

# SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN

VALLEY OF TAMPA—ORIENT OF FLORIDA

TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

5500 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

TAMPA, FL 33634

(813) 886-0578

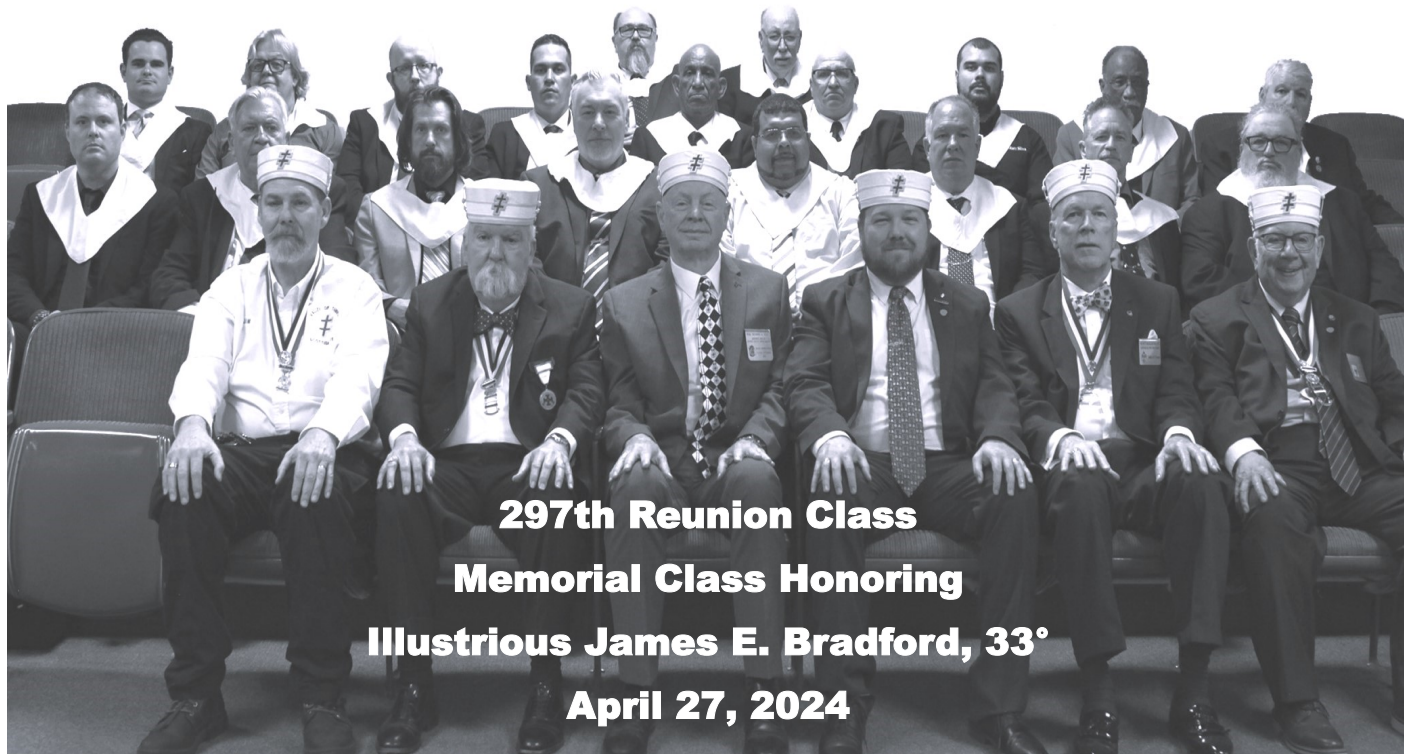
**MEETS 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**

VOLUME 47 No. 4 - JULY – AUGUST 2024

[WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG](http://WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG)

**The next reunion will be Saturday, October 19, 2024**

**Get petitions returned to the General Secretary ASAP**



**297th Reunion Class**

**Memorial Class Honoring**

**Illustrious James E. Bradford, 33°**

**April 27, 2024**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OFFICERS**

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°  
*Chairman*

Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH  
*Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory*

Joséph A. Severino, 32°  
*Commander - Council of Kadosh*

Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH  
*Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix*

Glen B. Bishop, 32° KCCH  
*Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection*

John N. Dragneff, 32°  
*Prior*

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°  
*Treasurer*

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Perry D. Batson, 32° KCCH

John E. Drewett, 33°

Robert J. Leonard, Sr., 32°

Joseph A. Monday, 32° KCCH

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Bulletin Editor

glwynn@gmail.com

**PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°



Brethren, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to M.:W.: Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH on his election and installation as the M.:W.: Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida. In addition to his new responsibilities as Grand Master, Brother Cowart currently serves the Valley of Tampa as the Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix and as a member of the Executive Committee. Please know that the Valley of Tampa is behind you and will assist you in any way we can.

