

THE

OKLAHOMA



MASON

THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE
OF OKLAHOMA

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Robert G. Davis
Grand Master – 2021

The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA



From The Grand Master



Robert G. Davis
Grand Master

Rubicon was a small river that divided the Roman territory of Italy from that of Gaul. Italy was controlled by a fellow named Pompey, who was a military leader in the Roman Province of Italy. Gaul was controlled by Julius Caesar. Pompey got nervous about Caesar's expanding his Empire. So, around 51 BC, during a time of peace, Pompey proposed to Caesar that, since his army was no longer needed, it should be disbanded and Caesar be demoted as the Governor of all the provinces outside of Gaul. That would be sort of like the Grand Master of Texas telling the Grand Master of Oklahoma that he ought to give up control over his own jurisdiction since Oklahoma is only an outlying province of Texas anyway!

Caesar's response was to form an army on the banks of the River Rubicon to take over the province of Italy for himself. As the story has it, just before he ordered the Rubicon to be crossed, he realized how great an enterprise he was undertaking. He paused and turned to the men in his immediate vicinity and said, "And yet, friends, we are still able to turn back; but once we pass over this little bridge, there will be no business but by force of arms and dint of sword."

By crossing the river, this famous act, now enshrined in the catch-phrase, "to cross the Rubicon," came to stand for making a momentous decision. It means that it is a decision for which there is no turning back.

I believe Oklahoma Freemasonry may be at such a bridge, or point of crossing, in this moment of our organization's history. And I'm concerned that if we don't cross the Rubicon and start doing battle with ourselves, we may end up a tiny cabal of old men, no longer able or willing to meet the fraternal challenges of our changing world. The choices we make as a Grand Lodge and our Lodges over the next several years may determine whether or not we thrive or die in this century.

My Brethren, this is not a statement focused on negativism. It is a call for strategy. We have a real opportunity to see a renaissance in member growth in our fraternity. It is already known that Masonry in Oklahoma can have 37,000 members in 20 years. And that is if we only initiate 5% of the men who meet all of our criteria for joining; men who are of proper age, who have a belief in Deity, and are of good report; that is, they are good men who are looking for what we have. The "Be an Oklahoma Freemason campaign" is designed to find the men who want to be Freemasons.

If we do everything right, a resurgence in Masonry is not only possible, but very attainable in the next 20 years.

A large number of men are fascinated with Masonry's symbolism and hidden secrets. A large number of men have an affinity for the ancient sciences which are embraced in Masonry's teachings. A large number of men are looking for reliable tenets of Brotherly Love in organizations. A large number of men want to be spiritual without being dogmatic. A large number of men are looking for what we have. For the love of God, how can we not prepare ourselves to meet these men?!!

If we make the effort to communicate these aspects of the Fraternity to Oklahoma men, the current social trends favor the resurgence of Freemasonry. So, the questions we should ask are: What if we actually took advantage of this situation? What will we have to do to connect with men we don't yet know? How will we find them? And, if we do, can we recreate a fraternity which meets their expectations?

We all know the problem is that we still have the Rubicon yet to cross. There are some extraordinary challenges we must overcome if we are going to meet the needs of our new generation of men and bring our fraternity back to what it once was.

We are caught up in a 60-year set of habits, behaviors, paradigms, rules, and practices which are no longer serving our best interests as a fraternity. To name a few; it is complicated and time consuming to become a member. Our past approaches for attracting new members have been arbitrary, non-aggressive, and ineffectual. Education and personal enlightenment emphasis are not central to most lodge practices. Members do not know enough about Masonry to defend it against its critics or discuss it in meaningful ways to their non-Masonic friends. Men are often placed in officer positions with no leadership skills or experience. Too many of our Lodges offer meeting and activity agendas of little or no quality and thus provide no compelling reasons for members to participate.

There is no easy and practical method for eliminating our old habits. We have created too many old rules which are now damaging to the fraternity. We promise a unique product that can be attractive to men, but we have failed to deliver on our promises.

No one outside of ourselves can help us here. For the fraternity to survive and take advantage of its growth opportunities, problems like the above mentioned are going to have to be resolved.

