

SEPTEMBER 2021

rite now

THE MAGAZINE OF THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH



MASONIC HEROES

In Memoriam

Since our last issue, the following members of the Valley of Pittsburgh have been called home:

III. Richard P. Kocian, 33°, MSA

Paul Harry Anderson III

Marcel A. Chauvet

Charles S. Crayton

Richard A. Dankmyer

Herbert A. Davison

Nelson H. Erb

Charles F. Evans Jr.

Ray C. Fallen

Charles J. Fisher Jr.

Clifford W. Flegal

Samuel Kermit Glisan

Sylvester J. Haid Jr.

James C. Hall

Wilbur A. Haver

Karl H. Hay

Edgar K. Hennel

Robert S. Landymore

Adorno Gido Lazzari

William McBride

Matthew K. McKee Jr.

Jaye A. McKenery

William R. McLhinney

John W. Meldrum

George R. Mohr

Arthur E. Moore

John B. Naretto

Warren B. Osborne

John Paletta

Wilfred O. Pillow

Albert J. Raimond

Eugene W. Ruckh

Michael G. Sedlak

Paul A. Schmidtke

Charles D. Steele

William F. Steffen

Larry D. Stoneking

Marlin S. Thomas

Milton G. Thompson

Carl A. Utberg

Gus Xilas

John William Yates

Richard E. Yeager

Clyde W. Zimmerman Jr.



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riteNOW

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September 2021



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The Modern Vitruvian by PJ Roup, 33°

We Are All Heroes



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Rodney E. Boyce, 33°

Kristin M. Douglas, 32°

Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32°

David L. Moore, 33°

David W. Morgans, 33°

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Robert B. Ruff, 33°

Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

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Add FSC Stamp

RiteNow magazine is the official publication of the Valley of Pittsburgh, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, District of Pennsylvania, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA. Opinions expressed are those of the individual author(s). Information is obtained from correspondence, press releases, Masonic publications and miscellaneous sources, which in many cases, cannot be verified. **RiteNow** magazine is published four times a year. © 2021, Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15237. Phone: 412-939-3579. Email: secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

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about the cover

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. As children, we may have dreamed of being Superman or Batman, but no one has ever placed Be a Hero on their list of life goals. As you will read in this issue of *RiteNow*, you will see that many within our ranks have achieved this status in the eyes of their peers. They have done so by living true to the

tenets of the Craft, being exemplary role models, and applying themselves with zeal to whatever they have been called to do. As you read the stories in this issue, we hope you reflect fondly on those heroes you have met on your journey. Maybe you'll even be inspired to be a hero for someone else.



Meet the New Valley Officers

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection



David L. Moore, 33°
Thrice Potent Master



Eric S. Teasdale, 33°
Deputy Master



Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA
Senior Warden



Christopher A. McNeal, 32°
Junior Warden

Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem



Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32°
Sovereign Prince



Richard F. Kucera, 32°
High Priest



Robert H. Nelson, 32°
Senior Warden



B. Scott Allen, 32°
Junior Warden

Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix



Kris M. Douglas, 32°
Most Wise Master



Jordan L. Frei, 32°
Senior Warden



Charles F. Zurcher, 32°
Junior Warden



Benjamin J. Douglas, 32°
Orator

Pennsylvania Consistory



Rodney E. Boyce, 33°
Commander-in-Chief



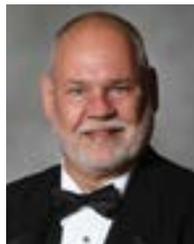
William G. Johnston, 33°
1st Lieutenant Commander



Joshua S. Freeman, 32°
2nd Lieutenant Commander



Thomas J. Anke, 32°
Engineer & Seneschal



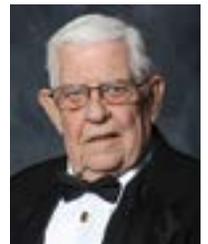
George W. Polnar, 33°
Treasurer



David W. Morgans, 33°
Secretary



Vito A. Urso, 33°
Hospitaler



Dennis R. Johnston, 33°
Tiler

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection 14°

David L. Moore, 33° Thrice Potent Master
 Eric S. Teasdale, 33° Deputy Master
 Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA Senior Warden
 Christopher A. McNeal, 32° Junior Warden
 David C. Allison, 32° Orator
 David C. Runco, 32° Master of Ceremonies
 Erich W. Gumto, 33° Guard

Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem

Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° Sovereign Prince
 Richard F. Kucera, 32° High Priest
 Robert H. Nelson, 32° Senior Warden
 B. Scott Allen, 32° Junior Warden
 Aaron J. Antimary, 32° Master of Ceremonies
 Robert B. McGinnis, 32° Master of Entrances

Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix 18°

Kristin M. Douglas, 32° Most Wise Master
 Jordan L. Frei, 32° Senior Warden
 Charles F. Zurcher, 32° Junior Warden
 Benjamin J. Douglas, 32° Orator
 Richard J. Saxberg, 32° Master of Ceremonies
 Greer C. R. Lukens, 32° Guard

Pennsylvania Consistory 32°

Rodney E. Boyce, 33° Commander-in-Chief
 William G. Johnston, 33° 1st Lieutenant Commander
 Joshua S. Freeman, 32° 2nd Lieutenant Commander
 David E. Thumm Jr., 32° Orator
 Thomas B. Baker, 32° Chancellor
 Thomas J. Anke, 32° Engineer & Seneschal
 Robert W. Lovic, 32° Standard Bearer
 Robert D. Nichol, 32° Guard
 George W. Polnar, 33° Treasurer
 David W. Morgans, 33° Secretary
 Vito A. Urso, 33° Hospitaler
 Dennis R. Johnston, 33° Tiler
 Robert F. Dunkle, 33°, Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA,
 Ronald A. Plesh, 32°, MSA MFS Representatives

Executive Committee

Rodney E. Boyce, 33°, Chairman
 William G. Johnston, 33° Joshua S. Freeman, 32°
 David L. Moore, 33° Eric S. Teasdale, 33°
 Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° Richard F. Kucera, 32°
 Kristin M. Douglas, 32° Jordan L. Frei, 32°
 George W. Polnar, 33° David W. Morgans, 33°
 Brian A. Maxwell, 32°, Trustee Paul J. Roup, 33°, Active

Trustees

Brian A. Maxwell, 32°, Chairman
 Austin R. Shifrin, 33°, Vice Chairman
 Patrick G. Blackwell, 33° Rodney E. Boyce, 33°
 Kristin M. Douglas, 32° Thomas M. Gasmire, 33°
 Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° James C. Mayes, 33°
 Glenn D. Miller II, 33° David L. Moore, 33°

Allegiance

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts, and whose Officers are: Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Robert J. Bateman, 33°, Deputy for Pennsylvania. Other Active members for Pennsylvania are: Ill. Stephen Gardner, 33°, Ill. Thomas R. Labagh, 33°, Ill. Keith E. Parkinson, 33°, and Ill. Paul J. Roup, 33°.



David C. Allison, 32°
Orator



David C. Runco, 32°
Master of Ceremonies

photo unavailable:

Erich W. Gumto, 33°
Guard



Aaron J. Antimary, 32°
Master of Ceremonies



Robert B. McGinnis, 32°
Master of Entrances



Richard J. Saxberg, 32°
Master of Ceremonies

photo unavailable:

Greer C. R. Lukens, 32°
Guard



Robert W. Lovic, 32°
Standard Bearer

photos unavailable:

David E. Thumm Jr., 32°
Orator

Thomas B. Baker, 32°
Chancellor

Robert D. Nichol, 32°
Guard



The Active

A message from the Supreme Council Active for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

In the Striving

By Paul J. Roup, 33°



The most recent issue of *The Northern Light* featured the results of the Valley of Excellence program. An impressive 19 of our 101 Valleys achieved the 90 points required to receive that designation. I say “impressive” because it was never meant to be easy.

The Valley of Excellence program was born out of the idea that all Valleys have the potential for greatness, and that the only thing stopping them is a gentle “nudge” in the right direction. That nudge has come in the form of a series of best practices and measurable goals designed to streamline Valley operations, energize and feed the membership, bolster charitable endeavors, and identify and produce better officers.

The Valley of Pittsburgh did not earn the Valley of Excellence designation this year, but there is much to be proud of. With a very respectable score of 74.60, it is clear that we played to our strengths. We have always had a generous membership, and we shattered the philanthropic goals that were set for us, our leaders participated in our education and leadership programs, and our overall Valley operations have continued to

be as solid as ever.

So where can we improve? Quite simply, it's in the membership category. As you can see from our scorecard, it is where most of our shortcomings are. The good news is that it is easily fixable...with your help. We need you to volunteer.

We may not have achieved the designation of Valley of Excellence, but we are an excellent Valley.

First, ask your lodge to host a Rite on the Road event. Now is when most incoming Worshipful Masters are struggling to plan entertainment for their stated meetings. Rite on the Road is a prepackaged event that will entertain and inform your members as well as provide joining opportunities for the Scottish Rite. Contact Brother Kris Douglas, Most Wise

Master, to get more information on hosting an event like this. (See Membership, p. 35)

Second, we need to invigorate our Brother to Brother calling program. This program is NOT a dues collection program. It is simply a way to reach out once or twice a year to our membership and see how they are doing. If each of you reading this would volunteer to call 10 members over the course of a month, we would be able to reach our entire



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membership at least three times a year! A quick check of my math says that that is (a far-from-burdensome) one call every three days.

Lastly, we need to work on retention. The beauty in that is the fact that if we do the other two pieces, it just might take care of itself. If we have a robust Blue Lodge informational program and we contact our Brothers to show that we care about them (and we do care about them), our members will be less likely to be suspended for non-payment.

Our membership is the fuel that drives our Valley. They (you) are our reason for existing and the target of all we plan and do. We may not have achieved the designation of Valley of Excellence, but we are an excellent Valley. Our programs, reunions, entertainment, and events are all top-notch. If you haven't been out in a while, I encourage you to make time for the Valley of Pittsburgh. Attend a meeting, come to a social event, or volunteer to serve. You and the Valley will be the better for it.

We didn't reach all of our goals this year, but we came close. Comfort zones are not conducive to greatness, so we must get out of them. We know what we need to do, and we know how to do it. This year, our target is excellence. This year, we will strive to improve the areas where we have struggled. We will strive to give our members our very best. And we will strive to continue

those practices which have made us a premier Valley in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

It is in the striving that we grow.



<i>VALLEY OF EXCELLENCE SCORE CARD</i>			
<i>From 6/16/2020-6/15/2021</i>			
Valley of Pittsburgh (PA008)			
No. of members*: 3817			
Membership (50%)			
	<u>Valley Goal</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Score</u>
Recruitment (Initiations)	35	48	20.00
Engagement			
Reunions (Events)	2	3	4.00
Family/Life (Events)	12	7	2.33
ROTR (Events)	4	0	0.00
Orientation (Events)	2	1	2.00
Brother to Brother	763	230	1.21
Retention* (Restorations)	39	10	2.60
*Losses < 5% (excluding deaths)			
			Membership Total: 32.10
Service and Philanthropy (25%)			
Blue Envelope	286	308	5.00
Grand Almoner's	\$ 7,634.00	\$ 7,634.00	5.00
Champion a Charity	\$ 7,634.00	\$ 58,177.00	5.00
Widows Program	2	0	0.00
Service Events	6	3	2.50
			Service and Philanthropy Total: 17.50
Leadership Development (15%)			
State Participation (# of Members)	4	17	5.00
Membership Education (# of Members)	191	206	5.00
Mentoring Program	1	1	5.00
			Leadership Development Total: 15.00
Valley Operations (10%)			
Finances	Submitted	Y	2.00
990's/ Annual Report	Submitted	Y	2.00
Presiding Officer's	Submitted	Y	2.00
New Member Registration	< 10 days	Y	2.00
Communications	20	25	2.00
			Operations Total: 10.00
VALLEY OF EXCELLENCE TOTAL POINTS: 74.60			
*LOP Members as of 6/16/2020			
Ran on 6/21/2021			

The Chief

A message from the Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh

CONSISTORY

Hero or Mentor?

