Edition 10

Volume 2026

Semper Fidelis TRESTLEBOARD



May Brotherly Love Prevail, and Every Moral and Social Virtue Cement Us.

Did You Know?

The New River is considered to be the oldest river in North America, although that claim has come under some scrutinty recently.

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Officers of the Lodge 2026

Master - WB J.P. Ledford
Senior Warden - Antonio Saenz, Jr
Junior Warden - Jimmy Johnson
Treasurer - Earl Wilson, Jr
Secretary - WB Jason Caldwell
Senior Deacon - Nate Bailey
Junior Deacon - Austin Dorschel
Senior Steward - Steve Lewandowski II
Junior Steward - Jeff Blackwell
Chaplain - WB Denny Norris
Tyler - Harry Weatherly, Jr



Brethren, please do not forget to take a moment, as we always do in our Lodge; to remember the sick, ailing, and those away from their families defending our way of life...and add to it our families.

Look to the East

Finishing strong is about maintaining focus, discipline and determination when the finish line is within reach. It is easy to start something with excitement and enthusiasm, but the real test of character comes when the work becomes difficult, the days grow longer, and your energy begins to wane. This is when you must remind yourself why you started and what you are working toward. Do not allow temporary frustration, distractions, or setbacks to weaken your commitment. Every step you take, even when progress feels slow, brings you closer to your goal. Finishing strong means giving your best effort when it matters most, staying committed when others might give up, and refusing to let the challenges of the moment distract you from the bigger picture.

Remember, how you finish often leaves a lasting impression on the people around you and, more importantly, on yourself. You may not be able to control every obstacle you encounter, but you can keep moving forward. Do not become so focused on how far you have come that you lose sight of what remains to be done. Keep tour standards high, your mind focused, and your purpose clear. Whether you are completing a project, pursuing a personal goal, facing a challenging season in life or finishing a year in the east, give the final stretch the same energy and commitment you brought to the beginning. **Success is not just about starting with passion; it is about finishing with purpose.** When you cross the finish line knowing you gave everything you had, you can take pride in the result and the person you became along the way.

JP Ledford
Master



On the Secretary's Desk



"My Ashlar will never be perfect, and that is alright, no Mason's ever is"

Brethren,

As we start to turn the page on this year, let us finish everything off the way it started. Take the time and to work on your personal journey in Masonry and the growth that the Fraternity offers.

Remember, that each of you have the ability to view your Masonic profile in Grand View. This will allow you to pay your dues, change your contact information, add your spouse, etc. The QR code and web address are on the last page.

If you need something, please feel free to call any of your officers, because, unfortunately, if we do not know about what is happening in your life, we cannot be there for you as Brothers.

If you have any updates to your mailing address, phone number, email address, please send to: semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brethren,
Upcoming events are in the works and if you have any ideas for our Lodge bring them up so we can all benefit from your ideas.

-02 Nov - National Sojourners
-07 Nov - Veterans Day Parade
-08 Nov - DeMolay Meeting (Awards Day in Greensboro)
-10 Nov - Order of Eastern Star
-11 Nov - Stated Communication (DAV)
-12 Nov - Ritual Workshop
-21 Nov - Breakfast
-24 Nov - Order of Eastern Star



All of these events are located on the calendar online with details.
Please log onto Grand View at nc.grandview.systems.
If anyone wants to help with the upcoming events, please let the Officers know.

Happy Birthday Brothers

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Sean Christopher Reeves
11/02 William Lynn Dill
11/02 Leonard John Mendonca
11/03 Leon Britt Burton
11/03 Kevin Dean Waters
11/04 Joseph Malcom Stroman
11/05 Joseph Clyde Campbell
11/06 John Robert Holmes II
11/06 Casey Eugene Whitson
11/07 James Preston Johnson
11/09 Tyrel Cade Garoutte
11/09 John James Stein
11/14 Anthony Jiravasin Pamintuan
11/14 Dennis Ray Smith
11/17 Christopher Daniel Gendron
11/19 Dean Henry Jones
11/20 Ryan Mathew Portman
11/23 Jeremy Lashawn Johnson
11/24 John Joseph Brown
11/27 Richard Lane Dennis
11/29 Matthew Scott Kuhns
11/29 Thomas Arthur Reconnu
11/29 Jeph-Ray Encomienda Prejusa
11/29 Stephen Kirk Smith
11/30 Patrick Eugene McGirl





Those in BOLD are over the age of 70

Necrology Report

Brethren,

As of our last report, we have not had any notifications of any Brother 'Laying down forever his working tools of life.'

