

# The Florida Mason



**Grand Lodge of Florida**  
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**Grand Lodge Officers**  
2012 - 2013

**GRAND MASTER**

**M.: W.: Jorge L. Aladro**  
(Palm Bay)

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**

**R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith**  
(Orange Park)

**SENIOR GRAND WARDEN**

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**

**R.: W.: James W. Ford**  
(Valrico)

**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**

**R.: W.: Steven P. Boring**  
(DeLand)

**GRAND TREASURER**

**M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.**  
(Orange Park)

**GRAND SECRETARY**

**M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.**  
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues of *The Florida Mason* and E-News submissions should be sent should be sent to, Larry Duff - 352-874-2164 [lduff@centurylink.net](mailto:lduff@centurylink.net)

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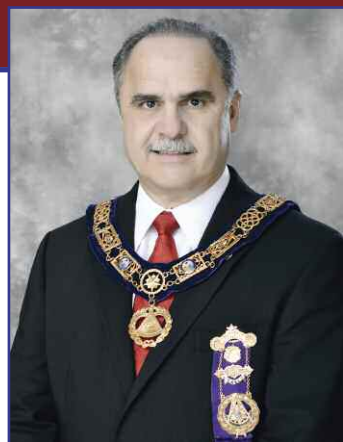
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## A Message From The Grand Master



**M.: W.: Jorge L. Aladro,**  
**Grand Master**

My Dear Brothers,

It seems like we started on this road yesterday however, the year will be nearly over by the time you receive your copy of *The Florida Mason*. I can't express with words how fortunate I feel that you, the Craft, gave me the opportunity to serve you. It is definitely a dream come true and for that I will always be grateful.

On behalf of my wife and myself, I would like to thank all of you for the courtesies you have extended

to us and those that dedicated their time and talent to serve the Craft this year. We also want to thank all of the Ladies and Lodges that donated to the "Ladies Project at the Masonic Home." I hope that if you have not had the opportunity to visit the Masonic Home to see the results of your love gifts, that at least you visit the Masonic Home website at [www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org/news.html](http://www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org/news.html) and look at the pictures. You will be amazed at what your donations have accomplished.

The Residents of the Home truly appreciate your support of this project and it is being used to its full potential. The use of the walkways and sunning area have been incorporated in the therapy treatment since the Residents like to be out in the front of the Home since its updating. We have also had many compliments from visitors as well. Thank you once again for your dedication and steadfastness to the Masonic Home of Florida.

While we are thanking for donations we want to also mention our appreciation for those of you that help and donated to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratories Fundraising Programs for our Grand Lodge Flagship Charity. And all of the other donations to the various charities and programs the Grand Lodge sponsors. Thank you for your generous donations in these trying economic times.

This year we accomplished many things and also learned much more from the Craft, I have been amazed by what I have learned. They say that truth is stranger than fiction and that has been proved to me many times over this year, a lesson I will not soon forget.

We embarked on a renaissance three years ago and we have continued to work hard to make sure that we achieve excellence;

excellence in our Lodges, Officers, and Brethren. We are working hard giving a lending hand to those that want to improve themselves in Masonry and eradicate apathy, complacency, and indifference.

We have also discovered that some fail to realize the difference between acting and working as a Lodge and being a good ole boys club; simply because they have done it wrong for so long that they themselves do not know the difference. However, they also fail to accept the needed help or seek the same from those that can help them.

Needless to say, we have been asleep at the switch for a few years as well for not paying more attention to the conditions the Lodges are in. The work has not been completed by far, however together we can make a difference. *"Be A Leader; Make It Happen."*

I hope and pray that the work we have started is not laid aside; this work is hard and at times a bit unpleasant. However, if we do not carry it on both at the Lodge and State Level we will squander the wellbeing and future of this great Fraternity. Each one of us needs to make a concerted effort to stand up in your Lodge and request excellence, we can do this with our vote and we can do this by volunteering and making it happen. We must be involved; we must be engaged and as we accomplished this at our Lodge and District level ask the State leadership to assist you in achieving your goals. Together we will make a difference.

I look forward to seeing you at Grand Lodge, renewing our friendships and making new ones, I pray that all of you have a safe trip to and from our Annual Grand Communication.

I have enjoyed traveling around the State and meeting many of you and you have given us a lifetime of memories that I'm sure will bring out feelings whenever we reflect on them in the future. Thanks for the memories.

As we come to our Annual Grand Communication this "Memorial Day Celebration" remember that Freedom is not Free and that we owe a great deal of gratitude to the men and women we honor on such a special day of remembrance. "We are Free today because of the Brave" lest we forget.

God Bless all of you, God Bless this Fraternity and God Bless the America we Love so much.

Your Brother and Humble Servant,

M.: W.: Jorge L. Aladro  
Grand Master



## A Message From The Deputy Grand Master



**R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith,**  
**Deputy Grand Master**

As this Masonic Year is fast drawing to a close, I want to thank all those who have made contributions to our Masonic Home this year. As you all know, we have a Five Star Facility in St. Petersburg in which we care for our elderly. This home relies strictly on your charitable donations in order to provide the care our Residents so desperately need. As the economy has been in a downturn for the past several years your charitable donations have also become less than what is needed to continue these

services. We need your help! If you can contribute anything to help, it would be greatly appreciated.

We have nearly 80 beds at the Masonic Home that are currently empty and could readily serve our Masonic Family. If you know anyone in your area who needs the services our Home provides, please contact the Masonic Home or The Grand Lodge of Florida and we will be glad to help. It is more economical to serve more Residents since the facilities and staff are already available.

The Grand Master has pressed forward with a plan to have a Florida Masonic License Plate created. On April 30th, the Florida Senate by vote of 38-0 passed and ordered the bill enrolled. Enrolling a Bill is; "A Senate or House measure approved by both houses and signed by the Legislative Officers, which is sent to the Governor for action and transmittal to the Secretary of State or filed directly with the Secretary of State. The bill is enrolled in the House of origin under the supervision of the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House." Please see additional information on page 3.

The proceeds from the sale of these plates will go directly to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund and will provide a much needed source of income for our Masonic Home. I encourage each of you to consider purchasing these plates when they become available.

There are also other plans available whereby you can support the Masonic Home such as the Charitable Gift Annuity Plan. Please contact the Grand Lodge or look at the pamphlets available in your Lodge in order to obtain information on these plans.

I want to thank each of you for the support you have given me over the years and I will be seeking more help and support in the coming year.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you at Grand Lodge.

R.: W.: Danny Griffith  
Deputy Grand Master

## Corey Kosciuszko Named Mason Of The Year For 12th District

On February 27, 2013, R.: H.: Corey Kosciuszko was named 2012 Mason of the Year for the 12th District by the Masters and Wardens Association for the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts of Florida. R.: H.: Brother Kosciuszko is Worshipful Master of Orange Park Lodge No. 267, and the District Instructor for the 12th Masonic District. He is also a Past Illustrious Master of Hallmark Council No. 3, Royal & Select Masters, Generalissimo of Damascus Commandery No. 2, K. T., and Excellent High Priest of Jacksonville Chapter No. 12, Royal Arch Masons. In the Scottish Rite, he is Preceptor, in the Jacksonville Consistory.

*L to R: R.: H.: Corey Kosciuszko, Mason of the Year, receives the Award plaque from John Wigger, Chairman of the 11th & 12th Districts Masters and Wardens Association*



If you would like to receive the "Discourse" please send an email to: [jlageorge@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlageorge@bellsouth.net). The Discourse's purpose: "My Brothers, the newsletter is intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking; what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge."





R.:W.: James W. Ford,  
Senior Grand Warden

## A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

Brethren,

As we near the end of the Masonic Year it is time for reflection and looking forward. We have traveled many miles this year and met many wonderful people that, otherwise, we would not have met.

We have visited with old friends and made many new friends and this would not have taken place if we were not part of this great Fraternity. For this I am thankful. I am also grateful for the opportunity you have given Joy and I to serve you.

We have accomplished many things this year and while some things remain to be done and are works in progress, we have made projections into the future, developing ways of advancing our great Fraternity. Many of these ideas, suggestions and enhancements to programs come from you, the Craft.

At the 184th Annual Communication of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of F.& A.M. of Florida, those attending will receive written reports from the State Chairman of various Committees. These reports detail the success and/or opportunities of these programs. I urge you to review the reports, make them available to your particular Lodge, and discuss them. Where does your Lodge stand in the support and promotion of these programs?

I am optimistic about our future as Masons. Our Fraternity is changing. We are getting younger and we are getting smaller and we will continue to change in many ways. We have many talented Brothers. With the strides we have taken and with your continued support, I believe we

are attracting those Brothers that can make quality differences. Differences that will move us forward take us into the future. Our road may be rough but together we will smooth the highway and reach its glorious end.

Communication is paramount. The decisions and actions we take must be based upon the best information available. Keep your Grand Line informed, attend the District Visits, talk to your District Deputies and committeemen, and communicate your thoughts and ideas to the State and Zone Chairmen. Your input is extremely important to our success and the success of our Fraternity.

I ask that you remember our Masonic Home, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and our other charities in your personal and Lodge plans. Your support ensures the success and future of these outstanding programs.

There are many to thank and to extend gratitude, too many to mention here. I look forward to seeing each of you and personally expressing my appreciation for all you have done and all that you continue to do.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

R.:W.: James W. Ford  
Senior Grand Warden



R.:W.: Steven P. Boring,  
Junior Grand Warden

## A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

On behalf of Mary Jane, and myself, I would like to thank all of you for this past year. Our experiences in meeting so many of our Brothers and their families would not have been possible without your confidence by electing me to this position. For this I am Thankful and I look forward to continued service to you the Craft.

Several years ago the front-page of the San Francisco Chronicle reported that a female humpback whale had been found. She had been entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines and would die. A fisherman spotted her a few miles outside the Golden Gate Bridge and called in an environmental group for help.

Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off that the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her. This was a very dangerous proposition as one slap of the tail could kill a rescuer. Hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat weighted her down. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail and her torso, and a line tugging in her mouth. The team worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her.

When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around and thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The person who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the entire time, and he will never ever be the same.

We, as Masons are blessed and fortunate to be surrounded by Brothers who will help us get untangled from the things that are binding us. This is truly one of the beauties of our Fraternity. This beauty shines brightest when we all meet, act and depart upon the principles of Masonry.

ESPIRIT De CORPS, These nouns denote a spirit, as of comradeship, of dedication to a common goal, devotion to a cause, which unites the members of a group, exhibited by enthusiasm, confidence, cheerfulness, discipline, and a willingness to perform collectively. Our Fraternity has a spirit and has since inception, like each of us, at times it has been full of energy and life and at times it naps. Let each of us commit ourselves to each other and renew the spirit of our Lodges and our Fraternal organization.

May you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude and love.

May God Bless the United States of America and our Fraternity.

Fraternally;

R.:W.: Steven P. Boring  
Junior Grand Warden



M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.,  
Grand Secretary

## A Message From The Grand Secretary

I sincerely hope all of you had a GREAT HOLIDAY Season. I reflect every day on the fact I am so lucky to be able to serve as Grand Secretary and share my life with so many great friends and Brothers. The staff at your Grand Lodge Office is very busy preparing for the upcoming Grand Lodge Session in Orlando. The staff is dedicated and devoted to serving the Masons of Florida. I would like to thank them for this quality and thank them for the service they provide.

Traveling across the State for District Meetings and other local events presents the opportunity for fellowship and Brotherly love. The Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars, in most cases, have been well attended and received. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend one I urge you to take the time to participate. These are designed with the Lodge Secretary and Treasurer in mind; however, any Brother will benefit from the information presented.

