



# SCOTTISH RITE **Bulletin**

VALLEY OF TAMPA – ORIENT OF FLORIDA

## Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center

5500 Memorial Highway • Tampa, FL 33634 • (813) 886-0578

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## **Jim Ford, 32° KCCH Elected Junior Grand Warden**

by Ill. Rusty Glendinning, 33°

At the 182nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida, Brother Jim Ford, 32° KCCH was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Brother Ford is no stranger to Freemasons in Florida, especially those in the Valley of Tampa. Brother Ford received the Degrees of Freemasonry in Olin S. Wright Lodge No. 79, Plant City and was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 26, 1996. In 2001, he served Olin S. Wright Lodge as their Worshipful Master and continues to serve as the Lodge Secretary. He became a Master of the Royal Secret in the Valley of Tampa on November 14, 1998 and was invested with the Rank and Dignity of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor on November 7, 2009.



Jim Ford, 32° KCCH

Brother Ford has served the Grand Lodge of Florida in several capacities, serving as District Deputy Grand Master of the 23rd

Masonic District in 2006 representing M.:W.: Robert D. Trump. He continued his service to Grand Lodge, having been appointed Zone Chairman on the Lodge Assistance Committee in 2007 and serving as State Chairman of the Masonic Education Committee in 2008 and 2009. In 2010, he was appointed Senior Grand Deacon along with serving on the Board of Trustees of our Masonic Home and also as a member of the Jurisprudence Committee.

We look forward to Brother Jim's progression through the elected Grand Lodge line and to his year as Grand Master of Florida in 2014. 🐾

## Executive Committee

### OFFICERS

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°  
Chairman  
Coleman L. Hill, 32° KCCH  
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory  
Stanley H. Rakita, 32°  
Commander - Council of Kadosh  
Richard S. Agster, 33°  
Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix  
John F. Wermann, 32°  
Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection  
Kenneth A. Warner, 32° KCCH  
Prior  
Richard J. Whalen, Sr., 33°  
Treasurer

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Casey A. Fletcher, 32°  
Carl E. Gilmore, 32° KCCH  
Richard G. Hoover, 32° KCCH  
W. Bruce Steube, III, 33°

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## Do you wear the Apron or does the Apron wear you?

by Coleman L.  
Hill, 32° KCCH

A Mason is identified in two primary ways, his actions and his apron. Although the Square and Compass are easily recognized, they are emblematic of the Blue Lodge. Yet, more symbolic of Masonry than any other symbol is the Apron. We were each given an apron before we were

ever able to display the Square and Compass. We wore the Apron of a Master Mason, before we were ever aware of the extent of the “appended bodies” that also utilize the Apron as a symbol of their connection to the Blue Lodge and the quality of the man who wears it.

Do you remember the first time an Apron was tied around your waist, how proud you were? The Apron is symbolic of our values, of our commitment, of our history, and of the men we seek to be. The Apron identifies these brothers as who and what they represent, but they are Brothers with or without the Apron. I'm sure each of you has met such a Brother. Perhaps he was the person you sought to emulate when you submitted your petition; a relative, a neighbor, or a member of your community, someone whom you admired for the qualities they demonstrated. There are some among us whom we cannot separate from the Apron.

When I think about this, Ill.: Vernon Clark leaps to my mind. Proud to call him Brother, I usually forget to think of him as Illustrious. For the past several years, it has been my privilege to be Brother Vernon's assistant in carrying out the duties of Almoner, the dispenser of charity to those in need. More recently, that assistance has been offered to Vernon himself and to his wife, Mary. It is typical of this humble, truly good man that he has asked only for our prayers.

Look inward Brethren and ask yourselves, at the end of the day, what do I seek from the Craft? More importantly, what have I received? If you can honestly say, “I sought only to do good” and I received only prayers, no man and no Mason can ask for more.

There are many men who embody all of the values that Masonry seeks to teach us, yet for various reasons, they have never submitted a petition. We need to seek such men if we are truly to fulfill our commitment to “make good men better.” What is your commitment? What do you seek? What will you find? Look inward Brethren and I hope you will find that you are one of those who wear the apron and deserve the right to do so 🐾

## General Secretary

by Ill. John E. Drewett, 33°



Illustrious Michael Bilirakis was recently presented with his fifty-year pin and certificate along with the Grand Cross of Honor. The awards were presented during a ceremony at the North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club luncheon, which was attended by 22 members.

