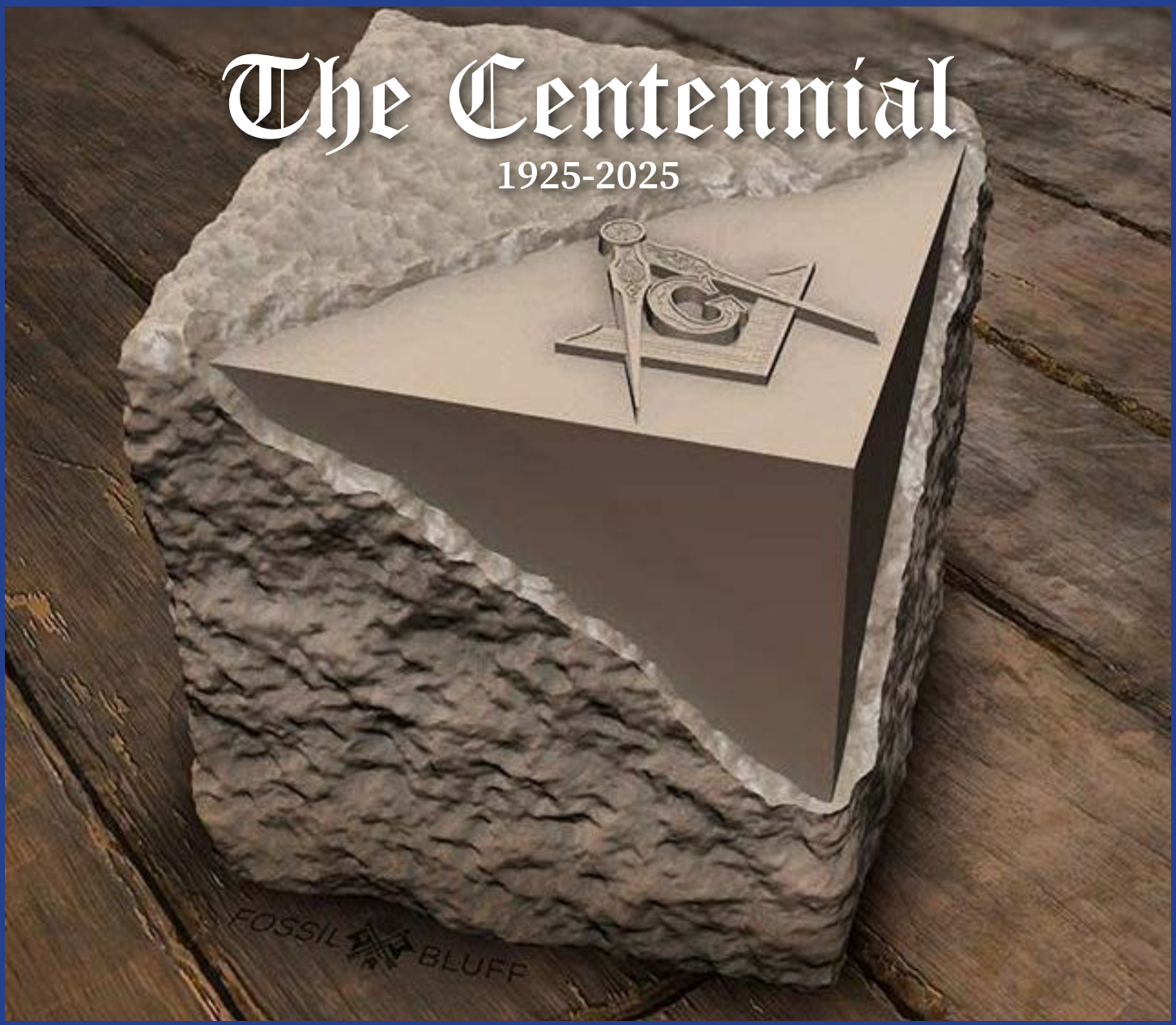
John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world..."

