

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Monday -Thursday

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, KCCH

Are you familiar with the Book of Revelation as it applies to Freemasonry?

This question is not designed to start a religious discussion; there are as many interpretations of the Book of Revelation as there are Biblical scholars. Rather, I was reading the script of the 19th Degree known as Grand Pontiff and was struck by the many references to this most important last book of the Bible.

We don't spend much time in Freemasonry talking about the Book of Revelation; the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse are mentioned in the 17th Degree known as Knight of the East and West, in the Royal Arch the Mark Master Degree mentions the white stone with a new name written and the Royal Master Degree references alpha and omega, while the Knight Templar Priest Degree shows the opening of the Seven Seals.

Our Scottish Rite 19th Degree begins with the explanation of the columns representing the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the lessons they teach. It then moves to a discussion of the Mark of the Beast (also known as the Antichrist), and the need to worship only God and keep His commandments. The opening of the Seven Seals and their resulting plagues are then presented, followed by the New City of Jerusalem descending to earth, ushering in the new age where death, sin, sickness, and all other maladies have passed away.

What does this mean to us? How can we use these teachings? When we become a Freemason, we are told that we have become a new person and are to begin a new way of life. It is like in the Book of Second Corinthians, we are "a new creature, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

I think this is one of the interesting ways in which the Scottish Rite complements the York Rite. In the York Rite, we use the metaphor of stonemasons and building construction as symbols for how we can build our character; in the Scottish Rite, we instead work to awaken our conscience through emphasizing desired behavioral traits like duty, tolerance, patience, loyalty, fidelity, truth, equality, and the like.

As we learn and adopt these traits, we move toward becoming the man and Mason that God wants us to be. We will not hide our light under a bushel but will let it shine before others. We also know from the New Jerusalem that God's justice will ultimately prevail and that all things will be set right in the end.

I close with the last words of the Degree - "Be faithful to God, your duty, and yourself and thus deserve the title of Pontiff, apostle of truth, which you are henceforward entitled to wear."

Called from Labor

BRIAN RICHARD ADAMS
1961 - 2023

HARRY FRANKLIN BOWEN, JR.
1921 - 2023

HENRY HICHBORN BUCK, JR.
1930 - 2023

DAVID WILLIAM EELLS
1945 - 2023

JAMES DOVE HEATH
1930 - 2016

CHARLES JACKSON KING
1934 - 2023

JAMES ROBERT NESTER, SR.
1949 - 2023

EDWIN WARREN RUARK
1941 - 2023

RALPH EDWARD SPRING, III
1944 - 2023

ALLIE BROOK STEVENS, JR.
1929 - 2023

AUBREY CURRIER THOMAS, JR.
1942 - 2023

JOHN EDWARD WHITE
1936 - 2023

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

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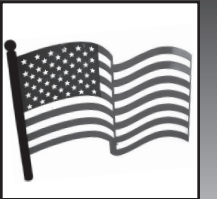
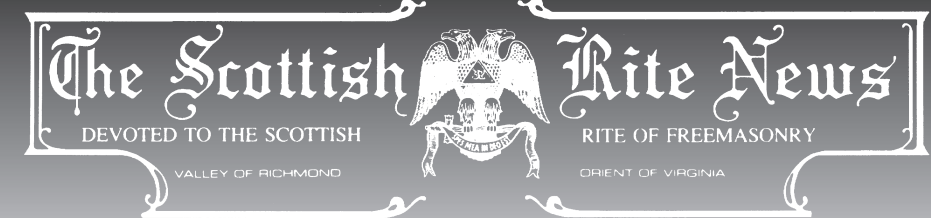
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VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Doyle Miller, 32°, KCCH

It's official, the fall season has arrived. This, for me, is my favorite season. It brings back cooler temperatures and the return of football. It also brings the return of many fall festivals. It is something that Regina and I enjoy doing this time of the year. It allows us to get out and see other parts of this great State. For some, like my grandmother, it was a time of life going away. She always viewed the fall season as a time of passing. With the foliage changing and falling it would remind her of that time we must all face. I did not realize at the time how this would be presented to me when I became a mason. Whenever I give, or hear the Master Mason's lecturer, I am reminded of her and how she would dread fall and await the return of spring.

