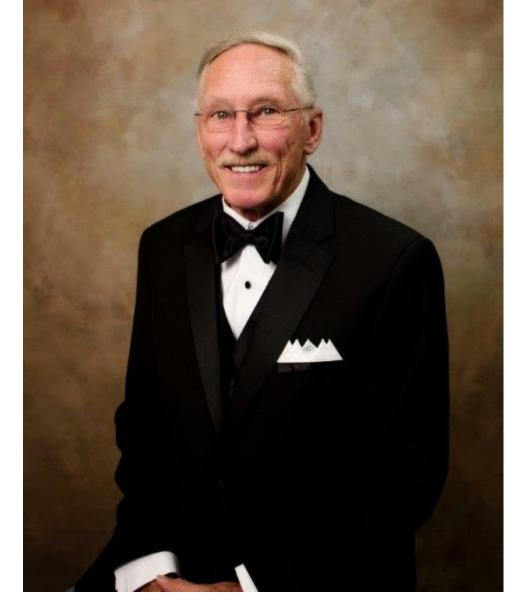


## Spring &dition

# M∴W∴ C. W. "Corky" Grigsby, Jr. Grand Master, 2018





# From the Grand Master

Brethren, as we start a new year in Masonry let me first say what an honor and privilege it is to serve our great state and Fraternity as Grand Master. I appreciate the trust and faith you, as the Craft, have shown to me and my family over the past years and pray that I am able to continue on the same level as before. Most Worshipful Rick Allison departed his year leaving us in great shape to move more efficiently into the future, and I hope we, as a Fraternity of Masons, Brothers, and friends, are able to continue the journey. We will continue the programs as outlined during the Leadership Workshop, enabling the Lodges to keep on track with the work they have started.

As you will read, this is not just another article for the Oklahoma Mason. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to the Craft of this state for their efforts this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Brethren who came to Grand School to sharpen their skills and congratulate those who received their first certificates, both "A" and "C" cards. You have truly accomplished a goal in Masonry and for yourself. I hope you will put to use what you have accomplished to better your Lodges and to make your Mentors proud. In my eyes we are doing positive things with our Ritual work, as Lodges in each District are coming together to confer degrees either Traditionally or through the Perpetual Pathway. Through your efforts the evidence is clear, our Beehive is ACTIVE.

Our Grand Lodge Session was successful this year. We had more Lodges represented and had a higher number of Masons present than in recent years. To the Masters and Wardens of the Lodges that attended, I applaud you for taking the time to represent your Lodge and its membership. It's not only a responsibility of the Office, but a responsibility to each of your Lodge members. Remember, it is OUR Grand Lodge and each of us owns a piece of the pie. Most of you know how I feel: our Fraternity is not an "I" thing, it's a "WE" thing. Working together WE can accomplish all things and set the course of Masonry in our state. To the Masters and Wardens of the Lodges that didn't attend Grand Lodge, I urge you to afford the time next year to attend and represent you Lodges voice in your Fraternity. Please remember they elected you to represent them. We also had quite a few non-voting Master Masons attend Grand Lodge. I enjoyed having them there as it their right to attend also.

To the District Deputy Grand Masters, I give you Kudos. You gentlemen went above and beyond in my book. You represented 32 of the 39 DDGM's in our jurisdiction. For that I applaud you and I know you will serve your Districts well. I feel each of you have been well chosen to perform those duties and represent your District. Just a quick note: yes my brothers your picture at Grand Lodge is out on the Grand Lodge web site as promised. Not a bad looking bunch of Masons at that, pretty sharp.

To the Grand Lodge Staff, how do I say thank you to you who have given all you got and when round two hits, your there with a clean towel and a cold bottle of water. You truly are a blessing. I wish every Mason in this state could actually see just what it takes to pull off a

Grand Lodge Session. You do it so Superbly. I am looking forward to a smooth year with each of you.

To the Lodges of our Great State, I pray you are blessed with a successful and active year. Schedule your Lodge events with active membership participation, a job for every member. Make some Masons and have a good time doing it. Participate in District meetings, if your district doesn't have them, start some. It just might increase membership. Remember sometimes I just drop in to visit, ya know just visit.

