

Cable-Tow

Hawaiian Lodge F & A M

Under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Hawaii
Volume 66, No. 2

2nd Quarter - July 2007



**"... give me liberty or
give me death!"**

- Bro. Patrick Henry, March 23, 1775

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California May 1852 to May 1989
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Hawaii May 20, 1989.

Hawaiian Lodge F. & A.M.

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A NOTE TO THE BRETHREN

Fraternal greetings to one and all! We are happy to bring out another issue of the Cable-Tow, and it is our hope that it will continue to bring information and news about our lodge and our fraternity.

The past few months – starting in April and culminating in July – can be considered a period laced with patriotic events. We had anniversaries of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor and the decisive victory in the Battle of Midway during the Second World War. We also had celebrations of Memorial Day and, of course, Independence Day. These events rekindle memories of our brave men and women, whether in uniform or not, who gave everything that they had to secure for us the blessings of peace and freedom. We owe them a lot. To us Masons, the idea of patriotism or love for one's country constitutes one of the cornerstones of our fraternity. And in our annals are found names of brothers who have dedicated their lives not only to fight for freedom but to see to it that such freedom is safeguarded for our children's children. It is in honor of these patriots that we have decided to adopt the theme of Freemasonry and Patriotism for this issue of the Cable-Tow. Among our featured articles are several dealing with this particular theme.

The Grand Lodge of Hawaii also recently elected its new set of officers. We feature these officers, particularly the new Grand Master, MW Oscar Jayme, who happens to be not only a member and past master of Hawaiian Lodge but is also the first ever Filipino-American to become Grand Master of a Grand Lodge in the United States. We are including his message in this issue, and we wish him and the other officers well as they take on the mantle of leadership of the Grand Lodge for this year.

We have likewise included several general interest articles which we hope will give our readers some food for thought. Finally, we feature in our photo galleries pictures of the various activities that the lodge has undertaken during the past few months.

Thank you to Bros. Tony, Dale and Alex for their help in preparing this issue, and we hope the rest of the brethren will keep those contributions coming for our next issue.

Fraternally,



Jun Colmenares, PM
Chair, Cable-Tow Committee

FROM THE EAST

Eduardo Abutin
Worshipful Master



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!!!

Aloha Brethren, I hope this message finds you in good health and this year has been as you wanted it to be thus far.

Time really flies by when you are having fun. I cannot believe six months have already gone by that quickly and that it's time for us again to celebrate Independence Day.

All of us should be proud because we are blessed to be citizens of this great nation and call America our home. Families often mark the Fourth of July with a picnic or barbecue, and take advantage of the long weekend to gather with relatives. We normally decorate our homes in red, white and blue, or display the American flag. Since Independence Day is in the summer, celebrations often take place outdoors, with such activities as baseball, other outdoor sports and parades during the daytime, and fireworks displays in the evening.

As we, once again, celebrate this historic date let us not forget to remember the founders of this nation, names like Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, and many others who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to create an independent America. We should be thankful that this nation is still free, independent and the best hope of mankind, a place of freedom and opportunity.

Let us not forget, also, to think and pray for the men and women who are defending freedom as members of the United States Military. In Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, they are fighting terrorists who threaten America and the rest of our civilized world. We should honor these brave men and women and their families for their service and sacrifice.

All Masons should also be proud to be members of this Fraternity, not only because at least nine of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons, but, more especially because our founding fathers espoused those Masonic principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity in the founding of our Nation.

Let us all take the initiative to continue those principles and spread the real meaning of the spirit of brotherhood, love and affection.

My wife Alma, son Joshua, daughters Leah and April, and I wish you all an enjoyable summer and continued good health.

God bless all of us; I remain hopeful to see you all, again, in Lodge, soon!

FROM THE WEST

Orlando S. Ragudos
Senior Warden



YOU ARE MISSED!!!

As the Senior Warden of this Lodge, I take pride in our dedication for the volunteer work we have done and the desire to learn and serve our Lodge. With the Worshipful Master's plan being only halfway through the year, we must not rest but continue to support the Lodge and keep its lights burning.

I enjoin you to reflect on last year's July's event in which our Lodge, along with so many exciting respectable organizations, participated in the July 4th Parade in Kailua which surely gave us an opportunity to display our Patriotism and positively demonstrate Freemasonry to the community. Hawaii's Family of Masons, including our youthful Rainbow Girls and DeMolay Boys, were in high spirits as they marched in that parade. I eagerly anticipate our participation in this great event, again, this year, to join the rest of America in the celebration of its 231st Independence as a Nation, and pay tribute to the sacrifices of its sons and daughters in the service of Freedom!

We must always be thankful for all the blessings we have, and for our association with Hawaiian Lodge -- where we've found true friendship amongst each one of us in truth and brotherly love. As fortunate as we indeed are to live in relative harmony here in this paradise we all call home, let us remain vigilant in keeping ourselves and our families healthy and safe, so we may all continue to enjoy life and all it has to offer.

As we approach the peak of this year, let us contemplate and remain proactive to our Lodge's needs, and, join the Worshipful Master and the rest of our Brethren in maintaining the bar of excellence our Lodge has set through the years.

I challenge each of you, Brethren, to consistently practice those obligations you took at the Altar, and I remain hopeful you will, return to your Lodge as a start!

See you, again, in Lodge soon.

FROM THE SOUTH

Alexander A. Escasa
Junior Warden



IT'S SUMMER . . .

Fraternal Greetings from the South!

By the time this issue of the Cable Tow reaches you, half of this Masonic year would already have gone by. Our Master and his corps of officers have been very busy in taking care of Lodge activities, and, I am very pleased to report that we are right on schedule with our Master's list of things to accomplish this year.

At the same token summertime is here. June 21st marks the first day of summer. Summer, for most of us, means a time to take some time off and go on vacation; for kids, a time to be away from homework and school activities. And for the golfers among us, more time to spend on the course. Whatever plan you have this summer, please always keep safety in mind. We want to see you back in the Lodge in your best of health.

Summertime also means the time to celebrate our Independence Day, to reflect on the freedom we enjoy in this great country and to thank all the men and women in the military that continuously put themselves in harms way to uphold that liberty.

Freemasonry is connected with American Independence because a few leaders of the Revolutionary generation - most notably Benjamin Franklin and George Washington - were Freemasons. Masonry also teaches us of Equality and Justice for all men, to never lose sight of our allegiance to our country and to be exemplary in the discharge of our civil duties. Brethren, please keep this in mind when you celebrate the 4th of July.

Until then; may we ever meet on the level and part upon the square!

MWB OSCAR M. JAYME

Grand Master of Masons in Hawaii - 2007

MW Brother Oscar M. Jayme, a.k.a. "OJ", was Initiated (May 20, 1980), Passed (June 5, 1980) and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 24, 1980 at Lincoln Lodge No. 34 F.&A.M. Olongapo City, Zambales, Philippines. In 1981 he became a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Gulfport, Orient of Mississippi where in the same year was also created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine of Joppa Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. As a young Mason he was privileged to visit Lodges in the Philippines, Guam, Georgia, Mississippi, California and Spain.

Upon his transfer to Hawaii, he affiliated with Hawaiian Lodge No. 21 F.&A.M. on May 4, 1983 and was appointed Senior Steward in 1984. He served the entire line until 1989 when he was elected Junior Warden thus becoming the Chartered Junior Warden of Hawaiian Lodge on May 20 with the birth of the MW Grand Lodge of Hawaii. In 1991 he was elected Worshipful Master. He also served as Worthy Patron of Mid-Pacific Chapter No. 10, Order of the Eastern Star in 1990 and 1991.



