

In the



Daylight

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M.
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405
Editor: davidikarp@karpmediation.com

May 2022

Freemasonry and the Military

Foreword ...

The inspiration for this month's theme comes from two notations on my desk calendar: Armed Forces Day (May 21) and Memorial Day (May 30). Also of note are these other factors which have led to the choice of theme:

The original Clarence F. Smith Lodge No. 482 was a Lodge in which only Brothers with a military connection were members; it was named for Captain (Bro.) Clarence F. Smith who fought and died in battle in France during WWI.

I am aware of two current members, Bros. Raddatz and McQuaig, who are veterans. There may be others, I just don't know who they are.

And two of our EAs, Bros. Chan and Tierney, are on active duty in our Armed Forces, with our salute to them for their service.

Furthermore, many of WB George Washington's generals were members of the Craft; many Brothers thereafter have served in our Military; and there remains a strong connection between the Craft and our Armed Forces to this day, as you may read in this edition.

Even my father, Bro. Larry Karp, of Blessed Memory, was a veteran, although not voluntarily (he was drafted). His birthday is May 25, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention him.

Enjoy your review of this edition, and this month please remember those members of your family and fraternity who also served our country in uniform.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor.

May Trestle Board

(We meet in person each month on four Saturdays at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. Always subject to change. See Masthead, p. 1 for address.)

May 5, 2022 Executive Comm. Mtg. on Zoom. Login will be announced via Facebook Messenger.

May 7, 2022 Stated Meeting. Tiled. Dress: Business Casual

May 14, 2022 Practice or Fellowship

May 21, 2022 Third Degree Conferral

May 28, 2022 Degree or Special Mtg.

Lodge Contact Information

Worshipful Master
Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

Secretary
Bro. Akram Alawar

Brothers at the Battle of Trenton

Editor's note: The following is a reprise of an article written for the December 2018 edition of this newsletter. It is re-introduced because of its relevancy to the theme of this edition, and also because we have so many readers now who were not able to read it when it first came out. For those who have read this before, it's good to see it again. Here it is:

His name was George Washington, a Brother Mason from Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M., in the Commonwealth of Virginia. See, <https://www.masoniclodge4.org/>.



[Image attribution:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/11417>]

He was also the commander of the Continental Army in 1776. (See, <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/ten-facts-about-the-revolutionary-war/>).

“After the loss of New York ... when all seemed lost, Washington executed the boldest stroke of the Revolution. On Christmas night, in the face of a roaring wintry storm, he crossed the Delaware river, obstructed by masses of floating ice, and landed his army in two divisions, one above and the other below Trenton [NJ]. About daybreak, says Brother Knox, who was in charge of the American artillery, the American forces rushed into Trenton ‘pell-mell.’ The Hessians, under Col. Rahl, were sleeping heavily after their Christmas Day celebration and their surprise was

complete. Rahl was wounded and forced to surrender his command to the number of about 1200. On receiving the news, Lord Germaine, the British Colonial Secretary, reported to the King, ‘Our hopes are blasted by that unhappy affair at Trenton.’ Morse, Sidney. *Freemasonry in the American Revolution*. Kila: Kessinger Publishing Company. No publication date, preface dated 1924, pp. 84-85.

Washington was not the only Brother Mason involved in the Battle of Trenton. According to George F. Harrington, 32°, K.C.C.H. these Masons were too: Bro. Samuel Nicholas; Bro. John Glover; Bro. General Hugh Mercer; Bro. Charles Wilson Peale. See, http://www.themasonictrowel.com/Articles/General/about_individual_files/masonic_heroes_american_revolution/masonic_heroes_american_revolution.htm.

Some details from Bro. Harrington's article follow about each of them.

Bro. Samuel Nicholas “On November 10, 1775, Congress commissioned him to organize and train five companies of marine forces, skilled in the use of small and large firearms, to protect America's ships at sea.... During the winter of 1776-77, they provided reinforcements for Washington's small army, helped with the boats for crossing the Delaware River at Trenton, and fought in the Battle of Princeton.” *Ibid*.

