

Gray Line



NEWSLETTER OF GRAY MASONIC LODGE No. 329, A.F. & A.M.

MARCH/APRIL 2022

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077

(713) 730-9329

CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022

ERICKSON E. YBARRA

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

GARY A. WIENER

SENIOR WARDEN

STEVEN E. COBB

JUNIOR WARDEN

DANIEL R. SWEET

TREASURER

DARRIN I. PITTS, PM

SECRETARY

DOUG W. HISSONG, PM

CHAPLAIN

VIGIL M. ROXAS

SENIOR DEACON

LUIZ A. SORIANO

JUNIOR DEACON

LEO I. BARNUEVO

SENIOR STEWARD

M. POLYCHRONOPOULOS

JUNIOR STEWARD

RICHARD H. COBB, SR.

MARSHAL

YOUSSEF JAMAL DIALLO

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JOE K. LESTER, JR.

MUSICIAN

BRAD J. LEDBETTER

TILER

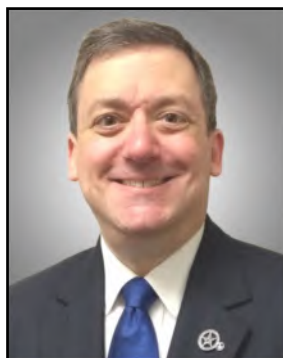
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Greetings from the West



Brethren,

You may have already noticed two things about this edition of the *Gray Line*:

1. It's about a month late.
2. The person pictured on the left is *not* Worshipful Master Ybarra.

That pretty much summarizes how it has been for the officers and Brethren of Gray Lodge No. 329 since the January newsletter:

things have been so impossibly busy, neither WM Ybarra nor I could spare the time to get this issue together before now. (Worshipful would have written this himself, but he has a one-year-old daughter that already has him wrapped around her finger ...)

Rather than put together pictorials for all of our events (which I would have preferred to do, but it might have delayed this issue even further, and made it much too long for convenient delivery), let me just list the happenings of the past few months here:

At January's Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Gray Lodge was represented by no fewer than SEVEN members, ***not including*** Grand Lodge committeeman Bro. Darrin Pitts, PM and DDGM at Large R.:W.:Aaron Tyksinski. R.:W.:Roberto Sanchez was welcomed to the Communication in his official capacity as Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of the State of Mexico; and we witnessed the installation of our new Grand Master, M.:W.: Brad Billings.

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue:

- Greetings from the East
- Greetings from the West
- Dues Are Due!
- A Busy November
- 13th Richardson Lecture
- Bro. Alexander Di Caro
- Upcoming Events
- Master Mason Anniversaries

Greetings From the East

(Continued from page 1)

(Also, at the Grand Lodge's annual photography competition, one of SD Vigil Roxas' selfies somehow won an Honorable Mention award. That sound you hear is Ansel Adams rolling over in his grave.)

Unfortunately, January was also the month in which three of our Lodge brothers, including our Past Master John Minniece, laid down their working tools. Our remembrances of all our recently-fallen Brethren are on the final pages of this newsletter.

In February, an intruder broke into *and entered* the Gray Lodge building via the library window, and (based on the security camera footage) could not have spent more than 30 seconds grabbing keepsakes from our display case before squeezing back out the window. Your officers immediately set to work, purchasing and installing new security cameras and emergency outdoor lighting, and taking bids on enhanced security monitoring. Also, the Brethren worked to (at long last!) clear out brush and garbage trees from behind our lodge building, so that cowans can no longer hide themselves in the forested area if they wish to approach the building. We are grateful to all Brethren (including those from other lodges who joined us) for all their hard work!

In happier news, on February 13, Gray Lodge's team took First Place in the Arabia Shrine's Chili Cook-off. Flush with confidence, JW Steven Cobb made sure that as Gray Lodge resumes its annual Family Picnic Day on Saturday, April 9, the first-ever Gray Chili Cook-off will take place. (The Lodge restrooms will be open and available to all attendees.) We are hosting this in partnership with our OES affiliate, Bluebell Chapter No. 856, and hope you and your family and friends will be able to join us; please see Page 4 for more details.

