

THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP. THE ENCOMPASSER IS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP AT ALL CONVOCATIONS, ASSEMBLIES AND CONCLAVES OF THE YORK RITE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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No. 2

# BEYOND THE COLORS OF FREEMASONRY

*By Excellent Companion Carlos Gonzalez, K.Y.C.H., Grand Orator*

*Presented on Tuesday, April 25th 2006 at Bakersfield, CA.*

Most Illustrious Grand Master Jose A. Fiss. Members of this Grand Council, Ladies and friends. It has been a great privilege to serve this Grand Council. I want to thank you Most Illustrious Jose for appointing me your Grand Orator and for giving me the opportunity to address all of you today. I want to congratulate you for a most successful year in office. We both know that you could not have been successful had it not been for the tremendous support you have always received in all your Masonic endeavors from your lovely Lady Rosa Maria. I want to thank you for the many moments that you, Rosa and I shared during this year as Illustrious Grand Master and for the many memories that I will cherish forever.

I have been thinking about this day and my words to you on this day since I was offered the position over one year ago. What are the duties of the Orator? First and foremost to prepare an Oration for the following Grand Sessions. I have been tossing ideas as to which would be the theme of my Grand Oration. I consulted several books looking for enlightenment and have found many interesting topics. I did not want my message to be one of "preaching to the choir". Our Masonic organization is going through difficult times if we gauge its success by the number of York Rite Masons in our State. I do not want to talk about "gloom and doom" in the horizon even if gloom and doom

is all we see ahead of us. Not today, gloom and doom will not be the subject of my Oration. I am proud to belong to an organization that has attracted thousands of respectful individuals over the centuries. We all have heard the names of our notable Masons. Politicians, astronauts, US and foreign presidents, poets, composers and scientists. Today I do not want to talk to you about our notable members either. Today I want to talk about you and me. Why you and I joined this Fraternity and why you and I continue being involved in Masonry year after year after year. I wanted to reflect on something dear to all of us Masons and look at our York Rite in California with a positive light, even if the future looks grim. I want to analyze what motivated you to join and why you and I continue to be active and participate in Degrees and social events sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity.

The title of my oration today is Beyond the Colors of Freemasonry.

As many of you here today, I do not have family members in the Fraternity. I was not influenced by my father. He was one who missed Freemasonry. He would have been a great Mason. In my case it was my own inquisitive mind that made me ask and knock at the door of Freemasonry. I was indeed impressed with the caliber of

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## Education, The Key to Our Survival

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members that were attracted to masonry so I knew that the Masonic experience was worth trying. I was not wrong. At 47 years of age and a mason of 26 I can proudly say that Freemasonry has done a lot of good for me. I have had the opportunity to meet with people that I would not have otherwise met and have developed friendships that will last for as long as I live. I am sure that many gathered here today can relate to this experience and find that their motivation to join was indeed similar to mine 26 years ago.

Some of us here today had a family member in the Fraternity and grew up looking forward to the day to go to Lodge with dad or grandpa. I am glad that you are here today and continue with your family tradition.

Be you one with a Mason in your family or not, it does not really matter. You are enjoying your membership and the relations you have developed throughout the years. There is no arguing the fact that Masonry attracts individuals of all races, creeds and social classes. We all enjoy the diversity of Freemasonry. We all relate to other members. We enjoy being among each other. This enjoyment and a peculiar desire to improve our knowledge of our history and culture prompts us to become members of different Masonic organizations. We start at the Blue Lodge and move on to join Concordant and Appendant Bodies like the one gathering us today. We become more active in some of them and less active in others. We develop preferences to some groups while still belonging to others.

Going back to the colors of Freemasonry we learn that when we join the Fraternity we are members of a blue lodge. We walk the alternating black and white of the Checkered Pavement. We learn of the purity of the Lilly white. We receive our 3 degrees and then we learn about the historical origin of our Craft. Looking for further Light we join the Royal Arch and associate ourselves with the red organization. Royal Arch being the red organization is indeed more colorful than others because in the Chapter we learn also about the blue, purple, scarlet and white banners and veils. Continuing our advancement we progress to the Cryptic Rite which gathers us here today we proudly wear purple, the color of Kings. The color of kings showing the power to rule as we say in our Ritual. Continuing on we join the Commandery of Knights Templar and we all enlist under the Beauceant. The white and black battle flag of the Ancient Templars. Fair and favorable to the friends of Christ but dark and terrible to their enemies. No statement

could me more black and white than that.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in no short of colorful references in its Ritual and the colorful black, red, white and purple hats we see at their gatherings. Some of us joined the Allied Masonic Degrees, normally associated with the color green same as the Knight Masons. Some of us join the Red Cross of Constantine, another very sought after Masonic affiliation. How about the Royal Order of Scotland and its colorful past and present. In my modest and humble opinion no Masonic group is more colorful than the Shrine and its Units.

