

*Grand Masters
From
Widow's Sons'
No. 60*

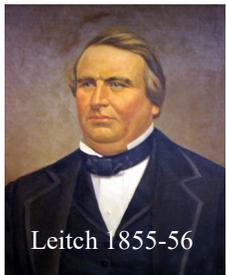
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

HIRAM'S JOURNAL

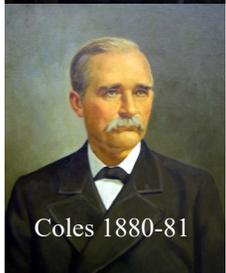
Stated Communications May 19th, 2025

[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Website](#)

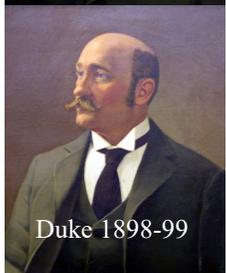
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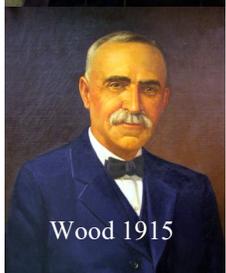
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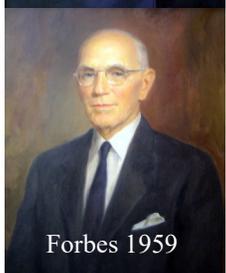
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

My Brethren,

The duties of a Lodge Worshipful Master are many and varied. In his oath of office, a Master assents to fifteen ancient charges and regulations delineating his duty to Masonry. A Master must also be well versed in Masonic ritual and the conducting of such business as may come before the Lodge. In Widow's Sons' Lodge the Master works closely with the Lodge Brethren, his Officers, and various committees to ensure smooth operation of Lodge activities. He is charged with providing relevant, informative and interesting programs and assisting the Stewards in meal planning and preparation. Additionally, a Master should always make himself available to the needs and concerns of his fellow Brethren.

Our next Stated Communication is on Monday, May 19. A meal of cottage pie, tossed salad, bread, and dessert will begin at 6:00 PM. The recipients of our annual college scholarships and their families will be joining us for dinner. Let us be sure to provide them with a warm welcome. The scholarships will be presented in the Lodge room at about 6:45 PM. Immediately following this presentation and prior to the opening of the Stated Communication, Kaitlyn Polanowski, daughter of Wor. Todd Polanowski, will deliver the May program on her hobby of collecting tarantulas.

This year Widow's Sons' Lodge is striving to obtain the James Noah Hillman Award. To accomplish some of the numerous award requirements, we have planned a Fraternal Visit to Cabell Lodge No. 328 in Kents Store. Their meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Also in the planning stage is a Fraternal Visit to a DeMolay program held in Luray Caverns on Saturday, June 7 at 2:00PM. (Reservations required by May 15th - See upcoming events for details) More information on this event will follow in the June issue of Hiram's Journal.

On a different note I will address a most unfortunate issue which occurred in our Lodge. A large portion of the content and delivery of our April program was certainly not what I had expected or sanctioned. I deeply regret and sincerely apologize to my Lodge Brothers for any offense caused by it.

As always I remain,
Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Greg D. Hosaflook
2025 Worshipful Master





Masonic Birthdays!
Call a Brother and wish
him a Happy Masonic
Birthday.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Master Mason Degree:</u>
Adam L. Buffington	05/06/2013
Eddie O. Creasy	05/24/1982
John D. Fisher	05/04/1987
Carl E. Hollar, Jr.	05/17/1974 (51 Yrs)
Andrew D. Keller	05/28/1997
Jacobi K. Leathers	05/24/2021
Robert J. Mariano	05/10/2004
Ahmed Nafei	05/24/2010
William N. Park	05/16/1995
Ray W. Sites	05/23/1966 (59 Yrs)
James W. Stafford	05/15/2014
Carl W. Stankwitz	05/05/2011
Paul H. Wood	05/01/1961 (64 Yrs)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Events:

