

Veterans' Home

By M.:W.: Donald D. Thomas
Grand Master

Brother Charles Farrell is not only a revered Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Delaware but he is a dedicated veteran who has continuously fought to insure that our veterans are properly recognized and held in the high esteem so rightfully due them with the benefits they truly deserve. A veteran of the Korean War with two Purple Hearts, you may recall that Most Worshipful Brother Farrell was inducted into the Delaware National Guard Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame earlier this year.

But we also remember and sincerely thank our Brother for another outstanding accomplishment. In early August, groundbreaking ceremonies were held in Milford for the Delaware Veterans' Home, a 30 million dollar facility capable of providing support and housing for 150 veterans. Delaware is the last of the lower 48 states to have a veterans' home and this is a direct result of Brother Farrell's dedicated devotion to our veterans. Although Brother Farrell did not accomplish this alone, it is generally acknowledged that without his determination all the support he garnered for this much needed project still would not have been enough to make it happen. For that we are deeply appreciative and most thankful for PGM Farrell's devotion to the veterans of Delaware.

There were some 400 veterans and friends present on Tuesday, August 14, 2005 for the groundbreaking ceremony in Milford and, as you might suspect, many of them were members of our beloved fraternity. I see a wonderful opportunity here when it is time to lay the cornerstone of the new Delaware Veterans' Home, for Delaware Masons to have a large presence, which should continue with the appointment of a representative of the Masonic Service Association to the site as we

have now in the personage of William Joyce of Christiana Lodge at the Veterans' Hospital in Elsmere. Perhaps Delaware Masons might also consider erecting a flagpole or some other memorial in gratitude for the sacrifices of our veterans. If there is an individual or group of lodges that would like to undertake this project, please let me know and I will issue my personal check for \$100.00 immediately in support of this effort.

By way of some history, the State Commission of Veterans' Affairs is the primary force behind the inception of the Delaware Veterans' Home. Several members of the Craft are on this commission in either an advisory or appointed position. The Executive Director is Antonio Davila who, coincidentally, has a very interesting Masonic history. Brother Davila received his Entered Apprentice Degree in Union Lodge Number 7 in their old Lodge building. Subsequently he received his Fellowcraft Degree in their new building this past June and will be raised in Union Lodge's outdoor degree on October 8, 2005 – same Lodge, three degrees, three different locations! Please consider joining me in welcoming Brother Davila as he receives his third degree in this most unique location.

The new Veterans' Home in Milford is something in which all Delaware Masons may take great pride. Delaware Freemasons have yet another opportunity to "Let Their Light So Shine". Yes, once again opportunity is knocking. Let's attend to the alarm rather than sit idly on the sidelines. I issue the challenge to any Lodge or Lodges in our great fraternity to carry this dedication to our veterans to a still higher plane. Who will do it? If not now, then when? If not by me, then by whom?

Calling All Outdoorsmen

A Masonic Hunting Club has been organized. We are looking for Brothers and their families who are interested in getting together to hunt various animals/birds, as well as fishing trips. There was good response to our call for interested folks in the last issue of The Delaware Freemason and we now want to increase our membership.

Brother Allen Davis from Unity Lodge No. 32 has offered the use of his cabin in Tioga, Pennsylvania which can accommodate 6-8 people. There is hunting, fishing, a ski resort and 10,000 acres of state game lands as well as streams and several large lakes. You can fish off the banks or use a small boat.

Washington Lodge No. 1 held their second annual fishing trip aboard the "Tradewinds" out of Bowers Beach. A special thanks to Captain Bill, a Brother. Several Brothers and their family members attended this great day of fellowship. After leaving the boat, many of us went to J.P.'s Wharf Restaurant on the water in Bowers Beach. This restaurant is owned by a member of the Craft and proudly displays his Masonic flags.

We would like to hear from persons who own farms, woods or water areas that would be willing to rent/lease hunting rights to our Masonic Hunting Club. A Sporting Clay Shoot in the fall and a trip to the Harrisburg Outdoor Show in the early spring are planned.

We welcome any and all who are interested in any aspect of hunting or fishing. Families are encouraged to join us in these activities.

