



FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND



VOLUME 38, ISSUE 3

FALL 2014



Saluting our Most Worshipful
Grand Master **GERALD E. PIEPIORA**
and Lady Deneise

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FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Free State Freemason*: the 15th day of **March** (Spring), **June** (Summer), **September** (Fall), and **December** (Winter)

These dates **ARE FIRM** and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

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These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the *Free State Freemason* publication:

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SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

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Saluting our Most Worshipful
Grand Master Gerald E. Piepiora
and t Lady Deneise
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FREEMASONRY is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

THE MASONIC FRATERNITY contributes over \$1 Billion each year to its philanthropic pursuits. Over \$750 Million of that in the United States alone. The Crippled Children's and Burns Hospitals sponsored by Shrine Masons are world famous for their ability to help those most in need.





GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

REFLECTIONS ON OUR MASONIC FAMILY

I believe the toughest FSFM articles to write are the first and the last. Every new Grand Master wonders how many of his goals can be met in the short 720 days we allocate to him. Now, with nearly 700 days gone, what emotions will this Grand Master take with him after the next Grand Master is installed in a few short weeks?

I guess none of us are ever completely satisfied with our terms of office, but as the expression goes, we all do as much as we can with what we have to work with. For me, our greatest assets are having true leaders in every part of our Masonic family and the general attitude of the brothers and sisters throughout this Jurisdiction. With rare exception, all the Bodies could not have elected/appointed better officers to serve with me.

We can all be most proud of what has been accomplished during these past two years. From the completion of the Medicare certification program and upgrades to the Maryland Masonic Homes to the wonderful and exciting programs and growth our youth groups, success stories continue to be reported throughout our Family.

We were also most fortunate and honored to have the Masonic spotlight shine brightly on our Jurisdiction several times this past year. From the **North American Conference of Grand Masters** in February to the

Supreme Sessions of the International Order of Rainbow Girls in July, to the **International Gathering of Lodges named for St. Alban** in September, all were most successful events.

Local events included the **Mid Shore Seafood Festival**, **Western Maryland Music Festival**, **Festival for the Child**, and the **Grand Lodge Table Lodge** celebrating the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Battle for Baltimore at Ft. McHenry. Each of these festivals brought an increased Masonic awareness to our communities.

Lodge Open House programs are becoming very creative and successful. Now that Lodges have the option of choosing their dates – and in some cases - locations, we see they are being combined with other local commu-

nity festivals, thereby attracting many and more varied interested families. As most of our Lodges are now in much better repair, the members are proud to greet visitors.

We are very excited about the new media commercial about our youth (to be initially viewed at the upcoming Annual Communication). Hopefully, we will show why we are so committed to the future our young men and ladies. We are already seeing increased membership and activity in all of the Chapters, Assemblies, and Bethels as well as renewed

Lodge interest in establishing additional youth groups.

We are not without challenges, however. We must establish a long range financial plan for the Masonic Homes. Medicare will certainly help short term, but our costs are continuing to increase at a much greater rate than our income.

We cannot forget that, although many of our Lodges are growing and seeing a brighter future, there are those that are still looking for the right formula. We need to focus on those that are still struggling. Without question,

We were also most fortunate and honored to have the Masonic spotlight shine brightly on our Jurisdiction several times this past year.

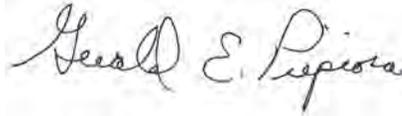
however, if we do not challenge our new members to become active, no other program can be successful.

Another bright note is that the average age of our Fraternity continues to drop. In the past two years, our average age has dropped from 68 to 66 years.

I will provide a more detailed review of the state of our Fraternal family at the Annual Communications, and I sincerely hope that each and every one of you is proud to be a Maryland Mason.

And now, it is my turn to relinquish the Oriental Chair. The memories you have all given my Lady Deneise and me will last us a lifetime. Life is made up of many chap-

ters and this one will be filled with exclamation marks. Our Divine Creator has blessed me with good health and ample energy for the challenges of this most honored position. My wish for this wonderful Craft is continued enjoyment of our Masonic principles. May there always be good men looking for Light and may the Great Creator continue to bless our efforts.



Jerry Piepiora, Grand Master

A TRIBUTE TO GRAND MASTER PIEPIORA AND HIS LADY DENEISE

During a very busy two years, our Grand Master and his Lady travelled countless miles across our great state and country proudly representing The Grand Lodge of Maryland and all Maryland Masons. Words alone cannot do justice to this dedication, so we offer as a salute a photo montage of just a few of the many events that have taken place over the recent months...



DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOS

(1.) Presenting a check to Ms. Erika Brannock as part of our ongoing support (2.) Addressing the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware (3.) Presenting the charter to the Esoteric Lodge of Research No. 237 in Western Maryland. (4 & 5.) Making new Masons (6.) Presenting a Service Award to a long-time member (7.) Attending the Grand Master's Ball with First Lady Deneise (8.) Presiding over the Star Spangled Banner Bicentennial Celebration (9&10.) Enjoying the fellowship of Harvest Home Day.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

by Kenneth Stuart Wyvill, Jr., RW Deputy Grand Master



Greetings Brethren, As we close out the 2014 Masonic year permit me to offer an assessment for your consideration. The Grand Lodge and the 2025 Committee has worked hard to provide each of us the implements needed to improve our lodges and our fraternity in general. Tools like The Masonic Ritual Book, Catechism Pamphlets, The Mentoring Program and The Book of Public Ceremonies are in place for your use now.

