



**Published monthly Volume C Issue No. – 7 July A.D. 2025, A.L. 6025**

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Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

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

W.: M.: Allan Jenkins - R.: H.: Adam Feldman - W.: Jerry M. Snell Jr. – W.: Marty Greif –  
W.: Wade Angel – Br. Jack Jones – Br. Denis Monefeldt – Br. Junnie Labasbas Jr.  
Br. Per-Henrik Nordstrom – Br. Carlos Perez – Br. Anthony DeLuna



### **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

McKittrick Elementary School

“Helping Paws Program”

Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County)

De Molay (Hillsborough County)

Shriners’ Hospital

Lifepath Hospice

Jobs’ Daughters

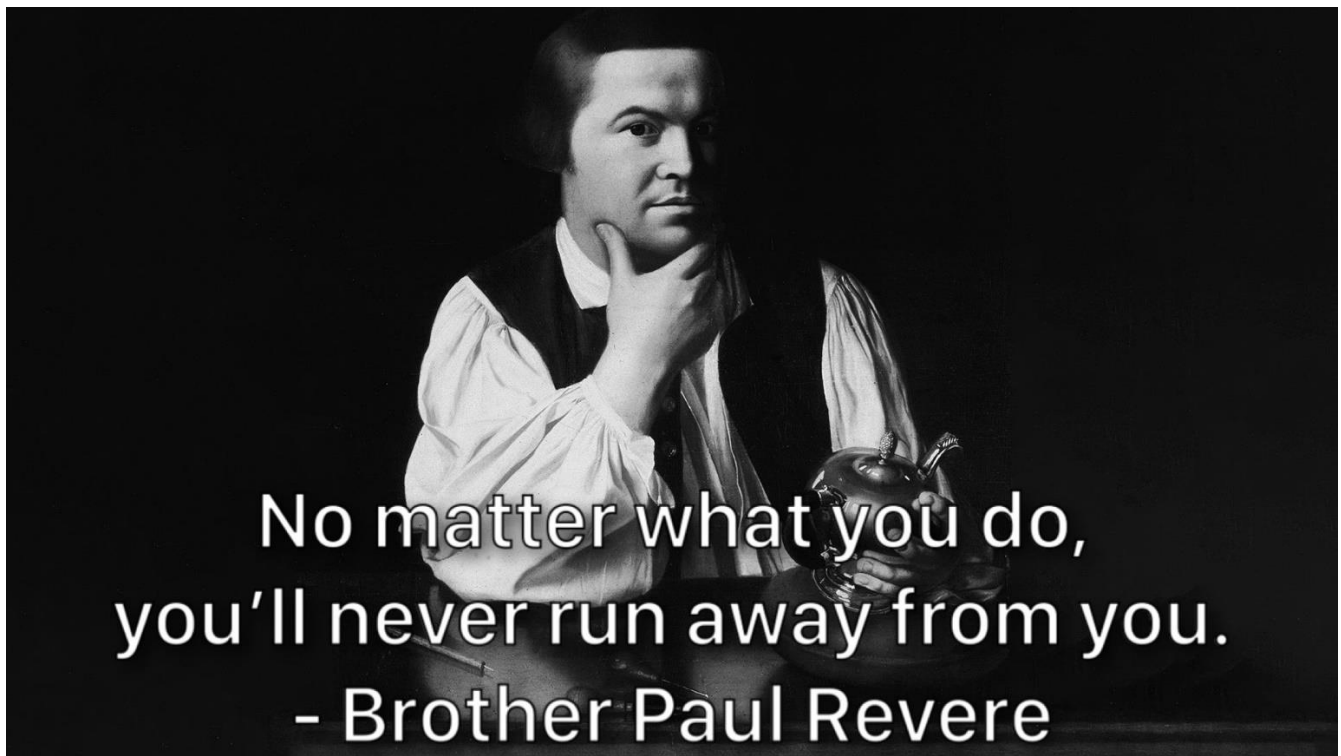
Land O Lakes High School

Steinbrenner High School

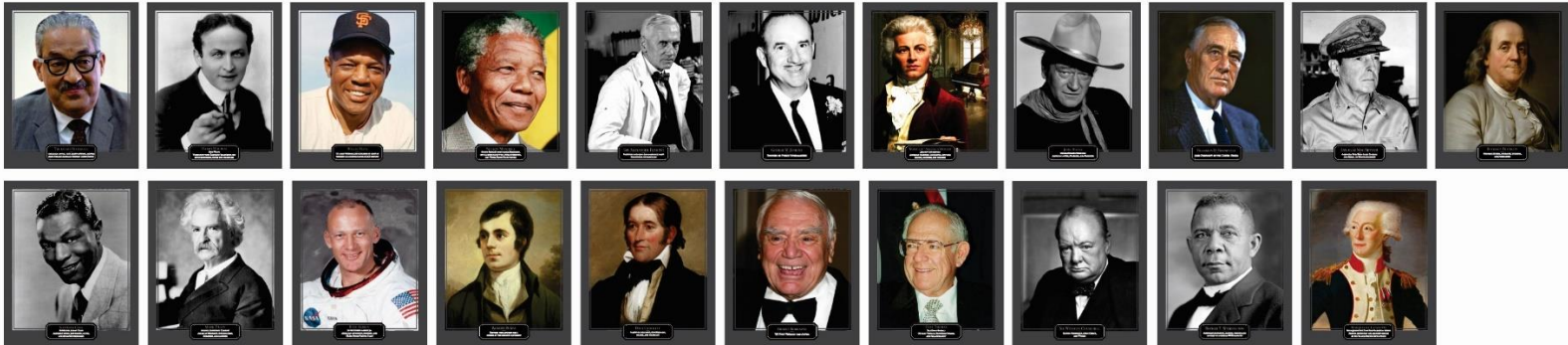
Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

Metropolitan Ministries

The Joshua House



If they could do the things they did then,



imagine the things that we can do now.

Thank you to **all** of our Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

**[The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel, Palma Ceia and Community Lodge](#)**

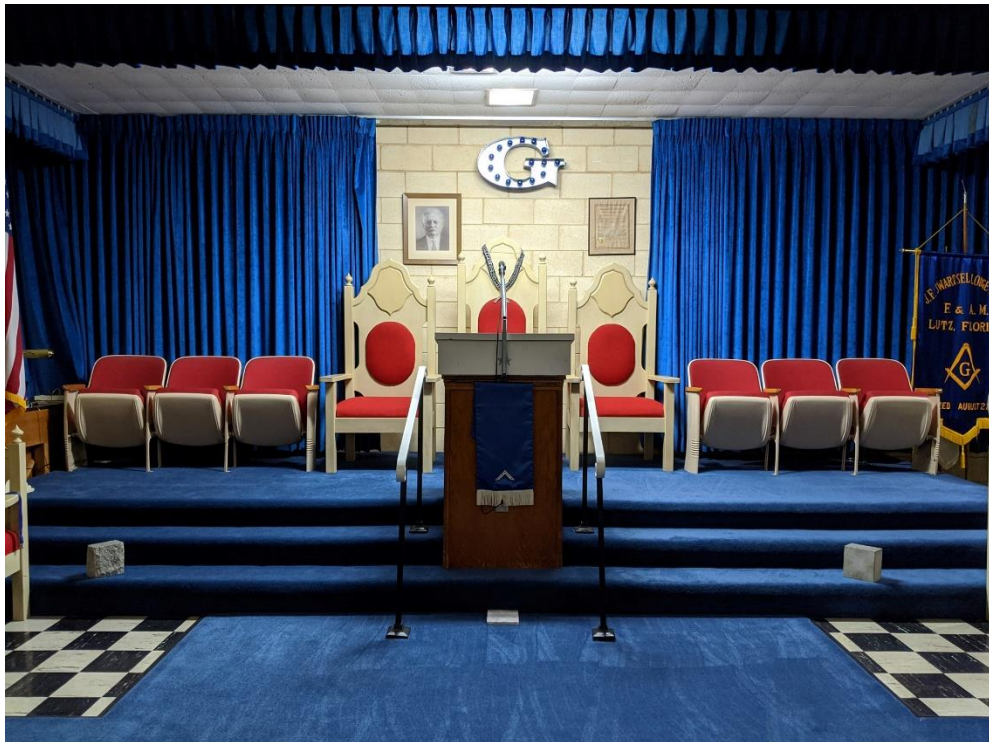
[Please follow the link to our website for a complete list of past masters.](#)

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**Your 2025 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:**