[Continued on Page 5](#)

From The Deputy Grand Master

Brethren:

I pray this article finds all well. The Grand Master has opened the world of Masonry to the pre-Covid state of operations. There are several areas that we need to be concentrating on to help our Lodges jumpstart to finish this year: www.BeanOklahomaFreemason.org, fundraising, and leadership are the three areas that come to my mind. Each Trustee has a project to which he has devoted his time and effort to help build Masonry at all levels in our state.

The Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser is the area that we all should be devoting some of our efforts to, because whether we like it or not, financing is what makes the world operate. There are no other alternatives to make Masonry exist at any level without adequate financing. That is the reason the Trustees have developed the Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser. This program was created to help all levels of Masonry in our state. The first year of operation of the program has proven that this project works for all. The recipients of the prizes received a total of \$90,000 (\$65,000 pickup and 5-\$5000 cash awards.) The participating Lodges received over \$80,000 to put back in their accounts and the Grand Lodge received over \$77,000. This is the definition of a successful project. Sadly, there were some who did not benefit from this project—the Lodges which did not participate! The question is not whether this program works but do YOU want to work the program?

The Fundraiser is now in the second year and we have tweaked some areas which we hope will improve it for the Craft. The most important change is the amount that will be returned to the Lodges. That amount has changed from 25% to up to 35% depending on the effort of the Lodge. The Trustees felt that the more the Lodges could make from the project, the better this project would become. This is the relationship that all financial projects should be based on (called profit motive relationship) where all involved benefit.

There is one factor that could cause the Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser to not be as effective as it should be. This factor is our attitudes. I have noticed in my travels around the State that the World of Masonry has shifted to be more of an individual concept than a group or fraternity concept. This is what one might call the beginning of the end. If our Fraternity is to survive, we, as Brothers, must start working together for the common goal of making Masonry better in



**R.:W.: Scott Vincent
Deputy Grand Master**

every aspect of its existence today (this very day), so tomorrow Masonry will still be available for our children and grandchildren. One way we all could start is by practicing the old saying that our grandparents conveyed to us: *If you can't say anything good about what you're talking about, then don't say anything at all.* Just because we do not agree or understand the subject or process under consideration, we should not engage in negative conversation about it. We, as Masons, should be looking at the road ahead in the building of our Fraternity for the future: membership, finances, and leadership-education. Your Trustees have worked hard to come up with ideas and projects to start this process, but they are worthless unless we all come together and work for the common goal of Masonry.

Each one of the programs mentioned above can and should be a part of your Lodge's daily routine. All you have to do is look at the programs and use the parts that could benefit your Lodge. You do not have to use the whole program, but there is something in each of these programs that could and would benefit your Lodge, if you just look and find it. Remember Brothers, if we are not being an asset to the Fraternity, then that in itself makes us a liability. Eldridge Cleaver's quote is: *"There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem."*

TOGETHER WE GROW UNITED WE STAND

R.:W.: Scott Vincent DGM
scottyvs@pldi.net
(405)420-6081



From The Senior Grand Warden

From the West Father's Day

R.:W.: Glen A. Chaney

As we celebrate Father's Day, a very special day to so many of us for many different reasons, we remember our Fathers and the ways in which they cared for us, guided us, and laid the foundation of our own behaviors and actions. Maybe our Father is the reason we are a Mason. Or maybe they became Masons after us. Our Fathers, whether by blood or by choice, hold an important key to our development, our ideals and our standards. As we pause to honor our Fathers, and while those closest to us give us thanks for the things we do to guide, support and uphold our families, let us pay tribute to the traditions they have set forth for us to follow. The tradition of loving our God and our families. The tradition of hard work. The traditions of Brotherhood.

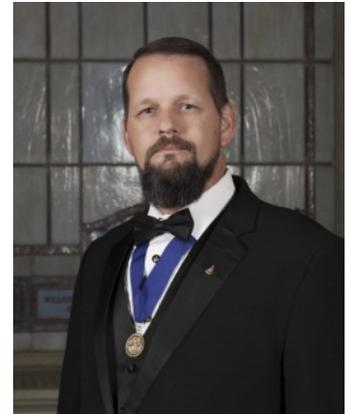
Our Fathers, along with the other good men in our lives and lodges have been some of the greatest examples of principle we've known. My Father, Brother Gordon Lon Chaney, 32°, passed away just before Memorial Day 2017 but the lessons he taught me still echo in my heart and mind to this day. The Brothers who I have met in lodge play a vital role in continuing those lessons. Some of these Brothers have also passed away over the years but the teachings they imparted are still with me.

