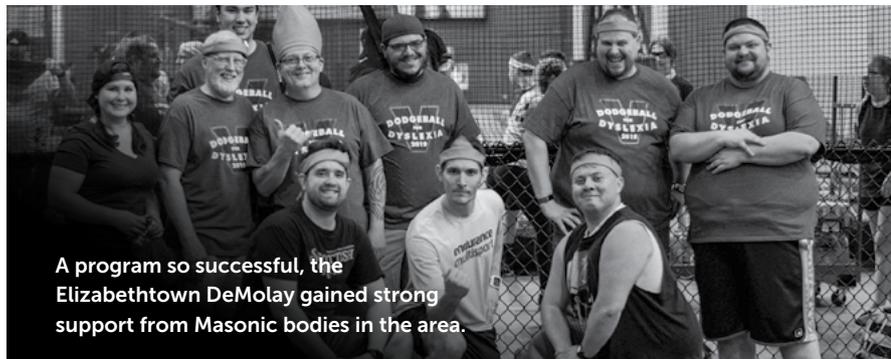
Elizabethtown DeMolay brought its A-Game to the dodgeball field in support of our Children's Dyslexia Centers

► **By David W. Berry, 33° | Valleys of Harrisburg & Lancaster**
Past Chapter Advisor, Elizabethtown DeMolay



It started with a big idea.

Evan Crawford was just 15 years old when the Elizabethtown DeMolay member came up with a unique way to raise money for the Children's Dyslexia Centers.



A program so successful, the Elizabethtown DeMolay gained strong support from Masonic bodies in the area.

- The plan was crafted while Evan was attending the Pennsylvania DeMolay Conference, a week-long extensive leadership training event that has trained DeMolays from around the world for more than 30 years. Of all he learned during the week, he embraced two important DeMolay concepts the most: the idea that in DeMolay, members plan and

execute their own activities, and that the state charity, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, was an outstanding cause.



Evan Crawford, Founder of Dodgeball for Dyslexia

As he was leaving the conference in 2014, he sought out one of his local chapter advisors full of enthusiasm (an amazing thing after six nights of little to no sleep and an active schedule that allowed for little rest) wanting to know if he could organize a "Dodgeball for Dyslexia" tournament. Evan rattled off his plan: time and place to hold it, registration fee that would be needed to cover the costs, a staggered financial sponsorship plan that would bring in more money and cover the cost of commemorative t-shirts, and a promotional program that would be attractive to DeMolay Chapters and Masonic Bodies. He also developed three trophy dodgeballs for presentation: gold to the winning team, silver to the team that raised the most funds for the Children's Dyslexia Centers, and a bronze ball for the team that showed the most spirit.

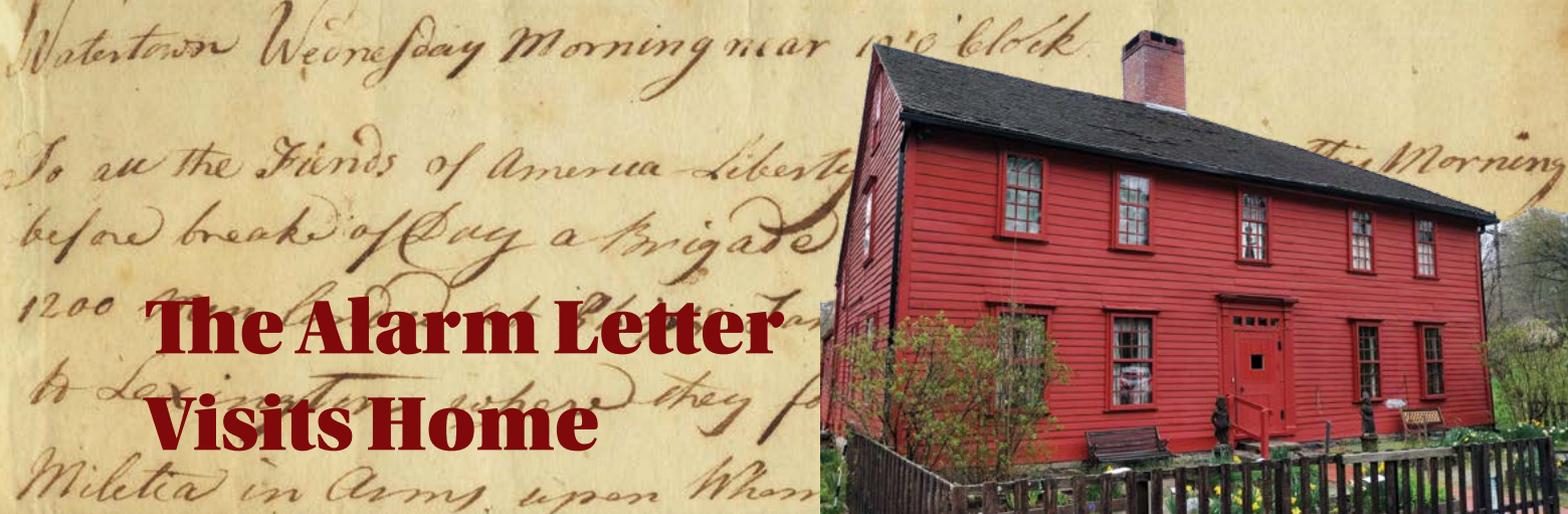
The advisor was impressed. The plan was comprehensive and complete. Evan received the endorsement of the chapter officers and advisory council to move forward with the plan, which included contracting for the sports venue that he had arranged to use. That was the first true task that an advisor had – signing the contract with Spooky Nook Sports, since an adult had to take responsibility for that detail.