MW Jayme is a Life Member of Lincoln Lodge No. 34, F.&A.M., Philippines and Hawaiian Lodge F.&A.M. He affiliated with the Honolulu Scottish Rite Bodies and served as member of the Americanism Committee in conjunction with the Immigration and Naturalization Services and at present is serving as Chairman of its Membership Committee.

He was invested as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 2001; he is presently serving as Venerable Master of Kadosh of the Honolulu Consistory. He was also a member of Aloha Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. and served

in various capacities as Quarter Master, Secretary of the Provost Guard Unit, Secretary, Past Masters' Shrine Club, Hot Sands Ceremonial Team member and later appointed Ritual Director. He is a member of Harmony Chapter No. 4, OES, and served as Worthy Patron of Lei Aloha Chapter No. 3, OES, in 2001. MW Jayme was also active in the Youth Groups and served as Treasurer of the Advisory Board of Honolulu Assembly No. 1, IORG, and

member of Harmony Chapter No. 4, OES, and served as Worthy Patron of Lei Aloha Chapter No. 3, OES, in 2001. MW Jayme was also active in the Youth Groups and served as Treasurer of the Advisory Board of Honolulu Assembly No. 1, IORG, and



Member of the Advisory Council of Hawaiian Chapter, International Order of DeMolay. He is a Chartered Member and was instrumental in the formation of Leeward Lodge F.&A.M. and is at present serving as Candidates' Coach and Officers' Coach. He is also a member of the National Sojourners, Honolulu Chapter No. 11.

As Grand Lodge Officer, MW Jayme has served in the following capacities: Grand Pursuivant/1992, Junior Grand Steward/1993, and Grand Representative of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines near the MW Grand Lodge of Hawaii/1995-1997, Senior Grand Steward/1998, Assistant Grand Lecturer/2000-2002 and Grand Lodge Inspector/2003. Served as Chairman-Grand Lodge of Hawaii Past Masters Night/Widows Night Special Committee, Grand Lodge Credentials Committee and conducted Masonic Funeral Services. He was awarded with the Hiram Award - 1988, Grand Cross of Colors IORG - 1992, Honorary Legion of Honor - DeMolay International and Most Outstanding Lodge Secretary (2000 and 2001).

MW Jayme was born in Santa Ana, Manila, Philippines and is the oldest of 12

children of Eduardo and Adelaida Jayme. Prior to his enlistment in the U.S. Navy at Sangley Point, Cavite City on December 1968, he was a midshipman at the Philippine Maritime Institute taking Nautical Science in fulfillment of his dream of becoming an overseas Merchant Mariner. During his 22 years of Navy career he took advantage of the educational benefits offered and took courses in the following schools: Los Angeles Community College, Yokosuka, Japan; Jefferson Davis Junior College, MS;



Central Texas College Subic Naval Base and Hawaii Pacific University in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree in Management.

MW Jayme is a federal employee at the Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor of the Defense Logistic Agency. Residents of Ewa Beach, MW Oscar Jayme and the former Luci Ramos married in Yokosuka, Japan in 1974. His wife Luci is also a member of Lei Aloha Chapter No.3, OES, and Harmony Chapter No.4, OES. They have three daughters, Lea, Joy and Lani, all of whom were Past Worthy Advisors of Honolulu Assembly No.1 IORG and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Assembly of Hawaii, IORG.

PROFILES OF OTHER GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



Deputy Grand Master:
Dennis S. A. Ing

Occupation:

Private law practice (1970-present) concentrating in the areas of business law, probate & estate planning, real estate;
Owner, President and Lecturer for Hawaii Bar Review Course;
Former Deputy Prosecuting attorney, City & County of Honolulu (1967-70); Former Assistant House Minority Attorney, State of Hawaii legislature (1972)

Community activities:

Hawaii Ballet Theatre: general manager and stage manager (1980-present); Member, Board of Governors, World Medicine Institute (Acupuncture School)

Masonic activities:

Hawaiian Lodge: Past Master 2002;
Trustee 2004-present;
New Temple Committee representative 2002-present;
Youth Groups committee chair;
Officer's Coach 2003-05, 2007-present
Schofield Lodge: member 2006-present
Grand Lodge:
Deputy Grand Master 2007;
Jurisprudence Committee 1998-present;
Inspector 2003-05
Scottish Rite, Honolulu Valley:
KCCH;
Past Wise Master, Rose Croix 2004;
Officer, Lodge of Perfection 2005-present
Honolulu York Rite Bodies:
Officer, Red Cross of Constantine 2005-present;
Past Master, Council of Cryptic Masons 2005;
Past Commander, Commandery of Knights Templar 2006,
King, Chapter of Royal Arch Masons 2007
Order of DeMolay:
Chair, Advisory Council of Hawaiian Chapter 1998-present;
Deputy Executive Officer for Hawaii;

Chevalier Degree;
Legion of Honor Degree
Shriners Hospital for Children:
Board of Governors, Member 2003-present,
Secretary 2006-present

Family:

Wife: Charlys (since 1968);

Daughter: Kristin;

Mother: Angie Ing, widow of Bennett K. C. Ing, PGM (1996)



Senior Grand Warden:
Marty A Alexander

o Craft Lodge Masonic History

- o Initiated: Lodge Maui, F.& A.M. (August 26, 1998)
- o Passed: Lodge Maui, F.& A.M. (November 4, 1998)
- o Raised: Lodge Maui, F.& A.M. (December 1, 1998)
- o Master: Lodge Maui, F.& A.M. (2002, 2003)
- o Member: Tranquility Lodge 2000 (Waco, TX)
Robert C. Cretney Lodge #420 (Sterlington, LA)
Lodge Maui Temple Association Board of Directors
- o Grand Lodge Offices, Boards and Committees:
 - Inspector, Neighbor Island Lodges (2004, 2005)
 - Chair, Electronics Communications Committee (2003, 2004)
 - Member, Annual Communications Week Committee (2003, 2004)
 - Chair, Grand Lodge of Hawaii Newsletter Committee (2006)

o Concordant & Appendant Masonic Organization

- o Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite:
 - Maui Scottish Rite, Valley of Kahului
- o York Rite:
 - Member, Honolulu York Rite Bodies
- o Shrine:
 - Aloha Shriners
 - Maui Shrine Club
- o Order of the Eastern Star:
 - Maui Chapter #5 - Secretary (2005-present)

no picture
available

Junior Grand Warden: Charles L. Wegener Jr.

- o Craft Lodge Masonic History
 - o Initiated: Ko'olau Lodge, F.& A.M. (April 6, 1996)
 - o Passed: Ko'olau Lodge, F.& A.M. (April 6, 1996)
 - o Raised: Ko'olau Lodge, F.& A.M. (April 6, 1996)
 - o Master: Ko'olau Lodge, F.& A.M. (2001, 2004)
 - o Awards: McKee Award, Ko'olau Lodge (2003)
 - o Grand Lodge Offices, Boards and Committees:
 - Inspector, Grand Lodge Hawaii (2003-2006)
 - Credentials Committee (2002-2006)
 - Senior Grand Steward (2002)

- o Concordant & Appendant Masonic Organization
 - o Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite:
 - KCCH, Scottish Rite Valley of Honolulu (2006)
 - Purveyor, Scottish Rite Valley of Honolulu (1996-Present)

 - o York Rite:
 - Captain of the Host, Honolulu Chapter #1 (2007)
 - Excellent High Priest, Honolulu Consul #1 (2007)
 - Eminent Viceroy, Red Cross of Constantine (2007)
 - Commander, Honolulu Commandery #1 (2003)
 - York Rite College, Honolulu (2001-Present)

 - o Shrine:
 - Ringmaster, Aloha Temple Shrine Clowns (2002-2003)
 - Shrine Clown, Aloha Temple (1997-Present)

 - o Order of the Eastern Star:
 - Kailua-Lanikai No. 9 - Worthy Patron (2007)
 - Harmony No. 4 (2006-Present)

GRAND MASTER'S INSTALLATION MESSAGE

Brethren, I welcome you to the beginning of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii's new Masonic year. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the "Aloha State" has come a long way in the past seventeen years. Freemasons of this great state managed a smooth transition from being part of the Grand Lodge of California to the establishment of our own governing body.

