



MEET THE INCOMING GRAND MASTER

MW DONALD ELLIS STREHLE, *177th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia*



Donald Ellis Strehle was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1956. He is the third son of the late Frank E. Strehle and the late Thelma G. Strehle. Brother Strehle graduated from Denbigh High School in Newport News in 1974. He graduated from Radford University in 1978 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He began his banking career in Arlington in 1979. Attended Commercial Lending School at the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business. His last position was Regional President for BB&T. Administratively he was responsible for 600 employees, 80 financial centers, \$6 billion in deposits, and 140,000 client households in Northern Virginia.

MW Strehle is a Life Member in Perpetuity of Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge No. 42 In Arlington, where he was raised a Master Mason in 1996. He served as Worshipful Master in 2001, has been a Trustee since 2002 and served as Treasurer for fifteen years. He is a member of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Research Lodge. Served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 54 in 2008. He was appointed as Grand Senior Steward in 2012, He served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance for eleven years. Brother Strehle was elected Grand Junior Deacon in November 2016.

Brother Strehle is a member of the Valley of Alexandria, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and was invested Knight Commander Court of Honour in 2019. He holds membership in Arlington Royal Arch Chapter No. 35, Commandery No. 29, Knights Templar, Kena Shrine Center, and was invested Knight of York Cross of Honour in 2021. He has served in numerous positions in the Order of the Eastern Star, Job's Daughters International, DeMolay and numerous other Masonic endeavors.

MW Strehle has also been very active in the community and holds membership and leadership positions in numerous civic organizations.

Brother Strehle is married to the former Mary Lee Dodge of Arlington. They have three daughters, all Past Honored Queens of Bethel No. 1, Job's Daughters, Arlington, Virginia. Sara is married to Dr. Kevin W. Duke, and they have two children, Thomas and Emily Duke; Laura Ellen is married to Brian Kobler, and they have a daughter, Luella Kobler; and Lee Anne is married to Stephen Bradley Weiss.

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Rob Eades, 32°, KCCH

It amazes me just how quickly twelve months can come and go. One reason this feeling occurs is that we have experienced so many of them. It seems that it was just a few short weeks ago that we were closing out 2021, and now another year has come and gone. This has been an unusual time for us. First, we began searching a path for normalcy after Covid, and secondly, to the long process of completing the sale of the building we called home for so many years then moving to our current facility. These events require a new road map for which there is no ritual. We have come this far through this process in good order and as I look out from my chair in the East, I see that we are still strong and a determined body who is working toward getting stronger. I urge our Valley to continue their support of our officers in 2023 because still our journey is long.

Speaking of looking forward, we turn toward our November Stated Meeting when we will receive our incoming Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, soon to be Most Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle. It is the privilege of the Richmond Valley this year, as always to be one of the first stops on the Grand Master's schedule. I hope you will all plan now to come out to greet him and cheer him along his way.

Finally thank you all for getting us through this important phase. After all, it is all of us together who write the pages of our history. I hope everyone will have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season as you celebrate with family and friends. I look forward to sitting among you in fellowship on our side of the table 2023.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

By the time you read this article we will have closed on the sale of our building, and we will have held our third Stated Meeting in our temporary home at ACCA. We also just completed our fall Reunion. Due to illness, we had 9 candidates rather than the 10 that had petitioned. I'm sorry for the illness but the plus side is we have 1 candidate for the spring reunion which should be done on stage. The past reunion was communicated by Ill. and M.W. Alan Adkins, 33°, IGH and R. W. Brother Bill Heltzel, 32°, KCCH in their normal outstanding way.

We are all mourning the passing of Ill. and M.W. Brother Bob Carpenter, 33°, IGH who has faithfully served the Richmond Valley as our General Secretary for 17 years. Bob was such a great friend and Brother for all these years and a very valuable asset in helping with the sale of the building. Our utmost sympathies, love and prayers are extended to Paige and the family.

As things begin to settle down your Assistant Personal Representative Ill. And M.W. Doug Jones, 33°, IGH and I will have Executive Council meetings to make plans for what promises to be exciting times for the Rite. Even though we are meeting at ACCA, please remember your Scottish Rite Childhood Language is still working in its usual location. Please continue to show your love and support of the Center through your donations.

We look forward to receiving our new Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia at our November Stated Meeting. He will be received under the arch of steel by our wonderful Scottish Rite Guard. This is always a highlight as we honor and pledge our support to the new Grand Master and the Grand line. Dinner reservations are an absolute necessity as we expect a large crowd. Reservations are required and due by noon, Monday, November 21, 2022.

So many people have been a huge help in completing the move and I will always be indebted to each of you. I would like to thank Kathleen and Brother Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH for all their efforts holding the office together and getting a lot of the paperwork updated that had fallen behind. Kathleen is absolutely a wiz with the day-to-day operation and keeping me on track (not an easy task). Ill. And M.W. Alan appointed Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH as the General Secretary and he hit the ground running getting our financial statements brought up to date and is quickly learning all the other task necessary to run the office.

GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS THE RITE and GOD BLESS THIS GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!!

Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

whom I first met in 1978 when we were both DeMolays. He casually mentioned that he had never actually seen the full 11th degree and so I began reading more about the Master Hiram Abif, which of course ends with their convictions and punishments according to the law. I have been satisfied, after which he is told that the people in Israel are being taxed unfairly. The people of the provinces, fairly collect taxes, and to be the advocate and champion of the people. The people should have more education, and to advance freedom. Being a student of history, I was struck by the importance of the American Experiment in the late 1700s, the great American Experiment had just gotten underway. The concept of Enlightenment and the concept of freedom of the people was being advocated only by the American people as a right of all people was hardly practiced anywhere. For over 220 years, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry, it emphasizes the importance of the freedom of the individual, of performing one's duty, and of the Scottish Rite book "Dynamic Freedoms" in many Lodges and even in high school libraries. The book of Jacksonville is still distributing the book and I think it would be good for us to do that as well. I believe in our country, its history, and its founding principles. Ronald Reagan once said, "I believe in our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to be the children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." One of the things that you do in your own way, you want to plow your fields as you see fit, and raise your family in the best way possible at the cost of that heritage is high. Sometimes it takes all we have to preserve it, even our devotion to our Country.

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2022 —

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 23 Office
Thursday 24 Closed for
Thanksgiving
Monday 28 Stated Meeting

DECEMBER

Sunday 25 Christmas
Holiday
Monday 26 Office Closed

*No Stated Meeting
in December*

— 2023 —

JANUARY

Sunday 1 New Year's
Day Holiday
Monday 23 Stated Meeting

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 14 Valentine's Day
Monday 27 Stated Meeting

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Master of Kadosh, Consistory

MEMBERSHIP

CHARLES ROBINSON, 33°, CHAIRMAN

October 22, 2022, was not only a nice fall day with perfect weather, but a good day for our Scottish Rite as well. The Scottish Rite Guard welcomed everyone to ACCA Shrine where we inducted 9 new Masters of the Royal Secret. Since COVID hit, with the benefit of Bill Hetzel, KCCH and MW and Ill Alan Adkins, 33° IGH. communicating the Degrees, we have 70 new Scottish Rite members. Hopefully in the spring of 2023 we will be able to put all 70, along with any new petitioners, through the traditional way. That will be the largest class in many years.

In the meantime, get to know these new members and help them find something within our valley that interests them. Our goal is to make sure each one of them has as positive Scottish Rite experience as we have had.

I hope each of you has a joyous Holiday Season. Don't forget it is the season of giving, and what better gift could you give a Brother Mason than the opportunity to advance his Masonic journey by becoming a Scottish Rite Mason.

Called from Labor

CHARLES FREDERICK BEORN
1941 - 2022

DONALD KENT HOLCOMB, SR.
1939 - 2022

DAVID LEE OWNBY
1935 - 2022

RICHARD RAY BRIGHTBILL
1930 - 2022

JERRY WAYNE HOPKINS
1946 - 2022

WALTER CARROLL PARSONS
1926 - 2022

ELMO HUDSON BROOKS, SR.
1931 - 2022

CLARENCE ERVIN LEWIS
1929 - 2022

WILLIAM FRANKLIN PEARCE, SR.
1935 - 2022

ROBERT WALES CARPENTER, JR.
1942 - 2022

WILLIAM DAVID MAYES
1934 - 2022

LIONEL WARREN WEST
1951 - 2022

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

Please take a moment and communicate with our shut-in Brethren either by card or a phone call. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and you will feel better for it.

NEW SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

William F. Hughes

REQUESTED
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Recently I was speaking with one of my closest friends, a Brother from Northern Virginia whom I first met in 1978 when we were both DeMolays. He casually mentioned that he had just participated in the 11th degree during that day's Reunion. This piqued my interest since I had never actually seen the full 11th degree and so I began reading more about it. During the degree, a court under Zabud first holds the trial of the assassins of Grand Master Hiram Abif, which of course ends with their convictions and punishments according to their confessions and several imprecations. King Solomon then confirms that justice has been satisfied, after which he is told that the people in Israel are being taxed unfairly. With his great wisdom, Solomon then selects by lot twelve of the Elus to govern their provinces, fairly collect taxes, and to be the advocate and champion of the people. The great lessons of the degree are that Masonry is designed to protect the people, to promote education, and to advance freedom. Being a student of history, I was struck by the significance of these teachings. When the Scottish Rite degrees were first created in France in the late 1700s, the great American Experiment had just gotten underway. The French Revolution that threw off monarchy had not even taken place. It was the Age of Enlightenment and the concept of freedom of the people was being advocated only by the Masonic fraternity and our Founding Fathers. Just as significantly, universal education as a right of all people was hardly practiced anywhere. For over 220 years, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite has stood for these principles. Again and again in its degrees, it emphasizes the importance of the freedom of the individual, of performing one's duty, of being true to one's country, friends, and family. I remember years ago seeing the Scottish Rite book "Dynamic Freedoms" in many Lodges and even in high school libraries, and am concerned that our young people are not being taught about them. The Valley of Jacksonville is still distributing the book and I think it would be good for us to do that as well. America can only grow and thrive when we have an enlightened populace who believes in our country, its history, and its founding principles. Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." One of my favorite quotes from the movie Sergeant York is similar, "You want to worship God in your own way, you want to plow your fields as you see fit, and raise your family according to your own likes? And that's your heritage and mine, every American's. But the cost of that heritage is high. Sometimes it takes all we have to preserve it, even our lives." Let us continue to uphold our Scottish Rite heritage of Reverence for God and Devotion to our Country.