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Our Lodge Visit for April will be to Tampa Lodge No. 240 on 4/13. Meal will be served at 6:30 pm, with the meeting to begin at 7:30 pm

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

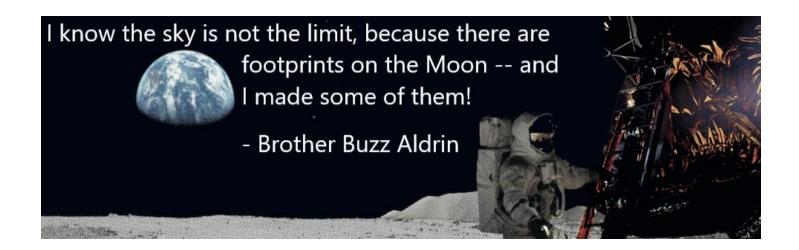






Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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



If they could do the things they did then,



imagine the things that we can do now.

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.
- **BE EDUCATED**: Know the *basics on what to do, and not do*, 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: April 2021

- 1ST Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 6th 6:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- 7th (6:PM 7:PM, MLT). (7:PM 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).
- 9th 7:PM Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
- 13th No Degree Practice! Lodge Visit: Tampa Lodge No. 240, Dinner @6:30p, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 15th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM
- 16th Trestleboard Articles due to W∴ Feldman.
- 19th 7:30 PM, Friendship Chapter No. 209 Stated Meeting.
- 20th 6:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- 21st York Rite Practicing at J.F. Swartsel Lodge
- 23Rd 6:30 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County / Fellowship to continue after meeting
- 24th 8:30 Noon, Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
- 27th 6:30 Degree Practice.

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Friendship Chapter appreciates the opportunity to be included in the monthly Trestle-Board. Congratulations to the 2021 Officers for the Masons and Eastern Star. March begins the new year in our Chapter, and while you'll notice that the WM has not changed, we're delighted to begin the term with so many members actively participating this year.

Friendship Chapter will celebrate its birthday and honor Past Matrons/Past Patrons on Monday, April 5. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for a covered dish dinner to begin our celebration. If it's been a while since you've been in Chapter, please join us. We miss you!

Because our meeting in April occurs during the week of Grand Chapter, there will be NO meeting in April. This year's Grand Chapter session, *In God We Trust Session*, will be held April 20-22, at the Renaissance Golf Resort in St. Augustine, and many of our members plan to attend.

Masons in good standing and any female relatives who are related by birth, marriage or adoption 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. Our members are also happy to provide information and petitions by request.

Praying you're blessed...

Fraternally,

Elizabeth C McAbee Worthy Matron 813/494-6210 Matthew 5:16

From our Lodge Mentors

What induced you to become a Mason in the first place? I hope that there are too many reasons to cover here in this brief paragraph but surely one of them was that you hoped to better yourself – you know, the party line – 'Making Good Men Better'.

Part of bettering yourself, then, should be educating yourself and when it comes to our Noble Craft, the Lodge Mentors are the ones to whom you should reach out for further education – more light in Masonry.

For instance – did you know that the origin of 'mentor' is from ancient Greece. When Odysseus was away from home journeying and fighting for 20 years, he left the education of his son, Telemachus, to his old and trusted friend, Mentor. Today, we use the word, mentor, for anyone who is a positive, guiding influence in another (usually younger) person's life. So, if you have a Masonic question, why not ask a mentor?

More to come, I hope, in future months.

Br. Dennis Martin, Senior Deacon & Lodge Mentor

Worshipful Master: Brother Sam McPherson

My Brothers,

Spring is here, time to look at uncluttering! It is a new year; if you have not used or picked up something in a year, you probably do not need it...throw it out! Make the decision and start clearing without excuses to "keep and never pick it up again" or moving it to a different spot. Unclutter Brother.

March, we traveled to Holyrood Lodge had great fellowship and Brotherly love extended to us. Thanks to our traveling Brothers of J F Swartsel Lodge for coming... there is still room for more Brothers. We are visiting Tampa Lodge No. 240 on April 13, 2021. The dinner is at 6:30, with the meeting to start at 7:30PM. I hope to see you there.

Thanks to the Brothers who made the sacrifice of Saturday morning, 3/20/21 to help clean up the Lodge.

To our missing Brothers, we are still looking forward to hearing from you. Just a quick call to say, "I am okay" would be appreciated. I get it, you are not ready come back right now... just check in with one of your Brothers so we know how you are doing.

