

August 2025

Semper Fidelis Lodge  
680

Trestleboard

May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

From the East

My Dear Brethren,

Helen Mirren once said: Before you argue with someone, ask yourself, is that person even mentally mature enough to grasp the concept of a different perspective? Because if not, there is absolutely no point.

Not every argument is worth your energy. Sometimes, no matter how clearly you express yourself, the other person is not listening to understand – they are listening to react.

They are stuck in their on perspective, unwilling to consider another viewpoint, and engaging with them only drains you.

There is a difference between a healthy debate and a pointless debate.

A conversation with someone who is open-minded, who values growth and understanding, can be enlightening – even if you do not agree. But trying to reason with someone who refuses to see beyond their own beliefs? That is like talking to a wall. No matter how much logic or truth you present, they will twist, deflect, or dismiss your own words, not because you are wrong, but because they are unwilling to see the other side.

Maturity is not about who wins an argument – it is about knowing when an argument is not worth having. It is realizing that your own peace is more valuable than proving a point to someone who has already decided they will

not change their mind. Not every battle needs to be fought. Not every person deserves your explanation.

Sometimes the strongest thing that you can do is walk away – not because you have nothing to say, but because you can recognize that some people are not ready to listen. And that is not your burden to carry.

Fraternally and faithfully,  
Michael “Mike” Bartlett, WM  
Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680

Celebration to Remember



Brethren,

Recently, we always have reasons to celebrate. Weather it is a promotion at work or getting a new pair of shoes. Semper Fidelis had the pleasure and honor of celebrating a once in a lifetime event, not only for Brother Gordon “Gordy” Corssman, but a moment that you only see once during your masonic journey. Brother Gordy was presented his 70 Year Service Award!

Our Deputy Grand Master of North Carolina stated that Masonry this is a truly special event that he was honored to attend and be a part of. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1955, Brother Gordy took

his first step in Masonry in Maine Lodge #20. He took his second step on the 2d of May 1955 and his third on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1955.

Since taking his first step, he has continued to travel the world and many different lodges along the way.

Throughout his journey he has be accompanied by his family who was present during the celebration. This was truly an emotional and inspiring event for everyone present

Another celebration that Brother Gordy recently had was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August when he celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Please join us celebrating Brother Gordy’s accomplishments and if you ever get the chance you can always have an enlightened conversation that can inspire you.

Lodge Officers:

- Master: Michael Bartlett
- Senior Warden: J. P. Ledford
- Junior Warden: Antonio Saenz Jr.
- Treasurer: Earl Wilson
- Secretary: WB Jason Caldwell
- Senior Deacon: Jimmy Johnson
- Junior Deacon: Patrick Kelly
- Senior Steward: Charles Borne
- Junior Steward: Nate Bailey
- Tyler: WB Henry Drake
- Chaplain: WB Denny Norris

Upcoming Events:

**8/16: Ladies Night Out (Saltwater Grill Swansboro, NC)**  
8/19: GLNC Webinar Proposed Amendments to the Code  
**8/20: Sojourners**  
**8/24: DeMolay Meeting**  
8/26: GLNC Webinar Budget  
**8/26: Order of the Eastern Star**  
8/27: GLNC Webinar Proposed Amendments to the Code  
**8/27: Stated Communication**  
8/28: GLNC Webinar Budget  
8/30: School of Instruction (Area 4) Statesville, NC

On the Secretary’s Desk: WBro Jason Caldwell

As we start to wind up this year, there are many things coming up in the near future. We have several important events coming: Grand Lodge is in September and there are 22 Amendments to the Code that will be voted upon. The Annual Homecoming at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is in October. Our Widow and Awards event will be 25 Oct at 1500. We will have a special education for our 1st stated in November and December brings election of officers for 2026.

We have been working hard on getting our Lodge History up to date, get to know the history that we work so hard to continue at Semper Fidelis.

Check up on each other. Let us know if you need anything.

The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching.

# Brother of the Month: Harry A. Weatherly Jr.



This month we take pleasure in honoring Brother Harry Alexander Weatherly Jr. He was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1951 in Darlington, South Caroline. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served proudly prior to his retirement.

Brother Harry began his Masonic journey at the age of 72 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 during a special Degree. As fate would have it, it just happened to be St. Johns Day. A significant date that he would later look up and thank everyone for being there that day.

Brother Harry can always be seen at Semper Fidelis Lodge speaking with everyone around with a smile on his and a story to tell about something new that he experienced that week.

In addition to his Masonic love that he shares with everyone around, Brother Harry has become a trusted voice within our lodge and someone that we all inspire to be. Through his personal example, he continues to mentor new Brothers and challenge seasoned ones to deepen their understanding of the Craft.