I must at this time relate to you, the Craft that it is becoming an ever increasing expense to maintain the level of service provided by your

Grand Lodge. The Legislation for an increase of per capita is a necessary increase to maintain the level of service. In addition, the Maintenance of the Grand Lodge Building must continue. The building is 50 years old. Although the construction is sound, the mechanical needs to be updated. The budget proposed this year is a bare bones budget, yet we were able to propose a \$50,000.00 partial repayment of the loan approved last Grand Lodge Session. Please consider the proposed increase; it is .50¢ per month to help furnish some of the needed funds.

I look forward to the opportunity to shake your hand and renew old friendship and make some new friends in Orlando.

Remember:

**If your presence doesn't make an impact, your absence won't make a difference.**

M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.  
Grand Secretary



M.:W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.  
Grand Treasurer

## A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,

It is hard to believe that another Grand Lodge Year has passed and it is time for a new Annual Grand Lodge Communication. We have some very important decisions to make at Grand Lodge again this year and I urge each of you to study the upcoming pieces of legislation, discuss them in your Lodge and vote for the good of the Fraternity.

During the past year we had the pleasure of visiting many of you, either at the District Meetings, Lodge Visitations, Legislative Meetings, or during your visits to the Grand Lodge Building. I think one of the greatest benefits we enjoy as Masons is the new Brothers we meet and the new friends we make. Without Masonry I would have never gotten to know many of you and that certainly would have been my loss.

If you have visited the Grand Lodge Museum in the last few months, you were able to see our latest addition, that being the scale model of

King Solomon's Temple. Recently W.: Sam Guarneri, who built the model, has also made models of the Laver and Sacrificial Altar which stood in the courtyard. We would love to have you and your family visit us here at the Grand Lodge Building for a little Fellowship and enjoy our Grand Lodge Museum and see the King Solomon's Temple model as well.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Grand Lodge Communication and once again enjoy that great Masonic Fellowship. May God richly bless you and your family and may He bless our Country, our troops and our Fraternity.

Fraternally,

M.:W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.  
Grand Treasurer



## The Masonic Funeral Services

Provided By W.: Larry Duff

There are few occasions when Freemasons may perform their public ceremonies, e.g., cornerstone layings, open installation of officers, the periodic public educational program, and so on. By far, the most common is our Masonic Funeral Service. It is at this time that most non-Masons are introduced to Freemasonry - perhaps, for the very first time. It is at and during that somber service that most people present will form their opinion and perception of our Fraternity. Not being Members of our Ancient Craft, and generally knowing very little about Freemasonry, they are often very curious as to who we are, what we stand for, and what is it that we believe in as an organization.

Conducting Masonic Funeral Services is as old as the Fraternity itself. In the days of Operative Masonry, stonemasons buried their own with great solemnity and reverence. The deceased Brother was a man they had worked with side-by-side for years - perhaps, even their entire lives. They extolled his virtues and the contributions he had made to the Craft's work. They spoke of the Eternal Life after death, and the need to perform "goode worke" toward all humanity throughout the course of a man's life. The entire guild and all of their families turned out in force to mourn their Brother's passing, and to express their sympathies to the Brother's family. This tradition has been carried forward for centuries to our present day Speculative Masonry.

The first thing any non-Mason will observe is the size of the turnout. If it is small, they may conclude that his Lodge did not hold the deceased Brother in very high esteem. Or, even worse, that Freemasons are much too busy with their own private lives and interests to practice the tenets of Charity and Brotherly Love of which we so loudly boast. In other words, they may conclude that we do not practice what we preach. If the turnout is large, the non-Mason is likely to come away with a very different impression of both the Fraternity and the deceased Brother.

Always remember that a Masonic Funeral Service is the final tribute we can pay to our fallen Brother. That is the appropriate time to thank the Brother's family for allowing him to share his time on Earth with our Fraternity. You may not have known the Brother personally, but if he was a Member of your Lodge, he certainly deserves your presence at his funeral service. If he was a Brother, then he is entitled to all of the "lights, rights and benefits" of being a Freemason -- and that certainly includes a well-attended Masonic Funeral Service. Attending these services are, in many ways, just as important as attending Lodge Meetings - perhaps, even more so, because, as we can do nothing more for our Brother, the Funeral Service is really for the benefit of the deceased Brother's family and friends, and it exhibits our genuine care and concern for one of our own.

The Masonic Funeral Service is one of the most beautiful pieces of literature ever written. Simple, honest, and straight-forward, it offers each of us an opportunity to reflect upon our own mortality, and to reaffirm our individual faith in the Supreme Grand Master of Heaven and Earth. It draws forth its inspiration and words of comfort not only from our Volume of Sacred Law, but also from many of the world's greatest literary geniuses. No one can listen to our service and not be impacted by the gentle, yet powerful, words that touch the heart of every person present - both Mason and non-Mason alike.

One day, and we know not when, each one of us will be that Brother who has passed from sight. One day, each one of us will have ended our journey in this life. As your then cold and lifeless body is commended to the grave eternal, will you want your Masonic Brethren to be present and among those that mourn you, and to offer comfort and consolation to your loved ones?

As stated in our funeral service, you can do nothing more of a material nature for the departed Brother. Nevertheless, you can cherish his memory, and offer the tribute of respect and love to the late Brother's memory. Of even greater importance, you can be there to extend our Fraternal Sympathy to our Brother's deeply afflicted and sorrowing Family in their bereavement. We must tell his loved ones, and demonstrate it by our physical presence, that our promises to be true to them are not hollow or empty words. We owe our Brother something, and this may be the very last opportunity we will ever have.

## Ornan Lodge No.117 Presents 55 Year Membership Certificate and Pin



L to R: W.: Richard Munsell, W.: Tom Munsell, W.: Bill Catsulis

Ornan Lodge No.117 was proud to present W.: Tom Munsell of Williston his 55 year Membership Certificate and Pin on Monday, April 1, at our regular meeting. Brother Munsell was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1956, is a Past Master of Ornan Lodge No. 117, and is also a Member of the Scottish Rite. The Certificate and Pin were presented by his son, W.: Richard Munsell, a Past Master of Springs Lodge No. 378 in Homosassa.

If you would like to receive the "Discourse" please send an email to: [jlageorge@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlageorge@bellsouth.net). The Discourse's purpose: "My Brothers, the newsletter is intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking; what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge."

## Florida Masonic License Plate Approved By Florida House And Senate

### We have exciting news!

A bill submitted to the 2013 Legislative Session in Tallahassee to create a specialty license plate to raise funds for the benefit of the Masonic Home of Florida Endowment Fund is becoming a reality. This is a very important step to helping the Home be solvent for generations to come. All proceeds will go to the Masonic Home Endowment Inc., a 501c(3) corporation, of which the interest is what we use to run the Home for our aged Brothers.

Our sincere appreciation to Brother Ritch Workman, State Representative from District 52; Brother Clay Ford, State Representative District 2; W.: Brother Charles Stone, State Representative, District 22 who lead the sponsoring of the bill in the House of Representatives. In the Senate the lead was taken by W.: Brother Charles Sean, Third District and co-sponsored by Brother Jack Latvala, District 20 and Brother Greg Evers, District 2 and their staffs for all their labors.

In January, each Lodge received a letter template with a request to have Brothers in each Lodge mail letters asking their local State Representative and State Senator to support this bill. Your labors have proven successful.

On April 30th, the Florida Senate by vote of 38-0 passed and ordered the bill enrolled. Enrolling a Bill is; "A Senate or House measure approved by both houses and signed by the Legislative Officers, which is sent to the Governor for action and transmittal to the Secretary of State or filed directly with the Secretary of State. The bill is enrolled in the House of origin under the supervision of the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House."

### Do Not Attempt To Order A License Plate At This Time

A number of procedural processes need to be completed and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles needs time to prepare for the issuance of these plates. The license plates may be available for order around October 1, 2013.

Your local tag agency is not prepared nor has it been notified by DHSMV of this very important license plate.

Your Grand Lodge will keep you informed when, and how to order a license plate as the process proceeds over the next several months.



## What Is The Meaning Of YOUR Existence?

Viktor Frank, who was a psychoanalyst and a great thinker, was born in Germany. His wisdom came from experience during WWII when he was interred in a concentration camp and was suffering as he was treated worse than an animal and physically and mentally abused. In his book *Man's Search For Meaning*, he described what he believed is a process each of us can use to determine the meaning of our existence. The meaning of life differs for each one of us and can vary from time to time. He wrote that our responsibilities are the essence of our human existence. Frank believed we can discover the meaning of our life in three different ways: "by creating work or doing a deed; by experiencing something or encountering someone; and by the attitude we take toward suffering."

Our Masonic obligations include each of those ways and can help you discover the meaning of your life: being responsible, being industrious, doing good deeds, treating each other with Brotherly love, and confronting a Brother's and/or your own suffering. Brotherly love helps us to become more fully aware of our own existence as well as the essence of another Brother. Love enables us to see the features and essential traits of another Brother and his potential which he has not yet achieved. Our Brotherly love may even help him to achieve that potential.

Frank believed we can find meaning to life even when confronted with a hopeless situation. When it seems the situation cannot be changed, sometimes we are able to turn our predicament into human achievement. When we can no longer change a situation, such as when we are confronted with an incurable illness, we are challenged to change ourselves. Instead of rebelling or giving up we can find new meaning in life. We can rise above our suffering and grow. For example Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis at age 21. Despite his debilitating illness, he continued to do ground-breaking work in physics and cosmology, and published several books which have helped to make science accessible to everyone.

*"Live as if you are living for the second time and had acted as wrongly the first time as you are about to act now."* -Viktor Frank





## A Gathering Of Eagles

By R.:W.: Patrick Farrell, P.D.D.G.M., Junior Grand Deacon

Saturday evening, February 2, I had the great honor of representing The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida at the 31st Annual Black Creek District Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner held at Orange Park United Methodist Church. I was in good company. In addition to my lovely wife, Rose, I sat at the table with Illustrious Sir Dennis Green, Potentate of Morocco Shine and his Lady, June, R.:W.: Frank Kleese, P.D.D.G.M. and his Lady, Ann, W.: Jim Gaskins and his Lady, Bonnie. There were representatives of many other Civic Organizations who wished to share in recognizing these young men for their outstanding achievements.

As Rose and I approached the building I noticed and hailed W.: Jim Gaskins and his Lady coming up the sidewalk. We greeted and headed to the entrance. As we walked in the door to the auditorium it was immediately apparent we were in the right place. The room was decorated in red, white and blue and was buzzing with activity. I looked around the room as we waited in line at the check-in table. Immediately, I saw Brother Paul Cummins walking briskly in our direction to assist us to our reserved seating. There were smiling and happy people everywhere and an army of people preparing the feast and assisting with setups.

While waiting for all to settle in, I perused the program booklet. The first thing I noticed was that the program itself was of the highest quality. Each of the 39 Eagle was shown on his own page with picture and bios. Also listed in the program were the names of the 770 Eagle Scouts who were recognized over the past 30 years. It occurred to me that this was quite an elite and exclusive group of men.

Very shortly, we were called to order by the Master of Ceremonies. After a few minutes of welcome and instruction we were given directions to the serving lines and soon sat down to a outstanding steak dinner including baked potato and of course green beans. Our guest speaker came to the microphone at the end of the meal and gave a thorough accounting of the names of famous Eagle Scouts extending back several generations.

