

JF SWARTSEL #251 F.&A.M. TRESTLEBOARD



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We will be holding an Entered Apprentice Degree on 2/18 (our Stated Communication). Let's show these new Brothers a proper Masonic welcome!

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

W. Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W. Stephen Edson - Br. Raymond Ciunci - Br. Allan A. Jenkins





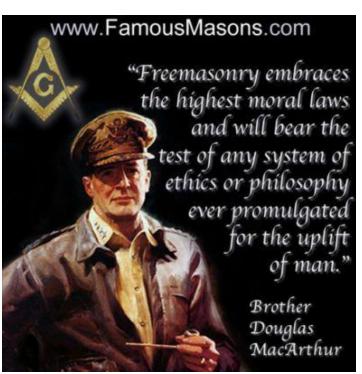


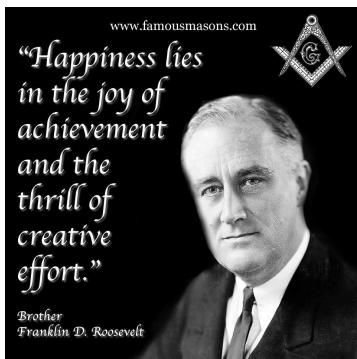
Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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
McKitrick Elementary School
"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

Speak with honesty Think with sincerity

Act with Integrity





A very special thank you to <u>all</u> of J.F. Swartsel's Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel that are still with us today, and continue to carry the torch of Light on behalf of Freemasonry

1965 W . Thomas B. Daughtey - 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. - 2020 W . Adam S. Feldman



Recommended & Required Practices to Employ when Returning to Lodge Operations

- MASKS: As of the time this Trestleboard was published, Hillsborough County requires us to ensure compliance by denying admittance to any indoor location to people who aren't wearing a face mask, or removing people from our Lodge who aren't following the mandate. Once you are seated at appropriate distances in the dining room or Lodge Room, masks can be removed.
- <u>SICK? STAY HOME.</u>: *If you are sick in any way*, have a fever, and especially if you have any symptoms of sickness related to COVID-19, *stay home and do not attend functions*.
- AGE & CONDITIONS: Members classified as "senior citizens" aged 65 or older and members with significant underlying medical conditions (such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) are strongly encouraged within the Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-112 to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. If attending events, extreme caution should be employed. Such individuals are known to have the most likeliness of potential severe illness or death from the illness.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING**: No individuals should stand, sit, meet, or congregate in groups without appropriate recommended <u>6 foot spacing & distancing</u>.
- **TESTING**: It is recommended to be <u>tested for COVID-19</u> at any of the local, free test sites. See <u>www.hillsboroughcounty.org</u>, click the "STAYSAFE" link at the top for COVID-19 info, then click the button for "Getting tested for COVID-19" to find free testing sites. If you are found to be positive, remain home in quarantine for 14 days or as directed by health officials.
- **<u>BE EDUCATED</u>**: Know the <u>basics on what to do, and not do</u>, concerning interactions. Resources are available at https://floridahealthcovid19.gov.
- **HAND WASHING**: <u>PROPER 20 second hand washing</u> as described on posters is required as frequently as possible (before entering the dining room & Lodge Room, during breaks).
- **HAND SANITIZER**: It is recommended to obtain (if possible) and <u>carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer</u> in your pocket to use frequently.
- **HAND SHAKING**: Hand shaking as a greeting should be <u>discontinued</u> at all times.

WASH YOUR HANDS, COYER YOUR FACE, AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE... SUBDUE YOUR PASSIONS

Your 2021 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master W : Samuel McPherson

Senior Warden Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci

Junior Warden Brother Wade Edward Angel

Treasurer R : W : Donald Roscoe Bell

Secretary W ∴ David Bruce Lambert Sr.

Chaplain W : Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.

Marshall W : Stephen Douglas Edson

Senior Deacon Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin

Junior Deacon W .: Danilo Orlando Valdez

Senior Steward Brother Demetrios Thomas Dellis

Junior Steward Brother Joe Circhirillo

Tyler W ∴ Bahram (Tony) Hedayat

Musician Brother John Nagy

Historian W : Adam Scott Feldman







Your Amazon purchases can be helping the Fraternity!

Next time you need something, go to smile.amazon.com instead of www, and select "the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.", and ½% of your purchase will be donated to provide help, aide, and assistance to the residents of the Masonic Home!