Bro. John Glover “Commissioned to head the Marblehead Regiment after the Battle of Lexington, he joined General Washington at Cambridge where his men were trained for naval operations.... Bro. Glover and his forces were ... called upon to ferry Washington's forces across the Delaware River on the famous Christmas Eve raid. Not only were they successful in moving Washington's troops to Trenton, they also carried back 950 prisoners to the Pennsylvania shore.” *Ibid*.

Bro. General Hugh Mercer “[A] Mason in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 ... [,] the Continental Congress appointed him a Brigadier [Continues on next page, see “Trenton”]

["Trenton," Continued from p. 2.]

General. He took part in the crossing of the Delaware, and his troops were in the lead into Trenton on that historic December 26, 1776." *Ibid.*

Bro. Charles Wilson Peale "[A] portrait painter [who] volunteered for service in the Revolutionary War, [he served] as a Captain in the Battle of Trenton and Germantown." *Ibid.*

As you can see from the above descriptions, these Brother Masons, and others, spent a cold wintry Christmas night together, joining in a common cause and participating in the heroic pursuit of liberty.

Fraternally,
David I. Karp, Editor

More about the Masons and the Military

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from <https://www.observertoday.com/opinion/commentary/2014/11/masons-have-a-history-of-service/> .

"Many Masons have had outstanding military records. To list only a few: Gen. Omar Bradley, Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, Admiral Richard Byrd, General Mark Wayne Clark, Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, Gen. George V. Marshall, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in World War II, Eddie Rickenbacker, the leading American Ace of the first World War, Gen. John Joseph Pershing, John H. Glenn, Buzz Aldrin (and 11 other astronauts) and General Walter Boomer.

"A total of 224 of the men who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor have been Masons.

"Masons care about our veterans, too. In 1918, Masonic leaders from across the nation met to form the Masonic Service Association. The purpose was to create a central clearinghouse for contributions of time and money to help America's veterans. The MSA

Hospital Visitation Program is in more than 157 Veterans Administration Medical Centers, 26 state-operated Veterans Homes, and a number of military hospitals. Hundreds of Masonic volunteers give more than a quarter-million hours each year to help America's veterans, regardless of whether the veteran is a Mason."

Masonic Recognition

Past Masters of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M.

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)
Rogelio L. Soriano (2019)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2020-2021)

Past Masters by Affiliation

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr. (2012)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)
Alberto L. Casanova, Jr. (2014)
Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)
Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)
Bruce L. Hawley (1984)**
Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

Hiram Award*

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr., PM (2013)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (Imminently)
Alberto L. Casanova, Jr., PM (2016)
Keith S. Cotton (2017)
Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)
Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)**
David I. Karp (2020)
Barry Mann (2021)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

*A high honor presented to a Master Mason who has served the Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity with devotion over and above the ordinary.

Bulloch Hall

In Roswell, Georgia, outside of Atlanta, there stands a majestic antebellum mansion that was built in the Greek Revival Style before the Civil War. My wife and I visited the site some years ago and were duly impressed.

Interestingly, there are Masonic ties to the home, which you will learn as you read this account. First this:

“Bulloch Hall was built in 1839 by Major James Stephens Bulloch, one of Roswell's first settlers and the grandson of Georgia's Revolutionary Governor, Archibald Bulloch. The Greek Revival structure has been described as one of the most significant houses in Georgia and one of the South's few examples of true temple-form architecture. It has been the setting for many social occasions, chief among them is the wedding of Major Bulloch's daughter, Mittie, on December 22, 1853, to Theodore Roosevelt of New York. Little did those in attendance realize they were witnessing a union that would produce a United States president (Teddy Roosevelt). Mittie's other son, Elliott, was the father of Eleanor Roosevelt who married Franklin D. Roosevelt and served as our nation's First Lady. Eleanor would sometimes drive to Roswell from Warm Springs to visit. Today, the grounds of Bulloch Hall boast 142 trees on the Historic Tree Register, reconstructed slave quarters, a demonstration garden and nature trail.” See, <https://www.exploregeorgia.org/roswell/history-heritage/civil-war/bulloch-hall>.