I DID NOT KNOW, NOW YOU DO

J.F. Swartsel Lodge #251 was charted April 23, 1925 meeting at Lake Fern in Hillsborough County. J.F. Swartsel Lodge is the only Lodge to use the number 251 and it is named after Mr. Joseph F. Swartsel. Upon his passing, his estate donated money for the first school in Lutz, with a Lodge on the second floor. The original Lodge had twenty -one charter members. The first three-line officers came from King Hiram's Lodge #68 which met in nearby Pasco County. Other members came from Alachua Lodge #26, Cottondale Lodge #20 Corinthian Lodge #191, John Darling Lodge#154, Mascotte Lodge #168 which were all Florida Lodges. One Brother from out-of-state was from Laurel Lodge #414 in Mississippi. The J.F. Swartsel Lodge original Charter was destroyed by fire on October 26, 1963 and a duplicate was issued on November 7,1963.

Source: The Grand Lodge of Florida, Free&Accepted Masons: History, 1830-1988, Vol. 1, The Lodges, Pg. 392 by J. Roy Crowther, P.G.M. (Grand Historian) (Via W: Jeff Sklet) TB 3/2014

Brothers stay safe, continue to social distance.

McPherson S: WM

From the Senior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the West Brothers!! – we are continuing to move through the year very quickly!

The distribution of the COVID vaccine is moving more quickly now and it is becoming significantly easier to get vaccinated. I have received my first dose and will be getting my second one next week. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to do so soon. Hopefully, we can finally put this COVID thing behind us.

Please continue to pray for our Military, First Responders, Medical Personnel, and Brothers who are under the weather. Chuck Osborne continues to recover from successful bypass surgery, and so we pray for his continued speedy recovery as well. The Grand Master recovered from quadruple bypass and was seen recently on the dance floor!! Thanks for all your prayers.

Our Lodge continues to be active obligating new Brothers.

Brother Angel, our JW, has been dishing out some **very** tasty meals! Each meeting the meal is first class, and he is turning out to be quite a chef. It would be great for some of the Brothers who have not been at the Lodge in a bit to stop by and say hello. The food is great, and we'd love to see you all again. We are all masking, hand sanitizing and distancing so we are keeping it safe.

We will be going to the Grand Communication next month – my first one and I am looking forward to it!

The following is an interesting article about something which is often mentioned in Lodge.

Brother Ray Ciunci, SW

G.A.O.T.U.

By: William K Bissey

William K Bissey is a member of North Park Lodge #646, Indianapolis, IN. The article G.A.O.T.U. first appeared in the Indiana Freemason, Spring 1997 and was reprinted in the Aug 1997 Scottish Rite Journal. It is reprinted as the June 1999 STB with permission. -Editor

The Masonic abbreviation G.A.O.T.U. meaning the Great Architect of the Universe, continues a long tradition of using an allegorical name for the Deity.

G.A.O.T.U. means the Great Architect of the Universe. In some Masonic jurisdictions the abbreviation is considered to mean Grand Architect. Also, sometimes the abbreviation includes, at the beginning, a capital T meaning The. The abbreviation can also mean Grand or Great Artificer of the Universe. According to the *Mentor's Manual* published by the Grand Lodge of Indiana, "In any event, these are titles under which Freemasonry refers to Deity."

G.A.O.T.U. has been used by members of religious groups to attack Freemasonry. Some of these critics have claimed that this is a false god worshipped at our altar; other critics claim that G.A.O.T.U. "makes God seem like an abstract being."

The question then becomes how did G.A.O.T.U. enter into Masonry? Our search starts with the Compass. The *Indiana Monitor* states in the section on the Master Mason Degree that "The Compass is peculiarly dedicated to this degree."

What is a compass? One of the definitions of a compass in *The Oxford English Dictionary* is "an instrument for taking measurements and describing circles." The dictionary then cites an "ample of this usage of a compass from Milton's *Paradise Lost vii* 224 "In His hand He took the golden Compasses prepared ... to circumscribe This Universe." The capitalized pronouns refer to the Deity. An even earlier work, Dante (1265-1321) in his *Divine Comedy* has the following: "He that with turning compass drew the world's confines." Like Milton, Dante is referring to the Deity.

A 13th century painting (the artist is not mentioned in the reference book) in the Austrian National Library shows the Deity as The Great Architect of the Universe circumscribing Heaven and Earth. Another painting depicting the Deity

using a compass is by William Blake (1757-1827), an English poet and artist. Blake's painting is titled *The Ancient of Days* whose subject matter is the Deity using a compass.

By itself, the compass has been used as an allegorical tool by which the Deity created the Universe. As a compass is a measuring device, it is logical to assume that the instrument would be used by the operative masons in the era of Cathedral building. In the Middle Ages, the terms Master Mason and Architect were used interchangeably. Architect is defined in *The Oxford English Dictionary* as "a master builder." This definition also infers that a Master Mason would also be a craftsman or artificer.

