

In the



Daylight

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

May 2024

Religion and Politics, Etc.

Foreword...

May 2 is the National Day of Prayer, To this writer, it is odd that such a day is authorized by Congress and that the president is required to make a proclamation for it, given the mandate of the First Amendment separating church and state. But it is what it is, and a court challenge to it as unconstitutional was finally dismissed, although on standing grounds and not on the merits. See, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Day_of_Prayer.

Nevertheless the above calendar designation inspired the theme for this edition:

Religion and Politics.

Masons are quick to point out that Freemasonry is not a religion, although a belief in a Supreme Being is required for membership. (See p. 2.) Moreover, the Grand Lodge of California says: "We welcome men of all ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs." As an advocate for diversity in our Lodge, this writer applauds this sentiment.

Nevertheless, although Freemasonry is not a religion, meetings start with an opening prayer and end with a closing prayer and benediction; the Book of Holy Writings is prominently displayed in the Lodge room; and the Masonic Lodge is said to be dedicated to the Holy Saints John.

(See the article about the Holy Saints John on pages 3-4, quoted from a page of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.)

One great thing about our Craft is that we do not discuss religion and politics while in Lodge. (See p. 2.) This is important because these topics can be divisive and Masons want peace and harmony in our Lodges. We reflect on "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," words ironically from the Bible (Psalms 133:1).

2024 is the year of the presidential election, a source of discourse, distrust, and divisiveness outside of the Lodge. It will be a difficult year for our country, not however to be discussed in Lodge or any further in this edition except for an explanation on pages 6-7 of the electoral college See

<https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/law-day-may-1>. (May also includes Law Day, May 1, see p. 5).

Thus, omitting politics, religion too, we Masons find ways to best work and best agree with each other.

Fraternally, David I. Karp, Editor.





From the Grand Lodge of California

The following two entries are quoted verbatim from a publication of the Grand Lodge of California entitled "Opening the Door," and are both relevant, succinct and well appreciated by the editor:

"Is Freemasonry a Religion?"

No. Our members come from all spiritual backgrounds. But to get the most out of Freemasonry, you have to believe in a higher power. In fact, it's a requirement of membership. But what that means is personal to you. One Mason may identify their higher power as God or Allah. Another might not have a name for it at all. Because Freemasonry was created in Medieval England and Scotland, many of its rituals borrow symbols from Christianity. But make no mistake about it: We welcome members of all spiritual faiths.

"What's the Deal with Religion and Politics?"

THE MASONIC LODGE is designed to be a special space one that exists as a fundamentally different place than regular life. In the words of Masonry, this is described as the difference between the "sublime" and the "profane." For that reason, while Freemasons are sitting in lodge, we don't discuss politics or religion. That's been the case for 300 years. That doesn't mean our members can't hold fierce political beliefs or commit their

life to their faith. Indeed, many famous Freemasons over the years have been spiritual and political leaders, from priests to presidents. And outside of lodge, members are encouraged to engage in respectful, open discussion about whatever they please. But for the few hours that we meet as a lodge each month, we agree to table these two topics. Masonic lodges exist to encourage lifelong friendships and provide a supportive space for self-improvement. One of the keys is emphasizing what unites us, rather than what divides us. By intentionally setting aside politics and religion while we're at lodge, we protect that space.

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.)

May 2, 2024 7PM, Exec. Comm. Mtg. on Zoom

May 4, 2024 11AM. Stated Meeting. Lunch donation \$15.

May 11, 2024 Degree Practice

May 16, 2024 6-8PM, Fellowship dinner Lulu's Restaurant, 16900 Roscoe Blvd Van Nuys, CA 91406 (East of Balboa)

May 18, 2024 Degree Conferral

May 25, 2024 Dark (Memorial Day Weekend)

May 30, 2024 7PM, Exec. Comm. Mtg. on Zoom

For June and subsequent months, check out our calendar at

<https://clarencefsmith.org/events/> .

“The Holy Saints John (Who are These Guys)”

Editor’s Note: The following text is respectfully quoted verbatim from an article of the Grand Lodge of Ohio with the same title, at

[https://momason.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2012-December-Masonic-Minutes - Meeting-One.pdf](https://momason.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2012-December-Masonic-Minutes_-_Meeting-One.pdf) .)

"The Holy Saints' John" refers to Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist who are said to be the Patron Saints of our Fraternity. This begs the question, "Why are they so prominent in our ritual and degree work? And why, aside from all other Saints, is Masonry led to the Holy Saints John as our patrons?"

