

J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard

Published monthly Volume MMXX Issue No. 2 –February 2020 AD, 6020 AL

Our Stated Communications are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday - - Supper 6:30 – Meeting 7:30

The THIRD Friday of EACH month is reserved for an open to the public Fish Fry at the Lodge

The FIFTH Thursday night of the month is reserved for an open to the public family night at the Lodge

3109 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, Lutz FL 33558 || Mail: P.O. Box 1475, Lutz FL 33548-1475

Email: info@JFSwartsel251.org Website: www.jfswartsel251.org Phone: 813-949-4814

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If you know of a Brother that is in distress, or in need of a ride to the Lodge for a meeting, please let us know.

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W.: Stephen Edson – W.: Stuart J. Graff – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

WHO DOES J. F. SWARTSEL LODGE SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY?

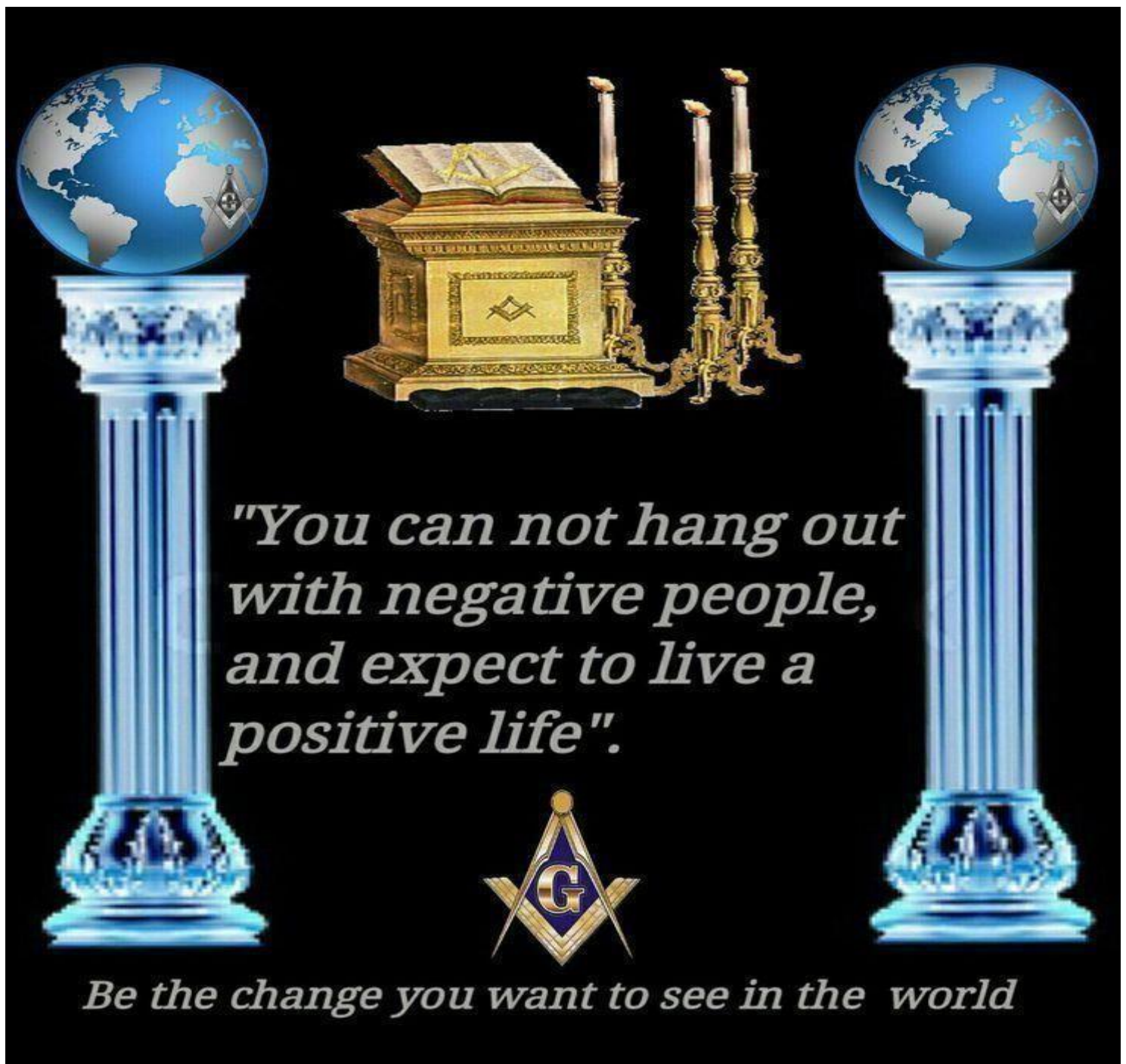
DONATE  DONATE  = \$ DONATE 

The Lutz Fire Department TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56 BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12;
Lutz Lutz Little League Baseball Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County Mc Kitrick Elementary “Helping
Paws Program” Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County) De Molay (Hillsborough County) Shriners’ Hospital Lifepath
Hospice Jobs’ Daughters Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

Have you been to your Lodge lately?

Would you like to help with any of the Degrees?

Freemasonry will make you a better man... but it is up to the efforts of men like us to make this a better Fraternity!



*"You can not hang out
with negative people,
and expect to live a
positive life".*

Be the change you want to see in the world

A very special thank you to all of our Past Masters -

Without their guidance, we wouldn't be where we are today

Below is a list of those that have not yet gone to the Celestial Lodge above.

1965 W . Thomas B. Daughtey - 1973 W . Stanley E. James - 1976 W . Phillip V. Getz - 1981 W . Edward B. Wilson - 1985 W . Charles Inman - 1986 W . Gary F. Gentry - 1992 W . Floyd A. Dozier - 1995 R . W . Donald R. Bell, PDDGM - 1998 W . Gary A. Richey - 1999 W . David B. Lambert, Sr. - 2000 W . David B. Lambert, II - 2001 W . James R. Lambert - 2002 W . Gregory A. Lambert - 2003 W . Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2007 W . William L. Boortz - 2008 W . Gregory L. Savage - 2009 W . Drew M. Keenan - 2011 W . Richard D. Sego - 2012 W . Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2013 W . Gregory L. Savage - 2014 W . Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2015 R . W . Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM - 2016 W . Danilo O. Valdez . - 2017 R . W . Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2018 W . Martin A. Greif - 2019 W . Jerry M. Snell, Jr.