**Worshipful Master** Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins  
**Senior Warden** Brother Joe Circhirillo  
**Junior Warden** Brother Thomas Holland Overman  
**Treasurer** R .: H .: Jeffrey Thomas Sklet  
**Secretary** W .: David Bruce Lambert Sr.  
**Chaplain** Br. Jason Warren Schein  
**Marshall** W .: Brian Andrew Reach  
**Senior Deacon** Brother Jack Wilbur Jones  
**Junior Deacon** Brother Denis Graham Monefeldt  
**Senior Steward** Brother Kyle John Jesso  
**Junior Steward** Brother Jose Lao Labasbas Jr.  
**Tyler** Brother Jose Luis Valdes  
**Musician** Brother John S Nagy  
**Historian** W .: Samuel McPherson







**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.**

Brethren,

**Please check your Dues Card to see if you have paid your 2025 Dues,** and **If you have changed your address,** please give me a call @ (813) 838-7705 or email me at [dlambert7907@gmail.com](mailto:dlambert7907@gmail.com) so I can update your records.

#### **Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:**

##### **July 2025.**

- 1<sup>st</sup>** 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District 19 School of Instruction @ Scottish Rite Masonic Center.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM**
- 8<sup>th</sup>** **E A Degree, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7: PM.**
- 11<sup>th</sup>** 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple.
- 15<sup>th</sup>** 6:PM – Officer Meeting
- 16<sup>th</sup>** **Plant City York Rite Meetings 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 @ Swartsel No. 251.**
- 17<sup>th</sup>** **Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 18<sup>th</sup>** **5:PM – 7:PM, Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel.**
- 18<sup>th</sup>** Trestleboard Articles to W.: Allen Jenkins & W.: Jeff Sklet.
- 19<sup>th</sup>** **Grand Masters Official Visit District 19 & 20 @ 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm**  
 5:00 PM Registration  
 6:00 PM Dinner: Tampa Scottish Rite  
 5500 Memorial Hwy Tampa 33634  
 7:00 PM Meeting: Tampa Scottish Rite  
 Ladies Program: Tampa Scottish Rite
- 21<sup>st</sup>** 7:30 PM, Friendship Chapter No. 209. Stated Meeting.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 26<sup>th</sup>** **9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction. Universal Lodge No. 178**
- 28<sup>th</sup>** **6:30 – 8:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ EGYPT Shrine.**
- 29<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 31<sup>st</sup>** **6:30 PM, Family Night at J. F. Swartsel Lodge.**

## **From the Worshipful Master: Worshipful Allan Jenkins**

My Brothers,

### **Looking Ahead: An Exciting Second Half of the Year at Our Lodge**

As we cross the halfway mark of the year, I'm thrilled to share what's ahead for our lodge—because the best is yet to come.

We kick off July with purpose and tradition as we confer an **Entered Apprentice Degree on Tuesday, July 8th**. This is always a meaningful moment in our journey as Masons, and I hope you'll join us in welcoming a new Brother into the craft.

Later in the month, we shift gears to celebrate what makes this fraternity so special: fellowship. Mark your calendars for **Family Night on Thursday, July 31st!** Whether we end up hosting a fun-filled **Trivia Night** or rolling the dice with a light-hearted **Vegas Night**, it's sure to be an evening of laughter, connection, and shared joy with our families.

Beyond July, we have some impactful and heartfelt events in the works:

- A **Widows' Night** to honor the families of our departed Brothers and remind them they are forever part of our Masonic family.
- A **Service Night** where we'll give back to the community through efforts with **Joshua House** or **Metropolitan Ministries**. More details coming soon—be ready to roll up your sleeves.

But it's not all degrees and duties—we're planning several opportunities to build deeper bonds:

- **Lodge Visits** to our neighboring lodges to show support and strengthen our Masonic network.
- And of course, **Lodge Fun Nights** to unwind and enjoy time together. Ideas on the table include **bowling**, a **range night**, a **fishing trip**, and a **dinner night out**.

This second half of the year is about engaging with purpose, celebrating our brotherhood, and lifting each other up. I encourage each of you to participate, share ideas, and continue building the momentum we've carried through the first half of 2025.