Our March 2 Stated Meeting featured guest speaker Bro. Cody Cockroft, chair of the Grand Lodge Committee on Education, to walk us through the origins of the language of Ecclesiastes XII and its Masonic significance. More significantly for this Message, however, was the unanimous election of Bro. Doug Hissong, PM, to receive the first Golden Trowel Award bestowed by Gray Lodge No. 329 since 2017. We will honor Bro. Hissong for his long contribution to Masonry in general, and to Gray Lodge in particular, on Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m. (Please see the announcement on Page 5.) Please plan to be there to congratulate Bro. Hissong in person!

That brings us up to the present, when our next Stated Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m. (dinner at 6, of course). On Thursday, April 7, we will pass a worthy Brother to the degree of Fellowcraft (same dinner and lodge schedule). Please mark your calendars now for our May 4 Stated Meeting, when our DDGM, R.:W.: Hunter Schappaugh, will make his first official visit to Gray Lodge; and for our June 1 Stated Meeting, when we will elect Gray Lodge's officers for the 2022-2023 Masonic year.

WM Ybarra will return to these pages, I hope, in the next issue of *Gray Line* (with his much more succinct writing style). Until then, we hope to see you at the Lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Gary Wiener, Senior Warden

Don't Be "THAT Guy".

We've all heard the conversation — "Whatever happened to So-and-So? He never comes around the Lodge anymore." "Oh, didn't you hear? He got suspended for non-payment of dues." (Okay, maybe we *haven't* all heard that conversation, and few of us want to — and we'll bet *none* of us want to be "So-and-So".)

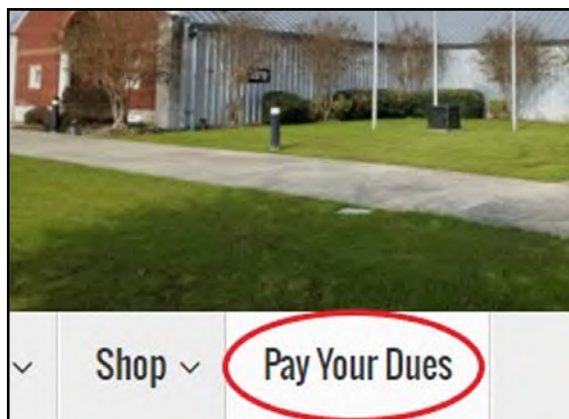
Dues notices were mailed and emailed to all Brethren in December, and if you haven't paid for 2022 yet, technically you are now in arrears.

Your dues payments provide the funds that allow Gray Lodge to pay our bills, so when asked, please provide your financial support to the Lodge promptly.

You can now pay your annual Lodge dues, join the Master's Club, or increase your Endowment online through the Gray Lodge #329 website! Go to <http://www.gray329.org> and in the navigation banner, just under the picture of our Lodge building, click "Pay Your Dues".

This link will take you to a page where you can make your dues payment via PayPal, either using your credit card or PayPal Account. (PayPal will add a small convenience fee.)

Our Secretary and Treasurer will be notified of your payment, and your dues card will be mailed to you as soon as we receive it from Grand Lodge.



"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

~ Albert Pike

"That one things we have to teach, that one thing we Masons have as the key to our secret, the end-all and the be-all of Freemasonry is, you are my brother and I am yours."

~ Conrad Hahn



Gray Lodge No. 329 & Bluebell Chapter No. 856



invite you, your family and friends to our

SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, April 9th

9am-3pm



CHILI COOKOFF

*\$25 entry per team - Judging at 1pm
Proceeds to benefit Bluebell No. 856*



FOOD! FOOD! FOOD!

*Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Snacks
Homemade Pickles & Peanut Brittle
will be for sale*



GAMES FOR ALL AGES
(Bouncy house NOT for all ages)

Raffle drawing at 2pm

Proceeds to fund Masonic scholarships

2370 Barker Oaks Drive, Houston 77077



GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD

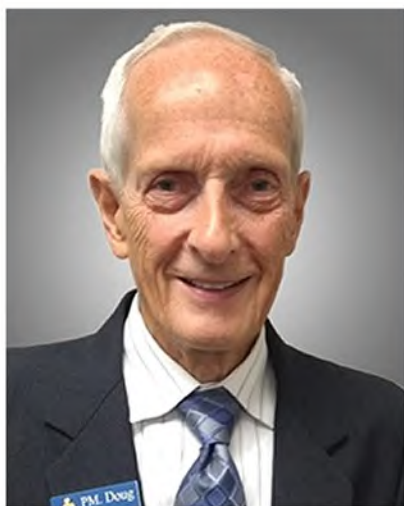
HONORING
Douglas W. "Doug" Hisson

WHEN

Saturday, May 14 | 10:00am Open Meeting & Presentation | 11:30am Reception

WHERE

Gray Lodge No. 329 | 2370 Barker Oaks Drive | Houston, Texas



Masons, ladies and guests from around the world are invited to join the officers and members of Gray Lodge No. 329 for a special Open Meeting and presentation prior to the Texas High Twelve State Convocation.

The Golden Trowel Award was established by the Grand Lodge of Texas to recognize Masons who have consistently demonstrated exemplary service and leadership. Recipients display commitment to Masonic principles and have shown dedication to the teaching of Masonry. It is the highest Grand Lodge-sanctioned honor a Lodge can bestow upon a worthy Brother.

Gray Lodge No. 329 is proud to present Doug W. Hisson, a dedicated Mason who has honorably served the Masonic fraternity as an officer and Past Master (2016-2017) of Gray Lodge, with the Golden Trowel Award.

GRAY LODGE NO. 329

Gray Lodge No. 329 was originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1870, and has been in continuous Masonic service for 152 years, making it the second-oldest Masonic Lodge in the Houston area. Named for Col. William Fairfax Gray, the first Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas, Gray Lodge No. 329 currently has one of the most diverse memberships of any regular Texas Masonic Lodge, with active members hailing from a dozen different nations representing all three of the world's major religions.

Worshipful Master
Erickson E. Ybarra

Senior Warden
Gary A. Wiener

Junior Warden
Steven E. Cobb

Secretary
Darrin I. Pitts, PM

Treasurer
Daniel R. Sweet

Alexander Joseph Di Caro, MD., Part Two

Jim Hoffpauir, Staff Writer

Reprinted from *Texas Freemason Magazine*, Spring 2022

Grand Lodge of Texas

[Editor's note: Brother Hoffpauir's two-part profile of Gray Lodge #329 member Bro. Di Caro began in the Winter 2021 issue of Texas Freemason Magazine, and we reprinted it with permission in the January 2022 Gray Line. The current issue of Texas Freemason contains the second—but certainly not the final!—part of Bro. Di Caro's story, which we reprint here for you, again with permission.]

Statues to Mexico

Through his ties with Shriners International in Tampa, Di Caro found himself involved with a rather interesting adventure in Old Mexico in 2014-15. It involved the rather questionable transportation of two bronze statues - one of which being the well-known Shriner walking with a crutch carrying a small child - to the Shrine Hospital in Mexico City.

"It seems the gentleman responsible to find safe passage to Mexico City of a couple of bronze statues to place in the entrance of the Shriners hospital there knew I donated lots of medical instruments to Mexico from San Antonio. How could 'I' get them down there?" laughs Di Caro.

Wife Sandra had the answer: they would wrap them up and drive them to Mexico City. 'Stashed' among the couple's luggage in the back of the car went the two heavily wrapped statues. Past US and Mexican customs they maneuvered. All was well until reaching the final Mexican check point 10-12 miles south of Nuevo Laredo at Anahuac in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.

"Senor, what do you have wrapped up in those packages?" spoke the border guard in the finest of English. After guarded, but truthful, explanation by Di Caro the guard rubbed his chin and smiled, "No problem brother - I am a Mason too."

Dyslexia

Dr. Di Caro became involved with the Scottish Rite Dyslexia program when he noticed his son Bryan was unable to read by the second grade. He then looked into the 2nd Baptist School in Houston which took in slow learners where he learned that Bryan's problem could be dyslexia. Di Caro soon moved to Jourdanton and opened his business in San Antonio where he was told to take the child to the Dallas SR Hospital for testing.