Rather than add footnotes, let me add these Masonic tidbits as they relate to the foregoing before we go on:

Governor Archibald Bulloch, the ancestor of the builder of Bulloch Hall, “is recorded as having been a Freemason in Georgia. His name is listed on the 1779 Masonic rolls of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 at Savannah.” See, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_Bulloch

President Theodore Roosevelt, whose parents were married at Bulloch Hall, was also a Mason. “President Roosevelt became a Brother in our masonic fraternity on April 24, 1901, when he was raised a Master Mason in Matinecokc Lodge No. 806 of Oyster Bay, New York. He was Vice President of the United States when he joined.” See, https://www.scottishriteboston.net/en/article_via_w.php?news_id_808.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, also identified with the Bulloch family, was also a Mason. “Franklin Roosevelt was initiated October 10, 1911, passed November 14, 1911, and raised November 28, 1911, in Holland Lodge, No. 8, New York City.” <https://fdr.blogs.archives.gov/2011/09/08/found-in-the-archives-12/>.

Perhaps my favorite remembrance about the Masonic connection with the Bulloch Home, and the reason this article is in this edition, is this: the mansion was saved from destruction during the Civil War by a Mason! My wife and I were told during our visit to this historic home, that a Union officer who invaded the home with his troops was himself a Mason, that he learned either that the owner of the home, or the owner's ancestor (or both, I can't remember) was a Mason, and that therefore the Union officer gave the order to leave the home intact.

Inasmuch as the home is one of the few antebellum structures still standing in Georgia Atlanta was burned to the ground as you might know it is a credit to our Masonic military connections that people can still visit this home today.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp

Our Brother, General Douglas MacArthur

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from an online article of the Kansas City Scottish Rite at

<https://www.srkc.org/history/famous/macarthur/>

“General Douglas MacArthur, 33°

“Raised to Master Mason - Philippines - January 14, 1936

“32 degree Mason - Gaumata Consistory, Philippines - March 28, 1936

“33 degree Mason - American Embassy, Japan - 1947

“Shriner - Niles Shrine, Mount Lake Terrace, Washington

“...

“Douglas MacArthur is, rightly so, a national hero, and his achievements are recognized by every American. In fact, many of us have served under "The General" at some point in our lives. The Craft can also take pride in MacArthur's Masonic accomplishments. Together, these images create the picture of a man with outstanding intellect, great leadership ability, and a controversial personality that made many either revere or revile him.

“...

“Douglas MacArthur graduated from West Point in 1903, first in his class three out of four years... [¶] Douglas was sent to Manila with the 3rd Engineers and spent some time as an aide to his father [there]. He was a colonel when World War I began, and he became a Brigadier General in 1918. As a frontline officer, he was wounded three times, decorated thirteen times, and cited for bravery in action seven times. [¶] “After World War I, MacArthur became Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy in 1919. Then, after three years in the Philippines, he came back to the U.S. as a Major General, soon became a four-star General and was named Army Chief of Staff, the youngest in military history.

“In July 1941, MacArthur became Commander of U.S. Army forces in the Far East.

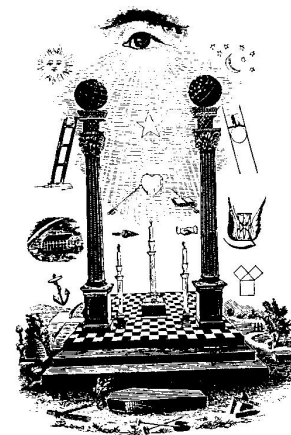
His troops defended the Bataan Peninsula for four months. In March 1942, President Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to Australia, but before leaving the General made his famous ‘I shall return’ promise.

“As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945. [¶] With the invasion of Korea in 1950, MacArthur also became the United Nations Commander in Korea ... [but] was relieved of his command in April 1951....”

“...

“Field Marshall Douglas MacArthur was made a "Mason at Sight" on January 14, 1936, by Samuel R. Hawthorne, the Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines. The ceremony lasted several hours and each Degree was conferred by a Past Grand Master.

“General MacArthur received that special ceremony because of his role as the Commander in charge of the training of the Philippines Armed Forces and because his father, who was also a Master Mason, had been the Military Governor of the island from 1900 to 1901....”