May 5th, 6:30 PM—Annual Widow's Aid Fund Meeting, see below for information

May 6th, 5:30 PM—WSL60 Officers Meeting

May 7th, 6:30 PM—Fraternal Visit to Cabell Lodge No. 328

May 19th, 7:00 PM— WSL60 Stated Meeting, Meal at 6:00 PM, Scholarship Night

May 23rd, Noon—Men's Lunch at Birdwood Golf Course Grill

May 27th, 6:00 PM—Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 Meeting in Red Room, Meal between meetings

May 27th, 7:00 PM—Keystone Chapter No. 59 Meeting in Red Room

Jun 7th, 2:00 PM- DeMolay Event at Luray Caverns. Reservation deadline is May 15th. Contract Richard Young at rmyoung2424@gmail.com

Jun 24th, 6:00 PM—St. John's Table Lodge at WSL60 (Reservations are required, contact Mike Griffin, mgriffin@tgbllaw.com, or 434-981-5428)

The Masonic Roundtable



Do you want to hear some great discussions and conversations on Masonic Topics?

The Masonic Roundtable is a weekly program with Masons from across the country. Thursdays at 9:30PM Eastern / 8:30PM Central.

Every week is a new topic on a Masonic theme, ideal or program. Topics include the 7 Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Scottish or York Rite, Youth Groups, Masonic Ghost Stories, Volumes of Sacred Law and much, much more!!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MasonicRoundtable/>

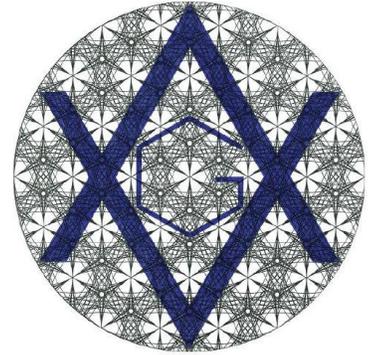
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMasonicRoundtable/>

MASONIC SACRED GEOMETRY: HIDDEN MYSTERIES IN THE ORDINARY WORLD

BY: BRO. MARK STAVISH

Sacred geometry gives order and meaning to the cosmos. It offers perspective, allowing us to discern relationships between the physical and spiritual dimensions, and provides a mechanism of near universal proportions for understanding complex philosophical concepts and metaphysical ideas.

Freemasonry is often referred to as “a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols” whose purpose is to lead each Mason to discover for himself the “hidden mysteries of nature and science.” Whereas the first part of the phase applies primarily to the role of the Entered Apprentice degree, it is in the second part — discovering the “hidden mysteries of nature and science” that we find the heart of Masonry within the work of the Fellow Craft degree. This work can be understood as the practical application of numerology — otherwise described as sacred geometry.



A MEANINGFUL SILENCE

Philosophically, the Entered Apprentice Mason is viewed as “one who can keep silent.” Some suggest that this phrase is related to secrecy, but it actually goes beyond not speaking publicly of what goes on in lodge meetings. It implies a deep connection to the mystery schools of Pythagoras, wherein candidates were required to be silent for one year after admittance. While Masonry makes no such demands, the notion of silence holds an important role: One must listen to his superiors so that he may learn the work to which he has voluntarily submitted himself. In this silence, like the apprentices of old, Masonic candidates learn how to take directions and know what questions to ask when needed. The real work of the individual Mason — beyond learning the ritual — is outlined in the Fellow Craft degree, wherein the candidate is introduced to the most important numbers and ideas within the craft. All relate in some manner to sacred geometry.

TO BE STEADFAST, AND YET FLEXIBLE

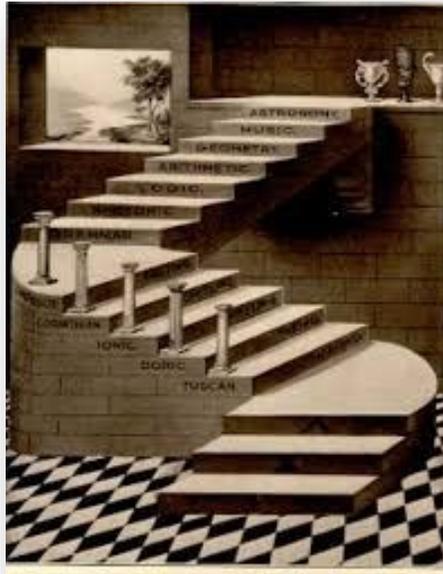
The 47th Problem of Euclid can be understood as one of the most important “secrets” of Freemasonry. On the surface, this equation provides the method for forming a right angle, thereby allowing craftsmen to build a structure that stands upright. The measurements used to determine if the angle is true, and from which the craftsman creates the square that is the perfect cornerstone, are three and four. Added together, they yield a sum of seven.