By Rodney E. Boyce, 33°



Merriam Webster defines *hero* in four ways: first, as a mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent endowed with great strength or ability; second, as an illustrious warrior; third, as a person admired for achievements and noble qualities; and fourth, as one who shows great courage. My Apple Dictionary also defines *hero* in four ways: first, as a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; second, as the chief male character in a book, play, or movie, who is typically identified with good qualities, and with whom the reader is expected to sympathize; third, as a person of superhuman qualities and often semi-divine origin, in particular one of those whose exploits and dealings with the gods were the subject of ancient Greek myths and legends; and fourth, as the North American term for submarine sandwich.

For this article, I think we are referring to Merriam Webster's third definition and the Apple Dictionary's first. However, it would be interesting to discuss Apple's fourth definition. After all, everyone knows it's called a *sub* not a *hero*!

Seriously though, I think we all have at least one Masonic hero.

So, what makes a person a hero?

I think that *hero* is one of the most overused terms in society today. We seem to apply it to everyone who has done something "special." Shouldn't it be reserved for those who have done truly extraordinary things?

I've had the opportunity to meet Illustrious Brother Sammy Lee Davis,

33°, who was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968. Brother Davis did extraordinary things to save the lives of his fellow service men while fighting the Viet Cong at Firebase Cudgel in Vietnam.

I've had the privilege to present Illustrious Brother Arnold D. Palmer, 33°, with his 50-year Service Emblem of Gold and

There are so many men who have influenced me—and made me a better man—in our Fraternity.

to invest him with the DeMolay Legion of Honor. Brother Palmer single-handedly changed the world of professional golf forever. He won 62 PGA Tour titles. He won the PGA Tour Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998; and in 1974, was one of the 13 original inductees into the World Golf Hall of Fame. He influenced men in business, in philanthropy, and in the entire sports world. He is a legend.

And, I've spent time with Illustrious Brother Richard M. Groat, 33°, who



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I met as young member of DeMolay on a rainy day while playing golf at his Champion Lakes course. Brother Groat was an outstanding Duke University basketball star who went on to play shortstop for the 1960 World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates. He was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007 and is well known and respected as a University of Pittsburgh basketball color commentator, guest speaker, and Master Mason.

Each of these men is a hero in his own right. They are Freemasons who have been awarded the highest honor in the Scottish Rite. But are they

Masonic heroes? Or are they heroes who happen to be Masons?

They are heroes of mine, but when I think of Masonic heroes, I think of another group of men: The men who mentored me. Often, we are not granted the pleasure of being mentored by our heroes, but in Freemasonry, we are. There are so many men who have influenced me—and made me a better man—in our Fraternity. They are too numerous to mention.

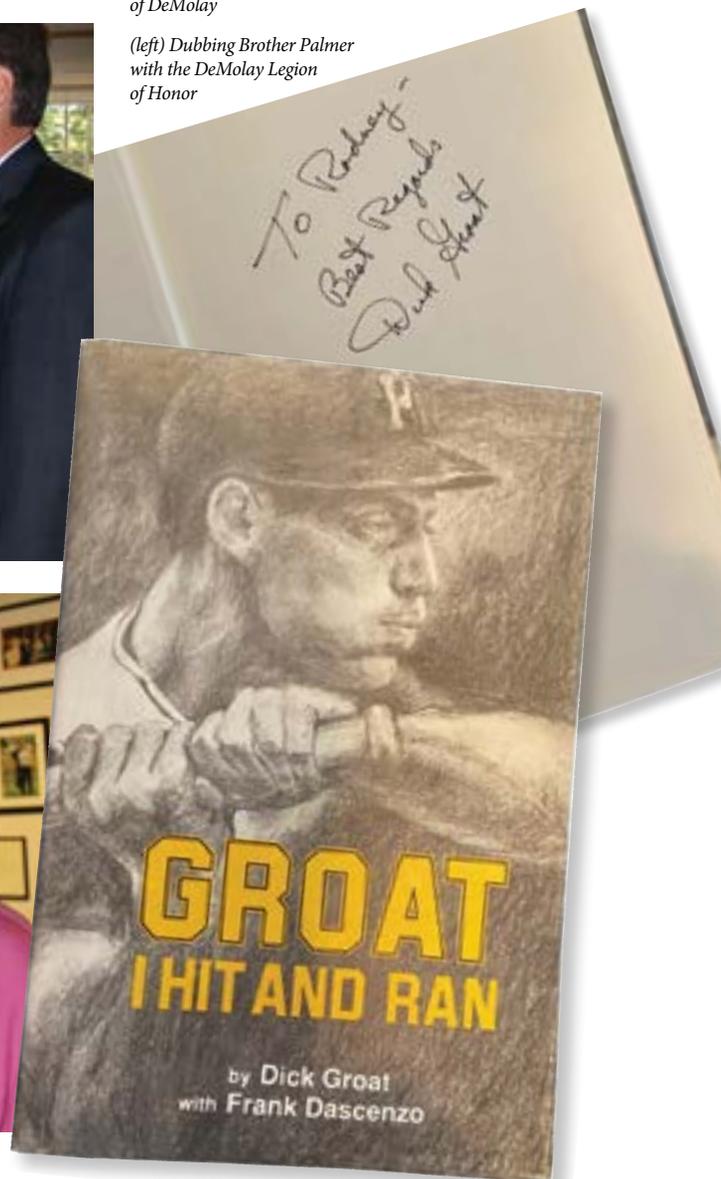
However, there are a few standouts. Like the man who leads by example. Never speaks ill of anyone. Goes

about his business with patience, humor, and understanding. Knows the work. Helps teach anyone who wishes to learn the ritual. And waits to raise his 50th man as a Mason until his son is that man. Yes, I'm the luckiest guy there is; my father is my most influential Masonic hero.

I believe he is also a Masonic hero to many others. No matter where or when I travel in the Masonic world, everyone asks, "How's your dad doing?" It makes me happy. And it makes me proud.

(below) The autographed book Brother Groat gave me the day I met him as an active member of DeMolay

(left) Dubbing Brother Palmer with the DeMolay Legion of Honor



Usually, the second question I get when attending a Masonic event is, “How is Sam doing?”

Sam is Illustrious Brother Samuel C. Williamson, 33°; and by mentioning his name, I have undoubtedly upset him. He is humble and hates to be introduced. I met him over 40 years ago as a young man. He terrified me. But over the years, we have become the best of friends. He is always willing to provide sound advice (or criticism) when needed. He will absolutely support you when you are making positive change in the Fraternity. And he is a forward-thinker and always willing to challenge ideologies that need to be updated, changed, or eliminated.

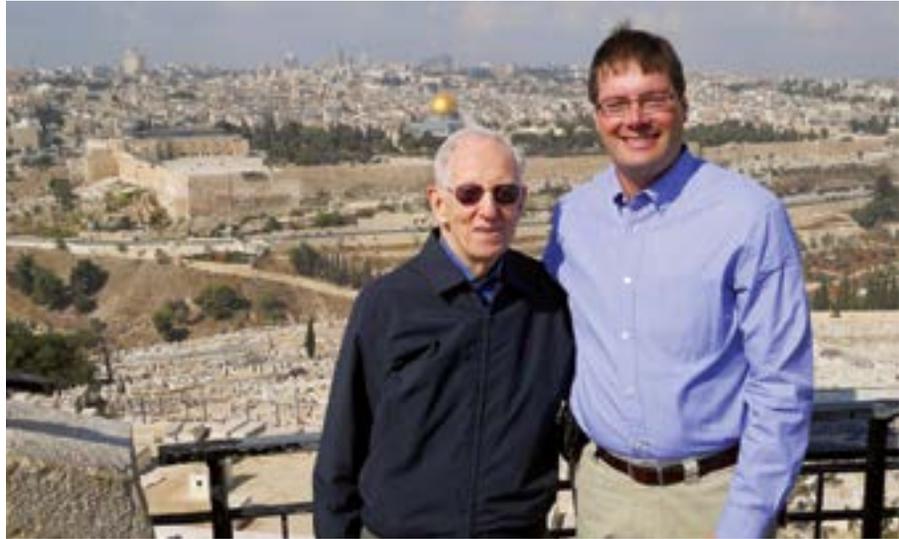
It would be impossible to adequately describe how much these two men have influenced my Masonic journey. I will be eternally grateful to them.

I’ve had a pretty blessed Masonic career. I’ve had the privilege to travel and work with men who have made positive change and who have influenced the future of our Fraternity—whether it be locally, jurisdictionally, or nationally.

Along the way, I have also been influenced by the most wonderful Masons. Men who serve at the pleasure of the Fraternity. Men who follow the moral compass that Freemasonry has given to us. Men who have made a difference. Isn’t that who we all wish to be?

I will continue to try to be the best man and Mason I can be. I hope that when my journey ends, I have been a positive influence. That I have made a difference.

Together we are one.



(above) Brother Williamson and I on the Mount of Olives, overlooking the Temple Mount in Jerusalem



(left) My father and I outside the offices of Arnold Palmer Enterprises in Latrobe

Our Youth

News and information about the Masonic Youth in our Valley

DeMolay Holds In-Person Convention

On July 10th, 2021, Pennsylvania DeMolay held their annual Convention at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Harrisburg. This was the first statewide in-person event since the beginning of the shutdowns in 2020. The option was made available to stream through social media platforms such as Facebook Live for those not attending in-person. The Convention started with the installation of Bro. Ryan Kraus, Erie Chapter, as the State Master Councilor. During 2020-2021, Ryan served as State Master Councilor-West alongside Bro. Joseph Bell from Reading Chapter, who served as State Master Councilor-East. Ryan and his team look forward to helping PA DeMolay grow and flourish during the 2021-2022 year.

Several presentations were made during the Convention. “Dads” Jerry Richards and Phil Batula were honored with the Hodegos Award—given to dedicated adult volunteers who have served for a minimum of 7 years. Additionally, all PA DeMolay Advisors were selected as Guild of the Leather Apron (Advisor of the Year) recipients.

No presentation was more prestigious than the awarding of a PlayStation 5 game console which included two games. To qualify for an entry into the drawing, a member had to perform during the PA DeMolay Ritual Tournament. Several names were entered into the drawing, and Bro. Carter W. from Steel City Chapter walked away the winner of a new PS5. Carter joined DeMolay in the late part of 2020, took on the challenge of learning some ritual, and won the PlayStation 5 bundle. Not bad for his first PA DeMolay Convention!

After the business session and lunch, the members and advisors had a chance to enjoy the rest of the day at Hershey Park. The event proved to be a success and a great way to begin the process of meeting in person once again. □



pademolay.org

The Man Behind the Rainbow

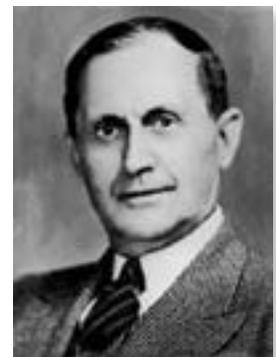
In the spring of 2022, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls will celebrate its 100th anniversary thanks to its founding Masonic hero, Reverend W. Mark Sexson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

While addressing an Eastern Star meeting, Sexson made an appeal that an organization for girls be established to set forth some of the truths of Masonry. The Eastern Star members present agreed to start an organization if someone would write the ritual. He wrote the ritual the very next day. On April 6, 1922, 149 girls were initiated, and Rainbow for Girls was born.