Your 2020 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master **W · Adam Scott Feldman**
Senior Warden **Brother Samuel McPherson**
Junior Warden **Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci**
Treasurer **W · Stuart Jay Graff**
Secretary **W · David Bruce Lambert Sr.**
Chaplain **W · Jerry Marvin Snell, Jr.**
Marshal **Brother William Joe Schmidt**
Senior Deacon **Brother Wade Edward Angel**
Junior Deacon **Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin**
Senior Steward **Brother Brian Andrew Reach**
Junior Steward **Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins**
Tyler **W · Danilo Orlando Valdez**
Musician **Brother John Nagy**
Historian **W · Jeffrey Thomas Sklet**



Did you know that the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. has an AmazonSmile link that makes it easier for people to find and support our organization? If you shop Amazon.com you can join AmazonSmile and .5% of purchases on qualified purchases will be donated by Amazon to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.

The link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213>

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Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!

R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow

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Chair Chatter



From the Secretary's station: ✂ W. David Bruce Lambert, Sr.

Important dates for February

- 4th Fellowcraft Degree @ J. F. Swartsel, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM. (4 Candidates!)
- 5th MLT 6 PM and District 19 School of Instruction 7 PM @ John Darling 154
- 6th Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 11th 6 PM Officers meeting, 6:30 – 7:30 @ Swartsel.
- 13th 6:30 PM - Visiting Holyrood No. 257. (5500 Memorial Hwy, Tampa, FL 33634)
- 14th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
- 18th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.
- 20th Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 21st Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.
- 22nd 8:30 AM – Noon / Zone 4 Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
- 25th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.
- 28th 6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow.

