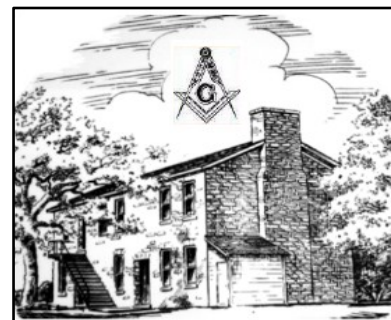


# THE BEACON

Onion Creek No. 220  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858  
Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



July 2023

## *Lodge Officers 2022- 2023*

WM: **Ernest Owney, PM**  
SW: **Richard Alonso**  
JW: **Abram R. Wallace**  
Treas: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**  
Sec: **Raul J. Scully, PM**  
Chap: **William L. Lewis, PM**  
SD: **Bobby D. Clakley**  
JD: **Mike G. Barefield**  
SS: **Jacob A. Carroll**  
JS: **Isaac E. Carroll**  
Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**  
MC: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**  
Mus: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**  
Tiler: **Dennis W. Mingua, Jr.**

## *Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters*

1969- Tommie J. Conner  
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges  
1977- Roy L. Hamor  
1978- Bobby J. Doherty  
1980- Ronald B. Norwood  
1981- Howard D. Hall  
1982- Alan L. Karotkin  
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon  
1991- Ronnie H. Lee  
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff  
1994- Walter H. Argall  
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez  
1997- William S. Lear  
1998- John W. Turner  
2000- Walter E. Sanders  
2001- Jonathan D. Walker  
2003- Ricky J. Tindell

2005- Hamilton B. Carter  
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II  
2007- Michael E. Sanders  
2008- Daniel E. Barber  
2009- Dale L. Flatt  
2010- Tony M. Ramirez  
2011- Dennis J. Ross  
2012- Adrian W. Edmundson  
2013- Raul J. Scully  
2014- Ben B. Rauschke  
2015- Curtis A. Gilgan  
2016- Jeff J. Carroll  
2017- William L. Lewis  
2018- Christopher R. Dawson  
2019- David "Tide" Williams  
2020- Troy J. Shugart  
2021- Troy J. Shugart

## *Living Affiliated Past Masters*

J. Roland Brown  
J. Robert Darrell  
Gerald T. Dawson  
Allen W. Deaver  
Robert Eschenburg  
Larry Faulk  
Brad French  
Reagan W. Hammett  
Howard Kimball  
James M. King  
Don R. Long  
Randy Martin  
Wes Mersiovsky  
Jorge A. Millan  
Ernest Owney  
Byron Webster  
James C. Wells