PA Rainbow has been presenting a Founders Day Ceremony at our Grand Assemblies. The ceremony explains the meaning of the Rainbow. Reverend Sexson chose the rainbow as the emblem of this Order, because it represents God’s promise; the teachings of Rainbow would help to make the teenage girls the “promise” of the future—not only in Fraternal organizations but in the future of our country.

The Rainbow appears as a blend of colors in the sky, but Reverend Sexson gave symbolic meaning to each color. The first color is Red which symbolizes Love—in this case, the Supreme Love for all. Orange is a healing color with religion at its center. Yellow is the living color—a symbol of the changing moments of Nature. Green is a cool and restful color, the color of endless life, and a symbol of reality and immortality. The fifth color is Blue representing fidelity—the act of being true to others. Indigo is for patriotism—a patriotic lesson of defense to our country and to our flag. The seventh color is Violet—a delicate color representing that in Rainbow, service to others is of great importance. All together, these seven colors are a blended form—the symbol of Hope everlasting.

We thank our Masonic hero, Reverend W. Mark Sexson, for his dedication and for gifting us the ritual of our beautiful Order. The ritual of Rainbow teaches us lessons that relate to everyday life and shows us it is a life to be lived! □



parainbowgirls.org

The Potent

A message from the Thrice Potent Master of the Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Not All Heroes Wear Capes

By David L. Moore, 33°

I hope that each of you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to jump back into full action as the fall gets underway. I am looking forward to my second year as Thrice Potent Master and hopefully being able to share more of it with the membership of the Valley.

I must admit that when I saw that the subject for this issue of the magazine was Masonic heroes, I struggled trying to think about just what to write for this article. My personal feeling is that we throw around the title of *hero* too

easily. We hear this term used in reference to athletes, actors, and all other sorts of public figures. The film and television industries has been flooded with “Superhero” movies for the last decade or so. I think that this very free use of the term has diluted the true intent of the word.

One of the simplest definitions of a hero is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

As I was pondering, I kept

coming up with the same list of Masonic heroes that each of you would probably recite if this question was put to you: George Washington, Ben Franklin, FDR. The list goes on and on. As I was

running through the list in my head and the thoughts were bouncing around off all of the other clutter in it, I asked myself, *Who do I know that fits these qualities?* That is when the lightbulb came on: I know a whole lot of Masonic heroes.

I was originally going to name individuals in the Valley who I consider to be Masonic heroes, but some of them would be

embarrassed and not want to be called out for the great work they have done.

I think about the handful of Brothers who work tirelessly with the youth groups to help lead and inspire our young people to be better every day. By serving as adult volunteers, these heroes are shaping our youth and helping to make the next generation of fine young men and women.

I think about the Brothers who

My personal feeling is that we throw around the title of *hero* too easily.



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are actively involved in the Masonic Blood Club. They help spread information about blood and organ donation. They are doing a great service for the Fraternity and don't often get recognized. These heroes are true lifesavers.

One of the programs for this year in the Scottish Rite is going to be

a recognition program for our front-line heroes. We have many

I know
a whole lot
of Masonic
heroes.

Brethren in the Valley who serve through fire, police, EMS, and medical services. They are heroes to so many people every day.

I think of all of the people I have met through the Valley and the Masonic Lodge who serve tirelessly

and without expectation of recognition in whatever capacity they are called to serve. I am sure each one of you called to mind a picture of a Brother in each of the groups I described earlier. The next time you see one of them, I encourage you to thank them for being a hero.

Remember, not all heroes wear capes. Some wear aprons.



TheWise

A message from the Most Wise Master of the Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix

ROSE CROIX

A True Master

By Kristin M. Douglas, 32°

For this issue of *RiteNow*, we were asked to talk about our Masonic heroes and what qualified them as such. At first, I tried to think of a famous Mason who I celebrated because he was a part of our great Fraternity. Like most, I did a Google search of famous Masons. There were many, many worthy contenders on that list - from our founding fathers to famous classical composers. There were 14 U.S. Presidents who had made some of history's most consequential decisions. There were famous actors like John Wayne, who I grew up watching with my grandfather. There were famous athletes like Arnold Palmer who lived and played right here in Western Pennsylvania. In the end, I had many, great and famous individuals to choose from in writing this article.

Beyond the famous Masons, there were those whose love of Freemasonry had directly impacted my Masonic career and taught me the deeper meaning of the Craft. After much consideration, my thoughts kept coming back to one individual who has left an impression that has endured for almost a decade now. I chose to write about that individual instead

of someone more famous, as he was directly responsible for making me into the Mason I am today. That man was George Snyder.

Brother George joined lodge in January, 1957. Like many Masons in those days, George was exposed to Freemasonry by his coworkers.

George worked for Westinghouse which at the time had a large population of Masons. His boss got him interested in lodge and guided him through his learning of all three degrees. As he would tell it, each day, his boss would walk into his office and ask him what he knew. Every day, George was able to recite back a little more

of the oaths and obligations and other required work. He enjoyed the unique experience of learning the work in this manner.

George took to the ritual like a duck to water. By the time he was raised in March of 1957, he could almost do the entire Entered Apprentice Mason's degree by memory. Within a few weeks of being raised, he did indeed confer his first degree in lodge. I am still amazed at that feat!

George served as Master of his lodge in 1965 and from all accounts continued to be a very active member up through his transfer

He had a very laid-back approach in his way of teaching you the ritual (the old way: mouth to ear).



Kristin M. Douglas, 32°
mwm@valleyofpittsburgh.org

to Shidle Lodge in 2006. He was strictly a Blue Lodge Mason and had little time for the other bodies like Scottish Rite and the Shrine. He was a lover of the ritual!

When I joined lodge in December of 2011, George was one of the first members I met. From day one, we hit it off, and he became my first mentor. He had a very laid-back approach in his way of teaching you the ritual (the old way: mouth to ear). Like many of those who came before me, I would find myself at George's house several times a week learning all the ins and outs of the Fraternity and the ritual itself. I didn't yet know there was a book where it was all written down. I just knew that this was the way it was handed down for hundreds of years.

During my time with George, he began to realize that I was good at memorization and possessed the necessary spark that would lead to my complete immersion in the Craft. It wasn't long before he began to prepare me to confer my first degree even before I was raised. He had me concentrate on learning the Master Mason's degree. I can't tell you how many times I sat there and wondered how anyone could ever learn all this work and commit it to memory. As time progressed and I attained my Master Mason's degree, George's health began to decline. I saw less and less of him at lodge during our Monday night practices. He used to be a staple in our gathering room, where he was always available to teach anyone who happened to show up on a Monday night. He knew every word of every part of the ritual and would work

tirelessly with you until you knew it as well. As my first year in lodge wore on, I began to prepare to confer the second degree. George's absences increased. It wasn't long before I was asked to start making my way through the chairs to George's delight, I'm sure. In December of 2012, I conferred my first three Fellowcraft degrees. I was extremely proud of this accomplishment and wished that George could have been there to see it.

On the very day I conferred those degrees, George R. Snyder, PM, passed away peacefully in his bed at the age of 85. It was a bittersweet moment for me and a great loss

A true
master
of the
ritual
had passed
on.

for our lodge. A true master of the ritual had passed on. An individual who cared deeply for his fellow Brethren was no more. People like him are a true rarity in today's world. I feel privileged to have known him and am grateful, even now almost

ten years later, for all the wisdom and knowledge he shared with me. Since that time, I have met many great men in this Fraternity. None, however, has made even close to the same impact as George.

George was an easy choice for my Masonic hero, even ahead of those famous Masons we have all read about in our history books. I hope that each of you has a story like this that has propelled your Masonic journey in some way or another. I also hope that I am able to return the favor to the next generation and pass down what I have learned just as George did for me. Until next time, God bless!

□



The Sovereign

A message from the Sovereign Prince of the Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

Masonic Polymath, Hans Christian Oersted

By Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32°

Hans Christian Oersted (Danish: Ørsted) was a notable chemist and physicist who was also a Masonic Brother. He was born in 1777, the son of a pharmacist in Rudkøbing, Denmark. Although the details of his early life are unknown, he was fond of experimenting in his father's laboratory and embarked on a lifetime of scientific discovery as well as becoming a student of philosophy and poetry. At the age of 15, Oersted took exams to attend the University of Copenhagen which would become one of the many interesting academic centers of his life.

At the University, he not only continued studying chemistry (still a relatively young field) but was also exposed to the liberal arts. Oersted immersed himself in mathematics, philosophy, music, and poetry as he continued to advance his education. Oersted excelled in school, and in 1799, was able to apply for a doctorate.

His dissertation was, surprisingly, based on the works of the German philosopher Immanuel Kant rather

than on any classically scientific subject. It was an exploration into the unity of nature and natural phenomena and was entitled

“The Architectonics of Natural

Metaphysics.” Like Kant, Oersted strongly believed in deep and meaningful connections among the forces of nature. This would pre-figure his later scientific discoveries and would cement him as a founder of modern electro-dynamics.

During his tenure at the University, Oersted was awarded a traveling scholarship in which he was permitted to travel around early 19th century Europe, attend scientific symposiums, and listen to lectures of the famous scientists of the day. During that time, he was exposed to the work of the Italian scientist Alessandro

Volta, who created the first galvanic battery. Also, during his travels in Germany, he met with Johann Wilhelm Ritter who, like him, had keen interests in chemistry, physics, and philosophy. Ritter was fixated on discovering a relationship between electricity and magnetism but was unable to find a direct observable link.

Although his Masonic record is not well known, we can assume that his love of the liberal sciences—philosophy, poetry, mathematics, and geometry—cemented his place in the history of classical sciences.



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Ritter's experiments inspired Oersted, who was made a professor of physics at the University upon his return to Copenhagen. Oersted's suspicions of an invisible but demonstrable connection between electricity and magnetism led him to many discoveries. His most notable observations were a result of a casual experiment during a lecture about electrical current in which he switched a Voltaic battery on and off. During the period that the battery was on, Oersted noted that magnetic compass needles would be deflected into different patterns, always at right angles to the current. He used these observations to develop what is commonly known as Oersted's Law: There must be a 'magnetic field' that surrounds all moving electrical current.

Oersted conducted a great many experiments using electricity and fixed magnets to determine that all electrical current produces a predictable effect which we call "electromagnetism." This experiment laid the groundwork for a slew of famous discoveries in physics. The first equations that describe electromagnetism were later written down by the French physicist André-Marie Ampère and were based on Oersted's findings.

Years after Oersted's ground-breaking experiments, the electrophysics world would explode with new discoveries. The British physicist Faraday would discover, as almost a 'side-effect' of Oersted's phenomena, that in the same way a current can affect a magnet, a magnetic field can also induce current to flow. This principle, known as Faraday's law, is the essential principle for all electric motors and generators.



Oersted's experiments inspired most of the great physicists of the mid-19th century. Later on, the great Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell would unify the work of Volta, Oersted, Ampère, Faraday, and others into a single set of equations that defined all electromagnetic activity and closely paralleled Newton's laws of classical physics.

Oersted's simple experiments were grounded in an idea he conceived while connecting the world of Kant's philosophy with the prevailing scientific culture. He invented the German term 'Gedankenexperiment' while a professor at the University as a way of explaining an intellectual process to 'think through' hypotheses and theories. This term was translated as 'thought experiment' and was the inspiration for the same mental exercises that Albert Einstein used to lay out his arguments for the theories of relativity.

