



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia  
Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Virginia

# The Keystone

**August 2019**



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Want your articles or pictures here? Or have a question for Zerubbabel? Send them to [tvarner536@aol.com](mailto:tvarner536@aol.com).



My Companions and friends:

Lady Karen and I have had a GREAT TIME traveling and visiting with the many districts in this wonderful Commonwealth. The Official Visits to Districts No. 4, 17, and 20 were the last three. Although these three were the last, they were just as important and memorable as all that preceded them. Those DDGHPs and their respective district companions are given a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for all their hard work, the special courtesies, the gifts and the hospitality shown to Lady Karen and me. I want to extend a "Special Thank You" to the Ladies and Widows that have attended those official visits - your attendance was greatly appreciated! Each Official Visit brought with it a great time traveling (even in challenging traffic), renewed companionships, and new friendships. Each DDGHP performed their duties to the utmost with an exemplary attitude toward all in attendance and are deserving of "A Job Well Done".

As the Official Visits came to an end on Chincoteague Island, our traveling was not over. Three United States Veterans (Mr. Shannon Bradley, R.E. Randy Johnson and R.E. James Pate), Lady Karen, Lady Donna and I got up before "Reveille" and drove to Arlington National Cemetery for a Wreath Laying at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. The Wreath was laid by the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia. If you have ever experienced the Changing of The Guard or a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, you already know how impressive and emotional it can be; if not, you need to!

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Lady Karen and I attended the 26th Grand Assembly of Virginia Rainbow for Girls, held at the end of June. In July, we attended the 84th Annual Session of the Grand Guardian Council of Virginia (Jobs Daughters) and the 2019 DeMolay Conclave. These young ladies and men were spectacular with their ritual and enthusiasm. The courtesies extended to Lady Karen and me during these functions were very much appreciated. If you can schedule a visit to any of these young groups' functions, they will undoubtedly impress you with their ritual and enthusiasm, as well as show their gratitude for your attendance. These young people are our future, we need to support them!

The phrase Robert Ripley coined over a hundred years ago, "Believe It or Not!", comes to mind as we find ourselves with two-thirds of the caputular year behind us. We have only a few months left to finalize any "loose ends" and get certificates (for the upcoming dais officers), as well as make nominations for The John Dove Meritorious Service Award and finish the required documentation for the Robert Claiborne Wilson Award. Also, the Call to Grand Chapter was sent out the first of August, if you have not received a copy of it or need details, contact your Chapter Secretary. These are just a few of the things that are approaching over the next several weeks, so please take notice and keep up the good work. As I have said on many occasions, we are having a GREAT TIME traveling around the Beautiful State of Virginia renewing old friendships and making new ones. The generous gifts presented to us from the various districts have been received with heartfelt gratitude – THANK-YOU!!! May

God continue to richly bless us all, our great Caputular craft and especially, these UNITED STATES of AMERICA!

*Floyd Byron Goodwin, Grand High Priest*

## The Grand Almoner's Message



I am very excited to share with you that I have worked with our staff at the Alzheimers Association, and our 2018-2019 Research Donations will be designated for use by the Wake Forest University School of

Medicine in their U.S. POINTER research study. This is a U.S.-based study seeking ways to protect brain health through lifestyle intervention to reduce risk. The basis of the study is derived from new research that suggests that making multiple healthy lifestyle choices, including healthy diet, not smoking, regular exercise, and a regimen of cognitive stimulation may reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia. This randomized and controlled trial will evaluate whether lifestyle interventions that simultaneously target the risk factors can protect cognitive function in 2,000 participants, aged 60-79, who are at increased risk for cognitive decline. This program was specifically selected because it is budgeted for and managed by U.S. physicians within the Mid-Atlantic United States and it is the closest large-grant program to our home area. The clinical trials are getting ready to begin, and they require a great deal of financial support. We had to have a minimum of \$10,000 in donations to qualify as a grant partner to support this objective and thanks to

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your efforts, we have surpassed that threshold. This research will also directly impact clinicians in North Carolina and Virginia. The group we are supporting is led by Dr. Laura Baker. We now have a defined program to rally behind and to discuss when we talk about Research! At the end of the year, we will evaluate the progress and success of the U.S. POINTER program and decide from there if it will be our research donation effort for 2019-2020. This study is to continue into 2021. Please share this information with all of those who support your philanthropic efforts! Further information is available here: <https://www.alz.org/us-pointer/overview.asp>

If you have made recent donations, please make sure you send our Grand Secretary receipts with your Chapter and District numbers on them so that we can account for your charity. Walk Captains, make sure you send in copies of your walk forms once your walks are completed. Remember that if you write on your check memo "Alzheimer's Research" it is going to our new U.S. POINTER study grant and if you memo your check "Alzheimer's Walk" or "Walk Donation", it is going to the Walk to End Alzheimer's Program in your local area.

Below is where we currently stand in the hunt for the Grand Almoner's Trophy. I wanted to brief you all on the donations that have been received, verified, and accounted for thus far in the 2018-2019 Capitular Year. These numbers are reflective through the end of July 2019. Whether your charity choice is supporting a local Walk which generates Alzheimer's awareness efforts within your home community, or if you prefer a research donation, trust me, Companions, it matters

not in the work towards a cure. Go with what makes your heart happy and what helps you inspire others around you.