But who are we BEYOND the colors of our Fraternity? What makes us attend their meetings and participate in their events?. What moves us to commit to Masonry and become an Officer and eventually reach the presiding position of the group?

Masonry is fundamentally Friendship, Love and Integrity. Friendships that last a lifetime. Friendship which rises superior to the distinctions and arrangements of Society. Love to God and to each other which knows no limit, no inequality and no decay and Integrity which binds all of us members to the eternal concept that all men are equal in the eyes of the Law. This is the core concept that binds us together. The concept that makes us gather month after month after month. Friendship, love and integrity beyond the colors of Freemasonry. We all agree in those 3 fundamental principles. Same as the cement that gathers a building of thousands of bricks in one common mass. A cement that is spread by the skillful use of the trowel. In the same way all of us here today and those spread around the State and the World gather under the banner of Freemasonry. A banner that makes no distinction among its members. The colors of Freemasonry that we wear to our gatherings serve as a means of binding to each other but it is beyond the colors of Freemasonry where we find who we really are. Beyond the colors is where we strive to be in relation to other masons and their families. A society of men and women who share the appreciation of Friendship to each other, Love and affection to God and one another and Integrity in our everyday actions. So finally ... our challenge today is to look beyond the colors you wear and discover the real treasure of the Mason sitting next to you and benefit from your association. May God Almighty help this organization and may He guide us for centuries to come.

# MASONRY AND THE ORDER OF THE GARTER

by Brooks C. Dodson, Jr.

When initiated Into Masonry, each candidate is presented with a lambskin or white leather apron and told, among other things, that the apron is the Badge of a Mason and that it is more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other order that could be conferred upon him by King, Prince, Potentate or any other person except he be a Mason. The intent of this statement is very clear, that it is to impress upon the candidate the distinct honor of having been accepted as a member of the Masonic fraternity. Perhaps you have also wondered about the meaning of this specific reference to the Star and Garter as well as what might have caused our Masonic forefathers to choose this particular statement as a part of the Entered Apprentice degree when it was adopted.

Searches through Masonic literature have resulted in little, if any, factual information which would tend to shed light upon this most intriguing question. However a careful review of the Most Noble Order of the Garter does uncover certain interesting factors which would lead one to logical conclusions as to what our ancient brothers must have had in mind at the time.

It is well to understand that there are numerous orders of knighthood in England, but none higher than the Most Noble Order of the Garter. The heads of each of these orders is entitled to wear the "Star" of that particular order which is unique in its design and appearance. The reigning Sovereign presides as the head of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, which permits him to wear the Star of the order and entitles him to confer knighthood in that order.

Clearly, the statement in the Entered Apprentice degree was chosen to imply that being initiated into Masonry was not only a higher honor than being knighted into the Most Noble Order of the Garter, it was also higher than the coveted honor of being the Sovereign Head of this, the highest order of English Knighthood, or of being knighted into any other noble order by the King himself.

The phrase was undoubtedly adopted for use in the Entered Apprentice degree sometime after August 1348, when King Edward III constituted the Most Noble Order of the Garter. It is interesting to note that this was the same century that operative and speculative Masonry began the process of merging into one so-called "accepted" body which was subsequently first chartered in England.

The order consists of the Sovereign and twenty-four Knight Companions who are lineal descendants of King George I and have been accepted and knighted into that order. Other Sovereigns and Knights have on occasion been admitted, but only by special statutes after having performed outstanding services for the Sovereign. Sir Knight Winston Leonard Spence Churchill was one such person.

Aside from other less relative paraphernalia of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the garter itself is made of blue velvet edged with gold. It bears the motto. "Honi Qui Mal Pense," which is embroidered in gold about its circumference. This translates into modern language as "Woe Be Unto Him or Them Who Thinks Evil of Us." I am not certain what, if any, effect this has ever had upon Masonry. The garter is always worn on the left leg, just below the knee with white stockings and black velvet knee length trousers.

