

Robert Morrison, KYGCH



Most Illustrious Companion

160th Grand Master Cryptic Masons California

Sword & Trowel

July 2020

The Sword and Trowel is a monthly Newsletter published by the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California and provides information to all Companions of Grand York Rite of California.

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Vision Statement

Cryptic Masonry is an organization where men of good character come together to improve themselves, their families, and their communities.

It is where the highest Masonic values are learned by it's members and applied in all their doings.

As Cryptic Masons, we learn a way of life from our ancient teachings, develop meaningful and fulfilling lifelong relationships, and grow as enlightened men. We never hesitate to go out of our way to assist a widow, or a fallen brother.

Furthermore, membership in our Cryptic Councils provides us with a place where we, and our families, can find spirituality and likeminded positive thinkers, and where members of our community can depend on us for stability, leadership, and enlightenment.



Historic Day of Saturday, June 20, 2020

Saturday, June 20, 2020 was an historic day. The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons held the annual Grand Sessions and Installation of Officers in a virtual format that allowed all our members to attend and remain safe from the virus that has affected the entire world. The Grand York Rite of California had to cancel the Grand Sessions originally scheduled for May 11-13 because of the directive from Most Worshipful John Trauner Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California that cancelled all Masonic gatherings. On March 18, 2020, his words were, "...it is my direction that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in this state until further direction is received from me". For this reason, the Grand York Rite corporation of California rescheduled the California Grand Session to July 13-15. As time passed, it became apparent that the restrictions on Masonic gatherings were not going to be lifted.

Most Illustrious Eduardo Estrada not wanting to just take a wait and see approach to when to have the Grand Council Sessions talked to his Grand Line Officers and determined that it was time to make some sort of decision. On June 1, 2020, the GYR Corporation met to determine if the July dates chosen for our Grand Session were still viable. Most Illustrious GM Estrada announced that the Grand Council had set June 20, 2020 as the date for a virtual Grand Sessions meeting using Zoom as the format. His decision was based on the fact the restrictions would still be in place when the July dates arrived.

Announcements were made in a special issue of the Sword and Trowel giving details about the proposed Grand Council meeting. Thank you to RIC Richard Thornton, Sword and Trowel editor, for getting all the election and budget information published in time for the Sessions meeting. The rest is now history and I would like to say thank you to all the Companions that took time out on a Saturday afternoon to watch the proceedings. Most Illustrious Eduardo Estrada PMIGM received congratulations from General Grand Master David Grindle of the General Grand Council International and from Most Worshipful John Trauner Grand Master of California.

Most Illustrious Estrada should be congratulated on having an outstanding Cryptic year culminating in a Virtual Grand Council Assembly meeting that looked terrific and accomplished all the required elements. His program and format can be used as a templet for other Sessions in the future if the need arises. With his skill set, I feel certain that Most Illustrious Eduardo's future in York Rite Masonry will continue with more challenges in the near future and he will meet them with the same determination and zeal as he has shown in the past.

Most Illustrious Grand Master, congratulations on a year well done.

The 2020 Cryptic year will be a challenging one for the Grand Council and Constituent Councils alike. Our main task will be to keep our membership engaged and interested in Cryptic Masonry. This can be done through continued education and enjoyable virtual events. It is my intention to work with the Ritual Staff, Membership Committee, and Department Grand Officers to explore options available to accomplish these goals.

For now, please live smart and stay safe and we will survive these troubled times.

**As Always, Remember the Rites
Most Illustrious Companion Robert A. Morrison, KYGCH
160th Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California
I will do my best to serve you all
Thank you Thank you Thank you**

2020 Grand Council Installation Ceremony Remarks

Good Afternoon and thank you for joining us for the 160th Annual Installation of officers for the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California.

Thank you to our installing officers this afternoon. First off, Most Illustrious David Chesebro for being the installing Grand officer, Most Illustrious Robert A. L. Whitfield for being the installing Grand Marshal, and Most Illustrious James Baum as our installing Grand Chaplain. For me, it was like having the Cryptic Dream Team of California doing this installation. Your influence on me and how I have made this journey through the Grand Council Line has been greatly influenced by each of you. Thank you also to RIC Mark Harris for being the Grand Soloist today for our ceremony. My original choice for a bit of music during this affair was Yakity Sax by Boots Randolph, Chet Atkins, and Ray Seven but I was counseled by my bride that the theme song for the Benny Hill show was probably not the most appropriate piece of music for these ceremonies. I also would like to thank my younger but much wiser twin brother for his help and guidance as we both progressed through the Grand Council line. Most Illustrious Eduardo Estrada now a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master and his lovely Lady Natasha whose Cryptic year was cut short as far as receptions and events were concerned but extended for time served due to an unfortunate act of fate. They served the Grand Council well and should be proud of their many accomplishments during this last year. One of which was the grading system we now use to judge the performance of each of our councils and how it is used to assist and help troubled councils to grow. We will at this time pause to present and acknowledge our Junior Most Illustrious Grand Master Eduardo Estrada AKA the self-proclaimed avocado picker.

- Andy Pippin will present Lapel Pin
- Phil Hardiman will present our Junior Avocado Picker his Past Grand Master Cryptic Masons Apron & Jewel
- David Grindle General Grand Presentation

The stay at home order, which we have all been under since March has, had an adverse effect on all the events scheduled up and down this great state. Receptions, Festivals, and stated meetings have all been cancelled and it appears that this will continue until such time as our government deems it safe for us to gather. I do fear that even after our Grand Master Most Worshipful John Trauner gives the go ahead to once again meet and hold fraternal relations many individuals within our craft will hesitate or even refuse to participate out of a fear that they may contract this awful virus. For this reason, it is my intention to utilize the electronic means we have, to continue holding Masonic events.

I plan to engage the Department Grand Officers of the Grand Council in a push to reach out to our Cryptic brethren and keep them involved in York Rite Masonry. What works in the Los Angeles area probably would not be as effective in Eureka or Nevada City, but I am sure common ground can be found.

My original plan was to attend a stated assembly in each of our Councils located throughout our great state to meet and talk to all our members. Now I just hope that I will be allowed to attend any stated assembly during the upcoming year. My Lady Pauline had planned to accompany me on my travels and meet the wives of the many Illustrious Masters we have both North and South. As many of you already know, Pauline battled with breast cancer a few years ago and we thought that this was behind us but early this year we found out that the cancer has returned and metastasized in her lungs. Her medical treatment has compromised her immune system and she has been advised to avoid any unnecessary travel. When I can travel to various Councils it will be by myself but please know that she will be right by my side in thought and spirit and feels so sorry that she will not be able to meet everyone.

In closing I would like to leave you with a saying from one of our more famous brothers from many years ago, but it is as relevant now as it was in the 1700's. "Well done is better than well said" and this saying comes from Bro Benjamin Franklin.

As Always, Remember the Rites
Most Illustrious Companion Robert A. Morrison, KYGCH
160th Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California
I will do my best to serve you all.
Thank you Thank you Thank you

Forms and Documents, are located at the Grand York Rite website: [Grand York Rite of California](#).

Scroll down and click on "**York Rite Forms and Documents**." Then click on the appropriate logo. A window opens where you enter the userid, which is "cagy" and the password, which is "brio"

Scroll down to Officers Manual, which has information for the Secretary, and print that out. Many concepts in the Grand Chapter manual are relevant to the Councils and Commanderies. Priorities are as follows:

1. **Dues Collection:** You should send out dues' notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.

