

# THE MASON

**WB Troy Pate Receives His 70-Year Service Award**

*Harmony Lodge No. 340*



**From Food Drives to School Supplies, Making a Difference**

*Atkinson Lodge No. 612*

In September of 2023, Atkinson Lodge No. 612 held a "Food Drive" at the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store in Burgaw, NC. The people of Pender County donated around 600 pounds of canned & box food. They also donated around \$750.00 in cash which we went back into the store & bought more food.

We delivered it to a "Food Bank" in Burgaw and they told us that we had unloaded 900 pounds. Needless to say it was a huge success!

In June, 2024 we held another "Food Drive" at the Piggly Wiggly and this time it took two pickups

to deliver it all to the "Food Bank" which is now in Willard, NC (Pender County). This time it was around 750 pounds. We didn't have as much as in 2023, however, it was still a major success.

Atkinson Lodge No. 612 is in the process of collecting school supplies for West Pender Middle School. They need bookbags, pencils, notebook paper. They need 72 bookbags, we've ordered 96 from Amazon, 250 erasers to put onto pencils, we've also ordered around 500 pencils & highlighters. We've ordered 1000 sheets of notebook paper.

All of this is being done from the kindness of our Brethren in our lodge.

On June 26th, I received a \$50.00 check from one of our Widows with a note to buy school supplies. We stay busy at Atkinson, no sooner than one project is completed, as we're working on another.



**Supporting Masonic Homes and the Community**

*Jefferson Penn Lodge No. 384*

Jefferson Penn Lodge No. 384 has distributed the \$5,856 in proceeds from this year's (2023) annual rifle raffle fundraiser. The proceeds are distributed to three charities equally each year. The first two are the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home Charity at Whitestone in

Greensboro.

Each year the third charity is locally selected in Rockingham County. This Year it was a shelter for the homeless. Checks were sent to the two usual Masonic charities and the third was presented to Melissa Galloway, President of Home of Refuge Outreach in Eden, NC, by Master Marvin Preble at the lodge.



**MWB David Wicker, PGM Receives 25-Year Award**

*Oak Grove Lodge No. 750*



Award was proudly presented by WB Sam Vaughan and WB Archie Smith, who were the signers of PGM David Wicker's petition to receive the degrees for both his blue lodge and the Scottish Rite.



Editor Note: The four following articles were submitted in early January 2023. I apologize for the delay in sharing your news.



## Lodge visits Tennessee Cave Degree

Friendship Lodge No. 763



Brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 763 from Broadway, NC, travelled to Kingston, Tennessee to view the 51st Cave Degree sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee F.&A.M., Union Lodge No. 38, at Elben's Cave. The Grand Lodge of New Jersey put on the Fellowcraft degree and Grand Lodge of Delaware put on the Master Mason degree for the weekend.

Fun was had by all!



Pictured from L to R: Brothers Christopher C. Tacia III, PM; Christopher Hendricks, PM; Estaban Gonzawlez; and Kurt Henderson. Not pictured but in attendance included Bro. Garland E. Smith, PM, PDDGM and Bro. Bobby Diggs, PM.

## 2022 Mason of the Year

Friendship Lodge No. 763

Todd McNeill was presented the Mason of the Year Award by WB Estaban Gonzalez, PM. Thank you for your leadership and hard work in the lodge.



Pictured from L to R: Brothers Estaban Gonzalez, PM (2022) and Todd McNeill.



## 50-Year Veteran's Emblem

Friendship Lodge No. 763

Brother John Joseph Bradley, PM, and Friendship Lodge's Charter Master was presented his fifty year Veteran's Emblem. He was presented a framed certificate and fifty year lapel pin by Most Worshipful Brother Gene Jernigan, PGM of NC.

WB David Oakley presented Brother Joe with a Lodge Coin.