Now an important item in my book. My Brethren, as we start this New Year in Masonry, I urge each Mason in our state to "Be Your Brother's Keeper." Don't just say it as a phrase in your Lodge, actually be it. Remember this is the holiday season and we all know how difficult times can get. Please make an effort to check on those Brethren, who for some reason or another are not seen at Lodge very often. Extend the hand of Brotherly Love and take care of each other. Having a Christmas dinner for all the Lodge members and families is a great idea of being together when most families are separated for one reason or another. Thank each of you again for all you do and your support to our great Fraternity.

May the Heavenly Father Bless each and every one of you during this holiday season is my family's prayer. God's speed My Brothers.

Fraternally and Respectively,

Corky Grigsby, Grand Master

# Biography of the Grand Master

 $M \therefore W \therefore$  Clarence William "Corky" Grigsby, Jr. and his wife, Nicolasa "Nickie" live in Altus, Oklahoma. Son Christopher is in the U.S. Army, and son Jeffrey is a Navy Veteran, currently employed by a major bank in Omaha.  $M \therefore W \therefore$  Brother Grigsby himself is retired from the U.S. Air Force and, subsequently, from the Department of Defense Civil Service. In the latter position he managed a large tool and equipment operation, including a staff of 24 employees. He received an award for outstanding service with the security forces, was non-commissioned officer of the year in 1981, NCO Academy, was nominated for General Marduez Outstanding Maintenance Award, and holds numerous decorations for military service.

He was Raised at Altus Lodge in 2004. He is a perpetual member of Altus Lodge and was an active member of Yeldell Lodge until its consolidation, having served Altus Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2008 and as Treasurer in 2012 and 2013. He served Yeldell as Junior Deacon in 2010.

 $M \therefore W \therefore$  Brother Grigsby served the Grand Lodge as Grand Chaplain in 2012, 2013, and 2014. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 2010 and 2011, and served on the Necrology Committee in 2013. He is a member of the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo and served as

Chief of the Tribe in 2014. He is a "C" Certificate Lecturer and has completed the Grand Lodge correspondence courses I. II. and III.

He is a member of the Guthrie Valley of the Scottish Rite, where he served as Commander of Kadosh, Membership Chairman of Altus Lodge, and as a member of the 7°, 17°, and 27° teams. In the York Rite, he is a member of the Altus Chapter #60, Altus Council #33, and Elk City Commandery #22. He served as High Priest in 2012 and Illustrious Master in 2013. He belongs to India Shrine Temple and the "SWOKIES" motorized unit.

M.W. Brother Grigsby was elected Junior Grand Warden in 2014, Senior Grand Warden in 2015, and Deputy Grand Master in 2016. He is a Perpetual Member of Altus Lodge #62, Cache Lodge #391, St. Alban Lodge #192, Cordell Lodge #127, Cache-Valley Lodge #530, Pilot Lodge #367, Frederick Lodge #249, India Lodge #551, Tranquility Lodge #2000, and Swope Park Lodge #617. He is a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, Prince of Peace Conclave; Tinker Chapter #43, Sojourners; a Perpetual member of the Royal Order of Scotland and of the Order of the Eastern Star (Elgin Chapter #255); as well as the Allied Masonic Degrees.

Grand Lodge Officers – 2018	
GRAND MASTER	
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER	MICHAEL L. DIXON
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN	Bobby J. Peters 🞖
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN	
GRAND TREASURER	
GRAND SECRETARY	
GRAND LECTURER	
SENIOR GRAND DEACON	
JUNIOR GRAND DEACON	
SENIOR GRAND STEWARD	
JUNIOR GRAND STEWARD	
GRAND MARSHAL	
GRAND PURSUIVANT	
GRAND CHAPLAIN	
GRAND BIBLE BEARER	
GRAND SWORD BEARER.	
GRAND FLAG BEARER	
GRAND TYLER	
Assistant Grand Tyler	
GRAND ORATOR.	
GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER	BILL HOWELL

-0 CP G(f)

8 RECIPIENT OF THE OKLAHOMA MASONIC MEDAL OF HONOR

## 2018 District Deputy Grand Masters

DIST.