About the National Sojourners

“The purposes of National Sojourners shall be to organize current and former members of the uniformed forces of the United States and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons, into Chapters, for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation, for bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military needs of national defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the national security.” See, <https://nationalsojourners.org/about-us/>



Hand Salute for Masonic Veterans

As noted by the Grand Lodge of New York at <https://nymasons.org/site/military-veterans/> :

“The Flag Code of the United States allows military veterans to optionally render a hand salute to the flag. Our Grand Master is a Navy veteran, and encourages (but does not require) military veterans to join him with the hand salute. The Flag Code was amended by Congress January 28, 2008. Section 9 pertains to the salute and reads:

“§9. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”

Bro. John Paul Jones

“(Born: John Paul) 1747-1792) Although born in Scotland, this masterful sailor rose to become a naval hero and the “Father of the United States Navy”. In an action off the coast of Yorkshire, against the Royal Navy in 1779, when taunted to surrender by Captain Pearson of HMS Serapis, Jones shouted, “I have not yet begun to fight!” Following hours of battle, Jones captured the Seraphim though his own vessel, the Bonhomme Richard, later sank due to battle damage. Jones received awards from the French and went on to command Russian naval vessels in their war against the Ottoman Empire. [¶] Jones’ mother lodge was St. Bernard’s Lodge No.122, Kirkudbright, Scotland.”

Source:

<https://www.lodgestpatrick.co.nz/famous.php>



Grand Master's May Proclamation

MAY 2022 IS PUBLIC AWARENESS MONTH
Crafting Leadership

Whereas Masonry has for far too long been subject to misconceptions that endure in popular culture, which hamper the positive change we hope to make in our communities; and

Whereas California Masons perform many admirable acts of charity and volunteerism in the communities they call home, providing much-needed leadership and support for all around us; and

Whereas the evolution of Freemasonry is predicated on the growth and vitality of our fraternity;

As grand master, I therefore proclaim May 2022 to be Public Awareness Month in California.

An important aim of the 2025 Fraternity Plan is increasing awareness in our communities of the fraternity and the good work that Masons all over California do in their towns. Raising awareness of the fraternity means talking openly with friends, family, and colleagues about what membership in Masonry means; countering negative assumptions about Masonry; and ensuring the continued relevance of our organization. I encourage all members and lodges to consider ways that they can raise awareness of Freemasonry in their community through open houses, tabling opportunities, and especially simple conversations with friends and family. Our fraternity is not a secret; it's important we share it with the world so that we can make an even bigger difference in our communities. California

Masons have much to be proud of. It's time we share that pride with the outside world.

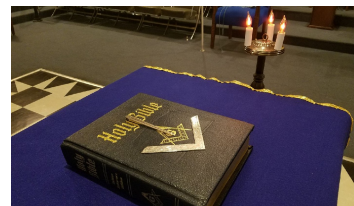
Sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Master Jeffery Wilkins

Attest: Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou

CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2022

Worshipful Master	Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan
Senior Warden	Bro. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr.
Junior Warden	Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan
Treasurer	Bro. Ramiel Malabanan
Secretary	Bro. Akram Alawar
Asst. Secretary	Bro. Thomas ("Tom") K. Sheehan
Chaplain	Bro Christopher "Toby" Robles
Senior Deacon	WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM
Junior Deacon	Bro. Ibrahim Hannoun
Marshal	Bro Hamood Hamood
Senior Steward	Bro. Elvis Alvarez
Junior Steward	Bro. Gerald Alvarez
Organist	Bro. Michael Chavez
Tiler	Bro. William ("Bill") C. Raddatz
Officers' Coach	WB Steven ("Steve") A. Wolvek, PM
Candidates' Coach	WB Roger L. Soriano, PM
Inspector	WB Leland H. Celestre, PM



Lodge News

The Open House previously scheduled for May 21, 2022, has been cancelled at the direction of the WM to accommodate a degree conferral for a Brother. As of this writing, no new date has been set for an open house.

Bro. Virgil Maravillas says he is returning to the Lodge in good health. WB Roger Soriano had minor surgery, rested, recovered and returned to the Lodge. Welcome back to both.