As a well-respected scientist, Oersted had the luxury of experimenting on anything that interested him. During one period, he had read about the 18th century chemist Humphrey Davy's conjecture of a yet undiscovered metal. Davy was unable to free the metal from its compounds due to a phenomenon he did not understand. Oersted took on the task of modifying Davy's

processes to use the metal chloride instead of the metal oxide. As a result, Oersted is credited with the discovery of the metallic element aluminum (Al). Although Oersted's process of producing the metal was neither simple nor cost-effective, he set the stage for the later discovery of the 'bauxite' process of refining aluminum using high electrical current, thus paving the way for the scientific and engineering inventions using that light and strong metal.

For all his scientific genius, Oersted was also a romantic poet. He wrote a fanciful series of poems entitled *Luftskibet* ("The Airship") from his observations of early hot-air balloon flights by other European physicists. Before his death, he published a treatise of his personal philosophy *Anden i Naturen* ("The Soul in Nature"). Oersted was a man of great passion, creativity, wisdom, and kindness.

Years after his passing, the international scientific community named the unit of magnetic field intensity the 'Oersted' (abbreviation 'Oe') in his honor. During his life, he composed music, wrote poetry, studied the Greek and Roman classics, and did all the things we would expect a great thinker of the enlightened times of the early 19th century to do.

In addition, Brother Oersted was a member of at least two lodges in the Grand Lodge of Denmark. Although his Masonic record is not well known, we can assume that his love of the liberal sciences—philosophy, poetry, mathematics, and geometry—cemented his place in the history of classical sciences. Brother Oersted is a fine example of a Masonic hero who changed the world for the better. □

The Center

A message from the Director of the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

A CDC Hero

By Dennis Snedden, 33°

For more information:

412-931-3181

Patricia Broskey, Director
pittsburgh@cdcinc.org

The last thing

Bill Roberts would want to be called is a “Masonic Hero,” but here we are. A friend to most, a foe to few, and an example of living a Masonic life to all who knew him. Here is one story that continues to support his legacy of vision, leadership, and service.

D. William Roberts, 33°, aka Bill, and for this article, “Dad” Roberts, did many things for many individuals and groups, both in and out of Masonry, for many years. He was literally the creative force behind ensuring that Steel City DeMolay would not fail due to a lack of funding. You have probably bought a ticket or have seen flyers promoting the Hiram Riders Motorcycle Raffle (Bill’s idea and design). What you probably don’t know or remember is that “Dad” Roberts designated the proceeds from the first motorcycle raffle (late 1990’s) to fund and underwrite the then-very-new Steel City DeMolay Chapter.

Steel City DeMolay had a good run—they went lots of places, did lots of things, had lots of fun, and ate lots of food! Membership then waned, and the Chapter went dark for a few years. Faced with losing their Charter, the Chapter was revitalized with William G. Johnston, 33°, as the Chapter Advisor.

Thank you!
“Dad”
Roberts!

All the while, money invested from that initial motorcycle raffle grew—literally untouched. Prompted by Advisory Council Treasurer James E. Toward, 33°,

and after months of discussion and deliberation, the Advisory Council and Chapter members voted to become a member of the Valley of Pittsburgh Builders Council. Pictured is the initial check for \$2,500.00 with three more planned over the next three years.

So, “Dad” Roberts’ initial vision of holding a raffle to fund a new DeMolay Chapter has now expanded to not only help them but help our Children’s Dyslexia Center as well. He is a “Masonic Hero” indeed.



Builders Council

Benefactors of the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh

A Firm Foundation

The ability to read is the foundation of each child's future. It provides the base upon which all learning depends. Membership in the Builders Council means that you have made a commitment to assure that our Children's Dyslexia Center will be able to help children with dyslexia today and for years to come.

Joining the Builders Council is achieved through a commitment of \$10,000 by one of the following methods:

- Pledging monthly/annual gifts for a period lasting no longer than 10 years
- Naming the Children's Dyslexia Center in your will
- Making a bequest to the Children's Dyslexia Center
- Establishing an annuity or trust

BUILDERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

As of May 1, 2021

30th Masonic District F.&A.M.
Demo Agoris
Edward & Joan Aiello
Robert and Janice Amend
Emery & Carol Anden
Avalon Lodge No. 657 F.&A.M.
David & Carol Bagaley
Robert & Jacqueline Beatty
Dr. Jeff A. Biddle
Mark & Patty Bliler
Chartiers Lodge No. 297 F.&A.M.
George H. Cox
Rick & Renee Cross
James S. Dean
Mario & Linda Deblasio
Bill & Heather Dickey
Raymond T. Dietz
Fred & Kathy Donatelli
Robert L. Eckbreth
James Ecker
James R. Flanigan
Howard and Sharon Flynn
Franklin / St. John's / Trinity Lodge No. 221
Gourgas Lodge of Perfection
Donald & Debra Green
Wally and Leah Grossett

Erich & Raylene Gumto
Harvey & Carol Gumto
John A. Habel
Leland A. Hale Jr.
Jacque Hauser
Jeff & Lauren Heiger
Helen Ruth Henderson
Raymond Frank Hess
Hiram's Riders of Valley of Pittsburgh
Gene Hlavac
Homestead Amity McCandless Lodge No. 582
Infinity Lodge No. 546
Raymond R. & Dorothy K. James
Jim & Lisa Jenkins
Robert B. Jones
Paul Kappel
Paul and Jackie Kauffman
David & Sandy Kearns
David S. & Judith Kielman
John G. Kovac
Richard & Mary Ruth Kucera
George & Judith Lewis
Lodge 45, Pittsburgh, PA
William & Barbara Magnotti Jr.
Frank R. Mangery
Jack W. & Edna Marsh

John McCain
John F. McCombs
Roy A. & Sara Jane McCullough
Julia and Calvin McCutcheon
Joann McElravy
Jay E. McElravy
Craig & Amy McVicker
Mike Melde
Jack & Carol Miller
Glenn D. & Mary B. Miller
Dr. Glenn & Roberta Miller
Donald M. Murphy
John & Valerie Nicklas
Jack & Joy Nicklas
Oakdale Lodge No. 669
Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar
Ronald and Karen Plesh
D. William Roberts
Bruce A. Robinson
Richard & Bette Rodibaugh
Don & Ginny Sauer
Joseph A. Schrock Jr.
James W. Seel
William P. Shaw
William Slater II
Samuel & Judith Spanos
Christian L. Stein

Thomas K. Sturgeon
Kurt R. Tesche
The Supreme Council Group Valley of Pittsburgh
Gregory Triko
Unified Lodge #2, I.O.O.F.
Valley of Pittsburgh Legion of Honor
Valley of Uniontown
George T. Vance
Vintage-Classical Car Club
S. Timothy Warco
Washington Lodge No. 164
Bob & Charlene Wells
Chester Arthur West Jr.
Lauri Ann West
John & Jerry Williams
Jeffrey & Sharon Wonderling

Every member of the Children's Dyslexia Center Builders Council receives a commemorative green tie and scarf. Wearing them serves as a reminder that there are children needlessly suffering because of dyslexia and that the Scottish Rite is here to help. When you complete your \$10,000 gift to the Children's Dyslexia Centers, you receive a gold tie and scarf, signifying you have fulfilled your commitment. Wear your gold with pride, knowing you have changed someone's life.



TO HELP
CHILDREN
WITH DYSLLEXIA

REGISTRATION FORM FOR (Please circle one)

INDIVIDUAL or FAMILY

Please complete this form for you and/or your family, including all minor children, under 18.

PLEASE PRINT

If your registration form is received by the 10/01/21 deadline, you may pay the lower fee on the day of the Walk.

Please specify "Y"-youth or "A"-adult size.

NAME _____ AGE _____ TEE SHIRT SIZE _____

ADULT _____

ADULT _____

CHILD _____

FAMILY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT AND PHONE _____

PARTICIPANT LIABILITY AGREEMENT

Please enter me(us) and my(our) family in the "Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia". I(we), on behalf of myself(ourselves), my(our) heirs, executors, and administrators hereby release Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc. from any claims, damages, and rights of action I(we) may have, present or future, that may arise out of, or be incident to my(our) participation in the Walk event. In addition, I(we) grant permission for the use of my(our) name and/or picture in any photograph, film, or videotape of the event for any purpose.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPATING ADULT FAMILY MEMBER _____

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPATING ADULT FAMILY MEMBER _____

THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED FOR THE REGISTRATION TO BE VALID

The 18th Annual Pittsburgh Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia

When: Saturday, October 2, 2021 (rain or shine)

Where: Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center 3579 Masonic Way Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (Exit 5 off I-279 - Century Lane)

Time: 8:30 A.M. Registration

Info: 412-931-3181 - Center 412-496-8767 - Austin Shiftin austin.shiftin@gmail.com pghdyslexiacenter@comcast

REGISTRATION FEES: Adults/Older Children: \$15/ \$25 day of walk Children 6-12: \$10 /under 5: free

CDC-Walk

3579 Masonic Way Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700

TheWord

Observations from Reverend John H. Piper, 33°

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

▶ **What** a year this has been dealing with a coronavirus pandemic causing us to wear masks, wash hands, and practice social distancing. As Masons, we have seen the cancelling of all in-person meetings—eventually migrating to meeting virtually via Zoom or YouTube.

It has been a year with an increase of divorce, crime, and depression. In addition to our health concerns, we had a divisive election that polarized our nation. This national malaise has affected our families, our neighborhoods, and our religious communities. My Methodist denomination is in the process of a three-way split into progressive, moderate, and evangelical

Each time we meet in lodge,
we pledge our allegiance to our
flag and the nation “for which it
stands, one Nation, under God,
indivisible...”

factions. Many protestant denominations, that for ages included persons of divergent opinions, have now formed into totally liberal or conservative bodies. In the 1840s, Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians (the then largest religious organizations in the USA) split into north or south groupings and stopped talking to each other. And in 1860, a civil war broke out!

Now that we are back to meeting face to face and talking with each other in person, I think it is important to emphasize what we have in common rather than that which separates us into different camps. Our predecessors were right to caution us to avoid discussing religion or politics in lodge. (Oh dear, I think I have just mentioned both!) As a pastor, I have always tried to get along with every person in my congregation. I have always tried to see the best in each of them.

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and in July 1942, over 300 hundred American magazines carried an image of “Old Glory” on their covers with the motto “United We Stand” below. This theme was adopted after 9/11 as well. Before the election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln stated that “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” In 1944, Bing Cosby had a hit song with the lyric “accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative.” As Freemasons, we love to quote the 133rd Psalm: “How good it is when brothers live together in unity.” Each time we meet in lodge, we pledge our allegiance to our flag and the nation “for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible...”

I suggest that we of the Valley of Pittsburgh accentuate the positive in our dealings with one another. So as our lives together begin again, let us practice those virtues we have been taught in lodge. Let us go forth to accept one another and work for goodwill and peace among all God’s creatures.