Evan guided his project masterfully, complete with an evaluation after each of the three years he was manager for the program. This enabled him to make the necessary adjustments to make the tournament better. In 2017, a number of DeMolay Chapters from Virginia participated, and others continue to join in with growing numbers – they use it for a weekend of fun and fellowship that includes visits to HersheyPark.

Evan was succeeded by Kody Anderson in 2018 and Jake Beers in 2019 as managers of the fundraiser, each bringing their own ideas and innovations to the program. The tournament has grown from 4 teams in 2015 to 13 teams for each of the past 3 years, raising a total of \$6,769 for the various Children's Dyslexia Centers in Pennsylvania, and nearly \$2,000 for Rite Care – a similar Scottish Rite Charity for the Southern Jurisdiction.

Dodgeball for Dyslexia has become a true story of success, all from the mind of a dedicated and excited member of DeMolay in Elizabethtown, PA. The sixth annual Dodgeball for Dyslexia will tentatively be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020.





Who says history is reserved for the past?

In April of this year – the 20th, to be exact – Israel Bissell’s alarm letter of 1775 returned to the place it was originally delivered to, on the anniversary of its first arrival.

Let’s back up a little. On the afternoon of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775, an express rider by the name of Israel Bissell was sent off by the Committee of Correspondence to warn the colonies south of Massachusetts that the American Revolution had begun. His first stop was Worcester, MA, where legend has it that his horse died of exhaustion. In Worcester the letter was transcribed by Nathan Baldwin, and Bissell was sent on to Brooklyn, CT, where he met Israel Putnam. The ritual was repeated. A new copy was made and Bissell continued on to Norwich, CT, arriving on the 20th. In each of these stops the original names were copied on the bottom, and then the new writer’s name was added. It worked much like an email timestamp. Bissell continued on his journey, eventually reaching Philadelphia, but our story ends in Connecticut – at least for 244 years. Bissell brought the letter – the one transcribed in Brooklyn – to Christopher Leffingwell, the proprietor of a tavern in Norwich and a row of shops, called Leffingwell Row.



The alarm letter on display at the Leffingwell House.

Today, the Leffingwell House is a museum owned and operated by the Society of the Founders of Norwich. The alarm letter that was delivered to Leffingwell is owned by the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library. Because the Museum & Library has digitized the letter and written about it extensively on its blog, the Norwich organization became aware of the letter’s current owner and contacted the museum about the possibility of borrowing it for a special ceremony at the house. The Museum & Library was only too eager to comply. On April 20, 2019, exactly 244 years later, the same letter was returned – for a one-day appearance – to the Leffingwell House. The president, Dayne E. Rugh, presented a short history of the house and its role in Bissell’s ride. He commented that this might be the first time the letter has been in the house since the 1700s. He also admitted to having “goose bumps.” Maureen Harper, collections manager for the Museum & Library, said that the letter is in unusually good shape. The writing is still clearly legible.

There was noticeable excitement in the air. On a very rainy day the residents of Norwich came out in full force to witness this historic event, and many stayed for hours.