Some of us have already forgotten, and many of us never knew that we were once part a of one of the largest and wealthiest Grand Lodge in the nation. Almost overnight we became one of the smallest. It took us a while to get used to the idea of having a Grand Lodge that was "right next door", instead of across an ocean. We are still getting used to living on a much smaller budget. When there are only eleven constituent Lodges, we truly understand the meaning the meaning of the phrase: "We are the Grand Lodge."

Yet despite all the difficulties, we have survived. And in recent years we have begun to grow. I am optimistic that we will continue to grow.

I attribute most of our success to the leadership of our distinguished Past Grand Masters. They have given and will continue to give us the inspiration and mentorship that has led and will lead this Grand Lodge to great things. They have established a number of worthy policies and programs that I hope we will continue and enhance.

During this term, my theme will be "HARMONY THROUGH DIVERSITY IN

HAWAII FREEMASONRY". It reflects the unity, peace and harmony with which our membership has labored over throughout these years. And it sets for our present line of fine Grand Officers the goal of continuing and advancing the legacy given to us by our predecessors.

In recognition of the importance of our Past Grand Masters, one of my first acts will be the re-institution of the Policies and Procedures Committee, which will be composed of all our living Past Grand Masters. I intend to call it the "Board for General Purposes," and will invest it with authority to establish the general policies and long-range objectives of our Grand Lodge.

It is my fervent hope and expectation that the coming year will be one of great progress and growth. With your support and that of my officers, I know we will succeed.

Thank you for your cooperation - now and in the days ahead. I look forward to meeting with each of you, and I wish and your loved ones good health and best wishes for a successful year.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and guide us as we embark on our time-honored tradition of making good men better - yes, while working in Harmony Through Diversity in Hawaii Freemasonry.

I hope to see all of you at the banquet this evening, and I say in the words of our Filipino brothers, "Mabuhay!"

PHOTO GALLERY:

Memorial Day



The Brethren and Ladies in attendance at our Memorial Day observance on May 28, 2007 are shown in front of the Hassinger Memorial Columbarium



We will not forget ...

FREEMASONRY AND PATRIOTISM

Written by:

Wilfred G. "Bill" Soutiea, Jr., Grand Master (1999-2000)

Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri and

Phillip G. "Phil" Elam, Grand Orator (1999-2000)

Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri (Undelivered Grand Oratory for the 179th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.)

What is patriotism -- this almost universal instinct for which more men have given their lives than for any other cause, and which counts more martyrs among its ranks than religion itself? What is this potent sentiment that has produced so many great and splendid deeds of heroic bravery and unselfish devotion? What is this driving force that has fostered liberty, won independence, and advanced civilization?

The dictionary tells us that a patriot is "one whose ruling passion is the love of his country," and that patriotism is "love and zeal for one's country."

John Paul Jones, a most worthy Freemason, and America's first naval hero, called himself "a citizen of the world." Though a Scotsman by birth, he fought for the Colonies because he believed they stood for a broader form of patriotism than had ever before been attained by any group of men. He stood

for America because he regarded America as standing for "man as man." Love of country is a most noble passion, but love of man, as directed by the Great Architect of the Universe, is even more noble.

Patriotism is founded on great principles and supported by even greater virtues. It involves duties and responsibilities as well as privileges. The idea of patriotism involves personal sacrifice. Our obligations do not simply begin with obedience to law and end with payment of taxes. These things are compulsory and involuntary evidence of our love of country, because the police insist on the former, and the Treasury Department takes good care of the latter.

True patriotism is, however, a thinking patriotism. It is a sacred entity. No noise, however great, no shouts, however thrilling, no hurrahs, however enthusiastic, no blare of brass bands, no flaming fireworks, or no strenuous stump speeches can begin to tell what true and genuine patriotism is really about. True patriotism is a great, calm, and altogether lovely and holy thing, that worships God and loves its fellow men. It is a consecration of high ideals, and it is the hallowing of a man's entire soul in a most holy cause.

Americanism can easily be defined by the Declaration of Independence, which, basing its doctrine upon the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," asserts the rights of man in one immortal sentence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principals and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

No Freemason who reads those words, and those in our Bill of Rights and Constitution, would fail to recognize them as Masonically-inspired documents - not because of the great number of Freemasons who wrote or influenced them, but because they embody the living and time-honored tenets, precepts, and principles of our Ancient Craft.

We Americans are the freest people on the face of the earth. Our strength rests in our patriotism, and anarchy flees before its Shining Light. Peace, order, security and liberty are safe so long as love of country burns bright in the hearts of our people.

How can we justify our love of our own land? Only in this way - each nation, each race has a genius of its very own. Judea was no larger than Illinois, and yet it gave to the entire human race its loftiest and truest religion. Greece was a tiny land, bordered by violent seas, but it added an immeasurable wealth of art, drama and philosophy to the world. So, too, did ancient Rome.

We could call the role of nations, asking of each what it had or has to give of Beauty and of Truth to mankind. Each country will have its own contribution, and the citizens of that country should be justly proud. Even so, our country has a genius that is truly unique. What is that service to mankind if it is not to show, not only "government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the face of the earth," but that it is the highest ideals in government, and that it makes for the greatest happiness of man, both in private nobility and public welfare?

Of that genius and service our flag is the emblem, and loyalty to that emblem is demonstrated in our devotion to it. As Freemasons, our field is the world, but our solicitude is to our own country - as it makes its unique and priceless contribution to universal good. With due reverence for other nations, and by loyalty to our own flag, we best serve the human race.

No country can be ever be wholly without men of the old heroic strain and stamp, whose word no man would dare to doubt, whose virtues shine resplendent in all calamities, reverses, and amid all temptations, and whose honor glitters as purely and perfectly as the most valuable gem. These are the honest men who are not the slaves of material occupations and the pleasures of life. Every generation, in every country, will bequeath to those who succeed it splendid examples and great images to be admired and imitated.

The famous examples throughout our nation's past, the memories and immortal thoughts of our great and wise thinkers, statesmen and heroes, are the invaluable

legacy of that Past to the Present and the Future. They are the chief elements of our national wealth, glory, prosperity and immortal renown.

Every Freemason in these United States should understand that Freemasonry, as an institution, has always been an integral part of America's history and destiny. An understanding of this will enable any Freemason to accurately state the relationship between Freemasonry and Americanism. His life and example should evince the fact that to be a good Freemason is to be a good American. For Americanism, we are most proud to proclaim, is the latter day effort to embody our age-old Masonic idealism into law and practice for the just governing of an entire nation.

It was Freemasonry in a pre-eminent degree that so tenderly, and yet so resolutely, cradled democracy in the first eventful years of America's history. In confirmation of this fact, we need mention only a few of the many illustrious names written on the pages of both Masonic records and American history - names like Wor. Bro. George Washington, Most Wor. Bro. Ben Franklin, Most Wor. Bro. Joseph Warren, and Bro. Lafayette, the hero of two countries!