The Grand Cross of Honor is the highest honor given by the Southern Jurisdiction to 33° Masons in recognition of exceptional service to Freemasonry or



Illustrious Michael Bilirakis was recently presented with his fifty-year pin and certificate along with the Grand Cross of Honor.

to society. It is usually awarded to about 10 recipients at each biennial session, and there are rarely more than 50 living Grand Crosses. Members of the Grand Cross of Honor include Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States; Robert C. Byrd, former Senator from West Virginia; J. Strom Thurmond, former Senator from South Carolina; William H. Stafford, Jr., Federal Judge in Tallahassee, Florida; Ernest Borgnine, Academy Award winner; Marvin E. Fowler, Past Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland in the United States; Robert J. Dole, former Senator from Kansas; Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's Restaurants; Norm Crosby, entertainer and L. Melvin Tillis, country music recording artist.

Illustrious Bilirakis was initiated, passed and raised a Master Mason in 1952 at Garden City Lodge No.

183 in Garden City New York. He later affiliated with Tarpon Lodge No. 112 in Tarpon Springs in 1970. He was appointed Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Florida in 1993 by M.: W.:. Joseph Fowler. Illustrious Bilirakis received his Scottish Rite degrees from the Valley of Corning New York in 1952. He became a dual member in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1956. He later affiliated with the Valley of Tampa in 1967. He received the Knight Commander Court of Honor in 1989. In 1991, Illustrious Bilirakis was coronated an Inspector General Honorary.

Michael Bilirakis was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1983 until 2007, representing the 9th District of Florida. He was born in Tarpon Springs, but spent his childhood in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and also attended George Washington University. Ill.: Bilirakis earned his law degree from the University of Florida. He served his country by serving in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Ill.: Mike has worked in various industries. While in college in Pittsburgh he worked as a steelworker and later worked as an engineer. Ill.: Mike spent the majority of his professional career as an attorney and also as a law professor. He has also served as a municipal judge in Tarpon Springs and New Port Richey, Florida. 🐾

## From The General Secretary

We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to a Master of the Royal Secret who has joined us by Affiliation, Reinstatement and Plural Membership since publication of our last bulletin. Scottish Rite Freemasonry welcomes all its members and visitors within its portal—visit us as often as time permits, we guarantee good fellowship, new friends and an opportunity to work with us for the benefit of Freemasonry and Scottish Rite in particular.

### Affiliation

Dale H. Bieber, 32°  
Jon S. DeCaluwe, 32°

### Reinstatement

James N. Massaro, 32°

### Plural

Patrick C. Palmer, 33°



## Scottish Rite Clubs

### Lake Region Scottish Rite Club

3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

(dark June, July and August)

Lakeland Lodge No. 91

505 N Mass. Avenue, Lakeland, FL

### North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

2nd Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Reservations preferred, phone (727) 460-1824

Kally-K's Steakery Fishery

1600 Main Street, Dunedin, FL

### Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

1st Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.

Denny's Restaurant,

34th Street N., St. Petersburg, FL

Information & Reservations (727) 577-5923

### Sarasota Scottish Rite Club

2nd Friday, 11:30 a.m. in odd numbered months

(dark July)

Sahib Shrine

600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL

or

1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in even numbered months

(dark December)

Scottish Rite Club Building

240 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL

### Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

3rd Monday, 11:30 a.m.

(dark June, July, August and September)

Freedom Plaza Club

Sun City Center, FL

*Support your Scottish Rite Club*

## Deadline for Sept./October Bulletin

August 1 - Contributor deadline

August 10 - Office contributor deadline

August 12 - Transmit print file to our printer

## Good For You

The following Brothers recently received certificates and lapel pins:

### Twenty-five Year Certificates & Lapel Pins

Donald R. Coffman, 32°

John F. Sheffield, 32°

### Millionaire Certificate & Lapel Pin

Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

## The Red Lodge

or

## French Rite

## Degrees

by Stan Rakita, 32°



Brethren, we have been

given permission by Ill.:

Dale I. Goehrig, 33°, to

exemplify the Red Lodge

or French Rite Degrees

during regular meetings. They have done this in

Lake Worth and have doubled their attendance.