I would also like to offer my personal congratulations to R.:W.: Richard Wendling, 32° KCCH on his election and installation as Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Brother Wendling currently serves the Valley of Tampa as the Chairman of the Double Eagle Program.

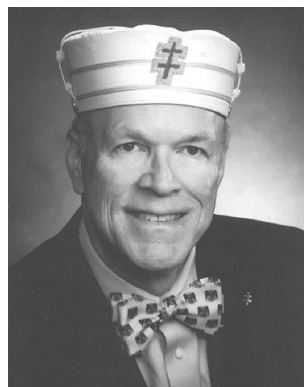
In this issue of The Bulletin you will find a listing of the members of the Valley of Tampa who have been elected or appointed to service the Grand Lodge of Florida. Congratulations my Brothers on your work and dedication to Freemasonry.

I hope you had the opportunity to attend our June 10th meeting when we celebrated Flag Day. Brothers Rob St. John, Chuck Bailey, and Dwight Hamborsky, members of the Tampa Bay Chapter No. 252, National Sojourners presented an excellent educational program on the History of the Flag. Thank you, Brother Richard Whitmyer, 32° KCCH for taking over as Chairman of the Flag Day Celebration.

Brethren, I ask that you please look at your Scottish Rite dues card. If it says it expired in 2023, would you assist your Valley by paying your 2024 dues? If you find you are in a position of not being able to write that check, please contact the General Secretary. We will do everything possible to assist you so that you may continue your membership in the Scottish Rite.

In closing although summer is here, the activity at your Scottish Rite is ongoing. Now that we have moved back into our building, we still have a lot of unpacking or sorting to do. Please contact the General Secretary if you are able and available to assist us with this project. Please remember all of our members are welcome to attend either the monthly Consistory meeting on the second Monday of each month or attend one of our Scottish Rite Club meetings through the Valley. The meeting locations, time, and dates can be found in this issue of The Bulletin.





## GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°

### Delinquent Members

Dues statements will be mailed shortly, kicking off our 2025 dues season. As of this date there are 251 members of the Valley of Tampa who have an arrears balance. The 2024 dues payments were to be paid no later than December 31, 2023. Please remit \$122.00 to the attention of the General Secretary at your earliest convenience. If for some reason you are having problems with making the dues payment, please contact the General Secretary for assistance at (813) 886-0578. We will work with you in arranging a payment schedule.

Brethren, to make it easier for you to send in your payment, you can go to our website:

**[www.tampascottishrite.org](http://www.tampascottishrite.org)**

Click on the Link Payments & Contributions. We will receive your payment and send out your dues card. You can also call the office and pay with a credit card. Thank you for being a loyal member by maintaining your membership.

We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to these Masters of the Royal Secret who have joined us by Affiliation and Dual Member since publication of our last bulletin.

### Affiliation

Kenneth S. Dillon, 32°

James L. Moody Sr., 32°

### Dual Member

Jeffrey W. Agan, 32°

## COMING MASONIC EVENTS

Please note ALL Scottish Rite Masons may attend the Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee Meetings will now start at 5:00 p.m. with Dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. The cost for the Dinner will be \$12 per person unless otherwise noted. Since we are currently using an outside caterer for our meals, **it is very important that you make your reservations no later than NOON on the Thursday before the Monday meeting** so the caterer has sufficient time to purchase the food for the Monday night meeting.

Regular meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Visit the Valley of Tampa website for the latest information on meetings and events.

### July 8, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (5:00 pm)

### Dinner (5:30 pm)

Roast Beef w/Gravy

Mashed Potatoes, Salad, and Dessert

Sodas and Bottled Water

Knights of St. Andrew Meeting (6:00 pm)

Past Masters Unit (6:30pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:30 pm)

### Consistory Meeting (7:00 pm)

Double Eagle Awards

### August 12, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (5:00 pm)

### Dinner: (5:30 pm)

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Yellow Rice and Salad

Dessert

Sodas and Bottled Water

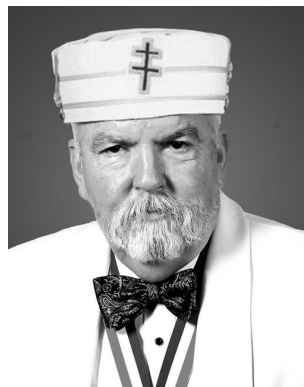
Knights of St. Andrew Meeting (6:00 pm)

KCCH Organization Meeting (6:30 pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:30 pm)

### Lodge of Perfection

(7:00 pm)



## MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Illustrious Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

A paper entitled "The Art of Memory in Scotland" by Kenneth C. Jack, PM appears in Volume 30, 2022 of *Heredom*, a publication of the Scottish Research Society. The history of the employing memorization both inside and outside of the fraternity is explored. That history is quite interesting in its own right. More importantly, it is a short and simple paper packed with insightful lessons about what we came here to do and how we do it.

—continued page 5—



## BIOGRAPHY OF

### **M.:W.: DONALD WILLIAM COWART**

M.:W.: Donald W. Cowart was born in Gainesville, Florida. He spent his formable years growing up in Alachua County. He attended elementary, junior, and high school in Gainesville. He moved to Brandon, Florida in the summer of 1966. While living in Brandon, he attended Brandon High School. He graduated from Brandon in June of 1969. He attended Hillsborough Community College for two years.

In September of 1969 he started a 41 year career with General Telephone and Electronics. He was a Cable Splicer for about 3 to 4 years, before being promoted to Management as an Outside Plant Construction Manager. He retired in November of 2010. M.:W.: Cowart is married to Lady Dell.

M.:W.: Cowart received the Three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry as a member of Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330 in Temple Terrace, Florida in 1978. He demitted to Brandon Lodge No. 114 in 2007. He served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2013. He was elected as Secretary of his Lodge for six consecutive years. He served his District in various chairmanships from 2013 through 2016.

He served as District Deputy Grand Master for M.:W.: Stephen P. Boring in 2015. He was appointed W.: Senior Grand Steward in 2017 by M.:W.: Richard G. Hoover, and was appointed by M.:W.: John W. Westerman III as his Grand Marshal in 2019 as well as a member of the Corporate Board. He has also served on the Jurisprudence Committee for 3 years and served on various Grand Lodge Committees in the following capacities: State Chairman for Grand Master Coin Sales in 2017 and 2018, Zone Chairman Membership Development in 2014, Zone Chairman Grand Masters Charity in 2016, and District Chairman Membership Development in 2017. M.:W.: Cowart received from M.:W.: Richard G. Hoover the Lifetime Appointment of being the Grand Representative of the Grand Orient Do Brazil.

M.:W.: Cowart is a member of the following Allied and Appendant Bodies: Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa, Royal Order of Scotland, Maxwell Clan, Egypt Temple Shrine, Brandon Shrine Club, Zendah Grotto, Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County, York Rite- Plant City Chapter #16 R.A.M., Tyler Council #4, R&SM, Plant City Commandry #6 KT, and Order of the Eastern Star-DeSoto Chapter No. 201. M.:W.: Cowart is a Perpetual Member of Brandon Lodge No. 114.

M.:W.: Cowart was elected to the station of Junior Grand Warden on May 31, 2021; Senior Grand Warden on May 30, 2022; Deputy Grand Master on May 31, 2023 and installed Most Worshipful Grand Master on May 29, 2024.

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Jack opens with the simple observation “A good Masonic ritualist does not necessarily make a good Mason.” On the other hand, “a good Mason does not necessarily make a good ritualist... someone with a deep knowledge of Freemasonry might barely be able to string together a sentence on the floor of a lodge”.

Notwithstanding this observation, a proficient delivery, by memory, of masonic work can leave a lasting impression and impart valuable lessons both to the candidate and the brethren on the sidelines. Ritual is how we convey the lessons of masonry. It is how we teach and learn.

A larger point discussed by Jack is that “the whole purpose of Masonic teaching was to imprint the lessons offered into the minds of the workmen, whereby it became habitual. Today one might refer to the process of “muscle memory” ... intended for the self-improvement of both individuals and society at large.”

A word appearing in the Entered Apprentice lecture makes this point – inculcate. To inculcate is to instill an idea, attitude, or habit by persistent instruction and repetition.

Upon learning the ritual, one repeats it over and over again until it is committed to memory. Such is prerequisite to proficient delivery. But again, the larger point is that the memorization inculcates the ritual’s lessons upon both the ritualist *and* the brethren on the sidelines who, though they may never deliver the work, listen to it over and over again.

Inculcating the lessons of the work to form good habits seems to be what we’re after. Memorization, historically, seems to be the proven vehicle for accomplishing this aim.

Paraphrasing Jack, through memorization and repetition, the teachings and lessons of masonic work become inherent in us; we do not simply remember them, they become an essential part of our being.

Let us resolve to regularly study and learn our work, remembering that our objective is not necessarily to proficiently confer it in open Lodge, but to memorize its lessons into the “muscle memory” of our hearts and behavior.—See you in Lodge.

**The Fall Reunion is October 19, 2024, during which the five mandatory degrees will be conferred.**



## PRELATE

Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°

John 17:13-17 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth.”

Note that I have underlined the words in and of. What we are being told is to be “in” the world, but not “of” the world. Wait, what?? How can this be? It is really quite simple. We were all born into this world of a woman; but, when we put our faith in God, we were reborn of the Spirit. The Spirit of God—not of this world. So we are now not “of this world” IF WE CHOOSE SO! And this choice must be made intentionally and daily. As in the above passage of Scripture, we have been given God’s word as a guide to our faith and practice. And God’s word is the Truth. However, if we choose to follow God’s word and His truth, we go against virtually everything in the world today.

We are constantly being bombarded with all kinds of information from all different sources—each one telling what we should believe. Each person or group has their own agenda and twist the facts-or only give you part of the story- to suit their own purposes so that you will think like them. We are told we should buy bigger and better because that is the only way to happiness—how’s that working out for you? As we head into the Fall elections, we are drowning in political commentary-each side telling us to believe. All of this is just pulling us back to be “of the world”. And let me just say, There is little to no truth in any of it! We don’t want to be “of the world”, we want to be of God. The Scriptures tell us how to do that. That is why we call it a Great Light.

Continued next page

Most of us are familiar with Deuteronomy 6:4, known as the Shema, *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”* This is how to be “of God”. Our only protection from all that the world throws at us is our deep, abiding faith in God. Want to know who to vote for in the next election—ask God in prayer. Want to know if you need to spend your money on bigger and better, what do the Scriptures tell us? John 8:31-32 tells us, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* This is the promise of Scripture—The Word is Truth, and it will guide you through all the darkness that is the world—IF YOU LET IT!

## 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

#### Grand Master

Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH

#### Junior Grand Warden

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH

#### Grand Marshall

Jack W. Hampton, 32° KCCH

#### Senior Grand Deacon

Perry D. Batson, 32° KCCH

#### Junior Grand Steward

Gregory A. Fisher, 32° KCCH

#### Grand Pursuivant

John E. Drewett, 33°

#### Grand Tyler

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32° KCCH

#### Grand Musician

Stanley R. Foulke, 33°

#### Grand Historian Emeritus

William C. Klinke, 32° KCCH

### District Deputies and Instructors

#### DDGM, 18th District

Michael J. St.Laurent, 32° KCCH

#### DDGM, 19th District

Robert J. “Hollywood” Martin, 32°

#### DDGM, 20th District

Roscoe L. Love, 32°

#### DDGM, 21st District

Ken Barefield, 32°

#### DDGM, 23rd District

Justin E. Broome, 32°

#### DI, 20th District

David S. Wenzel, 32°

#### DI, 21st District

Paul A. Crothers, 32°

#### DI, 23rd District

Thomas E. Haber, 32°

## COMMITTEEMEN

### Endowment and Investment Committee

Barry D. Hart, 33°

David W. Jones, 32°

### General Services Panel

John W. Eaton, 32°

### Finance and Accounts Committee

Robert J. Lambert, 32° KCCH Vice Chairman

### Endowment Procurement Committee

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH Chairman

### Let your Pennies Make Good Cents(MH-100), Wills and Gifts

Ronald C Mincey, Jr. 32°

Todd A. Meschelle, 32°

### Grand Lodge Properties Committee

Robert J. Robertson, 32°

### Masonic Jurisprudence Committee

J. Dick Martinez, 32° Chairman

John A. “Drew” Baldwin, 32° KCCH

John E. Drewett, 33°

Jack W. Hampton, 32° KCCH

Joseph Meketsy, 32°

David S. Wenzel, 32°

### Perpetual Membership Committee

Gregory A. Fisher, 32° KCCH

### Membership Development Committee

Kenneth L. Tutor, 32°

Royce A. Yancey, 32°

### Insurance Committee

Charles C. Osborne, 33° Chairman

Michael S. Griffin, 32° KCCH

Barry D. Hart, 33°

### Committee on Work

G. Raymond Vance, 32°

John A. “Drew” Baldwin, 32° KCCH

Barry D. Hart, 33°

### Arrangements Committee

Jack W. Hampton, 32° KCCH

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH

Masonic Education Committee

John H. Eaton, 32°

—Continued next page—

## GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS, continued

**Masonic Leadership Training Committee**

Randolph Chancey, 32°

**Penal Affairs Panel**

Perry D. Batson, 32° KCCH

William A. Van Dyke, 32°

**Public Education and Citizenship Committee**

William J. Doolin, 32°

Charles A. Wolbert, III, 32°

**Public Relations and Publicity Committee**

Howard W. Knapp, 32° State Chairman

Charles R. Jordan, 33°

Charles R. Bailey, 32° KCCH

**Youth Activities Committee**

R.J. "Jody" Meguiar, 32° KCCH State Chairman

**Grand Master's Charity**

Perry D. Batson, 32° KCCH

Gergory A. Fisher, 32° KCCH

Thomas H. Davie, 32°

**Child ID Committee**

Thomas E. Haber, 32°

**Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (FA-100)**

Robert W. Taylor, Sr. 32°

**Grand Master's Coins**

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32° KCCH

**Email Addresses**

We want you to receive our regular communications, please make sure that the General Secretary's office has your most current email address. Send up dates to

[generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org](mailto:generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org)

**SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS****NORTH PINELLAS**

IHOP

40489 US 19N

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Phone: (727) 403-6511

2nd Tuesday every month at 11:30 a.m.

**PINELLAS PARK**

Masonic Home of Florida

3201 1st St. NE

St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Phone: (727) 243-7355

2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

**SARASOTA**

Sahib Shriners - Sahara Room

(July location TBA)

600 N. Beneva Road

Sarasota, FL 34232

2nd Friday every month at 11:30 a.m.

Scottish Rite Club Building

240 S. Tuttle Ave.

Sarasota, FL 34237

1st Wednesday in Feb., April, Oct. &amp; Nov. at 6:00 p.m.

**TAMPA**

Village Inn

215 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

Tampa, FL 33609

Phone: (813) 368-3878

4th Wednesday every month at 12:00 p.m.

**TRI-COUNTY**

Lake Wales Masonic Lodge No. 242

660 S. 9th St.

Lake Wales, FL 33853

Phone: (863) 528-6191

4th Wed. Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.



R. W. Frederick R. Wendling Jr. KCCH

was elected Junior Grand Warden at the 195th Annual Grand Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Sutherland Lodge No. 174 on March 29, 2011, and served as its Worshipful Master in 2017.

He was consecrated a Master of the Royal Secret on November 1, 2014, in the Valley of Tampa, and received his Investiture as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, November 9, 2021.



This publication acknowledges authority and yields allegiance to the  
Supreme Council A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of which  
Illustrious Richard G. Hoover, 33° is  
Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
in the Orient of Florida



Tampa Scottish Rite Office  
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Scottish Rite Bulletin  
Volume 47 No. 4  
July — August 2024

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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

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Howard J. Bell Sr., 32° 03/31/24 age 87 Palm Harbor, FL	Joseph E. Fara, 32° 08/03/23 age 94 Tampa, FL	Charles J. Morris, 32° 06/04/24 age 77 St. Petersburg, FL
Robert A. Bosworth Sr., 32° 02/05/21 age 88 Lake Wales, FL	Tommy V. Jordan Jr., 32° 04/20/24 age 83 Dade City, FL	Charles E. Seeley, 32° 05/29/24 age 93 Valrico, FL
Gary J. Coddington, 32° 11/29/23 age 84 Whitehouse Station, NJ	Craig E. Knight, 32° 11/27/22 age Clearwater, FL	Merle R. Shreffler, 32° 04/05/24 age 102 St. Petersburg, FL
Bert F. Dull, 32° 04/24/24 age 91 Plant City, FL	Millard C. Lilley, 32° 09/13/23 age 88 Temple Terrace, FL	James K. Wilson, 32° 01/25/24 age 86 Cairo, GA