



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 - A.F. & A.M. - VIRGINIA

TRESTLEBOARD

JUNE 2023

June 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Lodge Ritual School
Alexandria Scottish Rite
Small Lodge Room

June 9, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Community Builders Award Presentation
Col. Michael Binetti
Arlington National Cemetery, Women's War Memorial

June 13, 2023
7:30 p.m. meeting
Stated Communication

Annual Table Lodge
RSVP your attendance: fieldblairlodge349@gmail.com

June 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Lodge Ritual School
ASR, Lodge Room

June 27, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Lodge Ritual School: MM Degree
ASR, Lodge Room



A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

And just like that we've moved from Spring into Summer! On 24 May, it was my distinct pleasure to join Brothers Erich O. Kohler, Arnold B. McNeal, and J.D. Summers at the presentation of awards for the 2023 Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. This year, I must admit, I was utterly impressed by the remarkable young people awarded our two scholarships. First was Alexandra Sarangay, who was awarded the 2023 Walter Scott Downs Scholarship. Alexandra is set to attend George Mason University and is planning to major in Political Science.



Additionally, we were honored to meet Carlos Juarez, who was awarded the 2023 Henry Knox Field Scholarship. Carlos is set to attend the College of William and Mary and is planning to major in history, on his way to a jurisprudence and career in law. Both Alexandra and Carlos will be first generation collegiates, and both are surely set on a path to greatness.

Our efforts to pursue the possibility of getting a more permanent location to call our own has continued to gain momentum, and I thank those who have stepped forward to engage this opportunity. Those of you with length in your cabletows, I think we could still use some assistance in jumpstarting each of the subcommittees – Strength, Beauty, and Wisdom. The committee lead for Strength is our Senior Warden, Bro. JD Summers and will focus

on membership growth, revitalization, and member retention. The Beauty committee will be led by our Junior Warden Bro. Steven Aguillar, and will focus on aesthetics and technology integration for the space. Finally, Wisdom will be chaired by me as your Worshipful Master and will monitor the entire project as well as focusing on our older lodge members and the collection of historical photos and historical activities of the Henry Knox Field and John Blair lodges that must be preserved and may possibly be integrated into our evolving proposal.

Those of you that are interested in engaging with any of the noted subcommittees, please reach out to the above identified committee lead. Anyone that is interested in what this project is about, please reach out to me.

Additionally, we have two (2) candidates queued to be initiated into the secrets of Freemasonry. In an effort to give everyone as much time as is possible to prepare, I'd like to have the 20th of June set aside on your calendars in order to initiate these fine gentlemen – Robert James McWilliams and Ricardo Vidal Muñoz as Brother of HKF-JBL.

And finally, in closing, I want to focus on this month's stated communication that will happen on 13 June. We will have our annual Table Lodge, and I am excited to announce that Right Worshipful B. Richard "Dick" Laaken has agreed to be our keynote speaker for the evening. RW. Laaken is a Giant among Giants, and I am truly excited to have him join us for the 2023 table lodge at HKF-JBL. All that to say, we look to have a full house this month, and a great evening, which will be made all the better if we can show up in force to welcome our visitors.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,



Mark A. Boughner
Worshipful Master
MrMark.Boughner@gmail.com
703-489-2530

Right Worshipful Brother B. Richard Laaken

Bernard Richard (Dick) Laaken was born on 27 May 1936 in Marcus Hook, PA, to German immigrant parents. In 1940, his family relocated to Wallingford, PA, where he completed his elementary and high school education. Following a year off to sail on oil tankers in the Merchant Marines, Dick earned his Bachelor's Degree from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, in 1959. Subsequently, in September 1959, he enlisted in the US Army Reserve. After completing his initial trainings, he joined the Merck, Sharpe, and Dohme Pharmaceutical Company as a Production Supervisor. In September 1961, his reserve unit was activated in support of the Berlin Crisis. After rising to the rank of Sergeant, he was selected to attend the US Army Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Medical Corps Second Lieutenant in 1962. He was first stationed in Germany, where he met his wife Barbro, a medical student from Sweden attending the University of Würzburg.

During his distinguished 32-year military career, Colonel Laaken served in various roles, including two tours of duty in Germany, a deployment to Vietnam from 1968-1969 as a Dustoff Control and Medical Civic Action Program Officer with the 25th Infantry Division, and two assignments at the Pentagon: one on the Army Staff and one in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; he also commanded at the company and battalion levels. Colonel Laaken attended the US Army Command and General Staff



College and served as faculty for three years. During his time there, he pursued evening classes at the University of Missouri – Kansas City and obtained his Master's Degree. Colonel Laaken is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, where he later returned as a Professor of Healthcare Studies/Dean Emeritus; and would also serve as Dean of Students and Chief of Staff.



Colonel Laaken retired from active duty in October 1991 but continued to serve in uniform as a Senior Army Instructor in the Junior ROTC Program at St. John's College High School for seven years and at Giessen High School, a DOD school in Germany, for five years. In 1993, he was inducted into the US Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

Colonel Laaken has been awarded numerous military honors, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, the Defense Meritorious Medal, two Army Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Staff Identification Badge.

Rite Worshipful Brother Laaken embarked on his Masonic journey at Ft Leavenworth, KS, where he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in June 1976. He received his Scottish Rite Degrees in the Armed Forces Scottish Rite with the Alexandria Valley of Scot-

tish Rite conducting courtesy work in April 1979.



While in Germany, RW Bro. Laaken affiliated with Friends on the Lahn Masonic Lodge in Gies-sen, Germany, and served as Master from 2002-2003. After returning to the US, RW Bro. Laaken affiliated with Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, where he became a Life Member in Perpetuity and Trustee. He served as District Education Officer in District 1A from 2012 to 2017, and in November 2017, he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for District 1A for the Masonic year 2018.

RW Laaken transferred his Scottish Rite membership to Alexandria Valley in 2010, and then in September 2015, he was invested with the rank and title of Knight Commander Court of Honour. In 2017 he served as Commander of the Alexandria Council of Kadosh. RW Laaken is also a Life Member in Perpetuity of Arlington Hall Chapter 440, National Sojourners; Mt Vernon Royal Arch Chapter 40; and Old Dominion Commandery 11, Knights Templar.

RW Laaken and his wife of 57 years, Barbro, currently reside in Alexandria, VA, where he pursues his hobbies of kayaking, fishing, gardening, cooking, and traveling.

