

Message from the East

WOR. DAVID W. RENNER

Happy Spring, Brethren. March has been a tough month for our Lodge. We lost a great Pillar of our Lodge and a wise human being. The world lost a great man, the Lodge lost a fantastic brother, and the family lost a valuable loved one. Our hearts and prayers are with the family. But, we can rejoice as the Great Architect of the Universe and heaven gained a brand new Star as Lee traveled "on the broad level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns". In the Gospel of John, we read that Jesus told his disciples that he was leaving them to prepare a place for them that where he was going they could be there also giving them a certain hope to hold on to of a life beyond this one on earth. Brother Lee now knows the fullness of this certain hope that the Bible and Masonry teaches. Glory be to God.

April is shaping up to be a busy month. We hope to be raising brother O'keeffe to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Stay tuned. If you were unable to attend March's stated dinner, you missed a great presentation from Jamie Jackson of Patrick Henry High School's Food Pantry. They have expanded their efforts to include clothing. We are starting a campaign to raise food, clothing, and personal hygiene items for the month of April. Brother Robert Tribble III, myself, and anyone who would like to join us will deliver the items at the end of the month. We want to try and fill the large box downstairs at the Lodge. We have a comprehensive list of items needed attached. On Saturday, April 26th, we will be selling lunch at the Lodge on Train Day to help raise funds for the lodge and offer the community an affordable lunch while enjoying time with their friends and families. We will offer lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 pm. Worshipful Tomlin has agreed to cook on the grill to help attract attention to the Lodge. We will need all who are helping to be at the lodge by 11 am. We are having a joint stated meeting with Sandston Lodge this month. They will be bringing 20 members with them. Brother Walker from the Fisher House will be speaking at the dinner about how donations have impacted Veterans and their families. Dinner will be Ham, yams, peas, rolls, and cake for dessert. Hope to see you there.

We are continuing to put the Car Show for June together. Brother Killian made us an awesome flyer to help promote the event. We had a signup sheet at our March Stated Meeting. We are still in need of Judges, traffic controllers, and trophy presenters. Please let me know if you are willing to help out in any of these areas. May God continue to bless you, our Lodge, and our great Fraternity.

Blessings and Peace, Wor. David Renner

Upcoming Lodge Events

Hotdogs at Lodge
APRIL 11 @ 11:30 AM

Stated Meeting
APRIL 17 @ 7PM
SOCIAL HOUR @ 5:30PM
MEAL @ 6PM

District Ritual School APRIL 22 @ 6:30 PM Lodge Practice

THURSDAYS @ 6:30 PM

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Masonic Education Corner

SEASON OF RENEWAL: REFLECTIONS ON EASTER AND FREEMASONRY - BRO. JEREMY KILLIAN

As the days grow longer and spring breathes new life into the world around us, many take time to reflect on themes of renewal, growth, and unity. These ideas are often associated with seasonal and spiritual observances like Easter, but they also resonate deeply within the teachings and traditions of Freemasonry. At first glance, Easter and Freemasonry may seem quite different—one being a sacred celebration, the other a fraternal organization rooted in moral philosophy. Yet both offer meaningful insights into personal transformation and the enduring strength of community.

Spring naturally invites togetherness. Historically, communities have gathered during this season to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate shared values. Freemasonry reflects this same spirit through regular lodge meetings, where members come together not only to engage in ritual but also to foster mutual support, reflection, and growth. These gatherings reinforce a shared journey toward personal improvement and collective upliftment.

Renewal, whether symbolized through tradition, nature, or introspection, plays a central role in both Easter observances and Masonic practice. In the Craft, the symbolic journey through the degrees, especially the transformation experienced in becoming a Master Mason, encourages individuals to embrace new insights about themselves and their purpose. It represents a kind of rebirth where timeless lessons in perseverance, virtue, and fraternity are brought to light.

At their core, both traditions promote growth—of character, spirit, and community. Whether one finds that inspiration through the season's sense of awakening or within the quiet reflection of a lodge room, the message remains consistent. Growth and transformation are most powerful when experienced through the bonds we share with others.

As we move through this season of reflection and renewal, it is worth considering how these values appear throughout our lives. Whether through longstanding traditions or the steady fellowship of the Craft, we are encouraged to rise, reflect, and renew. Not just once a year, but continually, with intention and purpose.