My assessment indicates that we, as an organization, are at or near the fifty yard line. The choice is clearly ours to continue across the fifty yard line and score or fall backward. The good news is that hundreds of you have stepped up to make a difference by leading our lodges in a new direction which will continue our forward motion.

For Maryland Masonry the tide has turned regarding our membership decline and we are finally seeing a steady flow of petitions as men continue to seek us out. Many of our lodges are staffing up with younger and eager officers ready to perform. But a challenge still lingers. They are looking to us (you and me) for leadership and the means to realize the promise of making good men better. We must maintain the habit of doing all the things necessary to fulfill this promise and to keep things moving forward.

A new committee named *The Membership Development and Retention Committee* has been working hard to develop another tool to assist in keeping lodge momentum going. The members of this committee consist of Chairman Andy Wilson, WM of Glen Burnie Lodge; Miguel Banagan, PM Camp Springs Lodge; Terry Royce, PM Patuxent Lodge; Charles Matulewicz, WM Pales-

tine Lodge; Mark Pearlstein, PM Amicable St. Johns Lodge; and Jeremy Sotzen, PM Washington Lodge. These brethren have been evaluating the characteristics of a successful lodge. They determined that most successful lodges have three key traits.

The three traits are for the lodge (1) to be active, (2) to be involved in the community and (3) to have a good communication process. So the lodge has to plan and execute interesting meetings, reach out to its community by providing needed services, and to have a way to stay in touch with its members and prospective members. Today good communication necessitates having an active website and an interesting trestle board. All

of this takes planning, effort and work which is best performed by committees. Committees present an added benefit because they get multiple members involved in the project.

So what are we doing for you now? The Membership Development Committee is in the process of producing a booklet to be used as a guide to aide lodges in putting all of these three key characteristics in place quickly. The booklet is scheduled for release in mid to late November. It will contain the following sections for lodge use:

Attracting New Members, Social Media, Mentoring, Lodge Activities and Programs, Community Programs and Retention. The purpose of this tool is assist your lodge to become stronger and to be a more interesting place for its members to invest their time and energy. I am confident that you will find this tool to be most helpful.

In closing, I want to congratulate each of you for making a difference in moving Maryland masonry ahead. As always your thoughts and ideas are welcomed.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Kenneth Wyvill, Deputy Grand Master

For Maryland Masonry the tide has turned regarding our membership decline and we are finally seeing a steady flow of petitions as men continue to seek us out. Many of our Lodges are staffing up with younger and eager officers ready to perform.

MDCHIP AT MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

From August 8 through 15, Masons from Montgomery County Lodges, joined by members of [Prince Hall] Pythagoras Lodge No. 74, provided registration for more than 700 children in Montgomery County and other surrounding areas. Through the dedicated work of York Rite Bros. John Austin, and Tommy Marraffa, the MD CHIP tent was surrounded by parents and children, wanting to participate in this valuable and public manifestation of Masonry. Each day, the CHIP tent opened at 10:00 AM and continued until dark. Many thanks to the Masons, families, and other volunteers who work so hard to make this program—now in its fifth year at the Fair—available to our youth. ❦



MCM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FETED

On Sunday, June 15, 2014, one hundred high school seniors from across the Free State were honored as recipients of scholarships from the Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM). The fifty-nine who attended that day are pictured below. Each student received a minimum award of \$500, often embellished by matching donations from many Lodges. Two additional scholarships of \$5,000 and \$2,500, named in memory of PGM C. David Haacke and Bro. Vernon Mules, respectively, were awarded to the two most-deserving winners. ❦

This event, one of the three signature programs sponsored and funded by MCM, attracts great interest from college-bound students, who submit more than 450 applications each year. \$55,000 is spent annually to support these student scholars. Seventeen Lodges and other Masonic bodies contributed to assist MCM in covering the costs associated with this event. As in all their enterprises, MCM represents ALL Maryland Masons, whose care and concern for the youth of our state are constantly demonstrated by their unflagging support. ❦



Sub-Acute Care / Short Term Rehab

MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES IS NOW THE NEW CHOICE IN SHORT-TERM / SUB-ACUTE CARE! While transitioning from a hospital stay, our team of professionals will work with each patient to restore health, achieve maximum independence, and ultimately, return home.

In addition to providing Medicare Part A covered services, unparalleled care and exceptional rehabilitative services, Maryland Masonic Homes offers the following amenities to make your stay more comfortable:

- ❁ **BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED PRIVATE AND SEMI-PRIVATE ROOMS**
- ❁ **DIRECT TV SERVICE**
- ❁ **WI-FI ACCESSIBILITY**
- ❁ **TELEPHONE SERVICE**
- ❁ **DELICIOUS/NUTRITIOUS MEALS**
- ❁ **ROOM SERVICE**
- ❁ **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**



If you or a loved one are eligible to utilize your Medicare Part A benefits and have a three (3) day qualifying hospital stay, call 410-527-1111 ext. 3268

Come home to Maryland Masonic Homes!



PAVING THE WAY TO ENHANCED MEDICAL SERVICES AT MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES

MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES has experienced many changes over its 80 year history, from being a dormitory and an infirmary to becoming today's unparalleled Continuing Care Retirement Community. Due to the foresight and leadership of the Board of Trustees and Executive Director, Paula O'Neill, we have become the area's premier provider of Short Term Sub-Acute Care.