2. **Membership control:** Especially important is the very last item, "Royal Arch Monthly Report." This is relevant to you as a Secretary/Recorder if you do not yet have a userid for access to MMS – Masonic Membership Solutions. If you fill the paper report out each month, whenever you encounter changes to the membership, you will find it much easier at the end of the year to produce the year-end report, which is used to compute the amount of per capita the Chapter needs to pay. That payment is due by Jan 15th each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, **The WORKMAN & Sword and Trowel, to them.**

3. Do not cavalierly **suspend members** for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved and not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See the following sections of the relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Chapter: Section 201 in the [Constitution](#) then scroll down for current version of Royal Arch Constitution

Council: See Section 30-10 in the [Constitution](#) then scroll down for current version Grand Council Constitution

Commandery: See Section 347 in the [Constitution](#) then scroll down for current version Grand Commandery Constitution

4. **Per Capita:** Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th, does not require action by the Chapter to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date membership data in order to compute the end-of-year number of active members that is crucial to computing your per capita payment. Without good data you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to begin your process near the end of the CY, as soon as possible. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive. But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS.

5. **Insurance:** Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary-Recorder.

6. Lodge **Book of Marks:** Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.

7. **Minutes:** Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made and the vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate the basic petitioner information in the minutes. It is also a good practice to keep the names of attendees at each meeting in the minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of the cast members and the candidate(s).

8. **Grand Sessions:** Before April meeting, remind Dais officers they are responsible to attend, and arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers of Chapter and Council cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members cannot issue proxies. Appropriate forms can be obtained on Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials."

9. **Order of High Priesthood:** Be sure the current High Priest and Past High Priests' know they are eligible to receive this Order. In fact, it is a Constitutional requirement! Share the petition with them and send to the Grand Secretary. This requirement does not appear to be true for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree or the Past Commander's Association. Petitions for all three bodies are available at the website.

Editor Comment(s)

When a Master Mason, a brother, desires to become a York Rite Mason, [Royal Arch Mason, Cryptic Mason, and Knight Templar], he submits his application. During the local Convocation, Assembly, & Conclave if he is elected, he is told he must wait for a festival, which is sometimes months away. He must travel, sometimes to a different city and attend a festival. Many Candidates are in attendance to receive Royal Arch Degrees, Cryptic Degrees, & Knight Templar Orders. These degrees and orders are usually put together by various York Rite Bodies.

I still remember my raising in lodge, bunch of Farmers, strong, just finished throwing bales of hay. Well you can guess what happened in the third degree. We need to return to yesterday and do our own Royal Arch, Cryptic, Knight Templar. We can still have Colorado River Festival, Los Angeles, Alameda, Northern California, nothing wrong with those, those are special, lets keep our Festivals Special, but our local "Festivals" special.

Sometime in the past, an article/discussion was written about joining with Chapter in their outdoor degrees. Suggested we can put the Royal and Select Masters Degree after they have completed. With an additional two hours, we could complete Chapter & Council degrees, both outdoors. Now let's take another look at this article, since we have plenty of time on our hands because of the pandemic, as we cannot hold gatherings.

Held OUTDOORS, where is the privacy? Just in this area, Lodi Lake has areas we can book that has privacy. My Daughters backyard in Arden (Sacramento) has privacy in back yard and even in the front yard we can have privacy. What this article was attempting, let's be bold, for the last 12 years we have been losing people, 2,000+, let's get bold, boldly go where no man has gone before.

We currently have a newly minted Grand Master of Cryptic Masons and he dares signs off with "**As Always, Remember the Rites**" Wow, what a statement "Remember the Rites". Our Rites were written around 1762, long before most of us were born. Let's "**Boldly go where no man has gone before in a Galaxy Far, Far Away or maybe underneath a Tree.**" I'll Bar-b-Que Hamburgers, hot dogs, everyone bring a dish, we can actually get to know each other and families. **We have to be BOLD**

The electric fence and the lawnmower.

Sandy Terrell

The electric fence and the lawnmower.

We have a 6 ft. Square tube and welded wire fence in the front yard, and last Saturday, when I heard some thieving Punks might be bringing their BS out to the country, I wanted to make sure they ran into a little resistance before meeting my Kimber 9mm, so I got an electric fence and ran a single wire along the top of the fence.

Actually, I got the biggest cattle charger Tractor Supply had, made for 12.5 miles of fence. I then used an 8 ft. long ground rod, welded a 1/2 masonry bit to a piece of round rod, and sunk the ground rod 7.5 feet into the limestone. The ground rod is the key, with the more you have in the ground, the better the fence works.

On Wednesday my idiot neighbors hired another idiot to trim all their oak trees, yes in June, so now they will all probably die of oak wilt but that's a whole other story, and one of the limbs came crashing down on top of my fence leaving the main wire down in the yard. So yesterday I'm mowing the yard with my 5 hp Briggs and Stratton pushmower. I knew for a fact that I unplugged the charger so I pushed the mower around the wire and reached down to grab it, to throw it out of the way.

Well my sweet little wife had seen that the fence was unplugged and thought one of the dogs had accidentally done it, so she plugged it back in "for me" How very thoughtful of her.

Now I'm standing there, I've got the running lawnmower in my right hand and the 1.211111 gigavolt fence wire in the other hand. Keep in mind the charger is about the size of a marine battery and has a picture of an upside down cow on fire on the cover.

Time.....stood.....still.....

The first thing I notice is my hammer trying to climb up the front side of my body. My ears curled downwards and I could feel the lawnmower ignition firing in the backside of my brain. Every time that Briggs & Stratton rolled over, I could feel the spark in my head. I was literally at one with the engine.

It seems as though the fence charger and lawnmower were fighting over who would control my electrical impulses.

Science says you cannot poop, pee, and vomit at the same time. I beg to differ. Not only did I do all three at once, but my bowels emptied 3 different times in less than half of a second. It was a Matrix kind of bowel movement, where time is creeping along and you're all leaned back and BAM BAM BAM you just shit your pants 3 times. It seemed like there were minutes in between but in reality, it was so close together it was like exhaust pulses from a HEMI turning 8 grand.

At this point I'm about 30 minutes (maybe 2 seconds) into holding onto the fence wire. My hand is wrapped around the wire palm down so I can't let go. I grew up on ranches so I know all about electric fences ... but Grandpa always had those piece of shit chargers made by International or whoever that were like 9 volts and just kinda tickled.

This one I could not let go of. The 8-foot-long ground rod is now accepting signals from me through the solid limestone rock. At this point I'm thinking I'm going to have to just man up and take it, until the lawnmower runs out of gas.

'Damn!', I think, as I remember I just filled the tank!

Now the lawnmower is starting to run rough. It has settled into a loping run pattern as if it had some kind of big lawnmower race cam in it. Covered with body fluids on my chest I think 'Oh God please die Pleeeeeeaze die'. But noooooo, it settles into the rough lumpy cam idle nicely and remains there, like a big bore roller cam engine waiting for the go command from its driver's right foot.

So here I am in the middle of June, 104 degrees, 80% humidity, standing in my own front yard, begging God to kill me. God did not take me that day he left me there covered in my own fluids to writhe in the misery my own stupidity had created.

I honestly don't know how I got loose from the wire

I woke up laying on the ground hours later. The lawnmower was beside me, out of gas. It was later on in the day and I was sunburned.

There were two large dead grass spots where I had been standing, and then another long skinny dead spot where the wire had laid while I was on the ground still holding on to it. I assume I finally had a seizure and in the resulting thrashing had somehow let go of the wire.

Upon waking from my electrically induced sleep I realized a few things:

- Three of my teeth seem to have melted.
- I now have cramps in bottoms of my feet & my right butt cheek (not left, just right).
- Poop, pee, and vomit when all mixed together, do not smell as bad as you might think.
- My left eye will not open.
- My right eye will not close.
- Lawnmower runs like a sumbitch now. Seriously! I think our little session cleared out some carbon fouling or something, because it is better than new.
- My nuts are still average size yet they are almost a foot long.
- I can turn on the TV in the bedroom by farting while thinking of the number 4 (still don't understand this???)