We fail to grasp the full significance of the noble record of those selfless and illustrious Brethren of our Order who took such prominent roles in Revolutionary days if we see it only as a source of pride and gratification. It is all of this, of course, but it is much, much more - for every page of America's early history imposes duty, obligation and responsibility. If it is true, and records

indicate it as such, American nationality was largely brought about by Freemasons, and that to this end, the energies of the entire Craft were devoted to this grand cause in the trying times of the Revolution. If our predecessors gave "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to start our Republic on its glorious path, surely we can best honor and prove true the traditions of American Freemasonry by continuing the work they began. Our advantages, if not our opportunities, are even greater than theirs. The small and isolated Fraternity of that day has become a powerful Order - and it can exercise a mighty leverage for civic progress and reform.

The most noble lesson taught us by the Freemasons of the American Revolution is this: To place patriotism above partisanship, to preserve and extend the free institutions of the Republic, to maintain the honor and dignity of the Nation at home and abroad, and to realize the lofty ideals of our Eighteenth Century Brethren, bequeathing them as a priceless national heritage for generations of Americans yet unborn.

Freemasons, who teach so much by symbols, point with pride to the part Freemasonry played in establishing the greatest symbol known among all free nations - the Stars and Stripes we so fondly call "Old Glory."

The most sacred symbol of any people is their flag, and in an hour of crisis and destiny, the old emblem becomes instinct with all of its lofty and holy meanings. In that flag is the soul of each nation, the outward and visible sign of its invisible and invincible spirit. The very body and blood of a free people are in the folds of

its flag, and when it is unfurled, the soul of the nation stands proudly erect.

Just what suggested to Washington the stars and stripes can never be known because he never referred to the matter in any way. On January 1st, 1776, when the new army was organized, a "Union" flag was raised which gave the British much mirth and joy because it was, at that time, the flag of British India. Whether Washington knew this to be a fact or not is unknown, but the "Cambridge Flag" was his idea, and raised on his order. Later, in Philadelphia, with independence in sight, he knew the flag would have to be changed and made a drawing of its revision. He was taken to Betsy Ross, wife of Master Mason John Ross, who was killed during the Revolution, and it was she who made the first flag with white stars on a blue field, in addition to the thirteen red and white stripes. These stars were arranged ten in a circle, with an eleventh star as a point in the center. Historical evidence shows that Washington again acted on his own initiative and authority as Commander-In-Chief of the Revolutionary Army.

On June 14th, 1777, Congress officially adopted this flag, changing the number of stars to thirteen and arranging them in a circle. The wording of this famous resolution is as follows:

"Resolved, that the Flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white, and that the Union be thirteen stars white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

It is said that our Flag was born in 1777, but that cannot be totally true. Yes, it was stitched into form at that time in a little back parlor, but he who would know its

true origin must look back into the dim, but aspiring past of mankind. It was woven on the ancient looms of antiquity - woven of the dreams and hopes of humanity - by a Great Hand stretched out from the Unseen. All those who, on the red fields of war, died that their sons might be free; all who in dark prison cells suffered for the rights of man; all who in the long night of tyranny toiled and prayed for a better day - it was they who added the first threads to our beloved Flag.

Our Flag floats today in the blue sky, swayed by the breath of God, and held aloft by innumerable hands of the living and the dead as an icon of history and prophecy.

The colors blend in our Flag to make it the sanctifying symbol of Unity, Fraternity and Goodwill among men. It is the Flag of Freedom and Friendship woven of the mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, proclaiming the time-glorified principles wrought out by the tears, prayers and blood of our early American forefathers.

As Freemasons, we can fully appreciate the words of President Calvin Coolidge: *"We do honor to the stars and stripes as the emblem of our country and the symbol of all that our patriotism means. We identify the flag with almost everything we hold dear on earth. It represents our peace and security, our civil and political liberty, our freedom of religious worship, our family, our friends, our home. We see it in the great multitude of blessings, of rights and privileges that make up our country. But, when we look at our flag and behold it emblazoned with all our*

rights, we must remember that it is equally a symbol of our duties. Every glory that we associate with it is the result of duty done."

Let those who stand under it join hearts in one faith, and join hands in one united purpose - for the safety and sanctity of this glorious Republic; for the rights of man and the majesty of law; for the moral trusteeship of private property and public office; for the lifting of poverty, through self-help, to comfort; for the dignity of the home and the laughter of little children; and for social beauty, national glory, and human welfare. Long may it wave, rendered for all ages by the Holy Faith of the men who lifted it up, and the valor of the men who defended it in an hour of madness and peril. May it ever float over scenes of peace, honor and progress.

Is it any wonder that the old soldier loves the Flag under whose folds he fought and for which his comrades shed so much blood? He loves it for what it is and for what it represents. It embodies the purposes and history of America itself. It records the achievements of its defenders upon land and sea. It heralds the heroism and sacrifices of our Revolutionary Fathers who planted free government on the soil of this continent and dedicated it to Liberty forever. It attests to the struggles of our rag-tag and woefully outnumbered Revolutionary Army, and the valor of our citizens in all of the wars of our Republic. It has been sanctified by the blood of our best and bravest. It records the achievements of Washington and the martyrdom of Bro. Nathan Hale. It has been bathed in the tears of a sorrowing people - and it has been glorified in the hearts of freedom-loving people, not only at home, but in every part of the world.

Our Flag expresses more to us than any other national symbol. It expresses the will of a free people, and proclaims that they acknowledge no earthly sovereign. It was never assaulted that millions did not rise up to "smite their assailant hand and foot."

Wherever there is a constitutional government that respects the rights of men, Freemasonry is the loyal supporter of that government. Patriotism, loyalty to government and to our Flag, is found running through every Masonic degree. The Masonic formula for Brotherhood rests upon the identical principles that were indelibly written into the Constitution of the United States.

Loyalty to one's country is a basic Masonic principle, yet, for many, this is construed to refer only to times of war and national crisis. Loyalty carries with it the highest obligation of citizenship - obedience to law, respect for constitutional authority, a recognition of the right of every human being to the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The rights we enjoy as citizens carry with them corresponding duties. Among these duties is the careful and intelligent consideration of men and measures coming before the people for approval in our nation's electoral process. No good Freemason will fail to be a good citizen, and to be found on the side of decency, civic righteousness, and public order.

Each American, including Freemasons, must learn from the insights made by our Brother Douglas MacArthur in his last address to the Corps of Cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1962 as he accepted the prestigious Thayer Award. They are:

"Duty ~ Honor ~ Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn. Unhappily, I possess neither that eloquence of diction, that poetry of imagination, nor that brilliance of metaphor to tell you all that they mean. The unbelievers will say they are but words, but a slogan, but a flamboyant phrase. Every pedant, every demagogue, every cynic, every hypocrite, every troublemaker, and I am sorry to say, some others of an entirely different character, will try to downgrade them even to the extent of mockery and ridicule. But these are some of the things they do. They build your basic character, they mold you for your future roles as the custodians of the nation's defense, they make you strong enough to know when you are weak, and brave enough to face yourself when you are afraid. They teach you to be proud and unbending in honest failure, but humble and gentle in success; not to substitute words for actions, nor to seek the path of comfort, but to challenge; to learn to stand up in the storm but to have compassion on those who fall; to master yourself before you seek to master others; to have a heart that is clean, a goal that is high; to learn to laugh yet never forget how to weep; to reach into the future yet never neglect the past; to be serious yet never to take yourself too seriously; to be modest so that you will remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. They give you a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a freshness of the deep springs of life, a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, an appetite for adventure over love of ease. They create in your heart

the sense of wonder, the unfailing hope of what next, and the joy and inspiration of life."