Anne Frank

MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD March 2025

Chartered February 11, 1925

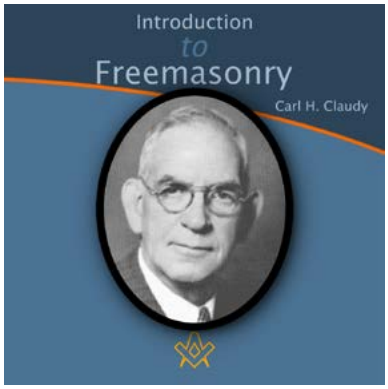
FROM THE EAST

My Brethren and Friends of John A. Lejeune, the re-birth of another growing season is accompanied by unlimited potential for we Masons to continue the obligatory honing and polishing of our own Ashlars as we necessarily aspire, via our daily transactions with mankind---*to build a better humanity*-- especially for our children. Notwithstanding the taboo Masonic inclusion of religion and politics, that are purposefully-averted in our teachings, we are solemnly bound by Masonic Law to adhere to the *Rules, Regulations, Resolutions, Edicts, Customs, Usages, Common-Sense, and Decency* we claim to exemplify as true artificers of this craft that has existed, albeit with a few historically-brief yet significant glitches from time immemorial.

I have always tried to be an eternal-optimist, believing in the inherent goodness of people, it's oftentimes difficult and seemingly an exercise-in-futility, but I will always persevere, and I wholeheartedly encourage EACH OF YOU to do the same. I recall fondly and often, the words of the late, great Coach Jim Valvano:

"Don't give up. Don't ever give up!"... "To me, there are three things we all should do every day: laugh, think, and have your emotions moved to tears".

Finally, my Brethren, it matters not how many titles you may possess, how many appendant-bodies to which you belong, the plethora of Masonic car emblems you proudly display, personalized-plates of every ilk, social-media allegorical references, what truly should matter to ALL Freemasons to avoid any semblance of what I sometimes refer to as "Masonic Hypocrisy"---to be ever-mindful of our tenets, **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth--- let DAILY EMPATHY guide your Quest(it's not an impossible dream).**



Carl Harry Claudy (1879-1957) said, *"The genius of Freemasonry is not our Masonic buildings and temples or the trappings of our organizations. It is not our great charities or community activities. It is not our beautiful rituals or their teachings. It is the 'practice of Freemasonry' by the Freemasons."*

What's on the John A. Lejeune Trestleboard?

Centennial Celebration of our chartering, March 6, 1925 (please see accompanying flier).

Stated Communication, March 17. We will ***Do What Masons Do***, as we have a Worthy Brother Fellowcraft in waiting who we are thrilled to raise to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Special, heartfelt thanks to visiting cast members.

Dinner and Fellowshipping, 6 p.m.

Gavel-Strike, 7 p.m.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Brother Barry Mensh

The Masonic Value of Relief

Within the framework of Freemasonry, the principle of Relief holds a profound place as one of our core tenets. Rooted in the teachings of charity and compassion, Relief embodies the act of providing support to those in need, offering both practical assistance and moral encouragement.

By reflecting on the tenet of relief, we should be reminded of our duty to aid the less fortunate—not only in material terms but also by extending a hand of friendship and understanding. This value speaks to the essence of humanity's shared bonds, encouraging us to look beyond personal interests and engage in the selfless service of others.

The principle of Relief is not limited to financial aid, however. It manifests in various forms: comforting a grieving brother, sharing wisdom with someone seeking guidance, or simply offering a kind word to uplift spirits. Through these acts, Masons strive to build a better society, reflecting the universal ideals of charity and brotherly love. A great example of relief, in my opinion, is active participation in Lodge activities, especially as it pertains to ritual work. Helping out at one of our many Ritual Schools, attending garage lodge on Fridays, or just chatting with a Brother on the phone can definitely help contribute to his relief.

Relief is a daily practice, reminding us as Masons that our greatest strength lies in our willingness to serve and uplift others. It is a cornerstone of the Masonic journey—one that calls for empathy, humility, and a commitment to the betterment of all.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Brian Potvin

FROM THE SOUTH

As I was told growing up there was only one rule to follow at our family dinner table. It was a simple request and meant to create an environment of togetherness not divisiveness. This standing order if you will, was we do not discuss religion or politics. This did not mean that once we stepped away from the table, we could not broach either of those subjects. Quite the contrary as a I am fourth generation of Veterans within my family. We had another philosophy that we have fought for a right to freely express ourselves in a respectful manner.

Unbeknownst to those that are not involved in Freemasonry the same philosophy applies to a Masons' conduct while in Lodge. The same rule applied at my childhood dinner table is applicable in Lodge…"no religion, no politics." Probably for the same reason that my family followed this rule. To maintain peace and decorum.