Seven is itself significant, as it is the number of stages or “days” of creation referenced extensively in classical mystical and philosophical literature. These seven stages are found on the second degree tracing board, where they represent, in part, the seven liberal arts and sciences. In the ritual, these are the final intermediary steps that a Mason must study to improve himself so that he may ascend further on the upward spiral. It is only through these steps that he may enter the Sanctum Sanctorum, the Holy of Holies, above which is written the name of God in Hebrew, Yod-Heh-Vau-Heh.

The staircase illustrated on the Trestleboard is depicted in a spiral. The advancing Mason must demonstrate courage in his progress, as his view is limited to what is only directly before him — a departure from the ladder of the first degree, which provides a clear view ahead. In this “middle chamber,” the Mason has farther to go in the work of self-perfection. He must still strive to turn the rough ashlar of his being into a smooth ashlar. It is only when the ashlar’s angles form a perfect square that it will fit in for use anywhere in the building of the Temple. This lesson provides an interesting dichotomy: While the perfect ashlar symbolizes the Mason’s ability to be both reliable and dependable, its conformity and uniformity represent his flexibility to serve in whatever role he is called upon by the Great Architect to serve.

MASONIC SACRED GEOMETRY~ CONTINUED

TO MASTER ONE'S SENSES



There are 15 steps on the spiral staircase, and often they are depicted in three groups of three, five, and seven. The first group of three steps represents the blue lodge degrees and how they relate to life: The Entered Apprentice degree corresponds with youth, the Fellow Craft with adulthood, and the Master Mason with old age. The second set pairs with the five physical senses; reminding the advancing candidate that if he relies solely on his senses, he can be blinded to the spiritual realities that Freemasonry suggests. He must master his senses, while not being limited by them.

To overcome being ruled by his sensory perceptions, the candidate must employ the powers of the mind through education and the discipline and self-reflection it requires. The final set of seven steps represents this education through the study and practice of the seven classical liberal arts and sciences. It is at this set of steps on his journey, that the full meaning of Freemasonry begins to become known to the candidate. As quoted by Masonic scholars Jay Kinney and Richard Smoley in “Hidden Wisdom: A Guide to the Western Inner Traditions”:

Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, illustrated by symbols. Not a religion but religious in character, it is a philosophy of ethical conduct which imparts moral and social virtues and fosters brotherly love. Its tenets have endured since man turned the first pages of civilization. They embody the understanding by which man can transcend ordinary experience and build “a house not made with hands” in harmony with the Great Architect of the Universe.

In order to transcend ordinary experience, one must be privy to extra- or non-ordinary experiences. This is attained though training the mind, shaping and building character through education. For this reason, the three legs of the craft are fraternity, charity, and philosophy — a philosophy shaped by personal development, education, reflection, and civil discussion.

“The staircase is among the most complicated of the craft’s symbols,” writes W. Kirk MacNulty in “Freemasonry - A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol.” “In the most general terms the winding staircase defines seven ‘levels of consciousness,’ from consciousness of the physical body at the bottom to consciousness of the spirit and divinity at the top. By summarizing a large body of ritual and lecture we can say that the stairs assign a step or level of consciousness to each of the seven officers of the lodge.”



By pairing subjects with Masonic officers, scholars like MacNulty often suggest that the tiler is associated with grammar, inner guard with logic, junior deacon with rhetoric, senior deacon with arithmetic, junior warden with geometry, senior warden with music, and master with astrology — later changed to astronomy. These subjects are divided into two groups known as the trivium (grammar, logic, and rhetoric) and the quadrivium (mathematics, geometry, music, and astrology). During the medieval period they were often illustrated as rays extending from a seven-pointed star, which shone forth from or around the goddess Sophia, or wisdom, as mentioned in the first paragraph of the Opening Charge as the true guardian of Freemasonry.

