



Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F.&A.M.

Volume 3, Issue 7

July 15, 2014

Happenings at the July stated

27 of us fellowshiped at this stated. We had four visitors. 17% of our MM membership was present.

Brother J. Hue Rushing was presented his 50-yr Masonic Service Award with his two Masonic/sibling brothers looking on. Congratulations!

Since the last stated we have Initiated to candidates, and Passed one.

Brother Vinnie D'Andrea was appointed Assistant Secretary.

Decided we were going to have to contract out the mowing and trimming on our property.

Brother David Warwick, who has been a wonderful custodian for many years, reluctantly has had to resign his duties due to health problems. Our Master will assume the duties until further notice.

Appointed a committee to begin planning for our 100th anniversary in January 2015.

Brother Robert Little recited the Edward A. Guest poem, "The Lambskin" for Masonic Education.

Donated \$100 to the Knights of Solomon, annual Dave Harmon Ride for the Masonic charities.

Upcoming events of interest

July 28th—MM Degree. Supper at 6:30, Degree work at 7:30. **Officer Practices** at 7:00pm on 7/24, and 5:00pm on 7/27.

August 11th—Stated Communication. Supper at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:30pm.

Schools on 2nd and 4th Sundays. .

August 23rd—District 28 Quarry Degree

Charities Golf Tournament October 3rd, and Ladies Night Banquet October 18th.

Masonic Education. National Sojourners

STB-JL89 NATIONAL SOJOURNERS

"BORN IN WAR, NURTURED IN PEACE,"

We have had numerous requests for information about The National Sojourners; therefore, we have made this organization the text of this month's Short Talk. We would like to acknowledge the work of the Sojourners Bridge of Light committee, particularly John Henderson, for preparing the text for this Short Talk.

We are all familiar with the term "Sojourning Mason", but did you know that a formal, recognized Masonic organization named "National Sojourners" actually exists?

The group had its beginning over 90 years ago in August 1898 in the Philippines, upon the arrival there of a North Dakota Regiment of Volunteer Infantry. The Grand Lodge of North Dakota had granted this Regiment a dispensation for a field

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July Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

77 07/29/1937 ROBERT F. SHINN
72 07/19/1942 STEPHEN A. WHITE
69 07/07/1945 BERNIE L. PENCE
64 07/19/1950 DONALD T. HILL

55 07/09/1959 JAMES K. HODGE
53 07/05/1961 JEFFREY M. BRADLEY
52 07/17/1962 STANLEY W. DRYE
51 07/22/1963 CHARLES K. FURR
50 07/06/1964 KENNETH J. KIKER
50 07/28/1964 JOHN E. MILLS

49 07/26/1965 DANIEL B. JOHN-
SON
47 07/08/1967 BRIAN K. KNOX
46 07/08/1968 ANTHONY W. WIL-
LIAMS

August Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

83 08/03/1931 ROMIE A. MORGAN
79 08/26/1935 J. B. SMITH
78 08/21/1936 LEWIS M. FLOYD
77 08/12/1937 HAROLD D. TUCKER
SR

75 08/29/1939 CHARLES K. DIXON
71 08/27/1943 BARNIE F. WHITLEY JR
66 08/06/1948 TOMMY D. MULLIS
64 08/05/1950 WILLIAM H. MOSS JR
63 08/05/1951 THOMAS O. EVANS
62 08/03/1952 RUSSELL W. HELMS
60 08/19/1954 RODNEY D. PHILLIPS

57 08/30/1957 ALEXANDER W.
BORGEMEISTER
56 08/01/1958 TERRY G. RIDDLE
55 08/18/1959 STEVEN L. BROOKS
48 08/18/1966 JEFFREY D. JONES
44 08/07/1970 DUANE D. BURRY

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lodge and it conducted its first meeting upon its arrival.

Meetings were held regularly thereafter—once even while under hostile fire at the Culi Culi Church with the officers of the lodge wearing sidearms while bullets splattered through the roof!

Early in 1900, the North Dakota Regiment of Volunteer Infantry left the Philippines, taking with it the Field Dispensation. The American Masons who were left behind quickly filled this Masonic void by forming the first informal "Sojourners Club." In 1901, these "Sojourners" provided the impetus, funds and paraphernalia to charter Manila Lodge under the Grand Lodge of California, and the "Sojourners Club," was temporarily disbanded. One of the original members of the informal "Sojourners Club", Surgeon Captain Harry Eugene Stafford, was Charter Master of Manila Lodge No. 342, Grand Lodge of California (later Manila Lodge No. I) and, in 1913, became the first Grand Master of the newlycreated Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The Philippine "Sojourner Club" resurfaced in 1907, open to Masons who were not members of local lodges, and soon had nearly 200 members from every State and Territory of the United States and eight foreign countries. As time went by, most of the Philippine Sojourners scattered throughout the United States. A group of these Masonic military officers, meeting in Chicago, Illinois in 1917, recognized the highly transient life of Master Mason military Officers and formally organized the "Chicago Sojourners Club." Additional Clubs quickly formed at army posts and naval bases around the nation and overseas. In 1927, the word "Club" was dropped and the National Sojourners were incorporated in 1931 as a formal part of the Masonic Fraternity.