Anyone living in America right now is aware of many changes going on. If you turn on a TV or scroll through the news on your cell phone it is almost unavoidable. In the Northern Virginia area, it is almost impossible to not know, be related to or experience firsthand some of the changes. This is a time that we as Freemasons need to set the example.

Change is the one constant in life and we as a nation are experiencing great change presently. We must remember to be good stewards of our community, be mindful of others being impacted by this change. Regardless, if you concur or agree with these changes it is our duty as Masons to be cognizant of others.

Compassion is defined by Webster's dictionary as a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it. Continue to be a good citizen and quietly conduct yourself in public and remember that we are all unaware of what others are experiencing remember to exercise compassion. I challenge you all to bring Light in and about Freemasonry in the beauty, we are all attempting to achieve, individually or collectively.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Terry Jones

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In the Fellowcraft charge it states the"...The internal and not the external qualifications of a man are what masonry regards." I saw a man berated for not wearing a suit recently. Many times people in lodge will wear suits or not but we as masons know it is always the internal. Henry David Thoreau said " I say, beware of all enterprises that require new clothes, and not rather a new wearer of clothes." How soon we can sometimes forget that. Or, if so and so were serious they would have worn (fill in the blank). When I was a much younger man I thought clothes make the man. I am glad today I have a much different perspective. It's the qualities that a person exudes that determines their character not the adornments. Sure there are times when a suite might be the best choice but I implore you to look at a man's character before you judge him on what he wears. People daub with untempered mortar everyday. We hide behind the shine of the new instead of standing on the bedrock which is what makes our character. As the years roll past I hope you endeavor to always lean on the internal and not the external qualifications of man for those qualities will never go out of fashion.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Brother Morgan Tolliver

SECRETARY'S DESK

As I stated last month, it's time for the lodge dues to be paid. If this sound a bit repetitious it's because we are doing what we can to get the lodge building in order for the 100th Anniversary and to hopefully keep it together for another 100 years although it is doubtful that any of us will be around to see such a momentous occasion.

Of the 108 Master Masons on the rolls, there are 64 annual members that pay dues to the lodge each year. Of that, we have only 29 brothers that still owe dues. Unfortunately, this year we have some brothers so much in arrears that they will have to be suspended due to Non-Payment of Dues.

A brother once told me that it seemed that the only thing that was important was paying dues. It is important, but not the biggest priority. It is what keeps the light, water and gas turned on and allows the lodge to continue functioning.

As said previously, this benefits the Lodge immeasurably as it contributes to the operating budget of the Lodge for maintaining the normal monthly expenditures and also aids the ongoing efforts to effect necessary repairs to the building at large. It is after all, an over 100-years-old building that still looks pretty good for it age and we can all take credit for keeping it that way.

This will be an exceptional year for the Lodge as we celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Brother Randall Arnold

TREASURER'S DESK

As most of my brothers know, I am a history student. I look at history as a way to document and record events and occurrences to enrich our knowledge and ensure that we have insight into events that, if repeated, could impact our lives. Some of us go through life wondering if people would remember us and if we had made an impact on those with whom we were affiliated. I think Worshipful Brother Robert "Bob" Lawrence Murphy never realized the far-reaching impact he would have on the generations of Brothers who followed him.

WB Robert "Bob" L. Murphy, of Novi, MI, was born in Detroit on January 22, 1935, and laid down his working tools as a Master Mason and stood before the Supreme Architect in W. Bloomfield Township on November 5, 2017. His parents were Lawrence P. and Grace E. (Neff) Murphy. After High School, he joined the United States Navy and retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve on January 1, 1995, after 40 years of dedicated service as an HMC (Hospitalman Chief Petty Officer (Corpsman)). He attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1960. Brother Murphy was raised as a Master Mason (5/20/1957) in Crusaders Lodge No. 564, F.&A.M. in Detroit, Michigan. WB Murphy affiliated with John A. Lejeune Lodge, No. 350, A.F.&A.M. in Quantico, Virginia, shortly after enlisting in the Navy and stated that John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 was his De Facto home lodge and one of the jewels of his Masonic career.