MASONIC SACRED GEOMETRY~ CONTINUED

DEFINING SACRED GEOMETRY

Of the seven arts and sciences, it is geometry which stands out as the foundation upon which mathematics is practically applied in daily life — and with it, the construction of all of the classical civilizations. But what is geometry? And what is “sacred geometry”?

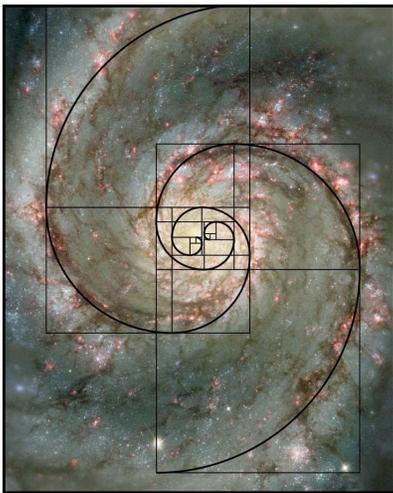
According to author John Michael Greer, sacred geometry is “geometry as it was practiced throughout the Western world from ancient times until the coming of the Scientific Revolution.” “In ancient, medieval, and Renaissance times,” writes Greer, “geometrical forms and relationships were seen as an expression of the deep, archetypal structure of reality, and students of geometry were taught to experience geometric processes as the unfolding, in space and time, of spiritual realities.”

Following this logic, through geometry, “spiritual realities” can be expressed in personal philosophy and objectively in architectural forms. In doing so, the reality of the union of heaven and earth is realized. Through a sacred understanding of geometry and its uses, the Hermetic axiom found in the Emerald Tablet, “as above, so below; as below, so above” transforms from a theory into fact. Masonic scholar Robert Lawlor writes,

Geometry is the study of the special order through the measure and relationships of forms. Geometry and arithmetic, together with astronomy, the science of temporal order through the observation of cyclic movements, constituted the major intellectual disciplines of classical education. The fourth element of this great fourfold syllabus, the quadrivium, was the study of harmony and music. The laws of simple harmonics were considered to be universals which defined the relationship and interchange between temporal movements and events of the heavens and the spatial order and development on earth.

The implicit goal of classical education was to enable the mind to become a channel through which the “earth” (a level of manifested form) could receive the abstract, cosmic life of the heavens. The practice of geometry was an approach to understanding how the universe is ordered and sustained. Geometric diagrams can be contemplated as still moments revealing continuous, timeless, universal action that is generally hidden from sensory perception. A seemingly common mathematical activity can become a discipline for intellectual and spiritual insight.”

CONSCIOUS REALIZATION



While it is easy to dismiss such notions as some form of mystical idealism, many scientists and philosophers agree that mathematics — geometry in particular — can provide us with deep insights into the nature of our very selves, and even into nature itself. One is Arthur M. Young, a Princeton University graduate who dedicated himself to two projects: establishing a scientific model of the universe that would include consciousness, and solving the problem of vertical flight. Young is credited with receiving the first commercial helicopter license in 1946 for his invention of the Bell Model 47 helicopter.

In his book, “The Reflexive Universe,” he writes, “Mind and matter are not opposites. They are orthogonal. The right angle is the basis for a geometry of meaning.” It was the right angle that provided Young with the secret to controlling the helicopter’s flight, and for Young, this meant that the right angle, the angle of the observer, is critical to understanding our role in the universe. This is in many ways the very basis of sacred geometry when it is applied in practical affairs. An example of this is the art of placement — classical interior and exterior design. Another is the popular understanding of quantum theory, wherein the observer effects the outcome of an experiment.

MASONIC SACRED GEOMETRY~ CONTINUED

It is critical to understand these theories because sacred geometry is a tool and science of personal transformation. To ignore these perspectives and points of interchange is to reduce it to a set of abstract philosophical theories and occult ideas. It is more than that and can lead each Mason to discover the deepest meaning of life and to express that meaning in the here, as well as hereafter.