This Father's Day, take the opportunity to thank your Father. Seek the moments in Freemasonry to connect with those around you. You just never know who is there, waiting to be that Father figure to you. We share so much in common and to discover those commonalities we need only to reach out the hand of Brotherhood and experience the relationship that is waiting for us.

If you are one of those special Men who offer the love and mentorship of a Father, even when not related to the ones who receive it, we all say THANK YOU.

A Father's Masonic Ring -

*I saw you wear a Ring day in and day out
I asked you many questions, what's the 'G' all about
Gently you counseled that when I came of age
I could receive my own gavel and gauge
That soon I would be, ready and able
To stand on squared feet, steady and stable*



**R.:W.: Glen Chaney
Senior Grand Warden**

*When it was time, I sought and I asked
How do I become one of the Craft*

*You invited me to your lodge what a solemn moment
was had
When the Master presented me that time honored
badge
On bended knee and with the Great Lights
I made the same pledge to be just and upright*

*I was taught to extend a hand, give a Brother's Grip
That upholding our obligation means our bonds never
slip
I worked to continue and I was soon passed
Receiving all the tools that I held in my grasp*

*The men we call Brother helped reveal my potential
When living our lives by the Plumb, Square and Level
Day after day, I gained wisdom each time
Then in the darkness I heard those twelve chimes*

*That moment had come for me to see
To be raised and given that sacred key
I believe you gave words that all men truly need
If what you were saying I would duly heed*

*You taught me that fearing the great hereafter
Is not the way of an enlightened Master
When you are bourne to that temple eternal,
You leave a Worthy Man who respects the Maternal*

*One who fears not Death's pending sting
For all this, I am honored to wear my Father's Masonic
Ring.*

Glen A. Chaney



From The Junior Grand Warden

My Brethren:

I most humbly thank you for the opportunity to serve the Craft of the Great State of Oklahoma. It is an opportunity I never dreamed or expected to happen. I am also most gratified to serve with the brethren currently in the grand officer line, both elected and appointed. It is an honor to be numbered with such a respected and talented group of men.

As I have stated before, I earnestly desire to serve the Craft by providing leadership to meet the challenges and opportunities confronting our Fraternity, most notably membership and financial stability. I also am strongly convinced the Craft must be involved in the strategic planning and implementation of necessary initiatives to successfully meet those challenges. To that end, especially as we are, hopefully, coming out of the worst of the COVID pandemic, I continue to look forward to traveling the state in an effort to meet and visit with members of the Craft, seeking input on the current state of the Fraternity, and gleaning ideas to meet those challenges.

One of the most rewarding experiences I have had in Masonry is serving on the Museum and Library Board of Directors. In 2019-20, under the leadership of Grand Master Bob Peters, the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library was reconstituted and reorganized. Among other changes, the Museum & Library Bylaws were updated, the 501c tax status was renewed, and Museum & Library funds were put under the control of the Museum & Library Board. Other members of the



R.:W.: John Carter
Junior Grand Warden

current Board, Wade Massey, Jim Seeger, Glen Chaney, Charles Babb, Kenny Sivard, and Jason Smith, have been instrumental in revitalizing the Museum & Library, not to mention cataloging and shelving over 900 volumes, primarily from the Jim Tresner Collection.

There is much work yet to be done and due to resolutions passed at the 2020 Grand Lodge, the Craft has the historic opportunity this November to elect six members to serve on the Museum & Library Board.

If I can be of service to you or your Lodge, please contact me.

John Carter
carter5807@gmail.com
(580)795-4684

Grand Master's Message - Continued From Page 2

The choice is ours to make. I feel my task is to somehow create an awareness within the fraternity, out among the craft, that we really must address the problems which have long been eroding away the real purpose and meaning of Freemasonry as an institution. I believe it is imperative that we shift our old paradigms; change certain behavioral practices that have not served us well; and focus on meeting the needs and expectations of our new generation of members.

Do you think it is possible to get our Grand Lodge and our Lodges to buy into these changes? Are you willing to work on making the kinds of improvements that will give us the relevancy as an organization that all our members deserve?