After the Navy, Freemasonry became his life. He was a member of a multitude of Masonic bodies, including the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Right (A.A.S.R.), Valley of Detroit, Moslem Shrine, and Zal Gaz and Aries Grottoes. He was a member of five Masonic lodges: John A. Lejeune Lodge, No. 350, A.F.&A.M. in Quantico, VA, Zion Lodge No. 1, F.&A.M. in Detroit, Michigan, and Ann Arbor Fraternity Lodge No. 262 F.&A.M. in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was a Past Master and Past Secretary of Golden Rule Lodge, No. 159, F.&A.M. in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a Past Master of Union Lodge of Strict Observance, No. 3, F.&A.M. and a Past Secretary of Milford Lodge, No. 165, F.&A.M. in Milford, Michigan. He was a District Deputy Instructor for the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan from 2007 to 2008 and again from 2010 through 2013. He was the President of the Mid-West Conference on Masonic Education in 2011. He acted as Grand Marshal in over twenty Masonic Installations. He was a member of the Masonic Book Club and the Michigan Lodge of Research. He was also involved with many other diverse social and fraternal organizations.

So why have I chosen to write about this particular Brother? Before his passing, WB Robert L. Murphy PM selflessly bequeathed our Lodge two artifacts (items) with the note, "Please accept from a grateful Brother." Those two items were a silver coin of John A. Lejeune struck by the International Fraternal Commemorative Society that should be on presentation in our Lodge Museum display case, and he also left the Lodge a sizeable donation that is now being used to execute our Building Maintenance Modernization and Repair (BMMR) projects. We owe this grateful Brother a debt of gratitude by ensuring his humble story is codified and recorded for all.][/G\][

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Harvey Miller

TEAMS

As we are still in the process of forming and filling our Teams this Masonic Year, PLEASE read this Trestleboard, volunteer to join ANY Team, *and* let me know which one you want to be a part of, send me an e-mail message indicating such, and help JAL 350 to *Be the Difference*!!! I'll publicize the Team Members in the February Trestleboard as an ongoing TEAM(We're hoping for **at least 3** team-members per team, some will have more, out of necessity, such as JAL's FINANCE TEAM, e.g.

LODGE EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Our lodge educational designers

WB Barry Mensh (DEO)
Bro. Aaron Duncan (Asst. LEO)

LODGE INSTRUCTOR OF WORK

Our lodge promoters of ritual

WB Jim Solomon (LIW)
WB Barry Mensh (Asst. LIW)

MASONIC WELLNESS/PEACE & HARMONY

Includes well-being of our Masonic widows, sickness and distress, good of the craft, stewards, etc.

Bro. Bill Stevenson (Lead)
Bro. Terry Jones, WB Morgan Tolliver

MEMBERSHIP & MEDIA, A.K.A., MASONIC VISIBILITY!

Includes publicity (social media), communication (phone trees), visitations, funerals, etc.

Bro. Brian Potvin (Lead)
WB Jim Solomon, WB Morgan Tolliver

JAL CENTENNIAL TEAM

Bro. Brian Potvin (Lead), Bro. Terry Jones (Lead)
Bro. Harvey Miller, WB Randall Arnold, Bro. Zack McCellan, Bro. Jim Richey, Bro. Ian McIntyre

FROM THE WEST GATE

Includes mentoring, belonging, and consistent involvement, with no unattended brethren, no one left at the brow of the hill

Bro. Dalton Greever (Lead)
Bro. Aaron Duncan

FINANCE

Incl*udes audit (trustees), budget, by-laws, and creative fundraising*

WB Jim Solomon(Lead)
WB Randall Arnold, Bro. Harvey Miller, Bro. Kahlil DeBerry, RW Rex Rockhill(Emeritus)

EXPLORATION & ORIENTATION

"Guarding the West Gate"

We'll have "3-brother teams" Chaired by our Wardens, Bro. Brian Potvin, Bro. Terry Jones, with other members added as needed

APPENDANT BODIES & FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Bro. Bill Stevenson (Lead)
Bro. Ian McIntyre, Bro. Dalton Greever

JAL LODGE MASONIC HOME AMBASSADOR

Bro. Harvey Miller (Lead)
WB Randall Arnold, WB Barry Mensh

JAL LODGE BLOOD COORDINATOR

2 drives/year

WB Barry Mensh(Lead)
Bro. Terry Jones, Bro. Jim Richey

OFFICERS 2025

Worshipful Master
WB Barry Mensh, PM

Senior Warden
Bro. Brian Potvin

Junior Warden
Bro. Terrell Jones

Treasurer
Bro. Harvey Miller

Secretary
WB Randall Arnold, PM

Senior Deacon
Bro. Dalton Greever

Junior Deacon
Bro. Aaron Duncan

Chaplain
WB Morgan Tolliver

Senior Steward
Bro. Jim Richey

Junior Steward
Bro. Zachiary McClellan

Marshal
Bro. Ian McIntyre

Tiler
WB Jim Solomon, PM

APPENDANT BODIES

Order of the Eastern Star
Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter 81
Worthy Matron Jean Wertman