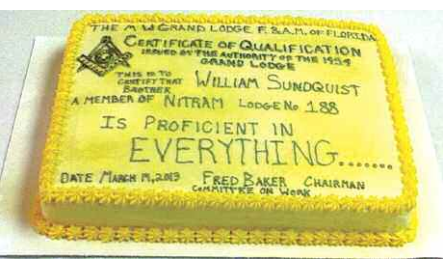
Following the introduction of dignitaries, the presenters were organized into a receiving line and each individual Eagle Scout in the class of 2012 was introduced and presented with a variety of certificates suitable for framing as well as appropriate insignia. At this time I had the pleasure of shaking hands and looking each of these young men in the eyes. It was greatly rewarding to see this side of our youth. These young men brought a sense of pride and achievement with them as they graciously accepted recognition with heads held high.



## Brother Receives Gold Proficiency Card

Article and Photos submitted by R W Richard G. Hoover, P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M., Secretary, St. Petersburg, FL.

At a Stated Communication of Nitram Lodge No. 188 on March 14th, in the presence of 40 Brothers, R.:W.: Ed Street, Zone 6 Chairman, Committee on Work, presented Brother William Carl Sundquist his Gold Proficiency Card and Certificate. Currently, Brother Sundquist is the Senior Warden, and has worked tirelessly for the past two years to achieve this great accomplishment. He is to be congratulated by all his Fellow Brethren for his efforts not only for himself, but also for Nitram Lodge No. 188.



## Gulf Beach Lodge Receives Prestigious Mayor's Key

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, Madeira Beach, received the prestigious Mayor's Key as well as the Key to the City of Madeira Beach from Mayor Travis Palladeno.

The presentation was made at the Annual Awards Dinner held at the Lodge on Thursday November 29, 2012 in the presence of nearly seventy Members and Friends.

Gulf Beach Lodge was cited for over sixty years of community involvement and charitable deeds. Some examples of the Lodge's activities include participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program, classroom and teacher sponsorships, annual scholarship presentations, Holiday Food Basket deliveries, participation in the Salvation Army Angel Tree, and many others.



## Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Freemasonry At Work!

On Thursday March 28th, sixty (60) Masons from as far away as Canada and England attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 for Brother Matt Covington and Jim Wittstruck. There were nine (9) first time visitors and six (6) Members of Elmer O. Smith Lodge attending. It would seem from the numbers in attendance that this was an unusual occasion, however, such is not the case. Gulf Beach Lodge averages forty (40) to fifty (50) Masons at each Lodge Degree. The Lodge Attributes this attendance to the fact that it is one of the most welcoming and friendly Lodges anywhere. Each Member and visitor is made to feel like he is a part of the family, greeted with a smile and handshake, he is never left "unattended" during any portion of the meeting. This is what makes us successful, this is what brings sixty (60) Masons to the sidelines... this is Freemasonry at work!



## Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Blood Drive A Success

By Howard W. Knapp P.M., PDI, P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 recently sponsored a blood drive through Florida Blood Services. Nearly thirty Members of the Lodge as well as local Residents from the Gulf Beaches came out to donate blood. Those who donated were treated to a free dinner at the Lodge and a free movie ticket from Florida Blood Services. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is proud to be a part of this worthy program and encourages other Lodges and organizations in the community to do the same. The Junior Warden, Travis Palladeno, prepared a wonderful meal which was well attended. Hopefully this will become an annual event.



## Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 Recognizes Three 50 Year Brothers

By Russ Swinney, Secretary

Three Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 Brothers were recognized by M.:W.: Jorge Aladro during the Lodge's 50th Year Celebration on April 6th at the Masonic Center in Pensacola.

M.: W.: Aladro honored Ferry Pass and Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 and Pace Lodge No. 349 by visiting the District to personally recognize the 50th Year Commemorative Event by all three Lodges that were each Chartered on the same day on April 18, 1963.

The picture shown is of Ferry Pass Worshipful Master, P.D.D.G.M., R.:W.: Lloyd Magruder who is the present Master of Ferry Pass as he is congratulating the three Brothers after they had received their Awards and recognition by the Grand Master of Masons of Florida.

Brother Roper was presented his 60th Masonic Year Service Pin and Certificate, and Brother Worley was presented his 40th Year Mason's Award. Both Brothers Roper and Miller were recognized as being the last two surviving Charter Members of the forty-two Brothers who Chartered the Lodge. Brother Miller received his 65th Service Award in 2011 and looks forward to getting his 70th in three years.



L to R: R.:W.: Magruder, Brother Jerry Roper, P.M. of the Lodge in 1965, Brother Weaver Miller, and Brother John Worley.

## Lodge In Need Of Assistance

By Tom Johnson, Secretary

Palm Bay Lodge No. 397 is trying to locate four missing Jewels for their Officer Collars and they are no longer manufactured.

Palm Bay is hoping that a Lodge might have them as extra Jewels and they might obtain them.

Please contact Palm Bay Lodge if your Lodge can assist. These photographs are of the jewel and style they have and are looking for.

Contact information:  
Palm Bay Lodge No. 397  
1582 Water Drive NE, Palm Bay, FL 32906-1109  
Lodge Mailing Address: P.O. Box 61109  
Palm Bay, FL 32906-1109  
Lodge Phone Number: 321-724-8755  
Lodge Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday • 7:30 PM  
District Number: 26 • Zone: 5  
Lodge County: Brevard





## Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340 Sponsors Jupiter High School's Project Graduation

By William E. Owen Jr.,  
Senior Deacon

On February 24, 2013, the Brothers of Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340 in Jupiter, Florida, sponsored a BBQ chicken dinner to support Jupiter High School's Project Graduation for the 28th year in a row! Project Graduation is an annual event that gives graduating seniors an opportunity to have a fun and safe graduation night, free from the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The event, which is held at Jupiter High School, is an all night party held in the school gymnasium for graduating seniors. Graduates spend the night of graduation in a gym "lock in" with live bands, games, food, activities and prizes. Money raised for the event helps to pay for the cost of these prizes, food, and entertainment.



To raise money for this event, the Masons helped sell over 1300 tickets, and prepared more than 1150 chicken dinners for Members of the Community. This was an outstanding turnout, and surpassed last year's total by over 400 tickets. The Brothers of Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340, assisted by volunteers from Jupiter High School and the community, succeeded in raising over \$9000. for this important cause. The fundraiser was held at Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340, which is located at 600 S. Loxahatchee Drive, Jupiter, Florida.

Over the years, Project Graduation has become much more than just a graduation night event. It is a community-wide project that helps promote open communication between youths and adults, and represents a conscious effort on the part of young people to make responsible, safe decisions, and to enjoy themselves without alcohol or other drugs. This attitude is strongly supported by the Masonic Lodges as they strive to provide positive role models for young people and to promote leadership within the community. Jupiter Light Lodge No. 340 is pleased to continue to support Project Graduation as well as other programs at Jupiter High School and within the Jupiter community.

## Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385 St. Petersburg Supports Little League

Pinellas Daylight Masonic Lodge, located at 3000 16th Street in St. Petersburg supports a Little League team and showing the community how actively involved Freemasonry truly is by supporting our youth of today; who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

Opening day ceremonies took place on Saturday, March 9, R.:W.: Ed Street, Worshipful Master and Members attended the first game.

The team ages range from 9-12 years old and many of them, including the coaches, recognized the square and compasses and the work Freemasonry does!

Pinellas Daylight Masonic Lodge No. 385 was Chartered in 1984, and has been active in south Pinellas County for 29 years.

Its Members have included a variety of vocations. Ranging from construction to active and retired Military.



Visit their Lodge Website at [www.pinellasdaylight385.org](http://www.pinellasdaylight385.org)

## Leesburg Lodge No. 58, The Lakefront City

On the second Sunday of each month Leesburg Lodge No. 58 hosts a fellowship dinner (11:30 am to 1:15 pm) in the Lodge Dining Room. Each month we have a different theme for the dinner, this month was a little Easter (bunny ears) and welcoming spring (flower head pieces). Pictured is our "Kitchen Crew", some months costumes are much more elaborate than others. It's all in fun.

Our Ladies, who not only handmade all our desserts, but they work the dining room assisting those who may need assistance, decorate the dining room in the theme of the month before the meal and much more.

On the first Saturday of each month (8:00 am to 11:00 am) Leesburg hosts a breakfast in the dining room also, so if you're in our neighborhood, we welcome you to attend Lodge with us and attend breakfast, dinner or both and fellowship with us. Leesburg meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Call the Lodge at 352-787-5696 for more information.



## Districts No. 1 & 2 Encourage Masons To Start Parading!

By W.: Harry H. Boyette / Public Relations District 2

Once again Mardi Gras season has past but not without great participation from the Brothers of Districts One and Two. Having numerous parades the Brothers turned out to the pleasure of all in Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. Especially the kids.

Hundreds of thousands of beads fell only to be pounced on. Some had so many beads around their necks it was hard to tell there was someone in there. But in all honesty the real joy in these parades is seeing the faces of those receiving.

I ask all Brothers to start parading in your areas, not just for fun (although that's not bad either) but to put a face on Masonry. Exposure is not a bad thing. We need more of it. Some of the things we are implementing are Lodge Nights out. Wear your Lodge Shirts and as a group go to a ball game, concert, or other activity.

You want to see more Brothers attending Lodge then make it a place they want to be at. From the attached pictures you can see what I am talking about. More fun to follow.



## Rainbow Assembly No. 79 Installation of Officers, District 18

The New Year has just started, but Mount Dora Rainbow Assembly No. 79 has had a busy 2013. After travels within the 18th Masonic District for installations, they held their own Installation of Officers in January. Miss Janile Ramos was installed as Worthy Advisor. Janile selected 'The Sky is the Limit' as her theme for the term, based on the Disney movie 'UP' and has chosen Camp Boggy Creek as her service project. They also served the Lake County Shrine Dinner, where Janile presented the gavel talk.



In February, they held their yearly fundraiser, serving breakfast and lunch at the Mount Dora Art Festival. Although it wasn't as busy as previous years the girls still had loads of fun flipping pancakes and serving burgers & hotdogs. They also initiated a new Rainbow Pledge and were very pleased to welcome Emily to their group.

In March, the Rainbow Girls went to DeLeon Springs for some yummy pancakes, canoeing, swimming, burgers and hot dogs. They said, "It was a really nice day and we were pleased that Ocala Assembly was able to join us." Their upcoming events include Obligatory Sunday and bowling on April 7th, a yard sale at Mt. Dora Lodge on April 13th proceeds to benefit our Grand Worthy Advisor's service project, the Rainbow Scholarship Fund, and they will also be working the Shrine Circus on April 27 & 28 selling novelties.

They are anxiously awaiting Grand Assembly in June, celebrating the 'Sweet Side of Rainbow' and are the proud home assembly of Grand Drill Leader, Miss Amber Sode and Grand Representative to Virginia, Iowa, and Minnesota, Miss Janile Ramos. They always love visitors and welcome any Majority Member, Mason, Eastern Star, Amaranth and non-affiliated Wives of Master Masons to their meetings, which are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

In Rainbow Love and Service, Mount Dora Assembly No. 79

## A Blast From The Past

The year was 2011; the Past Masters Club of the Fifth Masonic District hosted the 34th Annual Chitin' Degree in Chipley on March 5, 2011. It is a "fun" Degree that is followed by the Conferral of the Master Mason Degree of Freemasonry.

Each year a "Guest" Team is invited to Confer the Master Mason Degree. In 2011 Carmichael Lodge No. 548 from Enterprise, Alabama, did the honors. The Brothers are shown to the right, dressed in Masonic Tartan kilts.

Before the Ritual Work, the Guests were treated to a fine meal of chitins and venison, with sides of salad, baked beans, iced tea, and dessert. Some there enjoyed the chitins, but all enjoyed both the Chitin Degree and the Master Mason Degree.

The year was 2001; the Officers and Men and Guests all wear "Middleburg Tuxedos" for an Outdoor Degree in Middleburg, FL.