Keep watching out for each other and ensure our Brothers are doing well.



Ensure your families know your wishes upon passing. Notifying the Lodge and requesting Masonic Honors (if you so desire) is vital to ensure we get things accomplished according to your wishes.



The Wisdom of Yoda

"To finish well, a Mason must remember
that the rough ashlar of youth
must become the perfect ashlar of age
- polished, true, and fit for the builder's use."

Random pictures of the Lodge:



Four of our Widows, who came to support the Lodge, receiving a presentation from MWB Bobby Rideout and WB Denny Norris.



Master Counsilor of Jacksonville Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Christopher Saenz giving the flower talk to our Ladies!!





Br Harry Weatherly and Rainbow Nalani receiving Awards!!



WMB Bobby Rideout and wife Courtney; WB J.P. Ledford and fiancé Amy.

Education

The Story of the Stone: A Deep Reflection on the Rough and Perfect Ashlar

It is often said that Freemasonry teaches through symbols. Yet some symbols are so common, so quietly present in every Lodge room, that we forget to see them for what they truly are.
Among these symbols are the Ashlars.

The Rough Ashlar. The Perfect Ashlar. Two stones.

Two stages of the same man. Two mirrors reflecting our journey through the Craft. But more than that, they are a story. A story not just of who we are, but who we are becoming.

Let us unfold that story together today. Let us begin, as all stones do, in the quarry.

The Quarry and the Choice

No stone is born perfect. No man either. In the quarry, the stone is embedded in the earth, surrounded by roughness, hidden within mass. The workman must choose carefully. Not every rock is worthy of shaping. Some are too brittle. Some are too flawed. Some lack the strength to carry weight.

The Rough Ashlar, though unformed, carries potential. It is strong enough to be shaped. It holds within it the possibility of beauty. So it is with the man who is drawn toward the light of Freemasonry. He is not perfect. He is not expected to be. But he must be willing. He must be capable. And he must be chosen with care. Because if the foundation is weak, the building will collapse. Freemasonry does not fix broken character. It refines good character. The foundation must be sound. And the stone must be willing to be worked.

The Rough Ashlar: Honest Beginnings

Placed in the Northeast corner, the initiate is symbolically represented as a Rough Ashlar. It is a moment of humility. The Craft does not flatter the new Mason. Instead, it tells him the truth. You are a stone. You are not yet ready. But you have begun. In a world that rewards appearances, the Rough Ashlar reminds us that inner structure matters more than outer polish. A man may walk into the Lodge with titles, wealth, and degrees. But none of those things will smooth his corners. Only labor can do that. Only submission to the tools of the Craft can turn raw material into moral architecture. The Rough Ashlar is not something to be ashamed of. It is a promise. A beginning. A call to work.

The Work of the Tools

The gavel. The chisel. The square. These are not decorations. They are instructions. The gavel teaches us to remove the excess. The chisel sharpens our moral awareness. The square measures our actions against the standards of virtue. The work is neither quick nor painless. Stone does not yield easily and neither does ego. One must strike the surface again and again. Flaws are exposed. Corners are broken. The process is uncomfortable. But it is necessary. We are not here to pretend we are perfect. We are here to become better. One cut at a time. One flaw at a time. One habit at a time. This is the labor of a lifetime.

Not All Ashlars Become Perfect

Let us be honest, Brethren. Some Rough Ashlars never become Perfect Ashlars. Some men resist the work. They wear the apron, but do not wear the principles. They repeat the ritual, but do not live the lessons. They attend, but they do not engage. The stone remains rough. It may be square on one face, but jagged on the others. It might look finished from a distance, but up close the flaws remain. This is not to condemn. It is to caution. Because if the work stops, the transformation halts. Masonry is not something we once joined. It is something we are always becoming. Every day we must return to the tools. Every day we must measure again. Every day we must ask, “What still needs to be removed?”