Fraternally,

W:.M.:. Allan A. Jenkins

## **From the Senior Warden: Brother Joe Circhirillo**

My Brothers,

I want to thank all the Brothers for coming out this month and helping with the fish fry. Brothers, I appreciate your help and this is the way we raise money for our charities. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the hard work that we all put into this and as long as we work as a team, nobody can beat us. I want to thank all the Brothers that come out every Tuesday night that help us with practice for Degree work. My hat goes off to those who have the patience as I learn my lines. Remember the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is coming up, be smart and don't get hurt. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Fraternally,

Brother Joe Circhirillo

## **From the Junior Warden: Brother Thomas Overman**

Menus for upcoming meetings:

July 3rd's menu will be a tribute to our Latin Community.

Menu: Ybor City's Columbia Restaurant Spanish Bean Soup, 1905 Salad, La Segunda's Cuban Bread and Spanish Flan for dessert.

July 8th Menu: Publix sandwiches, potato salad, chips and cake.

July 19th menu: Spaghetti and Meatballs, salad bar and cookies with ice cream

Your JW has been practicing hard and will assume the role of Worshipful Master in the upcoming EA Degree. Please pray for my performance.

Fraternally,  
Brother Thomas Overman

## **From the Senior Deacon: Brother Jack Jones**

The Trestle-board

As your Senior Deacon, I am often reminded of the value of the vast "tool-box" that we Masons have for use in building a just and upright life through Freemasonry. The foundation for our Masonic journey is honed by use of the ultimate planning tool - The Trestle-board.

The use of the trestle-board has been a long-standing tradition in our Noble Fraternity, reflecting the importance of planning and intentionality in a Mason's life. It acts as a guide to align our actions with the values of the brotherhood, promoting personal growth and self-reflection. Just as an architect uses the trestle-board to draft a building's design, we as Freemasons are taught to use it to guide our personal development and ethical conduct.

At its core, the trestle-board is a symbol of planning and instruction. It represents the plans and designs that a Mason must follow to build a moral and upright life; guiding us toward self-improvement and a deeper understanding of our spiritual and moral duties. Through its use, as we incorporate all of the implements in of Masons in Masonry indiscriminately, the "board" is a reminder to stay true to the principles of Freemasonry, working diligently to be a better man and Mason.

The Freemasonry Trestle-board is "THE" individualized planning template to create a visual roadmap for all Masons... A guide in our labor, using all the tools of the Craft, to metaphorically move our character from the Common Ashlar to that of the Perfect!

Fraternally,  
Bro. Jack Jones, Senior Deacon



## **A message from Community DeMolay Chapter**

We are excited to announce that **Community DeMolay has officially welcomed its first two members!** As we continue to organize and build our chapter, including launching our website and Facebook page, these young men are taking the first steps in their DeMolay journey through **fellowship and ritual at J.F Swartsel.**

This is a meaningful milestone for our growing group, and we look forward to adding more young men who are ready to explore leadership, service, and the values of the Masonic tradition.

**Do you know a young man (ages 12–21) who would benefit from DeMolay?**

Now is the perfect time to get involved and be part of something special from the very beginning.  
For more information or to make a referral, please reach out to us — we'd love to hear from you!

## **A message from Friendship Chapter #209 Liaison: Sister Barbara Grant**

Dear Brothers of J. F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge 251 A.&F.M.

Friendship Chapter #209 goes dark in July and August. There are events planned for chapters to attend. We will have a Proficiency Class soon and what a learning experience this is. Attendees will receive a Proficiency Card. For some things in the OES, this card is necessary to show you have been to a class. In August, we will celebrate the founder of The Order of the Eastern Star, Dr. Rob Morris' birthday. This is required for all chapters around the world. Usually an indoor picnic or some theme is the center of attention. Possibly games, and a program honoring Dr. Rob Morris. Always good to see friends we haven't seen since June, at our last meetings. Once again, we thank our Brothers for our privilege of meeting in this beautiful facility. The yard and the building are always exceptionally groomed. The interior has been pleasantly improved. The traffic light gives folks from 4 directions a beautiful view. Wishing the best to our DeMolay Chapter for a successful group of young men who will benefit by the teachings of their Leaders, their ritual, meeting and making new friends. Once again the J.F. Swartsel #251, Masonic Brothers continue to openly help the youth through their many charitable deeds.

Looking forward to another fun Family Night, Bro Jeff Sklet, Honorable District Instructor always brightens the Bingo game with his witty fun ways.

Star Love,  
Barbara Gant  
Liaison

In honor of our 100-year anniversary, this is the original Lodge building from back in the day





## What have we been up to?

Congratulations to R. W. Jeremy Tabek on a successful first official lodge visit as District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th District!