How do we begin the process of changing how all of us, as Masonic leaders and lifelong participants in Masonry, think about what we need to be doing to make our experience as Masons more meaningful, unique, and therefore compelling to men who want to join us?

A change in behavior is always a change in mind. I sincerely believe there are actions we can take to at least put us on the path to a renaissance. I hope you can create such a vision for your lodge. We all know what must be done. We just need to collectively get about the business of improving our Masonic experience in ways that will meet the needs of all our brothers.

Robert Davis



\$20

OKLAHOMA MASONIC FUNDRAISER



GRAND PRIZE
NEW 1/2 TON PICKUP
 EST. MSRP
\$65,000

2021

Other Prizes:
 5 - \$5000 Gift Cards

UP TO 35% OF
ALL DONATIONS
GO BACK TO
LOCAL
LODGES

See Fundraiser Rules For Details

DRAWING NOVEMBER 12, 2021
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN
Must Be 18 Years Of Age

LODGE PARTICIPATION INCENTIVES
Lodges will receive up to \$7 for each ticket sold

See Fundraiser Rules For Details

Lodges will be divided into three divisions:

- Division 1 - 50 and less Members**
- Division 2 - 51 -100 Members**
- Division 3 - More than 100 Members**

- IN EACH DIVISION:**
- TOP SELLING LODGE**
\$5000
 - 2ND TOP SELLING LODGE**
\$2500
 - 3RD TOP SELLING LODGE**
\$1000

WORSHIPFUL MASTER, SENIOR WARDEN, OR JUNIOR WARDEN MUST BE PRESENT AT THE NOVEMBER 13, 2021, GRAND LODGE SESSION TO RECEIVE INCENTIVES.

Available For Election



Grand Lecturer

Bobby J. Peters

Information below taken from filing documents and listed in order of filing.



Junior Grand Warden

James R. Roderick

John R. Cooper Jr.

Three positions will be elected at the Annual Grand Lodge Communications.



Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

L. Clay Stuart

Preston L. Doerflinger

Bobby L. Laws

Michael D. Maxey

Six positions will be elected at the Annual Grand Lodge Communications.

Museum & Library Board of Directors

David A. Tennison

Jim L. Seeger

Neal "Wade" Massey

Cody Presley

Jimmy D. Hartzell

David C. Bracher

T. S. Akers

Christopher J. Mochon

Kenneth W. Sivard Jr.

Alan Hart

Michael Parks

Jason R. Smith

Clyde H. Schoolfield Jr.

The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo



Dear Masonic Family

I'm pleased to announce the next annual POW-WOW for the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo is to be held at the Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie on Saturday, August 21, 2021. The Degree is always conferred by our own World Renowned Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team in full Native American dress. It is a most impressive sight to behold.

As you may have heard, the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo is an organization with two purposes: to recognize and honor the importance of the Native American tradition in Oklahoma Freemasonry, and to support the Grand Lodge Endowed Building Fund. The White Buffalo is a symbol of special recognition to our Native American Brethren. It was a symbol of deliverance in time of need--of the special connection between man and nature.

Eligibility and Membership

To be eligible for membership, the applicant must be a Master Mason, a member of a Master Mason's family, or a member of an Affiliated, Appendant, or Other Masonic Body in good standing. The Initiation Fee of \$100 and 1st year's dues of \$50 (\$150 total) must accompany the application. Dues are \$50 annually. Both husband and wife and children over 14 years of age may join.

Your dues cover the cost of the meal at the meeting which you join. Meals at following meetings will be at your expense.

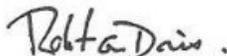
Perpetual Memberships are available after you complete your degree for \$500 (10X \$50 dues). This is another good way for us to support Oklahoma Masonry and maintain our beautiful Grand Lodge Building, which houses a big part of our history.

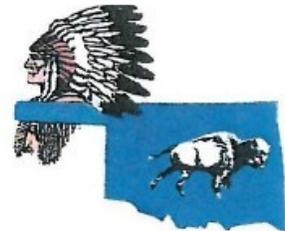
Memorial Memberships are available for a one-time cost of \$50. It is a good way to honor deceased brethren or their spouses. A certificate will be sent to the person purchasing the Memorial Membership, which may be displayed in the lodge or given to the brother's family.