COMMUNING WITH THE DIVINE

Sacred geometry provides a way of thinking about the world in we which live as sentient beings intimately connected with a larger, more dynamic, and even invisible reality — a reality that through self-discipline and dedication we have the potential to experience. The physical world is perceived of as holy, and fully dedicated to the divine. In fact, it is the fullness of the divine manifest for all to see. If this were not so, then the very notion of any “sacred measuring of the earth” would not be possible. Sacred geometry is the means whereby we experience the imminent presence of deity.

This is clearly stated in the “Corpus Hermeticum,” Book Five: 10–11, wherein we read:

1. “All is within you, all comes from you. You give everything and take nothing. For you have everything and there is nothing you do not have.”

2. “You are all things and there is nothing else. Even what is not you are. You are all that has come into being; you are what has not come into being. You are Nous, and what is apprehended by Nous; you are Father as you create. God as you are in every action, the Supreme Good as you are the cause of all.”

Sacred geometry has the potential to be a powerful working tool in the hand of each Freemason. Through its lens, the relationship between the visible and invisible aspects of the divine become clearer and even visceral. In seeking a means to participate in that harmony which it teaches, we find our place in the Temple, and through it, realize that the Temple is everywhere and nowhere, and there is no place that God is naught.

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MASONIC MINUTE

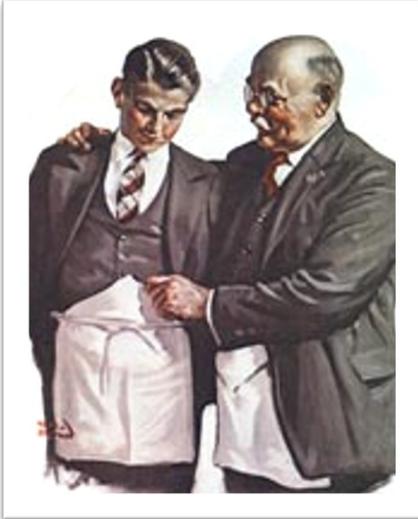
Civility in an Uncivil World: Protecting the Harmony of the Lodge

Brethren, thank you for joining us in the Lodge tonight.

Historians are storytellers at heart, and the best storytellers are masters of setting the scene. Think of Stephen Ambrose in his wonderful story of the journey of Lewis and Clark as they explored the Louisiana Purchase in his award winning book, Undaunted Courage.

I’m no Stephen Ambrose, but I will try to paint the scene about what I want to talk about tonight. We see uncivil behavior everywhere. once-peaceful elite college ivy covered campuses marred by hostility. Students fear for their personal safety as they attempt to walk to class. Sadly, our own community is not immune. We all remember the tragic events in Charlottesville in August 2017. No one is immune from hostile threatening behavior. Recently, a lady at a local country club verbally attacked my oldest daughter over something as trivial as a workout space. And don’t get me started on the road rage! Angry people are everywhere.

MASONIC MINUTE ~ CONTINUED



This growing tsunami of incivility isn't just in public spaces—it's also reaching our Lodges. At the DLC in Waynesboro, RW Mike McKinney, Grand Junior Warden for Virginia Masons, led a breakout session on this issue, highlighting the growing problem of uncivil behavior in Masonic Lodges.

If you don't mind, let me take a few moments to share my thoughts on preserving civility and harmony within our Lodge and, by extension, in an often uncivil world where too many people resort to violent, intolerant, and sometimes threatening rhetoric.

Our Lodge stands as a beacon of brotherly love and friendship. In these challenging times, we must uphold the principles of respect, trust, and unity. As Brother George Washington often said, "Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present." Maybe William Shakespeare said it more succinctly: "Love everyone, trust a few, harm no one."

One way we do this is by practicing active listening. When we genuinely listen to our brethren without judgment or interruption, we create a space where ideas can flourish, and our bonds strengthen. While a brother is talking, don't think of what you want to say next; instead, listen and sincerely consider the brother's point of view. **Listen with your brain, not just your ears.**

Equally vital is the willingness to acknowledge and appreciate diverse points of view. Each brother brings his own unique experiences and insights, and by considering these different perspectives, we foster an environment of mutual respect and learning, thereby reducing misunderstandings and building bridges that enrich our fraternity.