Yesterday changed my life.

I now have a newfound respect for things.

I appreciate the little things more, and now I will always triple check to make sure the fence is unplugged before I mow.

The good news, is that if someone does try to come over the fence, I can clearly visualize what my security system will do to him, and THAT gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling all over, which will also remind me to triple check before I mow.

ScholarShips

Companions, your children, grandchildren, & for some, great-grandchildren may receive financial help for attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center website, have them go to bottom of page & find the Scholarship Manual in (PDF format – 450KB) to download.

There they will find instructions for filling out the forms.

This is the [link](#) which will take you to the public Grand Lodge web page on scholarships. All the information you need should be right there. This is a complete manual that you can download that talk about all of the scholarships available from the California Masonic Foundation as well as the [Scottish Rite](#), [York Rite](#), [Eastern Star](#), [High Twelve](#), [DeMolay](#), [Job's Daughters](#), & [Rainbow for Girls](#).

Contacts

Illustrious Grand Master Cryptic Masons:

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Butte Council No. 50

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Editor:

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Grand York Rite of California

Note: Hyperlinks or links to other pages or web sites are prevalent throughout the document.



Officers: Grand Council Cryptic Masons California

We, the officers of Grand Council of Cryptic Masons will visit you and ask "May We Help"?

Most Illustrious Companion

Robert A. Morrison, KYGCH & Lady Pauline
Grand Master, Cryptic Masons of California
Butte Council No. 50

Right Illustrious Companion <u>Peter G. Champion</u> , KYCH & Lady Janice Deputy Grand Master Grand Council Cryptic Masons San Luis Obispo Council No. 38	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Guy M. Chalmers</u> , KYCH & Lady Jeanne Grand Principle Conductor of the Work Grand Council Cryptic Masons Redwood Empire Council No. 46
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Thomas A. Krummell</u> , KYCH & Lady Marcia Grand Treasurer, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Philip Hardiman</u> , KYGCH, PGHP, & Lady Nancy Grand Recorder, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sacramento Council No. 1
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Right Illustrious Companion

K. Mark Harris, KYCH
Grand Director of Ritual, Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Oakland Council No. 12

Right Illustrious Companion <u>Michael T. Sherman</u> , KYCH Grand Captain of the Guard Grand Council Cryptic Masons Helix Council No. 58	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Jeffrey A. White</u> , KYCH & Lady Lisa Grand Conductor of the Council Grand Council Cryptic Masons Pacific Council No. 37
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Andrew B. Pippin</u> , KYCH, & Lady Juli Grand Steward, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Ventura Council No. 15	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Richard E. Thornton</u> , KYCH, Lady Cara Grand Sentinel, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Stockton Council No. 5
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Arthur H. Walton</u> , KYCH & Lady Patricia Grand Chaplin-North, Grand Council Cryptic Masons California Council No. 2	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Christian G. Marano</u> , KYCH & Lady Mara Grand Chaplin-South, Grand Council Cryptic Masons San Luis Obispo Council No. 38
---	--

Right Illustrious Companion <u>John L Copper III</u> , KYGCH, & Lady Heather Grand Orator Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Thomas A. Krummell</u> , KYCH, & Lady Marcia Assistant Grand Secretary Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Jarrold D. Washington</u> , KYCH & Lady Melissa Grand Marshal-North Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Robert K. Geiger</u> & Lady Luisa Grand Marshal-South Grand Council Cryptic Masons Adoniram-Whittier Council No. 53
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Matt Hyde</u> & Lady Nicole Grand Bible Bearer Grand Council Cryptic Masons Omega Council No. 11	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Mike Edwards</u> & Lady Cindi Grand Standard Bearer Grand Council Cryptic Masons Marysville Council No. 3
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Right Illustrious Companion

Merrick R. Hamer
Grand Organist, Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Alpha Council No. 39



160th Grand Council Assembly of Cryptic Masons of California



Saturday June 20, 2020 Online

Presenting Most Illustrious Companion



Eduardo Estrada and Lady Natasha

Knight York Grand Cross of Honor

159th Grand Master

Membership Awards



Adoniram-Whittier Council UD

Adult Youth Leadership Award



David Anderson

Knights York Cross of Honor



Cryptic Mason of the Year



Frederick W. Ervast, Jr.



Natasha Estrada
Lady of the Council

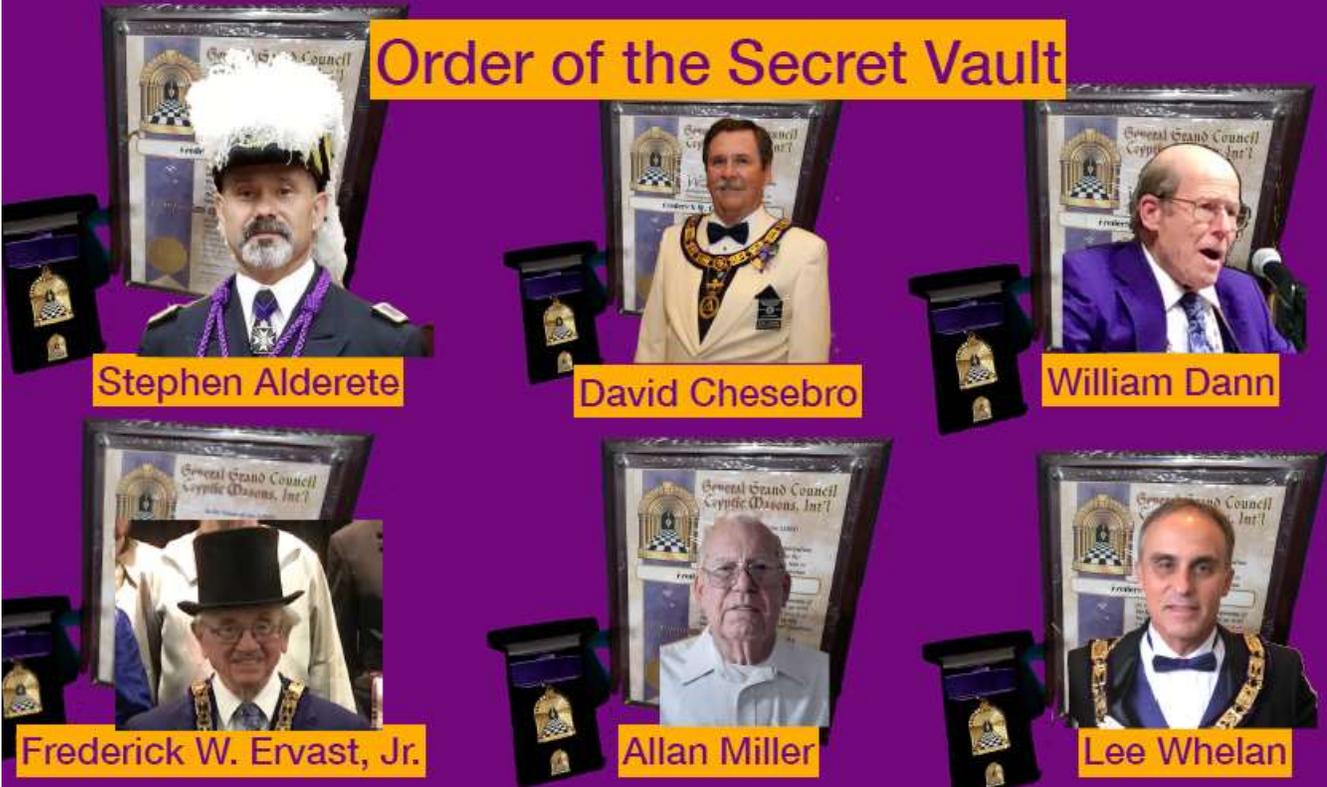


Rosa Maria Fiss
Lady of the Council



Barbara Baskin
Lady of the Council

Order of the Secret Vault



Stephen Alderete

David Chesebro

William Dann

Frederick W. Ervast, Jr.