This summer MMH became a certified Medicare Provider, becoming the leading choice for Masons and their families for short-term care. Recently we welcomed a new Medical Director and Attending Physician to the community, both are certified Medicare Gerontologists. Our Wellness Center currently offers services such as Podiatry, Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Cardiology and Dermatology to residents in all levels of care. New services are being added that will include Urology, Pulmonology, Nephrology and Orthopedic specialties.

Our rehabilitation services including Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapies are being expanded as well. Assist Rehabilitation Inc. has joined our team and is leading the way, offering extensive programs that will greatly benefit both our Long-Term residents and Short-Term care patients.

In addition to these immense changes, our beautiful community is being physically transformed to reflect this new level of sophistication, modernization, and state of the art medical care.



MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES UPDATE

As I returned from the 2014 annual Masonic Communities and Service Association (MCSA) Conference, I had the opportunity to meet with my fellow members to discuss successful aging within our respective Masonic communities. For those not aware of this Association, it was organized in 1932 to provide support and direction to executive officers serving Masonic charitable organizations. Over the years the Association has expanded their

boomers per day becoming eligible for Medicare benefits, it is imperative that we as a community do our part in maintaining a stellar environment with all necessary services to become "THE" provider of choice for Maryland Masons.

At the Homes it's a very busy time! There are many exciting changes as we continue to build our culture, enhance our services, and update our technology to meet the need of future generations of Masons and their families. Some of our exciting changes are the completion of our community's renovations, participation in the Medicare Program, and enhanced medical services.

With our new participation in the Medicare program, you are now able to experience our outstanding quality care on a short term basis. We truly hope that should you need rehabilitative services, that Maryland Masonic Homes will be your provider of choice. We have updated and upgraded to meet the needs of those individuals and are eager to show you a different side of Bonnie Blink!

All the Best, Paula O'Neill, Executive Director



scope and is recognized for setting the standard of care for Masonic communities, providing on-going support and assistance, and professional education to both Masonic and Eastern Star member communities.

As outgoing President, and a member of the Association, this affiliation affords me real time in-sight on a nationwide level to other Masonic community services and best practices to bring back for residents of Maryland Masonic Homes. With the national average of 10,000 baby

THE BUILDER'S PIN



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL has been a hot topic in recent years, with all Maryland lodges concentrating on maintaining strong numbers. However, this is certainly not a new initiative. In 1985, Most Worshipful Grand Master C. David Haacke initiated a recognition effort as a part of the *Solomons II program*.

This initiative is designed to recognize those brothers who are "first line signers" on new petitions by the awarding of a specially designed Builder's Lapel Pin. The pins come in three colors for the following designations:

Bronze – first line signer on one petition

Silver – first line signer on two petitions

Gold – first line signer on three or more petitions

Lodge Secretaries are responsible for submitting the appropriate form to the Grand Lodge with the petition. Upon receipt of the form and petition, the Grand Lodge will forward the pins to the Lodge for presentation. Please note that once a Brother has achieved a gold pin award, that no further pins will be given.

So be sure to ask your Secretary for an appropriate pin when you fill out that first line. You'll be able to show that your efforts as a Maryland Freemason are keeping our membership ranks strong.



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MUSEUM

The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland



Enjoy unlimited *Free* access to the library and achieves. Receive *Free* subscription to our NEW quarterly electronic *What's Happening* newsletter and stay in touch with exciting museum updates, articles, and advance offerings!

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MAKING A MARK ON SMITH ISLAND

On the beautiful cloud-free morning of Saturday, May 24th, Grand Master Piepiora, his Grand Line and their Ladies journeyed down to Crisfield, Maryland. This was to be but the beginning of their travels that day! When they arrived, they were met by the assembled brothers and officers of Chesapeake Lodge No. 147 led by their Worshipful Master Bro. Robert “Bob” J. Purnell, Jr.

The party then boarded the good ship “Chelsea Lane Tyler” for a forty-five minute ride across the Chesapeake Bay to the town of Ewell on Smith Island. Their purpose for the day was to raise Bro. Clayton Henry Evans to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Smith Island is Maryland’s only remaining inhabited Chesapeake Bay island that is unattached to the mainland by bridge or causeway. Located about twelve miles off the shore of Crisfield, a little more than two hundred year-round residents rely on boats to ferry visitors, residents mail and supplies back and forth each day.

The island was first mapped out by Captain John Smith in 1608, but is actually named for a Henry Smith of Jamestown who was granted 1,000 acres of land there in 1679. The Smith Island way of life is literally and figuratively tied to the Chesapeake Bay. Resident watermen make their living harvesting fresh seafood, mostly in the form of crabs, clams and oysters. The island also gets its fair share of tourists during the warmer months who come to get a glimpse of life on the bay and to dine at one of the three

restaurants on the island – all featuring fresh seafood, and of course, world-famous Smith Island cake; the unique multi-layered sweet treat made on the island.

As it turns out, Smith Island also has a strong masonic history. Chesapeake Lodge No. 147 boasts a long line of masons from Smith Island including fifteen current members. Of this group, Bro. Henry L. Guy is a 51 year member and Bro. Waverly W. Wilson is a 61 year member.