Order of the Amaranth
RW Rex Rockhill

Scottish Rite
WB Brandon Bateman

Shriners
To be assigned

Sojourners Chapter 44
Randall Arnold

York Rite
To be assigned

Living Past Masters

1976 Donald Ritenour
1982/2010 Rex Rockhill
1983 Richard Fravel*
1985 Frank Harris III
1987 James Day*
1990 James Van Fleet
1992 Thomas Blizzard*
1994 David Ekren
1996 Ronald Bigger
2000 Emory Kelley
2002/2018 Jim Solomon
2003/04 Kenneth Wrisley
2009 Donald Radeke
2012 Jason Newcomer
2013/2015 Robert Lane
2014 Carl DeSantis
2019/20/21 Randall Arnold
2022 Barry Mensh
2023 Brandon Bateman
2024 Morgan Tolliver
* = Demitted

50+ Year Members

80-Year Member
Donald E. Martin

70-Year Member
Richard T. Spooner

60-Year Members
Frank W. Harris III
Donald R. Briner
Victor D. Freudenberger
Donald L Meek
Donald F. Ritenhour

50-Year Members
Joseph Brooks
John R Covington Jr.
James D. Delp
John A. Jones
Harold R. Knowles
John C. Kriska
Lloyd L. Loy
Thomas A. McNight
Donald Radeke
Donald E. Schneider

Teams

Brethren, we value your opinions, so please let the Worshipful Master know if you would like to head up a team or start a new one. Do you see something missing in what we as a lodge are accomplishing? Do you want to see us more visible in the community and know of a great way to accomplish this? We are open for suggestions. Several of our teams are transient and change from year to year. Many of these would benefit from a stable person heading up the team year-after-year. If you have some time and would like to make a difference, let us know.

Do you have e-mail?

If so please let the secretary know. You can add your email on the Lodge contact page, that way it goes to both Randall and Jim for receiving the Trestleboard. Also, If you have noticed that you do not receive the Trestleboard any more, please check the email you sent us. If we get an address kicked back to us more than three times, we will delete it.

E-mail will give us the ability to send to you short notices, effective and timely communications, including reminders of meetings and activities. Please remember that failure to let the secretary know of address changes costs the lodge money and it delays any correspondence we would like to send out.

Volunteers needed

Lawn: If you have the time and don't mind sweating a little bit, there are times that the lawn needs to be mowed. We do not pay anyone to mow it. The mower, rake and gas are at the lodge, we just need the manpower to get it done as needed.

Mentors: Many of you remember spending lots of quality time working on the catechism with a coach or mentor whether at the lodge or in a more personal setting. Well it's time to pay it forward. We are always in need of some dedicated Brothers to teach our up-and-coming Brothers the finer arts of the catechism. No matter where you live or work, there is always a possibility that a new Mason may be in your area and open to meet with you more frequently than once a week.

Stated Communications

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m., except December, when we meet on the second Monday. We start with Fellowship and food at 6:00 p.m. for those coming there without stopping at home first. We welcome all visiting recognized Masons.

Physical Address:
235 Potomac Avenue
Quantico, Virginia

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 214 Quantico, Virginia 22134

Call us by extension:
703-718-5204
Secretary Ext. 201
Treasurer Ext. 206
Webmaster Ext. 203

District Schools

Fellowship will go at 6:00 p.m. with the District Education Officer giving a short presentation at 7 p.m. and the school beginning at 7:30 sharp. Keep an eye out for this year's schools.

Staying Connected

In the past, you wanted to become a Mason. You asked a Mason to join their lodge as a Mason. They accepted you with open arms as a brother. Brethren, do you remember that point in your life when three distinguished men came to visit your home or place of work and discussed with you your interest in Freemasonry? Many of you were excited to become Masons and informed the investigation committee just how much you wanted to be involved in the lodge as well as in Freemasonry. I have sat on many committees and have heard those words spoken by many of our members.

