

The Passing of A Masonic Legend

By Michael Souza, Senior Steward Sacramento 40 Lodge



On February 5th Freemasonry lost one of its most famous, and interesting, brothers. Brother Edgar Mitchell - the sixth man to walk on the moon - was called into "the house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

Brother Mitchell was most well known for being an astronaut and one of only 12 men to walk on the moon. As part of the Apollo 14 mission, he and fellow astronaut Alan Shepard spent a total of 33 hours on the lunar surface and even managed to hit a few golf balls in between their NASA experiments. He also holds the record for the longest distance traversed on foot on the lunar surface and was the photographer who took the famous photograph of Alan Shepard raising the American flag on the moon.

Mitchell was a member of Artesia Lodge #28 in Artesia New Mexico as well as a DeMolay Chevalier, and, as many other Masons, had a wide range of interest in the esoteric and paranormal.

Brother Mitchell was a firm believer that Earth had been visited by extraterrestrial beings for thousands of years and that the 1947 alleged crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico was, in fact, an actual crash of an extraterrestrial craft. In 2008, he stated, "I happen to have been privileged enough to be in on the fact that we've been visited on this planet, and the UFO phenomenon is real." Also, In a 2004 St. Petersburg Times article Mitchell stated that a "cabal of insiders" in the U.S. government were studying recovered alien bodies, and that this group had stopped briefing U.S. Presidents after John F. Kennedy.

In 1973 he co-founded The Institute of Noetic Sciences which studies paranormal phenomena in order to encourage and conduct research on mind/consciousness theory and how it relates to human potential. The institute, which is currently located in Petaluma California, currently does research in spontaneous remission,

meditation, consciousness, alternative healing practices, consciousness-based healthcare, spirituality, human potential, psychic abilities, psychokinesis, and survival of consciousness after bodily death. All very interesting subjects for a man who was a trained engineer and did his doctoral thesis on space vehicle guidance.

It's possible that Brother Mitchell's interest in the paranormal was one reason that he became an astronaut, for it seemed that he was interested in alternative ideas even before his moon mission. On his way back to Earth during the Apollo 14 flight he took part in private ESP experiments with several friends on Earth, which must have been planned before the mission.

I personally have always had a great deal of respect for Brother Edgar Mitchell. To me, he epitomized the type of man that we are instructed to be in the Staircase Lecture of the Second Degree. He was curious, intelligent, and well-versed in many fields. He was a free-thinker who was not intimidated by science or religion; but instead sought to find a common link between the two.

Brother Mitchell rose above the Earth and saw the big picture... "We are not alone in the universe," he told the Utica Phoenix. "We are just one grain of sand on a huge beach."