There he asked Anna Rammie to go down to Jourdanton where she located Brenda Franklin, wife of County Judge Thomas Franklin, who had been trained in the Dallas program. They worked out the particulars that launched the effort. Dyslexic programs now cover most of the school districts in both Atascosa a McMullen Counties. Di Caro became instrumental in the introduction of dyslexic training for students in the Jourdanton school system when he purchased program books set up after-school training for seven or eight children in the area.

Later Bryan off-handily said, "Dad, I forgot my sun glasses. When I have them, I can read this pretty good." Dr. Lucius Wade then told Di Caro that the introduction of color separates, rather than overlaps, letters and makes them easier to put in word and sentence form. Bryan began wearing his sun glasses in class and started making good grades. He then graduated from

Jourdanton High School and Texas A&I – now UTAM at Kingsville – and is now a successful entrepreneur in the home building and ministorage fields.

While at Texas A&I, Bryan was under the tutelage of Mary Hernandez, Assistant Professor of English, under Dr. John Lowe, Prof. of English, who, together, held classes for dyslexic students at the university.

DRs. DeBakey, Cooley, Di Caro, and the Artificial Heart

Doctor Michael Ellis DeBakey was born to Lebanese Maronite Christian immigrant parents in Lebanon September 7th, 1908. The family moved to Lake Charles, LA, where the name was eventually anglicized from its original spelling AlBinali. DeBakey read the entire Encyclopedia Britannica before entering high school. At age 23 he graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans becoming a medical prodigy when he created the roller pump – a medical device that provided continuous blood flow during operations. DeBakey used the device to transfuse blood directly from donor to patient. This was before blood banks became common. Twenty years later it became a crucial part of the heart-lung machine used in open-heart surgery.

He completed surgical fellowships in Europe before returning to Tulane in 1937. During World War II he helped develop Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units which became key elements of medical care placed near the front lines during the Korean War. He later established the Veterans Administration Medical Center Research System. The Michael E. DeBakey International Cardiovascular Surgical Society, founded 1976, which was later renamed the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society, was founded in his honor.

Among his credits in surgical innovations were the coronary bypass, carotid endarterectomy, artificial hearts, and ventricular assist devices. He was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, National Medal of Science, and Congressional Gold Medal. He led in operations on over 60,000 patients, including several heads of state.

Described as a “tough taskmaster,” DeBakey was said to be “sweet as dripping honey” to patients and medical students but brutal with surgical residents. He had a reputation of terrorizing co-workers who fell short of his standards.

Doctor Denton Cooley was born in Houston in 1920. He was the founder and Surgeon-in-Chief of the Texas Heart Institute, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery and clinical partner at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, Consultant in Cardiovascular Surgery at Texas Children’s Hospital, and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He studied Pre-Med at UT Medical Branch in Galveston and received his Medical Degree and surgical training at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He was called to active duty in the Army Medical Corps in 1946. He was discharged with the rank of Captain in 1948 before returning to complete his Residency at Johns Hopkins. He was hired by Dr. DeBakey in 1951.

On April 4, 1969 Cooley, with the help of DeBakey’s artificial-heart technician, Dr. Domingo Liotta, took the artificial heart from DeBakey’s lab and implanted it in one of Cooley’s patients at St. Luke’s. Di Caro, who was in the operating room had stepped out for a break, and reentered when the team did the, now historic, procedure. The patient lived 36 hours. DeBakey had developed the artificial device in his Baylor lab with funds from the National Heart Institute. Later

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Cooley defended his actions as a desperate attempt to save a life. Liotta justified his contribution through frustration from limited time he claimed DeBakey was putting into the project.

DeBakey, it is true, had not sought approval to use the device in human patients due to a lack of evidence of its success in animal trials. Learning of the Cooley implant during a National Heart Institute meeting, he flew back to Houston and began an investigation, announcing Cooley's unauthorized action broke federal rules and jeopardized Baylor's grants. Cooley later said his actions were justified and that he had been performing more heart operations than DeBakey on a yearly basis: that he considered himself the appropriate person to do the first implant of the artificial device. He then resigned from his Baylor position.