There are many things that are taking place this fall in the Scottish Rite. The Scottish Rite conference took place in Alexandria, VA, on September 28-30. I looked forward to attending and hope to return with new ideas for the future of the Richmond Scottish Rite. I would also like to congratulate the members who were honored at the conference. I know they will continue to bring leadership and guidance to our valley. We also have the fall reunion that will take place in October. Brethren, we still need petitions for this reunion. In November, we will also receive the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. I hope that we will have a great turnout for this reception.

I would like to thank the membership for the well wishes that Regina received for the passing of her mother. I am always filled with pride when our brethren offer their prayers for those who are grieving. I must also thank brother Rob Eades, KCCH, for standing in for me in August. It would have been extremely hard to have made the meeting and to have been with Regina. Thank you all for the support you have given me this year. There are still many issues that we are working on to move our valley into the future. The most important thing we need, is your participation. Brethren, if you haven't attended a meeting in a while, I encourage you to come out. We need you! I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting and hope each of you enjoy the fall season.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman



Congratulations to our KCCH and 33° Honor recipients. If you haven't already, make sure you thank them for all they have done, and are expected to continue to do, for YOUR Scottish Rite.

Our Fall reunion will be October 14, 2023. This time we will present all 29 degrees by the theater presentation, which was made by the St. Louis Valley, Orient of Missouri. This reunion will be in memory of our long-time General Secretary, Ill. Robert Wales Carpenter, Jr., 33°, IGH. Bob was the Degree Master of the 32nd Degree for many years, so with the help of the Scottish Rite Guard, we will attempt to put on the Camp scene of the 32nd Degree, on the floor, among the class. We have our fingers crossed for success in presenting this.

**SCOTTISH RITE
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, October 23, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
7:00 PM.....Dinner
Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

Monday, November 27, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
7:00 PM.....Dinner
Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

**RICHMOND VALLEY
COMING EVENTS**

— 2023 —

OCTOBER

Wednesday 11 Honour Court
Saturday 14 Reunion
Monday 23 Stated Meeting

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8 Grand Annual
- Sunday 12 Communication
Wednesday 22 Office Closed
Thursday 23 Thanksgiving
Office Closed

Monday 27 Stated Meeting

DECEMBER

Monday 25 Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 26 Office Closed

— 2024 —

JANUARY

Monday 1 New Year's Day
Monday 22 Stated Meeting

FEBRUARY

Monday 26 Stated Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH



One year ago, I was appointed Assistant General Secretary upon the illness of Ill Brother Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°, and following his death in October 2022, as General Secretary. Ill Brother Bob served, very ably, the Richmond Scottish Rite Valley for over 17 years. It is because of his fine work and capable leadership that I was able to take on and fulfill the responsibilities of General Secretary of the Richmond Scottish Rite.

Ill Brother Bob left quite a legacy and it is with an eye on that legacy we have decided to hold our Fall Reunion on October 14, 2023, in his memory. Ill Brother Charles Robinson, Director of Work, is anticipating at least fourteen petitions for degrees and has additionally invited Scottish Rite Masons, who were conferred the degrees since the start of the pandemic to attend the Fall Reunion and experience the degrees Cinematically. If you are able to attend, you do not want to miss this.

In October we will recognize our new 50-year members, along with our Past Venerable Masters. November will bring the reception of our newly installed 178th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

Remember, reservations are required for dinner and must be made by the Wednesday of the week before the Stated. The cost for dinner with a reservation is \$15.00 per person. Times and reminders are listed in this newsletter.

Our delinquent list is slowly shrinking. We now have 29 members who have not paid their 2022 dues. We now have a committee of four Brothers, Peyton Anderson, Whit Hanscom, Gary Hutchinson and Russ Wright, who have volunteered to contact these Brothers. Sometimes all it takes is a kind word or a sympathetic ear to convince a Brother to continue his membership in the Richmond Valley.

With each new dawn, we see that Mother Nature is gracing us with her beautiful fall colors. Temperatures are beginning to cool somewhat, and we are anticipating with excitement our year-end holidays. We will be celebrating Halloween and looking forward to Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year, where our New Year's Resolutions will guide us in 2024.