So mote it be. □





Illustrious Matt Abass El-Kadi, MD, PhD, 33, and Liberty*



Illustrious Adam Christopher Heese, 33, and Kelly*



Illustrious Randy Lee Hobaugh, 33, and Debbie*



Illustrious James Charles Mayes, 33, and Connie Nelson*



Illustrious Ivan Sariev, 33, SGC of Bulgaria, poses with Illustrious Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33* Active Emeritus*



Illustrious Ewing Durigon Newcomer, 33, and Illustrious Jason Craig, 33*, Secretary, Valley of Uniontown*



Illustrious Gerald Arthur Sutherland, 33, and Patty*



Illustrious Kiley Brent Sexton, 33, and Paula*



Illustrious Arthur Francis McGuiggan, 33, and grandson Jacob Woods*



SUPREME COUNCIL

Pittsburgh Welcomes Its Newest 33rds

This year, the Annual Meeting of Supreme Council was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Following the conferral of the 33rd Degree on a class of nearly 300, the Valley of Pittsburgh celebrated its newest 33rd Degree Masons and their guests with an elegant dinner at The Union Club. New jewels were presented to class of 2021 members Matt El-Kadi, Adam Heese, Randy Hobaugh, James Mayes, Ewing Newcomer, Gerald Sutherland, Kiley Sexton, and Arthur McGuiggan, and each was given the opportunity to comment on their Scottish Rite journey.

Brothers Jack Bock III and Donald Green could not attend the banquet and will receive their jewels at a later date.

Congratulations to our newest 33rds!







The Union Club

Cleveland 2021

The Office

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

Happy To Be of Service

By David W. Morgans, 33°

There is certainly no shortage of heroes in the Masonic Fraternity. Several come to mind each time this subject is brought up. Masonic heroes span the centuries. We can find notable figures from our nation's founding. We can find them across the oceans and in every corner of the world. We can find them standing strong and courageous in America's 245-year history. And we can find them in our contemporary world. Freemasonry is a Fraternity that is chock-full of heroes.

I can name many that fit into the above categories, and more particularly, I can name several that I have been blessed to know and serve with in my Masonic career. Many of them would probably be upset if I actually named them in this article; that's the kind of guys they are. For their sake, I will not name them. I will let them enjoy the anonymity that is difficult for heroes to maintain.

Everyone seems to like to talk about their heroes. And why not? Heroes inspire us. Heroes show us the good in mankind. They are people we admire for their achievements. They show great courage in the face of adversity. Heroes help us to see what is possible. The men that I consider

heroes are not men that seek the limelight. They do not want applause or special treatment for what they have done. Most heroes have a sense of humility that is gracious, kind, and genuine. I hope that the men that I admire know that I hold them in high esteem because of the friendships we have developed. They need no praise from me, as they believe they have done nothing that is praiseworthy in their own minds.

I hope that the men that I admire know that I hold them in high esteem.

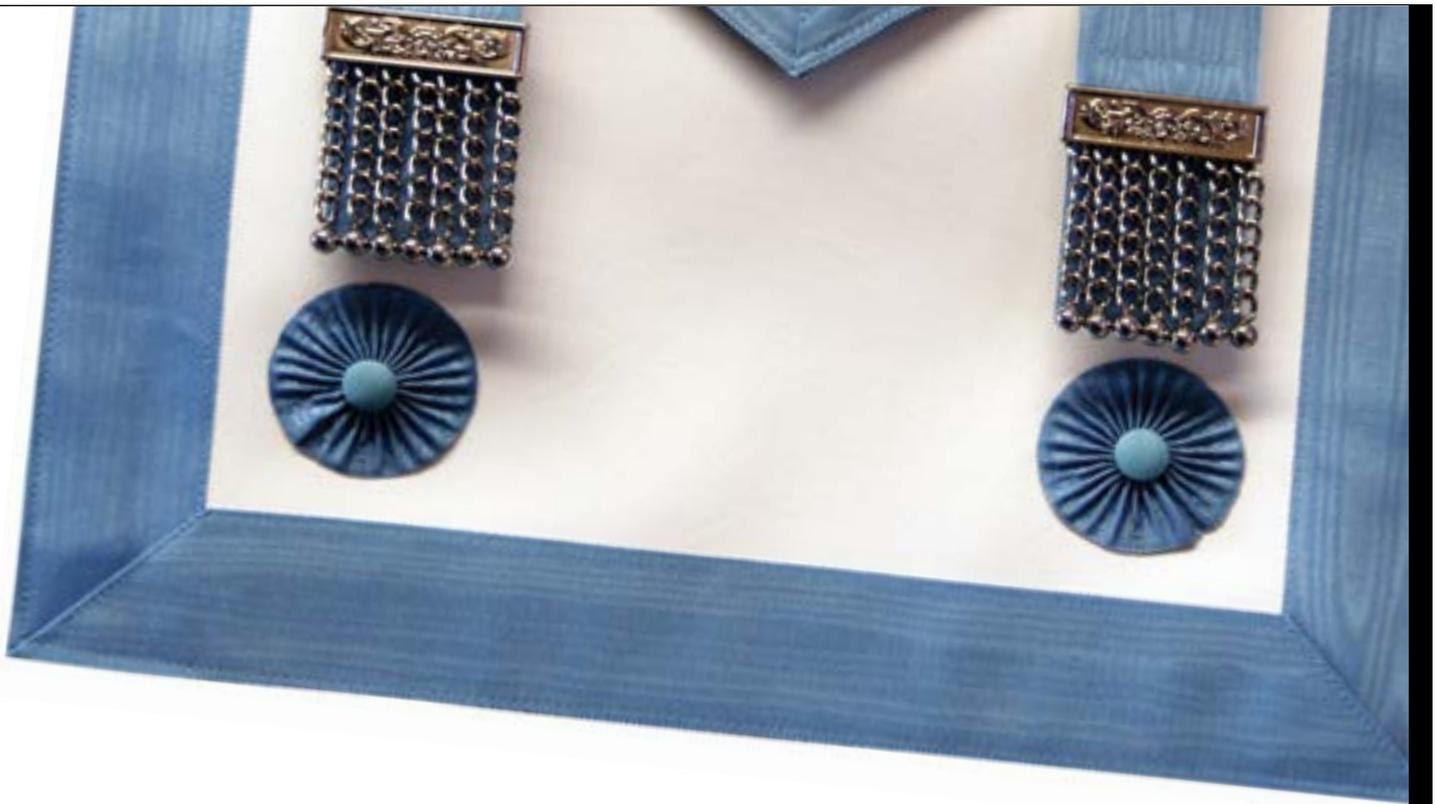
So where is this article going if I am not willing to reveal the names of my Masonic heroes? It goes to the place where heroes are not named nor are their individual accomplishments recognized. That place is where the unsung

Masonic heroes reside. The unsung heroes are never called up on the podium to receive their just recognition. They go about in this world with a quiet resolve to do what's right, good, and decent for themselves, their families, and the world around them. They seek neither fame nor payment for their services. They serve because the Great Architect of the Universe has laid it upon their hearts to be upright men and Masons, and they gladly answer the call to duty.

Unsung heroes can be difficult to spot. I have the great pleasure of



David W. Morgans, 33°
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org



interfacing with many Scottish Rite Masons as part of my job function. From this vantage point, I see or at least know of many whom I would consider unsung Masonic heroes. To me, a hero is someone who honors their obligations, who looks out for others, and who takes their responsibilities as a Mason seriously—whether they attend Masonic functions regularly or haven't darkened the doorstep of a Masonic building in decades.

These Masonic heroes pay their dues on time—not because they have to—because they want to honor their financial commitments to help the Fraternity be fiscally solvent. They walk alongside of their Brethren in need because of the Fraternal love they feel for them. They lend a hand when work needs to be done in their community. They respect all people,

even those with whom they disagree. They sacrifice their time, their talent, and their treasure to make the world a better place. They place honor above ambition and service above selfish gain. Unsung Masonic heroes are the men you want to have nearby at all times.

My hat is off to all those unsung Masonic heroes.

Our Fraternity is overflowing with unsung heroes. When you meet one—and you will—compliment them on the high qualities you see in them. They may object to your recognition; they may say that they are just doing what is right. Compliment them anyway. That may be the only recognition they get for a job well done. When I think of the unsung Masonic heroes, I think of men who, when they leave their homes and move about in this world, cast shadows of not just their human forms but of knights in full armor. The world sees them as good men, as helpful men, as men who are

willing to do what is right and who have no problems defending those in need of defense. Little does the world know that they have just had an encounter with a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, an unsung hero who made the world a little better because he served.

My hat is off to all those unsung Masonic heroes. Keep up the good work, and keep up the good fight. You may never be recognized for your efforts, and your armor may get dented up from time to time. Nevertheless, you will always have the respect of those who have had the pleasure of being in your company and maybe even those who never got a chance to talk with you but who have noticed your behavior from afar. □



We Are All Heroes

By PJ Roup, 33°



PJ Roup, 33°

May I reach
 That purest heaven, —be to other souls
 The cup of strength in some great agony,
 Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,
 Beget the smiles that have no cruelty,
 Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
 And in diffusion ever more intense!
 So shall I join the choir invisible
 Whose music is the gladness of the world.

—GEORGE ELIOT

There was once a small girl who lived on the outskirts of a mountain village with just her mother and a servant. There had been a drought in the land and everyone and everything around was suffering. The girl’s mother was so weak and thirsty that the girl decided on her own to set off into the land and search for some water. She took the little tin dipper from the shelf and walked for hours until she found a tiny spring in the mountains that had just a small amount of water trickling out. The girl patiently held the dipper until she had what she thought was enough water for her sick mother, then she began to make her way back home.

On the way, she met up with a little dog. The dog looked so weak to her. He licked her hand, and his dry tongue made her take pity. She said to him, “I can only spare a few drops, for my mother is very sick, but you too could benefit from a little water.”

She poured some water into her hand and the dog quickly lapped it up, barked as if to say, “Thank you,” and went on his way. The girl looked at the dipper in her hand and realized that the little tin dipper was now made

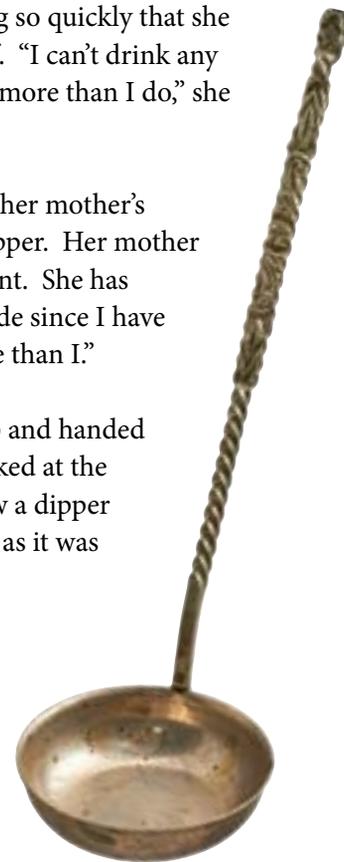
of silver, and it was just as full as it had been before.

She continued on her way, hurrying now because it was almost dark. The road was very long, and she was so far from home. She was moving so quickly that she began to crave the water herself. “I can’t drink any of this. My mother needs it far more than I do,” she thought.

When she got home, she ran to her mother’s room and held out the silver dipper. Her mother said, “Please give it to our servant. She has been working tirelessly at my side since I have been sick. She needs it far more than I.”

The servant drank from the cup and handed it back to the little girl. She looked at the cup in her hands and it was now a dipper of gold and still every bit as full as it was before.

Presently, there was a knock at the door. A stranger appeared before them and said, “I saw a little girl on the road earlier who generously shared her water with a sick dog and was hoping she could spare some for me.”



The mother knew the importance of helping others in need, so she told her daughter to give the dipper to the stranger, who took the cup and turned it upside down, spilling the contents onto the ground.

“From where this water seeps into the ground shall come forth a huge and generous spring that will slake your thirst and feed your land forever,” he said as he handed back the dipper, now encrusted with the most beautiful diamonds.