The Perfect Ashlar: Not Flawless, but Fit

What does it mean to be perfect? In Freemasonry, the Perfect Ashlar is not flawless. It is finished. It is shaped with intention. Its lines are true. Its angles consistent. It is ready to be placed. Ready to bear weight. Ready to support others. This is the Mason who has subdued his passions. Who has balanced duty with humility. Who lives by the square and acts upon the level. Not perfectly. But consistently. He has learned to serve rather than seek status. He has learned to listen rather than lecture. He has learned that the Temple is not built with noise and pride, but with quiet endurance. He has become, not just a better man, but a foundation upon which others may stand.

Each Ashlar Is a Legacy

Brethren, remember this. Your life is building something. Not just for yourself, but for those who come after you. The Ashlar you hand to the Builder at the end of your days will be set into the Great Temple. Will it stand firm? Will it align with the others? Will it support those who are still being shaped? This is the legacy of the Mason. Not the apron on the wall. Not the jewels he wore. But the stone he left behind.

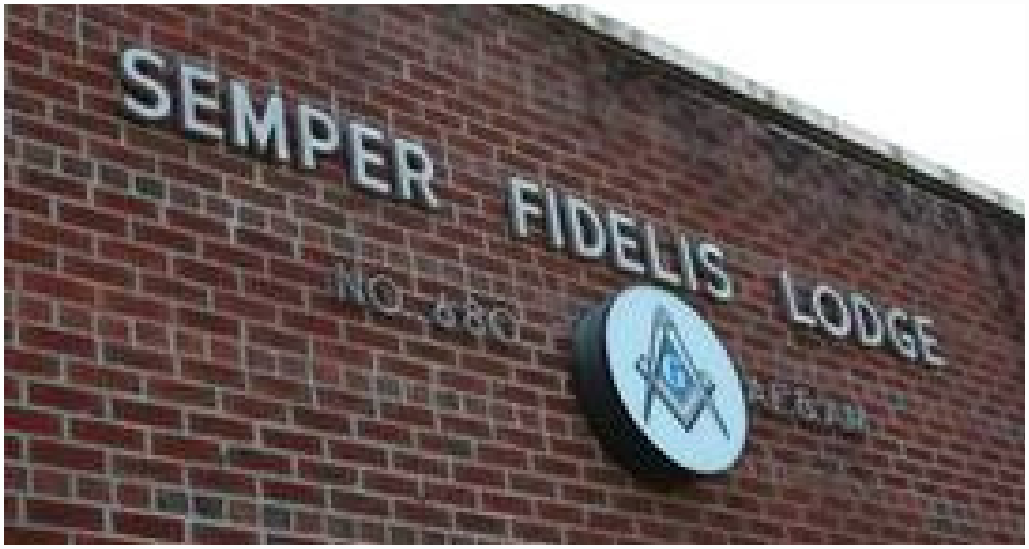
A Living Architecture

Look around your Lodge. Look at your Brethren. Each man is a stone. Some rough. Some smooth. Some still in process. We do not compare one to another. Each is at a different stage. But we must all be moving. Freemasonry is not a museum. It is a worksite. We are not here to admire the stones. We are here to shape them. Ourselves included. When a man enters your Lodge, ask yourself, “What kind of stone is he?” But also ask, “What kind of stone am I?” And “What kind of builder will I be for him?” Because every Lodge is not only a collection of stones. It is a living architecture. It is a school of builders. And it is a legacy of transformation.

Conclusion: The Grand Design

Each of us began as Rough Ashlars. Unfinished. Full of edges. Full of promise. Through the teachings of the Craft, and the example of good men, we are shaped. Not overnight. Not without error. But slowly. Deliberately. And with care. Let us not grow weary of the work. Let us not assume the job is ever done. Let us return, again and again, to the quarry. To the tools. To the Craft. And when the Great Builder one day calls for your stone, may you hand it over with confidence. Not because it is flawless. But because you gave it your all. You submitted to the work. You chipped away your pride. And you offered back something better than what was taken from the earth. A stone fit for the Temple. A life fit for the legacy. A Mason, shaped by labor, guided by light, and ready for the hands of the Builder.





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