

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

NOVEMBER

TRESTLEBOARD



A.:L: 6024

2024 LODGE OFFICERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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SENIOR WARDEN

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SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76

**MEETS IN REGULAR
COMMUNICATION**

**ON THE 2ND AND 4TH
MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

FESTIVEBOARD AT 6:00 PM

LODGE OPENS AT 7:00 PM

**VISITORS: To RSVP, EMAIL
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM**



MSCLD FALL GRADUATION!

THE MASONIC SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (MSCLD) HELD ITS FALL GRADUATION ON OCTOBER 25, MARKING A PROUD MOMENT FOR BOTH THE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE EVENT WAS WELL ATTENDED, WITH MANY MASONS JOINING IN TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS. IT WAS A TIME FOR REFLECTION ON THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE MSCLD COMMUNITY, FROM THE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO THE INSTRUCTORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO MAKE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE.

THE CEREMONY WAS MADE EVEN MORE SPECIAL BY THE PRESENCE OF INSTRUCTOR MARCI EASTERBROOK, WHO TRAVELED FROM CALIFORNIA TO BE PART OF THE EVENT. MARCI'S DEDICATION TO THE STUDENTS WAS EVIDENT AS SHE JOINED THE CELEBRATION, OFFERING HER SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. THE GATHERING UNDERSCORED THE MISSION OF MSCLD AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN HELPING THESE STUDENTS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

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“MORE THAN AN INSTITUTION, MORE THAN A TRADITION, MORE THAN A SOCIETY, MASONRY IS ONE OF THE FORMS OF DIVINE LIFE UPON EARTH.” BRO. JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

GREETINGS BRETHREN,

WELL NOVEMBER IS HERE AND THAT MEANS IT’S TIME FOR A NEW LEADER TO ASSUME THE EAST.

WHEN I FIRST KNOCKED AT THE DOOR OF SANDOVAL LODGE 6 YEARS AGO I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO EXPECT. ALL I KNEW WAS THAT MY FATHER WAS A MASON AND A LOT OF GREAT MEN I ADMIRERD AND RESPECTED WERE MEMBERS OF THE CRAFT AND I WANTED TO BE A PART OF THAT. I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT WAS THAT DREW

THESE MEN TO THIS INSTITUTION. WAS IT THE SECRETS? THE RITUALS? THE ORNATE BUILDINGS? THE HANDSHAKES AND PASSWORDS? WELL FOR ME IT WAS ALL OF THOSE THINGS AND MORE. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR ME WAS THE BROTHERHOOD.

THE FRIENDS AND BRETHREN I HAVE MADE AND MET WILL FOREVER BE PRECIOUS JEWELS IN MY LIFE, AND I HOPE THAT IN MY YEAR IN THE EAST AND MY YEARS IN FREEMASONRY, BRETHREN HAVE FELT MY LOVE AND JOY FOR THE FRATERNITY, AND FOR THE FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE SHARED.

WE HAVE OVERCOME MANY CHALLENGES THIS YEAR. I HAVE MADE MANY MISTAKES. BUT WE HAVE DONE GOOD WORK, MADE SOME OUTSTANDING NEW MASONS, AND RAISED BRETHREN TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE. THAT’S REALLY ALL I COULD ASK FOR IN MY YEAR AND IT WAS ALL MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE YOU BRETHREN HERE AT SANDOVAL LODGE.

SO AS MY STAR DIMS IN THE EAST I WANT TO SAY A PROFOUND THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY BROTHER OUT THERE FOR TRUSTING ME WITH THE HONOR OF BEING THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER THIS YEAR, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR THE LABOR YOU PUT IN THIS YEAR TO MAKE SANDOVAL TRULY A LODGE OF VISION.

**S&F,
WM DAVIN**

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FROM THE WEST

BURX NORROD, SENIOR WARDEN

WHAT A MONTH OF DEGREE PRACTICES AND DEGREE WORK WE'VE HAD AT SANDOVAL LODGE! AS SENIOR WARDEN, I HAVE THE HONOR OF ORGANIZING DEGREE CASTS, AND IT HAS BEEN TRULY INSPIRING TO WITNESS THE DEDICATION OF OUR BROTHERS WHO STEP UP TO TAKE ON RITUAL PARTS. EACH PRACTICE AND DEGREE BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN OUR MEMBERS AS THEY WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CANDIDATES. THE COMMITMENT TO OUR RITUAL IS A TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH AND UNITY OF OUR LODGE.

OUR RITUAL IS WHAT SETS FREEMASONRY APART FROM OTHER FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS; IT IS THE HEART OF OUR TRADITION AND THE CORE OF OUR TEACHINGS. I AM ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BRETHREN WHO TAKE ON PARTS THEY'VE NOT YET DONE BEFORE, CHALLENGING THEMSELVES TO LEARN AND GROW WITHIN THE CRAFT. WHETHER IT'S MEMORIZING A NEW ROLE OR PERFECTING THE DELIVERY OF A LINE, EACH BROTHER CONTRIBUTES TO THE INTEGRITY AND CONTINUITY OF OUR MASONIC WORK, ENSURING THAT EVERY DEGREE UPHOLDS OUR LODGE'S STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN AND WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN OUR MONTHLY MASONIC EDUCATION SESSIONS. THESE SESSIONS ARE INVALUABLE FOR BUILDING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF FREEMASONRY AND ITS SYMBOLS, ENHANCING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF OUR MEMBERS. MASONS WHO ARE WELL-VERSED IN THE CRAFT AND ITS RITUAL WORK STRENGTHEN OUR LODGE, MAKING IT A PLACE OF LEARNING AND GROWTH FOR ALL BROTHERS. BY INVESTING IN MASONIC EDUCATION, WE BUILD A FOUNDATION THAT ENRICHES BOTH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND THE LODGE AS A WHOLE.

I ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER TAKING ON PARTS THEY HAVEN'T DONE BEFORE, WHETHER IN DEGREE WORK OR THROUGH ENGAGEMENT IN OUR EDUCATION SESSIONS. ROLES SUCH AS THE CHARGE, LECTURES, OR ONE OF THE MANY POSITIONS WITHIN THE MASTER MASON DEGREE OFFER VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEEPER CONNECTION WITH THE TEACHINGS OF FREEMASONRY. TOGETHER, WE UPHOLD THE RITUAL THAT CONNECTS US TO CENTURIES OF MASONIC TRADITION, FOSTERING BROTHERHOOD AND ENSURING OUR LODGE REMAINS A UNIQUE AND ENDURING PATH FOR ALL.

