

**MAY, 2010**

**ONION CREEK MASONIC LODGE #220**

**BEACON**

**ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
CHARTERED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF  
TEXAS  
16 JUNE 1858**



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY MAY 9**

**HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31**

**LODGE OFFICERS 2009-2010**

WM: Dale L. Flatt  
SW: Tony M. Ramirez  
JW: Dennis J. Ross  
Treas: Dennis C. Kestner, PM  
Sec: J. Roland Brown  
Chap: John W. Turner, PM  
SD: Adrian W. Edmundson  
JD: Raul J. Scully  
SS: Ben B. Rauschke  
JS: Curtis A. Gilgan  
Mar: Robert A. Clark, PM  
MC: Ricky J. Tindell, PM  
Tlr: Jephthe Medois

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Ill & Visitation**  
Dale L Flatt  
John W Turner  
**Communications**  
J Roland Brown  
**Building**  
Curtis A Gilgan  
**Beacon & History**  
H Max Fisher  
**Hospital Volunteers**  
Ricky J Tindell  
Bart Tuthill  
**Funerals**  
Don R Long  
Charles C Jennings

**LIVING PAST MASTERS**

1967- Webb Woodland  
1969- Tommie J. Conner  
1970- Ralph L. Cearley  
1971- W. David Johnson  
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges  
1977- Roy L. Hamor  
1978- Bobby J. Doherty  
1980- Ronald B. Norwood  
1981- Howard D. Hall  
1982- Alan Karotkin  
1984- Matias S. Ruiz  
1985- Richard A. Frazer  
1986- Jose V. Seguin  
1987- Elliott R. Wilson  
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon  
1989- Dennis Kestner  
1991- Ronnie H. Lee  
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff  
1994- Walter H. Argall  
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez  
1996- Kenneth P. Wood  
1997- William S. Lear  
1998- John W. Turner  
1999- James F. Keese  
2000- Walter E. Sanders  
2001- Jonathon D. Walker  
2002- Robert L. Roda  
2003- Ricky J. Tindell  
2004- Eljio Arjona Jr.  
2005- Hamilton B. Carter  
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II  
2007- Michael E. Sanders  
2008- Daniel E. Barber

*Members Who Have  
Served Other Lodges  
as Past Masters*

Jesus Araiza  
Jimmie L. Banks  
Robert A. Clark  
Don R. Cowley  
Gerald T. Dawson  
Allen Deaver  
Carlton L. Edwards  
Elbert Franks  
O. Tripp Garza  
Cecil Goodwin  
Reagan W. Hammett  
Ronald Holton  
Bennie L. Hudson  
Gordon W. Kelso  
Jim King  
Don R. Long  
Bobby J. Norris  
Boyce V. Oakes  
Gene C. Payne  
Arthur D. Pederson  
L. Bruce Roberson  
Gene Sassman  
Otsie Stowell  
William W. Winnie III

**Called to the Celestial Lodge  
Bro David Milton Ahrendt  
March 21, 2010**



**STATED MEETING THURSDAY  
MAY 6TH, 2010  
FAMILY NIGHT MEAL AT 6:30 PM  
MEETING AT 7:30 PM**



**To Jo Ann:**

On my drive home this evening, down the ever popular stop and go of IH 35 during rush hour (LOL), I had time to think of what I was going to write for this article. With Mother's Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, I reflected back on the strong matriarchs in my family. I knew both sets of great-grandparents, my three sets of grandparents (yeah, there's a story there) and of course my parents. When I got home, I pulled out the photo album and smiled as I recalled the good and bad times, and loved ones now gone. These photos will not mean much to my daughter after I am gone but they still bring a smile to me.

My Mom, as I have shared with you in the past, was widowed with six young kids and she never remarried. Mom worked two full-time jobs and always had time to tend to a cut or scrape, or to bring up that embarrassing story to the girls we would bring around during those high school days. As we grew up, we became independent of our parents and found spouses of our own. Most of us had children of our own and our wives became mothers.