L to R: Bro. Dwight Wilkes, Senior Deacon; Bro. Chuck Barr, Junior Warden; Bro. Hank DeBerry, Senior Warden; Bro. Bob Gagnon, Worshipful Master.



## Masonic Service Association Officially Appointed To National Veterans Advisory Committee

George O. Braatz, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA), has been appointed to represent MSANA on the National Advisory Committee for the U.S. Veterans Administration Voluntary Services.

It will be the first time in many years for a Masonic Representative to serve in an advisory capacity for the VAVS.

Brother Braatz said that during his two-year term he would work to strengthen the relationship between Freemasonry and our Military Veterans. The Masonic Service Association for more than 50 years has administered a Hospital Visitation Programs at virtually all VA medical facilities in the country, as well as at a variety of State Veterans Homes or Military Hospitals.

MSA is one of 57 National Groups – and the only Masonic one – certified by the VA to work in and provide services to our Military Veterans in VA Facilities.

MSA coordinates about 184 certified Coordinators and Hospital Representatives in the U.S., plus works with more than 1,000 other Masonic Volunteers who assist at VA Hospital and medical centers.

Brother Braatz is a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

For more information, contact: Masonic Service Association of North America,  
8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD, 20910-4785  
301-588-4010 or [www.msana.com](http://www.msana.com)

## Rusty Nail Degree - District 16

The Rusty Nail Degree was Presented at the District 16 School of Instruction on January 26, 2013, at 9:00 am, R.:H.: Eli Ellich was delighted that we preformed the Rusty Nail. We had the honor and privilege to have 23 Brothers in attendance.

The Degree started promptly at 9:00 am and was completed by 10:15 am. Introductions were made, and our District Instructor R.:H.: Eli Ellich presented the candidates with their Rusty Nail Degree card. After several comments the Worshipful Master proceeded to close the Order of the Rusty Nail. The Order of the Rusty Nail was closed at 10:30 am in peace, love, and harmony.



Rusty Nail Team:

W.:M.: Tommy Turlington	S.S.Charles Calabritto
S.:W.: Howard Chase	P.M J.S.Al Woodstock
J.:W.:Edgar Ortiz	Chaplain, Jay Rogers
S.:D.: Ed Slauson	Lecturer, Sam Guarneri
J.D. Patrick X. Velasquez	Tyler, Donald E. Needham

## Cub Scout Pack 545 Visits Pine Hill Lodge No. 9

### Union County Times Newspaper, Brooker, FL

For Youth Month, Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, were entertained by Cub Scout Pac 545. Pack Leader Jay Schrom of Brooker, arrived at the Lodge with seven adults and ten Cub Scouts to share supper and entertain the Lodge Members with several skits.

The Lodge's Junior Warden, Murray Eugene Bertine, organized a great meal consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, baked beans, and chili which was enjoyed in the Lodge Dining Room.

Following supper, the Lodge Members and guests went upstairs to the Lodge Room to enjoy several skits the Cub Scouts had prepared. Schrom said his main goal in this gathering was to provide the scouts with an environment where their performance would increase their confidence level when speaking/acting in front of people they did not know. Based upon the feedback, most believe, this goal was met.

The Cub Scout activity was a first for Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, and the second event in the past four months where many young people and their parents have been guests of the Lodge. The first event was an awards banquet for six Brooker Elementary School Winners of the "Why I Love America" contest. Pine Hill Lodge Members believe they had a wonderful Youth Month.

Ted Barber, Lodge Secretary, provided the Cub Scouts with some history of Pine Hill Lodge prior to the presentation of their skits to include the origin of the Lodge's Name – the name first given to Brooker was "The Pine Hill Settlement." He told the guests that William Frances Malphurs was the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge in the year ending 1881 (the year the Lodge was Chartered). William Malphurs later was installed Grand Chaplin of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida for seven years (1894-1900). The Lodge Building was reconstructed in its present location and the original lumber dates back at least 132 years (the number of years Pine Hill Lodge has been in existence).

Recent renovation work on the Lodge includes lifting the west end of the building 9-1/2 inches with railroad ties as replacement sills to re-level the floor. A wheelchair ramp and chair lift to the second floor allow older Members to attend Lodge Meetings and an outdoor place behind the Lodge to have cookouts and socialize. Pine Hill Lodge has a long and interesting history as part of the town of Brooker.

## Fun Day Special Olympics of Marion County

Marion-Dunn Freemason Lodge No. 19 hosted a "special" event for Members of the Community of Marion County.

On Saturday, March 3, 2013, Marion-Dunn Masonic Lodge No. 19 hosted the very first "Fun Day" for athletes of "Special Olympics of Marion County" and their families. During a beautiful, sunny day in Central Florida, many Members of Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19, their supportive Family Members, and Members of the DeMolay Youth Group helped out at this wonderful outdoor event.



L to R: Lodge Members Tracy Martin Pick, and Danny Snellgrove as they prepared the grilled chicken lunches.

## Masonic Districts No. 1 & No. 2 Offer Child ID Program At Local Health Fare

On Saturday, February 2nd, Workman Middle School in Pensacola, Florida, was host to a Neighborhood Health Fare. The Health Fare included booths from many organizations including the American Red Cross, The Northwest Florida Blood Bank, and various healthy eating healthy living advocates. The Florida Masons of the 1st and 2nd Masonic Districts were invited to attend and were able to offer the Child I.D. Program to children attending the event.



Providing the program were Tony Warrington, Master of Escambia Lodge No. 15; Rainbow Girl Brittany, from Marvelous Assembly No. 101; Jane Denard, Member of Florida Chapter No. 9, OES; Lynn Aultman Member of Florida Chapter No. 9, OES; Harry Lowe, Member of Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352; Debbie Whiteman, Assistant Mother Advisor Marvelous No. 101; Bruce Fortner, P.D.D.G.M.; Scott Bray, Member of Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352; Robert Denard, Member of Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352; and Larry Buck Member of Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352.

## Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 Freemasonry Helping Out The Ocala Community



On November 10, 2012, the 163-year-old Marion-Dunn Freemason Lodge No. 19 prepared, cooked, delivered, and donated enough grilled chicken to serve 213 deserving folks at Brothers Keeper Soup Kitchen. The wonderful flavor of the donated food comes from a special decades-old Masonic Basting

Sauce Recipe (secretly kept by Master Cook Brother Danny Snellgrove).

The Lodge Brothers who gave of their personal time (starting at 4:30 in the morning!!) were: Brother Danny Snellgrove, W.:M.: John Macias, W.: Tracy Pick, W.: Ken Shaw, D.D.G.M. Matt Cummings, W.: Herb Collins, Brother Tom Casey, and Brother Patrick Brunt.

The Brothers Keeper Soup Kitchen can be found here on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Brothers-Keeper-Soup-Kitchen-Ocala-FL/246300521170](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Brothers-Keeper-Soup-Kitchen-Ocala-FL/246300521170)

You can find them on Facebook at: Marion-Dunn Masonic Lodge No. 19.

## Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Welcomes New Master Masons

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, held a Master Mason Degree on April 11th for Brothers Jason Goerz and Dennis Meno. The evening began with a wonderful pork dinner prepared by Junior Warden, Brother Travis Palladeno. Fifty-eight Masons were in attendance for this event and enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and camaraderie.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 was Chartered in 1950 and has been an active force on the Gulf Beaches and throughout Pinellas County since that time. The Lodge has taken part in the Adopt-A-Highway program and cares for sections of Gulf Boulevard on Madeira Beach, as well as the Tom Stewart Causeway. The Lodge also supports many local charities including the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, American Heart Association, PARC, Salvation Army, and many others.

For further information about Gulf Beach Lodge, please visit the Lodge Website at [www.gulfbeachlodge.org](http://www.gulfbeachlodge.org)

*Pictured below:*

*Masons at Gulf Beach Lodge enjoy Master Mason Degree*



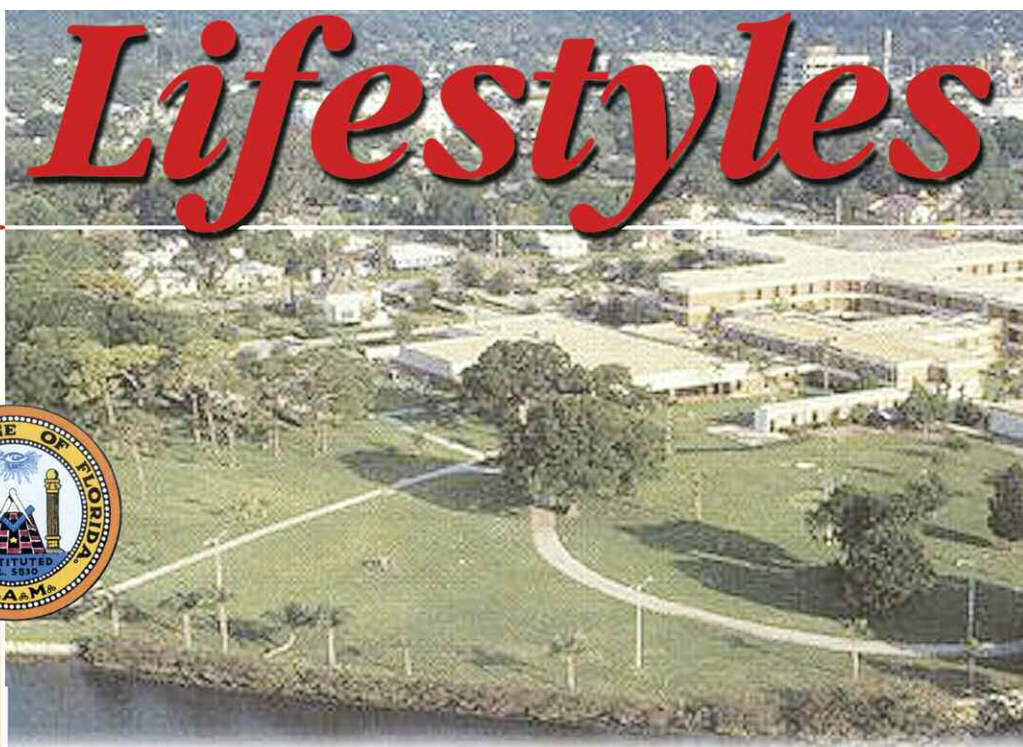


## Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

*On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou*



### Dedication Of Lady Bonnie Aladro's Masonic Home Project



On March 16, 2013, the Residents anxiously awaited the completion and dedication of Bonnie Aladro's Masonic Home Project. Throughout the year, she and Most Worshipful Jorge Aladro, Grand Master, worked on creating a beautiful front porch area to benefit the Residents. Through your generosity, their dream became a reality! Not only is there a beautifully furnished patio with pavers, but also walking paths to assist the Residents with enjoying the great outdoors and a sun porch to take in the Florida sunshine. Well done!







**Grand Lodge of Florida**  
220 North Ocean Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
P.O. Box 1020 • 32201  
Tel: 800.375.2339  
www.gflmason.org

**Grand Lodge Officers**  
2012 - 2013

**GRAND MASTER**  
M.: W.: Jorge L. Aladro  
(Palm Bay)

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**  
R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith  
(Orange Park)

**SENIOR GRAND WARDEN**  
R.: W.: James W. Ford  
(Valrico)

**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**  
R.: W.: Steven P. Boring  
(DeLand)

**GRAND TREASURER**  
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.  
(Orange Park)

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.  
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future  
issues of *The Masonic Lifestyles*  
should be sent to  
Lisa Tsotsos, Toll Free at  
866-868-6749 or E-Mail:  
masonichm@aol.com

Next Issue Deadline:  
**The Florida Mason**  
Vol. 6, Issue 1  
& **Masonic Lifestyles**  
Winter 13  
Submission Date  
October 21, 2013  
Print Date  
December 20, 2013

# Welcome



## From Our Administrator

### Greetings To All,

Since our last issue, there has been lots of activity at our Masonic Home of Florida as you will see from the following articles. Every day we continue to respect tradition and yet make any changes which will further enrich the lives of the wonderful men and women who call this home.

