



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 • A.F. & A.M. • VIRGINIA

TRESTLEBOARD

MARCH 2023

Tuesday, March 7
1830 Degree / Ritual School

Saturday, March 11
0930 Lodge Breakfast

Tuesday, March 14
Stated Communication
1830 Dinner
1930 Opening of Lodge
DDGM's Official Visit

Tuesday, March 21
1830 Degree / Ritual School

Tuesday, March 28
1830 Degree / Ritual School



March

Masonic Birthdays

John Roy Groundwater March 29, 74 years
Oliver Bell Crockett Jr. March 27, 61 years
Clifford Church March 19, 60 years
Carlton Duane Davis March 16, 58 years
Joseph Thompson Moton March 19, 55 years
Marion Witt Pitts March 3, 53 years
James Pate Garrett March 2, 52 years
Craig Carter Malloy March 7, 51 years
Virgil Kermit Street March 29, 51 years
Charles Edgar Hicks March 20, 50 years
Paul Birdon Jones March 7, 45 years
Alfred Wesley Laser March 7, 44 years
William Frederick Perry March 26, 37 years
James Timothy Love March 3, 31 years
Edward Matthew Groner March 6, 21 years
Patrick Alan Wood March 20, 16 years
Erik Nicholas Schultz March 15, 9 years
David Jeffery Seelen March 24, 8 years

A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

As we march forward into spring, and the rebirth of many things, I want to make sure you all know how much I appreciate you, your contributions to Masonry, your profession, and our lodge. This weekend I had the pleasure of attending the Division Leadership Conference down in Newport News, and the discussion was focused onto the three components of our Most Worshipful's plan for Masonic year 2023; Youth Organizations and Programs, Masonic Service Opportunities, and Membership Enhancement and Retention. Of the conversations, the one thing I've been thinking about since, is about lodge membership, member retention, and long-term engagement.

Each of us arrived at the door of a lodge having traveled our own path. But what we each have in common is that we chose to knock on that door, and we chose to work toward making ourselves better men. While I certainly understand that the tides of life ebb and flow, and that life allows for us to have varying amounts of time to commit to the lodge, I'm going to ask you to come home. As you return, I'm going to challenge each of you to think about your why. Why you chose to become a Mason. Why you chose to seek Masonic light. And why you have not been to lodge like you used to be.

With some thought on your why, I'm going to also ask for a what. What is it that has gotten in the way of your why? What is it that can get you back to lodge on a more regular basis? What can I, or the lodge, do to bring you back to your lodge?

Freemasonry is on a decline, fewer and fewer men are knocking on our door, and if our beloved fraternity is to persist, we must act now. Attracting new men into Masonry is always a part of what we are here to do. But keeping you, my brothers, engaged and in the fraternity is perhaps even more important. As you have heard from me already, you are the giants upon whose shoulders the next generation of Masons will need to stand. For them to do that, we all need to remember our why, and be there to elevate them to the achievements they are destined to make.

I'd like to challenge those brothers that have not been to lodge in some time to please look at your calendars and see if you can't make it to just one or two events more than last year. If your night

driving has become a challenge and you need a ride to and from lodge, just let me know and we'll make that happen. If you feel like your absence has robbed you of your recollection of ritual, we will happily work to revive your proficiency without any reservation or judgements. No matter what has shortened your cable tow these past years, I ask that you see if that reason remains, and if there is anything we can do to bring you home to your lodge and the fraternity that drew you to that door. We miss you in lodge, we want to learn from you, and Masonry needs to echo your story – for you are a GIANT!

As this month's program to be given at stated will be presented by our DDGM on the Most Worshipful Strehle's program, I wanted to share Brother Strehle's bio so that you have the opportunity to reflect on what a giant he is – not only for Virginia Masonry, but in his chosen profession and so much more.