From the Worshipful Master's station: ^ W.M. Adam Scott Feldman

First, I would like to congratulate our Brother Allan Jenkins for earning his Silver Card! This is an incredible accomplishment, and shows a devotion to furthering his Masonic Education. As Masons, we should never stop searching for further Light in all things, and the work of Br. Jenkins is something to be emulated!

Congratulations as well to Sister Elizabeth McAbee, for her year as Worthy Matron! I wish the Sisters luck in their elections, and hope we can continue to strengthen the bond between J.F. Swartsel Lodge and Friendship Chapter!

Brothers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge: I challenged us to attend every Installation of Officers in the 19th and 20th Masonic Districts. I am pleased to say that at least 2 members of J.F. Swartsel Lodge attended EVERY single Installation...Thank you! Our Lodge is strong because the Brothers of 251 always answer the call! While attending Installations, we picked up a 4th candidate for our 2/4/20 Fellowcraft Degree. Attire is dark suit; please try to attend if you are able. If you'd like to go, but are in need of transportation, please let me know. The meal will be at 6:30 PM and the Degree begins at 7:30 PM.

Our Committees have been finalized for the 2020 Masonic Year. If you don't see your name on a Committee, and would like to be involved, please let me or the respective Committee Chair know.

Lastly, our Lodge Visit for the month of February will be Holyrood #257 on Thursday, 2/13/20. The address is 5500 Memorial Hwy in Tampa, the attire is jacket/tie, and their meal is served at 6:30. Lodge convenes at 7:30, and I look forward to seeing as many Brothers of J.F. Swartsel there as possible. Thank you all!

From the Senior Warden's station: 🏰 Brother Samuel Mc Pherson

Brothers, congratulations to all the 2020 Officers, J F Swartsel Lodge was well represented at the Installations in District 19 and 20. Now that the Installations are mostly over its now time to make a difference in our Lodge. Let's make it the best ever.

February 14th is Valentine's day. It's a day that we should show love and appreciation for the lady in our life, so Brothers let's show ours by giving Flowers and candy or something special on that day to show our appreciation for being away from our Ladies on our masonic journeys.

ACACIA - WHY?

The Acacia tree is found in the area known as the Palestine during ancient times, today it is found all over Africa. Acacia looks like the mulberry tree, can grow to well over one hundred feet high and is a hard wood. The gum obtained from it is known as Arabic. Acacia is a sacred Hebrew wood known in the scripture as "Shittah." The ark of the covenant

was made from it. Acacia is part of our initiation as Master Masons and represents the immortality of the soul, as the soul lives on after our bodies have been put to rest. Acacia can be a bush, tree, or a grove of trees. If you cut it down it grows back, if you burn it, it grows back. If you try to dig it up and leave one root it will grow back. Acacia can live through

floods, droughts, and bad soil conditions. There is little doubt to the reason Acacia is our symbol of immortality.



From the Junior Warden's station: Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci

Happy February Brothers and greetings from the South!! I certainly hope your year is going well so far. I recently had the opportunity to visit with the Brothers in Dunedin Lodge # 192. I always find these visits enjoyable and educational seeing how other Brothers conduct their communications and to be welcomed as if we were members of that Lodge.

It's been a busy month and I hope you've enjoyed the Masonic Education and the food in the dining hall, so far. I have had a lot of help not only from the stewards but from other Brothers (they know who they are) who have helped on a purely voluntary basis. To them I say many thanks!! The South is a challenging place so I really appreciate their help (especially from my "executive chef").

I'm looking forward to the upcoming month and hope to provide a quality product both before and during our meetings.



From Friendship Chapter #209: Worthy Matron - Sister Elizabeth McAbee

Congratulations to Swartsel Lodge and Brother Adam Feldman as Worshipful Master. The members of Friendship Chapter hope that 2020 will provide many opportunities of fellowship and accomplishments for our Brothers.

Welcome to our newest member Gia Abar. Gia was initiated in December, and we look forward to her active participation.

February ends the year in our Chapter. Election of officers for 2020-2021 will be held on Monday, February 17th. Installation for Friendship's new corps of officers will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 14, 2020. Installation will be open to family and friends, so invite those who might have an interest in joining our fraternity.

