

EL PASO SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN



NO. 652

EL PASO VALLEY
TEXAS ORIENT

<http://www.elpasoscottishrite.org>

1ST QUARTER 2021

Message from the Venerable Master



Brethren,

Join me in welcoming the new year of 2021 and the start of another productive decade for the El Paso Valley. I hope that this message finds you safe, healthy, and in great spirits.

Our valley continues the long tradition of duty and service to our Heavenly Father, family, fraternity, and towards mankind. Together we form the vital fraternal bond linking one another to fulfill our obligations and perform the works of our fraternity.

We continue to face the global challenge that the COVID-19 virus has inflicted upon us. All of us have been affected, impacted, and concerned with fundamental changes in how we conduct our daily lives and interact with each other. Texas Masonry is no different and has

had to adapt. For the first time in its history, the Grand Lodge of Texas successfully conducted a combined in-person and "virtual" voting for this year's elections and resolution voting. There are a variety of resources that are being dedicated and implemented to better serve our brethren. COVID-19 will continue to affect our operations for the foreseeable future. The work of Texas Masonry, however, must continue and requires the participation, enthusiasm, and experience of our membership.

Participate with us as we forge new and safe methods for meeting and by continuing our special work. We look forward to your attendance at our events and in hearing your ideas on making the El Paso Valley the best it can be.

Please thank the following for their exemplary dedication and work: General Secretary, Ill. Larry Kane, Ill. Nicholas Quarm, Hon. Juan Navarro, Hon. Ernesto Rodriguez, Bro. Barry Boetto, Bro. Lorenzo Villa, and Nicole Moran. The El Paso Valley survives and thrives thanks to their selfless dedication and continued hard work.

Do not forget to check in with a brother you may not have spoken to or seen in some time. The simple act of letting someone know that they were on your mind and that you missed their company can lighten their spirits.

Lastly, I would like to communicate my sincere gratitude to all the El Paso Valley Body representatives on holding over for another year. We all have the privilege and honor in service to the El Paso Valley to ensure prosperity for future masonic generations to come. Join and assist me in making our Valley better than when we found it.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ruy Martinez Jr., 32° KCCH

2021 Executive Committee

Tom L. Higgins, 33°

Larry V. Kane, 33°

Ruy Martinez, 32° KCCH

Barry J. Boetto, 32°

Ricardo D. Gonzalez, 32° KCCH

John E. Wood, 32° KCCH

Juan M. Navarro, 32° KCCH

Barry J. Boetto, 32°

Personal Representative

General Secretary

Venerable Master

Wise Master

Commander

Master of Kadosh

Treasurer

Almoner

Lorenzo A. Villa, 32°

William D. Burman, 32°

Mark P. Miller, 32°

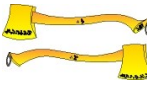
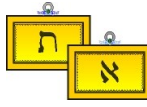
Juan M. Navarro, 32° KCCH

Ernesto Rodriguez, 32° KCCH

Joshua S. Miller, 32°

Joseph P. Taylor, 32°

Nicholas J. Quarm, 33°





VALLEY NEWS

From the Secretary's Office

Brethren,

By now you are all probably aware that the Governor of Texas has lifted all State mandated COVID-19 restrictions effective March 10, 2021; however, businesses and other establishments can set their own restrictions. In response, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Texas has directed that ***to avoid any confusion, the COVID-19 protocols that he has required after discussions with the Orient Executive Committee will continue to be enforced in our Scottish Rite buildings and at our Scottish Rite meetings until further notice.***

Entry checks, hand sanitation, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue in spite of the State changes or any relaxation of the Grand Lodge requirements. His view is that we must continue to be vigilant in maintaining health and safety protocols in our activities. Now is not the time to become lackadaisical in our approach to keeping our members safe and healthy from COVID-19. The measured approach our Orient has taken over the last year has served us all well as we have slowly opened our activities but maintained safety protocols. **Our Temple building will remain closed to the general public until further notice.**

The Valley of El Paso has slowly been returning to normal. The Valley met in December and covered all outstanding business. Our Board of Directors had their annual meeting in February. The El Paso Chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew are meeting and a Knighting Ceremony took place on March 6, 2021. Design work on the Temple Centennial Coin is rapidly nearing completion and a group of volunteers has used this down time to make many needed repairs to our Temple building. The Temple hosted the Grand Master's Conference and Tranquility Lodge on February 20, 2021 and will host the York Rite Conference on March 13, 2021.

Our Bodies are traditionally dark in April and no meetings are scheduled. If things progress as we hope, we are planning to resume our regular calendar in May. We have lots of catching up to do and many things to look forward to; a Fall Reunion in October, our Feast of Tishri and celebrating the 100th year of our Temple Building, just to name a few.