Allan Miller

Lee Whelan

Recorder of the Year



Daniel Doornbos

Knight York Cross of Honor

Membership Awards



Distinguished Membership Award
Blazenburg Commandery
JOSEPH K. DONGO
San Jose Council No. 1
2020

Distinguished Membership Award
Blazenburg Commandery
ROBERT KARL GEIGER
Anderson-Winters Council No. 127
2020

Ritualist of the Year by Department



Jeff White
Department 1
Pacific #37



Joseph Dongo - KYCH
Department 2
Sacramento #1



Tim Kelly
Department 8
H. Edward Barr Oasis #64

KYCH = Knight York Cross of Honor

Statewide Ritualist of the Year

Adoniram-Whittier Council UD



Robert Geiger



2019 CMMRF AWARDS

GOLD PINS WITH A DIAMOND REPRESENTING EACH \$1,000.00 IN DONATIONS

Peter Champion – 3 Diamonds

Tuoc Pham – 2 Diamonds

PLAQUES REPRESENTING \$1,000.00 IN DONATIONS

Eduardo Estrada

Robert Morrison

SUBSEQUENT DONATIONS OF \$1,000.00 EXTENDER BARS AWARDED TO

2 Bars

San Luis Obispo Council No. 38

Yosemite Lodge Council No. 99

1 Bar

California Council No. 2

Omega Council No. 11

Oakland Council No. 12

Orange County Council No. 14

Ventura Council No. 15

Pacific Council No. 37

Alpha Council No. 39

Department Illustrious Master of the Year



Michael Biesen
Department 1
Pacific #37



Scott Hussman
Department 4
Sierra Nevada #13



Robert Geiger
Department 7
Adoniram-Whittier UD



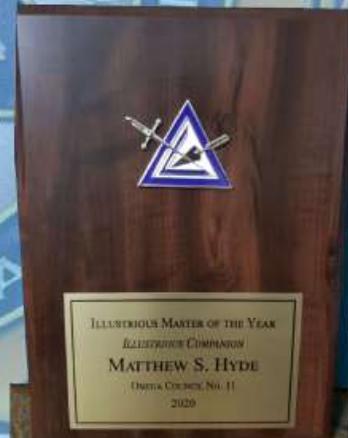
Raul Tito Varias
Department 8
Valley #27

Illustrious Master of the Year

Statewide recipient from Omega Council #11



Matthew S. Hyde



Grand Master of Ish Sodi Award



Bruce L. Ewald



Luis J. Montero



Ronald E. Presser



Frederick W. Ervast, Jr.



Michael Miller

“Doc” Harmon of Barstow, California



2020 (15th) Recipient

The Grand York Rite Lifetime Masonic Achievement Award

Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California



2020-2021 Grand Officers to be installed

Installing Grand Officer



David Chesebro

Knight York Grand Cross of Honor

Most Illustrious Past Grand Master - 2014

Installing Grand Marshal



Robert A.L. Whitfield

Knight York Grand Cross of Honor, Companion of the Secret Vault

Most Illustrious Past Grand Master - 2011

Installing Grand Chaplain



James G. Baum

Right Puissant Deputy General Grand Master, General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International

Knight York Grand Cross of Honor, Companion of the Secret Vault

Most Illustrious Past Grand Master - 2001

The Most Illustrious Installing Team



**2020 - 2021 Grand Council of
Cryptic Masons of California
Installation of Officers**



Robert A. Morrison and Lady Pauline

Knight York Cross of Honor

Grand Master - Elect



Peter G. Champion and Lady Janice

Knight York Cross of Honor

Deputy Grand Master - Elect



Guy M. Chalmers and Lady Jeanne

Knight York Cross of Honor

Grand Principal Conductor of the Work - Elect



Thomas A. Krummell and Lady Marcia
Knight York Cross of Honor
Grand Treasurer - Elect



Philip A. Hardiman and Lady Nancy
Knight York Grand Cross of Honor
Grand Recorder - Elect



K. Mark Harris
Knight York Cross of Honor
Grand Director of Ritual - Elect



Arthur H. Walton and Lady Patricia

Knight York Cross of Honor

Grand Chaplain (North)



Christian G. Marano and Lady Mara Cristina

Knight York Cross of Honor

Grand Chaplain (South)



