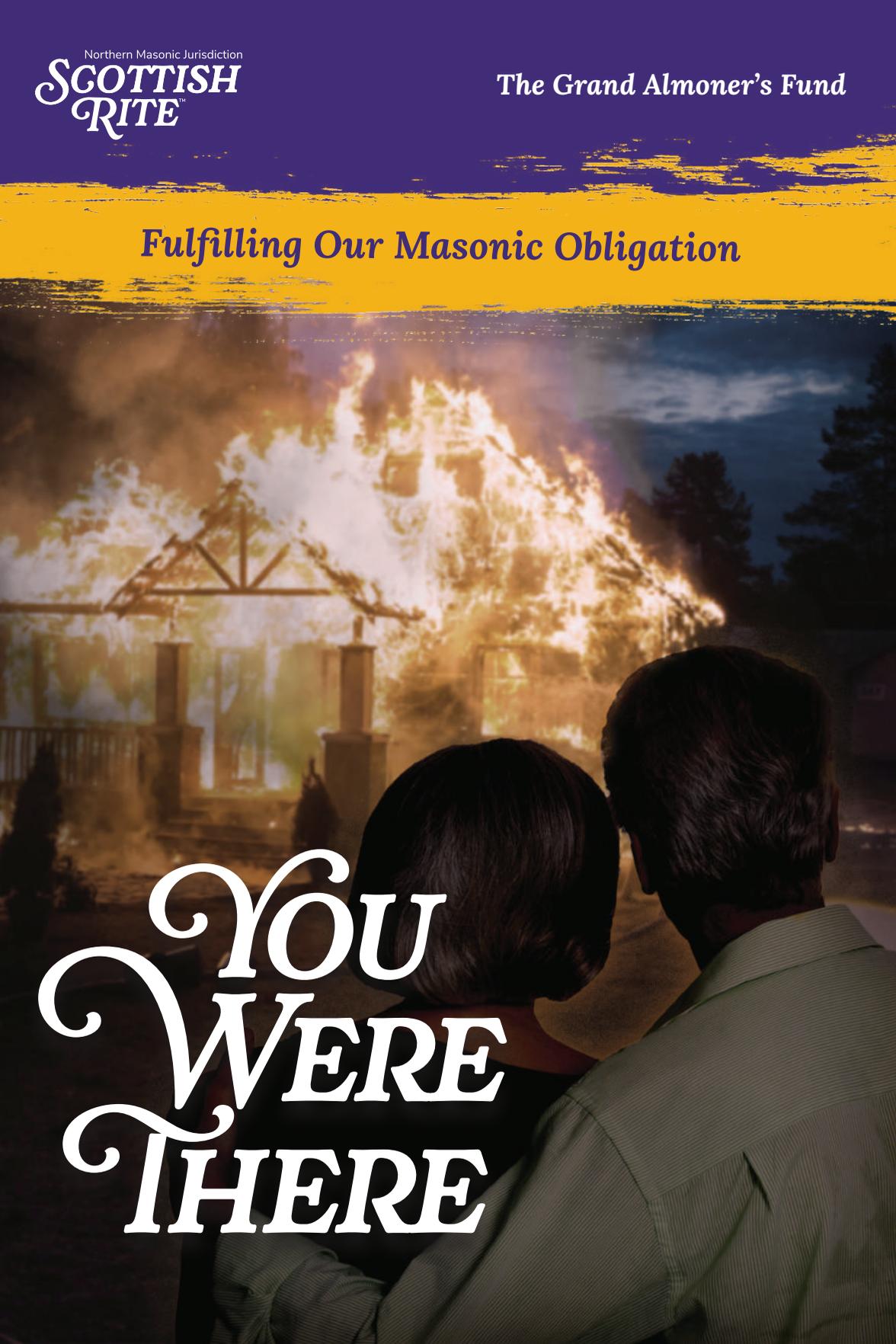


Northern Masonic Jurisdiction  
**SCOTTISH  
RITE™**

*The Grand Almoner's Fund*

*Fulfilling Our Masonic Obligation*



**YOU  
WERE  
THERE**



**T**he most memorable moments in life are those we share with others. The happy moments: a wedding, a graduation, or celebrating the birth of a child or grandchild, are times we look back on fondly. But in the darker moments – the death of a loved one, a fire or flood, a serious illness – it's easy to feel alone.