To all of you, thanks for your patience and dedication to our Fraternity. Let's come back stronger than ever. Stay safe.

Larry V. Kane, 33°
General Secretary



Dining Room Ceiling Damage caused by a broken drain line and repaired by our volunteer work group.



*Our most sincere
sympathies and condolences
to all the families of our members
who have passed on to a better life*



Johnie E. Ashton, 32°	10/06/1922-09/16/2020	Marshall G. Hodges, 32°	07/19/1934-05/11/2020
Lawrence L. Barber, Jr., 32°	06/26/1938-12/13/2020	Darrell L. Hudson, 32°	09/11/1924-10/24/2020
Damon Barnes, 32°	05/23/1930-09/01/2020	Charles W. Hurd, Jr., 32°	03/01/1927-12/13/2020
Jackie L. Belcher, 32°	10/06/1937-05/16/2020	Jack R. Jimerson, 32°	11/21/1936-12/04/2020
Cecil R. Biggers, 33°	07/31/1946-10/25/2020	Gary A. Larkin, 32°	07/20/1953-09/19/2020
Thomas J. Burns, 32°	12/23/1938-12/03/2020	Herman J. Luette, Jr., 32°	06/29/1933-11/12/2020
Bert Cornelius, Jr., 32°	06/02/1925-06/06/2020	Frank M. Miller, 32°	04/11/1927-09/24/2020
Ralph K. Crockett, 32°	09/18/1929-11/28/2020	Austin J. Morris, 32°	03/14/1946-02/03/2020
David L. Fahmy, 32°	04/05/1926-08/17/2020	Stewart R. Powell, 32°	01/19/1938-10/16/2020
Scott M. Geisert, 32°	05/24/1943-07/15/2020	Allen E. Snapp, 32° KCCCH	03/20/1948-07/17/2020
John A. Glidewell, 32°	07/05/1933-11/19/2020	Emory C. Walker, Jr., 32°	09/11/1929-10/05/2020
Johnny C. Griffis, 33°	10/23/1946-02/09/2021	Leland K. Wood, 32°	06/27/1935-01/04/2021
Walter T. Henderson, Jr., 32°	12/29/1942-01/26/2018	Gary L. Yates, 32°	03/08/1944-01/26/2021



Johnny C. Griffis, 33°
10/23/1946 - 02/09/2021

Johnny C. Griffis, 33° was born Oct. 23, 1946 to John and Clara Griffis. He married Shelia Landis, and they were blessed with one son, Jeffery L. Griffis. He later married Lola Kay McElmurry and they were also blessed with another son, John R. Griffis.

Johnny joined the U.S. Army in 1967 and was honorably discharged in 1971. He was a devout veteran and patriot, proudly displaying flags and support for his country. Following in his father's steps, he worked as a diesel mechanic all his life. He loved CAT diesel work, and often said, "Diesel runs through my veins."

He settled in Odessa, Texas, following his military service, and moved to Alpine, Texas, in 1991, where he lived until his death.

He was a proud and devoted Mason, serving as District Deputy Grand Master several times. The Scottish Rite honored him with his 33° in 2005, and he was a Shriner. He was also an active member of the American Legion, and had served as a commander.

He loved fishing, hunting, traveling, and racing. He enjoyed his first great travel adventure and the high seas with his son Jeff just last year as they traveled across the waves to Grand Caymans and Jamaica.

He was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, grandfather and friend. He loved the outdoors, he cherished his membership in the Masonic Lodge, and he loved the smell of diesel and racing fuel.



The El Paso Lodge of Perfection
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The Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.



**Illustrious
Tom L. Higgins, 33°**

Personal Representative of the S.G.I.G.
And
Chairman of the Executive Committee
In the Valley of El Paso

ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry sitting in the Valley of El Paso, Orient of Texas, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon, of the Thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at the Grand Orient of South Carolina, now sitting at Washington, D.C. of which

- ILL. James D. Cole, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Commander
- ILL. Michael L. Wiggins, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas,
and
- ILL. Tom L. Higgins, 33°
is Personal Representative of SGIG
And Chairman of the Executive Committee
Valley of El Paso

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**A kind request to the family or friend
of the addressed Member:**

Please notify us at the above address or
Phone number if our member
is in the hospital or Nursing home,
or is incapacitated in any way.

May 10, 2021

Stated Meetings:

Upcoming Events in 2020:

**Fall Reunion, Feast of Tishri,
Awards Ceremony and Temple
Centennial Ceremony**

October 15-16, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would prefer to receive your bulletin by email - please email nicole@elpasoscottishtishri.org
We will add you to our mailing list - please also let us know if you prefer not to receive our printed bulletin.