Bro. Ibrahim Hannoun is now married and Bro. Spartak Khachatryan soon will be too. Congrats to both.

Bro. Akram Al-Awar's sister passed away recently and we all mourn our Brother's loss. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.

WB Lelend Celestre, our Inspector for the Grand Lodge of California, made his Official Visit to the Lodge at the Stated Meeting of April 9, 2022.

At the Stated Meeting, Wor. Edgar, Master of the Lodge, announced that WB Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM, will be the Lodge's 2022 recipient of the prestigious Hiram Award for his dedicated service to the Lodge and Freemasonry. See the article at right.

The following future events were announced at the April Stated Meeting as well, so please mark your calendars: July 9 Lodge Breakfast/Fellowship; August 20 Golf; October 8 Table Lodge; December 17 Holiday Party and Master's Ball.

Keep in touch with lodge activities through the calendar section of our website at <http://clarencesmith.org>.



[April 2022 Stated Meeting]



[Image attribution: © Shawn Bell]

Wor. Celso to Receive Hiram Award

The following text is a part of a published article by your editor at <https://patch.com/california/encino/celso-v-cardano-jr-named-2022-hiram-award-recipient-nodx> :

VAN NUYS, CA, April 9, 2022 WB Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM, a founding member of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, Free and Accepted Masons of California, has been named the Lodge's 2022 recipient of the prestigious Hiram Award.

[As of the article's publication,] no date has been set yet for the award ceremony which likely will be open to the public.

[continues on next page, see "Hiram"]

["Hiram," continued from page 8]

The Hiram Award is presented to Masons for extraordinary, dedicated service to Freemasonry and to the Mason's Lodge.

Although the Hiram Award comes from the Grand Lodge of California, a local Lodge chooses its recipient. It is the highest honor given to a Mason aside from being the Master of a Lodge.

The Hiram Award is named as such in reference to an allegorical figure from the Bible that is central to Masonic tradition.

Cardano has been a Master Mason for 14 years and is also a member of the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and Al Malaikah Shriners. Having served in many roles, Worshipful Brother (WB) Cardano was Master of the Daylight Lodge for two years (before and during the pandemic) and previously the Master of another local Lodge. As such, he is given the honorific "Worshipful" or "Worshipful Brother." (He is not worshiped, of course, the honorific is like calling a judge, "Your Honor.")

Presently, WB Cardano also oversees and mentors other lodges in the San Fernando Valley as "Inspector" for the Grand Lodge of California.

Upon being chosen by the Daylight Lodge to receive the award, WB Cardano said this: "I am so thankful to be part of a Lodge with such amazing Brothers!"

Professionally, Cardano is an engineer, a real estate broker, and an entrepreneur. At all times, within and without Freemasonry, he is amiable, professional, caring, generous and a friend to all.

Congratulations to WB Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM, on being named by Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge for this honor.



From the East

Greetings, Brethren, from the East. Over the first weekend of April, I had the privilege of escaping from Los Angeles to Orange County to attend the Masters and Wardens Retreat at the Irvine Marriott. The Masters and Wardens Retreat is a leadership conference, presented by the Grand Lodge of California, for the senior officers of the Lodge. The agenda consisted of informational presentations from Grand Lodge representatives and break-out sessions that allowed Brothers from different Lodges to share their challenges and collaborate on solutions. We also found time after all the sessions to gather at the patio out back for cigars and shenanigans.

My biggest take-aways from the event were membership engagement, prospect management, and leadership.

We do not recruit members, but we should be presenting ourselves positively in the community and across various forms of media. We cannot get good men to join, if they do not know that Freemasonry exists or what it is about. The Grand Lodge is providing support to all the local Lodges. We can also help ourselves by being upstanding ambassadors of Masonry in our communities and speaking with others about it.

Finally, I had the opportunity to take part in some great discussions about Lodge leadership and management. Overall, we have opportunities to make sure our leadership is more representative of the Brethren and that we invest in the up-and-coming leaders in our Lodge.

The specific needs and goals of each Lodge may differ, but, on a larger scale, all Lodges have a shared mission to continue growing by attracting candidates and developing Masons. Every Master Mason has the ability to effect positive change in the world around him, and especially within his own Lodge, and more especially with a good plan and the support of his Brothers.