SHOULD I BE HONORED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN THE EAST FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR, I INTEND TO PLACE A STRONG FOCUS ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK, ENSURING THAT BOTH ARE CENTRAL TO OUR LODGE'S ACTIVITIES. BY ACTIVELY ENGAGING OUR COMMITTEES, I AIM TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT AND WELL-ORGANIZED LODGE THAT SUPPORTS THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL OUR MEMBERS, CONTINUING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE ME.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR IDEAS ON HOW YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF SANDOVAL LODGE, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO ME AT [BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BurxNorrod@gmail.com)

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HONORING LODGE GROWTH: WELCOMING OUR NEWEST ENTERED APPRENTICE

OCTOBER MARKED AN EXCITING MILESTONE FOR SANDOVAL LODGE AS WE WELCOMED BROTHER NATHANIEL LENKE INTO OUR ANCIENT AND HONORABLE INSTITUTION WITH HIS INITIATION ON OCTOBER 14. THIS ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE WAS A MEANINGFUL MOMENT FOR BOTH BRO. LENKE AND OUR LODGE, REPRESENTING NOT ONLY HIS FIRST STEP IN FREEMASONRY BUT ALSO THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND VITALITY OF OUR BROTHERHOOD.

THE INITIATION OF BRO. LENKE UNDERSCORES OUR LODGE'S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING NEW MEMBERS AND PASSING ON THE VALUES AND TEACHINGS THAT DEFINE OUR CRAFT. WITH EACH NEW BROTHER, OUR FRATERNITY STRENGTHENS, BRINGING FRESH PERSPECTIVES AND A RENEWED DEDICATION TO OUR PRINCIPLES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING BRO. LENKE ON HIS MASONIC JOURNEY AND WATCHING HIM FLOURISH WITHIN OUR RANKS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE ONGOING LEGACY OF SANDOVAL LODGE.



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***OCTOBER 28TH: A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNITY SUPPORT,
AND MASONIC GROWTH AT SANDOVAL LODGE***

OCTOBER 28 WAS A TRULY EVENTFUL EVENING FOR SANDOVAL LODGE, BEGINNING WITH THE TABLETS FOR BIKES DONATION AT THE RIO RANCHO SCHOOL BOARD. THIS MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION OF TABLETS AS READING INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS SET A POSITIVE TONE FOR THE NIGHT, FOLLOWED BY RECEIVING A NEW PETITION, BALLOTING ON AN EXISTING ONE, AND HEARING A FELLOWCRAFT PROFICIENCY. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING WAS RAISING BROTHER LOGAN JEFFERS TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF MASTER MASON, A MILESTONE IN HIS MASONIC JOURNEY.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, BRETHREN GATHERED IN THE SOCIAL HALL FOR LIVELY CONVERSATION THAT EXTENDED WELL PAST MIDNIGHT FOR MANY. CONGRATULATIONS TO BRO. LOGAN JEFFERS ON REACHING THIS SIGNIFICANT POINT IN HIS JOURNEY, AND GRATITUDE TO ALL THE BRETHREN WHO CAME OUT TO SUPPORT HIM. SPECIAL THANKS GO TO WB TYLER MCKENZIE FOR HIS DEDICATED WORK WITH BRO. LOGAN ON HIS PROFICIENCIES, GUIDING HIM ALONG THE WAY AND HELPING HIM ACHIEVE THIS IMPORTANT GOAL IN FREEMASONRY

SALVE, FRATER! /G



****PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICIA MCKENZIE***

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MSCLD Fall Graduation held on October 25!

TO VIEW THE COMPLETE PHOTO ALBUM OF THE FALL GRADUATION AND SEE MORE OF WHAT THE MSCLD IS ALL ABOUT, VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/SANDOVALLODGE76](https://www.facebook.com/SANDOVALLODGE76)

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AN APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL HELP FOR THE MSCLD

THIS MESSAGE IS ON BEHALF OF THE MASONIC SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (MSCLD), A SPECIALIZED SCHOOL DEDICATED TO HELPING CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES UNLOCK THEIR POTENTIAL THROUGH PERSONALIZED EDUCATION AND SUPPORT. AS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT, MSCLD PROVIDES A TAILORED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE, HELPING STUDENTS WHO MAY NOT THRIVE IN TRADITIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS TO SUCCEED BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND PERSONALLY.

PAST POTENTATE NORM RIBBLE AND HIS WIFE DOTTY HAVE BEEN LONG TIME SUPPORTERS OF OUR MASONIC SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES. NORM WAS POTENTATE THE YEAR BALLUT ABYAD SHRINE CELEBRATED ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY. NORM AND DOTTY HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GOOD OUR SCHOOL HAS DONE FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND WANT TO SUPPORT US AGAIN. NORM KNOWS THAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE LODGE AND OF ITS MEMBERS. TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF SANDOVAL LODGE TO PERSONALLY SUPPORT THE SCHOOL, HE HAS OFFERED TO MATCH FUNDS FROM OUR MEMBERS UP TO \$500 EACH. HE WILL DO THIS FOR A TOTAL OF \$4,000. PLEASE SUPPORT MSCLD BY MAKING A DONATION THAT WILL BE SO GENEROUSLY MATCHED.

RECENTLY, MSCLD CELEBRATED ITS FALL GRADUATION ON OCTOBER 25, A MILESTONE ATTENDED BY STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND MASONS ALIKE. THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTED THE STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNDERScoreD THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT MSCLD PLAYS IN THEIR LIVES. THIS CELEBRATION WAS A POWERFUL TESTAMENT TO THE IMPACT OF THE SCHOOL'S MISSION AND THE DEDICATION OF ITS SUPPORTERS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MSCLD AND ITS WORK, PLEASE VISIT THEIR NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.MSCLD.ORG. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS CAUSE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOUR DONATION GENEROUSLY MATCHED BY BROTHER NORM RIBBLE. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN ENSURE THE MSCLD CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THESE STUDENTS.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS MEANINGFUL CAUSE AND HELPING US MAKE A LASTING IMPACT.

Your donations are appreciated!!!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

WWW.MSCLD.ORG

TRESTLEBOARD



WILLIAM "BILL" LEWIS OBITUARY WILLIAM A. LEWIS

WILLIAM A. LEWIS, A LOYAL FIGURE IN BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COMMUNITIES, PASSED AWAY ON OCTOBER 13, 2024, IN LAS VEGAS, NV, AT THE AGE OF 72.