Michael T. Sherman

Knight York Cross of Honor

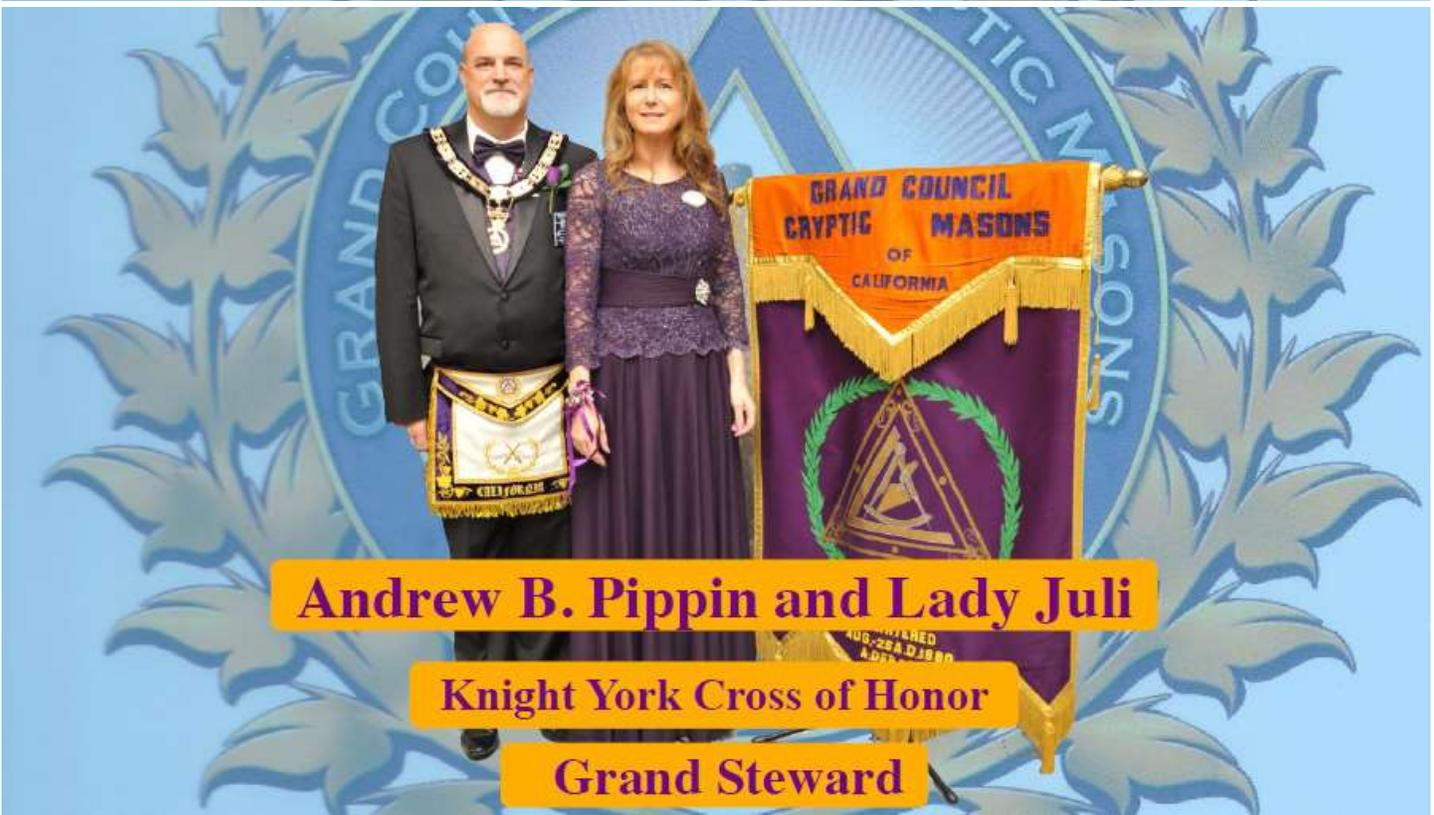
Grand Captain of the Guard



Jeffrey A. White and Lady Lisa

Knight York Cross of Honor

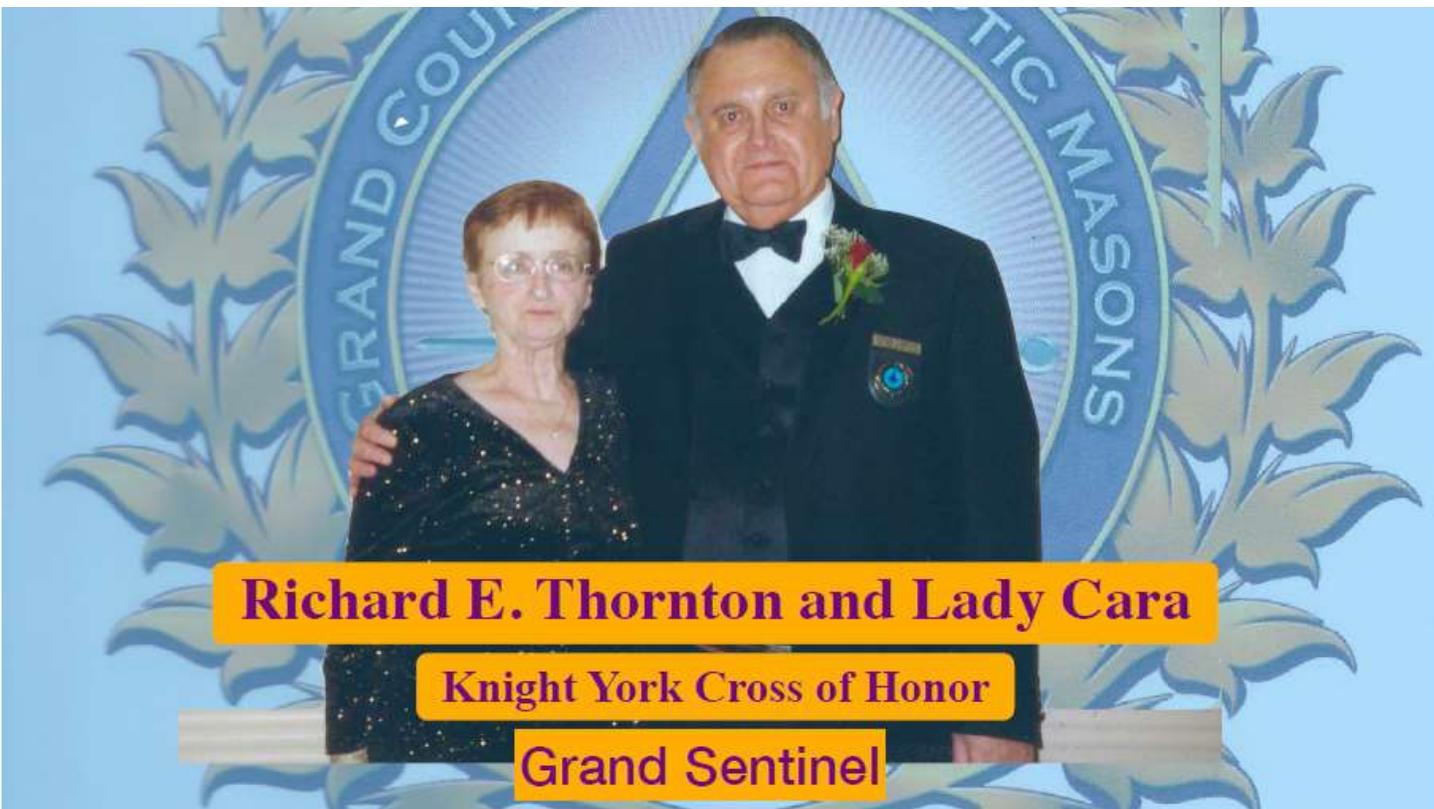
Grand Conductor of the Council



Andrew B. Pippin and Lady Juli

Knight York Cross of Honor

Grand Steward



Richard E. Thornton and Lady Cara

Knight York Cross of Honor

Grand Sentinel



John L. Cooper III and Lady Heather

Knight York Grand Cross of Honor

Grand Orator



Jarrod D. Washington

Grand Marshal (North)