Maintaining civility does not mean stifling our emotions or opinions—it means managing them with prudence and temperance. We should separate ideas from individuals and ensure that discussions remain constructive even when differences arise. In this way, we focus on what unites us rather than what divides us.

Civility is often as simple as controlling our egos, listening with mutual respect, and considering contrary viewpoints. As the Scottish poet, Brother Robert Burns, said, "Oh, would some Power gift us the ability to see ourselves as others see us." Always be aware of how our words and body language appear to others.

I am pleased to announce that the Secretary will publish a small "Masonic Etiquette, Protocol, and Decorum" section in the monthly Hiram's Journal. This new feature will serve as both a reminder and a guide, ensuring that we continue to uphold the standards that define our great fraternity.

Let us also remember that harmony is the strength of all institutions, more especially this one of ours. In an uncivil world, we have the opportunity—and indeed the responsibility—to defend civility. As members of this esteemed fraternity, we promote an environment where open dialogue, empathy, and mutual understanding are paramount. By doing so, we not only preserve the harmony of our Lodge but also extend the spirit of Masonry into the wider world.

Thank you, Bro. Dave Riddick

APRIL PRESENTATIONS



Left: The Brothers enjoy a delicious meal before the Stated Communication, provided by the Worshipful Master and officers of WSL60.

Right: Brothers and Friends got together on April 25th at the Birdwood Golf Course Grill for a Men's Lunch.



Left: The Worshipful Master recognized those Brethren that had their Masonic Birthdays in April and had the present Brother come to the East. Bro. Sam Griffin

Elected Officers for 2025

Worshipful Master: R.W. Gregory Dean Hosaflook
Senior Warden: Wor. Christopher Nicholas Bragg
Junior Warden: Bro. Randall Lee Arnold
Treasurer: R.W. James Friend Dickerson
Secretary: R.W. Mike Daniel Griffin
Chaplain: R.W. R.W. Jason Andrew Pattison

Senior Deacon: Wor. Harry Lee Walker, Jr.
Junior Deacon: Bro. Corin Trenton Fox
Senior Steward: Bro. David Francis Riddick
Junior Steward: Bro. Albert Agustin Pola
Marshall: Bro. Jacobi Keith Leathers
Tyler: Bro. William Chester Olewnik, Jr.

MASON OF THE MONTH

DAVID FRANCIS RIDDICK

David Francis Riddick was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, on January 5, 1955. He grew up in Charlottesville and graduated from Lane High School in 1973. He continued his education by attending Hampden Sydney College where he earned a BA Degree in History in 1977. While in college he joined Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

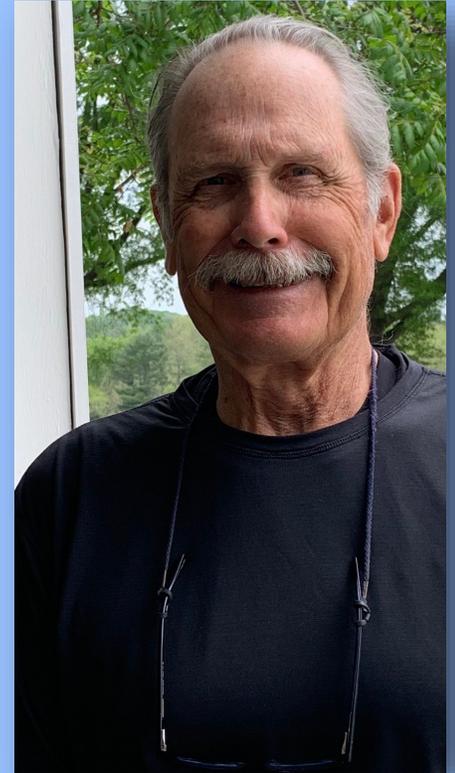
David and his wife Pat currently live in Charlottesville. David is the proud father of two daughters, Lauren and Catharine; a devoted stepfather to Brittany and Brian - who especially enjoys beating him at golf at Birdwood - and a delighted grandfather of three.