Upon arrival, the Masons and their Ladies dined on crab cakes, ham, clam fritters and that Smith Island cake. At meal’s end, the ladies departed for a tour of the island while the men made their way to the Ewell Fire Department Hall where arrangements had been made to open a Lodge of Low Vale. With Grand Master Piepiora presiding in the East, Bro. Evans was made a Master Mason in due form.

After closing the lodge, the masons reunited with their ladies and boarded the boat for their return trip to the mainland. All in attendance agreed that it was a unique and wonderful experience and a true testimony that Freemasonry in Maryland is indeed everywhere!



A Note From The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum

ABOARD THE U.S.S. CONSTELLATION

By: Edward Heimiller, Curator



Maryland has a long history of sea-faring vessels from the slick merchant clippers to the more robust naval vessels. Among the most famous is the U.S.S. Constellation. Initially conceived as one of the six ships, commonly known as the 'Six Original Frigates,' authorized by the Naval Act of 1794, the Constellation was a 36-gun frigate.

The Constellation was constructed in Baltimore between 1796 and 1797 under the direction of David Stodder (1748-1806) at his shipyard on Harris Creek in Baltimore's Fells Point according to a design by Naval Constructor Joshua Humphreys (1751-1838). (David Stodder was a member of Washington Lodge No. 3. and served as Master of the Lodge in 1787 and in 1788. He died in Baltimore on September 30, 1806 and is interred in Westminster Burial Ground, Baltimore, Maryland.) The Constellation was launched on September 7, 1797 and saw her first action during the Quasi War with France at the end of the 18th century. Under the command of Commodore Thomas Truxton (1755-1822), the Constellation captured the French frigates *L' Insurgent* and *La Vengeance*. In 1853 after being decommissioned,

the Constellation was broken up for scrap with elements of the ship being repurposed in the construction of a new ship named the U.S.S. Constellation in the Gosport Navy Yard in Norfolk, Virginia. The second Constellation saw active service from 1854 until she was decommissioned in 1955. After being decommissioned from the navy, the second Constellation was moored in Baltimore and later designated a National Historic Landmark in 1963. Confusion between the second Constellation and her predecessor during her subsequent restorations resulted in sections of the ship being rebuilt to resemble the 1797 frigate. However the second Constellation remains the last sail-only warship designed and built by the United States Navy and the only existing intact naval vessel from the American Civil War.

Over the years Maryland Masons have had a strong fondness for the Constellation. Recognizing and appreciating David Stodder's role in constructing the first Constellation several lodges have met and honors have been bestowed aboard the second Constellation. In 1947 Amicable Lodge No. 25 (now Amicable-St. Johns, No. 25) commemorated

their sesquicentennial aboard the Constellation. To mark the occasion the lodge commissioned and issued a souvenir plate with a depiction of the Constellation in Baltimore Harbor in the center. A few years later Washington Lodge No. 3 on November 21, 1957 convened aboard the Constellation and was presented with an American flag by Donald Steward (1930-1971), Skipper of the Constellation, in memory of Past Master Stoddard of Washington Lodge No. 3 (Donald Steward later became a member of Annapolis Lodge No. 89). This flag had held special significances having been flown over the Constellation on the occasion of her 150th anniversary in Boston in 1947. The lodge subsequently presented this flag to the museum in 1976.

In November of 1957 Washington Lodge No. 3 presented the museum with an oil painting by Arthur N. Disney, Sr. (1903-1993) of the 'U.S. frigate Constellation.' Arthur N. Disney, Sr. was raised in 1944 in Landmark Lodge, No. 127 (merged into Patmos Lodge No. 70). He loaned a number of his paintings of battleships to the White House, Pentagon, and Navy Department. He allowed his paintings of the Constellation to be reproduced on the ship's souvenirs and generously allowed the proceeds of all sales to go directly to the conservation of the ship.

In September of 1972 Amicable Lodge, No. 25 (now Amicable-St. John's No. 25) under dispensation from Grand Master John R. Fogle (1904-1994), held a special communication aboard the Constellation to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Lodge's founding. Baltimore City Mayor William Donald Schaefer (1921-2011), a member of Mystic Circle Lodge No. 109 (merged with Howard Lodge No. 101 in 2003) and later Governor

of Maryland, was present for the occasion and read a proclamation noted in the lodge minutes as "*congratulating the lodge on its services and the patriotic*

service of its members during the years of its existence." A photograph of Schaefer presenting a copy of this presentation in his office in City Hall, including Past Grand Master Fogle, is among the papers of P.G.M. Fogle in the museum archives.

On September 21, 1976 Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 229 (merged with Jephthah Lodge No. 222 in 2008), under a special dispensation dated April 6, 1976 from Grand Master J. Thomas Middleton (1913-1999), convened aboard the Constellation. After receiving Grand Master Middleton and other officers of the Grand Lodge, they raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason William Oppenheimer (1951-present). The meeting was closed by Grand Master Middleton at 9:58 p.m.

More recently on June 28, 2000 Washington Lodge No. 3 celebrate their 230th Anniversary aboard the Constellation. Several honors and gifts were presented to the lodge at the event including: a Baltimore County Flag and a Proclamation making the week of June 24, 2000 **Washington Lodge Week** in Baltimore County, from then Baltimore County Executive and current U.S. Congressman, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger (1946-present),—a long time member of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 116; a Proclamation making June 28, 2000 **Washington Lodge No. 3 Day** in Maryland from Governor Parris Glendening (1942-present), as well as further honors from former Gov. William Donald Schaefer and Mayor Martin O'Malley in addition to several gifts of souvenirs of the occasion.