It is in these darker moments that we find ourselves most in need of the support of our Brothers. That's what Scottish Rite Masons do. We care for our Brothers in their time of need.

In the following pages, you will see the impact your donations to the Grand Almoner's Fund have had on our Brothers and their families when they've needed a helping hand. You Were There, in these dark moments, helping them get through a very difficult time in their lives. You Were There when they had nowhere else to turn. You Were There to offer relief when their hope was gone.

Thank you so much for your commitment to the Grand Almoner's Fund. You Were There and will continue to be there when your Masonic Family needs you the most.

God bless you and thank you!

Fraternally,



**Walter F. Wheeler, 33°**

Director of Charities

# WHEN FIRE DESTROYED A BROTHER'S BUSINESS *You Were There*

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM POTTER LEADER-ENTERPRISE

Just days before Christmas, Scottish Rite Brother Pete McLelland got a call that the fire alarm was going off at his woodworking and cabinetry business. It was a Sunday, and he had been there only an hour before working on some Christmas gifts.

“I live about a quarter of a mile from the shop, and I looked out my front window and saw flames coming out the back window of the shop,” he recalled.

The business was housed in an old dairy barn and went quickly. “That was pretty much it. It didn’t take very long at all for the whole thing to be engulfed and be gone,” Brother McLelland said. His 6,000 square-foot shop, complete

with a showroom and extensive equipment, was totally destroyed.

“The loss was pretty great. There was a lot of old machines that you can’t even buy anymore. We hauled 25 tons of scrap metal out of there, so that’s how much we had in machines – 50,000 pounds of scrap metal,” he said.

The family-owned business also employed his son, Pete Jr., who worked there full time, another son,



North Country Woodworking headquarters before the fire.



North Country Woodworking employees Dawn McLelland, Peter McLelland, Jr., Liz McLelland, Brother Peter McLelland, Sr., Clayton Bailey, and Joseph Miles with Ill. Thomas R. Labagh, 33°, Active Member from Pennsylvania

employed there part-time, and two long-time employees who had been with the company for 20 years.

The business's insurance policy only covered about half of the estimated losses to the building and equipment. In addition, several workers lost their personal tools in the fire.

When his Scottish Rite Brothers heard about the fire, they immediately took action. Along with assistance from his local Valley, the Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund contributed to Brother McLelland and each of his four employees to help cover their immediate needs.

The unexpected help came as a complete surprise to the workers. "They were totally flabbergasted by the whole thing," he shared.

One long-time employee was so impressed with the Fraternity's gestures, he has petitioned to join Brother McLelland's Lodge.

Thanks to their determination and the help they received, Brother McLelland and his family are back to work again. They were able to use an old storage building on their property for a new shop, and their remodeling work is nearly complete.

Brother McLelland said that he wanted to share his story to let other people know what had been done for him and his family. "It was just a tremendous blessing. It was a real boost for everybody," he said.

## Words of Thanks

The following letter was sent from North Country Woodworking employee Clayton Bailey to Scottish Rite Grand Almoner III. Peter Samiec, 33°.

Dear, Mr. Samiec

Hello my name is Clayton M Bailey I work for North Country Wood Working my Boss is Pete Mclelland. He is a member of your great organization. Recently our shop burnt down it was one of the toughest days of my life. I have been a loyal employee of Mr. Mclelland for twenty years he has been like a father figure to me I cant express how much him and his family mean to me. I know we will become a great company again with hard work and the help of great men like yourself I appreciate you and the great members of your organization the gift you gave to my family and I was a bright ray of sunshine and kindness. I would like to be part of your great organization and be able to spread that great feeling that I got from your gift to other people.

Sincerely Yours

Clayton M Bailey



WHEN THIS VETERAN HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN

# You Were There

Things were looking dark for Michigan Scottish Rite Brother Frank Irons. The 20-year Army veteran's roof badly needed to be replaced, and winter was coming.

Brother Irons had faced a series of challenges that made the project feel impossible to complete. After retiring from the military, he went on to work in a mine, where he suffered an accident that severely injured both of his knees. The accident left him unemployed, and he was trying to put two of his children through college at the time. He also helped care for his disabled brother, who lived with his family. Then his roof began to leak.

"I was doing my best trying to come up with extra money, and something

would always happen," he recalled. "I was driving a vehicle that didn't have heat in the [Upper Peninsula of Michigan.] I would have one of those portable heaters to get it warmed up at least so I could drive it."