## Designated Philanthropy Allocations:

Virginia Alzheimer's Walk Funding:	\$4,766.00
Virginia Alzheimer's Research:	\$13,478.86
Masonic Home Memory Unit:	\$2,081.00
Us Against Alzheimer's:	\$625.00
<u>CUMULATIVE TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$20,950.86</u>

## Breakdown Per District Through July 2019:

District No. 2:	\$3,820.86
District No. 18:	\$3,674.00
District No. 17:	\$3,635.00
District No. 19:	\$1,946.00
District No. 15:	\$1,495.00
District No. 10:	\$1,345.00
District No. 21:	\$1,337.00
District No. 4:	\$760.00
District No. 12:	\$530.00
District No. 14:	\$510.00
District No. 9:	\$395.00
District No. 3:	\$385.00
District No. 1:	\$325.00
District No. 20:	\$316.00
District No. 8:	\$300.00
<u>District No. 11:</u>	<u>\$125.00</u>
<u>CUMULATIVE TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$20,950.86</u>

Lastly, by the end of summer, I will have visited all of our Districts. Until I can shake your hand when we meet next or at Grand Chapter in November, keep up the good work and thank you for supporting the Alzheimer's Association and the fight for an end to this disease! If I can be of service to you or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email. Holiness to the Lord!

*Jason Curtis "Jake" Trenary, Grand Almoner*

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## Grand King to Announce Grand Master of First Veil in Petersburg on August 22

Grand King Raymond Steele invites all Royal Arch Companions to join him at Petersburg Union No. 7 at 7:30 pm on Thursday, August 22, where he will announce his proposed nominee for the Grand Master of the First Veil, if he is elected Grand High Priest at the 2019 Annual Convocation. Prior to the meeting, the Chapter will serve its legendary “All-American Meal” at 6:30 pm. Most Excellent Floyd Byron Goodwin started this new tradition a year ago with much acclaim and a high attendance. As a courtesy, please RSVP to Excellent Freddie Pearson II at (804) 712-6446 or Right Excellent Henry Godfrey Sharber III, at (804) 541-3830 or [hsharber@panix.cox](mailto:hsharber@panix.cox).



**Fredericksburg No. 23 Companions Working on the Course**

## Correspondence Course/Veteran Awards

Congratulations to these Companions (pictured above) of Fredericksburg No. 23, who recently completed the Correspondence Course: David Bennett, Roderick Cutright, Chuck Dirienzo, Richard Fisher, and Christopher Tripp. Also, on June 25, Keystone No. 58 presented a 50-year Veteran’s Award to Excellent Ray Willis Sites. Shown below are Most Excellent Russell Snodgrass and four other Companions congratulating Companion Sites.

## Rockingham No. 6 Exaltation

Monday, June 24, was an excellent night for Companionship and sharing in fraternal bonds! On that night, many Valley Companions gathered at the stated convocation of Rockingham Chapter No. 6 in Harrisonburg to confer upon new Companion Stephen Brown the High Priest, King, and Scribe Lectures in order to complete his exaltation in Royal Arch Masonry. Companion Brown stated he was duly impressed by the lessons learned in his Chapter travels, which complemented and completed his craft travels. It was great to have such distinguished guests, and the Chapter thanks all Companions for sharing their joy and excitement for the Royal Arch! Visitors included Grand King Raymond Steele and Past Grand High Priests Russell Snodgrass and James Fields. In the below picture, Companion Brown is standing on the first row third from the right.

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**Congratulations Companion Sites! Valley Companions congratulate Companion Brown**

## **Keystone No. 58 Unveils Another Royal Arch Painting**

Right Excellent Mark Chapman has completed the third of his fantastic Royal Arch paintings. The Select Master painting shown below was unveiled in June.



**Select Master Painting**



**The Grand High Priest visited the Cradock Job's Daughters**

## **Committee on Work News**

Twenty-eight Companions attended the annual William B. Millican Royal Arch School in Salem on July 28-30. The Committee on Work meeting on Sunday went well, and the degree work was done in fine fashion. The place and time for next year's session will be announced soon. In a related manner, the Grand Lecturer wishes to remind everyone that Section 95 of the Royal Arch Digest should be strictly enforced. He has learned that the Ritual Book is still being used to read parts during the conferral of degrees in several chapters. Emergency situations do sometimes

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occur, but if there is a problem with the conferral of the degrees, an effort must be made to comply with the Laws of the Grand Chapter. The District Deputy Grand High Priest should be consulted or if not available, the Grand High Priest, before a violation of the Law (even for the best of intentions) is to be allowed.

## Upcoming Calendar

August 22, Grand King's Official Visit to Petersburg Union No. 7, 730 pm

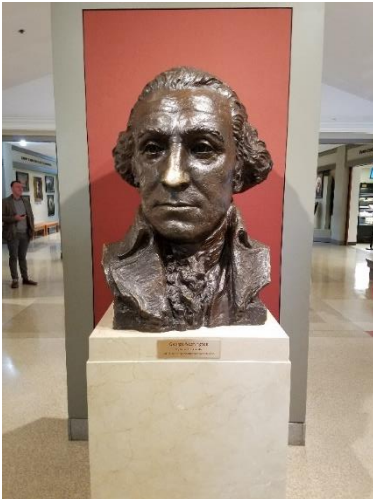
September 28, Multi-Jurisdictional Festival

October 12, Masonic Family Day, Richmond, 830 am

October 26, Charlottesville Alzheimer's Walk

## Where am I? The Grand High Priest's Contest

The Grand High Priest started a new contest in June. From his travels, he has taken many pictures, and is hoping you can identify where he was at the time. Please send your answers to Grand Provost Thomas Varner at [tvarner536@aol.com](mailto:tvarner536@aol.com). One Companion will be selected from the successful entries to receive a special prize from our Grand High Priest, and you must get all three to win. Here are the first three pictures:



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**The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 3 Visit on June 1**



**The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 4 Visit on June 7**



**The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 17 Visit on June 8**

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**The Grand High Priest and Companions at the District 20 Visit on June 15**



**The Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and family presented a wreath on June 16**



**The Grand High Priest attended North Carolina Night at Mt. Nebo No. 20 on July 8**