As an icon of Baltimore's maritime legacy the Constellation has become part of Maryland's identity. Over the past century the Constellation has increasingly become part of Maryland's Masonic identity as the backdrop to various Masonic events. A new display including several artifacts that serve as testaments to these Masonic ties, including a gavel made from wood removed from the second Constellation during one of many restorations, is currently on view in the Museum Gallery.





A STAR SPANGLED CELEBRATION

The summer of 2014 marked the bicentennial anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British during the War of 1812. The battle actually took place over several days and culminated with the overnight shelling of the fort which famously inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the words to what would become our National Anthem.

It should come as no surprise that a large number of the defenders in Baltimore in those fateful days were Freemasons. The fort itself was named for Bro. James McHenry who served as Secretary of War during the presidency of George Washington.

To commemorate this important anniversary, The Grand Lodge of Maryland held an *Open Table Lodge Bicentennial Celebration* on Saturday, September 19, 2014. Attended by hundreds of Masons, the event was an evening of traditional toasts – and much more.

The evening began outside with a procession of military re-enactors who escorted Grand Master Piepiora to the flag pavilion for the retirement of the United States Flag. The sounds of cannon volleys echoed across the valley as four cannons boomed. The assembled crowd then proceeded to the Grand Lodge Ballroom for the Table Lodge.

During the Table Lodge, a representative of the Fort McHenry Guard presented Grand Master Piepiora with an official flag which had flown over the fort on the actual date of the two hundredth anniversary of the bombardment.

Following a hearty rendition of Auld Lang Syne, everyone stepped back outside as the evening concluded with a tremendous fireworks display. In all, it was a wonderful Masonic salute to those patriots from a far-gone day. ❖





PGM JACK BIGGS CHECKS IN...

by Jack Biggs, PGM

The Masonic fraternity comes through for me again – a very good friend, Doug, Tucker, who is a Past Grand Master of the state of Washington, moved to a town about 10 miles east of where my lady friend Jane lives. Thus, each time I have gone to visit Jane in Goodyear, AZ we have gotten together with Doug and his wife for dinners, lunches, and occasional gathering of friends at his house. He is also a former deputy sheriff in Washington.

I had been thinking, for some time about trying to get to meet Sheriff Joe Arpaio during one of my visits to Arizona but we were always busy doing other things. This trip I happened to mention to Doug that I was going to try to get a meeting with Sheriff Joe one of these trips – Doug quickly says, “no problem, I can set that up for you.” A lady who goes to Doug’s church works for Sheriff Joe. Many of you reading this know that I am a retired 1st Lieutenant from the MD State Police, which also helped with the invitation.

The meeting was set, and when we arrived we were quickly escorted to Sheriff Joe’s office where we had a great time with him for the better part of an hour. He is quite a character, very entertaining and knowledgeable.

He spoke about me leaving MD and moving to Arizona, and if not full time, at least for 7 months a year – he said he would give me a badge and put me in charge of one of his “Posses”. I thanked him, and told him I already have a badge and that was all I needed. Plus being in charge of anything wasn’t on my “to do” list. I was having far too much fun traveling, and taking care of commitments I already had. I also told him that Lady Jane would not approve of me spending my time in Arizona running a



“Posse” or anything else that didn’t involve her. She quickly added “That’s right”.

He also offered me a tour of the famous “Tent City”, but we had already made plans for the rest of that day. I asked him for a “Rain Check”. If you ever get out that way, Joe is very hospitable to active/former/retired police officers, and will probably try to sign them up to head up a Posse.

Joe was an MP in the army, then became a D.C. Metro police officer, left there and became a Las Vegas police officer, then went into the DEA. He worked out of their Baltimore office in the 70s. Frank Mazzone, retired MSP, member of Washington Lodge and father of Jay Mazzone, remembers working several cases with Joe in the early 70s when Joe was in the Baltimore Field Office. In 1992, Arpaio successfully campaigned for the office of Maricopa County Sheriff. The voters of Maricopa County re-elected him in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012.

He plans on running again in 2016. He says he is having too much fun to quit now.

Sheriff Joe has a very impressive office on the 19th floor of the Wells Fargo building in downtown Phoenix. ■



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JOB'S DAUGHTERS ROCKET LAUNCH

On July 26th the members of the Job's Daughters Bethel No. 22 and Howard Lodge No. 101 travelled to the Eastern Shore to watch their JDI themed rocket blast off! Worshipful Master Larry Hoban and Senior Steward Dave Greger of Howard Lodge No. 101 collaborated on the effort. WM Larry donated the rocket, and SS Dave assembled it. The rocket, an Aerotech Corporation G-Force kit along with a second kit that was already built were taken to the Central Sod Farm in Centreville Maryland where the Maryland Delaware Rocket Association (MDRA) meet once a month to test their rocket building and flying skills. The two rockets were launched on G118 Blue Streak high power motors by Cesaroni Technologies to an estimated 1000 feet both recovering safely on parachutes. The rockets were 4 inches in diameter, 60 inches tall and weighed just under 3 pounds each.

Honored Queen Heather was invited to Launch Control Officers position to "push the button" to launch the rockets.