Since its inception, the purpose of the National Sojourners has steadfastly been to affirm the unique responsibilities military officers have to their brothers-in-arms, the Masonic Fraternity, and to our Nation. Thus, National Sojourners to this day organize commissioned officers and warrant officers of the uniformed services of the United States (past and present), who are recognized Master Masons, into chapters to actively provide good fellowship among its members, to assist those who may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, to cultivate Masonic ideals, to support patriotic activities in Masonry and to develop true patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation. National Sojourners, Inc., formally brings together Masonic leaders of the uniformed services of the United States into a united effort to further the National Defense, and work to oppose any influence calculated to weaken our National Security.

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Members of National Sojourners are reminded of their primary obligations to the symbolic lodges and the Grand Lodges under which they work. The organization’s “Bridge of Light” program provides the bridge for Sojourners to cross more easily into active participation in local symbolic lodges and appendant body activities. By this “bridge,” many military Master Masons have become affiliated with local lodges, and many have become leaders of the fraternity.

National Sojourners willingly and proudly assist local Masonic authorities through presentations which reinforce and promote patriotism and Americanism, both with the fraternity and the community. Its Heroes of ‘76 members, (an invitational organization within the National Sojourners Inc.), attired in colorful Revolutionary War uniforms, provide “Toast To The Flag”, “Building The Flag”, “Historic Flags”, “Service Flags”, flag donations, flag raisings and numerous other patriotic programs for the benefit of Masonic and community gatherings.

Heroes of ‘76, are composed of selected, worthy members of National Sojourners who have been recognized for outstanding service to the fraternity. Heroes of ‘76 Camps (named after prominent American heroes and battles) have been organized in nearly all of the Chapters. These Heroes of ‘76 Camps form an enjoyable part of the Chapter activities and provide colorful patriotic groups for Masonic and community programs.

In 1976, The Declaration of Independence Bicentennial Year, National Sojourners acquired that part of Brother George Washington’s “River Farm” known as “Collingwood”. A new headquarters was established on this historic property, and a renowned Library and Museum of Americanism has since been created that daily serves the Masonic fraternity and a public constituency.

This Headquarters, Library and Museum on Americanism now forms part of a Masonically-important triangle in our Nation’s Capital area; The George Washington Monument to the east in the city of Washington, D.C.; the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on “Shooters Hill” to the west of Alexandria, Virginia and the National Sojourners Headquarters, Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism to the south on the Potomac River near Mount Vernon.

National Sojourners, Inc., now organized in some 150 chapters in 44 states, Germany and Panama, is an important, highly visible and integral part of the fraternity of Freemasons that cements the ties that bind military Master Masons closer together for the good of all. It has ever championed the Masonic principles that political, economic and social problems are subsidiary to and separate from a steadfast belief in God as the Supreme Architect of the Universe. National Sojourners maintain that God must motivate man if present day problems are to be solved and urges active participation of all patriotic Americans in maintaining that government for which our forefathers fought.

National Sojourners remember that George Washington once said:

“When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen!”

TOAST TO THE FLAG by John J. Daly

Here’s to the red of it—	Womanhood’s care for it	Here’s to the whole of it—
There’s not a thread of it,	Made manhood dare for it,	Stars, stripes and pole of it,
No, nor a shred of it	Purity’s prayer for it	Body and soul of it,
In all the spread of it	Keeps it so white!	O, and the roll of it,
From foot to head.	Here’s to the blue of it—	Sun shining through;
But heroes bled for it,	Beauteous view of it,	Hearts in accord for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,	Heavenly hue of it,	Swear by the sword for it,
Precious blood shed for it,	Star-spangled dew of it	Thanking the Lord for it,
Bathing it Red!	Constant and true;	Red White and Blue!
Here’s to the white of it—	Diadems gleam for it,	
Thrilled by the sight of it,	States stand supreme for it,	
Who knows the right of it,	Liberty’s beam for it	
But feels the might of it	Brightens the blue!	
Through day and night?		



OFFICERS—2014

First Row left to right: Senior Steward, John Robert Nash; Senior Deacon, Thomas Lathan Nash, Jr.; Junior Warden, Vincent Joseph D’Andrea; Master, Thomas Michael Little; Tyler, David Lee Warwick; Junior Deacon, David Gordon Nash. Second Row left to right: Junior Steward, Perry Lee Sams; Treasurer, Robert Lee Little; Secretary, Roger Darrell Long, PM; Senior Warden, Mitchell Allen Elliott; Chaplain, Douglas Eugene Martin, PM.

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

**Newsletter Editor: R. Darrell Long,
PM**

Secretary of Union Lodge #618

**Send any constructive criticisms or
comments to**

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Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the reservations. (704) 791-9470