Your next opportunity to join the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo will be Saturday, August 21, 2021 at the Grand Lodge building at Guthrie. Registration will start at 11:00 AM with a meal at noon. The charge for the meal for members will be \$20. The degree will start at 1:15 PM. Dress is casual; but, please, no shorts or flip flops. Applications should be received by the Grand Lodge no later than July 30, 2021; however, walk-ins will be accepted. Meals may not be available without prior registration.

See the attached form and call or e-mail the Grand Lodge if you would like more information.

Sincerely and Fraternally,


Robert G. Davis
Grand Master



A Petition for Membership in The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo may be downloaded from:

<https://www.gloklahoma.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/WB-PETITION-AND-PERPETUAL-APPLICATION-rev-2021.pdf>

Words From The Craft - M.:W.: C. W. "Corky" Grigsby, PGM

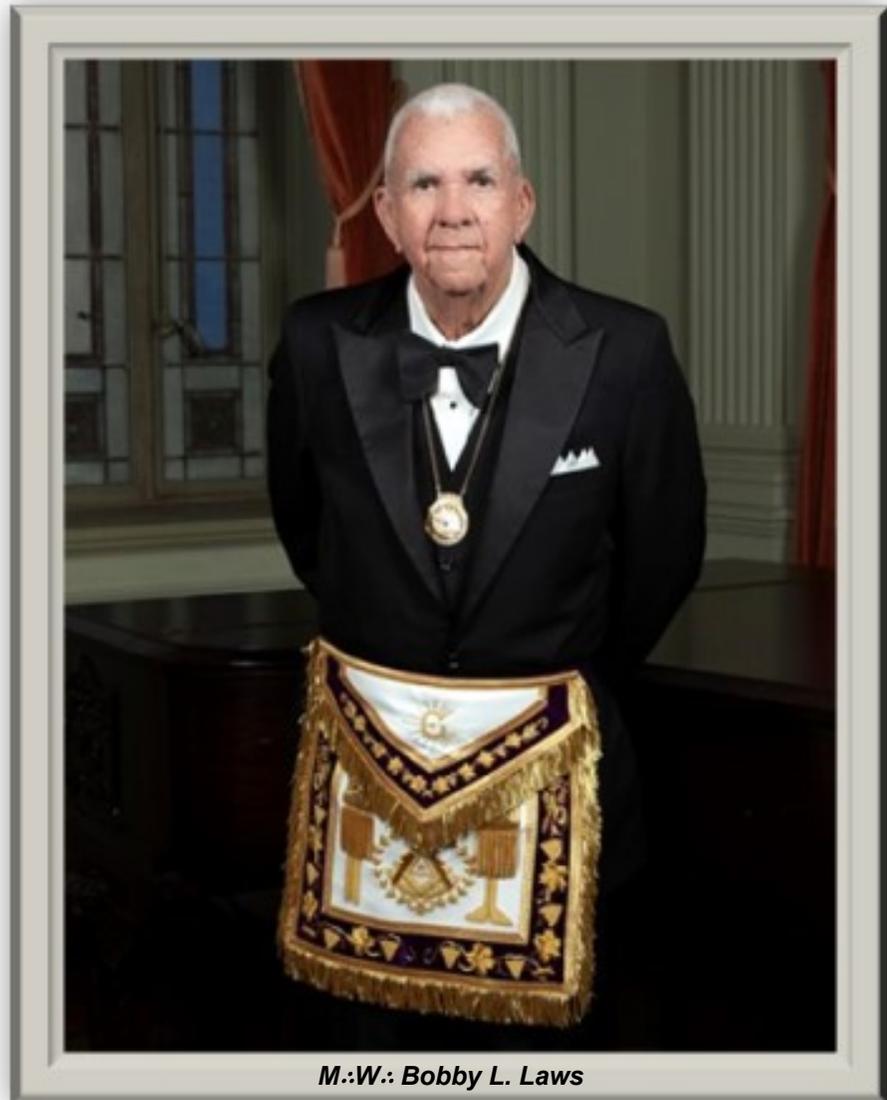
A Tribute To A Just And Upright Mason

The seasons, they say, come with change; change of the trees and change of the weather. As we all know all things in life must change at some point or another. Last November, 2020, our Grand Lodge experienced another change in addition to the new Grand Master taking over the reins of authority. Our Grand Secretary, the Right Worshipful, Most Worshipful Bobby L. Laws PGM 1990, stepped down as Grand Secretary of our great Fraternity. The Right/Most Worshipful Sir said it was time for someone else to take the seat.