[Continues on next page, see "East"]

["East," continues from page 9]

The Masters of today are here because over 300 years' worth of Masons invested in the next generation of Master Masons. Every Master Mason has a role in investing in new member development and keeping the fraternity moving forward not only a handful of Lodge officers. Likewise, every new Mason should prove his commitment to the fraternity by working through his degrees and becoming a proficient Master Mason. After which, he can take the torch from the existing generation of Masons and carry this Light on to the next generation of Masons. Every change brings tremors, as the world at large continues to observe. But every good Man or Mason knows that a tremor means nothing if you have a strong foundation. And I know, in my heart of hearts, that our Lodge has that strong foundation.

With that in mind, If there is such a thing as an "ideal" Mason, he is the one whose word is his bond; who can be depended upon to do what he agrees to do and uses our Masonic symbols to be the best version of himself. Through our Masonic obligations we declare allegiance to all the principles of Freemasonry so that we may be accepted as a responsible member of the Masonic family. We accept each other because we knelt at the same altar and made the same promises to each other and the Fraternity.

The obligation is the tie that binds us to Freemasonry and to each other. It is a voluntary pledge each of us take by virtue of which we are accepted as a responsible member of the family of Masons. For these reasons we take our obligations. Let it be criticized by those that are uninformed, it only serves to strengthen the structure of Brotherhood we have built.

Fraternally from the East,
Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

From the West

Brethren,
Freemasonry is special to me in at least three ways:

1. Trust. Our consistent, shared moral code and ethical reliability allow us almost instantly to trust any other Mason. This lets us jump start the collaborative process, making all kinds of things possible.

2. Motivation. If you've been as fortunate as I've been, you will be motivated to give back to those around you. I have forsaken a lot of different organizations because they don't feed my soul like freemasonry does. Our work through the California Masonic Foundations transforms my life others' lives as well.

3. Brotherly Love. We all have similar and different values in life but when it comes to charitable support, the love of our Brethren is always there no matter what.

Fraternally from the West,
Bro. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr.
Senior Warden

From the South

Editor's note: Our Junior Warden, Bro. Spartak, is taking some personal time off from the Lodge ("PTO") to plan his wedding and to get married. Congratulations to the happy couple. We will wait a time with patience for his return. DIK.



From our Secretary

Brethren,
Here is my article on Freemasonry and the Military. Quite an interesting subject!

Masonry has a long history with the military and veterans. The attraction of Freemasonry to members of the services appears to be a combination of shared values; the ideals of service and tradition; and the continuation of the camaraderie experienced within the armed forces.

Many stories have been recorded about fraternity brothers serving in opposing armies who saved each other's lives when they were identified as fraternity brothers. While under the flag of truce, General George Washington, the Commander-in-Chief during the American Revolution, is said to have visited a lodge with his British foes. It's difficult to imagine, given how much warfare has changed over the years.

Clandestine lodges were all that could function during the early days of the United States until a charter could be obtained; this was a unique issue during the Revolutionary War. When Grand Lodges began awarding charters for regiments to have military (traveling) Lodges, however, provisions were created for professional soldiers. The 31st Foot was home to the first English Military Masonic Lodge, which was founded in Florida in 1750.

With the passage of time, Freemasonry extended west with the arrival of pioneers and commerce. Local tribes took a keen interest in the group and its rituals, and it became very popular in Oklahoma. When the Civil War broke out, Albert Pike, a well-known Oklahoman, and Mason, was promoted to brigadier general and assigned to Indian Territory, where he continued to teach the tenets of Freemasonry to the tribes he met.

There are numerous accounts of Brother Masons fighting on different sides and being treated with kindness. "A Confederate surgeon who tended the wounds of a wounded Union

Mason Colonel W.H. Raynor, expressing that he can only hope to get the same treatment from your men....If you will relieve the distresses of a suffering Brother Mason when you are in your power, I shall be well paid.

Dr. Joseph Newton in his book, *The Builders: The Story and Study of Freemasonry*, stated that the Fraternity wasn't prepared to handle their members abroad during WWI but not long after, the Masonic Services Association was established in 1919. With the establishment of the MSA, the War Service Work of the Grand Lodge of America were ready to serve and bring significant comfort and relief to military Freemasons stationed away from home.