They have also opened this up to all Blue Lodge

members and have gotten petitions on these evenings.

I have heard about these degrees. They are very

different and I have always wanted to see them.

Some of our Scottish Rite Brethren have been

initiated, passed and raised in Red Lodges in other

places. Some Grand Jurisdictions like Louisiana and

Wisconsin have Red Lodges.

As noted in <http://french-rite.co.tv>, The French

Rite is intimately linked to the birth of Freemasonry

in France and was founded in France in 1786.

British exiles brought the "Modern" rite to France

and this was little by little passed onto the French

Rite. Though this hybrid form is no longer known as

the French Rite, it sometimes takes that name to

distinguish it from the Scottish Rites from which it

was initially formed. In order to guarantee that

French Freemasonry would have a national dimension,

the Grand Orient de France organized the

standardization of "Modern" hexagonal rites from

1782 onwards, and in 1785 the model was fixed for

the first three degrees in a "blue lodge", which

showed a strong English influence in contrast to the

Scottish Rites. However, it was only in 1801 that

the Grand Orient de France printed the rules of this rite under the title Régulateur du Maçon, containing several additions and amendments to the former version, which had circulated from lodge to lodge in discrete manuscript form. The Rite underwent several further reforms, and in 1858 the “Murat French Rite” (returning to the foundations of the Constitutions of Anderson without making lasting

...continued on Page 6

## Grand Lodge Appointments

The Valley of Tampa is proud of the following Brothers who have been elected or appointed to serve the Grand Lodge of Florida this year.

### Grand Lodge Officers

Jim Ford, 32° KCCH..... Junior Grand Warden  
 Robert G. Alderson, 32° ..... Grand Standard Bearer  
 Robert J. Liekefet, 32° KCCH Grand Chaplain Emeritus

### District Deputies and Instructors

Richard C. Brooks, 32° ..... DDGM, 20th District  
 Thomas M. Edwards, II, 32° ... DDGM, 22nd District  
 Larry S. Lee, 32° ..... DDGM, 23rd District  
 Scott R. Johnson, 32° ..... DDGM, 25th District  
 John L. Horne, Jr., 32° ..... DDGM, 27th District  
 Robert L. Johnson, 32° ..... DI, 21st District  
 Houston D. White, 32° ..... DI, 22nd District  
 Richard D. Miller, 32° ..... DI, 25th District

### Committeemen

#### Endowment & Investment Committee

Thomas E. Johnson, Jr. 32°  
 David W. Jones, 32°

#### Finance & Accounts Committee

Thomas E. Johnson, Jr. 32°

#### General Services Panel

Montaque R. Chancey, 32°  
 Richard C. Daniel, 32°  
 Ronald C. Newton, 32°  
 Danny H. Robinson, 32°

#### Grand Master’s Coordinating Committee

Ronald C. Newton, 32° - State Chairman  
 F. E. Street, 32°

#### Masonic Home Attorney

Bruce Marger, 33°

#### Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents

Henry Hagan, 32° - State Chairman  
 Mark A. Fowler, Sr. 32°  
 Richard C. Hollie, 32°  
 Eric B. West, 32°

### MH-100

C. Richard Reaves, Jr. 32° - State Chairman

#### Properties Committee

Randal A. Currelly, 32° - State Chairman  
 John C. Bates, Jr. 32°  
 Reed G. Rue, 32°  
 James R. Franklin, 32°

#### Panel of Attorneys

Jon B. Coats, Jr. 32°

#### Jurisprudence Committee

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°  
 Richard G. Hoover, 32° KCCH  
 Edward L. Jordan, 33°  
 Howard W. Knapp, 32°  
 James D. Neveitt, 32°

#### Membership Development Committee

R. James Rocha, 33° - State Chairman

#### Lodge Assistance Committee

Robert G. Alderson, 32°  
 Arthur G. Cavanaugh, 32°

#### Committee On Work

F. E. Street, 32°  
 Charles L. Bailey, Jr., 32°

#### Arrangements Committee

Michael J. Kenny, 32°

#### Masonic Education Committee

H. Mike McCool, 32° - State Chairman  
 Gerald E. Goacher, 32° KCCH

#### Masonic Leadership Training Committee

Richard G. Hoover, 32° KCCH – State Co-chair  
 S. Gilbert Weisman, 32° KCCH  
 Casey A. Fletcher, 32°  
 John F. Wermann, 32°