The collar of the Most Noble Order of the Garter is of particular interest in that it closely resembles those worn by officers of many Lodges in various jurisdictions as well as Grand Lodge officers. There is a significant difference in value. The collar of the Most Noble Order of the Garter is

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## PROPOSED RARA TRIP

The Grand Chapter of California is planning a FUN, informational and fund-raising, 5-day Coach trip to the Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) facility in Ft. Collins, Colorado -- March 17-21, 2007.

In addition to meeting the staff and touring the facility, we are considering side trips to the Valley of Fire, NV; Estes Park, CO; Vail, CO, with two over-night stays in Las Vegas.

Bakersfield will be our departure and return point and options for air travel for those who would prefer a shorter time commitment will be considered.

Cost is estimated at less than \$600 per person with roughly 25% held out for RARA support activities and donations to RARA.

If you are interested in participating in such a trip, please let

**Phil Hardiman know at 916-488-3708  
by October 31, 2006.**

**E-mail to Philipandnancy@aol.com**  
will also suffice to get you included  
on the priority participant list.

**Call soon, as the trip is limited to  
the first 45 respondents!**

## Washington and Lafayette

By MARY CAROLINE CRAWFORD

*(This article appeared in the Orange County Register with the following comments:*

*“We depart from our usual line-up on this page today to offer readers this small storyteller’s treasure recently found amid the antique stores of Orange. The article appeared in the February 22, 1906 issue of The Youth’s Companion, a weekly magazine based in Boston. Especially notable is the warm even flowery prose in Washington’s letters, so different from the flatness of some of his key speeches.*

*Anyway, history buffs that we are, we thought students and parents alike would find this enduring tale of trust and loyalty befitting the moment, the eve of Washington’s birthday.” (We agree and pass it along for the same reasons.)*

In all American history there is nothing more beautiful than the story of the friendship between Washington and Lafayette.

To the young marquis, who, Hill of enthusiasm for liberty, had come over to help free the colonies from the English yoke, the commander-in-chief of the American army was from the first a dear elder brother, a comrade upon whose complete sympathy he could rely, a friend of whose warm affection he was sure.

If the whole of the correspondence between Washington and Lafayette had been preserved, it would no longer be possible for writers to represent the Father of his Country as cold, haughty and unresponsive to the impulses of human fellowship. Even from the few letters to Lafayette which have come down to us we are able to discern a Washington of rare tenderness, of exquisite sympathy with youthful ambitions and of such capacity for ardent friendship as truly to revolutionize our whole previous conception of the man.

The truth is that Washington found in Lafayette perhaps the one person among all whom he knew who could thoroughly appreciate his disinterested devotion to a noble cause. Although the marquis was but a youth of 19 and the general a man of 45 when they first met, both were fairly aflame with love of liberty.

“The moment I knew America was fighting for freedom, I burnt with a desire of bleeding for her,” wrote Lafayette. Toward such a youth, who had never known a father’s care, the heart of Washington, who had never had a son, very naturally went out.

“If you are fond of romance read history,” Guizot once

advised. The warrant for this counsel is easily found in the career of Lafayette. To follow the course of this man’s life from his lonely boyhood in Auvergne, through his college days at Paris; into his share, as the youthful husband of a beautiful and noble girl, in the dances and frolics, the merrymaking and suppers which endlessly succeeded each other in the salons of Marie Antoinette; and then to read the story of his determination to leave all this luxury to which he had been born, to leave even the lovely girl wife, of whom he was devotedly fond, that he might fight in a land of which he knew next to nothing, for the establishment of a liberty at which his own intimates scoffed — this is, indeed; to meet a character like the hero of a historical novel.

In Lafayette’s own words, “When I first heard of American independence my heart was enlisted!” For Lafayette to resolve to go to America was only half the battle, however. He stood close to the king, and France had not yet declared herself in favor of the colonies. Moreover, although the young nobleman had a yearly income of \$30,000 which he could use exactly as he pleased, he was bound by duties to his estate, as well as by the tenderest family ties, to stay in France.

Still another difficulty was that of securing an opening in the American army. Silas Deane, the first representative of the colonies in Paris, had recommended to high places in our service so many young men who proved to be mere soldiers of fortune that Congress had peremptorily told him to give out no more commissions.

This last difficulty soon disappeared, however, before Lafayette’s enthusiasm. It needed, indeed, but a few minutes’ conversation with the marquis to convince Deane that the services of this volunteer, who offered to fight without pay or remuneration of any kind, were far too valuable to be refused.

On account of his family’s high rank, therefore, Lafayette was not only accepted, but given the honorary title of major general. [Gen. Washington], to whose paternal care Lafayette came thus recommended, was at this period greatly troubled over the threatened capture of Philadelphia by [Sir William] Howe, and had left his camp in New Jersey to hold a consultation with Congress.