Pictured from L to R: Gene Jernigan, PGM, Joe Bradley, PM and David Oakley, PM

## 2022 College Education Scholarships Presented

Friendship Lodge No. 763

Friendship lodge provided two \$500.00 merit based education scholarships in December of 2022. They were awarded at the 2023 Annual Officer Installation on January 7th, 2023. The two winners this year were Mr. Kai Hipszer and Miss Megan Collins.

Mr. Hipszer will be attending Appalachian State University in the fall. Miss Collins currently attends NC State University.

Congratulations to all!



Pictured from L to R: Bro. Robert Breyer, Scholarship Chairman; Mr. Kai Hipszer, awardee; WB Estaban Gonzalez; Lodge Master; and Miss Megan Collins, awardee.



## Secretary of Distinction

Vandora Lodge No. 745



Secretary of Distinction award was presented to John Paul Keon. The award was presented by 5 of the 6 Past Masters that he had served under up to that time. Congrats John Paul!





## 25 and 50-Year Service Award Presentations

Andrews Lodge No. 529

Andrews Masonic Lodge No. 529 awards recipients: John Brown 50-year service award, Tony Pendergrass 25-year service award, and Lillian Freel, wife of Brother Charles Freel receiving 2022 Mason of Year award for Brother Charles Freel posthumous. All presented by WB Jeff Clark.



## 60 and 75-Year Services Award Presentations

Newell Lodge No. 739

In the Fall of 2023, Newell Masonic Lodge No. 739 held a special event with MWM Kevan D. Frazier, PGM ( Grand Master at the time ) presenting. The night's event and ceremony honored Meredith L. Craig with a 75-year service award and Richard V. Suddreth with a 60-year service award. These service awards recognized their remarkable dedication and contributions to the Masonic community.



## International Masonic Gathering at Belmont

Belmont Lodge No. 627

In June of 2023, Belmont Masonic Lodge #627 AF&AM hosted an exceptional EA degree with 47 attendees representing 18 lodges, 7 districts, 2 states, 1 province, and 2 countries. Example of delegates present include: RWB Don Kehler, the then Deputy Grand Master; of North Carolina; WB Marcus Moss III, DDGM; WB David Rainwater, DDGL; RWB Michael Litvak, PDDGM and Grand Chaplain of Ontario, and RWB Issac Lazar of Ontario. Most notably, RWB Litvak's son was one of the two candidates.



The morning was rich in Masonic education. WM Steve Mercer and JD David Povinelli managed breakfast, and new officers performed excellently. Brother David Wilkes, conferring his third EA degree, led the ceremony, with David Povinelli and Allan Shirilan excelling as JD and SD, respectively.

- Mike Harvey PM, Secretary



## 50-Year Verteran's Award Presented at Green Level

Green Level Lodge No. 277

We had a special evening at our last Stated Communication of Green Level Lodge No. 277 in Cary, NC. WB Michael May received his 50-year Veteran's award in an open ceremony with family, friends, Brothers and members of The Eastern Star. Most Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman, Past Grand Master (2018) helped make the ceremony special for Bro May.



Pictured: Susan and Speed Hallman, Michael and Phyllis May.



## Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Cambell Lodge No. 374

It was such an honor to lay a wreath on Tomb of the Unknown soldier in Washington, DC.







## Oxford's Annual FLAGS Fund Raising Campaign

Oxford Lodge No. 112

Last year, in support of the Masonic Home for Children's at Oxford's 150th Anniversary, the Brethren of Oxford Lodge No. 122 presented Brother Kevin Otis, Director of MHCO a check for \$5,000.



L to R: John Fluke, Jim Adcock, Eddie Dickerson, Kevin Otis, Gene Purvis, Adam Reynolds, Jerry Brown, George Summers

This money was raised from Oxford Lodge No. 122's annual FLAGS Fund Raising Campaign. Each year the Brethren of the Lodge place flags in the yards of the participants on Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day and Veterans' Day. All the proceeds from each year's project are donated to the various Masonic charities in North Carolina.