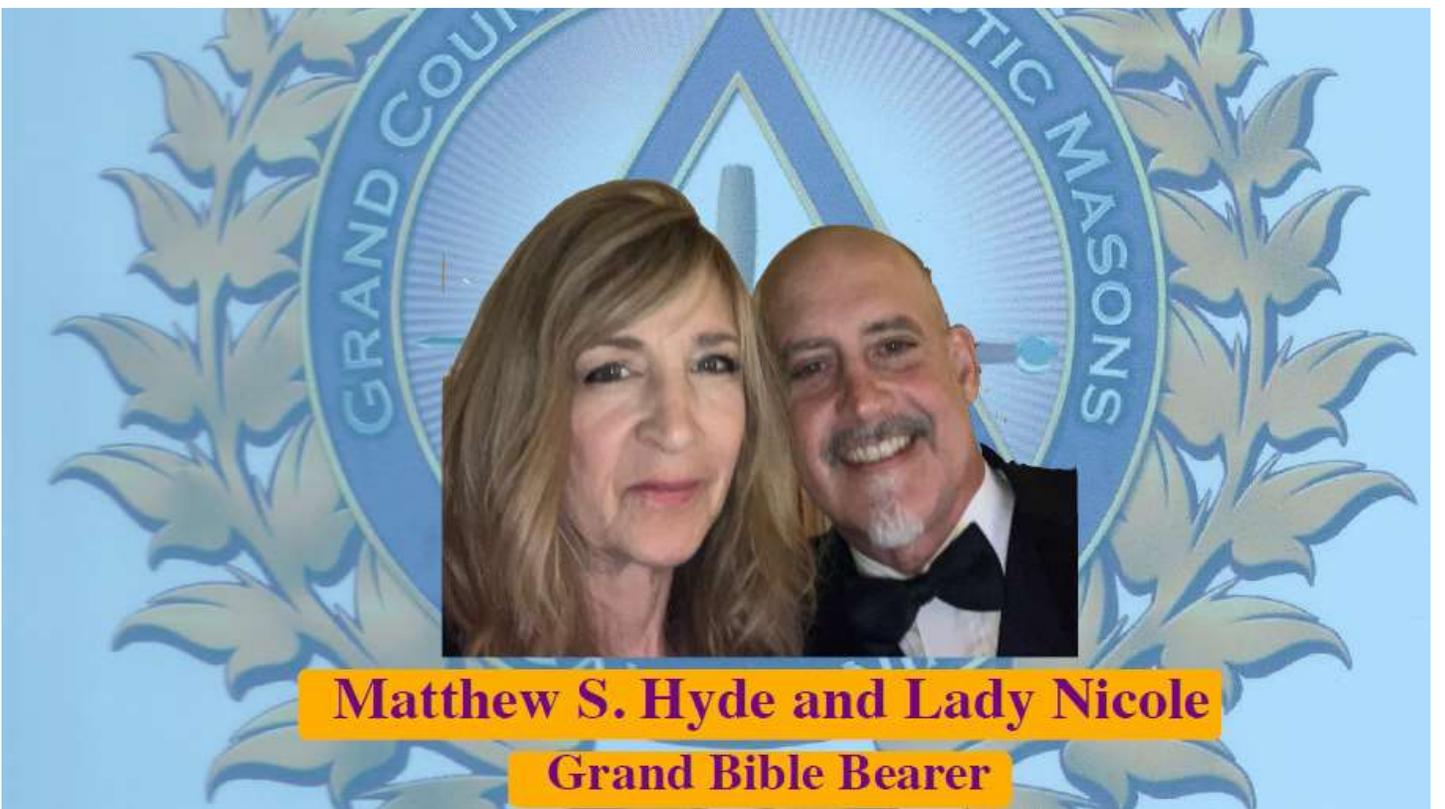
Robert K. Geiger

Grand Marshal (South)



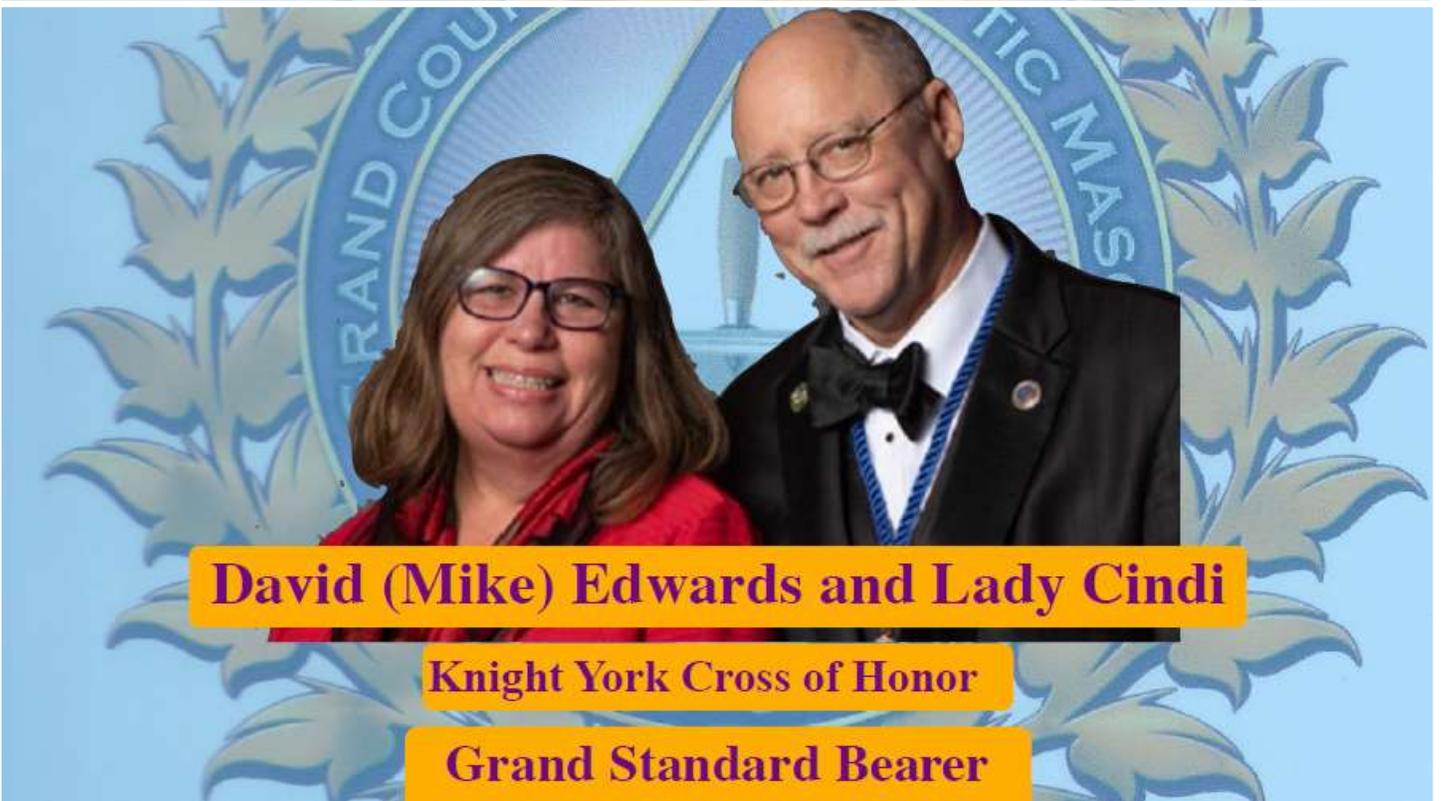
Merrick R. Hamer

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Matthew S. Hyde and Lady Nicole

Grand Bible Bearer



David (Mike) Edwards and Lady Cindi

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Assistant Director of Ritual



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**Most Puissant General Grand Master
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David Grindle**



2020-2021 Grand Officers

Lifetime Masonic Achievement Award

"Doc" Harmon of Barstow, California
2020 (14th) Recipient
The Grand York Rite Lifetime Masonic Achievement Award



Note: much of this information was generously provided by the current Master of Barstow-Boron Masonic Lodge, WB Richard Villegas, A York Rite Mason. "Thank you, Worshipful Brother Richard,"

Williams H Harmon III (Doc) was born on Dec 2, 1936 ("84" this December) in Elwood Indiana. He grew up in Northern Michigan. His father, William H Harmon II was a Past Illustrious Grand Master of Michigan in 1962.; and the Grand Master of Masons in Michigan, 1969.

Doc served our Country in the US Navy from 1955-1962 as a Navy Deep Sea Diver. He joined our Craft during his military service making him at least a 4th generation Freemason. He joined the York Rite in 1961, 59 years ago. "Doc" Harmon moved to California 1984 and joined Barstow Boron Lodge #682 in 1989. Doc has enjoyed over 20 years as a proud Officer for his Blue Lodge and was installed Marshall in 2020. There is no word "quit" in this man. He has been instrumental in mentoring many members of our Craft all the way through the Master's chair. Doc has formed true friendships along the way with young men looking up to him for guidance. He has served several terms on the Lodge's Building Associations Board of Directors. He also started a special funeral program for departed brothers who have been cremated now known as the "ash tag" ceremony. He was awarded the Hiram award in 2010. His outstanding character has led many Masons in his area to join the York Rite. Among many accomplishments; he is a past High Priest and received the Meritorious Service Award. He serves on the Royal Arch Degree team. He is a Past Illustrious Master and received both the Ish Sodi award locally, as well as the Companion of the Secret Vault from General Grand Council. "Doc" Harmon is a founding member of High Desert Commandery 79, Past Eminent Commander and has earned the Meritorious Service Medal. In 2016-2017 Doc served as Grand Master in the 3rd Veil for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California. He is a Member of the Red Cross of Constantine, The York Rite College and The Knight Masons. For the last 10 years he served as mailing secretary for the his local York Rite bodies at his own expenses. His is a member if the Barstow Shrine Club, and a 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason belonging to San Bernardino Valley.