#### Penal Affairs Panel

Joseph L. Meketsy, 32° - Chairman  
 Gary E. Tuttle, 32°  
 William A. VanDyke, III, 32°

#### Public Education & Citizenship Committee

James D. Neveitt, 32° State Chairman

#### Public Relations Committee

Christopher H. Schlenker, 32°

#### Youth Activities Committee

William C. Cobb, 32°

#### Grand Master’s Charity Committee

Steven J. Silvers, 32°  
 John W. Westermann, III, 32°  
 Martin H. Horowitz, 32°

#### Child ID Program

David J. Rasmus, 32°  
 Peter A. Merrill, 32°

#### Fraternal Admin. Endowment Fund

David A. Henderson, 32°



## Director of Work

by Ill. C. Donald Prosser, 33°

Brothers, we are now six months into our year, and all lodges have resumed work with candidates entering their lodges. Have your lodge instructors, members, or officers discuss "Further Light" with

your new Master Masons? In four months, your Scottish Rite Valley will be conferring the Degrees for the only time in 2011. If each lodge in our Valley would sign up just two candidates we would again have a fall class of over one hundred new Masters of the Royal Secret. Each of you has a duty to your new Brethren to assist them in their search for additional Masonic knowledge. Remember the beauty and enjoyment you had when receiving your Scottish Rite Degrees? Your attendance during our Reunion will refresh those memories and renew those Masonic teachings to inspire and assist you in your daily lives as men and Freemasons. I request that all degree masters make arrangements with the Wardrobe, and Stage & Properties Committee Chairmen to meet and discuss repairs, new items or costumes that need attention. We need to complete this work prior to the end of September. The Valley of Tampa will again be the host Valley for the KCCH Ceremony and 33° Coronation. . 🐾

## Valley of Tampa History

by Ill. C. Donald Prosser, 33°

Previously there was an article published in our Bulletin, discussing a look back, and this article will continue that subject this time. Modern Freemasonry in the early years only contained one degree, that of Entered Apprentice. Fellowcraft was a term applied to those who had served an apprenticeship. Master Mason was an appellation given to one who occupied the position of overseer or president of a lodge. After the adoption of Brother James Anderson's Constitution and the revision somewhere between 1721 and 1738, the system of three degrees was worked out. When Brother Anderson

published his second book of Constitutions around 1738, the changes were made to suit the new order of degrees as follows: A - prentice, when of age and expert, may become an Entered Apprentice of the lowest degree, and upon his improvement, a Fellow Craft and a Master Mason. The drama of Hiram Abiff as we find it in the modern third degree was invented or adapted about the year 1723 and was related to a legend or story. Masonic ritual in America is largely due to the work of Brother Thomas Smith Webb. He was initiated in Rising Sun Lodge of Keene, New Hampshire, in 1771. He published his first edition of "Freemason's Monitor or Illustrations" in 1797. He acknowledged English Brother William Preston with great indebtedness, but frankly states that he rearranged Preston's system for the reason that it was not agreeable to the mode of working in America. Brother Webb died on July 6, 1819. Finally, in 1810, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts formally adopted the Webb-Preston ritual, and this marked the beginning of the growth of ritual in America.

*Source: "Evolution of Freemasonry," Author Delmar Duane Darrah 33°, Grand Lodge of Illinois, published 1920, Masonic Book Club. 🐾*

...continued from Page 5 – The Red Lodge...

change to the rite) imposed itself. The Valley of New Orleans started out as a Grand Orient in the French Rite before it became a Valley.

We need your help to exemplify these degrees and are forming a degree team. If you would like to participate, please email me at [stanr@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:stanr@tampabay.rr.com). We need several Brothers to exemplify them. This is an exciting new program and we feel that everyone will enjoy this further light in Masonry. 🐾

## Check your Dues Card

Brothers if you have not attended a Scottish Rite meeting or activity lately, please take this moment to verify that your dues card is current. You may make payment online at [www.srtampa.org](http://www.srtampa.org) or by calling the office at (813) 886-0578. We accept Visa, Discover and Master Card. Purchases at the Valley Emblem Shop may be paid with credit or debit cards also. 🐾

## Prelate Emeritus

by Ill. M. Dean Lovett, 33°

### “Never Too Old”

The Lord asked, “*Why did Sarah laugh and say, can I really have a child when I am so old?*”

– Genesis 18:13



The Bible reveals that age is never a barrier to our being used by God. Noah was an old man when he built the ark. Sarah was 90 and Abraham 100 when Isaac was born. Moses was 80 and Aaron 83 when they defied Pharaoh and demanded their people be released.