If you would like a flag in yard on these holidays, the cost is \$50 per year. The flags are placed in your yard at least 24 hours prior to the holiday and removed the day after. Please email: 122FLAGS@gmail.com or write to Flags, Oxford Lodge No. 122, PO Box 15, Oxford NC. 27565.

## Lodge Supports Local YMCA

Conover Lodge No. 709

Conover Lodge No. 709 sponsors several teams at the local YMCA. At the end of the season, the lodge hosts a Saturday afternoon event for the teams, parents, and coaches, providing pizza, ice cream, and drinks. Coaches present awards to the kids, and photos are taken to commemorate the occasion.



This year's event included Mike Matty, PM, Bobby Leatherman, PM, Al King, PM, Brothers Eric Goans and Stevie Drum, the current president of the Catawba County Shrine Club.

## 60-Year Diamond Jubilee Presented to Bro West

Neill S Stewart Lodge No. 556



WB Ernie Holder was happy to be able to personally present James Sherwood West with his 60-year Diamond Jubilee Service Award at his home. This special gesture was to honor Brother West's long-standing commitment and dedication to masonry and his blue lodge.



## Snow Hill Christmas Parade

Radiance Lodge No. 132

Participating in the Snow Hill Christmas Parade December 2nd, 2023.



From left to right: WB. Tim Byrd, WB. Patrick Tyndall, Bro. Charles Phillips, WB. Roy Peaden, Bro. Tony Hardy, WB Doug Stocks





## Honoring Fallen Veterans

7th Masonic District

Members of several Lodges and Appendant Bodies of the 7th Masonic District, participated in laying wreath to honor fallen veterans at the National Cemetery in New Bern, North Carolina.



## Toy Drive for the Home

Kernersville Lodge No. 669



Kernersville Masonic Lodge No. 669 recently held a Toy Drive Fundraiser Event for the children at the masonic Home for Children at Oxford. This Toy Drive was organized and led by Brother Michael Queen PM. An entire truckload of toys were collected and delivered to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford by Brother Queen and several other members of Kernersville Masonic Lodge.



## A Very Special 3rd Degree

Kernersville Lodge No. 669

Kernersville Masonic Lodge No. 669 recently held a very special 3rd Degree at Orphans Masonic Lodge No. 761, which is on the campus for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Kernersville Lodge received a dispensation from the Grand Master to hold this event at Orphans Lodge. Brother Christopher Grubbs, who was a resident at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford for several years, was raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. His blood and Masonic brother, Michael Queen PM, sat in the East for this very special Degree.







## 3rd Year Donating to the FCA

Perquimans Lodge No. 106

Perquimans Masonic Lodge No. 106 raised another \$10,000 this year to help send students from Perquimans County High School to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Camp in Black Mountain later this summer. We are so grateful to live in a community that supports our students like it does.



This donation marks the 3rd year in a row that Perquimans Masonic Lodge No. 106 has raised \$10,000 for the FCA.

The FCA Leadership Camp is for student-athletes who serve as leaders on their local school campuses and sport teams. Campers will experience training in how to engage the hearts of their classmates and teammates, be equipped with tools to grow spiritually in the Christian faith, and be empowered to use their influence to see their campuses and communities transformed by Christ. Campers will participate in huddles led by college students whom they will compete with and grow in their faith through Christian community!



To learn more about Fellowship of Christian Athletes, please visit <https://www.carolinasfca.org/>

## Annual District Breakfast

31st Masonic District

Our 4th annual District Breakfast was held on Saturday, January 27th at Metrolina Shrine Club. Organized by WB Gary "Cookie" Cooke when he was DDGM, this event has become a valued tradition. Six of the seven lodges in the district were represented at the breakfast, where elected officers gathered to discuss important matters such as Grandview, fundraising, and more.

The breakfast was for elected officers within the 31st district and aimed to bring everyone together to get an idea of what is going on within the district and allow brothers from each lodge time to fellowship.