Masons in good standing and their female relatives are eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Information brochures are available in the literature holder on the wooden shelf in the Lodge foyer and petitions are available by request.

During February, most everyone's focus is on Valentine's Day and love. While we're "caught up" with romance, Holley Gerth reminds us that we have a *Divine Valentine*: A Valentine may play a love song for you – but God sings you the sweetest song in the universe.

The Lord your God...will rejoice over you with gladness, He will keep you quiet with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

A Valentine may bring you chocolate – but God provides you with something even sweeter, His Word.

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psalm 119:103)

A Valentine may give you something – but God has given you everything.

God gives us richly all things to enjoy. (1 Timothy 6:17)

A Valentine may love you for a lifetime – but God loved you before you were born and will love you for all eternity!

Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love...with loving kindness I have drawn you. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Welcome to the 4th annual J. F. Swartsel Wild Game Night



Rabbit



Venison



Fish



Hog

***Along with your choice(s) of sides and available drinks –
And dessert, if you have room for it***

**AH, YESSSS! THIS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ONE NIGHT - -
AND ONE NIGHT ONLY!!!!**

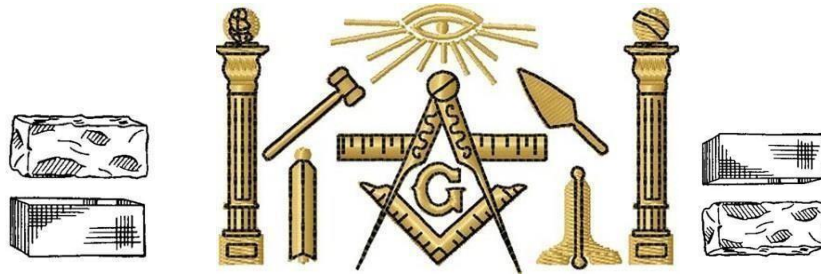
**Thursday, March 5th, 2020
before your regular Stated Communication**

This evenings game menu will consist of: Venison sausage, Venison Stew, Venison Chili, Venison Steak, Rabbit Stew, Wild Caught Fish, Wild Hog, plus “Game-master’s” surprise!!!!!!

Serving time begins at 6:30 P.M.

Masonic Education

Submitted by W. Stuart Jay Graff



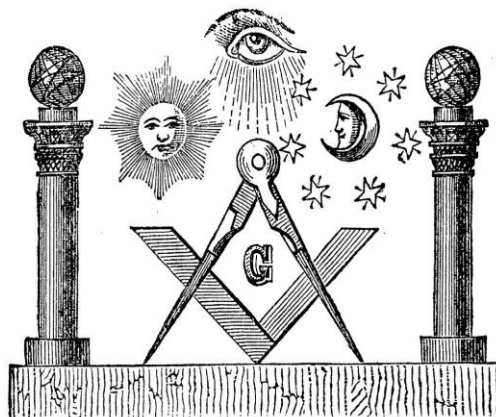
The significance of the two pillars

The two pillars in the second section of the Fellowcraft degree are complex and powerful symbols. First, they were made either of brass or bronze (the Hebrew texts are not clear on this point). In either case, they were a mixture of a "sun" metal (copper) and a "moon" metal (either tin or zinc). This gives us the same combination symbol we find in the Entered Apprentice Degree with the Sun, Moon and the Master of the Lodge. So the pillars themselves, by virtue of the combination of metals, represent harmony or balance.