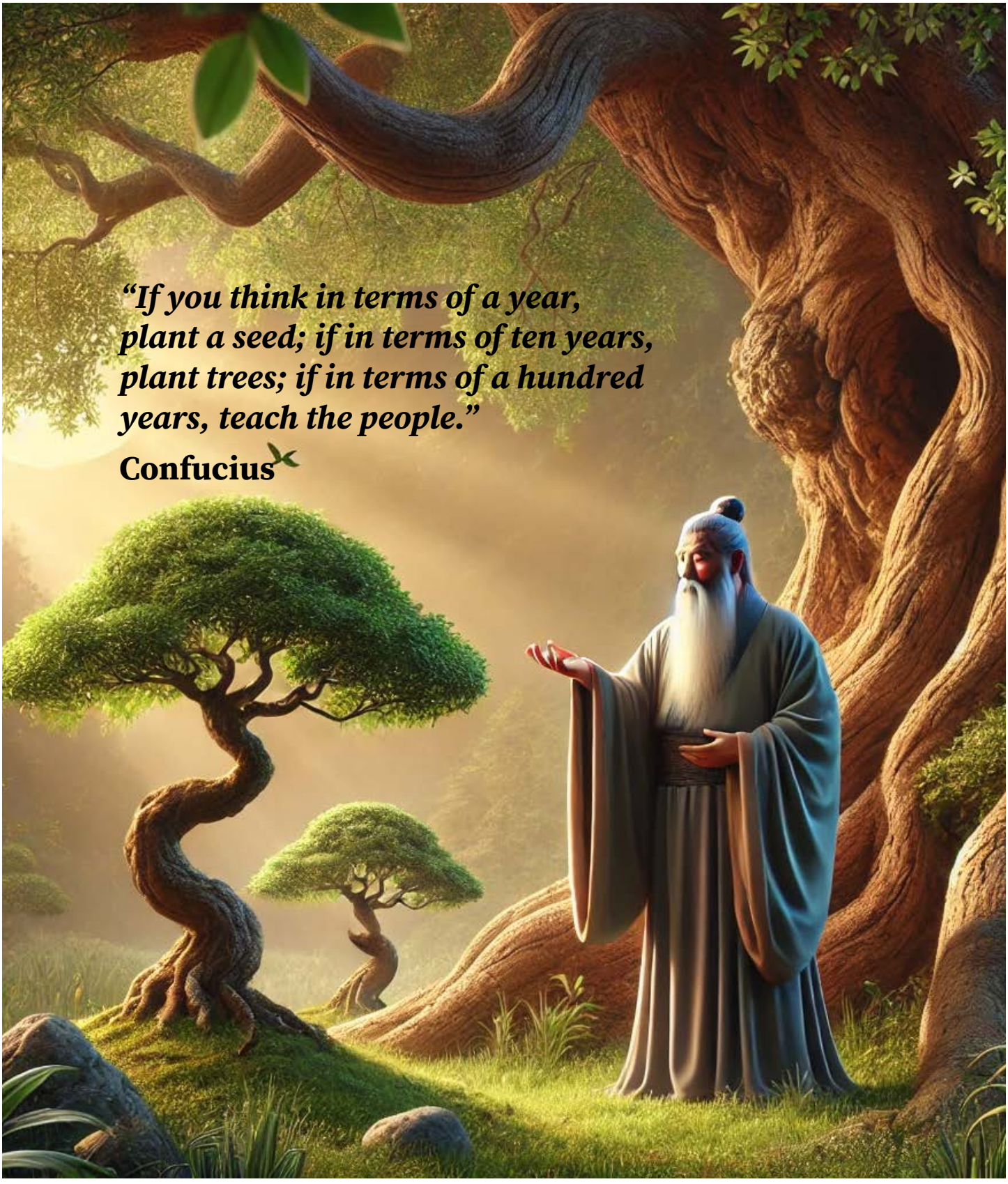
Well, that time has come. You took the time to learn the catechism or book method with your coaches and mentors, but it shouldn't stop there. There is so much more you can do to make YOUR Lodge successful. Being a Mason is not about having a card with your name on it. It's about attending your lodge before you no longer have a lodge to attend. It's about socializing with your brethren inside as well as outside the lodge. It's about taking a role in your lodge. I am not talking about feeling forced to take an officers position. I am talking about showing your Worshipful Master support by attending lodge, volunteering to help with Lodge events, or being on a committee (or forming a committee) to further the communities we live in. We should be pillars of our communities as many Masons in the past.