During WWII, Adolf Hitler attacked Freemasonry, accusing it of colluding with Jews and Masons to plot against Germany.

Many Brethren from the United States found refuge and comfort in Lodges in England, France, and other parts of Europe. Many of the war's greatest heroes, including General Douglas MacArthur, were Masons, and their faith in Freemasonry's precepts often guided their conscience during the conflict.

Barrie Mellars wrote: "As old as Freemasonry itself, Masonic activity by prisoners and internees, in circumstances ranging from benign to horrific, has left an indelible mark on the history of the Craft! Certainly today the imagination finds difficulty in grasping the extent of the courage, determination and selflessness of those who resolutely persevered to preserve the fundamental principles of the Craft! They have shown that Freemasonry is unique, that its bonds and its compassion have withstood, from its inception, the severest test that could be placed upon it! It prevailed and still prevails against ignorance, threats, torture and even death itself, its integrity is ageless and inviolable." See, *Freemasonry and the Military*

A Lecture Prepared for Wineslai Lodge No 2435, April 2010 by Barrie Mellars, at [https://www.academia.edu/9809187/Freemasonry and the Military](https://www.academia.edu/9809187/Freemasonry_and_the_Military).

Fraternally, Bro. Akram Al-Awar, Secretary

Strength of Commitment – An Editorial

Commitment to the Lodge is serious business, essential, and vital to our continued success. Inasmuch as the Grand Master's theme this year is "Crafting Leadership," we look to our leaders our officers who have a higher duty and our members to a lesser extent for their commitment.

We can see the commitment of our Pillar officers from, among other things, their participation in the Grand Lodge's recent Master and Wardens Retreat and from their resulting renewed enthusiasm for their work (see, e.g., Wor. Edgar's message on pp. 10-11, which gladdens me and inspires my continued support¹). And even their advance planning now underway (see p. 8 re future events).

As an aside, I learned that some of our appointed officers also attended that Retreat, which reveals *their* devotion to the Lodge and their commitment to its future.

Our other elected officers Secretary and Treasurer, with the help of our Assistant Secretary toil behind the scenes and their commitment shows from their diligent attention to the administrative tasks of the Lodge.

For myself, my commitment to the Lodge likely is evident from these monthly editions of our Trestle Board, and a few other things I do although just a side-liner and not an officer. I hope that my small efforts are an example for others to follow.

Thus, for my Brother side-liners who also attend Lodge, I am reminded of President John F. Kennedy's famous phrase: Ask not what the

Lodge can do for you. Ask what you can do for the Lodge. (Even so, I do recognize that there are many who already do so much!)

Therefore, for each of the officers and members who already make the lodge a priority, I thank you, for myself and on behalf of the Lodge, for your regular attendance and attentiveness, your diligence, enthusiasm, engagement, and so forth. Keep it up! These are the measures of your commitment.

For those who are less involved, I encourage you to participate more fully, and in some cases to return to the Lodge and be with us we miss you. We are a vibrant, active Lodge, wherein our friendships mature, our diversity and inclusiveness are exemplary, and our efforts to improve ourselves and the community are readily apparent to ourselves and others.

In February, I mentioned in a FC degree meeting that there is a saying in the Jewish tradition when we finish reading one of the Books of Moses and start another (for example when we finish reading Genesis and begin on Exodus):

We say, "*Hazak, Hazak, Venithazzek*" which translates to "Be Strong. Be Strong. And We will be Strengthened."

Each one of us i.e., our officers from the top down, and members can fully support the lodge with exceptional attention and commitment, as we are all leaders in some way, whether or not elected or appointed. And we want a strong Lodge.

If we each do our part to "Be Strong, Be Strong ... We [as a Lodge] will be Strengthened."

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

¹I am also especially grateful to WBs Wolvek and Casanova and Bro. Mann, my mentors, who have inspired my continued enthusiasm and commitment to the Lodge. (By the way, mentorship is a good thing and we should think about a mentorship program in the Lodge for all our Brothers.)