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



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

Chair Chatter

From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: February 2021

- 2nd 6:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- 3rd (6:PM 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).
- 4TH Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens 7:30 PM.
- 9th Monthly Lodge Visit: Tampa 240, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens 7:30 PM.
- 12th 7:PM Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
- 16th 6:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- 18TH EA DEGREE @ J. F. Swartsel Lodge (at our SC), Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Degree begins 7:30
- 19th Trestleboard Articles due to W.: Feldman.
- 23rd 6:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- 26th 6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154
- 27th 9 AM noon Zone 4 OPEN BOOKS @ Tampa Scottish Rite

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations to Swartsel Lodge and Brother Sam as Worshipful Master. The members of Friendship Chapter hope that 2021 will provide many opportunities of fellowship and accomplishments for our Brothers.

February ends the year in our Chapter. Election of officers for 2021-2022 will be held on Monday, February 15th. It is anticipated that those serving for 2020-2021 will serve again in the new year since our Chapter will have only had three meetings and none of the planned activities during 2020-2021.

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 fover and petitions are available by request.

Praying you're blessed...

Fraternally, Elizabeth C McAbee Worthy Matron 813/494-6210

Worshipful Master: Brother Sam McPherson

Brethren, I congratulate the 2021 Elected and Appointed officers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge, who have accepted their positions as well as your trust and support. I hope everyone who wanted to attend other installations were able to do so, and remained socially distanced. We are limited to certain activities while we continue our journey.

Speaking of installations, I want to personally thank R:. W:. DDGM Steven R Fortier, W:.Jeff Sklet, and Br. Frank Penny as the installing team. I'd also like to thank W:. Marty Greif for his video recording of the ceremony for those who could not physically be at the installation. All who have watched have really enjoyed it; I cannot thank you enough! The video is on the website of JF Swartsel Lodge to see anytime you have an aspiration for a ceremony. Thank you, W:. Greif! I cannot forget R:. W:. DeAngelo's camera actions! Thanks to all who participated.

Installations performed in January, and attended by at least one JF Swartsel member being present: Holyrood, John Darling, and PTF United.

The lodge visit for January was Zephyr Lodge #198 Zephyrhills Fl. WM Thomas. Walden Jr. We had a great turnout of Brothers; thanks to each one of you. Our Lodge Visit for the month of February will be to see W:.M:. Robert Back Jr. at Tampa 240 Lodge on Tuesday, 2/9. We will be attending their Stated Communication instead of Degree Practice.

Our short talk this month is The Altar (William R. Fischer)

The most important Article of furniture in the Lodge is the Altar. When we talk about the type of furniture, we intend it to be a chair, a table, a desk, etc. not the symbolic furniture. Altars in ancient times were made generally of turf and stone. When permanently erected, were cubical and built long before temples. Altars of sacrifice were erected outside and altars of incense inside. these altars were for sacrifice and incense, only because at this early period the holy scripture had not yet been written.

The Masonic Altar is both sacrificial and incense. You lay down your passions and vices in an obligation to the All-Mighty God as a sacrifice to him. You offer up the thoughts of a pure heart as a fitting incentive to the Supreme Architect of the Universe. The Altar is therefore the most holy place in the Lodge.

My brothers, stay safe, practice social distance until we meet... Travel well.

Bro. McPherson WM.

From the Senior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the West Brothers!!

The good news Brothers is that with the advent of the COVID vaccine we are nearer the end of the scourge that has forced many of us to shelter at home not allowing us to attend lodge. While we are not out of the woods yet at least we are approaching the "light at the end of the tunnel".

A lot of exciting things are going on at the Lodge. We have a new, large, display case that houses a lot of memorabilia from Community Lodge that merged with us. We have a wall of famous Masons that showcases pictures of many famous Brothers that have excelled in various fields of endeavors including Sports, Politics, Government, the Military and more.

Our New Worshipful Master is off and running with several ideas to improve the Lodge. One of his main goals for 2021 once the COVID threat has passed is to bring Brothers back into the Lodge.

Finally, we have a new Jr. Warden – Brother Wade Angel. His first meal was a knockout. I expect we'll see more of that going forward.

It going to be a great year!! We hope to see you back at the Lodge as soon as you are able. We've missed you.

