



Lodge Bulletin

January 2024

www.AW22.org

Master's Message

My Dear Brethren,

I trust this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark upon a new year filled with promise and potential. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the new Worshipful Master of our historic Lodge, and I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me.

As we stand on the cusp of 2024, I am reminded of the words of John F. Kennedy, who once said, "We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light a candle that can guide us through the darkness to a safe and sure future." In the spirit of these profound words and in a year such as this, let us collectively kindle the flame of brotherhood, wisdom, and service that defines the essence of what it means to be an AW22 Mason.

Our Lodge is a tapestry woven from the diverse threads of each Brother's character, strengths, and aspirations. Just as a quilt is more vibrant and resilient for its various patterns and colors, so too is our fraternity enriched by the unique qualities each of you brings to our sacred space. As said in my installation remarks, your unique perspectives matter, your input is critical to the operations and health of this lodge. Engage and, together, we will build a stronger AW22. A Lodge that not only relies on its rich past, but has firm hold on its vision for its future.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead and look forward to working alongside each of you to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, foster growth, and contribute to the betterment of our Lodge and society at large.

Here's to a New Year!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org
202-856-4686





January 2024

January 9

7:30 PM Fraternal Visit

Henry Knox-Field John Blair Lodge No. 349

January 11

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Meeting

Program: Lafayette's Final Tour, AW22, and Freemasonry

January 18

7:30 PM Entered Apprentice Degree

January 23

Masters and Wardens Association

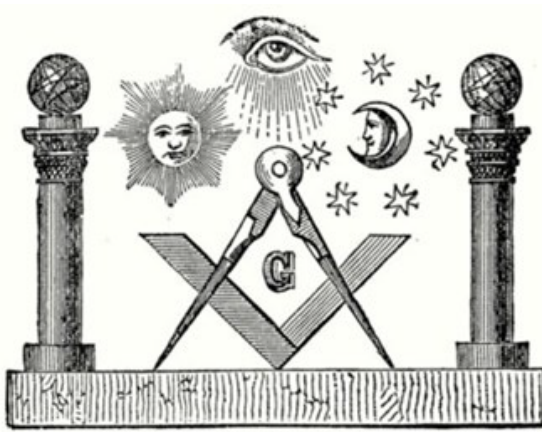
Concord Lodge No. 307

January 29

7:00 PM Essoteric Corner

Event Invite via EMAIL

- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.



Bill of Fare

January 11, 2024

Chicken Kabob

Syrian Lemon Potatoes

Mixed Vegetables

Grilled Pita w/ Muhammara

Hummus

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

Lafayette's Final Tour, AW22, and Freemasonry

By Bro. Chris Ruli

2024 marks the bicentennial of the Marquis de Lafayette's final visit and goodwill tour throughout the United States. His journey, which spanned from August 15, 1824, to September 7, 1825, became a profoundly important political moment in American history that fostered greater appreciation and veneration for the country's founding generation and strengthened relations with the United States and France.

The tour came at a critical moment in Lafayette's life. At 66 years old, the old hero of the American Revolutionary War spent much of his later life attempting to cultivate another revolution, this time in his mother country. He soon found himself thrust into the country's political maelstrom that ultimately cost his reputation and fortune. When President James Monore contacted Lafayette with an invitation by Congress to return to the United States, Lafayette had retired to his estate in La Grange with little interest in leading revolutionary activities. He'd often reminisce about his second home and friendships with Washington, Franklin, and other Founding Fathers. On the urging of his family, he agreed to traverse the Atlantic Ocean once more and see his second home for what turned out to be his final time.

Lafayette arrived in New York on August 15 and began his national tour. He received and accepted invitations from state governors or representatives to tour their respective states. Wherever he went, towns and city councils prepared elaborate public processions, banquets, festivals, and other entertainments. He toured schools and factories, laid cornerstones, and attended theater performances and weddings. Whenever his hectic path crossed with local Masons, the fellow Mason accepted lodge invitations to attend meetings, receive degrees, or attend Masonic banquets and receptions. During his first trip to Virginia in October, Lafayette passed through Alexandria, Virginia and met with members of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. He promised the lodge that he would return to Alexandria later that winter, before his spring tour of the southern states, and attend a lodge meeting. He kept his promise and visited the lodge days before George Washington's birthday to attend a special Masonic reception by the lodge.