Remember that the Valley is dark in December. Our first Stated Meeting of 2024 will be the election and installation of officers on January 22, 2024, at our annual meeting. The office staff wants to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy and Merry Holiday Season as we gather with family and friends in celebration.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

Summer is winding down, however the memories created keep me going. I received notice from Ill. and M. W. Alan Adkins that 8 of our brethren had been chosen to receive honors this year. A delegation from Richmond traveled to Washington to celebrate the Biennial Session. Three of our brethren were chosen to receive the 33°. It was a pleasure to witness the coronation of Illustrious Brother Terry Hilton, Illustrious Brother Dale Wright and Illustrious Brother Harvey Fleshman. Congratulations Brethren. You have done great work in the past and we look forward to your future endeavors.

The Knights Commander Court of Honour Investiture was bestowed on five of our Brethren in Alexandria during the 99th Scottish Rite Conference. These Brethren are Brother Russell Wright II, KCCH, Brother David Vass, KCCH, Brother John Parrish, KCCH, Brother Jack Moorman, KCCH, and Brother Duane Cunningham, KCCH. Congratulations and we are looking forward to great things from this group.

The 100th Scottish Rite Conference will be held in Richmond in September 2024. This conference will be spearheaded by our very own Brother Lin Spears, KCCH. Pardon the pun. I know with Lin at the helm it will be a top-notch event.

At our September Stated Meeting not only did we have a fine talk by Brother Jon Lumpkin as we observed the Feast of Tishri, but there was also a special presentation to our charity, the Childhood Language Center. The presentation was made by Worshipful Damon Riddell, Master of Northside Lodge No. 292 in the amount of \$20,000. Northside Lodge has been a strong supporter of the CLC donating \$45,000 in the past five years. We thank the members of Northside for these gifts and support in the past years. We pray God's blessing on each of you and for a successful consolidation with Varina Lodge No. 272.

I would like to thank a couple of unsung heroes who every month out show up early for the Stated Meeting to make sure things are set up properly and ready for business. These are a few that work extra hard to make my life a little easier: Kathleen Nuckols, Nelson Bryant, David Efford, Kenny Caviness, Peyton Anderson and last, but not least Lambros Deligan. Brother James Sadler also has been valuable acting as building manager and guard of the parking lot door. Our October meeting will be in honor of our 50-year members. Our November Stated will honor the new Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Exciting days are ahead.

The Fall Reunion on October 14, 2023, is shaping up to be a great one. Thank you, Ill. Bro. Charles, and a big thanks to Ill. Bro. Harvey for getting a huge number of petitions in for this reunion. To date we have 14 Petitions.

Also, thank you Bro. Whit Hanscom and the VMAP committee for achieving the 2022 VMAP award. Richmond was the only valley in the Orient to achieve this award. Congratulations to all.

As this is the final newsletter of 2023, I want to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a joyful and prosperous New Year. God bless you. God bless the Rite. God bless this Great United States of America.

MEET THE 178TH GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN VIRGINIA



Jack Kayle Lewis was born on August 6, 1954, in Danville, Virginia, the son of the late Ben Barker Lewis and Violet Newton Lewis. He was named to honor the memory of his father's younger brother, Jack Kale Lewis, who was lost in action over the North Sea on July 28, 1943, when the B-17 aircraft he was a gunner in was shot down during a daylight bombing campaign in World War II.

Young Jack grew up in a home near Danville in Pittsylvania County with his parents and two sisters, Pat and Kristie. Summers were spent in activities at Kentuck Baptist Church, youth sports, and tobacco farming—the primary crop of southside Virginia. School days for the Lewis children were spent at Dan River Elementary and then Dan River High School, where Jack graduated in June of 1972 as class president.

After high school, Jack enrolled in Danville Community College in 1973. Over the next 30 years, he attended four colleges and universities. He was awarded an associate degree in police science from Danville Community College, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Averett College, and a master's degree in sociology from Longwood College in May 2002.

Brother Lewis began his law enforcement career with the North Carolina Department of Corrections in 1974. The following year, he was appointed a police officer for the City of Danville and named "Police Officer of the Year" in January 1977. In 1978, he was employed by the Lynchburg Police Department, serving in a variety of assignments until his retirement as deputy chief of police in 2005. On March 28, 2005, Brother Lewis was sworn in as the chief of police for the town of Apex, North Carolina, and served that community until his retirement in 2013.

During his law enforcement career, he attended numerous professional development and leadership programs. He graduated from the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University and the Police Executive Leadership School at the University of Richmond. Brother Jack is a life member of the International Association of Police Chiefs and the North Carolina Police Chiefs Association.