Brother Ray Ciunci

From the Junior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

Well, we've made it through the first month of 2021. There are 2 things that I have observed right away. First, Worshipful Feldman positioned our Lodge for success in the future by preparing the Officers well for the upcoming year. Secondly, Worshipful Master Sam McPherson has hit the ground running, and looks like a seasoned pro in the East. Congratulations! Let's all get behind Sam, and let him know what a great job he is doing.

We have some exiting things coming our way that I believe all the Brothers can get behind. I feel fortunate that we now have the new air conditioning installed in the kitchen; now it will not be so hot in there while we are preparing the meals. There are more Lodge projects to come.. God willing and the creek don't rise, 2021 will be a great year for J.F. Swartsel!

From our Lodge Mentors

Brothers, what is a mentor? According to the Digest of Masonic Law, a Lodge Mentor is required to be knowledgeable in the following: Masonic history, tradition, decorum, conduct, Masonic Law, Lodge history, community history in regards to his own Lodge, and American history concerning Masonry.

But why is all of this the responsibility of the Lodge Mentor? In fact, I would suggest, that being knowledgeable in all these things is part of what makes Masonry strong. When Brothers invest the time in learning more about Masonry, we as a Lodge, and as a Fraternity, become stronger. This is why the Digest recommends, not just past Masters to be Lodge Mentors, but also knowledgeable Brothers.

So, what in the list above interests you? For me it's history; I am absolutely fascinated about our Masonic history in the United States, even going back beyond that to our Masonic history in the Middle Ages. This is why I conduct tours of our Lodge Room for possible candidates. I weave in our history to see if I can spark an interest.

So again, what interests you? Find that topic and share it with our Brothers. Because being a Mentor is all about sharing the Love of our Fraternity.

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

BOAZ is the name of the left-hand pillar that stood on the porch of King Solomon's Temple. It is derived from the Hebrew and signifies "in strength." This pillar was broken into pieces and carried away to Babylon with the other treasures of the Temple, by Nebuchadnezzar. 2 K 25: 13

"The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits." Albert Einstein

Who granted permission to the Jews to build the second Temple?

The foundation for the second temple was laid 537 B.C., and completed 516 B.C. After returning from captivity, the Jews under Zerubbabel laid he foundation. When the people of the land offered to assist in rebuilding the temple, Zerubbabel and the principal men of Judah refused them this honor, since Cyrus had granted his permission to the Jews only. Ez 5: 2 4: 2,3 Zec 4: 9

"We are all God's extension cords, taking His light and song to the dark and empty places of our world." Roberta L. Messner

What is the mystic tie of Fraternalism?

The symbolic tie that binds men together, the cement of brotherly love. The Lodge is strongly cemented with love and friendship, and every brother is duly taught secrecy and prudence, morality and good fellowship. 1 Th 4:9

"As we acquire more knowledge, things do not become more comprehensible but more mysterious." Albert Schweitzer

Right Excellent Companion James F. (Robby) Robertson, KYCH Grand King, Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida Laus Deo

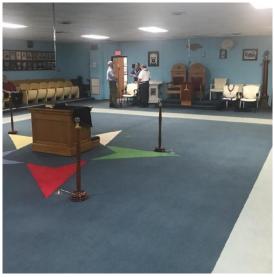
Your humble and obedient servant

What have we been up to?

1/2: Installation of Lodge Officers. Sitting District Deputy Grand Master for the 19th Masonic District Steven Fortier was the Installing Officer, and our Worshipful Master Sam McPherson ascended to the East!

1/14: Our monthly Lodge Visit was to Zephyr Lodge No.
 198. Their meeting was so well attended by the Brothers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge that they returned the favor, and traveled to attend our 2nd Communication held on 1/21!









1/21: 2nd Stated Communication

In addition to our Brothers from Zephyr Lodge, there were 8 Brother members of Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330 that attended for the purpose of claiming the Traveling Gavel for themselves.

WM McPherson congratulated them on their strong showing, and told their WM not to expect to keep it for too long!









The History of Masonry in Florida - Courtesy of Grand Lodge of Florida

The historical records of Freemasonry in Florida were for many years hidden from the world, lying dormant in unmarked and forgotten files. Historians made various attempts to report the early Masonic activities on this territory. Their efforts were in vain. In 1898, the first authoritative record of Masonry in Florida came to light. This record was a rare and very old copy of "Preston's Illustration" which was presented to the Grand Lodge of Florida by Doctor F. F. Bond of Thorncliff, Brighouse, England. On the title page of the prized gift, the following words were inscribed: "The Gift of James Murray to St. Andrews Lodge No. 1, West Florida, June 27, 1776." This was the first reliable information that a Masonic Lodge had existed in Florida at such an early date and was the spark that kindled the interest to search for the history of Masonry in the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida.