Masonic Birthdays

BRO. TERRENCE LEE SULLIVAN APRIL 5 BRO. JOHNNIE EAL MERRITT APRRIL 9

WOR. GREGORY WAYNE SIX

APRIL 12

WOR. JAMES MADISON PURYEAR

APRIL 18

WOR. CLYDE MONROE REECE APRIL 24

BRO. JOBE KING DESHAZO

APRIL 25

BRO. ROGER THOMAS GILBERT APRIL 25

WOR. ALVIN SANDERS PEYTON

APRIL 29

BRO. BRADLEY THOMAS BERG

APRIL 29

BRO. BRIAN PAUL CARLUCCI

APRIL 29

BRO. MATTHEW TAYLOR RAAB

APRIL 29

BRO. JOSEPH RAYMOND STROHMAN

APRIL 29

BRO. AUSTIN CARTER WHITE

APRIL 29



ASHLAND LODGE NO. 168

ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL APRIL 30



PATRICK HENRY PANTRY DRIVE

In partnership with Patrick Henry High School, Ashland Lodge No. 168 is accepting non-perishable food items and toiletries donations which will be distributed to those in need.

What are they looking for?

Canned items - Tuna, Chicken, Spam, Manwich, Vienna Sausages, Ravioli, Vegtables, Soups, etc.

Dry Goods - Granola Bars, Ramen, Slim Jims, Oatmeal, Pasta, Sauces, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pancake Mix, Chips, Drinks

Clothing/Hygiene Items - Items for both Males and Females

Refridgerator/Freezer Items - Sliced Meats, Cheese, Fresh Fruits, Hot Pockets,
Corn Dogs and various individually wrapped items

INAUGURAL REV & ROAR RALLY

REV THOSE ENGINES AND SHOW OFF YOUR RIDE AT THE INAUGURAL REV & ROAR CAR SHOW, HOSTED BY ASHLAND LODGE NO. 168! WHETHER YOU ROLL IN WITH A TIRE-SHREDDING MUSCLE CAR, A TUNED IMPORT, OR A CLASSIC BEAUTY, ALL BUILDS, ALL ERAS, AND ALL HORSEPOWER LEVELS ARE WELCOME!

FREE EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY
TROPHIES: BEST IN SHOW
30'S-40'S, 50'S, 60'S, 70'S, 80'S, 90'S, 2000'S+
ENTRY FEE: \$20



SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025

10.00 AM - 2.00 PM

- 14140 WASHINGTON HWY, ASHLAND, VA 23005
 - **WWW.ASHLAND168.COM**
 - **⋈** DAVID.RENNER74@GMAIL.COM



Living Past Masters

1994- S.F. Stone, Sr. 1964- C.M. Reece 1970- D.M. Pearson, Jr. 1998- D.F. Lyons 1976- J.L. Harris 1999- J.S. Napier 1981- W.B. Howard 2007- J.M. Puryear, Jr. 2013- L.T. Hall, III 1987- W.T. Cage 1988- E.E. Fisher 2014- A.M. Boor 2015- J.U. Harrison 1989(90)- A.S. Peyton 1992- W.T. Marshburn, Jr. 2016(17)- R.R. Seitz

2018- R.L. McIntire III 2019- G.C. Duvall 2020(21)- G.C. Corker 2022- J.M. Parrish 2023- G.W. Six 2024- C.S. Tomlin

Past District Deputy Grand Masters

1960- RW M.B. Young 2001- RW E.E. Fisher 2005- RW L.J. Sloppy (1B) 1969- RW J.D. Nelson 1975- RW D.M. Pearon, Ir. 2007- RW J.L. Harris 2013- RW L.S. Ball 1976- RW R.L. Gibbs (15C) 1982- MW A.W. Adkins 2019- RW D.M. Boor 1995- RW S.F. Stone, Sr.

Legacy Members in Perpetuity

1996- C.H. Burnette 2011- K.G. Sands 1996- W.T. Cage 2012- J.M. Parrish 1995- S.F. Stone, Sr. 2012- R.R. Seitz 1996- A.L. Traylor, Jr. 2016- M.P. Coyle 1997- E.F. Fisher 2016- J.C. Perry 1998- D.F. Lyons 2016- L.T. Hall, III 2000- J.C. Beck 2017- D.A. Emerson 2018- J.U. Harrison 2002- J.L. Nuckols, Sr. 2004- R.C. Nuckols 2019- R.L. McIntire III 2005- J.M. Puryear, Jr. 2024- J.N. Williams

Trustees

R.W. Johnnie Lowel Harris Bro. Edward Hunt Bro. R. Allen Davidson

Contact Us

E-MAIL: ASHLANDLODGE168@GMAIL.COM

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> ASHLAND LODGE NO. 168 212 ENGLAND STREET ASHLAND, VA 23005

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<u>Upcoming District 8 Events</u>

April 22- District Ritual School

Virginia Freemasonry

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<u>Upcoming Grand Lodge Events</u>

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