It was great to have our friends from the Grand Court of Florida Order of the Amaranth here in January, 36th Masonic District in February, 25th Masonic District in March, and the list goes on and on.

We also have the privilege of the Members of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 attending the Board of Trustees Meeting every month to recognize the Resident of the Month with a generous gift presented to them. We are proud to announce that the State Officers

of the Florida High Twelve Association recently presented a trophy to William Unrue, President of the Florida Masonic Home High Twelve Club No. 702, our Residents, for being one of the fastest growing clubs in the entire State of Florida.

Pilgrimage Day 2013 was a tremendous success and we appreciate the efforts of all those who participated. We are in awe of the many ways in which Lady Bonnie Aladro's Masonic Home Project has benefited the Residents and overall beauty of the Home. We appreciate all the dedication that she and the Grand Master put into this effort and your generous donations.

We look forward to seeing you once again at the Masonic Home resource and information table at the Grand Lodge Communication. Please stop by and let us know how the Home can better serve you and your fellow Members.

With Gratitude,  
Lisa Tsotsos  
Administrator

## Enjoying Our New Front Porch

The Residents have always enjoyed spending time on their front porch, but even more so now! Lady Bonnie Aladro's Project has brought Residents outside to appreciate the fresh air, sunshine, and good conversation.



clockwise l to r: Ida Mae Lowery, Resident, sponsored by South Miami Lodge No. 308, Marie Sturgeon, Resident, sponsored by Orange Park Lodge No. 267, Elsie Weldy, Resident, sponsored by Composite Lodge No. 293, Lloyd "Mac" McTighe, Resident, sponsored by Middleburg Lodge No. 107.

*Home Sweet Home!*



l to r: Guy D. Wilson, Resident, sponsored by Moore Haven Lodge No. 61, Alyce Kerce, Resident, sponsored by Sanford Lodge No. 62, Marion Rudolph, Resident, Port Tampa Lodge No. 153, Guy Wilson, Resident, sponsored by Moore Haven Lodge No. 61

## Sharing The Month Of December With Our Friends

It must be December because these special groups of special people never forget to take some time to celebrate the holiday season with the Residents of the Masonic Home. Year after year, the 33rd Masonic District puts love and effort into hosting an amazing party. Bahia Chapter Order of the DeMolay generously donates beautiful wall clocks to enhance the Home. The Grand Lodge of Florida Ladies put together a holiday program for the Residents in which the laughter can be heard all the way down the hallways. Venice Lodge No. 301 works along with the Home to ensure no Resident without Family Members, Local or otherwise, goes without a visit and becomes a Member of their Venice Lodge Family. And of course, it would not be Christmas morning without a visit from the wonderful clowns from Egypt Shriners, Tampa.





## Marston Lodge Is Music To Our Ears

Every year, Marston Lodge No. 49, District 15, sponsors a trip for the North Marion High School Jazz Band to entertain the Residents at the Masonic Home. These students arrive on a chartered bus and put their heart and soul into their performance.

This wonderful event brings joy to the Residents and we appreciate Marston Lodge making this event possible. Thank you!



## Pet-A-Pet Program

The Pet-A-Pet Program has been bringing happiness to the Residents of the Masonic Home for many years. Polly Dodson, Resident, sponsored by Temple Terrace Lodge

No. 330, on right, clearly is enjoying a visit from "Hanzie".



## 36th Masonic District Are Always Our Sweet Valentines

On February 9, 2013, the 36th Masonic District threw another great Valentine's Day party for the Residents. We look forward to this annual tradition and appreciate all they do to be sure everyone has a Valentine!

*right: Once a King, always a King... Most Worshipful Joseph Shurette, Past Grand Master 1988, sponsored by Oleeta-West Dade Lodge No. 145, was selected as King by his fellow Residents. Looking good Most Worshipful!*



*Henry and Edna Pierce, Residents, sponsored by Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, were also selected by fellow Residents to serve as King and Queen. Excellent choice!*

## 36 Years Of Service And Counting...

These two wonderful people have each served the Residents of the Masonic Home for over 36 years! Clearly, they were "very, very, young" when they began their careers here and they are more appreciated by the year! Thank you for all you have done to enhance our lives Fran Bergin, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Charles Walker, Certified Nursing Assistant and Transporter "Extraordinaire" for doing such a "marvelous" job!



## Helping Hands Helping Others



A group of Residents volunteer their time and talents as the Helping Hands. Projects recently completed include making decorative snack bags to donate to families at the Ronald McDonald House and making personalized pillow cases for the men and women in the United States Navy who are

stationed on ships and carriers through Molly's Adopt A Sailor. Thanks Residents - we are proud of you!

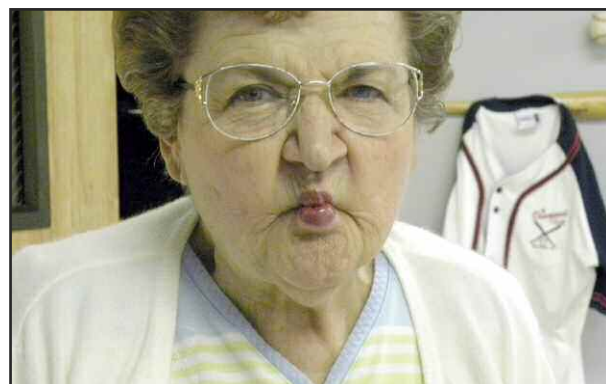
*L to R, back row: Alyce Kerce, sponsored by Sanford Lodge No. 62, Alice Gates, sponsored by Community Lodge No. 292*

*L to R, front row: Ida Mae Lowery, sponsored by South Miami Lodge No. 308, Carmela Bloodgood, sponsored by Tarpon Lodge No. 12, Virginia "Ginny" Haug, sponsored by Phoenix Lodge No. 346, Frances Dillashaw, sponsored by Nitram Lodge No. 188, Ruth Settle, sponsored by Sarasota Lodge No. 147*

## How Could You Not Love This Face?



Our Residents will go to great lengths to make us smile, as you can see here. Lola Billberry, Resident, sponsored by Royal Palm Lodge No. 100, and Mother of Jim Billberry, outstanding supporter of the Masonic Home with his continuous kind words, does her very best "kissing fish" imitation. We adore you Lola!





## We Get By With Some Help From Our Friends



Any time there is a special need or event at the Masonic Home, you will find our dedicated friends, Burt and Cecilia Brim. Pilgrimage Day 2013 was no exception as seen here with Lisa Tsotsos, Administrator.

Thank you Burt and Cecilia Brim for always being there to support your friends!

## Masonic Home of Florida Wish List

The Masonic Home of Florida would like to thank all of you who have made contributions to this wish list in the past year. Through your generosity we have received many items.

*We can still use the following:*

- **REFINISHING OF 20 CHAIRS IN RESIDENTS' KITCHENETTES**  
*Approximately \$105 per chair*
- **NEW SILK TREES FOR RESIDENT LOBBY AREAS**  
*Approximate cost \$200*
- **NEW WALL ART FOR LOBBIES AND HALLWAYS**  
*Approximate cost \$100*



## 25th Masonic District Easter Bunnies Were Here



Masonic Home Residents, including Marilyn DeFrenn, sponsored by Lehigh Acres Lodge No. 344, (left), received a visit from the Easter Bunnies of the 25th Masonic District and they brought lots of treats! Thanks to all those who make this annual celebration so meaningful.

Resident Frank Allbright (right), sponsored by Palm Bay Lodge No. 397, also received goodies from the Easter Bunny. By the way, he will be celebrating his 100th birthday on July 9th. Please accept our early happy birthday wishes Frank!



Check it Out!

## We Are Pleased To Offer An **OUTREACH** Program & **WEBSITE** Serving Members Throughout Florida!

Whether you have a need for Residential Services on our St. Petersburg campus, or in your local Community, please call the Masonic Home of Florida toll free at (866) 868-6749 or go to [www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org](http://www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org) for assistance with aging services.

Masonic Lifestyles is a complimentary semi-annual newsletter produced by the Masonic Home of Florida and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Florida. Story requests, comments or suggestions for future issues may be e-mailed directly to: [masonichm@aol.com](mailto:masonichm@aol.com) or mailed to: Masonic Home of Florida, Attention: Lisa Tsotsos • 3201 1st Street NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home cordially invite you to attend monthly meetings at the Masonic Home, 11:00 A.M. in the Board Room.

Chapel Service starts at 10:00 A.M.

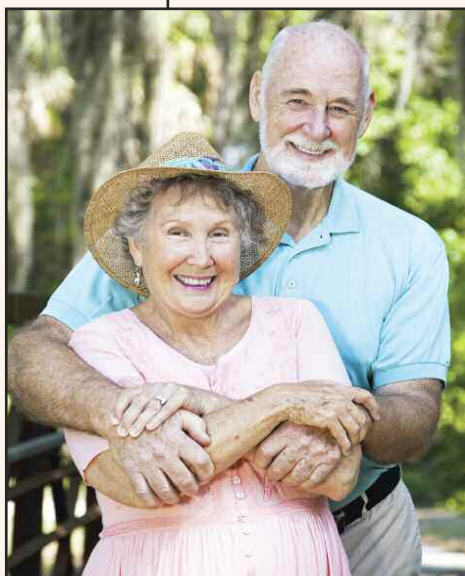
June 16, July 21, August 18, September 22, October 20, November 17, December 15

## ADMISSION PLANS

### Life Care Plan

This traditional plan is available to any Master Mason who becomes a Member of a Florida Lodge prior to the age of 70. He must be a Member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for at least ten years and continually for the last three. The wife or widow of a Master Mason is eligible for residency based on his Membership. Contact your Lodge or the Masonic Home for an application. Upon completion, the application is signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary. It is then presented to the District Deputy Grand Master for review. The application is then forwarded to the Admissions Committee, Board of Trustees, and Grand Master for final approval. This process takes approximately 30-60 days. Dual Members are also eligible.

Under the Life Care Plan, assets owned by the Resident such as property, bank accounts, stocks, social security, pensions, etc., are deposited with the Masonic Home. These assets are then converted to cash to establish a Resident Maintenance Account. Each month, this account is debited to cover the cost of care. Residents retain 10% of any liquid assets, initially and subsequently, in excess of \$10,000 for personal use. When assets are exhausted, the Masonic Home continues to provide care throughout the lifetime of the Resident regardless of his/her ability to pay.



### Pay As You Go (Private Pay)\*\*

In May of 2005, the Grand Lodge of Florida approved Private Pay admissions for Florida and non-Florida Masons. This plan provides an opportunity for Florida and non-Florida Master Masons and their wives, widows and mothers to retain control of their assets while enjoying all the Masonic Home has to offer. Residents pay a three month deposit and \$3,650\* monthly for Assisted Living and \$6,083\* monthly for Skilled Nursing care. Most fees and services are included except medication. For couples entering the Masonic Home, the first person pays this monthly fee and the second person fee is \$1,800\* monthly. Applicants for Pay As You Go should get in touch with the Masonic Home directly to begin the admission process which can take as little as one week for approval.

\*\*Please Note that effective June 2012, Women who are qualified Members of the Order of the Eastern Star are now eligible to apply for the "Pay As You Go" Plan.

\*Rates subject to change.