BORN ON NOVEMBER 16, 1951, WILLIAM DEDICATED 30 YEARS OF HIS LIFE TO SERVING IN THE ARMY, RETIRING AS A FIRST SERGEANT. HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE WAS PARALLELED BY HIS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE MASONIC LODGE, WHERE HE FOUND A STRONG SENSE OF FRATERNITY. WILLIAM HAD STRONG BELIEFS IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY AND ACTIVELY VOLUNTEERED WITH THE BOY SCOUTS, SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS, LOCAL FOOD BANKS, AND LOCAL SENIOR CENTERS.

WILLIAM IS LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY HIS DAUGHTER, MICHELLE HALBERG; HIS SON-IN-LAW, MATTHEW HALBERG; GRANDDAUGHTERS, MIRANDA HALBERG AND MADISON CARSON; GRANDSON-IN-LAW, CHARLES CARSON; GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, MADISON, JAXSON, AND SCARLETTE CARSON; AND HIS SISTERS, PENNY PRAPOTNIK AND GAIL SHUNK. HE WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS WIFE, BEVERLY LEWIS.

A CEREMONY TO HONOR WILLIAM'S LIFE AND LEGACY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024 AT VISTA VERDE MEMORIAL PARK IN RIO RANCHO, NM, AT 11:00 AM WITH MILITARY HONORS. HIS LIFE, MARKED BY DEDICATION AND SERVICE, WILL BE COMMEMORATED IN A SETTING BEFITTING HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS.

A MASONIC FUNERAL SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED, ALL BRETHREN ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.



TO VIEW MORE PICTURES OF WB BILL, VISIT
[FACEBOOK.COM/SANDOVALLODGE76](https://www.facebook.com/SANDOVALLODGE76)

SANDOVAL MASONIC LODGE No. 76


TRESTLEBOARD



OCTOBER 2023

Who Is WB Bill Lewis?

In the past month, there has been quite a few messages put on on our google groups email regarding the status of WB Bill Lewis, with brethren doing what they can to help, aide, and assist our Brother. If you're like myself, you'd probably ask yourself - "Who is WB Bill Lewis?"

I took a picture of the picture of WB Bill that is hanging on our wall of Past Masters in the Lodge with that beautiful girl sitting on his lap after having the 'ah-ha' moment in wondering who he is. As a further explanation - I reached out to everyone, and got this bio from  Dan Irick:

A Brief Description of Bill Lewis Life Items Remembered by Dan Irick:

I feel that many of our Lodge members may not have had any close contact with WB Bill Lewis. You should hear my remembrances from years of interaction with this fine man. I will not attempt to give dates and details as I am doing this from memory.

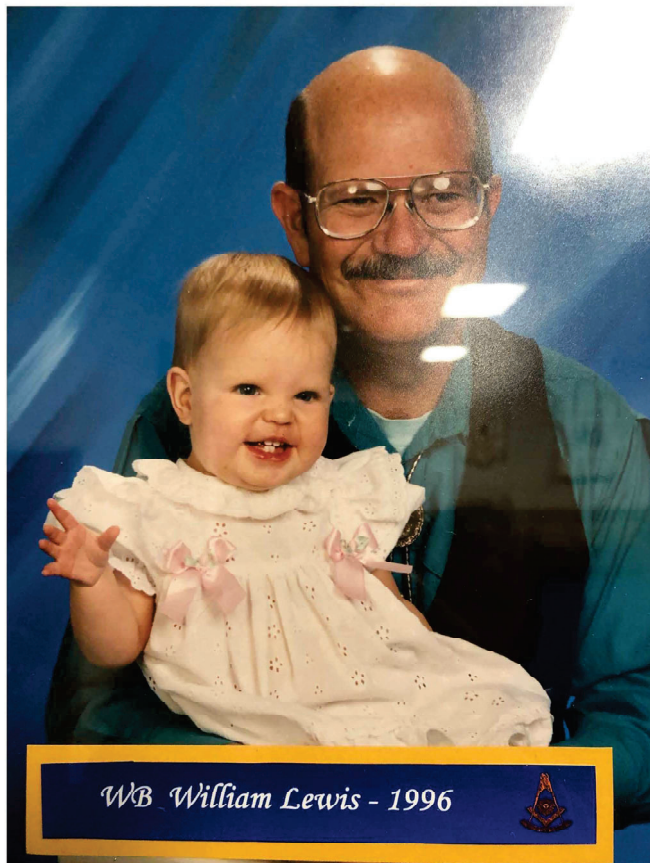
Bill grew up in California where his father was a state policeman. He joined the Army out of high school and went to Vietnam for three tours. His memories of that experience have left him with severe PTSD which has required continuous medication to live with. He was injured several times and still has metal in his body from those wounds. He was badly injured when he parachuted into a tree.

Bill stayed in the Army and worked his way up to Master Sergeant. He became a medic. He has well over 300 parachute jumps in his military experience. In his later years, he was called upon to lead schools around the country for training for which he was an expert.

Bill related a few stories to me:

During the attempted rescue of our hostages at the US Embassy in Iran when the Shah was overthrown in the Islamic revolution, Bill was in the desert where the troops and copters were being staged to carry out the rescue. He said that the dirt caused damage to the helicopters and the mission was terminated. He talked about camping out there for several nights where the only shot taken was at a camel that wandered into their camp.

* Continued on next page *



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(continued from previous page)

During the Iraq War Bill was twenty miles or more into Iraq in a hole where he provided information about troop movements and other intel. If caught, he would have been shot.

Bill could tell some real stories about his many years in the Army.

Bill was the Master of Sandoval Lodge and his picture on the wall has his young granddaughter in his lap. He loved his wife, Beverly, and said that without her, he could not have survived his traumatic memories. They were very close, and we all remember the cakes that she supplied almost every meeting for our enjoyment.

Bill was the Master of Union Lodge No. 4 in Wagon Mound. He loved going to the Lodge there and as well as serving as Master.

Bill was secretary of Sandoval Lodge for many years. He did his job well.

Many years ago I remember seeing Bill jogging along Alameda Road as I drove home from work (before the current bridge when we had only the two-lane bridge). I offered to give him a ride but he refused. He was running home to Rio Rancho from work near San Mateo and I25 and was preparing for his marathon runs.

Just a few memories of a man who served his Country, family, friends, and Lodges.