The family was so in awe of what had happened that they scarcely noticed that the stranger had left without another word. When they turned to thank him for his generosity he was gone, but they thought they could see a trail of diamonds flying into the night sky. Even to this day, they are there in the form of the Big Dipper to remind us of the importance of being compassionate.

As a modern Vitruvian, what do you think of when you hear someone described as compassionate? Is a millionaire compassionate when he donates one hundred dollars to a charity? In some ways, he is. Is the same donation from a single parent working two jobs and raising children alone far more compassionate? True compassion, you see, cannot be measured simply in dollars. The little girl was willing to share all of what she had with others, not just a little. Giving a little when you have a lot is not nearly as compassionate as sharing a lot when you have a little.

To the outside world, Masons are recognized for their charity. To many in the Fraternity, it is what they are most proud of. To some, it is the very reason they sought membership. In the Scottish Rite, there are many charities to choose from.

On the Valley level, we have the Hospitaller’s fund which is set up to assist our members when they need it most. We also sponsor the Children’s Dyslexia Center. Thanks to the generosity of the heroes in our Builders Council, we can help children overcome reading difficulty at no cost to their families. Additionally, the Valley provides scholarships to members and their children for higher education.

The Supreme Council has a variety of charities as well. The two most well-known are the Grand Almoner’s Fund and the White Flower Society. The Grand Almoner’s Fund is always ready to assist our members in times of crisis. The White Flower Society was founded to help our widows at their time of greatest vulnerability.

Do you want to see a hero? Look in the mirror, Brother.

Whether we have a little or a lot, we are called to be heroes. We know this because relief of the distressed is one of the main tenets of Craft Freemasonry. It is even ingrained in the vision statement of the Scottish Rite, NMJ:

We will strive to be a Fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.

That care can come in forms other than money as well. Volunteering your time or your talent helps move the Scottish Rite forward ensuring that their mission of compassion can continue well into the future.

Do you want to see a hero? Look in the mirror, Brother. We are all heroes because we are Freemasons. Helping

others is who we are. It is what we are called to do. Do you think you can do better? Then do better. Commit yourself to using your gifts, whatever they may be, to allow the Fraternity to do what it does best: improve the world one good man at a time.

Be committed to excellence. Be dedicated to service. And be passionate about being compassionate.

As George Eliot said:

Be to other souls

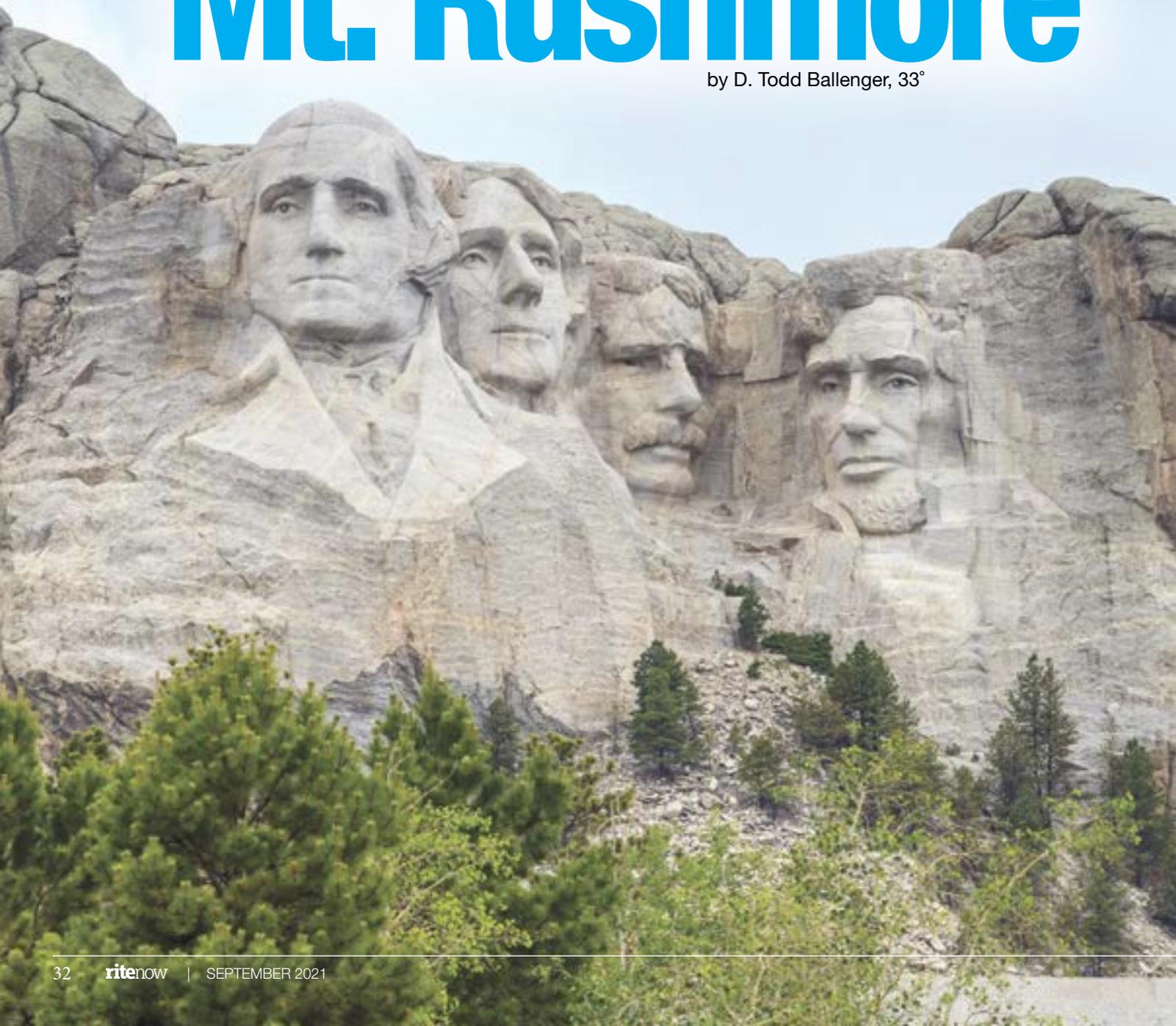
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty,
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense!

You needn't wait to join the choir invisible to do it.
Make it be so today! □



My Masonic Mt. Rushmore

by D. Todd Ballenger, 33°



**“We can be Heroes
Just for one day.
We can be all of us
Just for one day.”
—David Bowie**



D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

How would you like to have been tasked with deciding exactly which presidents were to be immortalized on Mt. Rushmore?

Whoa, not me! Even sculptor Brother Gutzon Borglum had help (thanks to President Calvin Coolidge for suggesting President and Brother Theodore Roosevelt). If you really had to choose, though, how would you make up your mind when considering all the great men and minds that came before you? For Borglum, Washington and Lincoln were easy choices, since they were the nation’s most popular presidents. Jefferson was selected as he engineered the Louisiana Purchase which effectively doubled the size of the country at the time. President Teddy Roosevelt was recommended by President Coolidge for his involvement with the National Park Service. So just how would you pick who’s going on your personal Masonic Mt. Rushmore? One could easily find oneself in a Borglum-like dilemma.

For me, this truly is a monumental task. Let’s face it, in 1927 when Borglum began work on the South Dakota sculpture, there were only 30 presidents from which to choose. The number of Masons each of us could select from for our own wall of fame far outdistances that figure. But if you’re selecting a Masonic hero, where do you start? Perhaps you begin with the Anglo-Saxon King Athelstan who ruled over England and is sometimes credited with originating the set of moral duties appearing in the famous *Regius Poem*, the first Masonic text. Maybe the Brethren who organized the first modern Grand Lodge in 1717 would be considered heroes to the

Craft. Then, there are always the great Masonic minds: James Anderson, Dr. Albert Mackey, the ritualistic writer William Preston, and Albert Pike. What about the wide selection of historic leaders such as the founding fathers of American Freemasonry—namely George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, and Prince Hall? Let’s not forget other world-wide figures such as Mozart, Simón Bolívar, and Winston Churchill. Throughout our history, the progress and enrichment of mankind has been supported by Freemasons—men who were great statesmen, politicians, diplomats, military leaders, scientists, musicians, philosophers, writers, athletes, and explorers.

I don’t know about you, but my Masonic Mt. Rushmore is looking more like a Masonic Great Wall!

So how do you identify your own Masonic hero when there are so many to choose from? Another issue you might have picked up on is that each of these historical figures appeals to different people for different reasons. You might marvel at the speech of statesmen and philosophers, while I gravitate more to the works of great composers or the feats of intrepid explorers. The Fraternity is certainly not at a loss for greatness in any of these categories. But if you’re like me, your tastes may change over time. As I grow and mature, I find my preferences tend to mimic my thoughts and expectations at that moment. It should come as no surprise that one would like to relate to his hero—to connect on a level that is at once grounded in admiration and achievement while also embracing the possibility of change and the

evolution of thought. My heroes tend to shift as I do. There isn't anything wrong with that; it just makes them a bit harder to put into relief on the side of a mountain.

Considering all of the possibilities that great men have brought to this world through, or at the very least with a humble respect for, the Craft, I begin to wonder if such a thing as a Masonic hero can actually exist for me. I mentioned this to my son, Ian, and he reminded me of a story that I might find interesting by a contemporary actor. He was right. The story comes from the 2014 acceptance speech for the Best Actor award at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. That's right, the Oscars. The recipient was Matthew McConaughey who was accepting the award for his tremendous performance in *Dallas Buyer's Club*.

In his speech, the endearing and enigmatic Mr. McConaughey said three important thank yous: to God, to his parents, and to his hero. Here is the transcript as published in *The Atlantic*:

“And to my hero. That’s who I chase. Now when I was 15 years old, I had a very important person in my life come to me and say, “Who’s your hero?” And I said, “I don’t know, I gotta think about that. Give me a couple of weeks.” I come back two weeks later, this person comes up and says, “Who’s your hero?” I said, “I thought about it. You know who it is? It’s me in ten years.” So I turned 25. Ten years later, that same person comes to me and says, “So, are you a hero?” And I was like, “Not even

close. No, no, no.” She said, “Why?” I said, “Because my hero’s me at 35.” So you see every day, every week, every month, and every year of my life, my hero’s always ten years away. I’m never gonna be my hero. I’m not gonna attain that. I know I’m not, and that’s just fine with me because that keeps me with somebody to keep on chasing.” —Matthew McConaughey



Keep that in mind when you think about your heroes. One day you might wake up admiring the founding fathers. Another day you may find yourself absorbed in the work of an amazing artist. You may find your thoughts fall to a mentor, a beloved family member, or even your best friend. Who knows, maybe you take a look in the mirror and see the face of your own hero in ten years. Focusing your attention on being the best YOU that you can be may indeed make you a hero, if not to you, then to someone else. Let your monument be one of love and affection written across someone's heart. That way, maybe we—all of us—can be heroes.

□

Membership

A message from the Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

Taking It on the Road

By Kristin M. Douglas, 32°

After a successful spring class, your membership and ritual teams at the Valley of Pittsburgh have been working diligently to roll out our first Rite on the Road productions scheduled to start later this fall. The idea for this program is to take the place of one of our reunions and offer convenient or remote opportunities to join the Valley (See “Road to 32,” on page 46).

As of this writing, dates and times are still tentative, so please look for additional information to be released shortly. In the spring of 2022, we will have a traditional reunion at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center when candidates can receive their 32nd degree at an in-person performance. We are still looking for volunteers who would like to help with any of our membership events. If interested, please

contact me or the Valley office at 412-939-3579.