The women in our lives, be they grandmothers, mothers, or wives, always seem to be there holding the family together. I guess it is true that "**Behind every good man is a good woman.**" Our wives and mothers stand beside us throughout our lives and whoever coined that phrase must have been talking about good old Mom! In case you were wondering, Mom is doing well and living in California close to my sisters. Her name is Jo Ann Flatt and she is my Mother.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY,  
MOM!**

**To My Masonic Brothers:**

If you can, call your mom, and if not, at least whisper a silent prayer and thank her. And give the wife a big, long hug, if you are blessed enough to have one.

*A traveler on the path.... Dale*

**From the Secretary's Desk - - -**

If you have paid your 2010 dues, and even more generously, if you have donated to your Lodge this year, we sincerely thank you! Your concern for your Lodge by paying your dues on time allows us to pay our bills and keep things running smoothly.

On the other hand - - We still have a number of members who have not paid their 2010 dues. Please check your card. It should read: Dues paid through 12/31/2010. If it does not, then you are in arrears! It is now roughly 120 days past when your dues should have been paid; in about another 50 days, if your dues are not paid and we have still not heard from you, you will probably be suspended (from all Masonic bodies!) for non-payment of dues. Please don't let this happen to you; take time from your busy schedule and mail your dues to the Secretary at 5904 Back Bay Lane, Austin 78739.

The annual dues at Onion Creek are only \$45.00 per year, but if for some reason you are unable to pay your dues, please contact WM Dale Flatt at 512-917-1666 or Secretary Roland Brown at 512-217-4025. We cannot help you if we do not know you need help.

On a lighter subject, last Saturday, April 17th, Onion Creek joined the other Lodges in District 50 to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of picnicking on Lake Austin. Our host was Austinite and space tourist Richard Garriott, and his place was beautiful. Masons, wives, children, and friends had a glorious time in the bright sunshine exploring the beauties of the lakefront and eating the great barbecue prepared by the Brothers of T. Neal Porter #1394.

The only downer for the day was the number of people who were unable to join us for this fun and fellowship due to business or fear of the weather forecast! A special thanks to Onion Creek's Worshipful Master Dale Flatt for arranging the use of the site with Mr. Garriott.

*Roland*

**National Military Appreciation Month** - in the United States to recognize and honor the U.S. Armed Forces.

**May is Older Americans Month** in the United States, established by John F. Kennedy in 1963.





## ONION CREEK MASONIC LODGE BEACON

MAY 2010



**May Food Committee Co-Chairmen:** Ralph Cearley & Todd Reynolds **Members:** Hamilton Carter, Allen Deaver, Adrian Edmundson, Dale Flatt, David Heard, Joseph Hurtado, David Karhi, Jimmy Mills, Jonathan Ramirez, Aaron Roberston, Troy Shugart, Russ Tidwell, and Ricky Tindell. **Menu:** Sausage, Potato Salad, Beans, and assorted condiments. Food committee members should contact your chairmen for further information.

**May Meeting will be a Family Night Meal.**

If you are not a member of a food committee please join one of our groups in providing this valuable service to our brotherhood. Most of the month's groups cost about \$15 each and include big helpings of camaraderie and fellowship ...cheap at twice the price.

**March 2010 SAMC OCL Volunteers**

Onion Creek brothers, wives, and friends volunteered 138.5 hours with 14 daytime and 24 evening shifts for March at South Austin Medical Center. 41 hours were clocked by Ron Moreau with Bart Tuthill working 20.5. Daniel Andrade and Max Fisher helped 12 hours and Roland Brown worked 8. Working 6 each were Walter Boyd, Bobby Tiner, and our first timer, Ken Loveless. Glen Broddrick, Charles Jennings, Norm Hayes, Carl and Jeanine Robinson, Linda Boyd, and Dwane Ideker each worked 3 hours this month.

Please contact **Bro Bart Tuthill or Bro Ricky Tindell** for information on becoming part of this great service group.