St. John the Baptist is the more prominent of the two Saints in the Holy Gospels. St. John the Baptist is described as the cousin of Jesus and a faithful aid in leading the way for his work among men. In the Book of Luke he is referred to as the greatest of men born of a woman; high praise from the Gospels to be sure. We associate St. John the Baptist as the minister who baptized believers in the waters of the Jordan River. His message was that of devotion through a life of strict observance to righteousness and moral character. He was firm, dogmatic and relentless in his belief, dedication and ministry. His fervent ministry drew the wrath of King Herod. St. John the Baptist refused to renounce his following of or belief in his cousin Jesus and for that the King had him imprisoned and later beheaded. This example of allegiance and commitment to his sacred trust elevates him as one who merits our esteem. He is certainly the image of morality and commitment that Masons would want to find in their patron Saint.

Saint John the Apostle or Evangelist (considered by many to be one and the same) has a more obscure history. Numerous sources cite the persona of the Evangelist as the likely combination of several biblical persons

assimilated over the millennia for emphasis and clarity. Much of the writing attributed to the Evangelist echoes Masonic themes, phrases and even ritual, however history falls short of being able to tell us whether the writings of the Evangelist are the actual source of our ritual. Regardless of the lack of traceable history, it seems reasonable to conclude that those intimately familiar with the Evangelist and his writings find him to be the "sensible" patron Saint of the fraternity. Writings such as those in the Book of Revelations, the Gospel of John along with the Epistles of John display a more ideological or philosophical perspective, often hinting at the deeper meaning of a person or event.

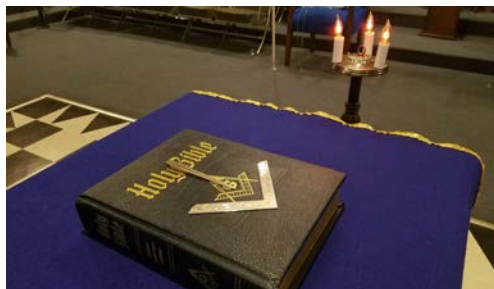
The adoption of both Saints' John to equally represent the fraternity seems to further distinguish Masonry at its core. The methods of religious practice for these two Saints are very different yet both are fully committed to the same belief. St. John the Baptist is strict and literal while St. John the Evangelist is lofty, philosophical and esoteric; a perfect "yin and yang" example. As the Patron Saints they serve as an example of the balance and harmony men can achieve in Freemasonry.

The Grand Lodge of England was formed on June 24, 1717, on the feast day of St. John the Baptist which corresponds closely with the summer solstice and ancient celebrations marking the longest day of the year. It is most fitting to begin a light-seeking Grand Lodge during one of the longest days of light. The observance of the feast of St John the Evangelist is held on December 27th just after the winter solstice. This is the time that the world begins moving from darkness to greater light, and it became one of the more important days in the Masonic calendar. It was reported that George Washington refused to miss attending the Masonic observance of St. John the Evangelist. Regardless of how or where it began, it is accepted that every regular and well-governed Lodge recognize and celebrate both days as a

remembrance and recognition of our patron Saints. Typically celebrated with feasts, processions and regalia, the Holy Saints John are metaphoric pillars of our Lodge, for Saint John the Baptist is implied as the pillar beneath the earth and Saint John the Evangelist as the pillar beneath the heavens. They are our history and our legacy; they are our obligation to forever remember, explore and celebrate the boundaries of our faith.

[Additional Editor's Note: The following is quoted from an article entitled *Judaism and Freemasonry in Rhode Island*, by Shai Afsai at <https://smallstatebighistory.com/judaism-freemasonry-rhode-island/> :

"In its current form, the Masonic fraternity dates back to the founding of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717.... Despite a facade of religious universality, the fraternity was often avowedly Christian in practice.... [¶] Beginning in 1813, the fraternity in England underwent a conscious process of de-Christianization, making it more amenable to Jewish membership. Lodges in the United States did not follow suit...."]



CFS Daylight's Officers for 2024

Worshipful Master

Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan

Senior Warden Bro. Gerald J. Alvarez

Junior Warden Bro. Joseph R. Chavez

Treasurer Bro. Ely Ayao

Secretary Bro. Akram Al-Awar

Asst. Secretary

Bro. Thomas ("Tom") K. Sheehan

Chaplain

Bro. Virgilio ("Virgil") A. Maravillas, Sr.