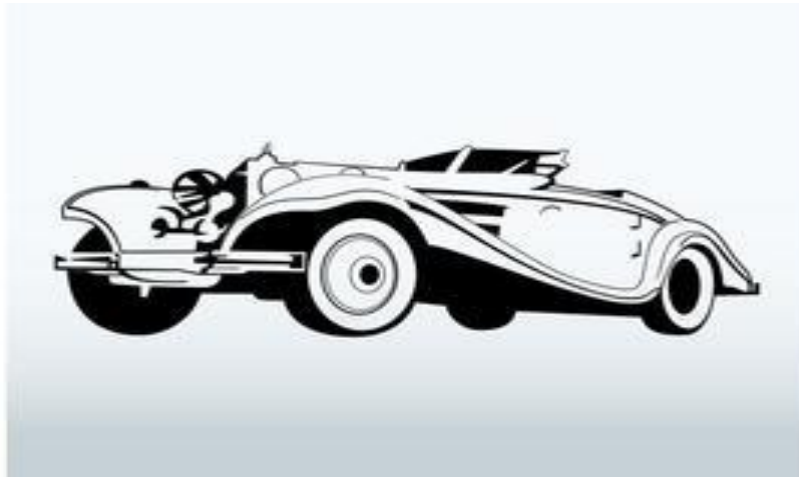
Passing the two pillars also represents a chance for a new beginning. The tradition that the pillars were hollow and were used for storing the records of the past symbolizes the fact that the Fellowcraft has a new opportunity to begin afresh. The Lodge does not regard or remember any faults he may have had before joining. He now has a chance to build a life without the "baggage" of the past.

In addition, the two pillars may be seen as representing two of the three pillars of the Tree of Life – the Jewish mystical symbol for the creation of the Universe. The names of the three pillars of the Tree of Life are often translated as Strength and Wisdom, with the pillar of Harmony – Beauty – Balance placed between them. Thus, when the candidate for the Degree stands or passes between the pillars, he represents the third pillar (harmony). Passing them thus represents an entry into a new sense of life in which the spiritual dominates over the physical.

The pillars represent, of course, those placed on the porch of King Solomon's Temple, and thus they mark the candidate's entry into his new life as a Mason. The globes with which they are topped represent Earth and the Universe. They also represent change and transformation; and transformation is the dominant theme in the Fellowcraft Degree.



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J. F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge No. 251

Car Show & Barbeque Chicken Dinner

Saturday - May 16, 2020

10 AM – 2 PM

(Registration 9am – 11am : No registration fees)

Free Dinner for the first 30 vehicle registrations

Goody Bags to the first 15 Registered!

Open to Antiques, Street Rods, Classics & Antique Military

50/50 ~ Raffle Prizes ~ Music ~ Food

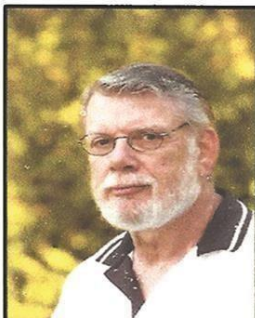
Proceeds to benefit local high school scholarships

For more information call: **David Lambert, Sr. (813) 838-7705** or
dlambert7907@gmail.com





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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

Well, let's see:



On January 20th, ten of our Brethren visited Dunedin Lodge – good meal, great meeting, and wonderful companionship!

AndOn January 18th we had our monthly fish fry which, as usual, was a community success!

Oh!!!! And lest we forget - - the next morning, January 19th, we had our annual fish fry for residents, staff, and the Grand Line Officers at the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg.



Happy Birthday!

02/02/1952

Steven Whidden

02/02/1966

John Liras

02/02/1983

Casey Connett

02/03/1940

Lawton Thatcher

02/03/1943

Clifford Tucker

02/05/1941

Harold Glisson

02/07/1940

Melton Godwin, Jr.

02/08/1962

Kevin Duhaime

02/09/1967

Drew Keenan

02/10/1959

Gregory Lambert

02/11/1947

Adolph Spokas, Jr.

02/12/1974

Ronald Fleisher

02/13/1939

Arthur Petit, Jr.

02/14/1980

Philip Berg

02/15/1951

Alvin Dash, Jr.

02/20/1945

Robert Brown

02/23/1939

Roston Shuman

02/23/1965

Jody Clayton

02/24/1941

James Jenkins, Sr.

02/24/1945

John Rosier

02/25/1972

Allan Jenkins

02/26/1953

Joe Circhirillo

02/27/1942

Frank Puglisi

02/29/1956

Jack Burgett