Freemasons preach and firmly believe in the right to think, the right to speak, the right to worship in freedom and as conscience alone shall dictate, but how many Freemasons truly know what these things mean - how many really believe in them? How many believe in them so firmly that they are willing to fight for them, live for them, and die to defend them if need be? These things, when mentioned, sound decidedly like those principles of Americanism the soldiers, sailors and airmen of our country so nobly protect. If our Masonic Fraternity stands for these principles, whole-heartedly and unafraid, then we should use our Beloved Order as the greatest force of all time for the continued up-building of America - individually, one Brother at a time.

The real challenge to us as Freemasons is to prove our worth and show cause why our Ancient Order should continue to exist in today's society. The cry of the hour within Freemasonry is for leadership - leadership within both our Lodges and our communities. Committed and moral leaders who will do "the right thing," and who are not afraid to show their patriotism and love of country. Leaders who are so filled with inspiration and consecration to the development of true citizenship - for the sake of America - that they will forget both self and self-interest to work for the further attainment of the very Masonic principles on which our country was founded.

As Freemasons, we need, as never before, a clear and commanding conception of what America really means. It would be a

poor Freemason, and no patriot at all, who has not asked himself what plan, what purpose, what prophecy the Great Architect of the Universe is trying to work out through our national destiny. Surely, America exists to build in the new world a community based upon the God-given principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth - a community united, just and free, where men of every race and creed may live and live well because they freely choose moral fellowship under a sense of common interest and obligation.

Commitment to that ideal is true patriotism, and, perhaps, that is the greatest gift Freemasonry can give to the world as we step into the 21st century and a new millennium. The histories of America and of Freemasonry have always been inseparably intertwined for the betterment of mankind and to the glory of the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe - and may it ever be so.

Finally, we would like to share some words thought to have been written by an unidentified Revolutionary soldier and Brother Master Mason. It is a simple, yet profound, prayer written by the very type of man and Freemason that made this country great, and describes the purpose of Freemasonry better than the most eloquent orator could ever hope to do. These are inspirational words that every Freemason working in the quarry of life can live by, and words that demonstrate the true patriotism of a simple soldier who looked beyond his own needs even in the hardest and most dangerous of times:

"Oh, Thou, who hast called us out of Darkness to be the bearers of Light; we beseech Thee to make us helpers in the

world. Take away from us the love of ease, and fear of mortal men. Show us the simple things that we can do to help our neighbors, our families and our country. Brighten the daily round of tasks that we have undertaken and are tempted to neglect. Make us faithful to the trust that life has put upon us; hold us to the humblest duty.

"Prepare our hearts in sympathy to be partners in suffering with the weak; partners in eager service with the strong.

"Reveal to us the wavering ranks of those that are struggling upward that we may cheer and support our comrades unknown. Remove from us the love of glory and the thirst for praise. Give us, in weariness, refreshment, and in strength, peace; but when we are idle, send shame, and when we are false, send fear, to bring us back to Thee. By Thy Love restrain our censorious speech and teach us to commend. By Thy Divine Wisdom enlighten our plans, and direct our endeavors for the common wealth. And give to us the vision of that bright City of God, the New Jerusalem upon Earth, where all men may share the best they have, in thought and in deed, and where none shall harm or make afraid.

"And establish Thou the work of our hands; yes, the work of our hands establish Thou it."

To these stirring words from the innermost desires of this early American patriot and Freemason for both his young country and for all of mankind, we can only most humbly add -

So Mote It Be.

WHY "TAPS" IS PLAYED

From an eMail received by WBro. Antonio M. Ligaya, PM

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps were played; this brings out a new meaning of it.

Here is something Every North American should know. I didn't, until I read this:

We in the North America have all heard the haunting song, "Taps". It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its' humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the

Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son.

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked the permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

*"Day is done ... Gone the sun ...
From the lakes ... From the hills ...
From the sky. All is well ...
Safely rest ... God is nigh.*

*Fading light ... Dims the sight ...
And a star ... Gems the sky ...
Gleaming bright ... From afar.
Drawing nigh ... Falls the night ...
Thanks and praise ... For our days
'neath the sun ... 'neath the stars...*

*'neath the sky. As we go ...
This we know .. God is nigh ..."*

I, too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember those lost and harmed while serving their country, and also those presently serving in the Armed Forces.



FREEMASONRY UNDER THE NAZI REGIME

From: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.

Website: www.ushmm.org

When the Nazis came to power, policy towards the Freemasons was equivocal. Efforts to eliminate the Freemason did not receive top priority. Those lodges that espoused tolerance and equality and had international connections or connections through their leaders to the Social Democrats or liberal democrats were subject to persecution and often pressured into "voluntary" dissolution. A few conservative German lodges that were willing to accommodate themselves to the regime were able to continue some form of existence for only a little longer. Nevertheless, the regime intended to exclude those who refused to give up their Masonic connections.

In early 1934, the chief of the Nazi Party Court System ruled that Masons who did not leave their lodges prior to January 30, 1933, could not join the Nazi party. That same month, Prussian Minister of the Interior Hermann Goering issued a decree calling upon the lodges to "voluntarily" dissolve, but requiring such voluntary actions to be submitted to him for approval. In addition, lodges and their branches in various cities throughout Germany were exposed to arbitrary violence from local SS and SA units, though this terror does not appear to have been centrally

directed.

Increasing pressure in the public and professional sectors forced individuals to choose between remaining in their lodges or limiting their career opportunities. Many former lodge members holding positions in the civil service were forced or harassed into retirement. In May 1934, the Ministry of Defense banned membership in lodges to all personnel -- soldiers and civilian employees. During the summer of 1934, after Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich completed their takeover and centralization of the Gestapo, the German police forcibly closed down many Masonic lodges and branch headquarters of the Masons and confiscated their assets, including their libraries and archives.

On October 28, 1934, Reich Minister of the Interior Wilhelm Frick issued a decree defining the lodges as "hostile to the state" and hence subject to having their assets confiscated. Finally, on August 17, 1935, citing the authority of the Reichstag Fire Decree, Frick ordered all remaining lodges and branches dissolved and their assets confiscated.

Nazi propaganda continued to link Jews and Freemasons; Julius Streicher's virulent publication *Der Stuermer* (The Assault Trooper) repeatedly

printed cartoons and articles that attempted to portray a "Jewish-Masonic" conspiracy. Freemasonry also became a particular obsession of the chief of Security Police and SD, Reinhard Heydrich, who counted the Masons, along with the Jews and the political clergy, as the "most implacable enemies of the German race." In 1935 Heydrich argued for the need to eliminate not only the visible manifestations of these "enemies," but to root out from every German the "indirect influence of the Jewish spirit" -- "a Jewish, liberal, and Masonic infectious residue that remains in the unconscious of many, above all in the academic and intellectual world."

Heydrich created a special section of the SS Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst--SD), Section II/111, to deal specifically with Freemasonry. The SD was particularly interested, as its personnel believed that Freemasonry exercised actual political power, shaped public opinion through control of the press, and was thus in a position to provoke war, subversion, and revolution. Later, Section VII B 1 of the Reich Security Main Office (Reichssicherheitshauptamt; RSHA), an amalgamation of the SD and the Security Police formed in 1939, took over the section devoted to investigating Freemasonry.