The parties did not reconcile their differences until October 27, 2007. DeBakey and Cooley exchanged warm handshakes during a ceremony when DeBakey accepted a lifetime achievement award from the Denton A. Cooley Cardiovascular Surgical Society shortly before DeBakey was presented the Congressional Gold Medal by then President George W Bush in Washington, DC.

Heartbeats

One of Dr. Di Caro's proudest and most rewarding adventures has been as a member of The Heartbeats. The Heartbeats, now renamed The Jazz Medics, were a group of Houston doctors and friends who originally banded together to play for their own enjoyment. The group was organized in 1965 as the Heartstrings by Drs. Cooley and Hallman. This name was chosen because most of the physicians worked in the field of heart disease and string instruments predominated. Cooley played the upright bass and Hallman the trombone with Di Caro on percussion drums. The band soon recruited saxophones, trumpets, and additional trombones, thus the change from The Heartstrings to The Heartbeats.

At first the Heartbeats presented short programs at parties for their medical colleagues. They were soon asked to play at larger social events held to raise money for worthy causes such as the Texas Heart Institute of St. Luke's Episcopal and Texas Children's Hospitals. At these affairs, they shared the bandstand with some of Houston's outstanding dance bands, usually presenting 30-minute intermission programs. By 1969 the band numbered twenty-three members, and went national when they played in February for the annual banquet of the American College of Cardiology at the New York Hilton, sharing the program with George Jessel, John Gary, Myron Cohen, and Gloria Loring. In October of 1969, they performed at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet at the University of Texas and were accompanied by Lyndon Johnson - 36th President of the United States - on the tambourine in "Tijuana Taxi." In February of 1971, the Heartbeats played at the National Gallery in Washington for the American College of Cardiology.

The Heartbeats have made two records and one tape. Proceeds benefit the Texas Heart Institute, and also helped in construction of the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and Texas Children's Hospital. They were: in 1968, "Presenting, The Heartbeats," and in 1972, "The Heartbeats Again." By the mid-70s the band's composition included doctors in a wide range of specialties. In 1974 it became The Jazz Medics. Today's band primarily performs at retirement homes, hospices, and private events in the Houston area.

It might be said that the man, Alexander Joseph Di Caro, Jr., lives daily by the classic motto spelled out in the old Jimmy Buffett ditto "with all of my running and all of my cunning, if I couldn't laugh, I would just go insane." Stay tuned!

UPCOMING LOCAL MASONIC EVENTS

Please note that all plans are subject to change and should be confirmed before attending. The most up-to-date calendar info is always available at <http://www.GRAY329.org/calendar>.

We are working to repair the online calendar feed and will have new links for you soon.

APRIL 2022

6	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
7	Thurs.	Fellowcraft Degree	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
8	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Sat.	Annual Gray Lodge Family Picnic	Gray Lodge #329	9:00 am—3:00 pm
11	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
12	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
14	Thurs.	Lodge Ritual / Degree Practice	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
18	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
21	Thurs.	Lodge Catechism Instruction	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
27	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

MAY 2022

4	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
5	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
12	Thurs.	Gray Scholarship Awards Present.	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Sat.	Golden Trowel—Bro. Doug Hissong	Gray Lodge #329	10:00 am
16	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
19	Thurs.	Lodge Ritual / Degree Practice	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
25	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Thurs.	Lodge Catechism Instruction	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

JUNE 2022

1	Wed.	Gray Stated Meeting—ELECTIONS	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
2	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
16	Thurs.	Lodge Ritual / Degree Practice	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
20	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
30	Thurs.	Officer Installation Rehearsal	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

April Stated Meeting

Please plan now to join us for our next Stated Meeting on Wednesday, April 6. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., with an Entered Apprentice Mason's lodge to open at 7 p.m.

WM Ybarra is planning meetings that will be more entertaining and educational than the typical monthly business of the Lodge, so we hope you will be there on Wednesday, April 6!