Brother Irons had been diagnosed with PTSD from his service in the Army, and a therapist he saw regularly for his condition referred him to a veteran's assistance program. Unfortunately, after applying he was told he wouldn't be able to receive help until the following year, only to learn months later that he didn't qualify.

He tried looking into other organizations but was turned down again and again. "It was always a no," he said.

By now the situation had turned dire. The multiple layers of tarp and plastic he had placed on the roof were no longer keeping out the rain, and the interior of his home began to show damage from the leaks. "It was so bad that every time we got rain I just cringed. I had buckets and tubs all over trying to collect the water," he said.

Out of options, he decided to post about the situation on Facebook. "I normally would not ask for help, but I am tired of finding that everywhere I turn, there is more disappointment," his post began. After describing the situation, he ended with, "Does anyone have any ideas? I would greatly appreciate them. Winter is fast approaching, and the high winds here take a toll on the tarps I keep replacing."

When his Brother Masons saw the post, they responded quickly. He got a phone call from the Scottish Rite informing him that the Almoner's Fund would be offering him some help. Brother Irons said that even after the call, he still didn't get his hopes up. "I didn't count on it because I'd been turned down so many times."

The Scottish Rite partnered with the Grand Lodge of Michigan's Live

Better At Home program to get the project moving. Together they completely covered the costs of the roof and decking replacement.

Brother Irons said it's hard to describe the relief he feels when he looks up and sees his new roof. "It was like a dream seeing it done. They did a fantastic job. Everything just started changing from then on for the good."

Being a Mason and seeing the way his Brothers came together to help him reminds Brother Irons of being in the military. "The brotherhood you had in the military, you have that in Freemasonry. You always have a Brother. There's always someone to help you."

"I'm so appreciative of the Almoner's Fund. I would have lost my house. My house probably would have been condemned if it wasn't for all of you," he said.



Brother Frank Irons holds his grandson.

## WHY I GIVE

*Why do I give to Scottish Rite Charities?* It all goes back to the lesson we learned in the Entered Apprentice degrees – to assist our Brethren in need if we can do so without hurting ourselves financially. I personally have been the beneficiary of aid from members of our local community and my local Lodge during a time when my wife was in declining health due to a nasty disease. The aid was much appreciated.

After her passing, I was able to work on a regular basis, and I started giving back to various worthwhile causes. Fast forward to a few years ago when then Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton created the Grand Almoner's Fund. I started contributing to that Fund to help our Brethren in need. It wasn't much to start, but when I sold my business, I was able to financially contribute a bit more to help our Brethren in need.

Most of us do not have the wherewithal to personally contribute to one Brother in need and really make a difference. But when we pool our resources together to give to Scottish Rite Charities, it can make a huge difference.

Finally, the biggest reason why I contribute to Scottish Rite Charities is because it is the Rite thing to do.

Paul A. Weglage, 33°  
Valley of Dayton, OH



## WHY I GIVE

*Why do I give?* I can honestly say that becoming a Mason profoundly affected how I view charity and what it means to be charitable. Sure, I bought raffle tickets to help the school band or sports teams, but I never really thought about its lasting effect on the benefactor, and the absolute satisfaction that comes from helping your fellow man in some small way.

Two relatively recent events have spurred my desire to contribute to the Grand Almoner's Fund. First, I was fortunate to be asked by the Grand Master in my state to chair a committee that assists families with children that need assistance. Some of these situations, as you might imagine, are heartbreaking. I cannot find the words to adequately express the feelings that come from knowing you could help, in some small way, to make a child's life better.

Secondly, in the last few years, when hurricanes and storms ravaged the southern and eastern states, the Grand Almoner's Fund was there to assist. What impressed me was that no one cared if the victims were part of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, or even if they were Masons, but instead, people were in need, and the Grand Almoner's Fund provided help. To me, eliminating "boundaries" to offer support to others in need is the true definition of charity.

I once read, "The Masonic Way is to give without remembering and to receive without forgetting." Charity is an essential ingredient of Masonry.

Randall R. Milone, 33°  
Active Member





## A Message from First Lady Monica Glatty



*Masonic widows have always been dear to my heart, but especially this past year.*

Things have been hard for many of our members and many of my ladies, and the White Flower Society has been there to help them in this difficult time.