From *"Items Remembered by Dan Irick"*

A Brief Description of Bill Lewis Life

As the people here will be proud to have him here in his country in

Las Vegas, Nevada. He has God Speed, WJB Bill / G

TRESTLEBOARD



REFLECTIONS FROM THE FRONTLINE: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF VIETNAM, MAY 1969

BY WB EUGENE 'GENE' MORSE

THIS IS AN ACCOUNT OF MAY 11, 1969, IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE, OF PFC EUGENE MORSE, A MEMBER OF THE LIMA COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT BASED AT AN HOA, VIETNAM. THIS WAS THE SECOND TRAUMATIC EVENT OF THE DAY WHICH STARTED WITH THE DEATH AND MEDEVAC OF MY FIRST FIRE TEAM LEADER AND A MEMBER. THE FOLLOWING EVENT WOULD HAPPEN A COUPLE OF HOURS AFTER THE FIRST EVENT WITH MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A POINT MAN FOR A SCOUTING SQUAD. I HAD JUST CROSSED A SMALL WIDE STREAM FOLLOWING A FOOT TRAIL WHEN THE ENCOUNTERED AK-47 FIRE DIRECTED AT ME. I RESPONDED AS I WAS TRAINED TO DO.

MY HELMET WAS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR IN FRONT OF ME AS I WAS PREPARING TO BREAK MY FALL WITH THE BUTT OF MY RIFLE AND ASSUME A PRONE POSITION IN THE DIRECTION OF THE FIRE. BLACK STREAKS WERE EMITTING FROM THE MUSEL OF MY M-16. GRAVEL WAS HITTING MY FACE LONG BEFORE I HIT THE GROUND. MY MAGAZINE WAS NEARLY EMPTY WHEN I LET OFF THE TRIGGER PREPARING FOR THE COLLISION OF MY LANDING. THE VIETCONG SOLDIER WAS ENTRENCHED IN A CLUMP OF BRUSHES. THE AREA BETWEEN HIM AND I WAS NOTHING BUT PATCHES OF FOOT HIGH GRASS. THE LOSS OF MY HELMET WAS NOT AN IDEAL SITUATION. MOST GRUNTS, MY SELF INCLUDED, WERE ABLE TO MENTALLY HIDE EVERYTHING UNDER IT.

THE RIFLE UNABLE TO FIT INSIDE WOULD CLANG ON THE HELMET'S EDGE. UNFORTUNATELY THAT WAS ONLY MENTAL NOT REALITY. THIS ONE SECOND OR LESS JOURNEY WAS TAKING A ETERNITY. IN ONE OF MY SANE MOMENTS AFTER HITTING THE GROUND, I SWITCHED MY M-16 RIFLE FROM AUTOMATIC TO SEMI-AUTOMATIC WHILE CONTINUING TO FIRE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VIETCONG HIDEAWAY. I NEEDED TO KEEP HIM DOWN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW THE PERSONNEL BEHIND ME TO RESPOND. MY NEW FIRE TEAM LEADER WAS 20 METERS OR SO BEHIND ME. AS THINGS SEEM TO BE UNDER CONTROL, I YELLED TO HIM TO SEE IF HE WAS WELL.

HE WAS NOT, HE HAD BEEN HIT SEVERAL TIMES, LUCKILY NOT FATALLY. I HAD NOT BEEN HIT BUT GOD KNOWS, I FELT LIKE I HAD BEEN. IN ONE OF MY BRAVE MOMENTS ON SECOND MAGAZINE, I ROSE TO A KNEELING POSITION TO LEAN INTO THE RIFLE AND PULL THE TRIGGER ONLY TO REALIZE MY MAGAZINE WAS EMPTY. BACK DOWN AGAIN, I FIND A FRESH MAGAZINE IN MY FLACK JACKET POCKET. (I HAD BRAVE AND SUPREMELY SCARED MOMENTS WHEN IT CAME TO MAGAZINES. AFTER I HAD BEEN SHOT AT I WOULD LOAD UP ON SPARE MAGAZINES. AT ONE TIME I CARRIED TEN OF THEM IN CROSSED BANDOLEERS. I ONLY HAD FOUR SPARE MAGAZINES WITH 18 ROUNDS IN EACH.

EXPERIENCE PROVED THAT 20 ROUNDS WEAKENED THE SPRING AND WAS PRONE TO CAUSING JAMS.) I WAS CRAWLING BACKWARD TOWARD EDGE OF A SMALL VALLEY AT THE EDGE OF THE SMALL STREAM. CRAWLING BACKWARD IN THE LOW CRAWL POSITION IS DIFFICULT EXCEPT WHEN YOU ARE UNDER FIRE. I COULD HAVE PLOWED A TRENCH WITH MY BELT BUCKLE. AS I INSERTED MY LAST MAGAZINE, THE VIETCONG SOLDIER BOLTED AND RAN. IT WAS A YOUNG MAN IN HIS TEENS.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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QUICKLY ON MY KNEES, I AIMED SQUARELY ON CENTER OF HIS BACK. AS I WAS ABOUT TO PULL THE TRIGGER, THOSE DAMNED COWBOY MOVIES I WATCHED AS A KID FLASHED IN MY MIND TELLING ME: "GOOD COWBOYS DON'T SHOOT PEOPLE IN THE BACK!" I LET THE LITTLE BASTARD GO. THAT WOULD BE ONE OF MY GOOD, BAD REGRETS. MAYBE IT WAS GOOD I DIDN'T KILL HIM , BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH MY GOOD COWBOY RULES. A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER IN TIME I WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WITHOUT REFLECTION. THERE WAS A COMEDY OF ERRORS OCCURRING BEHIND ME WHILE I WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SMALL WAR IN FRONT OF ME.

THE SQUAD FOLLOWING ME HAD MOVED THE M-60 TEAM FORWARD TO A POSITION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREAM. I HAD ONLY HEARD A FEW ROUNDS OF FIRE AND THEN SILENCE. THE M-60 WAS UNABLE TO FIRE THROUGH THE TEASER BELT (15-20 ROUNDS). A COMMON DEFECT WITH IT WAS THE CHAMBER WHICH MILLED WAS INCORRECTLY ALLOWING THE ROUND TO SWELL. IN THE PROCESS OF EXTRACTING THE BACK OF THE ROUND WOULD SEPARATE AND THE SECOND ROUND WOULD INSERT INTO THE OPEN BACK OF THE FIRST STUCK ROUND. THE VIETCONG TEENAGER WHO FIRED AT ME WAS INEXPERIENCED AND WAS UNABLE TO CONTROL HIS AK-47 CORRECTLY. ALL THIS HAPPENED IN FEW MINUTES THAT FELT LIKE HOURS.