Brother Lewis was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Kent Lodge No. 305 on April 28, 1980, in the new Lodge Hall he helped to construct, thus becoming a third generation Master Mason following his grandfather, Artwin S. Lewis (1943), and father, Ben B. Lewis (1971). Jack served as Worshipful Master in 1984, 1988, and 2013, and was chosen to represent Kent Lodge when appointed by Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora as District Deputy Grand Master for the 38th Masonic District in 2014. He then served the 38th District from 2015-2018 as the District Education Officer and as Lodge Secretary from 2015-2022. In November 2016, Brother Lewis was appointed Grand Junior Steward for the Grand Lodge of Virginia by Most Worshipful Vernon Stuart Cook. At the Grand Annual Communication in November 2017, Brother Lewis was elected Grand Junior Deacon for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. and A.M., of Virginia.

Brother Lewis has been a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Lynchburg, since 1981. He was honored with the title of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 2019. Brother Lewis is also a member of Acca Shrine in Richmond, James Monroe Chapter No. 549 of the National Sojourners, and the Jack Jouette Camp, Heroes of '76.

Jack Kayle Lewis and Barbara Faye Holland were married on January 4, 1976, at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Their son, John Benjamin Lewis, was born in 1981 and graduated from Longwood College and the Florida Coastal School of Law. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was promoted to sergeant while serving in Iraq in 2005. Tragically, the effects of his service left him with many scars, as he suffered from both Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and a Traumatic Brain Injury. Despite many programs and much professional assistance, he lost his battle on June 8, 2023. Jack and Barbara are the proud grandparents of three: Charlotte Paige Lewis (10), Jackson Bennett Lewis (8), and Holland Angeline Lewis (5).

Jack Kayle Lewis was born on August 6, in Danville, Virginia. He is the son of the late Ben Barker and Violet Newton Lewis and grew up in the tobacco farming region of Pittsylvania County. He is a graduate of Dan River High School and continued his formal education throughout his adult working career. Jack is a 1978 graduate of Danville Community College, received his Bachelors Degree from Averett College and a Masters Degree in Sociology from Longwood College in 2002. He is also a graduate of the School of Police Command at Northwestern University and the University of Richmond's Executive Leadership Program. Brother Lewis began his Law Enforcement career with the Danville Police Department in 1975 and was recognized by the Danville Jaycees as the Outstanding Officer in 1977. He joined the Lynchburg Police Department in 1978, and worked in every area of that department, attaining the position of Deputy Chief at his retirement in 2005, when he was selected as the Chief of Police in Apex, North Carolina. Jack retired from the Apex Police Department in January of 2013, and was honored by then Governor Bev Purdue with the Old North State Award and was the 2014 Inductee into the Town of Apex Hall of Fame. He is a Life member of both the North Carolina Police Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Jack was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 29, 1980, in Kent Lodge No. 305, becoming the third generation of Lewis men in Kent Lodge, following his grandfather, Artwin S. Lewis, his father, Right Worshipful Ben B. Lewis and has since been joined by his son, John Benjamin Lewis, who currently serves as the Junior Deacon. He served as Worshipful Master in 1984, 1988 and 2013, and is currently the Lodge Secretary. Jack was a member of Marshall Lodge No. 39 from 1982 -2001, and has been a dual member of Carter No. 323 since 2015. Brother Lewis is also a member of the Valley of Lynchburg, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite since 1981. Brother Lewis was appointed by Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora as the District Deputy Grand Master for the 38th Masonic District in 2014, and currently serves the 38th District as its District Educational Officer. Right Worshipful Brother Lewis was appointed by Most Worshipful Vernon Stuart Cook as the Grand Junior Steward in 2016 and was elected to the office of Grand Junior Deacon in November 2017. Brother Jack and his wife, the former Barbara Faye Holland, were married on January 4, 1976, and they have one son, J. Benjamin Lewis, who resides in Chatham with his wife Nikki and their two children, Charlotte Paige (Charley) Lewis and Jackson Bennett Lewis. Brother Jack and Barbara live in the Spring Garden area of Pittsylvania County near where they both grew up, and there enjoy country living, collecting antiques, and their grandchildren. Brother Lewis has been a member of Kentuck Baptist Church in Ringgold, Virginia for over fifty years.

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

**Kenny Caviness
Mike Riabouchinsky**