This leads back to *The Oxford English Dictionary* which defines an artificer as "one who makes by art of skill; especially a craftsman." The definition also refers "to the Artificer of the Universe; meaning the Creator." The dictionary cites two further usages of artificer in this manner. One is from *Person's Creed* of 1659 "The Great Artificer of the World" The second is from Wordsworth's *Excursion vi* 551 "By the Great Artificer endued with no Inferior power."

But exactly how did G.A.O.T.U. come to be used in Freemasonry?

Wallace McLeod, an eminent Canadian Masonic scholar, discusses T.G.A.O.T.U. in his book *The Grand Design*. McLeod states the phrase entered Freemasonry in the first *Book of Constitutions* of 1723 of the first or premier Grand Lodge of England, The *Book of Constitutions* was written by the Reverend James Anderson who was minister of a Scottish Presbyterian Church on Swallow Street in London from 1710 to 1734. Anderson was a graduate of Marischal llege which is a part of the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

In the seventeenth century, when Anderson was probably studying at the University of Aberdeen, the role of education in Scotland's universities was to train their students to become ministers. This meant the students learned the Bible and their theology "according to the reasoned theology of Calvin's *Institutes*."

John Calvin (1509-1564) was a French reformer of the Church who, at the age of 26, first published his classic work of theology, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1536. In this work, which formed the basis of theology for Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Calvin repeatedly calls the Deity "the Architect of the Universe" and refers to His works in nature as "Architecture of the Universe" ten times. Calvin also refers to the Deity as the Great Architect or Architect of the Universe in his *Commentary* on Psalm 19. In literature, art, and theology the Deity has been referred to as an Artificer and Architect. Thus, in using G.A.O.T.U. Freemasonry has continued a long tradition of using an allegorical name for the Deity.

From the Junior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

We had a good visit from the DDGM on the 18th of March. I never get tired of hearing visitors and Dignitaries say how much they enjoy coming to J. F. Swartsel. It is a testimony of the work that our Brothers have put in to this Lodge. I gave a Masonic Education not too long ago entitled "Our Masonic Home" which explained the pride we should feel in our home away from home. I'm feeling it Brothers. Everyone is doing a great job in taking our Lodge forward. I'm proud of you all.

Now, a Poem from the South.

The Plum

By Brother Neal A. McCauley

Build up your life like the temple of old
With stones that are polished and true;
Cement it with love, and adorn it with gold
As all Master builders should do:
Upon a foundation, well-chosen and strong,
Build now for the ages to come:
Make use of the good, while rejecting the wrongAnd test all our work with the plumb.

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What was the first landmark of Freemasonry?

The modes of recognition are of all the landmarks the most legitimate and unquestioned. They admit no variation; and if they have suffered alteration or addition, the evil of such a violation of the ancient law has always made itself subsequently manifest. The fact is that they can never be changed. Dt 19: 14

"Some great moments occur from time to time in life. When you do all you can to enable others to have great moments, you'll be blessed with some matchless moments yourself." E. H. Kinney

The Dollar Bill

The most influential men involved in the design of the dollar bill of 1935 were Freemasons. Among these was the President of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt; the Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace; and the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau. All three were Masons.

"Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? Job 12: 12

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

In *Morals and Dogma* Pike offers the following definition: "Freemasonry is the subjugation of the Human that is in man by the Divine; the conquest of the appetites and passions by the Moral Sense and the reason; a continual struggle, effort and warfare of the spiritual against the material and sensual. That victory, when it has been achieved and secured, and the conqueror may rest upon his shield and wear his well-earned laurel, is the true HOLY EMPIRE."

"It is our duty to make the best of our misfortunes, and not to suffer passion to interfere with our interest and the public good." Brother George Washington, 1778

"The history of the Patriarchs, in the Bible, is the allegory of the evolution of man. Collectively, the tree Patriarchs depict man's original manifestation as a lowly, physical, material being: his acquisition of mentality and its development to the level where he becomes capable of abstract reasoning and eventually discovers the spiritual nature of himself." George H. Steinmetz *THE LOST WORD ITS HIDDEN MEANING*

At some time, thousands of years ago, the sun rose in the sign of Leo, the Lion, at the spring equinox, hence he is said to have been "raised" by he "strong grip of the Lion's Paw." As the Hebrew tribe of Judah had for their totem the lion and were astrologically said to be "under the sign of Leo," their banners bore the lion, and they added "the Lion of the tribe of Judah." George H. Steinmetz *THE LOST WORD ITS HIDDEN MEANING*

"Truth will ultimately prevail, where there is pain taken to bring it to light." Brother George Washington

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?