As Nazi Germany prepared for war in 1937-1938, the regime relaxed pressure on the rank and file of the dissolved

lodges. Hitler amnestied members of the rank and file who renounced their former loyalties in April 1938 and efforts were made in the public sector to decide on continued employment of former lodge members on a case to case basis. Many civil servants who had been forced to retire due to their Masonic connections were recalled into service after the war began and the ban on former Masons serving in the Wehrmacht (German armed forces), even at the officer rank, was relaxed. The Nazi party continued to ban former Masons from membership, though exceptions were made after 1938 in both the Nazi party and even the SS.

As they conquered Europe, the Germans forcibly dissolved Masonic organizations and confiscated their assets and documents wherever they established an occupation regime. After a lodge was closed, it was ransacked for membership lists, important library and archival items, furnishings, and other cultural artifacts. Items seized would be sent on to the appropriate German agency, primarily the SD and later, the RSHA.

As part of their propaganda campaign against Freemasonry, the Nazis and other local right-wing organizations mounted anti-Masonic exhibitions throughout occupied Europe. German-occupied Paris hosted an anti-Masonic exhibition in October 1940, as did German-occupied Brussels in February 1941. Displaying Masonic ritual and

cultural artifacts stolen from lodges, such exhibitions aimed to ridicule and direct hatred towards Freemasons and to heighten fears of a Jewish-Masonic conspiracy. German wartime propaganda, particularly in the army, charged that the Jews and Masons had provoked World War II and were responsible for the policies of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, who was identified as a Freemason.

Some of Germany's Axis partners decreed police and discriminatory measures against Masons. In August 1940, the Vichy France regime issued a decree declaring Masons to be enemies of the state and authorizing police surveillance of them. The French wartime authorities even created a card file that identified all members of the Grand Orient of France, a leading French Masonic organization; the card file survived the war and was later microfilmed for the holdings of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives.

In 1942, Alfred Rosenberg was authorized by a Hitler decree to wage an "intellectual war" against the Jews and Freemasons. To that end, Hitler permitted Rosenberg's "Deployment Staff of Reich Leader Rosenberg (Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg; ERR) to seize and evaluate Masonic archives and libraries to best equip them to carry on the "methodical intellectual fight" that was "necessary to win the war." The members of ERR were

guaranteed the support of the High Command of the German Armed Forces (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht; OKW) in fulfilling their mission.

After the end of World War II, vast collections of Masonic archives and library collections that had been seized by German authorities were captured, in turn, by Allied and Soviet forces. For example, a significant Masonic archive was found in Silesia, in eastern Germany, by Soviet troops in the last days of World War II. The Soviet authorities shipped the records to Moscow, where they were held in secret archives. Other Masonic-related materials were recovered in Poland; some of this material has been microfilmed and stored in the archive of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Since the end of the Cold War, many Masonic-related collections have been returned to their countries of origin, while others continue to be held in foreign repositories.

Because many of the Freemasons who were arrested were also Jews and/or members of the political opposition, it is not known how many individuals were placed in Nazi concentration camps and/or were targeted only because they were Freemasons. Some former lodge members, as individuals, participated in or were associated with German resistance circles; and some were arrested and murdered during World War II.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY

By Howard Schnauber

I am the flag of the United States of America . . . My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice. I fly majestically over great institutes of learning. I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world.

Look up! And see me!

I stand for peace, honor, truth, and justice . . . I stand for freedom . . . I am confident . . . I am arrogant . . . I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners . . . My head is a little higher . . . My colors a little truer. I bow to no one.

I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped . . . I am saluted . . . I am respected . . . I am revered . . . I am loved . . . And I am feared.

I have fought every battle of every war for more than 200 years . . . Gettysburg, Shilo, Appomatox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, the beaches of Normandy, the deserts of Africa, the cane fields of the Philippines, the rice paddies and jungles of Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Guadalcanal New Britain, Peleliu, and many more islands.

And a score of places long forgotten by all but those who were with me. I was there.



I led my soldiers . . . I followed them . . . I watched over them . . . They loved me.

I was on a small hill in Iwo Jima.

I was dirty, battle-worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me, and I was proud.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free.

It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country, and when it is by those with whom I have served in battle - it hurts. But I shall overcome - for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have been a silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips to be used for bandages for my wounded comrades on the field of battle . . . When I fly at half mast to honor my soldiers . . . And when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving mother at the graveside of her fallen son.

I am proud.

My name is Old Glory.

Dear God - Long may I wave.

Photo Gallery:

Degree work and Grand Master's Visitation



Bro. Adam Smoller is shown with Bro. Orly Ragudos (Master, pro-temporé) after his initiation as an Entered Apprentice

Bro. Frankie Lee, Jr. poses with WBro. Ed Abutin following his becoming a Master Mason



Bro. David Stanton, Jr., after being passed to Fellowcraft, with Bro. Orlando Ragudos (Master, pro-temporé) and visiting WBros. Ted Galsim and José Aguilar of Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass Lodge #614 of Los Angeles, CA



WBro. Ed Abutin is shown presenting respective proficiency cards to Bros. Ed Nones and Greg Pentecost

MWBro. Bruce H. Bonnell, during his last official visitation as Grand Master, with WBro. Ed Abutin



Bro. Stevenson Chang, after being raised to Master Mason, with WBro. Ed Abutin, MWBro. Ray Wieckowicz, Jr., PGM, and several visiting Brothers

GRAND LODGE VS. BLUE LODGE: WHO SERVES WHOM?

By W.: Tim Bryce, PM, MPS
timb001@phmainstreet.com
Palm Harbor, Florida, USA
"A Foot Soldier for Freemasonry"

Masons have been meeting upon the level and parting on the square well before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 (the first "Grand Lodge"). The invention of the Grand Lodge system was inevitable as it afforded Masons a means to administer Freemasonry on a consistent basis to suit local customs and cultural requirements. Establishing Grand jurisdictions to conform with political boundaries makes sense in that it allows Masons to legally operate under the particular laws of the state they are living.

This brings up an important point, the Grand Lodge system was originally designed to serve administrative purposes only. In other words, it is a servant of the Craft, not the other way around. It has long been understood that the authority over

the activities of a local particular Lodge (aka Blue or Craft Lodge) primarily resides in the officers and members of the particular Lodge itself, not the Grand Lodge. However, over the years, we have seen a transition whereby the authority of the Grand Lodge supersedes the particular Lodge, thereby they serve the Grand Lodge and not the reverse.

Let me give you an example, I recently returned from our Grand Communications which, as most of you know, is intended to elect new Grand Lodge officers and vote on legislation. This particular Grand Communications annoyed the Craft greatly. I heard it described by delegates as the worst communications in recent memory, a model of inefficiency, a farce, the "Grand Master's Coronation" and the "Grand Waste

of Time" (and these are the kinder adjectives without the expletives). Why the disgruntlement? Because delegates felt their time and expense were taken for granted by the Grand Lodge. Had the Grand Master wanted to conduct the true business of the Grand Lodge in one day, he could have easily done so if he wanted. He didn't. Instead, the Craft suffered through endless introductions, was bored to death by committee reports as preprinted and included in the delegate's packet of materials, and put to sleep by several unrelated speeches intended to pad time. To add insult to injury, little was accomplished in terms of legislation and the status quo was safely guarded again for another year. In other words, no progress was made. The Craft was so incensed by the Communications, I wouldn't be surprised if we saw a sharp decline in attendance next year.

Regardless of the outcome, what disturbed me the most was the total lack of consideration for the Craft,

only for the Grand Lodge officers. Brothers sacrificed a national holiday and a work day to attend a meeting that squandered their time. It wasn't the Craft that was glorified, it was the Grand Line. My response to this was, "Haven't we got this backwards?" It seems to me that instead of having humble servants of the Craft, we have created a Royal Family that answers to nobody.