Despite his hectic schedule, especially in his advanced age, Lafayette remained upbeat and eager to meet his fellow citizens and Masonic brethren. Whenever given an opportunity to speak about Freemasonry, Lafayette lavished the Craft with praise and veneration for its principles and virtues. He proudly acknowledged his connection to the fraternity, along with his fellow friends and mentors George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, and the fraternity's potential as a force for good.

Lafayette's Final Tour, AW22, and Freemasonry

Continued

He participated in several public Masonic activities including cornerstone ceremonies for monuments to Generals Nathaniel Greene and Casimir Pulaski and the Bunker Hill battlefield.

Lafayette's visit had a lasting impact on American culture in general and American Freemasonry in particular. His tour became a cultural phenomenon, inspiring a wave of Lafayette-themed memorabilia, songs, and artistic expressions. His visit to Alexandria-Washington Lodge served as a high watermark for lodge's early history and an opportunity for Masons to engage with one of George Washington's adoptive sons. The lodge's museum maintains a number of original relics associated with Lafayette and his visit to Alexandria-Washington lodge in 1825.

The American people embraced Lafayette not only as a war hero but also as a symbol of the enduring Franco-American friendship. This cultural exchange helped foster a sense of national identity and pride, contributing to the emergence of a uniquely American consciousness. His willingness to publicly discuss and support the fraternity brought Freemasonry into the public consciousness and make it more accessible to new generations. Helping showcase the fraternity as an institution composed of respectable and prominent citizens who actively adhered to the values and principles inculcated in Masonic degrees.



Learn more:



Happy Masonic Birthday

Bro. Billy Gene Blazer, Jan. 6, 58 years
Bro. Konstantin Victorovich Boyko, Jan 4., 6 years
Rt. Wor. John Arthur Bridegroom, Jan. 13, 20 years
Rt. Wor. Daniel Martin Clark, Jan. 18, 44 years
Bro. David Brainard Crist, Jan. 22, 23 years
Mt. Wor. William Edward Hershey, Jan. 30, 48 years
Wor. Michael Thomas Huff, Jan. 24, 12 years
Rt. Wor. Michael Jean King, Jan. 30, 48 years
Bro. Thomas Jefferson Penn, Jan. 12, 36 years
Bro. Dimitar Plamenov Petrov, Jan. 16, 14 years
Mt. Wor. Donald Maynard Robey, Jan. 29, 56 years
Bro. Jonathan Solomon Ruskin, Jan. 3, 50 years
Bro. Matthew Dean Russell, Jan. 16, 14 years
Bro. John Stephen Ryan, Jan. 15, 38 years
Bro. Michael Sivy, Jan. 21, 14 years
Wor. James McHenry Stevenson, Jan. 12, 26 years
Wor. James Berkley Stone, Jan. 30, 57 years
Bro. Mete Yilmaz, Jan. 27, 32 years
Bro. Matthew Charles Ziegler, Jan. 24, 12 years

2024 Lodge Officers

Wor. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr - Worshipful Master

Mobile : 202-856-4686 Email: Master@AW22.org

Bro. Phillip Adam Smartt - Senior Warden

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. Daniel Elias Froggett, PM - Secretary

Phone: 757-656-1838 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301

Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr, PDDGM - Secretary Emeritus

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr - Senior Deacon

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Junior Deacon

Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev, PM - Chaplain

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - Senior Steward

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Junior Steward

Bro. James Henry Ferguson - Marshal

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Musician

Bro. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

Board of Trustees

Bro. Jeffery W. C. Conn (Chair) - 2024

Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM - 2026

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Wor. David G. Bella, PM - 2028

Living Past Masters on the Rolls

1975 - Donald M. Robey, PGM

1976 - James B. Stone

1991 - Earl C. Million

1992 - Granville C. Canard, Jr. PDDGM

1995 - George D. Seghers, PDDGM

1996,18 - Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM

1997 - Walter L. Margeson, II

1998 - Philip J. Hays

1999,17 - Michael P. Bible

2000 - Terry L. Gigure

2001 - Brent N. Campbell

2002 - Daniel M. Clark, PDDGM

2003 - James M. Stevenson

2004 - Frank Skwirut

2005 - Jesse T. McMahan, V

2006 - Thomas G. Little

2007 - Robert G. Watkins, PDDGM

2009 - Heber C. Willis, III

2011 - John P. Olson

2012 - Michael L. Bailey

2013 - Joshua D. Adler

2014 - Robert T. Weston

2016 - Stephen J. Pezzetti

2019 - Nikola N. Nikolov

2020 - Daniel E. Froggett

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella