

# St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



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## Monthly News Letter January 2008 – February 2008



Brethren,

As we leave the past year behind us, we look forward to a new year full of possibilities.

Such is also the case for the four Brothers who were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 19th. Let us welcome them into the fraternity as they begin their epic journey seeking Masonic light. To those who sacrificed their Saturday morning and were able to attend, thank you for making a truly memorable occasion for your newly raised Brethren. To those who were not able to attend, your presence was missed. Special thanks go out to Senior Warden Joe Richard for organizing the degree team. Likewise, special thanks go to Secretary and Past Master Frank Dedman for the delicious breakfast that was served prior to the presentation of the degrees.

The start of a new year also means that Grand Lodge is right around the corner. This year Grand Lodge will be in Bossier City on February 2nd and 3rd. Fifteen resolutions have been pre-filed, many of which involve reorganization of the committee structure utilized by the Grand Lodge. As always, Most Worshipful Brother Bill Brown ably presented the pre-filed resolutions to the Lodge on January 17th and the discussion that followed will be helpful as your elected leadership reflects your desires during Grand Lodge proceedings.

Just a reminder that March 6th is **Guest Night**. According to the calendar, it is approximately a month away, but it will be here before we know it. If you know of a gentleman you would like to be able to call Brother, invite him for Guest Night. Remember that this is our opportunity to share with others what it means to be an upright man and Mason.

"Mac" Little, WM

### RECENT EVENTS

January 3 - During the year 2007, St. James Lodge #47 lost five 50-year members for whom the Necrology Service was held. They are: Sidney Elbert Coxe, Charles Edwin Craig, Calvin C. Hodges, Charles W. McCoy, and Bruce Anderson Royer.

Bro. Steve Newman gave a presentation in recognition of St. John The Evangelist, whose day was December 27.

Special recognition was given to the life, history, and many contributions of our newly departed W. Bro Lloyd Pence.

W. Bro. Steve Pence, son of W. Bro. Lloyd Pence, was recognized as visiting from Joppa Lodge # 362.

January 17 - M.W. Bro. Bill Brown presented and conducted a discussion of the 15 pre-filed Grand Lodge Resolutions. The purpose being to give direction to the Officers of St. James Lodge who will attend and vote. The most discussion regarded a Resolution to raise per capita dues for Grand Lodge Fraternal by \$1.00 per year for each of the next ten years.

One Petition for membership was accepted and an Investigation Committee appointed. One Petition for Plural membership in St. James # 47 was received from a member of Glen Burnie Lodge # 213 in Michigan. One Proficiency Examination Committee report was made. One membership Petition was balloted upon. It was announced by W. Master Little that an Entered Apprentice degree will be conferred at the Stated Communication at 7:30 p.m. on February 7. An entered Apprentice degree practice is called for

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5. The membership was reminded that **Thursday, March 6 is GUEST NIGHT**. Invite your friends and neighbors to this open meeting.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19.** Breakfast was served at 7:30 a.m. Approximately 30 Brethren were present. Everyone enjoyed 'Franks Eggs cooked to order' along with sausage, grits and Biscuits. Fellowship was at its best. The weather was bad and several brethren were not able to attend. Several visiting Brothers were welcomed.

Four MM CANDIDATES were raised, the last in Full Regalia. W. Bro Jack Claunch's welcome address and charge presentations brought tears to our eyes.

W: Bro. Selby announced that the Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372 at 3950 Florida Boulevard with dinner at 6:30 p.m., and all Master Masons are invited.

### FUTURE EVENTS

Feb. 2 & 3, Sat. & Sun. - Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana - It will be at Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Road, Bossier City, LA.

Feb. 7 A report on actions by Grand Lodge will be made. One Entered Apprentice degree will be conferred.

Feb. 21 Review Programs for Charity

Mar. 6 \*Guest Night (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)  
**BRING A FRIEND**  
[this means **YOU** bring a friend!!!!]

Mar. 20 Rededication & Re-obligation; 25 & 50 yr. Awards

### Sickness And Relief

#### In Memoriam:

W. Bro. Lloyd Pence, a 50-year member, rang in the New Year by passing to the Celestial Lodge at 12:33 a.m. on January 1, 2008. St. James Lodge voted to donate \$500 in the name of W. Bro. Lloyd to the Childhood Learning Center of the Baton Rouge Scottish Rite.

Bro. James Wyatt Morris passed to the Celestial Lodge on January 6, 2008 and would have been a 50-year member in March 2008.

Our prayers go out for their friends and families.

Brother Dr. James W Robinson, our SD's father, had a growth removed from his neck and will be undergoing radiation therapy.

### Other Masonic Events

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard with Advisory Council at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, and meeting at 7:30 PM

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, No. 9, F. & A.M., meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Red Room of St James Lodge. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members to find time, dress code and other details. Master Ricks Martin Bowles; Senior Warden, Larry Houston Moore; Junior Warden Adib A. Shahla; Secretary Charles Daniel Smith; Treasurer George Samuel Roberts; Senior Deacon Naresh Sharma; Junior Deacon William Ellis Little; Master of Ceremonies Shane C. Crump; Senior Steward Timothy Hilary Atkins; Junior Steward Michael Carpenter; Chaplain Ernest St. Clair Easterly III; Tyler Robert Ronald Zinn, Members: Larry Wade, Alva Clay Smith; Clayton Johnson Borne, III; Glenn Cupit; Jay L. Martin, Mike Carpenter, Kristopher Easterly Jr., Ernest Easterly PM

Special Notice: Please notify the Secretary, W: Bro. Dedman and Joe Richard if you change your address, telephone or email address.

Don't forget the 'special price' on Perpetual Memberships. [get yours before the price goes up!]



**St. James Lodge No. 47**  
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**NOVEMBER 2007 —DECEMBER 2007**

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From: Carl Johnson <cjohnson@ncia.com>  
Newsgroups: soc.org.freemasonry  
Subject: Christmas 1944- Death Of A Pilot  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2003 18:22:20 CST

Brothers, Friends:

At Christmas, 1999, the Library of Congress Revisited the Spirit of Christmas during the Second World War, producing a wonderful book titled:

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.

On page 134 begins the story "Death of a Pilot"...

We dreaded Christmas that year. It was 1944, and the war would never be over for our family.

The telegram had arrived in August. Bob's few personal possessions, the flag from his coffin, the plat of his burial site in the Philippines (and) a Distinguished Flying Cross had arrived one by one, adding to our agonizing grief.

When he was named Hot Pilot of primary training school (US Marine Corps) in Pasco, Washington, and later involuntarily joined the "Caterpillar Club" (engine failure causing the bailout) we shook our heads and worried. Mother prayed. Bob was born fearless, and she knew it. Before graduating he applied for a transfer to the Marine Air Corps at Pensacola, Florida. He trained in torpedo bombers before being sent overseas.

They said Bob died under enemy fire over New Guinea in the plane he wanted so desperately to fly.

Mother's faith sustained her, but my father aged before our eyes. He would listen politely when the minister came to call, but we knew Daddy was bitter. He dragged himself to work every day but lost interest in everything else, including his beloved Masonic Club. He'd wanted a Masonic ring real bad, and at Mother's insistence he started saving for the ring, but that too ceased.

I dreaded the approach of Christmas. Bob had loved Christmas. His surprises were legend: a doll house made at school, a puppy hidden in a mysterious place for our little brother, an expensive dress for Mother bought with the very first money he ever earned. Everything had to be a surprise.

What would Christmas be without Bob? Not much. Aunts, uncles and Grandmother were coming, so we went through the motion as much for memory as anything, but our hearts weren't in it.

On December 23, another official looking package arrived. My father watched stone-faced as Mother unpacked Bob's dress blues. Silence hung heavy. As she refolded the uniform to put it away, a mother's practicality surfaced, and she went through the pockets almost by rote.

In a small inside jacket pocket was a neatly folded \$50 bill with a tiny note in Bob's familiar handwriting: "For Dad's Masonic ring."

If I live to be one hundred, I will never forget the look on my father's face. Some kind of transformation took place -- a touch of wonder, a hint of joy, a quiet serenity that was glorious to behold. Oh the healing power of love! He stood transfixed, staring at the note and the trimly folded bill in his hand for what seemed an eternity, then walked to Bob's picture hanging prominently on the wall and solemnly saluted.

"Merry Christmas, son" he murmured, and turned to welcome Christmas.

Fraternally,

Carl Johnson  
Burlington-United Masonic Lodge #93  
Grand Lodge of Washington, Free & Accepted Masons  
A&ASR, Valley of Bellingham

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." -Albert Pike

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If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard [jgr2@cox.net](mailto:jgr2@cox.net)