Reaching out to our widows is so important. Some of them have had to spend a lot of time by themselves in the last year, and they are lonely. Writing them cards, making phone calls, remembering them in your events, and just checking in on them to make sure they are okay are things we can all do, because there but for the grace of God could be any one of us.

The name for the White Flower Society was inspired by the DeMolay flower talk, but it has grown to mean so much more. The white flower means hope and need and giving a helping hand, so that we can support each other as a group.

I am so proud that in just a few short years we have created a legacy for Scottish Rite that will take care of our future ladies when they need it for years to come.

Thank you for caring for our widows. Thank you for supporting the White Flower Society.

# White Flower Society Members

The White Flower Society was formed through the vision of First Lady Monica Glattly to ensure that our Masonic widows are cared for and never forgotten. Membership in the White Flower Society reflects a \$5,000 level of giving, either as a one-time gift or a pledge over five years.

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Mary Ann Atkinson	Kim Hecht	Janice Sharpe
Evelyn M. Berenbroick	George & Leslie Hixon	Jim Sheets
Irene Berman	Keith & Judy Hoskins	Willa Jean Smalley
Jane M. Blades	Susan Jacobson	Karen Stein
Elbridge & Mareeta Brewer	Thomas & Ginny Labagh	Stephenson Family Foundation
Irene M. Brightbill	Charles R. & Frances H. Lefever	Howard & Carol Struble
Leland L. & Marilyn J. Burlison	Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey	Thomas & Joan Sturgeon
Greg & Gerti Clark	Judy McNaughton	Barbara Tryon
Robert & Stacia Cockerham	G. Michael & Ruth Morris	Valley of Bridgeport, Lafayette Consistory
David & Cheryl Cyrus	Sandy Nakonetschny	Valley of Dayton
Barbara Elliott	Linda Patch	Valley of Utica in honor of Diane H. Clark & in memory of Daniel L. Clark
Sandy Engelmann	Mark & Karla Roth in memory of Elizabeth M. Helldorfer & Hilda H. Roth	Brenda & Len Vander Horn
Karin M. Ernest in memory of Ruth Beumann Mahler	Michael & Megan Russell	Walter & Vickie Wheeler
Ginnie & Raymond Foose	Gail R. Samiec	Maureen Williamson
Mark David Gall	Nancy Scott	Connie Wilson
Matt & Kate Gerrish	Ellen Secallus	
Monica Glattly	Kellie R. Sellars	
Brian & Lynne Hartel		



To sign up for the White Flower Society or to learn more, go to

**[WhiteFlowerSociety.org](http://WhiteFlowerSociety.org)**

To my Brothers and caring friends,

*I want to thank you all so very much for thinking of me by offering financial support to me and my family during this devastating time following the flood this spring. The flood was caused by the three dams upstream being compromised. We were displaced from our home, and we lost our four-unit furnished rental property.*

*In the days following the flood, Brothers from our Lodge were there to help with the clean up and removal of water-soaked walls and furnishings. Church groups from our city and even other states worked with us to help remove all the water and sewage-soaked items. It was not a pleasant task! The Scottish Rite Almoner's Fund was a huge help by providing some financial help during our time of need. I am so humbled and grateful for your generous help.*

*Our home finally got a building permit this week to begin repairs of mechanical, electric, plumbing, and basic reconstruction. The four-unit will be demolished since it is cost prohibitive to rebuild to flood code standards.*

*Just months prior to the flood, our event and wedding planning business, which both my wife and I run, was closed due to the pandemic restrictions for non-essential business. Future weddings and events were cancelled, and future income was lost.*

*Your generous monetary gift helped us put food on the table, pay mortgages, car payments and bills that were mounting as we dealt with the many unexpected issues we continue to face. Again, it was very much appreciated in our time of need when our sources of income were lost.*

*We are keeping a positive attitude, good thoughts of the future, and hoping and praying for a great year ahead.*

*Thank you, thank you, thank you my Brothers. I love you all.*

*God bless you,*

*Edward J. Morris, 32°  
Valley of Michigan*

## Commander's Circle Members

The Commander's Circle is a special group of donors who have chosen to honor their commitment to the principles of our fraternity through their generous support of the Grand Almoner's Fund. Their passion and generosity are a true and lasting expression of "Masons caring for Masons."



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**SCOTTISH  
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Our Vision:

**WE WILL STRIVE TO BE  
A FRATERNITY THAT  
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OBLIGATION TO CARE  
FOR OUR MEMBERS.**

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