Most Masons have no clue how demanding the job of Grand Secretary really is. We see the Secretary of our Lodges working tirelessly to keep things proper and running smoothly in our home lodges. Take that and multiply that by 214 lodges and you have a small picture of his daily duties, not counting the phone calls and meetings that occur. In any Grand Jurisdiction, the office of Grand Secretary is a very demanding position and takes a man of determination and dedication to the Craft to succeed. These are big shoes to fill.

Most Worshipful Bobby, as most of the Craft know him by, or "Pop" as he is sometimes called by his many masonic sons, has ended one journey to start another. This Mason's Mason, has completed many journeys in his Masonic Service time. He served the Altus Masonic Lodge #62 as Master, not once, but twice, in 1978 and 2003, and served as

Lodge Secretary for many years. He was elected to the Grand Line in 1987 as Junior Grand Warden, and served as Grand Master of Oklahoma in 1990. He has held the office of Grand Secretary twice, 1991 to 1993 and from 2014 to 2020. Most Worshipful Bobby is a staunch supporter and member of several Masonic Concordant, Androgynous, and Appendant Bodies - to name a few: a 33 Degree Grand Cross in the Scottish Rite, Valley of Guthrie, Past High Priest Altus Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Past Ill. Master Altus Council of Cryptic Masons and a member of the Elk City Commandry. He is a member of India Shrine, Oklahoma City, member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Altus Chapter #49, and member of the Allied Masonic Degrees, James C. Taylor Council #520, and a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, St. Omer Conclave, Oklahoma City. He was instrumental in reviving the White Buffalo Degree which assists the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in its financial survivability. He has also served on the Masonic Charity Foundation Board for several years. As I stated earlier, this is to name just a few of the Masonic organizations he belongs to or is associated with. This is a Mason who lives, eats, and breathes Masonry daily.



*M.:W.: Bobby L. Laws
Grand Secretary Emeritus*

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Words From The Craft - Continued From Page 9

During the last six years as Grand Secretary, he has given the Craft of this state his undying love and devotion to the duties as Grand Secretary, even to the point of working weekends to ensure our Grand Lodge sessions come off without a hitch, or to ensure a Lodge gets the needed paperwork for a new candidate to receive his degrees. Always in the background, making sure it all meshes together and comes out right for the good of Masonry. I do not think there is a Lodge Secretary in this state, who hasn't called the Grand Lodge for a problem or two and ended up with M.:W.: Bobby on the phone, in his gruffy old Air Force Chief Master Sargent voice saying, "Now this is what you need to do, are you listening to me?" And you know, the problems always seemed smaller after talking to Bobby. He is a wealth of information when it comes to the Constitution and Code, he can almost always give you section and page number off the top of his head. I know this for a fact. I don't think anyone knows the time and effort he has devoted to assist the current Grand Master and several of the Past Grands in some of the craziness we have thought of during our years. Most Worshipful Bobby has stood beside each and every one of us throughout the Craft and has given us that "Guiding Light" of Wisdom which made us all a little smarter.

Most Worshipful Bobby has a Love for the Craft of this state to the point that he has never met a Mason who couldn't turn his head when asked a question about Masonry. He has travelled this state for Lodge visitations/functions, performing/observing Degrees, District Schools, performing/attending Masonic funerals, and even delivering Grand Master's Edicts. A gentle giant with a tender heart for our great Fraternity, he is a man who has found that common ground which we all seek and only a few attain. I could go on and on about what this Mason has given to our Fraternity but I won't. I'm going to be in trouble for this short article as it is.

I will be the first to say, he will surely be missed in that office; his wisdom is beyond compare, his knowledge is without equal by any standard, and his dedication to our Fraternity, unmatched. We all wish you well "Pop" and May the Grand Architect of the Universe Bless you and Linda in all your future years. This Fraternity loves you and thanks you for all you have done for us, so we won't say good-bye, we'll say 'see you later', God Speed, Good and Faithful Servant.

Respectfully and Fraternally,

M.:W.: C. W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr.



The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA

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