As an interesting side note, Leffingwell manufactured paper, and by chance, on the alarm letter is clearly seen Leffingwell’s watermark. In other words, he made the very paper that arrived at his door.

The house was built circa 1675, starting as a two-room home and evolving into a tavern. It is open every Saturday from April to November and has several events scheduled throughout that time.

Every year around Patriots’ Day, you can see the original Lexington Alarm Letter on view at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, Massachusetts. All year round you can see a high resolution version of this American treasure at the Museum’s Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives Digital Collections website.

Vietnam Veterans and Freemasonry: MSA's Hospital Visitation Program

BY **JEFFREY GROTEAU**

Director of the Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives



Founded in 1919, in the aftermath of World War I, the Masonic Service Association (MSA) has supported war relief and support for war veterans since its inception. In 1966, the MSA published a book called *Fifteen Years of Masonic Service to Hospitalized Veterans, 1952-1966*. The book reprints the MSA's bulletin, originally titled *Army and Navy Masonic Service Center* and, in 1960, changed to *Your Masonic Hospital Visitor*, a name it carried for years. Most of the reprinted bulletins feature news of Masons visiting veterans of both World War II and the Korean War, but the end of the book sheds light on service to a new group of veterans.

The lead article in the September 1966 bulletin is titled "A New Call for Service, The Veterans of Viet Nam." The article begins, "Our sons and brothers are coming back from South Viet Nam, the sick and wounded, I mean. The war in Southeast Asia is a hot war; the build-up of men and material is increasing. A lot more boys will be going over before most of them come home." At the beginning of 1966, the U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam numbered nearly 185,000. By the end of 1966, the United States had over 385,000 troops there - an increase of 108%. In 1966, more than 6,000 Americans were killed in Vietnam, and 30,000 were wounded.

The article in the 1966 bulletin is accompanied by three photographs of wounded veterans being visited by Masonic Service Association staff. The veterans shown are Norman C. Weiffenbach, a member of Ft. Benning Lodge No. 579 (Columbus, Georgia), pictured at Walter Reed Medical Center; Johnnie S. Miller of Tarpon Springs, Florida, at the V.A. Hospital in East Orange, New Jersey; and Thomas E. Bennett of Atlanta, Georgia, at an unidentified hospital.

The work of the MSA's Hospital Visitation program continues today, with Masons volunteering their time to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. The MSA's website describes the program as "much more than merely 'visitations' to the disabled and lonely patients in V.A. Hospitals, State Veterans Homes and Extended Care Facilities. It is the rendering of personal services to all our sons and brothers, Masons and Non-Masons alike, who now need someone to turn to for encouragement and to make life a little more pleasant."



Do you have any items related to Freemasonry and your time in service during the Vietnam War or related to your time as a hospital visitor? We'd love to hear more about them.

The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is located in Lexington, Massachusetts, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, and is open to the public.

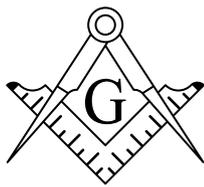
Have questions? Drop us a line at: library@srmml.org

Give us a call at: 781-457-4109

MASONIC MOMENTS

I came across this monument while traveling on one of the dirt roads into Gold Hill, CO for an excellent dinner at the Gold Hill Inn at 8,300 feet elevation. I was puzzled at the excision of the name of the first Grand Master of Masons in Colorado (Territory) from the monument. The first GM was Col. John M. Chivington, known as the “Fighting Parson.” He is apparently controversial because of his involvement in the alleged Sand Creek Massacre of Cheyenne and Arapahoe of November 1864.

Patrick F. McIntyre
Past Sovereign Prince
Valley of Troy
Valley of Albany



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™

QUOTABLES

There's no shame in fear, my father told me, what matters is how we face it.

- **George R.R. Martin, A Clash of Kings**

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person; He believed in me.

- **Jim Valvano**

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

- **Frederick Douglas**

All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.

- **Abraham Lincoln**

My mother is my root, my foundation. She planted the seed that I base my life on, and that is the belief that the ability to achieve starts in your mind.

- **Michael Jordan**

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

- **Dolly Parton**

The heart of man is very much like the sea, it has its storms, it has its tides and in its depths it has its pearls too.

- **Vincent Van Gogh**

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

- **Martin Luther King Jr.**

We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at last one which makes the heart run over.

- **Ray Bradbury**

If you would be wealthy, think of saving as well as getting.