1 Kendall K. Kottke 2 JAMES D. LOVE **3 SAGE VINCENT 4** RICHARD D. BRADFORD 5 MICHAEL EVANS **6 JEFF KUHN** 7 ED BROWN **8 SCOTT OWEN 9** JOHN SPURGEON 10 DANIEL R. PERSKE **11 CURTIS SPENCE** 12 DON H. STANTON **13 DALLAS FORTNEY 14 STEVE VINER** 15 JIMMY D. HARTZELL 16 JIM SCHEFFLER, JR. 17 KEVIN L. MILLS **18 GEORGE G. MARTINDALE** 19 JOHN E. KING, JR. **20 ROBERT J. ELLISON** 21 JOHN A. SALISBURY 22 ED FRUITS **23 STEPHEN NELSON** 

DIST. 24 JAMES GARDNER 25 FORREST B. WOOD 26 HOWARD CAGLE **27 HERB HINTON** 28 J. R. RAY 29 DOUG O. HINSON **30 JOHN T. TURNER 31 TOM NATION 32 BRYAN SMITH 33 ROBERT D. TURNER** 34 DAN BROWN **35 RICKEY J. COLWELL 36 BOBBY PHILLIPS** 37 KEITH G. PLUMMER **38 JOHN-PAUL TOWNSEND 39** TOM ASHING

# Meet the Funior Grand Warden

R:W: Robert G. Davis has been Worshipful Master of Garfield Lodge #501 {1980}, Albert Pike Lodge #162 {1991}, and Guildhall Lodge #553 {2003 & 2004}. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1982, 1983, 2001, and 2002.

R:W: Brother Bob has served on the committees to create. design, and facilitate each one of the "Chance to Advance" Conferrals, as well as the new Perpetual Path Program.

He has served on the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma for decades, and is one of the original architects of the Matching Funds program.

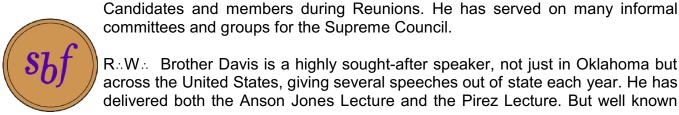
He was the primary contact person and planner for the Fraternity's involvement in Oklahoma's Centennial Celebration.



R : W : Brother Davis has been active at the national level as well. Some years ago many Masons became concerned about the declining membership in the Fraternity. They concluded that one thing which would help was to focus on making the Lodge experience as rich and rewarding as possible, by returning to some of the earlier Masonic traditions including well-done ritual, shared fellowship, dues which were high enough to afford truly good meals, emphasis on the Candidate and his development and many other things. Such Lodges are known as Traditional Observance or "T.O." Lodges. They are regular Lodges, chartered by the Grand Lodge of their jurisdiction, and they have proven to be a very popular movement in Freemasonry. R:W:

Brother Davis was active in the movement from the beginning. The Masonic Restoration Foundation was formed as a source for the sharing of information and experience nationally among those interested in the traditions of Freemasonry. R. W. Brother Bob served as National President of the Masonic Renewal Foundation as well as a member of the Board. He was also involved in the creation and chartering of Oklahoma's first two T::O:. Lodges—Guildhall Lodge #553 and Veritas Lodge #556.

Almost all Oklahoma Masons know that he has been very active in the Scottish Rite, but few know the extent of his activity. For years he has been one of the presenters at the Scottish Rite Leadership Workshops. He is one of the creators of the Scottish Rite Fellows program, which has done much to help develop the next generations of leaders. He was the driving force behind the creation of Guthrie's College of the Consistory educational program which has participants from all over the world. From his earliest days as General Secretary, R::W:: Brother Bob has focused on providing the best Reunion experience for Scottish Rite



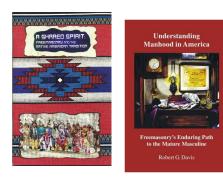
committees and groups for the Supreme Council.

R:W: Brother Davis is a highly sought-after speaker, not just in Oklahoma but across the United States, giving several speeches out of state each year. He has delivered both the Anson Jones Lecture and the Pirez Lecture. But well known



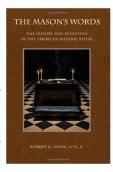
as he is as a speaker, he is even better known as a Masonic writer. He is a member of the Society of Blue Friars, a highly selective, invitation-only international society of Masonic authors which selects only one new member a year.

Books he has written include A Shared Spirit: Freemasonry and the Native American



in America: Freemasonry's Enduring Path to the Mature Masculine was published and has proven to be very successful. But most importantly, after literally decades of research, he has written one of the most important books of American Masonic scholarship. A Mason's Words: The History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual is the only book of its kind, the only book to trace the development of

Tradition. A few years ago, his book Understanding Manhood



the ritual from England to America, highlighting the men who changed, created and adapted it until we have the ritual we use today. It is a monumental work in scope and the essential foundation of any Masonic library.

