

Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A. F. & A. M.

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*The Master's Trestleboard
July 2021*

Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A.F. & A.M.

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"UNITED WE STAND"

Chartered Dec. 16, 1874
147th Year
www.lakedrummond178.org

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Associate Marshal
EDWARD J. CORONA

Associate Tiler
C. ROYCE. McCOY

Tiler Emeritus
H.M. "MARTY" HATFIELD, PM

LIVING PAST MASTERS OF LAKE DRUMMOND LODGE NO. 178

S.D. Archer - 1981	W. R. Manier - 1995	R.G. McEvoy - 2006	J.W. Conroy, Jr. - 2016
R.B. Holmes - 1982	G.R. Tester - 1996*	R.D. Reed - 2008	D.L. Bagley - 2017
H.M. Hatfield - 1984	P.W. Morley, Jr. - 1998	K.W. Strickland - 2009	J.W. Snow - 2018
R.S. Best, Sr. - 1985	T.W. Magas - 1999*	K.E. Stephens, Jr. - 2010	H.P. Strickland - 2019
+J.V. Matthews, Jr. - 1986	+H. C. Slaughter, Sr. - 2000	K.L. Hobbs, Jr. - 2011	R.S. Anderson - 2020
L.P. Fields - 1987	R.L. McDaniel - 2001	R.T. Smith - 2012	
M.B. Joyner - 1989	+M.F. Mansfield - 2003*	C.A. Allsbrook - 2013	
G.E. Brown - 1990	+F.T. Whittington, Sr. - 2004	H.P. Strickland - 2014	
K.P. Strickland - 1991	W.R. Manier - 2005	W.M. Mutter - 2015	

+ - denotes PDDGM, * - denotes demitted

LIVING MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST MASTERS OF OTHER MASONIC LODGES

J.V. Matthews, Jr., PDDGM-NC	Garland #664, NC	1997-2001
A.W. Densley	Princess Anne #25	2012
G.L. Hanson	Edmond #37, OK	2018

LIVING AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS

F.N. Boalt	Ancon Lodge - Balboa, Rep. of Panama	1981
B. R. Faulkner, PDDGM-SC	Solomon's #1, SC	1976, 1999, 2008
	Old Fort #420, SC	1981, 1982, 2016
	Egeria #71, SC	2014
T.S. Ferrell	Great Bridge #257	2009
W.E. Irving, PDDGM	Great Bridge #257	1984
F.E. Small	Elizabeth #34	1995
R.G. Underdown	Campbell #316	1981
B.H. Wilson, PDDGM	South Norfolk #339	1990, 2013

Master's Message

Right Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, and Brethren all,

With July here I am reminded of how fast time seems to move once we become active. Half of the year is now behind us and as we look back, we can see how far that we have traveled. When the year started things appeared bleak, our lives were held captive by a pandemic, but that did not stop us, and we adapted to the challenge moving perpetually forward. As our lives started to slowly return to normal, stores reopened, the ability to see family and friends once again just on the horizon, we awaited a time with patience, a time for normalcy. With the vaccine so widely distributed, the numbers of our sick are finally dropping below the scary levels of where they once were. Outside we are able to breathe more freely and with less apprehension. The time for fellowship so long overdue is finally within our grasp. Let us give thanks to the workers that braved their way through this, so that we may have safer, and easier lives. To all of our service men and women of our military that place their lives on the line for each day, the Police, Fire, and EMS providers that selflessly expose themselves to innumerable dangers, our hospital staff that work tirelessly to save a life or give comfort to the sick, injured, and dying, our clergy and religious support, our teachers, school faculty, and bus drivers that risk personal health for our children, the city worker, service provider, or utility providers that were overworked and underappreciated, our delivery persons, our grocery and store workers, and lastly to anyone else that worked so that others could remain safe thank you from our grateful community of friends and brothers. Let us also thank our "Supreme Creator" that answered prayers, watched over us all, and allowed for our continuance as we travel ever toward his guiding light. Lessons have been learned and we can never go back, but we can continue onward stronger and more assured. I wish each and every one a fun filled, safe, and exciting Independence Day.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Paul A. Wotring
Worshipful Master

From the West

Greetings from the West,

I am glad to see everything opening back up and returning to normal. Stay safe and enjoy the Fourth of July holiday with your family and friends. Our Stated Meeting this month is Senior Wardens Night. I look forward to seeing everyone there wearing their favorite Hawaiian Shirt.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bro. Billy Phelps, Senior Warden

From the South

Greetings from the South,

It has been so good to see so many Brethren at our meetings. I hope you are able to join us at our next Stated Communication. Are you looking to get more involved? Thinking about becoming an officer? Want to be a Catechism Coach or Mentor? Learn a lecture? Do you have a Community Service Project idea? Reach out to any officer to take the next step!