Each lodge spoke about any fundraising plans they had for the year and we were all able to make a plan to help show our support to each Lodge's fundraising efforts as a result



## A Day of History in Apex

Apex Lodge No. 584

Part of the Masonic experience is delving into the traditions and history of your lodge. Apex Lodge No. 584 has followed tradition and made some history. Past Master Mel Minton recently was afforded an honor many wish for. He was able to obligate his youngest son Erik Minton and then raise him to the Master Mason Degree. This has happened in many lodges over the years so what makes this one a little more special? The WB Mel was in the east and his first son sat as Senior Deacon.



In the second section, the cast included brothers Mel Minton, Matt Hunt (Executive Officer for DeMolay in NC), the older brother Joshua Minton, and Chuck Rouse, Past Master of Hiram Lodge No. 40, making it a wonderful DeMolay event as well. Brother Mel, Chuck, Matt and Joshua, were all introduced to the ideals of Freemasonry via the Order of DeMolay.

Bro. Joshua's son is also a member of Raleigh Chapter Order of DeMolay and this daughter is a member of Raleigh Assembly No. 4 International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. The Masonic Fraternity is strong in the family.



## 50-Year Service Award Presented in Creedmoor

Creedmoor Lodge No. 499



Brother Mike Ellis, of Creedmoor Lodge No. 499 was presented his 50-year certificate and pin on 4/25/24. Standing left to right is Worshipful master of Creedmoor Lodge 499 AF&AM Blake Burd, Chris Ellis “Brother Mike Ellis’s son, Brother Mike Ellis, Lodge Secretary Thomas Sherron and Marcus Hurst of the Youngsville Lodge. Standing on back row is Clyde Thompson of Creedmoor lodge 499 AF&AM.



## 50-Year Service Award Presented to Bro Grady

Junaluskee Lodge No. 145

Fraternal greetings, below is a pic of the Junaluskee Brothers presenting WBro. Grady Nicholson his 50-year certificate and pin. WBro Grady was the Junaluskee Lodge Master in 1973.



I am sad to report that since the submission of this article by the lodge, Worshipful Brother Grady has laid down his working tools for the final time on 7/7/2024.

## Donation to Orchard Home

Conover Lodge No. 709

Conover Lodge No. 709 has made a charitable donation to Sipe Orchard Home in Hickory, NC, whose mission aligns closely with ours at MHCO. Coordinating with Delane Bowman, COO of Sipe Orchard Home, the lodge hosted Delane and Jamie Brown, CEO, for a meal at the lodge. During this event, we presented them with a \$1,500 donation. Mr. Brown spoke about the programs Sipe Orchard Home provides for the children in their care. We later received a thank-you note expressing their gratitude and the hope for future collaboration to help children in Catawba County.



## 60-Year Service Award Presented to Bro Faucher

Junaluskee Lodge No. 145

Fraternal greetings, below is a pic of the Junaluskee Brothers presenting Bro. George Faucher his 60-year certificate and pin.



## A Proud Grandfather at Legacy EA Degree

Junaluskee Lodge No. 145

Fraternal greetings, below is a pic of WB Donnie Wallace and his two grandsons, Logan and Samuel Wallace, taken at EA degree for Bro. Samuel Wallace, held on March 19th, 2024.



## Donation Conover School

Conover Lodge No. 709

Conover Masonic Lodge No. 709 recently hosted Josh Weese, Principal of Conover School, along with his family, for a special evening. Conover School serves approximately 100 students with disabilities, ranging from 3 to 22 years of age. They have launched the Future Ready Academy, providing high-quality education readiness for pre-K children.

During the visit, we presented a donation to support their efforts. We gave the Weese family a tour of the lodge, shared insights about our work as Masons, and enjoyed a wonderful meal together before our meeting. Notably, Josh left with a petition to join our lodge.