Keep Us Posted

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please update your record at grandlodgeoftexas.org (in the Member Portal), call us at 713-730-9329, or email Bro. Darrin Pitts at secretary@gray329.org with your new information so we can stay in touch.

Also, please let the Secretary know if you have any personal announcements you would like us to pass along to the Brethren.

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH 2022

7	Richard Cobb Sr.	21	Luiz Soriano
10	William Britt	25	Richard Cobb Jr.
10	Hamlin Elrod Jr.	27	Kenneth Wallis
10	Gregory Stephens	28	Curtis Buchan
13	Ricardo Abuabara	28	Noil Frisby
13	Kevin Roberts *	29	Lloyd Sherbert
14	Willard Cox Jr.	30	David Black
18	Zach Willner	30	Lawrence Rathbun
19	James Shafer	31	David Jurgens
20	Daniel Boyd	31	Cary Maurstad
20	Darrin Pitts *	* Past Master of Gray Lodge	

APRIL 2022

6	Matt Burke	14	Michael Ruppel III	23	Darrel Smallwood
7	Gasper Puccio Jr.	15	Alan Pugh	23	William Wilkins
8	Michael Bryant	16	Alan Harnack	25	James Cowan
9	Jeffrey Bell	16	T. Earl Long *	26	Philip Derise
9	Miguel Grajeda Jr.	17	Masatoshi Ichikawa	26	Joel Zimmerman
9	Rodrigo Moura	17	David Steen	27	Sonny Johnson *
11	Micho Moore	18	Walter Qualls	27	George Pardue Jr.
11	John Taylor III	19	Joe Lester	27	Ronald Walker
12	Pirtle DeGeurin	21	Butch Boggess *	29	Thomas Young
12	Bruce Levy	21	Greg Weisinger *	30	Brian Dodson *
13	Barry Amrich	22	Alex Buddenbaum	* Past Master of Gray Lodge	
13	George Lillard *	22	Lee McMillian		
14	Allen Casals	22	John Vittrup		

MAY 2022

1	Rachid Barry	11	Samuel Winstead	19	Charles Baxter
1	Darrell Dodds	13	Bennie Irish	21	Thomas Smith
1	Marcos Leitao	13	Gerald Zucker	27	Edward Bock
1	Donald Smith	14	Michael Hill	28	Harry Green *
3	Darrell Craig	14	Kenneth Knoblock	30	Mike Nanny *
8	Jerry Spencer	14	Brad Ledbetter	30	William Pray
9	Warren Ayres	14	Paul Sala	31	Nelson Fisher
9	Jason Pollick	15	William Gillespie	31	Michael Green
11	Joseph Addison	16	Lee Hooker	31	David Reece
11	Jeffrey Kapche	17	Steven Cobb	31	Carl Rubly
11	Dragos Oprea	18	Sidney Victory *	* Past Master of Gray Lodge	

"The importance of improvement, setting an example, and shouldering responsibility for the future are our Masonic goals. And where will it all end? In brotherhood. What we build today will endure. That is our hope and our faith."

~ Stanley F. Maxwell

IN MEMORIAM

Bro. John Gresham Minniece, III, PM**February 12, 1933 — January 10, 2022**

The new year began on a sad note with word that our Past Master, John Minniece, had laid down his working tools. Born on February 12, 1933 in Fort Riley, Kansas, Bro. Minniece attended St. John's Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin where he formed lifelong friendships and mastered his favorite sport, crew. Although he received an appointment to West Point, he chose to return to Texas to attend the University of Texas, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After serving in the Marine Corps, he returned to the University and earned a law degree, being admitted to the bar in 1960. He practiced oil and gas, banking, and real estate law.

His most cherished activity was spending time with his four children, and later his five grandchildren. After his family, John loved his Kappa Alpha friends and Masonic brothers. He was a member and Past Master of Gray Lodge, where

he was initiated June 17, 1998 as an Entered Apprentice; passed October 28, 1998 to the degree of Fellowcraft; and raised November 30, 1998 to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Minniece became an Endowed Member of Gray Lodge on July 28, 2003.