# MMRL Selected to Receive Regional Economic Development Grant Funds



Utica, N.Y. –

The Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) recently established a pioneering Organ Bioengineering Program that was selected as a Priority Project by the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (REDC). The REDC is part of a new program supported by funds from Empire State Development of New York State which has been enthusiastically endorsed by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The \$300,000 matching grant received by the MMRL is part of an overall strategy to jumpstart and create jobs in the

Mohawk Valley and NYS. "This grant opportunity will enable us to foster global collaborations among scientists and physicians and attract additional science, technology and engineering talent to the Mohawk Valley, creating a more technically-competent future workforce in our region," said MMRL executive director and principal investigator of the grant, Dr. Charles Antzelevitch. Organ bioengineering will enhance and complement the ongoing research studies of the MMRL's Stem Cell Center. Using a healthy donated heart, scientists are seeking an effective and efficient means to remove all heart muscle and tissue from the donor organ leaving only intact collagen framework on which to introduce mesenchymal or induced pluripotent stem cells generated from the patient's own tissue, thus resulting in a genetically compatible cloned heart.

The complex process involves removal of all cells from cadaver hearts, thus generating a collagen scaffold. The patient's skin cells are then isolated and reprogrammed to generate stem cells, which are introduced into the collagen scaffold framework to grow a new functioning heart. The goal of organ bioengineering is to have the ability to clone a heart or any human body organ and not have the recipient's body reject the cloned transplanted organ. The ability to use one's own tissues to create the organ eliminates the need for life-long and dangerous immunosuppressant therapies. This technology will not be available for many years, but the technology now in its infancy is rapidly advancing.

According to Antzelevitch, "The MMRL continues to remain at the forefront of research into heart disease on many fronts. This REDC grant allows us to explore a new potential treatment for patients with irreversible heart damage. This field has the potential to change the face of science and medicine as we know it today! With the continued support of the New York State REDC and similar grant initiatives, the MMRL will continue to bring hope that this type of research can provide the treatments and cures of tomorrow for those afflicted with diseases for which no cure is currently available."

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently announced the funding decisions for Round 2 of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative. The Mohawk Valley REDC was awarded \$59.7 million for 70 projects. "For the second year in a row, the Regional

Councils have been on the forefront of rebuilding New York State's economy," Governor Cuomo said in a press release from his office. "For too many years, top-down economic development policies have failed communities across the state and not truly invested in the unique resources and strengths of each of New York's regions. The strategic plans created during this process have given each region a comprehensive, locally created plan for future economic growth. With this second round of Regional Economic Development Council awards, the state is recognizing the creativity and innovation of each strategic plan, while investing hundreds of millions of dollars to put New Yorkers back to work and to rebuild our economy."

Founded in 1958, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) has gained international renown and wide acclaim in the scientific and medical community as a leading cardiac research center. The hallmark of the institute is its innovative and imaginative approach to fighting heart disease. The MMRL's legacy of scientific breakthroughs has helped to generate new heart medications and develop diagnostic procedures for the management of cardiac arrhythmias, and has aided in the advancement of life-saving technologies. The MMRL is also one of the top genetic screening centers in the world dedicated to helping families afflicted with sudden death syndromes.

For more information about the MMRL please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) or call (315) 735-2217.

Additional information about the REDC and other funded projects can be found by visiting <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/assets/documents/2012REDCbooklet.pdf> and downloading the entire booklet.

Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director of Development and Communications  
Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and  
Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development and Communications  
2150 Bleecker Street, Utica, N.Y. 13501, (315) 735-2217



## Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 Installs 2013 Officers

Mark Haley, Sr., of Ocala has been elected and installed as Worshipful Master of Ocala's Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19.

Mr. Haley was Installed by John Story, a Past District Masonic Representative. This annual installation of Lodge officers was held on December 20, 2012 at Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19.



### Other Officers include:

- Senior Warden Ron Hardy;
- Junior Warden Ernie Walden;
- Secretary R.:H.: Russ Poehleman;
- Treasurer Jamie Jorgenson;
- Senior Deacon Kyle Moline;
- Junior Deacon Blake Walden;
- Senior Stewart Mike Johnson;
- Junior Stewart Ted Schwimmer;
- Chaplain Dr. Bill Ramsay;
- Tyler Malakie Heathcoe
- Marshall W.: John Macias

## Brother Fleming Enjoys Master Craftsman Study

Article submitted by Herm Cardona, 32°

Ill. B. Jack Fleming, 33°, of Cape Coral, Florida, is not afraid of a challenge. The 97 year-old is the Senior Charter Member of the newly formed Cape Coral Master Craftsman Study Group in Cape Coral.

The group meets on the first Thursday of every month in the library of Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 to go over each exam question collectively. The group's objective is to discuss one exam per meeting without sacrificing quality or cutting corners in the learning experience. The group is currently working on Quiz 4 of the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Course I.

Ill. Bro. Jack is a very active contributor who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. The Members of the group are fortunate to have Brother Jack as a Member and look forward to his continued participation. Bro. Jack is an inspiration to us all!



## Middleburg Lodge No. 107 Raised Four New Master Masons

Middleburg Lodge No. 107, Free and Accepted Masons, Raised four new Master Masons December 15, 2012. Mr. M. E. Clay from Melrose Lodge No. 89 was Raised as a Courtesy Candidate.

Misters R. T. George, P.M. Simkonis, and R. E. Eigenmann are new Master Masons from Middleburg Lodge No. 107. The new Master Masons were advanced by participating in the ancient ritual that has been around for many centuries. This is the same ritual George Washington and many other Presidents went through.

Middleburg Lodge No. 107 is located at the corner of Palmetto and Section Streets and meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. One of the services provided by the Masons of the Thirteenth District is Child ID. We have the latest equipment designed for the Amber Alert system and provide the service at no charge to the public.



## Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Supports the Arthritis Foundation, Madeira Beach, FL



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located at 14020 Marguerite Drive in Madeira Beach, recently supported the Arthritis Foundation through their Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis Campaign. Gulf Beach Lodge made a monetary donation in an effort to help, aid and assist this worthy program. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is proud to be a part of this fundraising opportunity and encourages other organizations and individuals to do the same.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge was Chartered in 1950 and has been an active presence on the Gulf Beaches since that time. For years the Masonic Lodge has been a part of the Adopt-A-Highway Program and takes care of the periodic clean up of portions of Gulf Blvd. and the Tom Stewart Causeway. The Lodge is a strong supporter of many charitable organizations such as the American Heart Association, PARC, the American Lung Association, the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, and many others.





## Brooker Elementary School And Pine Hill Lodge Partnered



Both Brooker Elementary School and Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 want the community to know them better and to assist in providing a learning environment for the children. The School's Principal, Mrs. Deborah Parmenter, is focused on making Brooker Elementary School the very best learning institution for the children and increasing community involvement to assist in attaining this goal. Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 is a partner in this worthwhile endeavor. This year, Pine Hill Lodge has helped with the "Back to School" event held in August; assisted with the Fall Festival in October; provided a volunteer to read to classes on a weekly basis; provided a School Advisory Council Member and sponsored the "Why I Love America" contest this Fall. The Lodge's Master this year, Ted Barber, believes this partnership provides a "win-win" environment for both Brooker Elementary School and Pine Hill Lodge No. 9.

At the December 18, 2012 Awards Banquet held in Brooker's Pine Hill Lodge, several students, parents, teachers, and administrators enjoyed a meal with many of the Lodge Members. The winners of the "Why I Love America" contest provided the 62 attendees with their thoughts on what went into their winning entries. This exposure to public speaking combined with a good start at learning to be an American Patriot will forever be etched in the children's minds. Each child received a certificate, goody bag, and a monetary reward. Mrs. Parmenter believes that the various student entries can provide a glimpse as to where each child is in their development to handle the FCAT. Hopefully, this patriotic contest will assist the teachers and students in their quest to improve even more next year.

Ted Barber told the guests that Pine Hill Lodge has been part of the local community for 132 years. The Lodge was chartered in 1881 when the community was known as the "Pine Hill Settlement". The lumber for the two story building was originally in a building in the vicinity of the old Brooker Railroad Station. The original building was disassembled and the lumber transported up the hill to its present location where it served the Brooker community for many years as a community center with the Lodge being located on the second floor. Recently, the building has undergone some extensive renovation that should allow it to serve Brooker for another 132 years.

### The winners of the, "Why I Love America" Contest: Grades K-1:

1st Place- Raquel Carrasquillo - Mrs. Guggenheimer's KG class  
2nd Place- Dayle Shaffer-Jenkins - Mrs. Jethro's 1st grade class

### Grades 2-3

1st Place- Dustin Hoyer - Mrs. Mott's 2nd grade class  
2nd Place- Michael Byrd - Mrs. Mott's 2nd grade class

### Grades 4-5

1st Place- Gabe Cook - Mrs. Palmer's 5th grade class  
2nd Place- Maddy Ratzmann - Mrs. Findley's 4th grade class

## Lodge No. 291 Brings Holiday Cheer To Local Families

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge brought Holiday cheer to sixteen local families in need. Holiday food baskets were prepared and delivered for Thanksgiving and Christmas, along with \$100.00 gift cards for holiday toys. Gulf Beach Lodge was pleased to be able to assist in making this a great holiday season for those less fortunate this year.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 was Chartered in 1950 and has been an active force on the Gulf Beaches for 62 years.

Its Members have included bankers, contractors, teachers, Congressmen, soldiers, pharmacists, police, fire fighters, and a myriad of men from all walks of life.

Freemasonry is open to men ages 18 and above and we at Gulf Beach Lodge offer an opportunity to be proactive in the Community as well as to be a part of a Fraternity that dates back hundreds of years.



## Oviedo Masons Show Holiday Spirit Through Donations

December 20, 2012

No child wants to spend the holidays in the hospital, but thanks to the Oviedo Masons, the holidays are a little cheerier for the children at the Florida Hospital For Children.

The Oviedo Masonic Lodge No. 243 recently donated five large boxes of toys as well as a significant amount of money to the Florida Hospital For Children's Walt Disney Pavilion.

"Celebrating the holidays means a lot to the children and families that have to be here, and we simply would not be able to provide

much without help like this from the community," said Lisa Robertson, the Community Donation Coordinator for the hospital, in a release.

This is the eighth year in which the Oviedo Masons have donated to the hospital. This annual tradition began in 2005 when the Oviedo Masons collected money and toys for the hospital from its Members.

For more information on the Oviedo Masons, visit [www.oviedolodge.org](http://www.oviedolodge.org)



## "Once Masonry Is In You, It Never Leaves..."

Submitted by Brother Troy Di Vito



The Brothers of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 (Riverview) in the spirit of Masonic Renewal conducted a special Entered Apprentice Degree for the Masons of Sun City Center. The well-known retirement community is about twenty-five miles south of Tampa. Approximately 19,000 Residents that are 55 years of age or older call Sun City Center their home. The Residents have a strong volunteer spirit and as you might expect include several mature Masons. Many 50 Year Masons and several Illustrious 33rd Degrees are either year-round or seasonal Residents of the Sun City Center Retirement Community.

Sun City Center has several very active Masonic groups including a Scottish Rite Club and Shrine Club. Members must contend with reduced mobility or other infirmities of age and therefore some Brothers haven't been able to attend a regular Lodge Meeting in years. The Masonic passion however is still in their hearts.

These men are not able to get to Lodge, so we brought the Lodge to them! On November 29, 2012 we eagerly packed up our entire Lodge Room, loaded it into a trailer and took the Lodge to Sun City Center. Worshipful Master Hoyt Al Lawson is commended for his initiative to make this unique and special event come to pass. He obtained the necessary dispensation from Most Worshipful Jorge Aladro. W.M. Lawson also surveyed the site and coordinated moving the Lodge Furnishings to the temporary Lodge Room. Prior to this Entered Apprentice Degree, Right Worshipful Bill Love of the Sun City Shrine Club organized and Conducted a Rusty Nail Degree. This ensured that those Brothers who had not been in Lodge in some time were reminded of their Obligation and Reeducated on Aspects of the Degree.