GRAND GUARDIAN COUNCIL OF MARYLAND
www.MDJobsDaughters.org

JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL
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www.jobsdaughtersinternational.org

The launch was attended by:

- Heather Glushakow - Honored Queen, Bethel No. 22
- Kaitlyn Mertz - Jr. Princess - Bethel No. 22
- Marybeth Appleyard - Custodian, Bethel No. 22
- Brooke Appleyard - Jobie-to-Bee
- Julie Glushakow, Bethel Guardian
- John Lambert, Associate Bethel Guardian
- Mary Lou Lee - Guardian Treasurer
- Beth Appleyard & Josie Brady
- Larry Hoban – Worshipful Master, Howard Lodge No. 101
- Dan Hammil – Past Master, Howard Lodge No. 101
- Dave Greger – Senior Steward, Howard Lodge No. 101

After the "main event" launch the daughters continued their experience by preparing and launching smaller rockets provided by MDRA.

Established in 1934, Bethel No.22 is celebrating their 80th year this year.

Job's Daughters also has its own official philanthropy, The Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund (H.I.K.E), which gives hearing aids to children who need them. Visit our charity at www.thehikefund.org

Members also have numerous opportunities to earn educational scholarships, learn valuable leadership skills, participate in fun activities, travel, meet other young women from diverse backgrounds and countries, compete in State-level and International competitions and make many friends that last a lifetime. For more info, visit one of our websites:



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MARYLAND DEMOLAY NEWS

by Dad Carl A. Michel, Jr., Executive Secretary – Maryland DeMolay

MARYLAND DEMOLAY HAS SOME EXCITING NEWS! On Saturday May 31, 2014 *Bowie-Collington Chapter* received the first new Charter to work in Maryland in 22 years! While many of you may recall past articles of reopened Chapters using existing Charters held under in-active status, this Chapter was begun in the traditional way.

Several Masons in the Bowie-Collington area approached us 2 years ago to see what it would take to bring DeMolay back to the area. This was the area *Raymond Campbell Carleton Chapter* had originally covered and was extremely successful for quite some time. Collington Lodge No. 230 agreed to be the sponsor of the newly forming Chapter. A meeting was held to train the new advisors at Collington Lodge No. 230. PGM Stephen J. Ponzillo, III (then Grand Master) and Grand Master Gerald E. Piepiora (then Deputy Grand Master) took time out of their day to stop by the training after a Regional Meeting being held in Centennial Lodge No. 174. The Application for Letters Temporary was signed and mailed. The excitement grew as the corps of new Advisors embarked on this endeavor and began bringing in members. They knew the goal for a new Chapter to receive their Charter was 15 active members and at least 6 months maintaining this number of members.

I have highlighted many of *Bowie-Collington Chapter's* successes and hard work in the community in past articles. Needless to say, this Chapter has been busy! As a lead up to the Chartering, they traveled to Boumi Temple on May 24th to sell sodas at the Carnival, May 25th they took part in the Bowie Memorial Day Parade along with Collington Lodge No. 230 and on May 26th they took part in the *Bowie Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony*. A short 5 days later the members and advisors hosted an overflowing house of guests at Collington Lodge No. 230 for the Chartering Ceremony and first official Installation of the Chapter. The list of attendees included local politicians with Citations for the new Chapter, Grand Master Piepiora and many of his line, Maryland DeMolay State Line and

Chapters, Maryland DeMolay State Staff, members of the lodge and other Masons and family members. The Installation was made especially memorable because many of the original members of *Raymond Campbell Carleton Chapter* stepped up to fill the roles of the Installing team! This team was headed up by Past State Master Councilor Phillip Shortt who also brushed up on the Flower Talk Ceremony, honoring our mothers, and delivered it to the newly installed members. Many of these Senior DeMolays have been supporting the young men as they have pushed forward to Chartering.

As with great stories, there are always those unsung people working in the background to make the dream a reality. While it is always difficult to point out every person who played a role, there are two Masons who have been working very hard to see this happen. We would like to thank **Dad Ed Harraway** and **Dad Rafael Rodriguez Otero**. These men have worked countless hours and have expended much of their energy to see the idea of something special for the Collington Lodge Masonic Family become a reality. We wish to thank them of the efforts they have put forth and hope you will do the same the next time you see them.

In closing, I would like to fill you in on our next big announcement! Door To Virtue Lodge No. 46 has recently voted to sponsor a Chapter in Westminster. This will be handled the same way as *Bowie-Collington Chapter* and will bring back a Chapter to the Westminster area! The application for Letters Temporary has been filed and Dad Training has been held with 7 signing up to be advisors. Maryland DeMolay is succeeding and growing because YOU believe in us! Thank you for all your support!

For God, For Country, For DeMolay!



