



VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Doyle Miller, 32°, KCCH

I am hoping everyone had a joyous 4th of July. Summer is here and I know this brings a lot of time with the family. I think this is the reason we go dark in July. As you travel on vacation, please stay safe and enjoy the time with friends and family.

This will be a short message. I am pleased to report that all the committees that have been put together to look into the future are working hard to get things moving forward. The future of the Richmond Valley is in good hands, and I know we will continue to grow. This brings me to the reunion that is approaching in October. We, I need to work hard to recruit new members for the fall reunion.

I want to thank each of you for all the support you have given me this year. It is one of the best experiences of my Masonic life. I look forward to seeing each of you on August 28 for Family Night. Please come out and get reacquainted with the brethren and new members. Dinner reservations must be made by August 21, 2023.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

Summer took its time getting here, but when she showed up, she's HOT, HOT, HOT. With the heat and humidity, the effects of the Canadian wildfires I pray that you will be careful and stay safe.

There are many things happening in the Richmond Valley. The relocation committee, the future of the Valley committee and the resolution committee are working hard. The relocation committee has created a survey, it has been distributed in hardcopy and by email. Please take a few minutes to respond. This is your Valley and your input is very valuable to our future. Please be patient and offer up in your devotion to deity for strength and guidance for these committees.

Our June meeting (Education night) was very exciting. Bro. Robert Siegel and his education committee recognized the Teachers of the Year for Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, and Hanover. Each teacher was awarded \$500.00 to use for a program to benefit the school and the students. The Library and Scholarship committee awarded one thousand dollar scholarships to 14 very deserving students. God bless these students and I pray that these scholarships will help to make their future bright.

Looking ahead, August and September will be exciting times as usual. Bro. Jimmy Creech KCCH will host our August Family Night meeting. Our dinner will be the usual fare of hot dogs, hamburgers and traditional sides. Dress for the evening will be polo shirts and dress slacks for the men and casual dress for the ladies. Our September meeting will be hosted by Bro. Jon Lumpkin, Commander of Kadosh. We will recognize the Feast of Tishri and the importance of this Festival. Dress will be back to coat and tie for the men and Sunday dress for the ladies. Brother Jimmy and Brother Jon are great Masons. I am sure they will bring us some informative programs. Please come out and support these Brethren.

August also brings in the Biennial Session in D. C. where three of our Brethren will be coronated 33° Degree Scottish Rite Masons. September brings us to Alexandria for the Scottish Rite Conference where five of our Brethren will receive the investiture of Knight Commander Court of Honour (KCCH). We are going to be very busy over the next few months.

Please continue to pray for the Valley and all the Brethren. Look forward to seeing all of you soon, may God bless you, the Valley, and this GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, August 28, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM.....Dinner
 Family Night
 Cost \$15.00
 (\$20 without reservation)

Monday, September 25, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM.....Dinner
 Feast of Tishri
 Cost \$15.00
 (\$20 without reservation)

Monday, October 23, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM.....Dinner
 TBA
 Cost \$15.00
 (\$20 without reservation)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HONOR MEN

The Richmond Valley has been honored by the Supreme Council with members singled out for honors.

Bro. Dale E. Wright, Sr., KCCH, Bro. Terry F. Hilton, KCCH, and Bro. Harvey L. Fleshman, KCCH have been designated to receive the 33°.

Bros. Russell A. Wright, II, David W. Vass, John M. Parrish, Jack T. Moorman, and Duane E. Cunningham have been selected to receive the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour.

Our heartiest congratulations to them all. The Conferral and Investiture for the 33° will take place August 22, 2023, at the Biennial Session. The KCCH Conferral will take place September 30, 2023, at the Scottish Rite Conference in Alexandria.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK *Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH*



I hope you are managing to stay cool. The daily heat wave and smog from Canada has descended upon us. So, unless you are dedicated to your golf game or need to work in the yard, best to stay indoors and enjoy the cool air of air conditioning. At any rate, very early in the morning outside work or play activity is more likely to do better than in mid-day to early afternoon.