Senior Deacon Bro. Lloyd Donasco

Junior Deacon Bro. Elvis L. Alvarez

Senior Steward

Bro. Mkhitar ("Mike") Mkrtchyan

Junior Steward

WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM

Marshal Bro Marvin De Guzman

Organist Bro. Mark G. Cano

Tiler Bro. William ("Bill") C. Raddatz

Officers' Coach

WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM

Candidates' Coach

Rogelio ("Roger") L. Soriano, PM

Inspector WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

Contact information:

Master:

Worshipful Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan

spo@clarencesmith.org

Secretary:

Brother Akram Al-Awar

May 1 is Law Day

“ The United States observes Law Day annually on May 1st as a day to encourage all Americans to reflect on the personal rights and liberties which are enjoyed and exercised daily ... [and] to focus on every legal right laid out in the fundamental documents of American democracy--the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.... [¶] The American Bar Association receives credit for introducing the idea for Law Day in 1957. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed Law Day to be observed each year on May 1. Congress later passed Joint Resolution 87-20 on April 7, 1961.”

Source:

<https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/law-day-may-1> .

Justice

“ Justice is that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil society; and, as just in a great measure constitutes the really good man, so should it be your invariable practice never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof....”

Source: Monitor and Officers' Manual, Grand Lodge of California, 1989 edition.



Masonic Recognition

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

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)
Rogelio (“Roger”) L. Soriano (2019)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2020-2021)
Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan (2022)
Fernando (“Jhonny”) O. Lebrilla, Jr. (2023)

Past Masters by Affiliation

Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, (2021)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)
Omar Cervantes (2021)
Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)
Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)
Bruce L. Hawley (1984)*
Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

Past Masters who are “Honorary Members”

Jovito (“Jovi”) R. Rivera (2017)
Timoteo (“Tim”) Zuniga (2020)

Hiram Award (for dedicated Service)

Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig (2022)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2022)
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)

* Deceased.



What is the Electoral College?

Editor's Note: The following is quoted verbatim from The National Archives at

<https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/about>

The Electoral College is a process, not a place. The Founding Fathers established it in the Constitution, in part, as a compromise between the election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens.

What is the process?

The Electoral College process consists of the selection of the electors, the meeting of the electors where they vote for President and Vice President, and the counting of the electoral votes by Congress.

How many electors are there? How are they distributed among the States?

The Electoral College consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Your State has the same number of electors as it does Members in its Congressional delegation: one for each Member in the House of Representatives plus two Senators....

The District of Columbia is allocated 3 electors and treated like a State for purposes of the Electoral College under the 23rd Amendment of the Constitution. For this reason, in the following discussion, the word "State" also refers to the District of Columbia and "Executive" to the State Governors and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

How are my electors chosen? What are their qualifications? How do they decide who to vote for?

Each candidate running for President in your State has their own group of electors (known as a slate). The slates are generally chosen by the candidate's political party in your State, but State laws vary on how the electors are selected and what their responsibilities are. Read more about the qualifications of the electors and restrictions on who the electors may vote for.

What happens in the general election? Why should I vote?

The general election is held every four years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. When you vote for a Presidential candidate you are actually voting for your candidate's preferred electors....

Most States have a "winner-take-all" system that awards all electors to the Presidential candidate who wins the State's popular vote. However, Maine and Nebraska each have a variation of "proportional representation." ...

What happens after the general election?

After the general election, your State's Executive prepares a Certificate of Ascertainment listing the names of all the individuals on the slates for each candidate. The Certificate of Ascertainment also lists the number of votes each individual received and shows which individuals were appointed as your State's electors. Your State's Certificate of Ascertainment is sent to NARA as part of the official records of the Presidential election.

The meeting of the electors takes place on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December after the general election. The electors meet in their respective States, where they cast their votes for President and Vice President on separate ballots. Your State's electors' votes are recorded on a Certificate of Vote, which is prepared at the meeting by the electors. Your

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State's Certificate of Vote is sent to Congress, where the votes are counted, and to NARA, as part of the official records of the Presidential election.

Each State's electoral votes are counted in a joint session of Congress on the 6th of January in the year following the meeting of the electors. Members of the House and Senate meet in the House Chamber to conduct the official count of electoral votes. The Vice President of the United States, as President of the Senate, presides over the count in a strictly ministerial manner and announces the results of the vote. The President of the Senate then declares which persons, if any, have been elected President and Vice President of the United States.

The President-elect takes the oath of office and is sworn in as President of the United States on January 20th in the year following the general election.



Two Additional Celebrations in May

May 12 is Mothers Day. Happy Mothers Day to the Moms of Masons and our spouses who are mothers.

May 18 is Armed Forces Day. Thanks to all Masons who are on active duty or are veterans. DIK.