Sincerely & Fraternally,
Mark A. Boughner
Worshipful Master (Elect)
MrMark.Boughner@gmail.com
703-489-2530



Most Woshipful Donald Ellis Strehle

177th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia

Donald Ellis Strehle was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, March 28. He is the third son of the late Frank E. Strehle and the late Thelma G. Strehle. Brother Strehle moved to Newport News, Virginia at age 7 and graduated from Denbigh High School in 1974. He graduated from Radford University in 1978 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He moved to Arlington, Virginia where he began his banking career in 1979 with Continental Federal Savings Bank and attended Commercial Lending School at the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business. His last position with Continental Federal, now SunTrust Bank, was Senior Vice President in charge of commercial and consumer lending. Later, he held the management position of Executive Vice President with F&M Bank Northern Virginia. In 2005 he was named Regional President for BB&T, administratively responsible for 600 employees, 80 financial centers, \$6 billion in deposits and 140,000 client households in Northern Virginia. He currently is the Managing Director for the Washington, D.C. office of Sterling Capital Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T).

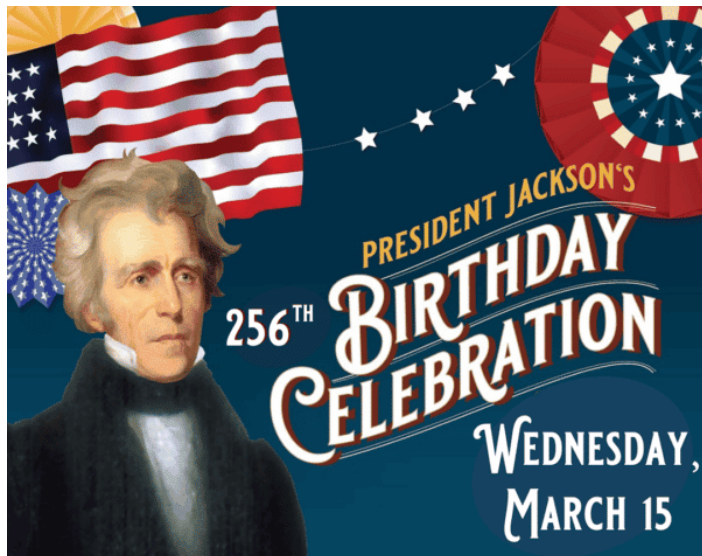
Brother Strehle was made a Master Mason in Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge No. 42, Arlington, Virginia, October 19, 1996, where he is a Life Member in Perpetuity. He served as Worshipful Master in 2001. He has been Cherrydale-Columbia's Lodge Trustee since 2002 and served as Treasurer for fifteen years. He also holds membership in A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Research Lodge No. 1949. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 54 in 2008. He served as Grand Senior Steward in 2012 and also served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance for eleven years. He is the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the State of Bahia, Brazil, near Virginia. Brother Strehle was elected Grand Junior Deacon in November 2016.

Brother Strehle is a member of the Valley of Alexandria, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and was invested Knight Commander Court of Honour in 2019. He holds membership in Cherrydale Royal Arch Chapter No. 35, Arlington Commandery No. 29, Knights Templar, and Kena Shrine Center. He is a Past Patron and current Trustee of Unity Chapter No. 201, Order of the Eastern Star, Falls Church, Virginia. He served as Treasurer of the OES Home Board of Governors



from 2009 to 2015, and is a Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star. He is a Past Associate Guardian of Bethel No. 1, Arlington, Virginia. He served as Grand Chaplain, 2006-2007 and Associate Grand Guardian of Virginia, Job's Daughters International, 2013-2014. He has served as the Treasurer of the Masters' and Wardens' Association for Masonic District 54 for sixteen years and is Vice-President of the DeMolay Foundation of Virginia. Brother Strehle is also the recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor and is a member of the National Sojourners, In-

Brother Strehle is married to the former Mary Lee Dodge of Arlington. They have three daughters, all Past Honored Queens of Bethel No. 1, Job's Daughters, Arlington, Virginia. Sara is married to Dr. Kevin W. Duke, and they have two children, Thomas and Emily Duke; Laura Ellen is married to Brian Kobler, and they have a daughter, Luella Kobler; and Lee Anne is married to Stephen Bradley Weiss.



JBL NO. 349
john blair lodge

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