Our Honoree is a Eucharistic Minister for the Episcopal Church, with a 4-year education in ministry. His career includes 35 years as a Doctor of Chiropractic and natural medicine. He holds a BA in Clinical Psychology, BS in Human Biology, and Human Microbiology. He has the following medical specialties: Thermography, Pain Management Rehabilitate, is certified in Radiology, and a Diplomate in Neurography. He served 10 years as the President of Mojave Valley volunteer Hospice. He lives by the Masonic code of honor and is truly a Man and Mason who has make your life better by knowing him. This is just a brief bio of our friend and Companion "Doc"

General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons

I put the General Grand Council Newsletter's, with Links, into the Sword and Trowel and to be honest I do read some but not all of the Articles. The following article was brought to my attention by callbob1, our Most Illustrious Companion Robert Whitfield, KYGCH, Past Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

*The Degree of Select Master
By Companion Scott A. Schwartzberg, Guest Author
Submission to the General Grand Council Education Committee*



Companion Scott A. Schwartzberg

Without the Royal and Select Master degrees, neither the Master Mason degree nor the Royal Arch degree is complete, for these degrees account for the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch.

The origin of the Council of Cryptic Masons is likely from the same source as the Scottish Rite – from Morin, who established the Rite of Perfection of 25 degrees in the West Indies in 1762. These two degrees were originally among the “side” degrees, and not a part of the Rite of Perfection. The original name of the Select Master degree was “Select Mason of Twenty Seven.” The original written rituals no longer exist, if they ever did, but the titles of these degrees can be accurately traced to roots in France prior to 1762.



Select Master Logo Photo Credit: Grand Council of Florida

The second and final degree worked in the Council is that of Select Master. This degree centers on the construction and furnishing of a secret vault beneath the Sanctum Sanctorum or Holy of Holies of the Temple, and the depositing of secrets pertaining to the Craft by our three ancient Grand Masters. This degree bridges the events surrounding the concealment and loss of the Ineffable Word, and the events leading to the recovery of the Word in the Royal Arch degree. Although this degree completes the education of the Craftsman in the Symbolic Lodge, he now has additional symbolism to study and apply in the perfection of his spiritual building. The emblem of the broken triangle, with Sword and Trowel, stands as a memorial and an inspiration for the future conduct of a Companion of the Council. The Sword and Trowel were used by our ancient Brethren for defense and protection and to cement and complete the Secret Vault. We, as Select Masters, should devoutly guard the inestimable secrets of our venerable Order and unite and cement the Brotherhood.

The events of this degree parallel those in the Mark Master degree, in the Chapter. While the Fellow Craft labors above, in the daylight, the Select Masters labor below, in the secrecy of the shadows, to conceal and preserve that which ought not to be lost, and which is found in the Royal Arch degree. It emphasizes that fidelity and secrecy can prevent disaster and that the efforts of one's labors are never in vain when made for a good cause.

The lecture of the Select Master degree explains that when King Solomon struck the foundation for the Temple, on the land King David purchased, which had been the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he uncovered a cavern filled with gold, silver, and precious jewels. Fearing that this was the site of an idolatrous temple, Solomon was informed in a dream that this land was thrice devoted to the service of God – it was where Enoch was translated to heaven, where Abraham was about to offer up his son Isaac for sacrifice, and where David met and appeased the destroying angel.

In the Select Master degree, the principal elected officer, the Illustrious Master, represents K:S:, the Deputy Master represents H:, K: of T:, and the Principal Conductor of the Work represents H:A:. The candidate represents Zabud, a particular friend of K:S:¹.

Zabud enters the secret vault, through an open door, desiring to work on the construction of such a special place. He is unable to give the modes of recognition and is captured as an intruder, an alarm raised. K:S: calls for the death of the intruder, but is informed by the Captain of the Guard that it is his friend Zabud. The three principle officers gather in the ninth arch to discuss the dilemma facing them. Zabud is the favorite and confidant of K:S:, and had been told by the King that he would indeed find a door opened for his reception, when he had earlier confronted the King about being left out of the secret work. K:S: wishes to spare the life of his friend, and asks the opinion of his companions. H:, K: of T: informs the King that only twenty-seven² are permitted among their number. H:A: opines that curiosity and disobedience prompted Zabud to enter, and the penalty is deserved.

Zabud reminds the King that he was told he would find a door opened for his reception, and, having urgent business to communicate, went to find the King, and found instead the open door, leading to his current situation. H:, K: of T: declares that Zabud is not guilty, that he took the unguarded expression of K:S: literally, and should be pardoned and admitted to the rank of Select Masters. As there are already twenty-seven Select Masters, it is not possible to add another. H:A: sees the sleeping guard Ahishar³, and advises that he is no longer worthy of being a Select Master. Ahishar is executed, and Zabud obligated in this degree.

Zabud is told that God has revealed that the Temple will not stand, and the people will be carried away, the forms and ceremonies of worship forgotten. He foretold that His people will return to their land, and the Temple rebuilt, with the recovery of the Word a reward and the sign of fidelity. Within the secret vault are deposited an exact imitation of the Ark of the Covenant, with a pot of manna, Aaron's rod, and the Book of the Law.

The history of the degree reveals that the writings of Moses and of the Prophets revealed to the ancient Grand Masters that if the people deviated from the Laws of God, the Temple would be destroyed, the people dispersed, and the sacred treasures lost. In order to protect against this, they decided to store the sacred treasures within a secret vault under the Sanctum Sanctorum.

Allyn calls the Select Master degree “the summit and perfection of ancient Masonry.” It completes the Royal Arch degree, which we are told completes the Master Mason degree. This degree accounts for the concealment and preservation of the essentials of the Craft, which were lost for four hundred and seventy years. In the history of the degree, Allyn informs us as to why the Master's degree could only be conferred in the presence of all three ancient Grand Masters – partiality for a friend might allow an unworthy member to be admitted. Fervency and zeal are to be prized in this degree.