R :: W :: Brother Davis is also one of the best known Masonic editors. He has served as editor for *Heredom*, the book of the research papers of the Scottish Rite Research Society. He also is the national editor for the publications of the Allied Masonic Degrees and the *Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis* [Masonic Rosicrucians].

Speaking of the Allied Masonic Degrees and the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis, he was instrumental in revitalizing those organizations which had almost gone dormant in Oklahoma. Both are small Orders-Allied Masonic Degrees is organized in Councils of no more than 27 members per council and SARALCAFA is organized into Colleges with a maximum of 72 members. When he became involved, the only Council in Oklahoma was Father Murrow Council #10 and it had only a few members. R::W: Brother Bob became the Sovereign Master of the Council and set about reinvigorating it. Oklahoma now also has McMillion Council in Tulsa, Paul T. Million Council in McAlester, and James C. Taylor Council in Elk City. He served as national Grand Sovereign Master. He also served as Secretary for the Oklahoma College of Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis for several years, rewriting and restructuring the format of its "Grades" [Degrees] and revitalizing the Order in Oklahoma. He now serves as Oklahoma's Chief Adept-the leading officer in the state. He is Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma and Past Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine as well as Past Governor of the Oklahoma York Rite College. He is also Past President of the International Philalethes Society.

He holds the Duane Anderson Medal of Excellence in Masonic Knowledge from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, the Grand Master's Medal of Honor from the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and the Paul Horn Memorial Medal from the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington. He also holds the Columbian Award from the York Rite.

# From the Deputy Grand Master

Beadership

The challenges facing leaders of any organization today; lack of participation by its members, declining membership and declining income are particularly daunting and impacting almost all organizations including Masonry in Oklahoma. These challenges are likely to become even more demanding in the years ahead.

The importance of good, effective leadership in addressing these matters cannot be overstated. Good and effective leadership in any organization can drive their members towards achieving the critical aspects of the organization's goals and objectives. A good leader of an



organization understands the needs and source of satisfaction of its members. The quality of leadership usually determines the fate of the organization. Management activities such as planning, organizing and decision-making are like dormant cocoons until the leader triggers the power of motivation in the people and guides them towards the goals.

Some of the more important benefits of having good effective leaders are:

- Motivation the membership building sound leadership creates an urge for accomplishment and transforms potential into performance. A good leader improves the loyalty and commitment of the members of the organization and hence can motivate individuals.
- Morale building good leadership is crucial to high member morale. The leader lifts a man's vision to higher sights, raises his performance and builds up his personality, develops good human relationships, facilitates interactions among it members.
- Creating confidence able to create and sustain self-confidence and enthusiasm among the members. He provides guidance and advice to enable the members to recognize their qualities and capacity. The leader acts both as a coach and counselor, setting examples for others.
- Coordination fosters mutual understanding and team-spirit among the membership, creates a community of common interest by harmonizing the goals of the organization and individual interests of the members.
- Facilitator of change able to convince people about the need for change.
- Goal setting able to set objectives and goals for his lodge and its members and provides guidance in achieving them.
- Representation a leader represents his followers. He is the personal embodiment and true guardian of the organization interest and integrity.

Training can help develop your lodge officers and provide them with the tools to become an effective and good leader. The Annual Grand Lodge Leadership Workshop is rapidly approaching. This year the

event will be hosted by Composite Lodge No. 107,555 W Kickapoo Spur St., Shawnee, on July 28<sup>th</sup>. You will see many changes in the program this year, in addition to the usual topics such as Lodge Calendars, Lodge Budgets and Constitution and Code you will be seeing many new topics such as; Leadership from Within, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Public Relations, Service to the Community and much more. Additionally, this year a special session is being planned for the ladies. Some of the topics being developed are; Age, History and Original Purpose of Masonry, History of Oklahoma Masonry, The Role of Lodge Officer's Wives and more. As with previous years, breakfast and lunch will be provided with your registration fee. Watch the OkMasonMaii news letter and the Grand Lodge Facebook page for more information. The Grand Secretary will be sending notices and registration information to your lodges in the very near future.