- **Benjamin Franklin**

All life is a gamble and our lives are the dice we throw.

- **Marty Rubin**

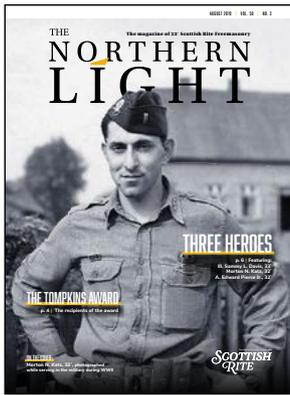
The only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I know that works, is the family.

- **Lee Iacocca**

Hardships often prepare ordinary people for extraordinary destiny.

- **C.S. Lewis**

Changes at The Northern Light



As the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction continues on The Path Forward you will see changes in all aspects of the craft. *The Northern Light* is no exception. In the past year we have experimented with new layouts, new articles, and, in general, a new look. This continues in this issue as we strive to make the publication – the most direct communication to you the members – more vibrant and contemporary. It

doesn't stop here, though. Continue to watch for more updates in the coming months. Keep in mind, though, *The Northern Light*, at its core, is still the same publication that our members have come to know for nearly a half century.



We Have a Winner

Last month we had a little fun with the editor's photo in the lower right corner of this page. The call was put out for our readers to identify the image

on the computer screen. We were overloaded with potential answers – some correct, some very imaginative. Among the incorrect, but good guesses were “a selfie of a broken smart phone screen,” “Boats,” “Brushes taken inside a car wash,” and maybe our favorite, “The upper left wing of a double-headed eagle.” The correct answer is ice crystals on the roof of the editor's car. Nature is an amazing thing. The first of our correct answers came from Bro. Robert H. Glisson, of Downingtown, PA. Bro. Glisson, a member of the Valley of Reading, attended college at Ursinus, became an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and retired as a major after 20 years. His son followed in his footsteps, stationed at The Pentagon and is a member of the same lodge and Valley.

As a bit of side trivia, Bro. Glisson explains that his home town is the location of the Downingtown Diner which was “attacked” by The Blob in the 1958 movie of the same name. He went on to say that the movie theater, The Colonial, is in Phoenixville, PA. In one scene the patrons flee the building. Every year the theater hosts a “Blob-Fest” at which all the patrons flee the theater when that scene appears on screen. Bob says “it's definitely entertaining.” Bro. Glisson's mug is enroute.

More TNL Themes Coming

It is now a tradition to assign themes to each issue of TNL. This month we honor our Veterans. The main story features three such heroes. Those chosen are not, obviously, the only ones. Instead we chose three as exemplars to highlight the extraordinary sacrifices made by

many of our Brothers and, indeed, our fellow citizens. In future issues we shine the spotlight on “Our Charities,” The “Family of Freemasonry,” and “First Responders.”

Online Issues of The Northern Light

Can't get enough of the current issue. You read an article a while back that you would like to find again? You want to do a little research? Keep in mind that all issues of *The Northern Light* since its inception on 1970 can be found online at ScottishRiteNMJ.org under the “Resources” tab. In addition, beginning this year, we include a more readable version online. Make sure to check it out at ScottishRiteNMJ.org under “Resources.”

When Changing Addresses

If you have moved and *The Northern Light* (and other Scottish Rite material) is still going to your old address, you can fix that problem quite easily. Go to ScottishRiteNMJ.org, go to Member Center and sign in. To create a login ID, you just need your member number and your birth date. A “Welcome” page pops up with your name. On the left side, click on “Edit Personal Information.” Once there, you can make the necessary changes. If you don't want to do it yourself, you can still contact your local Valley Secretary. If you don't know who that is or how to reach him, visit ScottishRiteNMJ.org, then click on “Valleys” at the top left, just under the double eagle. The secretary will be glad to help you get your information updated.

The Old North Bridge

In this issue the editor is seen at The Old North Bridge in Concord, MA. On April 19, 1775, the first armed resistance against the British regulars took place here. Earlier in the morning members of the Lexington militia were fired upon with fatalities. When the King's troop arrived at Concord, word had reached the militias of several nearby towns, and they responded. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson “Here once the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard 'round the world.”

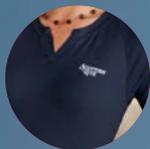
Contact the editor at: afoulds@srnmj.org.



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EDITOR

The Northern Light
P.O. Box 519
Lexington, MA 02420-0519



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