Becoming a Master Mason is a great milestone in all of our lives. And now it's time to live that enlightened life. The Worshipful Master this year has taken several initiatives to try and keep the members active. There are numerous community activities that we could participate in, even at our very own home, no matter where we live. We just need more good men to head up the groups. One small group of men can't do it all.

http://www.jal350afam.org/calendar/

https://www.facebook.com/JohnALejeune350/

GroupMe App: John A Lejeune 350 AF.AM.
Ask an officer and we'll add you.


“If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of a hundred years, teach the people.”
Confucius

HISTORY

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was established in Quantico, Virginia in February 1925. The lodge is named in honor of Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, U.S. Marine Corps. General Lejeune was an exemplary Marine having led combat forces in WWI, guided the establishment of schools at Quantico, and later served as the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps. After the war while still deployed, General Lejeune was made a Master Mason in a lodge in Coblenz, Germany and became a devoted member of our Masonic fraternity.

On July 2, 1924, twenty-four Masons signed a petition to the Grand Lodge of Virginia to grant a charter to establish Quantico Lodge No. 350. On March 6, 1925, a Provisional Lodge was opened for the installation of the first officers. Major General Lejeune, an attendee, was introduced by Most Worshipful (MW) Callahan, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. General Lejeune spoke about the characteristics of Freemasonry – tolerance, brotherly love, obedience to both human and Divine laws, and democracy. The Bible used to open the Provisional Lodge was provided by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, the same Bible used by George Washington. The first stated communication with the newly installed officers was held on March 11, 1925, during which both MW Callahan and General Lejeune were elected to honorary membership in the Lodge.

At the stated communication of July 20, 1927, the Lodge not having a permanent meeting place, Brother Zalanka recommended that the Marine Memorial Church in Quantico would be fitting and a building fund was established with members initially assessed $1.00 per month, and later raised to $10.00 per month for a period of five years. Brother F.P. Moncure was authorized to consummate the purchase of the Marine Memorial M.E. Church as the permanent home for $5,000.00 and purchase the adjoining lots for $500 each.

The cornerstone of our Lodge was laid on June 4, 1934 in a ceremony led by the grand Master of Virginia, W.M. Brown. The cornerstone contains many items to include the traditional vials of corn, wine, and oil, a Lodge roster, an 1816 copper penny; an Indian arrowhead; a civil war bullet, and a picture of the officers of this Lodge for 1934. On May 24, 1940, the Lodge held a mortgage burning ceremony and a changed our By-Laws to re-set dues at 75 cents per month.

From the first petitioners on July 16, 1925, Earl J. Zalanka, James H. Spalding, Ernest W. Beck (the first raised to Master Mason in our Lodge), Thomas D. Collins, and Cyrus A. Gould, and the first Masons to affiliate with the Lodge, many Masons have called John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 as their Lodge. Because of our unique location within Marine Corps Base Quantico, many notable Marines have also called John A. Lodge No. 350 their Lodge, these include:

- LtGen John A. Lejeune
- MajGen Randolph C. Berkley
- BGen Merritt A. Edson
- MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.
- LtGen Merwin W. Silverthorn
- Maj Calvin A. Lloyd

But the affiliation of Marines with the Masonic fraternity is not without precedence. Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Corps on 10 November 1775, was at the time an active Masonic Lodge with membership that included not only Benjamin Franklin but Samuel Nicholas, the first commissioned Marine Officer and the first Commandant of the Marines.

As the Masons of John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 reach our 100th anniversary as part of the Quantico community and as members of one of the world's oldest Fraternities, we remain dedicated to the legacy of our namesake and the Masonic concepts of faith, hope, and charity.

We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions to prospective men of good report; the future is up to YOU..

Mission Statement of Freemasonry:

To promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences; by teaching the great principles of *Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth*; and, by the outward expression of these through its fellowship, to find ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self.

In John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350, our passion is to strive to inculcate and nurture in our members a sense of *empathy* **and** *belonging* by promoting Masonic teachings and practice through the Ritualistic, Educational, Esoteric, Charitable, and Fellowship-Oriented realms in an affable environment that focuses and regards the *INTERNAL*, and not the *EXTERNAL* qualifications of our Brethren.

“Your life is a gift from your Creator. Your gift back to the Creator is what you do *with your life.*”

“Every Passion Has It’s Destiny”

---Billy Mills, (Oglala Lakota, Sioux)

1964 Olympic Gold Medal, 10,000m Run, Tokyo
Captain, United States Marine Corps(Retired)
Founder of: Running Strong for American Indian Youth

RUNNING STRONG
for American Indian Youth®