Your Grand Lodge Officers encourage your officers, and anyone interested in lodge operations or anyone interested in getting in the line of your lodge at some time in the future, to attend this important workshop. We hope to see many of you in Shawnee in July.

Mike Dixon Deputy Grand Master



Here it is, another year is gone. Thank you for making this a great year in Masonry. It has been exciting and educational and a great honor to serve the craft of Oklahoma as Junior Grand Warden this past year. As I have traveled to places that I've never been, met old friends and made many new ones, the friendship and hospitality that you have shown me and our Grand lodge officers has been the best that anyone could receive.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each of you for your participation in the Grand Lodge programs. I attended many Perpetual Pathways and Basic Blue events and. I see your ritual work is improving through these programs, so keep up the good work.

As 2018 is rapidly approaching, I am honored to serve as your Senior Grand Warden. I am looking forward to traveling the state and meeting with you at Degrees, District meetings and any other functions that you may have. Let me know and I will try to attend.

Thank you for attending your Grand Lodge Session this past November. I believe we had the largest attendance that I have seen in several years. If you were not there, I urge you to come next November and help set a record attendance.



Congratulations to our 2017 Medal of Honor recipients, Worshipful Brothers Neal Leech, Tommy Merrill and Carl Swanson. These are outstanding Brothers and very deserving of this high Honor.

I invite you to come to the Grand Lodge building at 102 N. Broad Street in Guthrie, and see what a great facility you The Grand Secretary have. and the office staff will be glad to see you. The lodge rooms and library are something to see! Don't miss the portraits of Past Grand Masters dating back to Indian Territory. Also, take a tour of the museum. There are artifacts from all over Oklahoma on display. Brother Terry Story takes great care in preserving this building and all of our equipment inside and out. Thank you Brother Terry for you dedication.

Thank you for being my Brothers and my Friends!

Have a safe and Happy New Year from my family to yours.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Bob Peters, S.G.W.



## From the Grand Secretary

#### CORNERSTONES IN OKLAHOMA

Thanks to the initiatives of the local Lodges across Oklahoma, the standing and reputation of the fraternity is preserved in cornerstones across the state and now recorded in the book CORNERTSTONES BY GRAND LODGES A.F. & A.M. IN OKLAHOMA 1875-2015, by  $M \odot W \odot$  Robert Shipe, PGM. Every Lodge in the state should have a copy in their library.

This book portrays the Masonic fraternity's influence in the state's growth and development from territorial days to today. They are on the most prominent structures in towns: public buildings, Churches, schools and our fraternal buildings. In earlier



days and times, cornerstones were massive and reflected the image of the fraternity as one of great dignity and influence.

Earlier day cornerstones varied in size and inscription format, and its wording contents. Some were plain and simple with just the year, while others were large and majestic with names, emblem and dates. They were not standardized in Oklahoma until about 1980.

Many cornerstone engravings, formulated in the Territorial and early statehood days by local Lodge masons, were without Masonic emblem and others had no masonic markings at all. In those days the 'secrecy' of the Fraternity was well entrenched in the minds of the brethren and masons were not concerned with the omission of Masonic evidence on the stone. In those times, everyone in town knew that the Masons were the ones who laid the stone. In fact, silence about doing good deeds without notoriety was held as a strong virtue and certainly a keystone aspect of the fraternity during Territorial days - and well into the middle Twentieth Century.

As an insight to the magnitude of ceremonies done, between the years 1875 through 2015, 1293 cornerstone ceremonies were performed by the Grand Lodges of Indian Territory [1874-1909], Grand Lodges of Oklahoma [1892-1909] and the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma [1909-2015]. Sixty-nine were laid during 1875-1908 by the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory during its thirty-five year span. In the seventeen years of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma (Territory) some forty-six were laid between 1903-1908 and the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma performed the ceremony for the remaining 1178 during the years of 1909 - 2015. Perhaps needless to say that nearly every lodge in the state has had a cornerstone laid by the Grand Lodge for its Lodge or on a facility in town.

#### **BOOK ARRANGEMENT**

Chapter 1 is a primer on the cornerstone ceremony describing: What its message is to the audience (especially to the religious cultured person), Its embedded masonic

teachings, Why the plumb, square, and level are used, The meaning of the *consecration* ceremony using com, wine, and oil, and the significance of the, gavel used in the cornerstone validation *testing* ceremony.