Bro. Adam Drake, Junior Warden

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Contact one of the Lodge Instructors of Work if you are interested in learning more Ritual
Worshipful Kyle W. Strickland
Worshipful Henry P. Strickland
Worshipful Dennis L. Bagley

Quote of the Month

“Remember to not only say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”

~ Brother Benjamin Franklin

Moment of Light from Wor. Chris Allsbrook

Declaration Prayer

I walk in the light. There is no darkness in my path. In fact, my path gets brighter and clearer every day. The longer I live, the brighter I shine. You have flooded the eyes of my heart with light to know and understand the hope to which I've been called. I hear and obey the voice of the Good Shepherd; the voice of a stranger I will not follow. I'm always willing and obedient; therefore, I eat the good of the land. You, Lord God, have given me exceptional wisdom and understanding and breadth of mind like the sand of the seashore. You have given me a pure and holy speech from pure and holy lips that I may call upon You and serve You all the days of my life. I am complete in You, the head of all principality and power!

Amen

Brethren:

The Officers of Lake Drummond look forward to seeing each of you at our July Stated wearing your favorite Hawaiian shirt, which also happens to be our Senior Wardens night.

We will be having our first Family Night on the 5th Thursday, July 29th!

Just a reminder that an act of kindness will cost the giver nothing but can mean everything to the recipient. A smile and a kind word can make a difference not only to the person receiving it but also in the mindset of the one giving it. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices, do good unto all, more especially to the household of the faithful.



Fourth of July

M A P S K K Q D F X N N L Z I C H
 G S M A G I C E R W O O X M H C X
 E F I E R K N F E Y S I U T R P V
 B C E T R A U G E T N T I X C Y P
 V M I R O I C P D R I A E G N T B
 Y D E F E I C G O E K R D D T R A
 P X E Z I I R A M B C B C F O X B
 X Y A X R R T T G I I E D O F K B
 L O R R A C C N A L D L M I W I U
 B G A L F H I A R P N E D G U L S
 R Q L F J D Q F S L B C J K S R N
 E B L W N F A T H E R S M V E A N
 A G L U N O I T U T I T S N O C U
 R E O A D D P G B M B X G U L B V
 L F X T I X N O T G N I H S A W L
 Y O Q Z M R U F X V S H O Q X E B
 F R A N K L I N H B B E D F O R D

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| Flag | America | Signers | Carrol |
| Patriotism | Freedom | Bedford | Dickinson |
| Celebration | Constitution | Blair | Franklin |
| Founding | Sacrifice | Brearily | King |
| Fathers | Liberty | Broom | Washington |

Masonic Trivia

Test your Masonic knowledge with a few random trivia questions.

Questions:

Q1: Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence how many were Masons?

Q2: How many Masons signed the US Constitution?

Q3: Of the Signers of the US Constitution how many were Grandmasters?

Q4: How many US Presidents were Freemasons?

Q5: How did Freemason Street in Norfolk, VA get its name?

Answers:

A1: Eight is the usual acceptable answer, however there is evidence that suggest there may have been twenty-four more.

A2: Thirteen

A3: Four: Bedford, Blair, Brearily, and Franklin.

A4: Fourteen: Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, T. Roosevelt, Taft, Harding, F. Roosevelt, Truman, and Ford.

A5: In 1729 Norfolk established its first Masonic Post. In 1764 they built an impressive structure on what is now Cumberland Street. It was so beautiful that it defined the area. People started calling the facing street Free Mason's Street later shortened to what is now known, Freemason Street.

Fundraising and Announcements

Donations and/ or pledges of any amount are greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.