## *Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:*

### **Stated Meeting**

**First Thursday**  
**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Master Mason's Lodge**

### **Family Night**

**Meal at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

#### *Activities:*

*Arbitration:*

*Audit:*

*Beacon Editor:*

*Breakfast Socials:*

*Building:*

*By-Laws, Policies:*

*Cemetery:*

*Communications:*

*Fantastic Teeth:*

*Finance:*

*Fraternal Assistance:*

*Funeral:*

*Golden Trowel:*

*Grand Lodge Business:*

*Hospital:*

*Library:*

*Lodge Education:*

*Members in Arrears:*

*Photography:*

*Past Masters' Night:*

*Raffle:*

*Scholarship:*

*Sick and Distressed:*

*Vanguard:*

**Bobby Clakley**

**Richard Alonso**

**Abram Wallace**

**David Karhi**

**Michael Barefield**

**Bobby Clakley**

**Robert Darrell, PM**

**Dale Flatt, PM**

**Raul Scully, PM**

**Dennis Ross, PM**

**Curtis Gilgan, PM**

**Ernest Owney, PM**

**Ernest Owney, PM**

**Troy Shugart, PM**

**Curtis Gilgan, PM**

**David Karhi**

**Christopher Dawson, PM**

**Bobby Clakley**

**Richard Alonso**

**Ricardo Avila**

**Robert Eschenburg, PM**

**David Hoke**

**Charles Foreman**

**Ernest Owney, PM**

**Abram Wallace**

## *Behind the Masonic Symbols: The Cornerstone*

In contrast to the sacrifices and superstitions of ancient times, Freemasons in their ceremonies have made the cornerstone a symbol of the individual Mason and the sacrifices of labor and time necessary to build a moral and Masonic edifice. Today we hollow out the cornerstones, placing small objects inside, like coins, photographs, newspapers, or a list of those who erected the building; it's wholly up to the committee in charge's imagination. This tradition includes a subtle nod to its origin; in Freemasonry, he who hunts for the symbol behind the symbol will find from the cornerstone the need of sacrifice in time, effort, and thought at the beginning of every effort and of one's Masonic journey. Every Mason must make these sacrifices if they choose to play an integral part in bettering themselves and the lives of those in their communities.

The cornerstone also symbolizes sturdiness, morality, and truth. At his first initiation, the Mason is tasked with erecting a spiritual temple in his heart, drawing symbolic parallels to the strong, trusty cornerstone; without which, a building (symbolically, the Mason's mind and heart) cannot stand. In ceremony, the Entered Apprentice is typically placed in the north-east corner of the Lodge as a figurative cornerstone; this signifies the unity of the North (darkness), and the East (light). The initiate learns and understands the necessity of integrity, stability of conduct, of truthfulness and uprightness of character, and of purity and holiness of life. He is also charged with maintaining all these virtues. These characteristics are all associated with the strength and durability of the physical cornerstone. It is customary for Masons to lay the cornerstones of public buildings through ceremony – traditionally with the stone placed in the northeast corner of the foundation.

Physical cornerstones used in ceremonies in which Masons are erecting buildings traditionally show the date, the name of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, and the Masonic emblem. Cornerstones have been part of the construction or dedication of many federal buildings and seats of state government since the beginnings of our country. Bro. Benjamin Franklin, while Grand Master of Pennsylvania, established the tradition beginning with the cornerstone laying of the state house in Philadelphia, and Bro. George Washington laid the cornerstone of our nation's Capitol building. Today, Freemasons around the country are proud to carry on the tradition that our forefathers began centuries ago. We are also proud to uphold truth

and the moral characteristics associated with the cornerstone, and understand the necessary sacrifices we must make to better our lives and communities. Such sacrifices in pursuit of character and truth are necessary to live into the promise of its symbolism in our degrees.

*Originally Published at Freemason.com*



If there's one thing I've learned in my years on this planet, it's that the happiest and most fulfilled people are those who devoted themselves to something bigger and more profound than merely their own self-interest.

*Bro. John Glenn, Jr.*

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.

*Bro. Booker T. Washington*

Keep working on a plan. Make no little plans. Make the biggest one you can think of, and spend the rest of your life carrying it out.

*Bro. Harry S. Truman*

## ***The Blue Slipper Program***

Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas is proud to announce a new statewide program for widows of Texas Master Masons. The program provides funding for many different services including: dental services, medical services, health maintenance supplies, accessibility modifications (grab bars, wheelchair ramps), prescription services, counseling services, durable medical equipment, food, clothing, utilities, and referrals for community resources. These services are available to all qualified widows of Texas Master Masons. Texas residency is required.

The Masonic Blue Slipper symbolizes the “Masonic Widow” with a history in the Bible story of Ruth. The shoe is a symbol of promise and being under the protection of Masons.

If you know of anyone who can benefit from these valuable resources, an application form can be found online at: <https://www.masonichometx.org/the-blue-slipper-program>. For additional information, email [shannon@mcfstx.org](mailto:shannon@mcfstx.org) or call 817-503-1500.

Let's do everything we can to make sure all of our Masonic widows have everything they need and are well cared for.