I WAS ONE LUCKY GRUNT. AFTER THE SMOKE CLEARED AND THE AREA WAS SECURED, SOMEONE NOTICED MY FLACK JACKET HAD A CHUNK OF ZIPPER MISSING. FURTHER INSPECTION REVEALED A HOLE THROUGH THE RIGHT BREAST PLATE. I FOUND THE ROUND LATER EMBEDDED IN THE PADDING TO THE REAR OF THE ARMPIT. DUMB ASS ME HAD REMOVED THE LOWER ROW OF PLATES IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE ITS 20 PLUS POUND WEIGHT. AT THE TIME OF THE FIRE FIGHT IT WAS UNZIPPED IN AN EFFORT TO COOL THE SAUNA THAT RESIDED WITH IN IT. THE ONLY INJURIES I HAD WAS BITS OF GRAVEL EMBEDDED IN CORONA OF MY LEFT EYE AND CONTINUAL RINGING IN MY EARS. FORTY YEARS LATER AND IT STILL RINGS. THAT WAS THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK, IT WAS NOT THE LOSS OF HEARING DUE TO THE TWIN 8-INCH GUNS IN AN HOA, OR THE GRENADES OR ARTILLERY BLASTS, BUT THE SEVENTY OR SO ROUNDS I FIRED AT THE KID I DIDN'T KILL.

AS THE SMOKE CLEANED AND EVERYTHING RETURNED TO SANITY, MY NEW FIRE TEAM LEADER AFTER HAVING A CORPSMAN CHECK HIM WAS ON MEDEVAC HELICOPTER HEADED TO DANANG. (I WOULD SEE HIM MANY WEEKS LATER, AFTER I BECAME A S-2 SCOUT. ON THAT OCCASION, ANY WEEKS LATER, I WOULD WITNESS HIM LOSE MENTAL CONTROL AND BE SENT HOME SIDE.) THE COMPANY PREPARED TO MOVE AS WE RETURNED TO THE BASE CAMP. THINGS SEEM TO HAVE CALMED DOWN AS I WAS ASSIGNED TO A NEW FIRE TEAM MY THIRD OF THE DAY. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE FIRE TEAM LEADER'S NAME OR WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



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THAT AFTERNOON THE COMPANY RETRACED THE PATH I HAD BEEN ON IN THE MORNING PAST THE SITE OF THE AMBUSH. WE WOULD TAKE THE LEFT FORK AND MOVE TO A LARGE AREA OF RICE PADDIES. THE COMPANY WOULD SET UP ON A CEMETERY IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE PADDY WITH NO COVER, SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDE BY HEAVY BRUSH 200M OR SO FROM THE SITE (A PERFECT KILL ZONE). WE RECEIVED MASSIVE AK-47 AND MACHINE GUN FIRE. I KEPT LOW IN A HOLE, A SUNKEN GRAVE ON THE TOP OF THE CEMETERY MOUND, FIRING TOWARD THE DIRECTION OF TREE LINE TO OUR WEST.

FROM THIS POSITION I WITNESSED MY SQUAD LEADER, A HISPANIC TEXAN FROM TEXAS CITY, TX, RECEIVED MULTIPLE ROUNDS AS HE STOOD AND FIRED. THE CORPSMAN WAS UNABLE TO STOP THE BLOOD FLOW. ONE OF OUR CORPORALS WHO HAD A TWO OR THREE DAYS LEFT BEFORE RETURNING TO STATESIDE, RECEIVED A ROUND BETWEEN THE EYES. HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO THE COMPANY AREA BECAUSE THE FIRST SERGEANT WOULD PUT HIM ON EVERY SHIT DETAIL UNTIL HE LEFT. HE MADE IT HOME IN A BAG. AFTER THAT LITTLE BATTLE, COUPLE OF CORPSMAN HAD A LINE OF WOUNDED MARINES TO BE MEDEVAC. THE PLATOON CORPSMAN LET ME FLY BACK TO AN HOA. I WAS HAVING DIFFICULTIES SEEING WITH GRAVEL EMBEDDED IN THE MY EYES. I WOULD FLY TO DANANG TO HAVE MY EYES TREATED AND RETURN TO MY COMPANY /G\



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR AN EXPLANATION OF HOW THIS ARTICLE RELATES TO THE LESSONS OF THE CRAFT

TRESTLEBOARD



EDITORS NOTE OF HOW WB EUGENE'S ARTICLE IS RELEVANT TO OUR CRAFT

BY BRO. BURX NORROD

IN WB EUGENE'S ACCOUNT, THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES OF FREEMASONRY—TEMPERANCE, FORTITUDE, PRUDENCE, AND JUSTICE—ARE PROFOUNDLY ECHOED IN HIS ACTIONS, REFLECTIONS, AND EXPERIENCES DURING HIS TIME IN VIETNAM. HIS STORY ILLUSTRATES THESE VIRTUES, BOTH IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE AND IN MOMENTS OF PERSONAL REFLECTION.

TEMPERANCE

THE VIRTUE OF TEMPERANCE, OR SELF-RESTRAINT, IS VIVIDLY DISPLAYED IN EUGENE'S DECISION NOT TO SHOOT THE YOUNG VIETCONG SOLDIER IN THE BACK. IN THE MIDST OF COMBAT, WHERE INSTINCT AND SURVIVAL OFTEN DRIVE SPLIT-SECOND DECISIONS, EUGENE PAUSES, RECALLING A SENSE OF MORAL RESTRAINT INFLUENCED BY "GOOD COWBOY RULES" FROM HIS YOUTH. HIS CHOICE TO HOLD BACK SHOWS REMARKABLE SELF-CONTROL, EMBODYING THE MASONIC LESSON THAT TRUE STRENGTH OFTEN LIES IN GOVERNING ONE'S IMPULSES AND ACTING WITH INTEGRITY, EVEN UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE.

FORTITUDE

FORTITUDE, THE COURAGE TO ENDURE HARDSHIP AND FACE ADVERSITY, IS A CONSTANT PRESENCE IN EUGENE'S NARRATIVE. DESPITE MULTIPLE ENCOUNTERS WITH ENEMY FIRE, PHYSICAL INJURIES, AND THE EMOTIONAL TOLL OF WITNESSING THE LOSS OF COMRADES, HE PERSEVERES. HIS RESILIENCE IS EXEMPLIFIED WHEN HE CONTINUES TO PRESS ON, EVEN AFTER NARROWLY ESCAPING DEATH. EUGENE'S COURAGE UNDER FIRE, PAIRED WITH HIS WILLINGNESS TO STAND BY HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS, REFLECTS THE MASONIC IDEAL OF FORTITUDE—A STEADY RESOLVE TO CONFRONT AND OVERCOME CHALLENGES, NO MATTER HOW DAUNTING.