The true power of Freemasonry belongs to the particular Lodge, not the Grand Lodge which should be nothing more than an administrative function. When it oversteps its authority and usurps the authority of the particular Lodge unnecessarily, then we have an unsavory situation emerging.

For those who believe in the tyrannical power of the Grand Lodge, I have two words of advice: "Remember Runnymede. "

THE LAMBSKIN APRON

(Author Unknown)

It is not ornamental; its cost is not great,
There are things far more useful, yet truly I state
That of all my possessions none can compare
With the White Leather Apron, that all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered, just what it all meant,
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent
In shaving and dressing and looking just right.
Until Mother would say, it's the Masons tonight.

Sometimes Mother would say, "Dad what makes you go,
Way up there tonight, through the sleet and snow;
You see the same things each night of the year."
And then Dad would say, "Yes, I know my dear;

Each time I see the same things, it is true,
Though they be old, they always seem new,
For each hand that I clasp, each friend that I greet
Seem just a little closer, each time that we meet.

Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true, who had entered before,
Kneeled at the Altar, and there I was taught.
That Virtue and Honor can never be bought.

That there on the level, men meet and abide.
That wealth and position, is all cast aside.
So Honor the Lambskin, and may it remain,
Forever, untarnished, and free from all stain.
So that when we are called to the Grand Architect's Love
We will meet him up there, in that Grand Lodge above.

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

(Author Unknown)

It amuses me now to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members -- when I was there all the time. Do you remember me?

I am the fellow who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have his own friends to talk and sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they did not pay much attention to me.

I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or to somehow participate and contribute -- no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess it did not matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date I decided to stay home and watch a good program on television. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before.

You might say that I am a good guy, a good family man, that I hold a responsible job and love my community.

You know what else I am? I am the member who never came back.

NEWS RELEASE: GOVERNOR LINGLE NAMES SERAFIN COLMENARES, JR. AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

HONOLULU - Governor Linda Lingle today named Serafin P. Colmenares, Jr. as the executive director of the Office of Language Access. He will start his new position on April 25.

The Office was created as part of the Language Access Act (Act 290) implemented last year by Governor Lingle to improve state and state-funded services to immigrants with limited English proficiency. It is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

As the executive director, Colmenares will be responsible for coordinating with state agencies and nonprofit organizations that render services on behalf of the state to ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency have access to services. This includes working with the various agencies to develop and implement plans to offer translation services to individuals who

seek access to services, programs, or activities, as well as to translate vital documents.

"As someone who immigrated to Hawai'i, speaks several languages, and who has worked to help other immigrants assimilate and gain access to vital services, Serafin is ideally suited to head the Office of Language Access," said Governor Lingle. "As the Office of Language Access continues to take shape, Serafin's background and personal experiences will be valuable in ensuring that no one in our state is denied access to basic services such as medical care and housing simply because they may not be proficient in English."

Colmenares currently works as an evaluation analyst for the state's Executive Office on Aging, which is attached to the Department of Health. He previously worked in other positions including program officer for health at the Hawai'i

Community Foundation, bilingual health worker at the Lanakila Easy Access Project, job resource specialist and case manager with Catholic Charities Immigrant Services; interpreter with Bilingual Access Line of Helping Hands Hawai'i; and utilization review analyst with Hawai'i Medical Service Association.

Colmenares was a lecturer of political science at Chaminade University and Leeward Community College, and held several positions at Mindanao State University in the Philippines, including chair of the Department of Political Science and assistant and acting dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. He also conducted research at the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawai'i and at the Population Institute of the East-West Center.

He holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Hawai'i, a PhD and master's in political science from the University of Delhi in India, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Mindanao State University.

Born in Bacolod City in the Negros Occidental Province of the Philippines, Colmenares speaks English, Tagalog, Cebuano (Visayan), Ilonggo (Visayan), and some Spanish.

Colmenares is a co-anchor of "The Visayan Hour" radio program on KNDI 1270 AM, and previously served as co-editor of the O'ahu Filipino Times (the official newsletter of the O'ahu Filipino Community Council) and editor of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO) Newsletter.

He is actively involved in various Filipino community organizations in Hawai'i, including the Filipino Community Center, Congress of Visayan Organizations, Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, National Federation of Filipino-American Associations Pacific Region, and the Bayanihan Project Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program of the Organ Donor Center of Hawai'i.

AMEN

By: Jay Leno

The other day I was reading Newsweek magazine and came across some poll data I found rather hard to believe.

It must be true given the source, right?

The Newsweek poll alleges that 67 percent of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed and 69 percent of the country is unhappy with the performance of the president. In essence 2/3s of the citizenry just ain't happy and want a change.

So being the knuckle dragger I am, I started thinking, "What we are so unhappy about?"

Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter? Could it be that 95.4 percent of these unhappy folks have a job? Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we move through each state?

Or possibly the hundreds of clean and safe motels we would find along the way that can provide temporary shelter?

I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough. Or could

it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all and even send a helicopter to take you to the hospital.

Perhaps you are one of the 70 percent of Americans who own a home. You may be upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames thus saving you, your family and your belongings. Or if, while at home watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes, an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss.

This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents. Neighborhoods where 90 percent of teenagers own cell phones and computers.

How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world?

Maybe that is what has 67 percent of you folks unhappy.

Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen. No wonder the world loves the U.S., yet has a great disdain for its citizens.

They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do noth-

ing but complain about what we don't have, and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

I know, I know. What about the president who took us into war and has no plan to get us out? The president who has a measly 31 percent approval rating?

Is this the same president who guided the nation in the dark days after 9/11? The president that cut taxes to bring an economy out of recession?

Could this be the same guy who has been called every name in the book for succeeding in keeping all the spoiled ungrateful brats safe from terrorist attacks?

The commander in chief of an all-volunteer army that is out there defending you and me? Did you hear how bad the President is on the news or talk show?

Did this news affect you so much, make you so unhappy you couldn't take a look around for yourself and see all the good things and be glad?

Think about it.....are you upset at the President because he actually caused you personal pain OR is it because the "Media" told you he was failing to kiss your sorry ungrateful behind every day.

Make no mistake about it. The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have volunteered to serve, and in many cases may have died for your freedom.

There is currently no draft in this country. They didn't have to go.

They are able to refuse to go and end up with either a "general" discharge, an "other than honorable" discharge or,

worst case scenario, a "dishonorable" discharge after a few days in the brig.

So why then the flat-out discontentment in the minds of 69 percent of Americans? Say what you want but I blame it on the media. If it bleeds it leads and they specialize in bad news. Everybody will watch a car crash with blood and guts. How many will watch kids selling lemonade at the corner?

The media knows this and media outlets are for-profit corporations. They offer what sells, and when criticized, try to defend their actions by "justifying" them in one way or another. Just ask why they tried to allow a murderer like O.J. Simpson to write a book about how he didn't kill his wife, but if he did he would have done it this way.....Insane!

Stop buying the negativism you are fed everyday by the media. Shut off the TV, burn Newsweek, and use the New York Times for the bottom of your bird cage.

Then start being grateful for all we have as a country. There is exponentially more good than bad.

We are among the most blessed people on Earth and should thank God several times a day, or at least be thankful and appreciative.

With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, "Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

A Dynasty?

By: WBro. Antonio M. Ligaya, PM

A distinguished Brother recently informed me, on two separate occasions, of a rumor circulating that “Filipinos are building a dynasty in Hawaiian Lodge.”

I initially shrugged it off the first time I was told of it, but on hearing it again – from the same source, on another occasion several weeks later – I almost replied, to borrow the words of a Philippine Senator, in a tirade, “I spit in the face of those who are spreading this rumor. I am not angry.