Lake Drummond will hold its Annual Fish Fry on September 25th from noon until 5:00 PM. Fish Fry dinners will be available for a donation of \$10.00. Anyone willing to help during this event please contact any of our Lodge Officers.

Please remember to donate to the local Food Bank. All donations are appreciated.

Support our Blood Drive on August 20, 2021!



It has become apparent that the new Entered Apprentice has been researching Freemasonry on the internet!

July 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Berkley 167	2	3
4 Independence Day Happy Fourth of July!!	5	6 South Norfolk 339	7 Lake Drummond Officers Meeting	8 Lake Drummond 178 Stated Senior Warden's Night Wear your Favorite Hawaiian Shirt	9	10 St. Thomas Conclave RCC
11 Lake Drummond Ritual School	12	13 Doric 44	14	15	16	17 Portsmouth-Chesapeake 155 AMD
18	19	20 Indian River 232	21	22	23	24
25 Lake Drummond Ritual School	26	27 Cradock RAC 72	28 Great Bridge 257	29 Lake Drummond Family Night	30	31

Brethren, during this time of uncertainty please verify meeting dates and know that things are subject to

In Memoriam

Please remember Brethren that have laid down their working tools and passed on to the Celestial Lodge above.
 Worshipful Charles Robert Jefferson Raised – Feb. 24, 1983 Died – Jun. 27, 2021

Sunshine Committee Report

Please keep our sick and distressed raised up in your thoughts and prayers. The best thing that you can do for someone is to pray for them. If you know of a Brother, widow, or family member that is sick, injured, or distressed, please inform either the Sunshine Committee, or one of your Lodge officers. We want to ensure we are praying for every need any of our Lodge members may face. In this unprecedented time, we need to readily reach out to one another and share each other's burdens. All reported needs will only be shared based on the privacy and discretion requested by each member.

<u>Get Well Cards</u>	<u>Thinking of You</u>
Wor. Raymond Anderson – Surgery Grand Treasurer, Right Wor. R E Carroll Jr - Surgery Bro. F W Peck Seader - Illness	Allison Phelps – ER Visit Bro. Ron and Terrie Hepler- Medical Issues Bro. Steve Furman – Cancer Wor. Luke McCoy – Surgery Bro. F W Peck Seader – Fall Bro. John Hyman – Surgery

Master Craftsmen Pledge Drive

Brethren Thank you so much for your generous contributions to the Master Craftsmen Pledge Drive!
Every donation helps support the Lodge. We will continue this Pledge drive through the year.

We have raised over \$12,000.00 reaching 24% to our goal of \$50,000.00. We have also had a contribution rate of over 19% of our membership!!

TEMPLE BUILDERS

Brother David L. Butler
Brother James R. Collins, Jr., 50MV
Brother Charles G. James
Brother D.S. "Mickey" McCoy, Jr., LMIP
Brother Ellis E. Snell, Jr., LMIP
Brother L.E. "Larry" Mahan
Brother Matthew W. Manier, LMIP
Brother Simon D. Edwards
Brother W.G. "Bill" Benton
Brother Albert G. Barlow
Brother Glenn L. McDonald
Brother G.T. "Gus" Gustafson
Brother Scott D. Kilborn
Brother W.E. "Bill" Phelps, Sr.

CRAFTSMAN

Worshipful W.R. "Bill" Manier
Worshipful Fredrick N. Boalt, PM, 50MV
Brother Michael J. Diaz, Sr., LMIP
Brother Michael J. Diaz, Jr., LMIP
Brother Norman C. Strickland, LMIP
Brother W.F. "Bill" Robins, III
Brother J.J. "Jimmy" Ramsey, LMIP
Brother David E. Edwards
Brother David K. Sammon
Brother E. Lee Baynor, 50MV
Brother Andrew R. Hall
Brother Phillip M. Young, LMIP

GRAND MASTER

Brother James E. Canterbury, LMIP, P.P.

MASTER CRAFTSMAN

Worshipful Jerry W. Snow
Worshipful H.M. "Marty" Hatfield
Worshipful Glenn E. Brown, LMIP
Brother Albert A. Budd
Worshipful R.B. "Dick" Holmes, PM, LMIP
Right Worshipful Frederick T. "Buddy"
Whittington, Sr., PDDGM, LMIP
Brother Henry V. Cashwell
Brother C. Royce McCoy, LIMP
Worshipful R. Stephen Best, Sr., PM, LMIP
Worshipful Frederick E. Small, PM, LMIP
Brother J. Ryan Gettier
Brother Frank P. Eates

MASTER OVERSEER

Brother Gilbert E. Sawyer, Jr.

MASTER ARCHITECT

Brother Vernon L. Whedbee, LMIP
Right Worshipful Harry C. Slaughter, Sr.,
PDDGM, LMIP
Rt. Wor. Boyd H. Wilson, PDDGM, HON
Brother Eugene W. Klemp, Sr., 50MV LMIP
Brother Robert A. Smoyer, LMIP
Worshipful C.R. "Bobby" Jefferson, PM
Brother Rodger D. Jones, LMIP

July Masonic Birthdays

Join us in wishing these Brethren a Happy Masonic Birthday!

Bro. Raymond S. Hayes, Jr. July 6, 1967 - 54 yrs

Bro. Norman H. McIntosh July 15, 1971 - 50 yrs

Bro. Ellis E. Snell, Jr. July 22, 1971 - 50 yrs

Bro. Henry V. Cashwell July 19, 1973 - 48 yrs

Rt. Wor. Harry C. Slaughter, Sr. July 11, 1974 - 47 yrs

Bro. Stephen A. Furman, Sr. July 31, 1975 - 46 yrs

Bro. Weba A. Vanderploeg July 19, 1979 - 42 yrs

Bro Jessie R. Gay, Jr. July 30, 1981 - 40 yrs

Bro. Daniel L. Langemeier July 16, 1987 - 34 yrs

Bro. Scott V. Smith July 22, 1993 - 28 yrs

Bro. Harry E. Chetister July 7, 1994 - 27 yrs

Bro. Jonathan W. Oakes July 26, 1997 - 24 yrs

Wor. Raymond G. McEvoy July 23, 1998 - 23 yrs

Bro. Douglas R. Allen, III July 7, 2000 - 21 yrs

Bro. Timothy A. Reese July 20, 2006 - 15 yrs

Bro. Scott D. Kilborn July 5, 2007 - 14 yrs

Bro. Andrew R. Hall July 21, 2011 - 10 yrs

Bro. Joshua W. Bridgeman July 18, 2013 - 8 yrs

Bro. Jesse C. Turner July 25, 2013 - 8 yrs

Bro. Benjamin R. Johnson July 20, 2017 - 4 yrs

577 Total Years in Freemasonry

This Month in Masonic History

JULY

July 1: On this date in 1964, Roscoe Pound, a Masonic scholar and the Dean of Harvard Law School, died.

On this date in 1989, the Grand Lodge of Hawaii was organized.

July 4: On this date in 1781, Robert Burns received his 1st degree.

July 6: On this date (or July 5) in 1830, the Grand Lodge of Florida was formed.

July 8: On this date in 1789, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was formed.

July 19: On this date in 1901, Sir Winston Churchill received his 2nd degree in Studholme Lodge #1591, London.

July 21: On this date in 1758, the Grand Lodge of Scotland granted a charter to Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, the lodge that had conferred the Masonic degrees on George Washington in 1752 and 1753.

On this date in 1875, the Grand Lodge of South Dakota (Dakota) was formed.

July 27: On this date in 1818, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi was formed.

“A Toast to the Flag”

By John J. Daly ~ 1917



**What can we say to you Old Flag?
You are so great in every fold.
So linked to mighty deeds of old,
So calm, so firm, so still, so true,
My heart swells at the very sight of you,
Old Flag.
And there you stand colors bright,
And, I think tis' only right,
That since you neither brag nor boast,
We bring you this heart-felt toast.**



**Here's to the red of it--
There's not a thread of it,
No, not a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to head.
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!
Here's to the white of it--
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it,
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so white!**

**Here's to the blue of it--
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true;
Diadem's gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the blue!
Here's to the whole of it--
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red White and Blue!**

Enjoy the Fourth of July Holiday and stay safe!

Secretary's Corner

Dues Reminder

Brethren,

Please remember to pay your Dues. Dues are currently \$170.00 and are due by December 31. If you are two years in arrears you are subject to Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues (SNPD). If you are having financial difficulties, please reach out to the Secretary or Worshipful Master and we will make arrangements to assist. Dues reminders for last year and any arrearage will be going out in July. Dues invoices for 2022 will be mailed in October of 2021.

You can pay your dues online via PAY PAL or credit card at
<http://lakedrummond178.org/PaymentCenter/Default.aspx>

Remember LMIP and 50 Year Masonic Veterans are not liable for Dues

Life Membership In Perpetuity (LMIP) Program

Brethren,

Did you know that the Grand Lodge of Virginia has an LMIP Program? The current rate is 25 times your current year's Dues. For Lake Drummond Lodge that is 25 X \$170.00 or \$4,250.00.

Your dues must be current to apply. The Grand Lodge accepts credit card payments via the Grand Lodge Office and Lake Drummond accepts digital payment via our website. You can also establish payment plans and auto-draft payments. For interested contact the Lodge Secretary or for more information visit <https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/life-membership-in-perpetuity/>

Keep Connected

Email is the fastest and easiest way to stay connected. If you have not received correspondence from the Lodge via email, we don't have a good address for you.

Please email the secretary @ 178secretary@gmail.com to update your email address and any other contact information. The Lodge is also available online at lakedrummond178.org and on Facebook!

Barbecue Fundraiser Report Held May 22, 2021

Receipts: \$6,412.00
Expenses: \$3,133.55
Net gain: \$3,278.45

Thank You

A big thank you to all who volunteered and helped with the Barbecue. A special thank you to Brother Scott Smith and Economy Printing for donating the tickets and taking care of all our printing needs!

A Masonic Journey

Each month we will spotlight a different Mason. We will tell his Masonic story, what brought him to Freemasonry, his most remembered masonic moment, his thoughts, his accomplishments, his dreams. We will learn about members of our Lodge by spotlighting different Masons each month. This month I would like to spotlight a mason that has inspired me, Brother Joseph “Joe” Dixon.

Joe Dixon was born in 1925 and grew up in Rocky Mount, NC. After turning 18 years old and with America deeply involved in WWII he was drafted and called to duty for his country in 1943. Ordered to report to Fort Bragg, NC for processing, he was placed in line with other draftees. As the processor passed the group he gave each man a number 1 through 4. Each number represented a branch of the military; Army was 1, Navy was 2, Airforce was 3, Marines were 4. Initially Joe was given number 1. The man next to him was given number 2. Joe wanted to join the Navy and as luck would have it and the man next to him wanted to join the Army. They were given permission to trade numbers, and Seaman Joe Dixon was in the Navy. His first assignment was on a transport that transferred servicemen from one place to another within the United States. The transport was soon decommissioned, and he disembarked in New Orleans. Once there, he received his official assignment and was ordered to report to Boston, Massachusetts to board a newly built Destroyer, the USS Laffey DD724 fresh from the shipyard in Maine. Being so newly entered into the military, his pay had not yet caught up with him and he didn't have enough money to report for duty. He went to the Salvation Army who bought him rail passage and meals from New Orleans to Boston.

Once on board his new ship they were quickly placed in action as they participated in the D-Day invasion in France. While on picket duty, they were assigned to cover transports with black smoke as they were approaching Utah Beach carrying servicemen and supplies. With German fortifications and “enemy pill boxes” so deeply entrenched in the area, the USS Laffey and several other Destroyers took quick runs toward the beach to fire at the heavy artillery positions that were raining down on our incoming troops during the offensive. In the latter days of the invasion, on the 25th of June, the USS Laffey was struck by a ricocheting 16-inch artillery round just behind the anchor toward the bow of the ship. It ripped through the side of the ship, through the several bulkheads, damaging wiring and eventually lodged itself in the hull of the opposite side. Several crew members were assigned to remove the artillery round, one of which being experienced with these rounds, removed a protective plate that revealed why the round did not explode, luckily the firing mechanism had not been installed. With the ship damaged, they were ordered back to Boston for a month-long repair, and then to Norfolk, VA for a day where they received new orders and loaded supplies for their deployment.

Again, ready for service, The USS Laffey was reassigned for duty in the Pacific. While in this theatre, along with other ships assigned to Destroyer Squadron 60, they participated in various battles from the Philippines, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Guam. On April 17, 1945, 30 miles north of the coast of Okinawa, Japan this ship would earn a reputation that would make it famously known as, “the ship that would not die.” After surviving enemy air attacks the day before resulting in 13 down enemy aircraft, the USS Laffey was called to general quarters in the early foggy morning. The Japanese launched an air attack with 50 plus planes, ranging from bombers, to fighters, and Kamikaze. By the end of this long day, the Destroyer, USS Laffey DD724, had taken numerous strafing fire from enemy aircraft as they shot the sides of the ship as they made their deadly passes, the rudder was damaged after it was struck with one of the four bombs that hit the ship and exploded causing the ship to sail at a 26 degree to right port, all but one gun mount was destroyed, several fires blazed from the six Kamikaze hits, and all the while taking on water. This attack while brutal and powerful left the ship severely damaged, but afloat. There was 32 dead and 71 wounded by the time the attack was over.

A Masonic Journey cont.

The ship being so heavily damaged, a Lieutenant asked if they should abandon their ship, to which Captain Becton replied "No! I'll never abandon ship as long as a single gun will fire, and if I can find one man to fire it." This happened to include Seaman Joe Dixon and his shipmates who were assigned to the only fire-able and still active gun mount left on board. Although he had been thrown from his mount, sustained a broken ankle, and with shrapnel in his back from the explosions remained in battle with his gallant crew to help drive off the attack. The ship was kept afloat with the assistance of multiple water pumps and was eventually towed into port by a tug. The ship was temporarily repaired, even using mattresses to fill holes to help keep water out, while it traveled to Saipan and then on to Tacoma, Washington for further and more in-depth repairs. Joe Dixon was allowed home on leave and was later honorably discharged from the Navy.

Once out of the Navy, he moved to Norfolk, Virginia where his family had relocated. It was here that he met one of the great loves of his life. He was married to his sweetheart Dorothy for 64 wonderful years, until her death about 16 years ago. Being a talented, but humble man they lived in the Ingleside area of Norfolk for 27 years, in the house that Joe built himself. He spent 30 years still serving our country, and the military as part of the Civil Service attached to the Navy and eventually retired from NOB, in Norfolk. Brother Joseph Dixon joined Elizabeth Lodge No. 34, becoming an Entered Apprentice on Jan 13, 1970, was passed to Fellowcraft on March 17, 1970, and was raised as a Master Mason on April 14, 1970. He again built a home for Dorothy, and he still lives at this house in Chesapeake, where he has lived for over 40 years. Shortly after moving there, he became a member of Lake Drummond No. 178, and he remains a member of its brethren. Finding love again, he is now married to Martha, and they have spent the past 7 years together.

Brother Joseph Dixon is man of many talents, he sings at church, plays the harmonica, and builds and repairs furniture. Never a man to sit around, even after retirement, Brother Dixon went to Tidewater Community College to learn upholstery. He ended up teaching upholstery classes at TCC, before opening an upholstery business for himself. Now, at 96, he is beginning to take it a little easier, still cutting grass, helping with gardening, and working on small projects in his garage.

Reflecting on his life of service to his country, his duty to God by serving at his church, and his service to the community through his affiliations with fraternal organizations and his membership in Masonry, he is thankful that he had the opportunity to serve. As a 50-year Masonic Veteran, and a member of the greatest generation, he truly knows what service is and is proud to be a part of our wonderful brotherhood. His generous guidance and sage wisdom have been earned through hard work and adversity and are humbly expressed not just through his words, but also through his deeds and actions: treat people fairly, act honorably, and live life to its fullest.

As we Celebrate the 4th of July this year remember all of the sacrifices made for our Freedom! Think about the what the holiday is ultimately about. Yes, we have Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Flag Day, but on Independence Day we honor not only those who came before us. We remember those who made possible the wonderful things that we daily take for granted in our country. Our freedoms, our individual rights, and our ability to pursue our dreams is what this day represents. We celebrate not only the birthday of our country, but the culmination of the thoughts, ideals, and beliefs of our “Founding Fathers” that make us who and what we are at our core. True patriotism represents a love for our country with a willingness to back up our beliefs with action, wisdom enough to listen to others and compromise for the greater good, bravery enough to fight if necessary for your convictions, and the knowledge to know when that is.