A grand congratulations to our new KCCH Elects and our new 33° Elects. We look forward to our Biennial Session August 19 to 22, 2023 in Washington, DC, and our Scottish Rite Conference in Alexandria September 28 to 30, 2023. If you are interested in attending contact the office.

Our delinquent list consists of 30 members who have not paid their 2022 dues. This is about where we were last year. Call the office if you would like to assist in contacting our brethren about their dues obligations.

Our Fall Reunion in memory of Ill. Robert Wales Carpenter, Jr., 33°, IGH, will soon be upon us. Take the time now to contact your prospects and get them signed up for October 14. It is important that each of us replace ourselves, at least once, during our time as members of the Richmond Valley. Let us do it now. A Petition is available through the website or from this office, either by email or mail. Please use it.

The programs for August and September are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Preparations for Family night and the Feast of Tishri are well under way. Your next newsletter will be for October - December, so please save this issue for reference and to remind you of upcoming events.

Please note your 2024 dues notice will be mailed shortly, and you should have it sometime in August. If your dues were current on June 1, 2023, your 2024 membership card will be included with the dues notice. If not, we will be mailing your card from the office. Let us all try and make sure our dues are current so that your Valley can fulfill its obligations.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE *Jonathan Lumpkin, 32°*

I first want to thank you for allowing me to serve as Commander of Kadosh this year. I have enjoyed my time working with the Scottish Rite and those I get to meet with each month. As part of my role, we are closely coming up on the Feast of Tishri.

One part of the Feast of Tishri is in celebration and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. While reading more about the Feast of Tishri, I really enjoyed Arturo De Hoyos' words in the Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide - especially in guidance of both the service, but some of its meaning, especially these days.

"Thus in observing the Feast of Tishri, we reaffirm our dedication to human concord and the brotherhood of all men in a world of peace. As individuals and as Brothers in the Rite, we resolve to build, as Solomon did, through harmony and cooperation, ever seeking peace for all mankind." ... "Yet another reason to keep the Feast of Tishri is that such observance fosters the spirit of fellowship.... Within the context of the Feast of Tishri, we realize more deeply than ever before the value of our fellowmen, without which the individual is lost in a self-imposed prison of human isolation.

Finally, the law, legend, peace, equality, unity and fellowship of the Feast of Tishri combine to make this the Masonic feast of feasts. At the reflection table, all men – Jew, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, and others – join in a common voice of thanksgiving where every man can share his gratitude and express his sincere thanks to Him who made all things."

Think about your fellow man these days and give thanks to all

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, KCCH

Are you familiar with the Scottish Rite Creed? When Brother Terry F. Hilton was Venerable Master, he asked me to include it in each month's Fellowship Report to remind everyone of our Scottish Rite Mission. It reads: Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal. Even in today's world, do you understand how radical, how unusual, those principles are? Imagine how unique they were in 1801 when the American Scottish Rite was organized. As I write this, we have just concluded one of my favorite times each year; the five-week period between Memorial Day and Independence Day. It includes also Flag Day on June 14, the Constitution's Ratification Day on June 21, as well as the founding of the Scottish Rite on May 31. As we reflect on and celebrate these events with a strong sense of patriotism, let us remember how important our Masonic principles were to those Founding Fathers. It should be no surprise to us that Masons led the effort to recognize that all people have inalienable rights given them by God, that they all have intrinsic value, and that freedom and liberty are their proper conditions. Even going back to the original stone workers, Freemasons have never been bound to their land or to any one person, but instead "permitted to travel in foreign countries, work and receive Master's wages". Where democracy lives, Freemasonry flourishes. The opposite is true also, as shown by Communist Russia closing Lodges in 1917, Nazi Germany forcing Freemasonry underground in 1933, and even Revolutionary Iran shutting down both the Grand Lodge of Iran and the Order of DeMolay in 1979. When I was a young DeMolay, I had the chance to visit many Lodges and enjoyed seeing the Scottish Rite Book Dynamic Freedoms in their libraries. It should be mandatory reading for every young person, as President 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." Similarly, Grand Commander Henry Clausen wrote about the Scottish Rite 30th Degree, "We uphold, defend, and safeguard the ringing declarations of American freedoms so we may transmit to posterity its great constitutional guarantees of justice, liberty and a democracy clothed in the protective robes of a republic...Masonry is the oldest bulwark of liberty and justice and champion of constitutional freedom. The real issue is American and Masonic survival." Let us again rededicate ourselves to this good citizenship and patriotism of peace.