David's professional career spanned forty-five years. He taught US History and Economics at Albemarle High School, Western Albemarle High School, and the Miller School. He was also a lacrosse coach for much of his career.

He was introduced to Masonry at an early age. His father was very active in Masonry and was Worshipful Master of Widow's Sons' Lodge in 1949. David was a member of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of DeMolay in 1969. After retiring from teaching and coaching he sought initiation into Masonry and was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 27, 2023. He is currently serving as Senior Steward.

Q: What impressed you the most in receiving your Masonic Degrees?

A: The entire EA Degree left me completely in awe. I enjoyed the Senior Deacon's Lecture in the Fellowcraft Degree as it dwelt with the liberal arts. The second section of the Master Mason Degree was very powerful.



PRACTICAL TIPS TO IMPROVE OUR LIVES

AS MEN AND MASONS

The Most Successful People are Always Sharpening Their Memory Power

<https://www.cNBC.com/2022/07/29/the-most-successful-people-are-always-sharpening-their-memory-power-says-brain-expert-heres-how.html?ref=refind>

Hierarchy of Disagreement

<https://themindcollection.com/visiting-grahams-hierarchy-of-disagreement/>



James Monroe Chapter No. 549
Jack Jouett Camp, Heroes of 76
National Sojourners, Inc.
Charlottesville, Virginia
Proudly Serving the Cause of Patriotism

Jeffery E. Hodges, DDS, President
2780 Leeds Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22901-9508

Telephone: (434) 979-3109
E-mail: jhodges@esinet.net

Re: Please have this invitation read at your Stated Communication and/or added to your newsletter

Dear Worshipful Master, Wardens and Members.

I bring you greetings from the James Monroe Chapter, No. 549, National Sojourners Inc. as we prepare for the Saturday, 14 June 2025 Flag Day event. We invite you to a celebration picnic at King Solomon Lodge, No 194, to celebrate our National Ensign. Hamburgers (beef and veggie), grilled hotdogs, baked beans, chips and an old-fashioned ice cream social will be the fare for the evening. We will welcome our guests at 1800 hours (6:00 pm).

Our Camp Followers will begin the Flag day program sharply at 1900 hours (7:00 PM) This will be a solemn and jubilant celebration of our flag followed by an "End of Duty" Flag Retirement program by our Jack Jouett Camp, Heroes of 76 members. I promise this will be an evening to remember.

What we ask is that you make reservations by sending an email to jhodges2250@gmail.com or by calling my cell phone, 434-531-1356, to let us know who will attend. The attendance is limited to 60 people, so "first call, first served" will be the motto of the day. The facility does not allow more than that to attend.

Should you have a worn, faded, wind-tattered American Flag, please let me now so we can add it to those to be retired.

Brethren, this is a called special meeting of our chapter. Please consider assisting us in fulfilling our patriotic duties.

I am Sincerely and Fraternaly...

Jeffery E Hodges, PGM
President
James Monroe Chapter, No. 549
National Sojourners. Inc.

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
A.F.&A.M.
P. O. Box 6262
Charlottesville, VA 22906

1799—2025
The 226th Year of Service to the
Charlottesville Community and beyond.
"Freemasonry, a way of life"

Return Service Requested



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE PROCESS**

Hiram's Journal

WIDOW'S FUND ANNUAL MEETING

The Widow's Aid Fund Annual Meeting will be May 5th, 2025 at 6:30pm at WSL60. Dress is casual. This is an open meeting available to members and non-members. The Widow's Aid Fund is a voluntary Masonic Group that started in 1037, and provides a small monetary check to a widow at the loss of her husband. The annual dues are currently running about \$30 per year. We currently have 92 members from the original 3 lodges (WS60, KS194, and Alberene277). We have been authorized to accept members from all the lodges in District 10. We have been slow to organize this effort. If you are interested in joining the Widow's Aid Fund, please come to the Annual Meeting detailed above. We need members, officers and board members.

Philip H. Nelson Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer, Widows' Aid Fund
Email: treasurewaf2@gmail.com
Cell/Test: (434) 953-5226