We thank Brother Harry for his continued service and unwavering dedication to Masonry.

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## Newly Raised Master Masons:



Br Juan Vasquez, Jr was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on 29 July 2025 in New Jersey via courtesy work. He is an active duty SgtMaj and is looking forward to coming back to the area in the next year.



Br Larry Sutton, Smiley, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on 30 July 2025. He is an active duty Marine and has an infectious smile and energy about him.

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## The Wisdom of Yoda:



Masonry teaches us that to truly build the Temple within, a man must labor not in pride, but in patience; not in ambition, but in service. Albert Pike reminds us that it is not enough to memorize ritual or wear regalia—we must cultivate the virtues those symbols represent. Each lesson in Masonry is a stone, and each act of kindness, discipline, or justice lays that stone true and square. To be a Mason, Pike said, is to rise above the noise of the world and commit oneself daily to truth, honor, and the betterment of all mankind.

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## August Birthdays:

DAVID CHRISTOPHER DIETZ 8/1  
**JOSEPH ANGEL REYES 8/2**  
**WILLIAM DOUGLAS GIBBONS 8/3**  
PATRICK JOSEPH KELLEY 8/3  
CRAIG ROBERT BOUCHER 8/5  
CHARLES V SANTORO 8/5  
LEIGHTON S. FOREMAN 8/6

JOSEPH MAURICE THOMAS 8/6  
AARON MICHAEL PRESCOTT 8/10  
**DAVID LEE MCLAURIN 8/11**  
**GORDON WARREN CROSSMAN 8/12**  
LARRY PAUL SUTTON 8/13  
ZACHARY JAMES JOHNSON 8/18  
DUSTIN MCKENZIE LEE SCHUITT 8/19  
**WILLIAM JENNINGS GAINEY 8/21**

**RONALD CLEVELAND CHOATE 8/22**  
**JOSEPH HOWELL JONES 8/27**  
HERIBERTO ACEVEDO, JR 8/31  
JEREMY MARCUS BAYON 8/31  
ROBERT DUANE MILLS 8/31

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## September Birthdays:

**GERALD JEROME FILIPIAK 9/2**  
**WILLIAM FREDRICK WALL 9/4**  
AGEE LEE OSBORNE 9/5  
JAMES PATRICK FITZGIBBONS 9/7  
**EDWIN H. ALEXANDER, JR 9/8**  
**LYNN HILL THOMAS 9/29**

**JOHN DREW WARLICK 9/10**  
**LOUIS HAROLD ANDERSON III 9/12**  
ERIC PATRICK MEDEROS 9/14  
FELIX JOAN CASTILLO VILLEGAS 9/16  
BILL HUDSON GROSS II 9/18

ROBERT WAYNE RIDEOUT 9/24  
LUKE WILLIAM SCHOLL 9/28  
IAN ALTON TROTT 9/28  
CODY ANDREW JELLISON 9/29

*70 YEARS IN BOLD*

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## **Editors Comments:**

A SPECIAL MOMENT WHEN THE WORLD IS SILENT. By Tony Saenz, PM

Recently, like many other husbands, I found myself being asked by my wife, “What’s for dinner?” Like many of us, I named a few restaurants, until I finally named the right one. This day, we picked Buffalo Wild Wings.

The dinner was great with some of the best service that we could have asked for. When I looked around, I saw a world consumed by technology, everyone, including myself, was searching their phones or watching a game on one of the many monitors. It’s what makes this place a special one.

As I scanned the room, trying to see what game or fight I wanted to watch, I saw a waitress speaking with a party of at least 15 guests. Nothing out of the normal as she took everyone’s orders with a smile across her face. As I looked at the party, there was not one phone in site. They were not there to watch any of the monitors. Everyone was smiling and having a conversation with each other. It was a site to see.

It was at this moment when I starting thinking of a beautiful part of OUR first degree.

*Freemasonry, a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.*

I’m often thinking about what everything means to me on a personal level and how to apply it to my daily life. On this day, it taught me the importance of putting my phone down and looking around to see what is going on around me.

The reason this moment caught my attention was simple. The lesson was a life altering moment for me. Everyone at that table was deaf, yet they were communicating in a manner that I rarely see. Imagine a world in silane, yet you hear everything around you.

This to me was a special moment when the world is silent.

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## **In Memoriam: Brother Worth Hinnant**



We mourn the passing of Brother Worth Hinnant, who laid down his working tools on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. Brother Hinnant, born in Bayden, NC on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1925 had just celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday a week prior. A 59 year Mason, he was initiated into Masonry at Semper Fidelis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1965, Passed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1965. And raised to Master Mason on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1965. He received his 50 year Service Award on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2015.

Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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# Semper Fidelis Lodge #680

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