A Masonic Reflection

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from an Illinois Freemasonry article entitled "A Masonic Reflexion about Civil Rights, Diversity and Equality," by RW. Bro. Luciano M. Azevedo, Assistant Grand Chancellor, Communication, Marketing and Branding, Leadership Committee Chairman, at <https://ilmason.org/our-blog/2018/a-masonic-reflexion-about-civil-rights>.

"The human race is extraordinarily diverse in so many ways. Gender, ethnicity, race, class, religion, nationality, philosophy, lifestyle....

"Freemasons have historically fought against racism and inequality and traveled for 'foreign countries' embracing every culture, every race and we still are the most diverse fraternity in the world with hundreds of thousands lodges spread all over. We are in every continent of the earth teaching our craft that we are all equals. Freemasons are well known for their tolerance, prudence and understanding. During a time when knowledge was considered a privilege of just a few 'special and chosen' people, Masons fought and [stood] for the Enlightenment. So many people have died or have been deprived of basic rights because of a lack of understanding an understanding that difference in appearance, belief, or way of life does not make one person better than another.

[...]

"We have found that true masonry is an expression of justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude and at the basis of these virtues lays friendship and brotherly love. We who believe in justice must challenge Masons in the United

States to abolish any racist, segregationist and xenophobic views.

“Understanding and accepting people from all walks of life is key to finding peace in our lives. But beyond that, it is of the utmost importance to making the world a place where all can live freely and without fear.

[...]

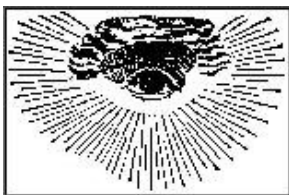
“... Truly caring for others fills us with purpose and peace.

“I would like to suggest to you a pledge my brother:

““Every human being is an image bearer of The Great Architect of the Universe. Therefore, I joyfully extend my love to each and every person regardless of color, culture, ethnicity or religion. As a serious minded freemason I will use the influence entrusted to me to change any structure or system that perpetuates injustice. As a parent I pledge to raise my children and grandchildren with values that lead to a true celebration of diversity. Today I rededicate myself to a lifestyle of radical tolerance and all encompassing inclusion.””

Relevant and Important: The Spring 2024 edition of *California Freemason* contains a relevant and important message about the Catholic Church and Freemasonry, beginning at page 5. You can also find it here:

<https://californiafreemason.org/2024/03/27/the-long-shadow/> .



“Write On” Campaign Concluding This Month

Begun in February, this month (May) Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866 will conclude its efforts to collect unopened boxes of new Blue/Black Pens, Pencils, Crayons, Colored Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Erasers, Spiral Notebooks, Filler Paper, and Composition Books, for students to use for their writing assignments. The last day for collection is May 4 prior to our Stated Meeting which begins at 11AM.

This effort has been targeted to benefit LAUSD’s Homeless Education Program and supports the Lodge’s charitable goals, its care for public education and literacy, its commitment to public awareness of the fraternity and its endeavors to improve the world.

Likely, two staffers from the Homeless Education Department will visit with us at the end of the May Stated Meeting, both to tell us about the program and officially to accept our donations. We will also host them for lunch if they wish to stay.

As stated above, the last drop-off collection will take place at the Lodge (upstairs dining room) on May 4. Alternatively, if you purchase online, you may choose direct shipping to the undersigned at his business address: David I. Karp, 6311 Van Nuys Bl. No. 409, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

Whatever you can donate will help. It’s a way of lifting others up. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp

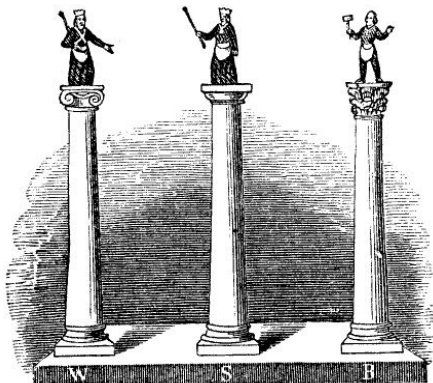
“Write On” Campaign Coordinator



[Bowling with the Brothers, March 23, 2024]



[Stated Meeting, April 13, 2024]



From the East

Brethren,
As we enter the month of May, I want to thank everyone who contributed to our “Write On” campaign and helped make it a success. The school supplies collected will be donated to the LAUSD Homeless Education Program following our May Stated Meeting. Your contributions will help remove barriers and promote success for students in need within our community.

Looking forward, our annual golf tournament is just around the corner, planned for June 29th. This event is a vital fundraiser for our lodge and a great opportunity for fellowship. I encourage all our members to get involved, spread the word, and invite friends and family to join us in making this event a success.