PRUDENCE

PRUDENCE, THE WISDOM TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS, IS SUBTLY WOVEN THROUGHOUT EUGENE'S ACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS. EVEN IN CHAOTIC SITUATIONS, HE SHOWS A CLEAR AWARENESS OF HIS SURROUNDINGS, MAKING CALCULATED MOVES TO PROTECT HIMSELF AND HIS COMRADES. FOR INSTANCE, WHILE TAKING COVER IN A SUNKEN GRAVE UNDER HEAVY FIRE, EUGENE KEEPS A SHARP FOCUS ON HIS ENVIRONMENT, MAKING DECISIONS THAT INCREASE HIS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL. HIS SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND THOUGHTFUL RESPONSES IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE REFLECT THE MASONIC CALL TO ACT WITH DISCERNMENT AND CAREFUL JUDGMENT.

JUSTICE

FINALLY, JUSTICE, THE VIRTUE OF FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY, IS ILLUSTRATED IN EUGENE'S REFLECTIONS ON HIS CHOICES AND THE IMPACT THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD. HIS DECISION TO LET THE YOUNG SOLDIER GO, WHILE CONFLICTING IN THE MOMENT, DEMONSTRATES A DEEP-SEATED RESPECT FOR MORAL PRINCIPLES THAT RESONATES WITH THE MASONIC UNDERSTANDING OF JUSTICE. ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSES A MIX OF REGRET AND RELIEF ABOUT SPARING HIS OPPONENT, EUGENE UPHOLDS HIS OWN SENSE OF ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY. THIS ACT OF FORBEARANCE, EVEN TOWARD AN ADVERSARY, REFLECTS THE IDEAL OF JUSTICE—A COMMITMENT TO TREATING OTHERS FAIRLY AND UPHOLDING ONE'S PERSONAL CODE OF HONOR.

CONCLUSION

WB EUGENE'S STORY, WHILE DEEPLY PERSONAL, RESONATES WITH THE TEACHINGS OF FREEMASONRY. THROUGH HIS EXPERIENCES, WE SEE HOW THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES ARE NOT MERELY ABSTRACT PRINCIPLES, BUT GUIDING LIGHTS IN MOMENTS OF MORAL AND PHYSICAL TRIAL. HIS NARRATIVE ENCOURAGES US, AS MASONS, TO EMBODY THESE VIRTUES IN OUR OWN LIVES, SERVING AS REMINDERS OF THE STRENGTH, WISDOM, RESTRAINT, AND FAIRNESS WE STRIVE TO CULTIVATE IN OUR MASONIC JOURNEY.

TRESTLEBOARD



SANDOVAL LODGE EXPANDS 'BIKES FOR BOOKS' PROGRAM WITH DIGITAL INCENTIVES FOR RIO RANCHO SCHOOLS

THIS YEAR, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF WB RICHARD CULLEN, LODGE COMMUNITY EVENTS CHAIRMAN, SANDOVAL LODGE EXPANDED ITS ANNUAL “BIKES FOR BOOKS” CHARITY TO INCORPORATE NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR STUDENTS. TRADITIONALLY, THE LODGE HAS DONATED BICYCLES AS READING INCENTIVES, REWARDING YOUNG READERS WITH A TANGIBLE PRIZE FOR THEIR HARD WORK. HOWEVER, WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARISING THIS YEAR, THE LODGE DECIDED TO TAKE A FRESH APPROACH TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS OF RIO RANCHO.

ON OCTOBER 28TH, SEVERAL LODGE MEMBERS PRESENTED ELEVEN 10-INCH TABLETS TO THE RIO RANCHO SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT DR. SUE CLEVELAND. EACH OF THE DISTRICT’S ELEVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RECEIVED ONE OF THESE TABLETS TO BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE IN THE DISTRICT-WIDE READING PROGRAM. BRO. ROBERT COWDER, WB LARRY MIKKELSEN, BRO. JOHN KEEL, AND WB RICHARD CULLEN ATTENDED THE EVENT, REPRESENTING SANDOVAL LODGE AND UNDERSCORING THE LODGE’S DEDICATION TO SUPPORTING LOCAL EDUCATION.

THIS TRANSITION FROM BICYCLES TO TABLETS WAS MADE POSSIBLE WHEN ANOTHER ORGANIZATION STEPPED IN TO PROVIDE BIKES THIS YEAR, GIVING SANDOVAL LODGE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON DIGITAL LEARNING. BOTH DR. CLEVELAND AND RIO RANCHO MAYOR GREG HULL EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR SANDOVAL LODGE’S LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THE LODGE’S MEANINGFUL ROLE IN FOSTERING ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUCCESS FOR THE COMMUNITY’S STUDENTS, HIGHLIGHTING HOW THIS COMMITMENT POSITIVELY IMPACTS YOUNG LEARNERS YEAR AFTER YEAR.



SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

NOVEMBER

TRESTLEBOARD



A.:L.: 6024



EXPLORING MASONIC SYMBOLISM: MONTHLY EDUCATION NIGHTS AT SANDOVAL LODGE

BY BRO. BURX NORROD

EACH MONTH, SANDOVAL LODGE IS PROUD TO HOST A MASONIC EDUCATION NIGHT FOCUSED ON DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY AND EVOLVING SYMBOLISM OF FREEMASONRY. THESE SESSIONS ARE GUIDED BY ESOTERIKA BY ALBERT PIKE AND STRUCTURED ACCORDING TO THE SEVEN SECTIONS OF THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN PROGRAM, OFFERING US A STRUCTURED PATH FOR EXPLORATION AND DISCUSSION. THESE EVENINGS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BROTHERS TO DELVE INTO THE ESOTERIC ASPECTS OF OUR CRAFT, CONNECTING HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE WITH PRESENT-DAY REFLECTIONS.

IN OCTOBER, OUR STUDY CENTERED ON THE REBIS, A POWERFUL SYMBOL IN HERMETICISM, AND WE DISCUSSED HOW IT RELATES TO MASONIC TEACHINGS. THIS COMPLEX SYMBOL HELPED US EXPLORE THE UNION OF OPPOSITES AND THE JOURNEY TOWARD SELF-MASTERY, SPARKING THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSIONS ON ITS APPLICATION AND RELEVANCE IN FREEMASONRY. EACH SESSION AIMS TO BRING GREATER CLARITY TO OUR RITUALS AND SYMBOLS, ENHANCING OUR ABILITY TO INTERPRET MASONIC TEACHINGS IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.