***David Karhi, Editor***

## ***This Month in Masonic History***

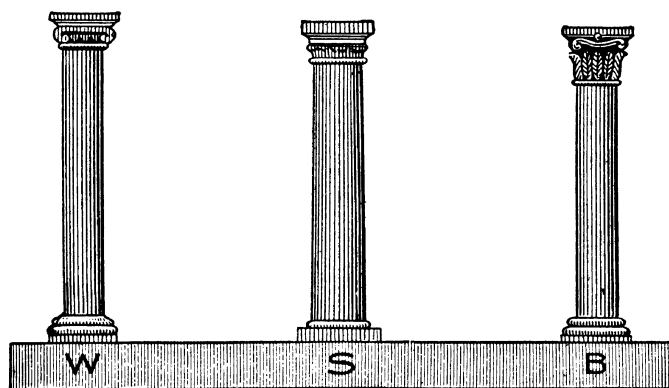
- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1989, the Grand Lodge of Hawaii was formed
- July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1781, Robert Burns received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1830, the Grand Lodge of Florida was formed
- July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1789, the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was formed
- July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1901, Sir Winston Churchill received his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree in Studholme Lodge #1591, London
- July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1758, the Grand Lodge of Scotland granted a charter to Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, the lodge that had conferred the Masonic degrees on George Washington in 1752 and 1753
- July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1875, the Grand Lodge of South Dakota was formed
- July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1818, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi was formed

***David Karhi, Editor***

## ***Prayer List***

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures or have limited mobility: Scott Brown (Roland's son), Carol Camarillo (John's step mom), John Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (John's father), Billy & Evelyn Capps, Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Odie Eschenburg (Robert's mom), Patricia Eschenburg (Robert's sister), RW Mike & Barbara Gower, Reagan & Betty Hammett, Dorothy Hill (Sam's wife), Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Eva Jean Kestner, Don & Johnnie Long, Randy Martin, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Liz Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's mother-in-law), Wes Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's father-in-law), Edna Missildine, Ernest Owney, Jr., Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Orlando Perez, Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), and John Waggoner.

***If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM Ernest Owney, PM or Chaplain Bill Lewis, PM***



## ***SAMC Hospital Volunteers***

During the month of May, 6 Masons, wives, and friends contributed over 130 hours assisting our friends and neighbors over at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

The outstanding volunteers who made this possible are (in alphabetical order): Charlie Foreman with 16 hours, Barbara Guthridge with 26 hours, Richard Guthridge with 23 hours, David Karhi with 6 hours, Carl Robinson with 36 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 22 hours.

***Thank you folks for a job well done!***

**Onion Creek No. 220 A.F. & A.M.  
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**Onion Creek No. 220 A. F. & A. M. South Austin, Texas**



***July Birthdays***

Steven R. Franklin, Billy R. Seguin, Adrian W. Edmundson 01; James R. Jennings 02; Christopher T. Bookout 08; Ronald B. Fife 09; Omar Chavez-Trevino 10; David W. Hardt 11; Kenneth R. Smith 15; William E. Powell 17; Samuel M Gacesa 18; Alan L. Karotkin, William R. Harrison, Todd A. Reynolds 20; Charles A. Snoddy 22; James W. Fouts 23; Clifford C. Cody 25; Dale L. Flatt 26; Kendell Holcomb 27; John C. Wood and Bradley D. French 30.

***Happy Birthday Brothers!  
May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!***

***Masonic Birthdays; raised in July (year)***

James R. Jennings 53; Donald A. Villoni 58; Gordon V. Powell, Jr. 61; Marvin H. Kelly 62; Ferril C. Smith 76; Richard N. Benoit 80; Ronald B. Fife 88; Francisco Reyes, Sr., Peter Seguin 89; Michael S. Compton 93; Darin W. Isaacs 94; David P. Vinson 95; Hunter S. Arend, Charles P. Foreman, Jerry W. Wranischar 96; John C. Preece 98; William S. Haire 99; Juan A. Rivera, Jr., Charles E. Ruebbling 04; Terrence P. Murphy 05; Jose M. Chirinos 09; Chadwyck W. Preece 14; Patrick N. Franklin 17.

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