He was also a member of Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Naval Order of the United States, Houston Military Affairs Committee, and the Texas Association of Former Marines. He was a longstanding member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Bro. Minniece is survived by his devoted wife, Glenda, his four children, and his grandchildren.

Bro. James Patrick "J.P." Littlejohn**February 7, 1929 — January 28, 2022**

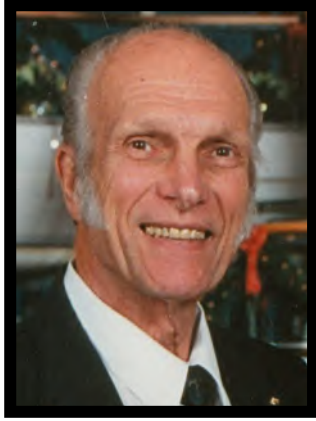
Bro. J.P. Littlejohn passed away peacefully January 28, 2022, in Katy, Texas at the age of 92. He was born in Irene, Texas on February 7, 1929, and proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years. The GI Bill allowed him to attend the University of Houston, from which he graduated in 1959 with a Business Administration degree. Bro. Littlejohn then was employed with Exxon for 35 years, retiring in 1992.

Bro. Littlejohn was a faithful member of Westminster United Methodist Church for 57 years. He was a volunteer and Lifetime Member of the Houston Livestock and Show and Rodeo for 27 years, serving on several committees. He also volunteered for the Bellaire Police Department for 30 years. He earned the following awards – Bellaire Police Appreciation 1996, Bellaire Police and Bellaire Community Dedicated Service Award 2003, Bellaire Police Outstanding Volunteer 2013, Bellaire Police Certificate of Recognition for 20+ years of service 2014. Bro. Littlejohn was also a longtime supporter of Sheriffs Association, NRA Legion of Honor, and 100 Club supporter for decades.

Bro. Littlejohn was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in Gray Lodge No. 329 on November 17, 1976; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on November 8, 1977; and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 11, 1978. He became an Endowed Member of Gray Lodge No. 329 on December 5, 1989.

He is survived by his three children, four grandchildren, and several great grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Carl W. Sontag**April 26, 1930 — January 22, 2022**

Bro. Carl W. Sontag, a native of Houston, Texas, laid down his working tools on January 22, 2022 at the age of 91. A graduate of Reagan High School in Houston, Bro. Sontag served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Upon returning home, he attended the University of Houston and then started his own business called Arrow Refrigeration. While at UH, he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and won the Fanciest Beard Contest at Frontier Fiesta in 1957. Bro. Sontag rode in the Salt Grass Trail Ride for more than 20 years.

Bro. Sontag was initiated May 27, 1968 as an Entered Apprentice; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on February 12, 1969; and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on May 15, 1969, all at the altar of Gray Lodge No. 329.

As a 60-year member of Hermann Sons, a fraternal life insurance organization, Bro. Sontag was an Agent and Past President of Magnolia Lodge #7 and Edelweiss Magnolia Lodge #47. He also served many years on the Youth Camp Committee and bowled on the Hermann Sons Bowling League.

As an Arabia Shrine member, Bro. Sontag volunteered often at the Shrine Circus in charge of the Lost & Found. Later he joined the Eastern Star and served as Worthy Patron of Houston Ransford Chapter #135 with his granddaughter, Sherry Dieckmann.

He was a lifetime member of the First Lutheran Church in Houston serving on various committees and ministries. He is survived by three daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Bro. Danny Harold Singh Fuller, Jr.**May 17, 1973 — March 21, 2022**

Bro. Danny Fuller, Jr., a native of Houston, laid down his working tools on March 21, 2022 at the age of 49; and was laid to rest on April 1, 2022.

Bro. Fuller achieved the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 505, Boy Scouts of America. He was initiated July 24, 2010 as an Entered Apprentice; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 27, 2011; and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on August 4, 2011, all within Gray Lodge No. 329.

He leaves his wife, Liane; his parents, Brother Danny H. Fuller, Sr. and wife Carmelita; and his son Colby.

A Memento Mori