Start thinking now about good candidates for the Rite on the Road sessions—perhaps someone

We are still looking for volunteers who would like to help with any of our membership events.

whose schedule might make a full reunion or travel to Pittsburgh difficult but who would still enjoy the opportunity to become a Scottish Rite Mason. Specific class incentives and costs have not yet been decided, so please continue to watch for additional

information pertaining to these events.

□



Kristin M. Douglas, 32°
mwm@valleyofpittsburgh.org







Dr. Glenn D. Miller II, 33°

Pericarditis

By Dr. Glenn D. Miller II, 33°

In this issue of RiteNow, we will discuss pericarditis. The word pericarditis originates from the Greek word perikardion which means “surrounding the heart” and the suffix -itis which is Greek for “inflammation.”

The pericardium is a thin, two-layered, fluid-filled sac that covers the outer surface of the heart. The inner layer, that is closer to and envelopes the entire heart, is only one cell layer thick and is called the visceral pericardium. The outer layer is made up of fibrous tissue and is much thicker and tougher. It is called the parietal pericardium and tethers the heart to the rib cage and diaphragm. A small amount of fluid is located between these two layers which provides lubrication and prevents friction between these layers when the heart beats. The pericardium protects the heart from infection and malignancy, keeps the heart in place inside the chest wall, and keeps it from over-expanding when the blood volume expands (which helps to keep the heart functioning efficiently).

Pericarditis is inflammation of the pericardium. It is usually an acute condition that develops suddenly and lasts anywhere from a few days to several months. In the vast majority of cases, it resolves within three months. However, in about 15-30% of cases, pericarditis can become more chronic with attacks that come and go over several years.

The two most significant potential complications associated with pericarditis are cardiac tamponade and constrictive pericarditis. Cardiac tamponade is a medical emergency and a potentially fatal condition caused by a large pericardial effusion (abnormal fluid collection in the pericardial sac surrounding the heart). The hydrostatic pressure from this fluid collection

makes it difficult for the heart chambers to expand and fill with blood during diastole which results in less blood being pumped to the body during systole. As a result, the patient can develop “shock” with a rapid deterioration to death unless the effusion is drained.

Constrictive pericarditis occurs when recurrent inflammation results in scarring and thickening of the pericardial sac. This scarring “constricts” the movement of the heart and can inhibit the heart chambers from expanding and filling with blood during diastole which also results in less blood being pumped to the body during systole. The result is that the patient develops signs and symptoms consistent with heart failure such as fatigue, dyspnea, lower extremity edema, weight gain secondary to fluid retention, and atrial fibrillation among others. Most cases of pericarditis have an unknown cause (idiopathic). Known causes include both infectious and noninfectious etiologies. Pericarditis can affect both genders, all ethnicities, and all age groups but is most common in males aged 16-65 years with a slightly higher incidence among African-Americans.

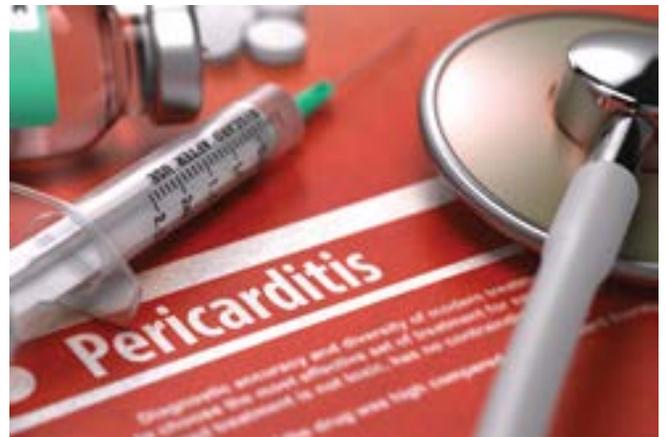
Most cases of pericarditis have an unknown cause (idiopathic).

Infectious causes include viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. In fact, viruses are believed to be responsible for roughly 85% of cases in the developed world and include coxsackievirus, herpes simplex virus, mumps virus, HIV virus, GI viruses, and viruses that cause chest colds and/or pneumonia. Bacterial causes are less common in the developed world, but the most common bacterial etiologies are *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*,

pneumococcus, and Group A streptococcus (strep throat and scarlet fever). However, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is the most common cause of pericarditis worldwide. Fungal pericarditis is very rare and usually due to histoplasmosis in most people. Fungal pericarditis in immunocompromised people is usually due to aspergillus, candida, and coccidioides. Parasitic pericarditis is also very rare.

Noninfectious causes of pericarditis are many and varied. They include chest trauma; inflammatory diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and ankylosing spondylitis; autoimmune disorders such as systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, and scleroderma; metabolic disorders such as gout, hypothyroidism, and kidney failure/uremia; cancers and leukemias; radiation treatments to the chest; genetic diseases such as familial Mediterranean fever; tumors that impinge upon the pericardium; and medications such as procainamide, hydralazine, phenytoin, isoniazid, some drugs used to treat cancers, and some immunosuppressive drugs. Cardiac etiologies include aortic dissection; myocardial infarction (heart attack) which can cause direct irritation and inflammation of the pericardial lining; percutaneous cardiac procedures such as cardiac catheterizations, angioplasties with or without stent implantation, and radiofrequency catheter ablations for arrhythmias; and open-heart cardiac surgeries such as coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) and valve repair/replacement surgeries. In fact, pericarditis caused by an immune response secondary to heart tissue damage from trauma, myocardial infarction, or open-heart surgery is specifically known as Dressler's Syndrome.

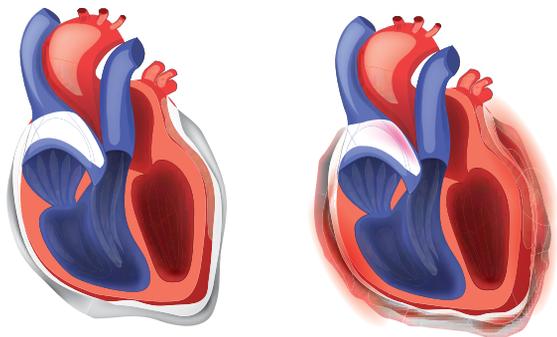
Chest pain is the most common symptom of pericarditis and is present in 85-90% of cases. The pain typically starts in the center of the chest and radiates into the neck, left shoulder, upper back, and sometimes abdomen. The pain often has a sharp and stabbing quality but can also present as a dull ache or burning pain. The intensity of the pain can vary from mild to very severe, and the onset can vary from gradual to sudden. The chest pain typically intensifies with deep inspiration, lying flat, coughing, and swallowing. Sitting up and leaning forward often helps to alleviate the pain. Other symptoms include a low-grade fever, chills, dry



cough, lower extremity edema, weakness or fatigue, palpitations, anxiety, and breathing difficulty with lying down. Sweating is often present in pericarditis with infectious etiologies. Additionally, fever and chills are most often associated with bacterial etiologies as compared to flu-like or stomach symptoms which tend to be associated with viral etiologies. Of note is the fact that symptoms tend to have an abrupt onset in cases that are due to infectious etiologies and a more gradual onset in cases that are due to chronic disease etiologies.

Infectious causes include viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites.

The diagnosis of pericarditis is made through a combination of the patient's history and symptoms as previously outlined, findings on physical examination, and various diagnostic studies. Possible physical findings include a low-grade fever, tachycardia, decreased breath sounds, rales (crackles in the lungs due to fluid buildup from heart failure), and Beck's Triad which consists of low blood pressure secondary to decreased cardiac output, distant or muffled heart sounds secondary to excess fluid in the pericardial space, and distension of the jugular veins secondary to congestive heart failure or constrictive pericarditis. However, the classic pathognomonic physical examination finding that is associated with pericarditis is a "pericardial friction rub." This sound is heard with a stethoscope and occurs because the inflammation prevents the two layers of the pericardium from sliding smoothly against each other during heartbeats. The



A Healthy Pericardium

Pericarditis

sound is best described as being very similar to the sound that is made by rubbing two pieces of fine sandpaper together. Pericardial friction rubs are best heard when the patient is leaned forward, because it causes the heart to shift towards the front of the chest. Of note is the fact that pericardial friction rubs can be transient in nature—coming and going virtually from hour to hour.

Diagnostic tests that can be utilized to aid in the diagnosis of pericarditis include blood tests to check for signs of a myocardial infarction (Troponin I), inflammation (Antinuclear Antibody-ANA, C-Reactive Protein-CRP, Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate-ESR, Rheumatoid Factor), and infection (blood cultures, Complete Blood Count-CBC, HIV test). Chest X-rays can be used to assess for significant fluid collection in the pericardial sac which would result in an enlarged heart silhouette on the X-ray image. An electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) can be performed to assess for possible hallmark changes including low voltage if a significant pericardial effusion is present. Echocardiograms are utilized to assess the pumping strength of the heart (left ventricular ejection fraction-LVEF), evaluate for a possible pericardial effusion, and to evaluate for a thickened and/or stiff pericardium consistent with constrictive pericarditis. Cardiac CT can be used to assess for pericardial thickening, the presence of calcium in the pericardium, pericardial inflammation, pericardial effusion, and the presence of tumors and/or disease in the areas around the heart. Cardiac MRI can be utilized to assess for a pericardial effusion, pericardial thickening and/or inflammation, and compression of the heart. Right heart catheterization can be performed to assess the filling pressures

in the heart for confirmation of suspected constrictive pericarditis.

Treatment for pericarditis varies depending upon the underlying cause as well as the severity of the patient's symptoms. Some cases of mild pericarditis may resolve spontaneously without treatment. Most uncomplicated cases resolve within 2 weeks and require only rest and treatment with anti-inflammatory medications such as aspirin and NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac, celecoxib, etoricoxib, indomethacin). Colchicine, an inflammation-reducing medication often used in patients with gout, is sometimes added to the medical regimen in more severe cases, cases that last longer than 2 weeks, or in cases that recur. Corticosteroids, IV immunoglobulins, and immunosuppressive medications such as azathioprine and anakinra may also be considered in cases that are severe, recurrent, or unresponsive to standard therapies. If the pericarditis is found to be secondary to a bacterial, fungal, or parasitic infection, appropriate antibiotic, antifungal, or anti-parasitic medications would be added to the medical regimen. If the pericarditis results in a large pericardial effusion that hinders the heart's ability to properly function, drainage with a needle using ultrasound or fluoroscopic guidance may be required. This procedure is called a pericardiocentesis.

Chest pain is the most common symptom of pericarditis and is present in 85-90% of cases.

If the effusion recurs or is not amenable to pericardiocentesis, a subxiphoid pericardiotomy (pericardial window) which removes a small section of the pericardium may be required. This "pericardial window" is a surgical procedure which allows the fluid to drain into the abdominal cavity instead of accumulating around the heart. In rare cases of recurrent pericarditis or pericarditis that results in constrictive pericarditis, a more significant surgical procedure called a pericardiectomy may be required. This procedure consists of removing a large portion of (or the entire) pericardium. Luckily, patients that require these more "advanced treatments" are the exception rather than the rule. □

My Friend and Guide



Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

One of my Masonic heroes is Eric Krauss Cohen, 33°.

Eric was many things to many people: He was the owner of the Carson Street Deli; he was a rock musician; he was an academic and an amateur philosopher; and over time, he was an experienced and accomplished Mason (with such attainments as serving as a warrant member of Lodge Ad Lucem No. 812 in 2007, serving as Worshipful Master of Tyrian Lodge No. 644 in 2009, and serving as Sovereign Prince in the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh in 2012-2013). Eric was my recommender and first-line signer, both in Blue Lodge and in several appendant bodies. We traveled to many meetings and events together over the years. I think I can say he was my best friend ... but that isn't really grounds for calling someone a "hero." The reason I say he was my hero is because of some of his admirable qualities and the valuable lessons I learned from him.