OUR NEXT MASONIC EDUCATION NIGHT WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 17TH, COVERING SECTION 6 OF 7, TITLED "THE THREE GRIPS AND THE SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MASTER'S WORD." THIS SESSION, OPEN TO MASTER MASONS ONLY, WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM, AND PROMISES ANOTHER ENGAGING DISCUSSION. FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OR LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REACH OUT TO BRO. BURX NORROD AT BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM. JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE DEEPER DIMENSIONS OF FREEMASONRY, FOSTERING BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND BROTHERHOOD.



TRESTLEBOARD



MASONIC RITUAL WORK: A PATH TO UNDERSTANDING AND GROWTH

BY: BRO. BURX NORROD

THE IMPORTANCE OF MASONIC RITUAL WORK: A PATH TO UNDERSTANDING AND GROWTH
FREEMASONRY IS BUILT UPON TIMELESS PRINCIPLES AND ANCIENT LESSONS THAT GUIDE US TOWARD BECOMING BETTER MEN AND MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. WHILE FELLOWSHIP, CHARITY, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAY ESSENTIAL ROLES IN OUR CRAFT, IT IS THROUGH RITUAL WORK THAT THE ESSENCE OF THESE LESSONS IS REVEALED. MASONIC RITUAL WORK IS MORE THAN A FORMAL PERFORMANCE—IT IS A METHOD BY WHICH MASONS INTERNALIZE THE TEACHINGS THAT DEFINE THE FRATERNITY. THOUGH RITUAL IS NOT EVERYTHING IN FREEMASONRY, IT IS A CRITICAL PATHWAY FOR UNDERSTANDING AND PERSONAL GROWTH.

RITUALS IN FREEMASONRY ARE CAREFULLY CRAFTED CEREMONIES, RICH IN SYMBOLISM, DESIGNED TO CONVEY MORAL LESSONS AND PHILOSOPHICAL TRUTHS. THESE LESSONS ARE NOT SIMPLY GIVEN IN WORDS BUT ARE REVEALED THROUGH EXPERIENCE. EACH DEGREE IMMERSSES THE CANDIDATE IN A NARRATIVE THAT MIRRORS LIFE'S JOURNEY, PRESENTING THEMES OF FAITH, BROTHERHOOD, MORTALITY, AND ENLIGHTENMENT. PARTICIPATING IN THESE RITUALS, WHETHER AS A CANDIDATE OR AS A BROTHER CONFERRING THE DEGREES, GIVES EVERY MASON AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THESE TIMELESS MESSAGES.

THE RITUAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRES PRECISE DELIVERY. AS WE MEMORIZE AND REHEARSE THE WORDS AND GESTURES OF THE DEGREES, THE MEANINGS BEHIND THEM SLOWLY BEGIN TO RESONATE WITHIN US. THIS PROCESS FOSTERS INTERNALIZATION—TRANSFORMING WHAT BEGINS AS ROTE LEARNING INTO PERSONAL INSIGHT. WITHOUT THIS STEP, THE LESSONS REMAIN THEORETICAL; IT IS ONLY THROUGH PRACTICE AND REFLECTION THAT THEY BECOME LIVING PRINCIPLES WE CAN APPLY IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.

MEMORIZATION: A PATHWAY TO MASTERY

SOME BROTHERS MAY FIND MEMORIZATION DAUNTING, ESPECIALLY WHEN JUGGLING THE DEMANDS OF MODERN LIFE. HOWEVER, THE REQUIREMENT TO COMMIT RITUAL TO MEMORY HAS A PURPOSE. IN THE ACT OF MEMORIZATION, THE LESSONS GRADUALLY TAKE ROOT IN THE MIND AND HEART. JUST AS A CRAFTSMAN MASTERS HIS TOOLS THROUGH PRACTICE, A MASON REFINES HIS UNDERSTANDING BY REVISITING THE WORDS OF THE RITUAL REPEATEDLY. OVER TIME, WHAT BEGAN AS MEMORIZATION BECOMES A PERSONAL AND MEANINGFUL EXPRESSION OF MASONIC IDEALS.

MOREOVER, THIS FOCUS ON MEMORIZATION TEACHES US AN IMPORTANT LESSON IN DISCIPLINE AND PATIENCE. LEARNING THE RITUAL DEMANDS TIME AND SACRIFICE, BUT IT IS THROUGH SUCH EFFORT THAT WE GROW NOT ONLY AS MASONS BUT ALSO AS INDIVIDUALS. AS WE IMPROVE OUR PROFICIENCY IN DELIVERING THE WORK, WE HONOR THE BROTHERS WHO CAME BEFORE US BY MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE CRAFT AND ENSURING THAT FUTURE CANDIDATES RECEIVE THE SAME TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

TRESTLEBOARD



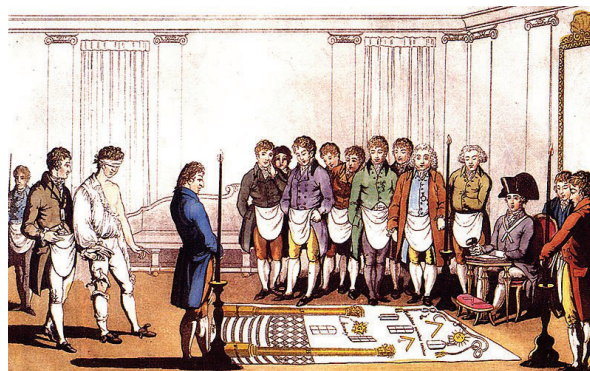
WHILE RITUAL WORK IS ESSENTIAL, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS NOT THE END OF THE JOURNEY. FREEMASONRY TEACHES US TO BECOME BETTER MEN, NOT JUST BETTER RITUALISTS. WE CANNOT STOP AT MEMORIZING THE WORDS—WE MUST LIVE THE LESSONS. A BROTHER WHO KNOWS THE RITUAL BY HEART BUT DOES NOT APPLY ITS TEACHINGS TO HIS LIFE HAS MISSED THE POINT. THE RITUAL IS THE FRAMEWORK; HOW WE CONDUCT OURSELVES BEYOND THE LODGE WALLS IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF OUR MASONIC JOURNEY.

OUR GOAL AS MASONS SHOULD BE TO STRIKE A BALANCE—EXCELLING IN RITUAL WORK WHILE ALSO CULTIVATING PERSONAL GROWTH AND SERVICE TO OTHERS. RITUAL HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES, BUT OUR DEEDS DEMONSTRATE THAT WE HAVE INTERNALIZED THOSE LESSONS.