Over fifty Brothers from over twenty Masonic jurisdictions were in attendance when Mr. Victor Bevis received the First Degree in Freemasonry in a temporary Lodge Room erected in the Sun City Recreation Center. For the Brothers of DeSoto it was an honor and a privilege to conduct such an event. The evening was well presented and fully enjoyed by the Sun City Center Brothers. Many commented that they would be back in Lodge soon and were very happy reunited with Masonry.

Senior Deacon Troy Di Vito was the acting Worshipful Master for the Degree. He had the privilege of Conferring this Degree to our new Brother in the presence of such an audience. Troy stated, "It was an absolute honor for me, and it did nothing but secure the fact that once Masonry is in you, it never leaves you." Several Brothers echoed the sentiment, "You have to do this again." The Brothers of DeSoto Lodge had never heard of such an event prior to this special night. To experience the Masonic Tie evident across generations was something the Brothers of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 will cherish. While it was the first time such a Degree was conducted, it definitely will not be the last.

## Veterans And Preschool Benefit From Landmark Lodge Donations



In June, Lodge Members invited the Community and local Veterans to the Lodge for a free barbeque. Besides lunch, Veterans participated in a Flag Ceremony and listened to guest speakers U.S. Rep. John Mica and Rep. Dorothy Hukill who commended them on their service. On Aug. 30, contributions collected at the barbeque were presented to Veterans Community Education Partnership (V-CEP). A separate donation was also presented to Irma Miranda, Director of Preschool at Trinity Christian Academy in Deltona.

Landmark Lodge has held its annual Veterans barbeque fundraiser twice and plans to continue the event.

"We really appreciate the Veterans and we wanted to show how much we appreciate them," said Worshipful Master Kenneth Welker, referring to the barbeque and donation.

In 1981, Worshipful Charles R. McCarthy of St Johns Lodge No. 37 in DeLand saw a need for a Deltona Lodge. He met with Right Worshipful Harvey B. Eddy of the Florida Grand Lodge and they called a meeting to determine interest. Masonic Landmark Lodge was Chartered in 1982, after 81 men attended the meeting. The Lodge currently has 51 Members.



The June barbeque raised \$500 that Welker presented in a check to V-CEP Chairman retired Marine Corps. Major Mick Cotton and Deltona Mayor John Masiarczyk. The money will be used to help fund an expansion on the Veterans Memorial Museum located in Deltona's Veterans Memorial Park. Cotten said the expansion plan includes a Meeting and storage room.

"It's a great cause. We like to support our Veterans," said Welker.

Other fundraising activities allowed Landmark Lodge to donate \$100 and school supplies to Trinity Christian Academy's Preschool. The preschool building burned down in July during a lightning storm. Miranda said \$70,000 worth of learning supplies were destroyed in the fire.

"We pick a charity to contribute to every few months," said Welker.

Trinity's Preschool was selected by Lodge Members who saw an opportunity to help. Miranda said the much appreciated contribution will be used to purchase blocks and puzzles for students.



## Cardiac Research Lives In The Hearts Of Everyone

The Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) continues to expand its base of support among grand jurisdictions and every New York State Freemason should be proud of what it has founded and continues to support. Since 1958, the MMRL has flourished into an internationally renowned state-of-the-art biomedical research institute, highly respected and admired by the scientific and medical community worldwide. We are unique in being the only such institute founded and supported by Freemasonry.

In 1994, the Cardiac Research Institute began to receive support from the Grand Lodge of Florida which continues today. We are proud to say that the Grand Lodges of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maryland have joined the ranks with the Grand Chapter State of New York and Florida, RAM. There are also numerous Masonic organizations, foundations, corporations and individuals across the globe that support our heart research.

Every Freemason, including those in New York, can take great pride in what the MMRL has been able to accomplish in the name of Freemasonry. Medical research can appear to be an intangible item to most until it is needed. What Institutes, like ours, accomplish at the bench through innovative research provides the knowledge, skills and equipment that allows physicians to save lives when called upon. Medical research benefits all and for generations to come. In essence, medical research has a rich legacy of treatments and cures that benefits humanity forever.

Everyone knows someone who has been touched by heart disease. It can strike anyone, at anytime, at any age. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of men and women in the United States. Heart disease accounts for 38% of all deaths. Seventy million Americans are afflicted with heart disease. One and half million Americans experience a heart attack every year. One third or a half a million Americans die soon after, in most cases due to a cardiac arrhythmia or irregular heart-beat. Cardiac arrhythmia are responsible for more deaths than cancer or any other mechanism of disease combined!

MMRL programs and fundraisers can enhance the visibility of Freemasonry in a most positive light with the public and at the same time add a new dimension to Membership development that no other Masonic charity can match. Florida, Connecticut and Massachusetts and most recently Maryland have embraced the MMRL. We will continue to strive to position the MMRL as a national Masonic charity with our Blue Lodges. We invite you to visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) to learn more, sign up for our e-newsletter or to request a DVD, presentation and literature.

Millions, yes millions of lives, worldwide have been saved or quality of life improved thanks to research that has emanated from laboratories like the MMRL. The board of directors and staff are deeply indebted to all who have supported us in the past and invite you to join our growing family of friends if you have not done so already. As partners in our research, you can have a direct role in improving your future health as well as that of your loved ones and friends. You should know that 84 cents of every dollar received is dedicated to our cardiac research. The MMRL is in the business of saving lives. We are changing the face of medicine. We believe that every heartbeat counts™! Your gift or bequest to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory can leave an invaluable legacy to those afflicted with heart disease, the gift of life.

Ralph Bunche, academic, diplomat and Nobel Peace Prize recipient said, "Hearts are the strongest when they beat in response to noble ideals." Brethren, we have the collective power to make a world of difference in the name of Freemasonry. Make your mark today!



## Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 Installs New Officers



(top) 2013 Lodge Officers  
2013 Installing Officers  
(bottom) L to R: Derryl O'Neal, Joe Finocchiaro, Fernando Salazar, John Anthony, Howard Knapp, Don Harriott



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 held its 63rd Annual Installation of Lodge Officers recently at the Masonic Temple. The Installation of the 2013 Lodge Officers was open to the Members and public alike.

The New Lodge Officers for 2013 are:

John Anthony, Worshipful Master;  
Michael Pagnotta, Senior Warden;  
Travis Palladeno, Junior Warden;  
Howard Knapp, Secretary;  
David Webster, Treasurer;  
Steve Nelson, Senior Deacon;  
Brian Book, Junior Deacon;  
Steve Fetherman, Senior Steward;  
Oscar Salazar, Junior Steward;  
Allen Godfrey, Chaplain;  
Mike Milner, Assistant Chaplain;  
Carl Moore, Marshal;  
Tom Doty, Tyler;  
Ed Pinkham, Musician;  
Mitch Kiger & Mark Gallagher, Conductors

The Installation was led by Right Worshipful Howard W. Knapp, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 21st Masonic District assisted by Past Masters Derryl B. O'Neal, Installing Marshal; Donald T. Harriott Installing Chaplain and Joseph R. Finocchiaro, Installing Musician.

## Ornan Lodge No. 117 Donates \$800.00 To Local Scouts

The Members of Ornan Masonic Lodge held a Spaghetti and Meatball Fundraiser for the Cub and Boy Scouts of Bronson Troop and Pack and Williston Troop and Pack on Saturday March 23rd. Over 80 meals were served. The Lodge Brothers also donated a new Bicycle to each Troop as an incentive for the most tickets sold. Each Scout Troop received a check for \$400.00



L to R: Jeremy Fought, Scout Leader William Fought, Carey Cuomo, Bro. Casey Stamper (Committee Chair) Worshipful Master Bill Catsulis, Sam Cuomo Scout Leader, Bro. Jeremy Lee Johnson Scout Leader

## North Port Masonic Lodge No. 406 Installs Officers

Officers of the newly Chartered North Port Masonic Lodge No. 406, F. & A.M., were Installed on December 28, 2012, at Englewood Lodge No. 360, by R.:W.: Barry D. Hart, P.M. of Venice Lodge No. 301.

Officers for the year 2013 are: Worshipful Master: Andrew P. Wormington, P.M., Senior Warden: Michael E. Cullen, P.M., Junior Warden: Michael Tirpak, Treasurer: Tom Millaway, P.P., Secretary: Samuel P. Cohen.

Senior Deacon: Richard McMullen, Junior Deacon: David Wheatcroft, Senior Steward: Michael Short, Junior Steward: Mark Yates, Marshal: James Godshall, P.M., Chaplin: John "Jack" Watson Jr., Asst. Chaplain: Louis Ort P.M., Tyler: John Degnan, P.M., Asst. Tyler: J.D. Copher.

Installing Officers were: Installing Master: R.:W.: Barry D. Hart, Installing Marshal: R.:W.: Frank Albinson, P.D.D.G.M., Chaplain: R.:W.: Gene Jeffers, P.D.D.G.M., Senior Warden: R.:W.: John Wermann, P.D.D.G.M., Junior Warden: R.:W.: Rodger Craig, P.D.D.G.M., Senior Deacon: Gary "Rocky" Kearney, P.M., Junior Deacon: Frederick Ellis, P.M.

North Port Masonic Lodge No. 406 meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, at Farley Funeral Home, 5900 S. Biscayne Drive North Port, FL 34287.

For information contact Brother John H. Brophy at 941-426-0743 or [jonhb1996@gmail.com](mailto:jonhb1996@gmail.com).

## New Eagle Scout In Leesburg

Leesburg Lodge No. 58 is proud to sponsor Lake County Troop No. 1 of the Boy Scouts of America. Recently another Scout, Kylor Stumbo, earned his Eagle Scout which was presented to him by Master Mason and Eagle Scout, Brother Dean Sever, past secretary of Leesburg Lodge No. 58.



Top photo R to L: Eagle Scout Kylor Stumbo and Brother Dean Sever, Past Secretary of Leesburg

## Florida DeMolay Institutes Two New Awards

For adults who refer to a Florida DeMolay Chapter five prospects that result in new Members who receive both Degrees of DeMolay: The Purple Shield of Honor. People eligible for the Purple Shield of Honor include: Any Master Mason, Member of any Allied or Appendant Body, or other adult DeMolay supporter who is not currently an Active Member of DeMolay or currently active in the Sweetheart or DeMolay Sorority programs.

Referring prospects is easy! Just give a DeMolay Advisor or Member the name, parents names, and contact information of a boy age twelve through twenty. At the close of the year, each Florida DeMolay Chapter that reaches their Annual Membership goal and achieves positive growth as well may select the one Advisor most responsible for assisting the Active DeMolays in reaching their Membership Goal.

This Advisor will be awarded the Gold Shield of Honor. Our annual goal is currently set as six new Members per Chapter. Therefore, the minimum for this award is six new Members; however if the Chapter loses six or more Members in a year a greater number of new Members will be needed to qualify for this award in that year.

In the case of both awards, all paperwork must be correctly filed with DeMolay International and properly recorded in DeMolay International records before the award will be granted. For the Purple Shield of Honor, local DeMolay Chapters will need to keep records of referrals, and submit application paperwork to the Florida DeMolay Director of Membership.





## Fable of the Hedgehog

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The Hedgehogs, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.

After a while, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth.

Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

The moral of the story is: Just learn to live and let live!