The year is passing by quickly, and I encourage those who will be in the 2025 officers’ line to start working on their qualifications for next year. There are many brothers who will be more than happy to help, so please reach out if needed.

Thank you all for your ongoing dedication and support for our lodge.

Fraternally,

Wor. Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan

Master

From the West

Editor’s Note: Our Brother Senior Warden, Gerald Alvarez, is away in the Philippines at the time of this edition’s completion, along with a few others from our Lodge. DIK.

From the South

Brethren,
I would like to thank everyone for the support given during our Bowling Tournament. Although it would have been nice to have a lot more brothers come and join us, we hope that the next Bowling event we have is filled with brothers of all different lodges as well as ours.

Brethren I want to encourage every EA, FC and MM to set aside at least the 1st Saturday of the month so that you may join us at our stated meetings. It would be nice to have everyone also support our brother EAs and FCs as they transition into their new degrees.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Bro. Joseph Chavez
Junior Warden



From our Secretary

Editor's Note: The following text, on honor and commitment, has been submitted through the use of A.I. by our Brother Secretary, Akram Al-Awar:

"Honor and commitment are invaluable qualities that enrich our lives and the lives of those around us. By embracing these virtues, we cultivate trust, integrity, and personal growth. They provide the solid foundation needed for strong relationships, personal success, and positive societal impact. By dedicating ourselves to honoring our commitments and acting with

integrity, we create a ripple effect that inspires others to do the same. Let us strive to embody honor and commitment as we navigate life's challenges, forging a path of authenticity, trust, and lasting significance."



Op-Ed: A Personal Invitation

Brethren,
When I was newly raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, 33 years ago this month, it was a thrill to be actively involved. I enthusiastically attended most Stated Meetings and Degree Conferrals. I participated in the Lodge's social events. I was learning new things about Freemasonry, meeting new friends and enjoying the Lodge's fellowship and camaraderie, all the while having fun with it all.

Later, I attended less often. Also, I was working more on my professional career and I had increasing family commitments helping at home with a growing family and also assisting my aging parents with their financial and health issues.

It wasn't that I was deliberately staying away from the Lodge. I just had other things to do and the Lodge was not always "top of mind" for me. I was also volunteering in Scouting which took up *a lot* of my "free" time.

Nevertheless, the Lodge wasn't attracting me either, either with new experiences or new opportunities for growth. The meetings became boring. It was always "the same old same old."

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Moreover, no one asked me to help even with small tasks at the Lodge or for its events. I became estranged from the Craft. I was unimportant and unnecessary as I saw it, a “fifth wheel” so to speak. Some Brothers were doing all of the work of the Lodge, and that was fine with me.

Regardless, I kept up my membership, paid my dues, continued wearing my masonic ring and a lapel pin, and that was enough for me. But my attendance dwindled to nothing. I was no longer going to Lodge or its events.

Have I described your situation too, maybe not exactly but similarly? Are you not coming to Lodge for any of the reasons suggested above or similar ones? Would you like to bring some ideas or suggestions that you could share to improve attendance/participation? Is there another Brother you could “buddy up” with to come back? Do you feel that you just don’t know anyone at the Lodge or feel like an outsider and unwelcome? Do you need a ride? Or are there other things keeping you away? Let us know!

Thankfully, for myself, I met Wor. Steve Wolvek, PM, who enthusiastically told me about this Lodge. His unspoken invitation to attend subtly inspired me to re-engage and become involved again. Maybe it was just the right time for me.

So now I attend again regularly. And I happily participate in a few projects for the Lodge that keep me active and interested, like this newsletter for instance.

I worry, however, about the sustainability and continued success of a Lodge, like ours, wherein members drift away and few come to meetings and events. (To me, merger is not an answer.)

So now, it’s my turn to encourage and invite YOU to attend, maybe not so subtly as Wor. Steve’s invitation was for me. There might be good reasons for your absence, but please come back if you can. It might be the right time for you, as it was for me a few years ago. There is a

place for you in the Lodge, as there was for me on my return.

In any event, we welcome you. We need you, your ideas, your input, your friendship, your kindness, your help, your participation. And really, whether you know it or not, you need the Lodge, like I did, in order to rekindle the Light of Masonry, within and without.

As Peter Yarrow wrote (1986) in a different context for the folk trio, “Peter, Paul and Mary:” “Don’t let the [L]ight go out! / It’s lasted for so many years!”

I hope this is enough to refresh your interest in becoming active in the Lodge with us again. If not, let us know what else we can do. We hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor



[Fellowship lunch after Lodge, before 2020]