RICHMOND CONSISTORY

Jimmy Creech, KCCH, Master of Kadosh

In August, the tradition of our Scottish Rite designates the Consistory to have a program with the theme, "Family Night".

In that tradition, we will have Susan Holyfield as our guest speaker for the evening. Susan was raised in Highland Springs and is a VCU Graduate as well as the Founder of the Va. Flaggers.

She is a dynamic speaker and is in high demand throughout the South.

Her program will revolve around the history of the family structure, how it has evolved in time, where we are today in our nation and the way to have a strong successful family structure for the future, which is the core for a strong successful country and from which Freemasonry can expand upon.

If it's within the length of your cable tow to attend, I have no doubt that you will be enlightened by Susan's talk and leave with optimism and hope for the future.

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2023 —

AUGUST

Monday 28 Stated Meeting
Family Night

SEPTEMBER

Monday 4 Labor Day
Office Closed

Friday 23 Annual SR
to Saturday 30 Conference
in Alexandria

Monday 25 Stated Meeting
Feast of Tishri

OCTOBER

Wednesday 11 Honour Court

Saturday 14 Reunion

Monday 23 Stated Meeting

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8 Grand Annual
to Sunday 12 Communication
of Grand Lodge

Saturday 11 Veterans Day

Wednesday 22 Office Closed

Thursday 23 Thanksgiving
Office Closed

Monday 27 Stated Meeting

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Nicholas Brent Thruston, 32°
Wise Master, Knights Rose Croix

Jonathan Matthew Lumpkin, 32°
Commander, Knights Kadosh

James Eric Creech, 32°, KCCH
Master of Kadosh, Consistory

MEMBERSHIP

CHARLES ROBINSON, 33°, Chairman

I trust everyone has had a good summer so far. By now we all are looking forward to cooler temperatures so we can enjoy getting back to Lodge meetings with our Brothers. August is traditionally our family night. What better gift could you give your "Brother" than to bring him with you in August and expose him to the Scottish Rite.

Our Fall reunion will be October 14th. We need at least ten petitions to proceed. We are trying to incorporate live degrees along with the Cinematic presentation of the degrees this time. This is the first time we have tried to put on the Degrees without a stage. Nothing like a challenge. Petitions can be found at our office or on our web site. Bring them in as soon as you can so we can get them processed.

Please congratulate the new KCCH Elects and new 33 Elects.

Called from Labor

HARRY JORDAN BROWN, JR.
1943 - 2023

DAVID RAY BURROUGH
1949 - 2023

WALTER JUNIOR GAMMON
1924 - 2023

WAVERLY WILLIAM GIBBS, JR.
1936 - 2023

WAYNE LEE FIFER
1937 - 2023

PAUL LORAIN LODEN
1931 - 2023

RAYMOND GAY LUMPKIN
1940 - 2023

DAVID HAMILTON MILLER
1948 - 2021

DABNEY EPPES SHORT, JR.
1937 - 2023

ROBERT WALTON TATUM
1926 - 2023

DALLAS LEE WOLFORD
1927 - 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

Jim Atkinson
Buddy Bass

Samuel Gomez
Romulus Seay

David Vass

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