👁️ Look closely and you'll see that J.F. Swartsel Lodge #251 is proudly represented!



Great turn out for our stated meeting. W.: Edson presented the Lodge and the W.: M.: with commemorative piece with our 100 Year Coin. We received 5 new petitions of various kinds as well. We also he a stellar MM catechism give back [#SwartselStrong](#)





It was a sad day for Freemasonry.

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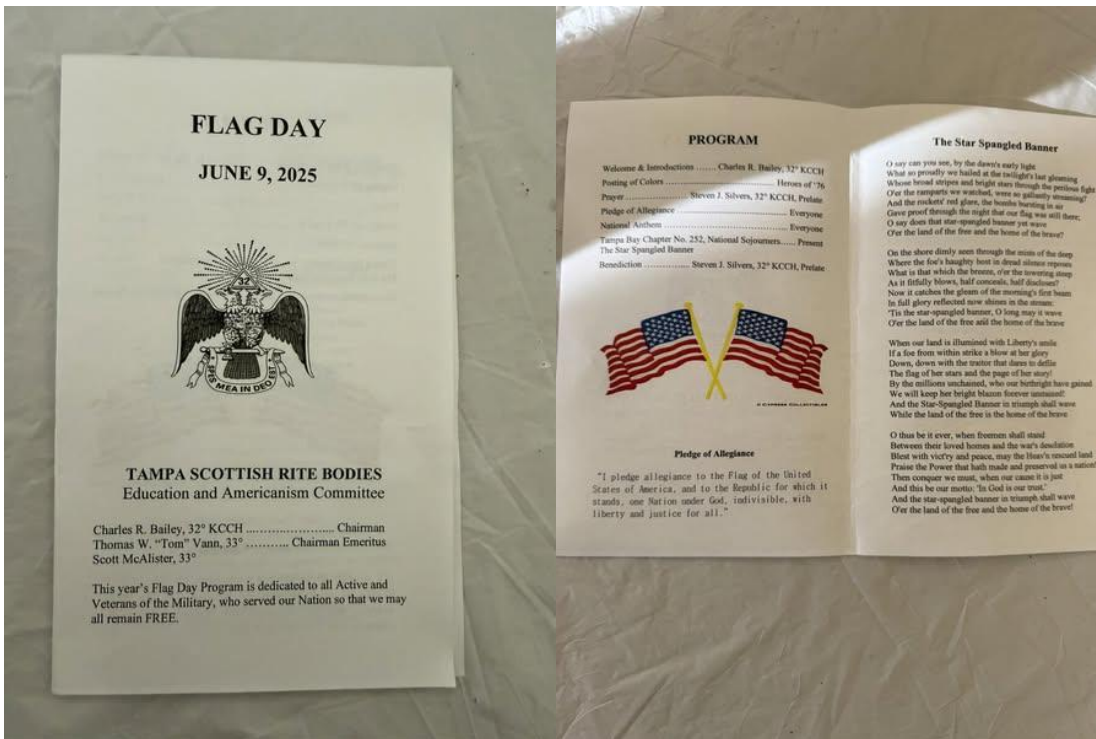