ANOTHER VITAL ASPECT OF RITUAL IS THE WAY IT BRINGS BROTHERS TOGETHER. PERFORMING THE DEGREES INVOLVES COORDINATION, TEAMWORK, AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. EACH BROTHER HAS A ROLE, WHETHER DELIVERING A LECTURE, ACTING AS AN OFFICER, OR ASSISTING WITH PREPARATION. THIS COLLECTIVE EFFORT STRENGTHENS THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD. BY PRACTICING TOGETHER, WE DEVELOP MUTUAL TRUST, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S TIME AND DEDICATION. ADDITIONALLY, RITUAL IS A MEANS OF PRESERVING OUR TRADITIONS AND ENSURING CONTINUITY IN THE LODGE. THE DEGREE WORK WE PERFORM TODAY IS PART OF A LINEAGE THAT STRETCHES BACK THROUGH CENTURIES. EVERY TIME WE OPEN AND CLOSE THE LODGE OR CONFER A DEGREE, WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIVING LEGACY OF FREEMASONRY. THIS CONTINUITY GIVES THE CRAFT ITS DEPTH, GROUNDING US IN SOMETHING GREATER THAN OURSELVES AND CONNECTING US WITH THE COUNTLESS BROTHERS WHO HAVE WALKED THE SAME PATH.

RITUAL WORK IN FREEMASONRY IS NOT MERELY A TRADITION—IT IS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR LEARNING AND PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION. WHILE IT IS NOT THE ONLY ASPECT OF OUR FRATERNITY, IT IS THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF RITUAL THAT THE LESSONS OF FREEMASONRY ARE REVEALED AND INTERNALIZED. AS WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE WORK, WE DEVELOP DISCIPLINE, PATIENCE, AND INSIGHT, ENSURING THAT THE CRAFT'S TEACHINGS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF WHO WE ARE. YET, THE RITUAL IS ONLY THE BEGINNING; THE REAL CHALLENGE LIES IN APPLYING THOSE LESSONS BEYOND THE LODGE.

BY MASTERING THE RITUAL, WE HONOR THE HERITAGE OF OUR FRATERNITY. BY LIVING ITS TEACHINGS, WE BECOME THE KIND OF MEN THAT FREEMASONRY CALLS US TO BE. RITUAL WORK, THEREFORE, IS BOTH A DUTY AND AN OPPORTUNITY—A WAY TO CONNECT WITH THE WISDOM OF THE CRAFT AND EMBODY ITS PRINCIPLES IN OUR DAILY LIVES. IN THIS WAY, WE TRANSFORM WORDS INTO ACTIONS AND SYMBOLS INTO VIRTUES, BECOMING NOT JUST STUDENTS OF THE RITUAL BUT TRUE BUILDERS OF CHARACTER.



TRESTLEBOARD



WB TYLER MCKENZIE

Past Master 2023

TEN MASTER MASONS

SUBMITTED BY WB TYLER MCKENZIE

TEN MASTER MASONS, HAPPY, DOING FINE;
ONE LISTENED TO A RUMOR, THEN THERE WERE NINE.

NINE MASTER MASONS, FAITHFUL, NEVER LATE;
ONE DIDN'T LIKE THE "MASTER," THEN THERE WERE EIGHT.

EIGHT MASTER MASONS, ON THEIR WAY TO HEAVEN;
ONE JOINED TO MANY CLUBS, THEN THERE WERE SEVEN.

SEVEN MASTER MASONS, LIFE DEALT SOME HARD LICKS;
ONE GREW DISCOURAGED, THEN THERE WERE SIX.

SIX MASTER MASONS, ALL VERY MUCH ALIVE;
ONE LOST HIS INTEREST, THEN THERE WERE FIVE.

FIVE MASTER MASONS, WISHING THERE WERE MORE;
GOT INTO A GREAT DISPUTE, THEN THERE WERE FOUR.

FOUR MASTER MASONS, BUSY AS COULD BE;
ONE DIDN'T LIKE THE PROGRAMS, THEN THERE WERE THREE.

THREE MASTER MASONS, WAS ONE OF THEM YOU?
ONE GREW TIRED OF ALL THE WORK, THEN THERE WERE TWO.

TWO MASTER MASONS WITH SO MUCH TO BE DONE;
ONE SAID "WHAT'S THE USE," THEN THERE WAS ONE.

ONE MASTER MASON, FOUND A BROTHER - TRUE!
BROUGHT HIM TO THE LODGE, THEN THERE WERE TWO.

TWO MASTER MASONS DIDN'T FIND WORK A BORE;
EACH BROUGHT ANOTHER, THEN THERE WERE FOUR.

FOUR MASTER MASONS SAVED THEIR LODGES FATE;
BY SHOWING OTHERS KINDNESS, THEN THERE WERE EIGHT.

EIGHT MASTER MASONS, LOVING THEIR LODGES BRIGHT SHEEN;
TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT IT, THEY SOON COUNTED SIXTEEN.

SIXTEEN MASTER MASONS, TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS TRUE;
WERE PLEASED WHEN THEIR NUMBER WENT TO THIRTY-TWO.

SO WE CAN'T PUT OUR TROUBLES AT THE LODGES DOOR;
IT'S OUR FAULT FOR HARMING THE LODGE WE ADORE.

DON'T FUSS ABOUT THE PROGRAMS OR THE "MASTER" IN THE EAST;
KEEP YOUR OBLIGATION BY SERVING EVEN THE VERY LEAST.

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

NOVEMBER

TRESTLEBOARD



A.:L.: 6024

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 8TH @ 11AM

**FUNERAL SERVICE FOR WB BILL LEWIS AT DANIEL'S FUNERAL HOME LOCATED AT
4310 SARA RD SE RIO RANCHO**

NOVEMBER 11TH @ 7PM

1ST STATED AND OFFICER ELECTION NIGHT

NOVEMBER 17TH @ 6PM - 7:30PM

**MASONIC EDUCATION NIGHT (*THREE GRIPS & SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MASTERS WORD*)
MASTER MASONS ONLY**

NOVEMBER 18TH @ 6PM

EA DEGREE PRACTICE (PAST MASTERS)

NOVEMBER 24TH @ 6PM

EA DEGREE PRACTICE (PAST MASTERS)

NOVEMBER 25TH @ 7PM

2ND STATED AND ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE (CAST OF PAST MASTERS)

DECEMBER 2ND @ 6PM

MASTER MASON DEGREE PRACTICE

DECEMBER 8TH @ 6PM

MASTER MASON DEGREE PRACTICE

DECEMBER 9TH @ 7PM

STATED COMMUNICATIONS & MASTER MASON DEGREE

DECEMBER 14TH @ 10AM

LODGE OFFICER INSTALLATIONS

DECEMBER 15TH @ 6PM - 7:30PM

MASONIC EDUCATION NIGHT