**With the changes at SAMC and the construction, the volunteers will need extra hands to cope with the needs of patients and staff at the hospital.**

**Our Known Onion Creek Ill--**

Please keep these brothers and their families in your prayers: Cecil Goodwin (successful knee replacement); George Henry (waiting for tests on knee replacement); Alan Karotkin (recovering from another shoulder surgery); Kenneth Patton (wheelchair at home); Art Pederson (breathing problems), wife Irene (fractured shoulder healing); Jack Hurt (low red blood cells, transfusion); Tom Richardson (recovering from stroke and heart attack); Dick Frazer (ok at Lockhart home); Charles Ridenour (muscle spasms, med confusion); Jimmie Banks (home shop accident damaged hand; better after surgery); Janet Lee (still no diagnosis); Johnnie Long (improving and using new ramp); Becky Moreau (gall bladder surgery); Marvin Langley (Joe LaRocca's father-in-law; in rehab after liver tumor surgery.)

*Chaplain John Turner*

**Onion Creek officers' election** will be at the stated meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please attend and let the brothers who have been working and leading the lodge know they have your support.

**Onion Creek officers' installation** will be held July 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. Tony Ramirez is trying his best to hire an authentic Chuck Wagon to cater the affair, parking it somewhere under the trees. He hopes that our lodge building and the Chuck Wagon will create an unforgettable turn of the century atmosphere. It's very difficult to get a chuck wagon because of all the cook-off competitions they attend as some of them refuse to cook in the summer. Put the date on your calendar for an important Masonic event.



**Funeral Rites** --Chairman **Charlie Jennings**, announced that thirteen of the Onion Creek Funeral Brotherhood had aided Bro Don Long in conducting the Masonic Last Rites for Bro David Ahrendt and his family on March 26. Charlie strongly encourages all brothers to be a part of this important service of our Lodge. If you would like to join this group contact WM Dale or Secretary Roland or Bro Charlie. The **Cemetery Committee**, jointly chaired by **WM Dale Flatt and Bro Jason Harrell**, announced that records of the cemetery are under constant updating and most records are now online. Bro Dale also invited brothers to join in a cemetery cleanup of underbrush and trees to take place in May. Online information is at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/cemeteries/masoniclz.php>.



I watched the flag pass by one day,  
It fluttered in the breeze;  
A young Marine saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.  
I looked at him in uniform,  
So young, so tall, so proud;  
With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought ... how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years?  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?  
How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No ... Freedom is not Free.

**BOGGY CREEK MASONIC CEMETERY**  
According to local tradition, in the winter of 1859, 23-year-old John Davis joined a community wagon train headed for work in the pine forests of Bastrop County. Davis, sprayed by a skunk during the night, began running wildly through the camp. He was mistaken for a Comanche intruder and accidentally shot to death. His father, Jenkins Davis, buried John on 2.3 acres purchased near Boggy Creek and his Manchaca home. John's 1859 burial is the earliest recorded at the cemetery.

In 1876 Jenkins Davis, a member of the early area Onion Creek Masonic Lodge No. 220, donated the 2.3 acres to the lodge, and the site became a community graveyard. First called Boggy Creek and later Boggy Creek Masonic Cemetery, the graveyard had become known simply as Masonic Cemetery by the 1960s. Enlarged over the years, the cemetery now contains about 7 acres and more than 1,200 burials. Among the people buried there are area pioneer settlers and their descendants; members of fraternal organizations such as the Masons and Woodmen of the World; and veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I & II, and the Korean conflict. Onion Creek Lodge No. 220 A.F.&A.M. continues to maintain the cemetery.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
When everything was still;  
I listened to the bugler play,And felt a  
sudden chill;  
I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant "Amen,"  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend;  
I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands ...  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea,  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington ...  
No ... Freedom is not Free!