## **Passing of Most Worshipful Donald W. Cowart, Past Grand Master**

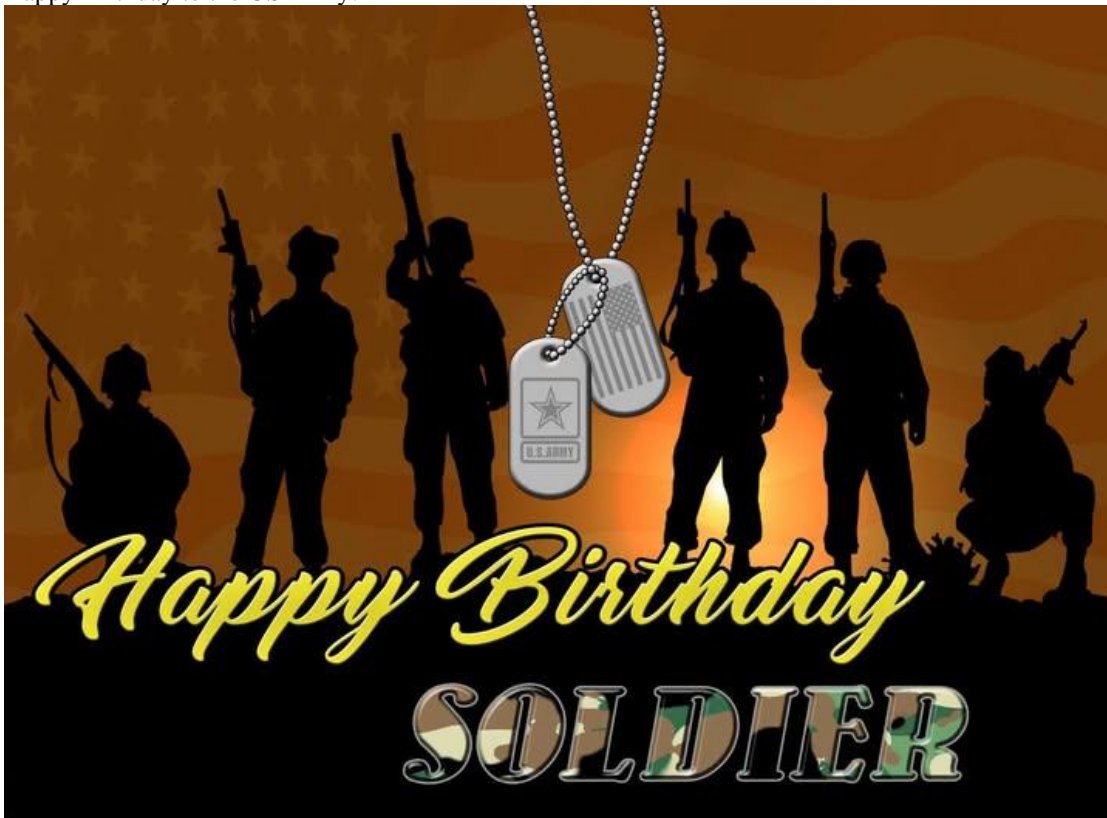
It is with an extremely heavy heart that we notify you of the sudden passing of Most Worshipful Donald W. Cowart, Past Grand Master. Please say a prayer for him and his family.

We will send out the service information as soon as we receive it.

Flag Day at the Scottish Rite. Swartsel has a lot of Brothers who regularly attend the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite.



Happy Birthday to the US Army! 🎂



Getting our education on at Hillsborough 25. Great way to spend a Saturday!





Happy Father's Day



Fish Fry Friday

A poster for a "Fish Fry Fundraiser" event. The background is dark brown with a stylized orange and yellow sunburst pattern in the top left. A circular badge on the left says "\$15 PER PERSON". The main text "FISH FRY" is in large, bold, white and yellow letters, with a small fish icon above the "I". Below it, "FUNDRAISER" is in white. To the right, it says "FRIDAY 6/20/25 5PM-7PM". At the bottom, there's a photo of four metal trays filled with fried food: round nuggets, french fries, and two types of fish. A small fish icon is next to the text "Enjoy Every Crunchy Bite of It". At the very bottom, a brown banner contains the text "A list of programs we support can be found @ jfswartsel251.org".

**J.F. SWARTSEL LODGE**

**FISH FRY**

**FUNDRAISER**

**FRIDAY 6/20/25 5PM-7PM**

**Enjoy Every Crunchy Bite of It**

**A list of programs we support can be found @ [jfswartsel251.org](http://jfswartsel251.org)**

**\$15 PER PERSON**

Price includes all you can eat swai fillets, french fries, hushpuppies, cole slaw, grits, tea & dessert

Dine-in or Take Out

J.F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge 251 hosts a monthly Fish Fry event to raise funds for our Hillsborough County Community Programs

Another great turnout for a stated meeting! Our Junior Warden cooked another tasty meal. It is good to see the Brothers coming to Lodge during the dog days of summer. Fixing the AC was a worthwhile investment.

Congratulations to Brothers DeLuna and Nordstrom! They received their Silver card tonight. A lot of hard work and dedication by them and their instructors. They are looking forward to helping in the Lodge instructions.





Here for the MMA of Hillsborough County. Windhorst won the most attendance award. We heard from R.: W.: Kicklighter about his run for the Grand South.



Photos from our Traveling Man Jim Cline, live from Milan, accompanied by the following text:  
St John the Baptist Day in Italy is San Giuseppe Day  
Lots of cathedrals dedicated to him





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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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