Brother Jim Watson

(302) 322-0701 (H)

(302) 528-2273 (Cell)

kingshimr@aol.clm

Brother Dave Penney

(302) 284-8631 (H)

(302) 745-6984 (Cell)

dip19963@aol.com

Children's Learning Center

The Wilmington 32nd Degree Children's Learning Center graduated their first student – Rosario Franzone, a sixth grader at Corpus Christi School in Elsmere on August 4, 2005.

In 1994, the Scottish Rite of the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction opened their first 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexic Children. Now, a short 11 years later, there are 55 Centers in all 15 States of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Rosario was the first student when the Wilmington Center opened in September of 2003. Under the tutelage of Candace Bedrock, Center Director and Meredith Perkins, Rosario was able to lift his reading skill two levels during his two years in the Center and is able to return to his school fully capable of handling his school work. Like all our Masonic philanthropic endeavors, the Learning Center provides this marvelous assistance at no cost to the student or his parents.

The Wilmington 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Center, by any criteria, has been very successful. Our deepest thanks to the Hall Board of 818 Market Street for their support in providing the facility rent free to the Center, the Scottish Rite Masons for their commitment to help those in need, the Board of Directors of the Center for their stewardship and leadership and those others, both without and within the fraternity who support it with their time and financial generosity.

Although I am sure the Center would benefit by additional financial support, what is needed most are additional tutors to assist the children. Even if you have just a casual interest, perhaps you might call the Center at (302) 652-3372 to obtain further particulars. You will not regret the time spent in helping others.

More important – if you are aware of a child with dyslexia whom you believe would benefit by the Center's program, please call Candace at the same number and she will provide you with further information.

Let your light continue to shine, my Brethren.

Appeal for Relief Hurricane Katrina

The Grand Lodge of Delaware has established a relief fund to assist our Brothers and their families who are victims of the devastation recently caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast area. Please remit your contributions in the form of checks paid to the order of "The Grand Lodge of Delaware" with the notation "Hurricane Relief Fund". Let us not forget our brethren who are presently less fortunate than us.

32° Class To Be Named for Grand Lodge Bicentennial

The 32° Membership Class will be named in honor of the Grand Lodge Bicentennial and a number of unique activities have been planned at each ceremonial. On November 12, between the 16th and 18th degrees, a special tribute will be held for veterans. On February 2, 2006, the new 4° will be conferred and the 9° will be performed by a cast of Past Grand Masters. On April 22nd the 29°, 31° and 32° will be conferred along with an historical perspective of Grand Lodge.

Be sure to join our fellow Sublime Princes to be informed, entertained and to see your favorite Past Grand Master in costume, wig and theatrical make-up.

Editor's Notes

By Chuck Simmermon

Autumn is a great time of year! Our children and grandchildren are back to school, football season returns, the trees become more colorful and our Masonic activities return to normal. I urge you to make the Masonic year resolution to thoroughly read your trestleboards and other Masonic publications received in the mail. You may discover the organizations of which you are a member will be having programs and events that will be of interest to you. Please make our Bicentennial Year the year you become more involved with our gentle Craft.

The Delaware Grand Masonic year is almost over. The Delaware Freemason commends M.:W.: Donald D. Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in Delaware for the successful term of office he so effectively engineered. Brother Thomas's innovations, high profile, accessibility and leadership have served to continue the forward movement of this Masonic Jurisdiction. This publication stands ready to support Grand Master-Elect Ronald A. Conaway as we begin our Jurisdictional Bicentennial celebration.

Once again The Delaware Freemason recognizes the contributions of its faithful correspondents and thanks them for their support.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH TAX?

INCOME TAX PREPARATION (INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL BUSINESS)

ACCOUNTING

PAYROLL SERVICES

SMALL BUSINESS CONSULTING



THE ESTEP GROUP
RALPH V. ESTEP, JR., PA.
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
(MEMBER FURUKA-DUPONT LODGE)
6007 SUMMIT BRIDGE ROAD
TOWNSEND, DELAWARE 19734
(302) 449-5008 FAX (302) 449-5002
WWW.RVEJRPA.COM