Author unknown

### *May Birthdays*

Daniel Andrade (23), Rodney Angell (28), Al Bell (12), Robert Boddy (22), James L Brown (18), Johnny Camarillo (29), Donnie Carter (26), Sherrell Cole (16), Don Cowley (4), Richard S Currier (16), Allen Deaver (15), Luther Forrester (13), Henry Galarza (24), Frank Garza (10), Jimmy Greybeck (5), David Heard (5), Jack Hurt (25), Greg Johnson (31), John Jordan (18), Larry Korts (25), Kenneth Loveless (29), H E McCaslin Sr (12), Vernon Miers (19), T Paul Murphy (19), Ronald Norwood (30), Billy Penry (28), Robert Ray (25), Richard Rayborn (5), Dennis Ross (19), Matias H Ruiz (1), Dewey Savell (20), James Shelton (14), Joseph Simpson (2), Norman Smith III (31), Laurian Stoicoviciu (16), Otsie Stowell (16), Charles Thomas Jr (19), Pablo Ureste (7), Felix Vickers (8), Kenneth Wenrich (2), and Kenneth Wood (19).

**Happy Birthday, Brothers...  
and may the Supreme Architect  
bless you with many more....**

### *Masonic Birthdays Raised in May of (year)*

Daniel Andrade (88), Eli Arjona (98), Jerry Bailey (65), Wm Bargainer (85), James Bertsch (81), Jack Brassil (64), Floyd Brizendine (56), Billy Capps (65), Jared Clarkson (01), Robert Dvorsky (97), Robert Fleming (58), Ralph Friesner (47) Henry Galarza (60), Frank Hankins (98), Samuel Hill (78), Don Hudson (73), Charles Jennings (56), Pat Kelley (59), Larry Korts (54), Barney Lewis (69), Leroy Mann (56), H E McCaslin Jr (86), Al Mehlhaff (83), James Milligan (52), Ronald Norwood (73), David Prescott (74), Francisco Reyes Jr (01), James Robinson II (95), Carl Robinson (67), Ismael Salinas (01), John Schlueter (94), Gregory Self (95), Jim Sherrard (58), Troy Shugart (07), John Spillar (45), Philip Sughrue (01), Tommy Teykl (66), Arthur Wagner (76), Dennis Warner (93), George Webb (61), Raymond Williams (73), and Buddy Wilson (79).

**And God said, "Let there be light,  
and there was light!"**

## **THOUGHTS ON MEMORIAL DAY...**

We observe Memorial Day to remember those men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. The day was officially proclaimed on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1868 by General John Logan, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and was first observed on May 30<sup>th</sup> of that year when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. By 1890 all of the northern states observed Memorial Day. The South refused to honor it and honored their dead on separate days. Texas honored its confederate dead on January 19<sup>th</sup>. This changed after World War I when Memorial Day was changed from honoring only those who had died fighting in the Civil War to all soldiers who died in all wars.

In 1915 Moina Michael, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields", conceived the idea of wearing red poppies to commemorate Memorial Day. She began selling the poppies to friends and coworkers and donated the money to servicemen in need. This tradition spread to other countries. It was Madam Guerin from France that approached the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, for help selling the poppies. In 1922 the VFW became the first veteran's organization to sell poppies nationally on Memorial Day. Today, the VFW's red "Buddy" Poppies are still created by disabled and needy veterans in many VA hospitals. The funds raised provide compensation to the veterans who assembled the poppies and provides financial assistance to many organizations that deal with veterans and the widows and orphans of veterans.

Although the true observance of Memorial Day has diminished through the years, Onion Creek Lodge has never forgotten its fallen brothers. Every Memorial Day you can see small American flags in front of many gravestones at the Onion Creek cemetery. Each placed there by brothers volunteering their time. Every Memorial Day Aubrey Dawson used to ask brothers to help him place flags on the graves of the soldiers buried at our cemetery. Today Charles Jennings and his group continue this tradition.

Memorial Day is more than just a day that you get off from work. It is a day of remembrance. It is a day to remember all the battlefields in the world where young men and women gave their lives.

from our **Senior Warden**

*Tony Ramirez*



As kids in Oklahoma, our Mom always had us wear a red rose on Mother's Day signifying that our Mother was still with us. Now I wear a white rose in honor of my Mom who has passed on.

Happy Mother's Day to all Moms.



**ONION CREEK MASONIC LODGE BEACON**  
**MAY, 2010**



**ONION CREEK WEBMASTER**  
**RAUL J. SCULLY**

**ONION CREEK BEACON EDITOR**  
**H. MAX FISHER**