Eric was intellectually voracious. He was an avid reader and read extensively on Masonic topics as well as history, literature, psychology, and philosophy. He sought out and joined several appendant bodies—not only because he felt they needed new members in order to be preserved and sustained, but also because he was genuinely enthusiastic and eager about experiencing new ritual and learning new lessons. He was a well-traveled man in every sense of the word and enjoyed sharing stories with our friends about his

colorful life before and outside of Freemasonry. I think one of the great merits of this life experience was what a well-rounded and empathetic person it made him.

He was a stalwart supporter of Tyrian Lodge. Eric could be counted on to take his accustomed spot on the sidelines at our stated meetings or fill in an officer's chair if need be during a degree night. When he taught me my oath, he was a patient and insightful instructor, even making it fun in spite of the challenge. He wasn't like some fellows you might know—those who get seduced by fun, fellowship, mystique, or ritual in appendant bodies, and you never see them in Blue Lodge again. He always recognized that Blue Lodge is fundamental, respected its importance, and demonstrated his sincerity by showing up.

I think I can say he was my best friend ... but that isn't really grounds for calling someone a "hero."

He dedicated time and energy to his creative outlet. It may not be everybody's lot to be a songwriter or musician, but it was one of several things that Eric and I had in common. However, by the time we met, I had already thought of that as a closed chapter in my life, while Eric continued to make time for creativity in spite of being already busy with many other pursuits. I think that outlet was a boon to him and contributed to



his mental and emotional health. When we “exercise our creative muscle,” we strive to understand our own internal life better and to find new and innovative ways to express that inner life and share it with others. If you can get past the fear and discomfort that comes with being a novice at anything, I think you’ll find that trying your hand as a creator in any medium has profound rewards.

The only fitting tribute to a man who had left such a profound impact on my life was to do my best to emulate his example and be of some service to others.

He taught me something about charity. In his life, Eric faced some career setbacks that frustrated him greatly, so it was not always within his means to financially support the many charitable causes that Freemasonry exposes us to, at least not to the extent that he might have liked. Nevertheless, he gave very selflessly of his time and energy—particularly as the chair of the walkathon in support of the Children’s

Dyslexia Center. This was a powerful lesson to me, because seeing the example he set made me aware of something I had overlooked. On the one hand, monetary donations are vital. Much of what we wish to accomplish in fraternal charity cannot be accomplished without financial support. On the other hand, donating financially can sometimes be “the easy way out,” a simpler means of assuaging one’s own conscience. Giving of one’s time and energy is something that can be even more precious.

When Eric passed away in 2018, it hit all of us hard and in different ways. I didn’t process it well and had a difficult time expressing to others how I felt—even people who I knew cared very much about me. But one thing was clear to me, and I didn’t have any difficulty articulating it to others: The only fitting tribute to a man who had left such a profound impact on my life was to do my best to emulate his example and be of some service to others.

As you travel through life, I wish you the good fortune to encounter someone—within the Fraternity or outside of it—who inspires you to live up to all the potential you possess. That is a true hero. □

UniontownUpdate

A message from the Thrice Potent Master of the Valley of Uniontown

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

Heroes All Around Us

By Vic Baronie, 32°

Masonic heroes can be found throughout the entire Fraternity of Freemasonry: Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shriners, York Rite, Comas Club, and other Masonic bodies. My personal Masonic hero would have to be my father-in-law, Illustrious Brother Martin L. Miller, 33°. I learned the ritual work of all three Blue Lodge degrees from him. He is responsible for getting me involved in the Lodge of Perfection and its annual degree work and instilled in me many other ideals needed to be a good leader in the Fraternity. In short, he has taught me everything about being a great Mason. There are many others that I would also consider Masonic heroes. They are all around us in those who have helped fellow Masons on their Masonic journey and helped our Fraternity be the best that it can be.

All Brothers should really strive to be like the ultimate Masonic hero, our Supreme Grand Master. He has given us the tools to work with and has taught us how we

should use them in our everyday lives. Our Supreme Grand Master has also given us our ultimate trestleboard, the Bible, which tells us everything we need to know to guide us through any trials and difficulties that we may encounter in life. Every answer can be found in the pages of that great book. In our own ways, we are all Masonic heroes. We all know what we need to do: strive for perfection each and every day of our lives. There is a Masonic hero around each and every corner; all you need to do is seek and ye shall find.

We all know
what we need
to do:
strive for
perfection
each and
every day
of our lives.

□



TheLatest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

SEP

10

Reservations are requested.

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

CigaRite

Bring your own cigars and adult beverages and join your fellow cigar lovers for an evening of good conversations, snacks, and smokes on the patio at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. This laid-back evening is the perfect way to relax and refresh yourself. Non-Scottish Rite Masons and nonsmokers are welcome too.

TIME: 6:00-11:00PM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: Small donation for pizza, BYOB & cigars

RSVP: **September 9**

OCT

2

For more information:

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Children's Dyslexia Center Walkathon

Please consider donating, sponsoring, or walking to support the Children's Dyslexia Center. Complete details for the event can be found in the September Valley Bulletin and a registration form can be found on page 20 of this issue of *RiteNow*.

TIME: 8:30AM registration, 10:00 AM Walk begins

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: Fundraiser, donations accepted

RSVP: **None required**

NOV

5

Reservations are required!

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Hybrid Stated Meeting

Final details are not in place as of press time. However, the meeting will be available in-person (pandemic permitting) and via Zoom. Check the November Valley Bulletin for complete details.

TIME: 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00PM Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC and Online

COST: \$15.00 for dinner, no charge for the meeting

RSVP: **November 2**

NOV

20

Reservations are required!

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Rite on the Road Degree Day 4th Degree & 18th Degree

The Greensburg Masonic Center will host our first Rite on the Road event. Come out to see the live performance of the degrees in-person (pandemic permitting). Bring an interested Master Mason with you and he can leave a Scottish Rite Mason!

TIME: 10:00AM

LOCATION: Greensburg Masonic Center

COST: No charge to members, initiation fees apply to candidates

RSVP: **November 16**

Fellowship Breakfast

You can't find a better breakfast with better company that supports a better cause. The breakfast is cooked and served by our local DeMolay and Rainbow, and the proceeds benefit those organizations.

TIME: 9AM to 10:30AM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$7/person (all you can eat)

RSVP: **None required**

To have an event listed in future issues, please contact the Valley Office at 412-939-3579 or by email at secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org.

OCT
30

Reservations are required!
Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Degree Day 4th Degree & 15th Degree

Join us in-person at the Valley for these passport eligible degrees. Pandemic permitting, these degrees will be presented as live performances. Arrive early and enjoy the Fellowship Breakfast (details below).

TIME: 10:30AM
LOCATION: GPMC
COST: No charge to members, initiation fees apply to candidates
RSVP: **October 26**

JAN
20

Reservations are required!
Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Rite on the Road Degree Day 4th Degree & 14th Degree

The Washington Masonic C Temple will host our second Rite on the Road event. Come out to see the live performance of the degrees in-person (pandemic permitting). Bring an interested Master Mason with you and he can leave a Scottish Rite Mason!

TIME: 7:00PM
LOCATION: Washington Masonic Temple
COST: No charge to members, initiation fees apply to candidates
RSVP: **January 18**

SEP
25

OCT
30

NOV
27

Looking Ahead

FEB
3

Stated Meeting
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022
GPMC
Details TBD

FEB
26

Degree Day
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022
4th & 28th Degrees
GPMC

APR
7

Stated Meeting
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022
GPMC
Details TBD

APR
10

Story of the Crucifixion
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022
GPMC
Performance is FREE, Dinner \$15.00/person

! Please note:

All events are subject to change. Due to the changing COVID-19 restrictions, we encourage you to visit our website or call the Valley office to confirm the status of all events. The Valley of Pittsburgh is committed to keeping all members and guests safe and will observe all guidelines set forth by local, regional, and state government agencies, and healthcare professionals.

TheWork

A message from the Assistant Director of Work of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

The Road to 32

By William G. Johnston, 33°

The COVID-19 pandemic led to many changes in the way we all conduct our lives, and the degree work of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh was not immune to that fact. While we were still able to induct new members using video degrees and Virtual Reunions, the Director's Staff, as well as many members in the Valley, are eager to get back to live and in-person degree work. As more people are being vaccinated and restrictions are lifted, we believe we can safely get back to some semblance of normal regarding our ritual.

The pause in the degree work has allowed the Director's Staff and Officers of the Valley to reevaluate the way we present and conduct our Reunions. The Scottish Rite NMJ's Rite on the Road concept has prompted us to bring the Scottish Rite out of the Valley and into the backyards of the Blue Lodges that support it. After all, we believe that *traveling* and *journeys* are at the center of our Masonic Experience. With that in mind, we are proud to present the "Road to 32."

There will be several degree conferrals this Scottish Rite year, culminating with the live 32nd Degree conferral at the Spring Class, in honor of our Grand Master Elect, Ill. Jeffrey M. Wonderling. Not only can a candidate begin his journey with the 4th degree at any one of these locations, but current Scottish Rite members can get their passports stamped and enjoy fellowship with

their brethren in the Valley. The schedule of degrees is as follows:

Saturday, October 30, 2021

GPMC, 10:30 a.m.

4th & 15th Degrees
Fellowship Breakfast preceding conferral – see page 45

Saturday, November 20, 2021

**Greensburg Masonic Center
10:00 a.m.**

4th & 18th Degrees

Saturday, January 20, 2022

**Washington Masonic Temple
7:00 p.m.**

4th & 14th Degrees

Saturday, February 26, 2022

GPMC, 10:30 a.m.

4th & 28th Degrees
Fellowship Breakfast preceding conferral – see page 45

Saturday, May 14, 2022

GPMC, 8:00 a.m.

Grand Master's Class
TBD & 32nd Degree

As always, the Director's Staff is currently reaching out and looking for interested Brothers to participate in the degree work. The Executive Committee is working on incentives for candidates, first-line signers, and all travelers on the "Road to 32." Be sure and stay tuned for updates as they become available. We look forward to traveling with you on this unique journey! □



William G. Johnston, 33°

wjohnston@valleyofpittsburgh.org

Fraternal Services Directory

These listed businesses subscribe to providing high quality customer service, delivered with a sense of warmth, friendliness, individual pride, respect, honesty, and the fraternal spirit.

ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

Richard A. Reynolds, CPA 412-795-4194
Rich Reynolds richreynolds@MSN.com
www.RichReynoldsCPA.com

ADVERTISING SPECIALITIES

Grimes Advertising 412-921-1325
Eddie and Sandy Grimes
www.good-advertising.com

ATTORNEYS

Henry Miller, III, Esq. 412-566-2565
Henry Miller
Wills, Estates, Real Estate millerhiii@aol.com

Quinn Logue LLC 412-765-3800
Attorney Matt Logue
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First Responders Campaign

HONORING OUR FRONT LINE HEROES

September 1 - December 1, 2021

This fall, the Scottish Rite, NMJ is honoring our first responders. Throughout time, these individuals have exemplified our Core Value of Service to Humanity. From the September 11 attacks to the COVID-19 global pandemic, our first responders have always been the front line heroes of our communities.

Go to ScottishRiteNMJ.org/Heroes to see how your Valley can get involved and how you can order your very own commemorative Challenge Coin for the First Responders Campaign this fall!



ScottishRiteNMJ.org/Heroes