MARYLAND MASONIC SERVICE AWARDS

In each issue of the *Free State Freemason* we recognize our Brethren who achieved service award status during the previous quarter. Sincere congratulations to these Brothers who reached 50, 60 and 70 years of service during the first half of 2014



70 YEAR MEMBERS

Albert Block	184
William Boyd	44
Barnett Nutter	215



60 YEAR MEMBERS

Luther Bell	46
Roy Bohrer	230
George Bollinger	101
Francis Bollinger	198
Norman Broyles	158
Harold Brubaker	116
Charles Bujac, III	44
Harry Burnett, Jr.	89
Edward Burton	202
Marion Butler	183
Frederick Clause	91
Bernie Coberly, Jr.	217
Russell Comstock	184
William Craze	154
Fred Dailey, Jr.	101
Vernon Downes	152
Douglas Ford	197
Herman Gelman	66
Nolen Graves, Jr.	179
Charles Hardesty	116
Norman Harpster	195
Howard Higgins	131
Frank Hottendorf, Jr.	228

Edward Jacobs	195
Alfred Keir, Jr.	131
William Kenly	205
Milton Kenyon	222
Gerald Laumann, Sr.	166
Donas McCready	101
Charles McKenzie, Jr.	198
Herman Oster, Jr.	13
William Pullen	131
Michael Punko	184
Norman Ray, Jr.	177
Hugo Redmer	198
Louis Rehberger	46
George Smith	208
Charles Ulary	188
Lionel Wilson, Jr.	219



50 YEAR MEMBERS

Donald Adams	195
Joseph Ambrose, Sr.	101
Frederick Betz, Jr.	184
John Biggs, Jr.	134
Steven Borbely, Sr.	230
Arthur Boyer	183
Harold Bressler, Sr.	116
Florian Budzik	183
Jerome Calhoun	213
Harry Christopher, Jr.	116
James Clark	213
Andrew Coleman, Jr.	183
Alan Cook	99
Robert Creevey	101

Gilbert Creutzer, Jr.	182	Jack McCauley	192
John Crull, Jr.	215	Raymond Merkle	189
George Daneker, Jr.	101	William Moosegian	66
Lawrence De Angelis	227	Carroll Nicholson	101
John Diller, III	115	Sonnie Price	202
James Dimitri	152	Carl Puffenbarger	174
Robert Dodd	228	Werner Rebstock	172
Jerry Doering	188	Ronald Resch	116
David Ferguson	216	Leon Riddle	227
Donald Flory	196	Sidney Ridenour	196
Harry Foster	209	John Roth	101
William Goodman	218	Paul Sanders, Jr.	192
Kenneth Gossett	230	David Schwartz	84
Gerald Graham	173	Don Seel	48
William Hagenbucher	150	John Sheckells	152
Fletcher Hall	138	Lawrence Sherwood, Jr.	192
William Hamer, Jr.	183	Charles Simms	58
Ronald Hammond	152	Thomas Skidmore	154
Guy Harriman, Jr.	13	Robert Smith	195
Richard Hess	222	George Spielman	191
James Hockersmith, Jr.	230	James Swift	198
Henry Hofmann	152	Roy Swords	181
Walter Huff, Sr.	219	Salvatore Tammaro	218
George Kahlert, Sr.	152	Glenn Taylor	44
John Kincaid	179	Lowell Thompson	181
Charles Kinsman	216	William Wainwright	91
Stanley Klitenic	116	Duane Wendt	158
Michael Koziel	177	Lester Wilson	130
John Kriner	140	Carl Winters	131
Charles Lampe	230	John Wolfe	192
John Leggett, III	84	Edward Wright	128
Charles Little	116	Stuart Yuill	89
William Lurton	187		
Colin MacIndoe	102		



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MID-SHORE SEAFOOD FESTIVAL DRAWS RECORD CROWD

Now in its' fifth year, the annual Mid-Shore Seafood Festival has become a can't-miss event each summer. Held at the Tuckahoe Steam and Gas Association Show Grounds and sponsored by eight local Masonic Lodges as well as the Grand Lodge of Maryland, this year's attendance was estimated at nearly 750.

The menu included all-you-can-eat steamed crabs, crab cakes, clam strips, steamed shrimp, Eastern Shore Style fried chicken and more. Guests also enjoyed live music and entertainment throughout the day.

The participating lodges included Cambridge Lodge No. 66, Centreville Lodge No. 180, Chester Lodge No. 115, Choptank Lodge No. 138, Coats Lodge No. 102, Granite Lodge No. 177, Nanticoke Lodge No. 172 and Temple Lodge No. 128. In a great showing of the united effort

of the Maryland Masonic family, many young men and women from DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls were on hand to distribute the trays of steaming crabs to the hungry crowd.

Masons, their families and friends traveled from near and far to attend the event, including MW Grand Master Piepiora. The Grand Master noted that all of the proceeds of the Mid-Shore Seafood Festival are split evenly among the eight sponsoring lodges and stays on the Eastern Shore to support the charities and projects of those lodges. "We are really proud of this," Piepiora said. "Where else would you have a seafood festival but here on the Eastern Shore?"

Plans are already underway for next year's festival in August. If this year's success was any indication, it would be wise to get your tickets early!



GO TAKE A HIKE



JOHN MICHAEL ROBBINS

- Master Mason • Past Master • Worthy Patron
- Eminent Commander
- President, Carroll Scottish Rite Club

by David G. Robbins

His wife told my brother one day, “Go take a hike”, and he did, on the Appalachian Trail (aka AT).

He didn't go out the next day and begin. Preparation for this trip began 50 years ago as a Boy Scout, where he earned his Eagle Scout Award, continued through college, where he was involved in a Grotto and Outing Club, then as an adult, Scout Master, for several years. With his sons, friends, and brothers, he has climbed the 46 highest peaks in the Adirondacks, New York and hiked in Glacier National Park, Montana. He is not a stranger to backpacking. Mike has been planning this trip for years and hoped that his sons would be able to join him. But, sons grow up, get jobs, get married and have lives of their own to live. He planned to make this trek with a friend from Scouting, who was sidelined for health reasons. Mike has persevered, he started his journey alone with the trail name of “Solo Amigo”. Actually, he wasn't alone, several thousand people each year attempt to do the same thing, and about 1 in 4 complete it.