I am sure I will never build an ark when I am 90. However there are many things I can do... I can pray and encourage others and lift up their spirits with God's help. I can be an effective witness for God. I am not too old, I have a purpose for the rest of my life. 🐾

## Good For You

Congratulation to Brother Casey A. Fletcher, 32° for his article in the Spring 2011 issue of the Scottish Rite Research Society's *The Plumblin*. His article was entitled Uses, Objects, and Purposes of Secrecy.

Congratulations to Ill.: Tom Vann, 33° on his certification as a Certified Instructor by the American Professional Racquetball Organization.

Congratulations to Brother Casey A. Fletcher 32° having been elected to the Board of Governors of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. 🐾

## Coming Masonic Events

Please note ALL Scottish Rite Masons may attend the Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee Meetings start at 4:00 p.m., dinner is 6:00 p.m. and regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Visit the Valley of Tampa Website for the latest information on meetings and events.

July 11, 2011:  
Executive Committee Meeting,  
Dinner and Regular Meeting

August 8, 2011:  
Executive Committee Meeting,  
Dinner and Regular Meeting

September 12, 2011:  
Executive Committee Meeting,  
Dinner and Regular Meeting  
Special programs recognizing our Masonic Youth Groups and the sitting Worshipful Masters

October 10, 2011:  
Executive Committee Meeting,  
Dinner and Open Meeting  
Official Visit of Ill.: Dale I. Goehrig, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in the Orient of Florida.

October 22 and 29, 2011:  
Fall Reunion  
Now is the time to start getting candidates to become Masters of the Royal Secret

November 12, 2011:  
Orient of Florida Honors Weekend in Tampa. KCCH and 33rd Degree Coronation will be held at the Scottish Rite in Tampa. Banquet that evening at the Hyatt Tampa with the Sovereign Grand Commander in attendance. 🐾

## Scottish Rite Club News

The Lake Region Scottish Rite Club was recently entertained by Brother Tim Williams, 32° of the Valley of Jacksonville. Brother William's usual vocation is that of “Dean of Alligator Wrestling” at Gatorland. An accomplished story-teller, Brother Williams brought with him a variety of visual aids, including an alligator, a very large scorpion, a very hairy spider and a very long snake. The Brethren and guests enjoyed learning about a variety of such wildlife. 🐾

## Valley of Tampa eNewsletter

We encourage you to sign up for our eNewsletter which will keep you informed of news and events at Tampa Scottish Rite. Please visit <[srtampa.org](http://srtampa.org)>, hover over Tampa eNewsletter and click on eNews signup. 🐾



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## In Memoriam

“Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea, but such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound and foam, when that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home. Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark; for tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar. - Tennyson



Vernor D. Blough, 32°  
April 24, 2011

Curtis J. Fowler, 32°  
April 24, 2011

Earle O. Keyser III, 32°  
March 27, 2011

Sharber E. Brown, 32°  
May 19, 2011

Thomas J. Frazier, 33°  
May 4, 2011

Milton F. Lee, 32°  
April 10, 2011

John N. Carlson, 32°  
May 16, 2011

Fordon E. Harris, 32°  
February 26, 2011

Harold H. Maxhimer, 32°  
January 28, 2011

Ewell G. Crews, 32°  
April 23, 2011

Eugene H. Hesslink, 32°  
May 3, 2011

Delbert McAlister, 32°  
April 22, 2011

Mark W. Curry, 32°  
May 16, 2011

Millard L. Hodge, 32°  
November 4, 2010

Irvin Medgebow, 32°  
April 18, 2011

Ray C. Dinkel, 32°  
May 1, 2011

Joseph W. Jessal, 32°  
November 4, 2010

Guy H. Strickland, 32°  
May 19, 2011