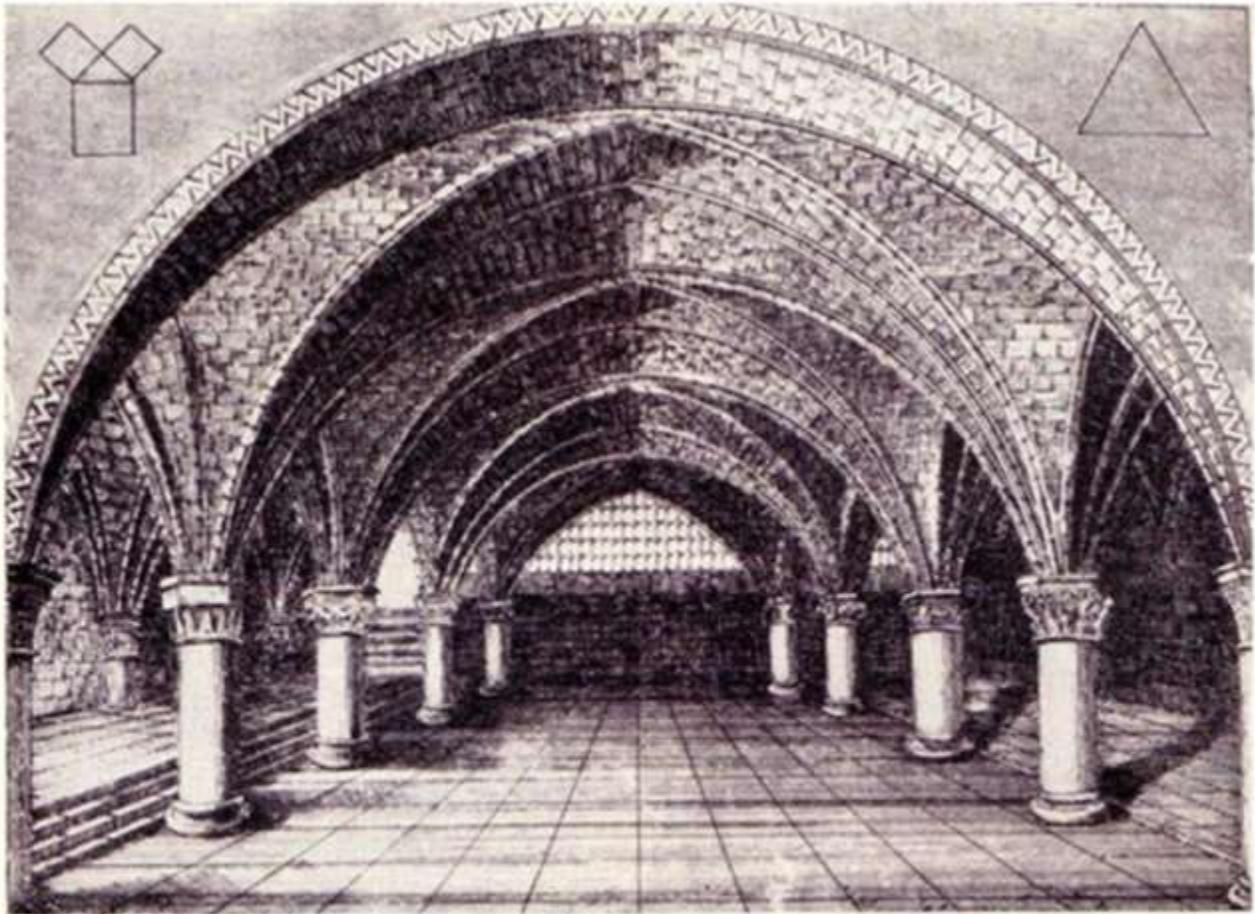
Jeremy Ladd Cross's True Masonic Chart has little to say on this degree. Most of his chapter on this degree has to do with the passages of Scripture that are introduced and explained in the degree. Silence and secrecy are the cardinal virtues of a Select Master.



Harpocrates
Photo Credit: Wikimedia

Mackey leads off his discussion of the Select Master degree with secrecy and silence, that these virtues are the cardinal virtues of this degree, but also that they constitute the very essence of all Masonic character. They are found in our degrees, beginning with the Initiation of the Entered Apprentice. They are also found throughout the ancient Mystery Tradition. The Egyptians had a god representing silence and secrecy, Harpocrates. Aristotle said that the most difficult of performances was “To be secret and silent.” Pythagoras required five years of silence from his disciples. The earlier rituals of the 19th century named the candidate as Izabud, though Mackey noted that this was a corruption of the correct Hebrew name Zabud, who is found in the Bible. Mackey explains that Select Masters work in secrecy and silence, to prepare and preserve the sacred deposits of truth, until the time is right to reveal them. We now work in secrecy and silence not for the present, but that our labor may bear fruit in the future. We work in the foundations of the earthly Temple, that when our labor is finished on earth, the deeds accomplished here may be brought to light, and the

reward bestowed in the second Temple of eternal life. Mackey describes the Masonry completed to this point as the "Circle of Perfection." The number of degrees is nine, or three times three. Each of the portions of Masonry describes an arc, one third of the circle. The Symbolic Lodge is the first third of the circle. He arrives at the end, told that the Master Mason degree is the completion of Masonry, and that which he has been striving for has been LOST, and for which he receives a substitute for the truth. The second arc, the Chapter, is completed with the Royal Arch. He is told that this degree completes Masonry, as that which has been LOST is now FOUND. However, the circle is not complete. In order to finish what has been started, and so perfect the symbol, he must complete the degrees of the Council, and understand the PRESERVATION of the symbol.



THE CRYPT OF YORK MINSTER

As depicted on summonses of York Lodge, No. 236, commemorating the assembly of "Royal Arch Brethren" in a "sacred recess,"
May 1778.

Crypt

Photo Credit: mason33.org

In the Iowa ritual for Select Master, it is explained that K:S: had in fact told Zabud that he would find the door open to him when the time was right. This was meant to say that Zabud would receive the degree of Master Mason, not that there would be a literal open door for him.

In the ritual of Select Master in Scotland, it is explained that each arch has two Companions working on constructing it, with hand tools, and a third Companion guarding them with a sword. This explains both the number of twenty-seven being the number of Select Masters (nine arches with three Companions each), and also the Sword and Trowel as a symbol for this body. The discussion between the principal officers about the fate of Zabud also takes place in the presence of the Companions, rather than with the three retired to the ninth arch.

The English Select Master ritual is similar to the other rituals that I've read. One difference noted is that as the candidate is conducted to the ninth arch, instead of merely approaching through the arches, he advances with the steps, signs, and passwords of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason⁴.

The version of this degree which was given to Albert Pike in 1853 contains the error of naming the candidate as Izabud, which makes sense, as he was given this ritual by Mackey. One detail that I found of interest is that Izabud was told by K:S: that "the passage to the secret vault" would be open to him, rather than "the door." There are two versions of the signs of the degree given. Further detail is also provided in the triangular plate deposited in the Ark, consistent with what is found in the Royal Arch degree. That plate is described as an explanation of the True Master's Word, not as the Word, which is a claim often repeated among anti-Masons.

Footnotes:

¹According to the Biblical scholar Rudolf Kittel, the position of “King’s friend” (Zabud in 1 Kings 4:5, Hushai the Archite as friend to King David 2 Samuel 15:37 and 16:16, Joabert/Yehu-Aber in multiple degrees of the Scottish Rite) is an old Canaanite title, and refers to a trusted advisor and confidant. Mackey also comments on the position, as one of high power, without public responsibility.

²As in the early title of the degree.

³Biblically, the Chief Steward of Solomon, and also found in the eighth degree of the Scottish Rite, Intendant of the Building.

⁴Outside of the United States, the Past Master (Virtual) degree is unknown, and in many countries, Most Excellent Master is a part of the Council.

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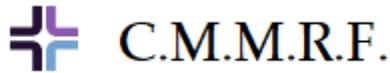


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$$\text{Crown} \times \text{Crown} \times \text{Crown} = 27$$

$$\text{Tower} + \text{Tower} - \text{Crown} = 15$$

$$\text{Eye} + \text{Eye} - \text{Tower} = 1$$

$$\text{Tower} + \text{Crown} - \text{Eye} = ?$$

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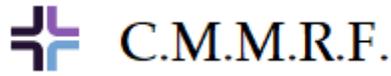


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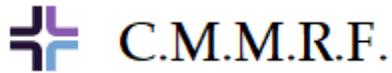


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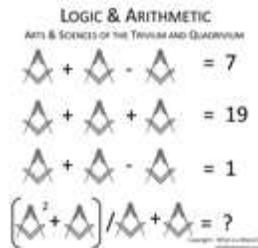
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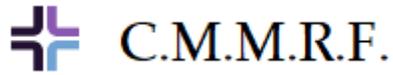
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B L L A O Z B L R H A I H Z H Z D S Q U
V J L I W O I L G H T S D A G P Q B P C
F P S K G G T I E A T E O C I I S M A A
O C T X H A L G T M G E W M L R R L C T
L V Q T M T T S N R S O R A R N J G D I
I W E M A R G I E I L J P B E T O C Z O
G N E E C V J E O I K P Q L S M Z H Y N
H O R A L T E R I N U R Y F S O C I C O

Puzzle - In the Lodge Word Find

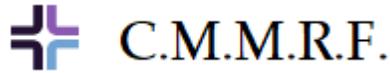
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