The Brothers of JFS traveled to Holyrood No. 257 on 3/11 to enjoy the Fellowship. In attendance was our Senior Grand Warden RW Robert Lambert, who calls Holyrood his Home Lodge.





This month, members of Swartsel accomplished many projects around the Lodge. We deep-cleaned upstairs and downstairs, painted the wall under the new AC in the kitchen, and put new concrete sealant on the front portico. Thank you W:.M:. McPherson, W:. Valdez, Sklet, and Feldman, and Brs. Ciunci and Angel for your help! Thank you as well to Br. CJ Brenner of Holyrood Lodge, who came by to wire our new trophy case for electricity!









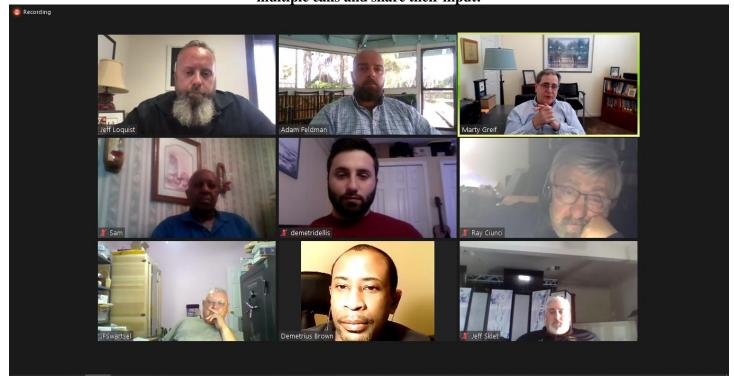
3/18: It's time for the 2nd round of DDGM Visits, and JFS was first on the schedule. Informative committee presentations and a chance to hang out with Brothers from around the District always make these a fun event!



3/23: Congratulations to our two newest Fellowcrafts for taking their next step in Freemasonry! Congratulations are also due to W:. Sklet for his performance in the East, and a hearty thank you to Br. Nagy for his music and R:.W:. Murray for delivering the Lecture!



March marked the "kickoff" for our initiative to update the website. Thank you to W:. Greif for donating his company's time and effort, and thank you to the many Brothers of our Lodge who have made time to be on multiple calls and share their input!



3/26: Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County. The Brother of JFS won with the most members in attendance (8), and the proposed Bi-laws change to rotate Lodges and move the meeting to Saturday morning was voted down. The vote went the way we wanted, we won a tie for the 3rd straight month, and had an opportunity to fraternize with Brothers from around Districts 19 and 20... not bad for a Friday evening!



Masonic Education – Grand Jurisdictions





Grand Jurisdictions are an organizational structure of Freemasonry.

A Grand Jurisdiction is the area controlled by a Grand Lodge or a Grand Orient depending on the location of the Grand Jurisdiction.

In 1717 the first Grand Lodge was formed by four lodges in London, England. A Grand Lodge or Grand Orient is responsible for the organization, governing policies and functioning of what are called subordinate lodges. These are often referred to as regular lodges particularly those associated with the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

When the four original lodges formed the first or Premiere Grand Lodge, they became what are called "time immemorial lodges." Time immemorial lodges are in the unique position to have variances from the normal constitutions of the UGLE. Only three of the original four lodges are still in existence.

As new Grand Lodges and Grand Orients formed it became necessary for the Grand Jurisdictions to recognize each other. There are various levels of recognition between Grand Jurisdictions. The highest level of recognition is amity. When two Grand Jurisdictions seek to have amity, it is generally the newer Grand Jurisdiction who petitions the older Grand Jurisdiction. Part of this process is the review of the landmarks and constitutions associated with each Grand Jurisdiction. The landmarks are not required to be identical. They are generally close in content.

In the late 1800's a split came in the nature of Grand Jurisdictions particularly in Europe. The schism came when the Grand Orient of France (GOdF) changed their constitution removing references to the Grand Architect of the Universe (GAOTU). This caused the UGLE to break off amity with the GOdF causing two Grand Jurisdiction systems to be formed. The two systems were the Continental style and Anglo style. The Continental style models itself after the Grand Orient of France (Grand Orients), where the Anglo style models itself after the UGLE (Grand Lodges).

There are countless Grand Jurisdictions around the world. All of them are self-governed and recognize amity with other Grand Jurisdictions of their choosing. The one thing that all of them share in common is that for their Jurisdiction and subordinate lodges there is no higher authority. The decisions of any one Grand Jurisdiction are not necessarily shared by another.

TRESTLEBOARD ADVERTISERS





"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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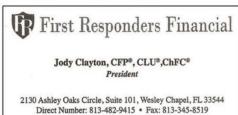
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