This open Masonic Ceremony subtly teaches the attentive ear of the listening audience clear lessons - with well phrased insights - just what Masonry is and what we Masons stand for.

Chapter 2 presents examples of cornerstones laid by time periods, beginning with the Indian Territorial days of 1875 1899 and ending with the 1990-1999 decade. This time line presentation graphically displays the prominence the fraternity enjoyed in that era.

The grandness of these cornerstones, as their pictures portray, is actually unattainable for our fraternity today. First, masonic cornerstones of today are not actual cornerstones, as they were earlier. Second, the financial burden on the fraternity would be too severe to revert to yesteryear. And third, building construction standards and codes have changed.

Chapter 3 is arranged in town sequence, starting with Achille and ending with Yukon. ∴Each town setting begins with:

When the settlement post office was established,

How the town got its name,

When the Lodge was formed, and

The number of cornerstone ceremonies performed by the Grand Lodge in town.

Thereafter, in date order, each cornerstone ceremony is described including the type facility involved, when it was performed, name of the Grand Master presiding, or the name of his appointed Special Deputy presiding for him. In numerous instances relevant information is included as provided in the proceedings or other reliable source.

Some pertinent facts included in the book.

Across Oklahoma cornerstone ceremonies have been performed on:

347 Masonic Lodges

35 Masonic Family buildings (Masonic Home, Scottish Rite Temples, York Rite Temples, Eastern Star, Amaranth, Shrine, Grotto, etc.)

372 Public School buildings

50 at (former) Normal Schools, Colleges & Universities

141 Churches, and

343 Public Buildings (courthouses, city halls, monuments, fire stations, historical buildings, public libraries, senior Citizen centers, veteran centers, YMCAs, .: hospitals, museums, obelisks, cemetery pavilions, etc.) and 5 Rededication ceremonies.

#### INTERESTING TIDBITS IN THE BOOK [to whet your appetite].

First, 19 cornerstones were found which were not included in the proceedings.

The first Masonic cornerstone found with a square and compasses on it is dated 1901.

Some cornerstones were laid on facilities in towns that no longer exist. Like: on the public school at Lake Creek

in 1919, the First Christian Church in 1921 at Hennings, the Public School at Norfolk in 1926, and the Public School at White Flats in 1924.

And somewhere where a Methodist Church in 1918 is now a private enterprise.

In 1910 a cornerstone was laid on the Confederate Home in Ardmore.

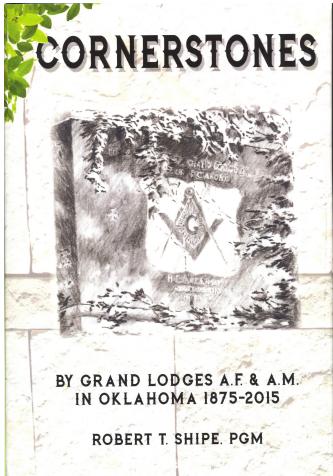
In 1917 a cornerstone was laid on a Church with an Arkansas POM name on it.

In 1920, the McAlester Scottish Rite built a Boys Dormitory on a University Campus. ...In 1934, a cornerstone was laid on the first Federal Aid Project in Oklahoma - a public school. In 1936, a cornerstone for the Mausoleum enclosing the original home of Sequoyah. In 1938 one was placed on a Monument enclosing the grave of Robert M. Jones, a full- blood Choctaw Indian and a Mason born in 1808 in Mississippi. In 1959 on a Monument marking the spot of the original site of the Atoka Lodge #4.

In 1959 on a Monument marking the original Boggy Depot townsite. In 1973 a cornerstone ceremony was performed for a Lodge Hall where Brother Carl Albert, when he was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives at the time, gave the oration to close the ceremony.

All proceeds from the book goes to the Grand Lodge Building Fund so consider buying one for your Lodge and one for yourself as a keepsake.

The cost of the book is \$65.00 plus \$5.00 postage if mailed. You can order the book by contacting the Grand Lodge office at 405-282-3212. You must prepay before the book can be mailed. Charges can be made by lodge orders only.





# 2017 Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Bonor Precipients

### Tommy Merrill, Carl Swanson, and Neal Leech

The Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor is the highest honor given by the Grand Lodge. Brethren are nominated by the Craft, and a maximum of 3 are selected by the Trustees to receive the honor each year.

Congratulations to these outstanding Brothers, and thank you for your service to Freemasonry in Oklahoma!