Carrying 40+ pounds, of food, cooking gear, water, clothing, and shelter, on his back, Mike began his travels, remembering, “He that endureth to the end, the same shall have stories to tell.”

Mike started his hike March 26th at Springer Mountain, Georgia, traveling north toward Mt. Katahdin, Maine. 80 miles of Georgia, 390 miles of North Carolina/Tennessee, over the Great Smokies, over Clingman's Dome (the high-



est point on the trail, 6,643 feet), arriving in Damascus, Virginia, during the second week of May.

Damascus, Virginia has a festival every year called Trail Days, around the second week of May. The Appalachian Trail passes through the center of the town. Annually thousands of AT hikers, (past, present, future, dropouts and wannabes) converge on the town to camp, converse about, celebrate the AT. Many vendors set-up shop there for those few days to adjust, repair or replace the hikers' gear, usually for free. The town hosts a parade down Main St, with all the AT hikers present, in groups of when they were on the trail. Mike is in the class of 2014.

Mike continued north through Virginia, on the longest section of the AT in a single state, 530 miles and West Virginia, the shortest section of trail in a single to state, 20 miles, to Harpers Ferry. Harpers Ferry is where the Ap-



palachian Trail Conservancy is located and where thru hikers can register. In July, Mike registered as the 1,111th hiker to make it this far, this year.

Brother Mike, having completed nearly half of the journey, took several days off to rest and refresh himself. He had lost 38 pounds in 3 months. About 50 of his friends and family had a picnic for him at Blue Ridge Summit to celebrate his accomplishment and cheer him on his way, for the second half of his trip, on July 12th. During the picnic, Mike shared with us some of his ex-

periences and was interviewed by a local TV station. He announced that he was going to do a flip-flop. Meaning, he was going to be transported to Mt. Katahdin, where he would continue his trek back to his stopping point at Harpers Ferry. By doing this, he would avoid the inclemency of the weather in Maine and New Hampshire in the fall and it would give him the psychological advantage of knowing he is hiking toward home.

His wife, Georgia, dropped him off at the base of Mt. Katahdin, where he hiked to the top of Baxter Peak, the northern terminus of the AT, and began his walk home. In his 280 mile travel through Maine, he passed through the "Hundred Miles of Wilderness", where there is no sign of civilization for 100 miles. The 160 miles of New Hampshire was not without its challenges. It has the White Mountains, with the Presidential Range. The trail does not go around them, it goes over them. Mike awoke on his 67 birthday near the top of Mt. Washington, which he had just passed over.

As of this writing, he has just crossed the New Hampshire/Vermont state line and is still going strong. He still has 150 miles of Vermont, 85 miles of Massachusetts, 60 miles of Connecticut, 110 miles of New York, 50 miles of New Jersey, 230 miles of Pennsylvania and 40 miles of Maryland. So far he has traveled 1500 miles on foot, on the Appalachian Trail. Mike Robbins plans to be back in Maryland by the end of October and will have passed through 17 states and completed 2185 miles of the AT on foot.

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BROTHERHOOD MANIFESTED A.F.&A.M. AND P.H.A.

On July 22, nine Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 brothers enjoyed food and fellowship with their Prince Hall brothers at Pythagoras Lodge No. 74 in Derwood, MD. What began as a breakfast between PM Oliver Tyler and WM Mike Codori at IHOP in December, 2009, has grown into a genuine friendship between the two Lodges. They have sat together in M-C 195 several times throughout the past several years and now the Pythagoras brothers have made them welcome and comfortable in their Lodge, with the promise of many more visitations and joint ventures to come. Accompanying WM Mike Codori to this first visit to Pythagoras Lodge were Bros. Jim Knight, PM, Barry Rosen, PM, Marwan Hinnawi, PM, Ian McIntosh, SW, Scott Goldschein, JW, John Austin, Craig Webb, and Tom Graham. The happy expressions on the faces below are testimony to the feelings of joy experienced that evening.



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The building will rise in the area directly behind the old barns familiar to everyone who enjoys pancakes at Harvest Home Day each year in October. The barns themselves, which date to the era when Bonnie Blink was a working farm, are scheduled to be razed when the new building is completed. Their removal will allow for a much-needed expansion of the parking areas on campus.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MWPGM GEORGE S. YOST

by Bro, Jonathan R. Strickler, WM



In a cold monsoon-like rainstorm last spring, the officers, members, visiting brethren and guests of Jephthah Lodge No. 222 met at Druid Ridge Cemetery, located at

7800 Park Heights Avenue in the city of Baltimore. They assembled at the graveside of our Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Bro. George Steedman Yost, who served as Grand Master in 1941-42. Their purpose was to conduct a Masonic Memorial Service as a part of the statewide initiative to honor all of our Past Grand Masters who have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above.

After the service, those in attendance retired to a local restaurant to dry off and enjoy a luncheon and refreshment. Pictured from left to right are Bro. Harry Harper, JS; Bro Scott Roberts, JW; Bro. Jonathan Strickler, WM; Bro. Stephen Konarski, JD; Bro. James Hill, PM; Bro. Kostas Vourvoulas, PM (behind Bro. Hill); Bro. John Shriver, PM and Bro. Jason Schnepf, SW

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