I am irate! I am furious! I am foaming at the mouth! I am hitting the roof! I am homicidal! I am suicidal! I am ballistic! I am insulted! I am humiliated! I am abased! I am degraded! And not only that, I feel like I am throwing up to be sitting in Lodge with those who say such things, or even those who opt to stay away from Lodge due to such thought!”

How dare they?

But I pondered about this pronouncement with a much cooler head more seriously, and inspired me to write this piece, not so much as to dignify, but, rather address the subject with facts!

The Fourth Edition of The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language defines “dynasty” as “a succession of rulers from the same family or line”, or “a family or group that maintains power for several genera-

tions”. The Random House Unabridged Dictionary similarly defines it as “a sequence of rulers from the same family, stock, or group”, or “the rule of such a sequence.”

Hawaiian Lodge, in its more than 155 years of existence, has had only five Past Masters of Filipino ancestry – RWBro. Severino M. Malajito (1987), our current Grand Master MWBro. Oscar M. Jayme (1991), WBro. Wilson S. Camagan (1998), this author (2005) and WBro. Froilan B. Domingo (2006) – during the last 19 years, which, I believe, is hardly a dynasty! Perhaps worthy of note, also, is, it took 135 years to have a “Filipino” Master – and I dare say there must have been at least a sprinkling of “Filipino” members in Hawaiian Lodge even then.

The reference, however, might be with regard to what’s “down the road” – hence the statement “... are building ...”, for, it is a fact that from 2005, with this author as Master, through 2010, or, for six consecutive years, the East will be occupied by a “Filipino”. Could this, then, be the “dynasty” alluded to that is being built?

Go back with me, dear Brethren, to the recent past, and hopefully learn what led to this situation!

Since I first stepped into Makiki Temple, the “home” of Hawaiian Lodge, in 1985, I’ve noticed most, if not

all, of those in the kitchen preparing or helping serve meals both at regular meetings and other events, such as picnics, etc., are “Filipinos” – whether they were members or not. I still have to hear someone comment about a “dynasty” being built, by “Filipinos” or otherwise, in the kitchen and among those doing the “dirty” and laborious tasks! You might even have also noticed the likes of Bro. Sal Mendigorin, Esmie Solis, and WBro. Wilson Camagan and others, along with their wives, putting up buntings and other decorations, setting up the tables and chairs, before each social event, and afterwards cleaning the place up. Not once did I hear anyone mention the “d” word, at any time, either!

Masters, in the past, I surmise, have traditionally appointed those whom they have observed to be somewhat regular in their attendance, and those who are active participants in discussions and therefore might even be slightly interested to become officers. I suspect this was, is, and will always be, one (if not the only) reason on how one becomes an appointed Lodge officer – whether one is “Filipino” or otherwise! One has only to check our Tiler’s Log to verify that on any given meeting, at least fifty percent of attendees have “Filipino”-sounding names, and, therefore, might be “Filipinos”.

In the case of “Filipino” appointments, fortunately or unfortunately, as the case might be, most appointees tend to stay unless transferred elsewhere because of their military duties as is often the case. Those who stay works on learning the ritual, albeit slowly, move up through the “chairs”, and

eventually qualify to get elected – as Senior Deacons, and, invariably, as Junior and Senior Wardens, and finally, as Masters! I would even dare to say they were voted in to their respective positions not only by “Filipino” members, either!

Let me assure those who still have doubts: no one is building a dynasty in Hawaiian Lodge, for it already exists! Yes, in the strictest definition of the word: a sequence of rulers from the same family, stock, or group – dedicated Freemasons all – have been running and managing the affairs of our Hawaiian Lodge – for several generations!

On a more personal level, after being sworn to the U. S. Flag and to defend the U. S. Constitution as is among the requisites in becoming a U. S. citizen approximately 30 years ago, the judge told me and those who also became American citizens that day, that henceforth we have become Americans, who should always be proud of our ancestries and heritage. Did the judge lie? Am I to continue being referred to as a “Filipino”, albeit remaining proud of my ancestry and heritage, yet might definitely get physically hurt should I call an African-American “African”?

With regard to the Masonic Fraternity, I’ve always been taught and have always believed that among Brethren, there are no Whites, Blacks, Browns, Yellows, or whatever, of any religious persuasion and belief, but only MASONs – who are supposed to meet me and each other on the level ...

PHOTO GALLERY:

Grand Lodge Installation Banquet, Easter Egg Hunt, Golf Outing and Widows' Night













From the Secretary's Desk: Lodge Activities since March 7, 2007

By: Antonio M. Ligaya, P.M.

March 28	3rd Degree Conferral - Raising: Bro. Frankie Lee, Jr.	Makiki Masonic Temple
April 4	3rd Degree - Stated Meeting MWBro. Bruce H. Bonnel, GM - Official Visitation "Cable Tow", 1st Qtr/2007 Issue issued	Makiki Masonic Temple
April 8	"Easter Egg Hunting" Event held	Pearl Harbor Marina Cabana
April 11	3rd Degree Conferral - Raising: Bro. Stevenson A. Chang	Makiki Masonic Temple
April 15	Lodge's Golf Outing	Barbers Point Golf Club
April 18	1st Degree Conferral - Initiation: Bro. Adam M. Smoller	Makiki Masonic Temple
April 20-21	Grand Lodge's Annual Communication Annual Election of GL Officers	Scottish Rite Cathedral
April 25	3rd Degree Proficiency (Short Form): Bro. Menandro S. Nones	Makiki Masonic Temple
April 28	A Night of Tribute to Our Widows	Pagoda Hotel
May 2	3rd Degree - Stated Meeting	Makiki Masonic Temple
May 19	Lodge's Golf Outing	Navy-Marine Golf Club
May 23	1st Degree Proficiency (Short Form): Bro. David M. Stanton 2nd Degree Conferral - Passing: Bro. David M. Stanton	Makiki Masonic Temple
May 28	Memorial Day Observance	Hassinger Memorial Columbarium
June 6	3rd Degree - Stated Meeting	Makiki Masonic Temple

2007 LODGE COMMITTEES

Auditing Committee:	WB Donald Hall, PM - Chair Bro Ernie Alegre Bro Cezar Evangelista Bro Manuel Ibera
Awards:	WB Eduardo Abutin - Chair Bro Orlando Ragudos Bro Alexander Escasa
Cable Tow:	WB Serafin Colmenares, PM - Chair WB Antonio Ligaya, PM Bro Alexander Escasa Bro Dale Palileo
Candidate's Coach:	WB Richard Huston, PM
Charity Committee:	WB Eduardo Abutin - Chair Bro Orlando Ragudos Bro Alexander Escasa
Delinquent Dues:	WB Eduardo Abutin WB Antonio Ligaya, PM Bro Alberto Alarcon
Masonic Temple Assn:	Bro Gregory Pentecost - Chair WB Robert Schultz, PM
Officers' Coach:	WB Wilson Camagan, PM RW Dennis Ing, SGW
Past Masters' Assn:	WB Kwanlin Wong - Chair All Past Masters
Scholarship:	MW Ernest Yamane, PGM - Chair MW Randy Chang, PGM WB Kwanlin Wong, PM WB William Dresser, PM WB Wilson Camagan, PM WB Antonio Ligaya, PM Bro. Vernon South
Sunshine:	Bro Alexander Escasa - Chair Bro Orly Ragudos Bro Ricarte Taylan
Youth Groups:	RW Dennis Ing, SGW - Chair Bro Alex Escasa

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