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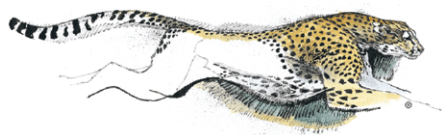
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### Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

The Florida Masonic Child ID Program is attempting to establish uniform policies and procedures across the state, making the program a cornerstone of Florida Masonic activity.

To this end, we need your financial support. Please make your 501(c)(3) tax deductible donation to this important and worthy program, in any amount your cable-tow will permit. Checks should be made out to Masonic Charities, Inc. with the words "Child ID" on the memo line, and can be sent to:

Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.  
P.O.Box 1020  
Jacksonville, FL 32201



## Salvation Army Angel Tree Program



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, took part in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program at Tyrone Mall. The Angel Tree Program is designed to get holiday gifts to needy children in the Community. Over twenty Members of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge took turns to man the Angel Tree Booth at the Mall on

December 8th. It was a very moving experience for the Masons to see how the Community comes together to bring joy to the hearts of children this time of year. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is appreciative of the Salvation Army for allowing them to take part in this worthy program.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 was Chartered in 1950 and has been an active force on the Gulf Beaches for 60 years. Its Members have included bankers, contractors, teachers, Congressmen, soldiers, pharmacists, police, fire fighters, and a myriad of men from all walks of life.

## 184th Annual Grand Communication

The Grand Lodge Communications is of great importance to our Fraternity. It affords us the opportunity to gather together, to renew old relationships and foster new ones and most importantly, gives us the forum to discuss, debate, and shape the future of our Grand Lodge and Freemasonry in this jurisdiction and perhaps influence the Masonic policies and proceedings elsewhere within the Fraternity.

The 184th Annual Grand Communication will be held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando beginning on Saturday May 25th and concluding on May 29th, 2013. Please check the schedule for dates and times of various events.

It is also that time of year when the Grand Lodge Staff and Grand Secretary prepare for the upcoming Annual Grand Communication; with all the preparations, they are available to provide speedy and accurate services to Florida Lodges and Grand Lodge Officers.

Our dedicated Grand Lodge Staff is committed to serve you, the Particular Lodges and our Elected Grand Lodge Officers. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary will be conducting Lodge Secretary and Treasurer Workshops in the various Zones. Advanced questions and comments are welcomed while they prepare the contents of these meetings.

Please do not hesitate to call or email the Grand Lodge Office with your problems, cares and concerns. They serve at the will and pleasure of the Craft. Therefore, they wish to optimize our resources to meet your needs and answer your requests.

Our Annual Grand Lodge Communication is almost upon us and a new Grand Lodge Year will begin. This is always an exciting time of the year in our Fraternity when new programs are presented, new charities named, and new goals set, with many dedicated Brothers around the State working hard to make these goals a reality.

This is also an exciting time in our Fraternity as we are seeing an increase of Membership in most of our Particular Lodges. Many of the other Grand Jurisdictions in the United States are reporting an influx of new Members as well, telling us that Masonry is alive and well and on the move. What a great time to be a Member of the oldest and largest Fraternal Organization in the world.

### Schedule Of Events

**Sunday - May 26, 2013**

Registration

Demolay Advisors Development Course

Church Service • Memorial Service (*immediately after Church Service*)

P.D.D.G.M. Association • Florida Lodge of Research

Grand Master's Banquet

**Monday - May 27, 2013**

Registration

Opening of 184th Annual Grand Communication

Open Session (afternoon)

Elections Of The 2013-2014 Grand Lodge Officers

Actual Past Masters Degree • 5:30 P.M.



**Tuesday - May 28, 2013**

Registration

Continue Grand Lodge Session

Ladies Luncheon



**Wednesday - May 29, 2013**

Registration

Continue Grand Lodge Session

Installations of the 2013-2014 Grand Lodge Officers

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## Mistakes And The Value of Human Err

The saying goes "To err is human" and when we err we are reminded we are not perfect. As we work to make our Ashlar more perfect and to become better men, we make mistakes. Error is a vital part of how we learn to change and when we recognize how we think and feel about our mistakes, we learn more about who we really are.

It's not always easy to admit we have made a mistake and easier to blame others, rationalize or deny it. When we recognize we have done something wrong, some of us are critical of ourselves. If we are publicly corrected, reprimanded, downsized or embarrassed, most of us are hurt. However, when we are told we did something wrong, it does not have to diminish us.

When we make mistakes, we need to have the self-confidence to admit to them, take responsibility for them and not shrug them off. When we err, we can learn to forgive ourselves and use the opportunity to learn and grow. We can be courageous about making changes and resilient and remember to appreciate what we do between successes and errors.

As we learn to practice acceptance for and grow from our mistakes, we can help our Brothers and our loved ones see it is okay to err and to take responsibility for their mistakes. When a Brother or family Member or friend makes a mistake, we can model being slow to anger, kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. We also need to give ourselves permission to do the same to ourselves when we err.

In *Adaptation to Life*, George E. Vaillant, a psychiatrist, wrote, "It's all too common for caterpillars to become butterflies and then maintain that in their youth they had been little butterflies" (Harvard University Press, 1988, p. 197). As Masons when we make mistakes and see ourselves awkwardly stumbling and fumbling like a caterpillar, we need to remember we are on a lifelong journey of self discovery to become a better man and like the butterfly are capable of soaring much higher.

Words to Live By: "All men make mistakes, but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only crime is pride." – Sophocles, in *Antigone*

## MMRL Scientist Wins Award

Ronald Kamp, Director of Development and Communications Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

Dr. Brian Panama, Research Scientist at Cardiac Research Institute of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), was awarded 1st prize in the Gordon K. Moe Young Investigator Award Competition at the 22nd annual meeting of the Upstate New York Cardiac Electrophysiology Society (UNYCES) held at the University of Rochester Medical School in Rochester, NY. Panama's presentation dealt with a new therapy for Brugada syndrome being developed at the MMRL. Brugada syndrome is an inherited cardiac arrhythmia syndrome capable of producing sudden cardiac death in young adults as they enter their third and fourth decades of life.

The annual meeting of UNYCES brought together 90 cardiologists and scientists from Utica, Ithaca, Rochester, Buffalo and Toronto. The meeting provides an opportunity for young scientists and physicians to present the results of their research work, all competing for a the coveted Young Investigator Award named after Dr. Gordon K. Moe, who served as Director of Research of the MMRL in Utica from 1959 to 1984.

According to Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of the MMRL and senior author of the study, "Dr. Panama joined our Experimental Cardiology team in March of this year and very quickly proved himself to be a valuable addition to our very talented scientific team. We are very proud of Brian for winning this award and congratulate him together with the other investigators involved in this study, particularly Dr. Yoshino Minoura, for this stellar recognition."

The Cardiac Research Institute at MMRL has gained international renowned and wide acclaim in the scientific and medical community as a leading cardiac research center. The hallmark of the institute is its innovative and imaginative approach to fighting heart disease. The MMRL's legacy of scientific breakthroughs has helped to generate new heart medications and develop diagnostic procedures for the management of cardiac arrhythmias, and has aided in the advancement of life-saving technologies. The MMRL is also one of the top genetic screening centers in the world dedicated to helping families afflicted with sudden death syndromes.

Please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) for more information or to arrange a tour or presentation.

## Gulf Beach Lodge Raises New Master Mason

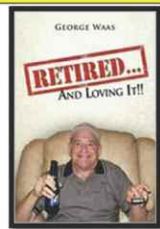
By Howard W.: Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge announces its newest Master Mason. Brother Matthew Butcher was Made a Master Mason at a ceremony held at the Masonic Temple on February 28, 2013, in the presence of sixty-two Members and visiting Masons. Masons from as far away as England and Canada were in attendance as well as Past Grand Master of Masons of the State of Rhode Island, Most Worshipful Kenneth Jenks, eighteen Past Masters, three Past District Deputy Grand Masters and three Sitting Masters. A wonderful dinner was prepared beforehand by Brother Travis Palladeno, Junior Warden, and enjoyed by all.

Gulf Beach Lodge is blessed to have strong attendance at all of its meetings, and this is just an example of some of the great work going on in our humble Temple.



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Help Grand Lodge and enjoy good books written by a Brother!!!

## St. Elizabeth Hospital Honors MMRL With Founders Day Community Award

UTICA –The Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) received the Founder's Day Community Award at the 146th anniversary of St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

A unique collaboration between scientists at the MMRL and cardiologists and surgeons affiliated with the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute (MVHI) at St. Elizabeth Medical Center is serving to advance our knowledge about sudden death syndromes, atrial fibrillation (afib) and the electrical function of enlarged hearts (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy). Tissue samples removed from hearts during surgery, which are normally discarded, for the past several years have been sent to the MMRL for study. MMRL scientists are using these tissue samples to obtain a better understanding of heart disease and to find new treatments for a wide variety of heart conditions.

"As a community, we are extremely fortunate to have an organization such as the MMRL," said Richard Ketcham, President/CEO of St. Elizabeth Medical Center. "The research being done by Dr. Charles Antzelevitch and his team has led to much advancement in the management of cardiac arrhythmias and other causes of heart disease. Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a jewel in our community."

Antzelevitch, who serves as Executive Director and Director of Research of the MMRL, responded that "the MMRL is honored and appreciative beyond measure for this recognition. The longstanding partnership between our organizations serves as an exceptional model of cooperation aimed at accelerating advances in science and medicine, thus enabling and facilitating the development of novel treatments and cures."

The Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory has gained international renown and wide acclaim in the scientific and medical community as a leading cardiac research center. The hallmark of the institute is its innovative and imaginative approach to fighting heart disease. The MMRL's legacy of scientific breakthroughs has helped to generate new heart medications and develop diagnostic procedures for the management of cardiac arrhythmias, and has aided in the advancement of life-saving technologies. The MMRL is also one of the top genetic screening centers in the world dedicated to helping families afflicted with sudden death syndromes.

St. Elizabeth Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital founded on December 12, 1866 by the Sisters of St. Francis. It operates a 201-bed, acute regional hospital with inpatient services, outpatient services and is the Area Trauma Center. The Medical Center consists of the hospital, five regional teaching institutions and 14 community sites. In recent years, community needs have led to a number of collaborations that enable more services to be provided to the people across the Mohawk Valley region. Among these, St. Elizabeth is a part of the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute and the Central New York Diabetes Education Program.

Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development and Communications  
Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director of Development and Communications  
Cardiac Research Institute  
Masonic Medical Research Laboratory  
2150 Blecker Street, Utica, N.Y. 13501, (315) 735-2217



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## Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida



### Grand Master Speaker At U.S. Naturalization Ceremony

*Daily Record, Jacksonville*  
*New citizens and award winners highlighted the annual Law Day celebration Thursday hosted by The Jacksonville Bar Association.*

The annual recognition of the practice of law was established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1958. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

The 2013 theme was "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All" and The JBA's activities Thursday began with a naturalization ceremony at the Bryan Simpson U.S. Courthouse. About 50 new U.S. citizens were sworn in by Senior U.S. District Judge Harvey Schlesinger.

"I want to offer to each of you my personal, and on behalf of our government, sincerest wishes that your life as an American citizen will bring you each all of the happiness and satisfaction in which you seek," said Schlesinger.

Keynote speaker was Most Worshipful Jorge L. Aladro, Grand Master of F. & A. M. of Florida, himself a story of "Realizing the Dream", a successful businessman who has seized the opportunities offered in our great country.

The group of new citizens came from about 25 countries, the largest group comprising four from Ukraine.

**"Be A Leader; Make It Happen."**

Also attending the ceremony were judges from Tatarstan, Russia, whom Schlesinger hosted through the GlobalJax Open World Leadership Center. The judges visited Jacksonville from April 20 through Saturday to study the U.S. Justice System.