M . W . James M. Hilliard, Grand Master in 1898, appointed R. W . Silas B. Wright, Deputy Grand Master, to search for any additional information that might have a bearing on the history of Florida Masonry and to make a written report of his findings to the next Grand Lodge. Brother Wright made two appeals, one to the Board of Editors of the "History of Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons and Concordant Orders," and the other to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Board of Editors was unable to furnish any information that would be beneficial or that would support historical facts about Masonry in Florida, but the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania reported that there were documents and records in possession of that Grand Lodge that would prove the existence of Masonry in Florida during the early period of the country. The records, had been found among the old records of that Grand Jurisdiction which had been boxed and placed in storage.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, through its Grand Secretary, made the records and documents available to R . W . Brother Wright, who studied and copied documents and papers pertinent to Florida. Authentic copies of these papers are now filed in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Florida and are a part of its St. Andrews Lodge No. 1, of West Florida, and other documents which cover portions of the period from 1768 through 1785. Brother Wright prepared and gave a detailed report on his findings which was included in the 1899 Grand Lodge Proceedings. The charter of St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 of West Florida was issued on May 3, 1771 by the "Provincial Grand Lodge of the Southern District of North America." The petitioners for this Lodge were members of Lodge No. 108 of their register of Scotland and were attached to the 31st Regiment of Foot of the British Army stationed at Pensacola. There were records and minutes of St. Andrews Lodge which revealed the plight of this Lodge and its ties with its Provincial Grand Lodge.

These historical records were definite proof of the activities of the Masonic Fraternity in Florida and further revealed that its activity had emanated from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Brother Wright immediately wrote that Grand Lodge requesting confirmation of the authenticity of these records and any other information from the records of that Grand Jurisdiction. Their records not only confirmed the accuracy of the records found by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, but also shed light on the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Southern District of North America. The following excerpts are taken from the reply of R . W . Brother Lyon: "In searching our Grand Lodge records, I find under date of March 15, 1769. . . 'Having read a petition from James Grant, Esq., Governor of the Province of East Florida, Henry Cunningham, late Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and many other brethren residing in the province aforesaid, craving a charter for holding a Lodge there by the stile and title of Grant's East Florida Lodge, and also entreating that the Grand Lodge would appoint the said Governor, James Grant, Provincial Grand Master over the lodges in the Southern District of North America, the Grand Lodge granted the desire of that petition and authorized a charter to be made out accordingly, and likewise a commission appointing Governor James Grant, Provincial Grand Master, over the lodges in the Southern District of North America'."

On March 15, 1768, a charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to "Grant's East Florida Lodge No. 143," to be located in St. Augustine, in the Territory of Florida. This was the first Masonic Lodge to be established in what is now the State of Florida. On this same date the "Provincial Grand Lodge over Lodges in the Southern District of North America" was created and located at St. Augustine, in the Territory of Florida. Honorable James Grant, Governor of the Territory of Florida, was named Provincial Grand Master. This Grand Body functioned until 1783 when it was suppressed by the Dominican Priesthood and the Spanish Government. All records of this Grand Lodge were destroyed or were carried away and are still missing. The meager information that is available was found in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Masonic Fraternity again was suppressed by the Dominican Priesthood and the Spanish Government and the Masons were forced to flee. Even though the Masonic Brethren faced grave dangers, they did not leave until they had obtained the

charter and records which included the minutes of every communication that had been held since the Lodge was chartered. After they reached the safety of Charles Town, the plight of St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 was reported to the Provincial Grand Lodge on February 9, 1782. The Provincial Grand Lodge at St. Augustine acknowledged receipt of the communication, and on March 14, 1782, issued a dispensation to the Brethren of St. Andrews Lodge to work at Charles Town, South Carolina. This authorization stated: "Under your charter until it shall please God to restore you to the Ancient seat of your lodge in West Florida, provided you have the Master and a sufficient number of members of the same to form a lodge."

In compliance with the Dispensation and to assure adequate and proper Masonic protection, a meeting was called and all Masters of the Ancient Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of Charles Town were summoned. The stated business of this meeting was set forth in the call "to examine into their regularity and their right to work as Masons." A "Clear Bill of Regularity" was duly issued and signed by the Masters and Past Masters of four Lodges. This action cleared St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 of any doubt, and their labors as a regular Lodge were resumed in Charles Town, South Carolina. When the "Provincial Grand Lodge over the lodges in the Southern District of North America" was suppressed in 1783 by the Spaniards, St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 of West Florida, working under Dispensation in Charles Town, was without authority to function. A new charter from an active Grand Lodge was essential. The Officers and members of St. Andrews Lodge No. 1 turned to the Grand Lodge of Philadelphia (Ancients), and on July 12, 1783, the Lodge was rechartered as Lodge No. 40 of Charles Town, South Carolina.

In 1806, St. Fernando Lodge in St. Augustine was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia. This Lodge was subsequently suppressed by a mandate of the Spanish Government. Again, in 1820, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina granted a charter to Floridian Virtue Lodge No. 28, but it could not survive the political and religious hostilities of that day. During 1824, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina granted another charter to Esperanza Lodge at St. Augustine. The failure of this Lodge was attributed to the fact that practically all of its members moved to Havana, Cuba. There are reports of additional Lodges in Florida, but no records from these Lodges have been found. These are mentioned here only because some day documented evidence may be found to support their existence. Freemasonry entered Florida as a permanent institution when, on December 19, 1825, the Grand Lodge of Alabama issued a warrant to Jackson Lodge No. 23,to be located in Tallahassee, in the Territory of Florida.

A warrant was issued on December 2, 1826, to Washington Lodge No. 1 by the Grand Lodge of Georgia. This Lodge was to be located in Quincy, in the Territory of Florida. On December 8, 1829, the Grand Lodge of Georgia warranted Harmony Lodge No. 2. This Lodge was to be located in Marianna, in the Territory of Florida. The three Lodges worked under their respective Grand Lodges until 1830. At the regular meeting of May, 1830, Jackson Lodge No. 23 of Tallahassee adopted a Resolution inviting Washington Lodge No. 1 and Harmony Lodge No. 2 to join together in the organization of a Grand Lodge for the Territory of Florida. The two Lodges accepted the invitation and in due time named their delegates. On Monday, July 5, 1830, the delegates from the three Lodges met in the Masonic Temple of Jackson Lodge No. 23, Tallahassee, to decide the proper course to be taken. It was the consensus of the group to organize a Grand Lodge for the Territory of Florida. The meeting was then organized into a permanent Convention. Brother John P. Duval was elected President and Brother Thomas Monroe was elected Secretary. The first order of business following the organization was the adoption of a Resolution stating the right and the purpose of the body to organize a Grand Lodge for the Territory of Florida.

In these early years of Freemasonry in Florida, it was determined that no Lodge in Florida shall be named after any living man, and no Lodge in Florida shall bear the number "8." Orion Lodge No. 8 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Florida at Pleasant Grove, Georgia, near the Florida Line, in 1839. Two years later, without consent of either Grand Body, the Lodge moved to Decatur, now Bainbridge, Georgia. When this fact came to the attention of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, much indignation was expressed and a Resolution was adopted officially declaring Orion Lodge to be a Lodge of Clandestine Masons. Explanations followed and the matter was adjusted in a fraternal spirit of amity and good will. Florida released claim on Orion Lodge and Georgia received it in full fellowship, and to cement the bond of good will and good fellowship, Florida resolved that no other Florida Lodge should bear the number "8," and as a further gesture of good will, elected the Masters and Wardens of Orion Lodge No. 8 honorary members of the Grand Lodge of Florida in perpetuity. In the same spirit, Georgia resolved that Orion Lodge should continue to work under the charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Florida, endorsed by the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

The Grand Lodge of Florida, under Masonic Law, has determined that newly chartered Lodges shall be numbered chronologically, the newest Lodge taking the next number above the last Lodge chartered.

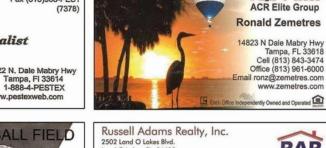
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"Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our Brother; bright and glorious be his rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia spring which shall flourish there. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties over his resting place, and, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may his soul spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear Brother, Farewell!"

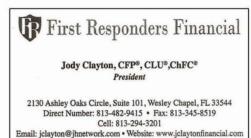


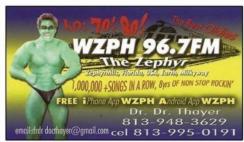






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