So it was at a dinner tendered to Washington by the honorable body who were guiding the destinies of the infant nation that Lafayette first caught sight of him whom he was so tenderly to love.

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## Washington and Lafayette

*(Continued from previous page)*

Although he was surrounded by officers and private citizens," the young Frenchman afterward wrote in his memoirs, "the majesty of his countenance and of his figure made it impossible not to recognize him. He was especially distinguished also by the affability of his manners and the dignity with which he addressed those about him."

When they were about to separate after the dinner, Washington took Lafayette aside, spoke to him very kindly, complimented him upon the noble spirit he had shown and the sacrifices he had made in favor of the American cause, and ended by asking him to accompany him on a tour of inspection he was to make the next day.

He told him also that he would be pleased if he would make the quarters of the commander-in-chief his home, establish himself there whenever he thought proper and consider himself at all times as one of his family; adding, in a laughing way, that although he could not promise him the luxuries of a court, or even the conveniences to which his former habits must have accustomed him, he, Washington, was sure that Lafayette, as an American soldier, would submit with good grace to the privations of republican simplicity.

That Lafayette joyfully accepted the proffered hospitality we hardly need say. His horses and equipages were immediately sent to camp, and for the rest of his stay in America the young Frenchman shared the fortunes; good or ill, of the general he adored.

It was hardly a month after that first meeting when Lafayette, in the heat of battle, displayed such bravery as proved his fight to Washington's regard.

The place was Brandywine [Creek, at Chadds Ford, Pa.], where, through a misunderstanding of orders, the Americans bade fair to make a disorderly retreat, had not Lafayette, throwing himself from his horse, plunged in among the hurrying masses, and by a heroic effort, succeeded in rallying about himself men enough to check the headlong flight of the troops.

During the struggle the brave youth received a musket-ball in his left leg below the knee. But even this did not interrupt his efforts to bring order into the retreat of the troops, and it was not until Washington himself took the matter in hand, and with almost paternal solicitude directed a surgeon to care for his young friend's injury, that Lafayette withdrew to hospital quarters.

Of Washington, the commander-in-chief, as distin-

guished from the Washington who was his friend, Lafayette wrote about this time:

"Our general is a man truly made for this Revolution, which could not be successfully accomplished without him I see him nearer than any man in the world; and I see that he is worthy of the adoration of his country. I admire him more each day, for the beauty of his character and of his mind. Certain foreigners, offended at not having obtained commissions — although that was in no wise his fault — and some others whose ambitious projects he was not willing to countenance, certain jealous cabaleurs, have striven to injure his reputation; but his name will be revered in all ages by the friends of liberty and humanity everywhere."

In connection with these cabaleurs, Lafayette soon had a superb opportunity to demonstrate his loyalty. An ugly plot had been hatched to displace Washington — who had lost at Brandywine — by [General Horatio] Gates who had won at Saratoga.

When the enemies of the commander-in-chief sought, by the bribe of higher office, to tempt the young Frenchman away from the general he loved, Lafayette hesitated not a moment as to his course. In General Gates' own house, in the presence of those known to be of the Conway Cabal, [who favored promoting Brigadier General Conway to major general, thus a possible successor to Washington], he rose and boldly proposed one health which had been omitted, that of General Washington, "This they drank, reddening with shame," he tells us in his memoirs.

Lafayette's devotion to high ideals now stood out the more nobly by contrast; and Washington was not the man to fail in appreciation of it. Soon after [the whole Conway Cabal affair] he wrote:

"Your favor of yesterday conveyed to me fresh proof of that friendship and attachment which I have happily experienced since the first of our acquaintance, and for which I entertain sentiments of the purest affection. It will ever constitute part of my happiness to know that I stand well in your opinion; because I am satisfied that you can have no views to answer by throwing out false colors, and that you possess a mind too exalted to condescend to low arts and intrigues to acquire a reputation. Happy, thrice happy would it have been for this army and the cause we are embarked in, if the same generous spirit had pervaded all the actors in it .....

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## Washington and Lafayette

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During Lafayette's visit home, which now followed, many beautiful letters passed between the friends. Under date of June 12, 1779, the marquis says:

"My Dear General. There is at length a safe occasion of writing to you and of assuring you what sincere concern I feel at our separation .... I hope you will come to see us in Europe..."

To this Washington replied from West Point, September 30, 1779,

"My Dear Marquis. ... Your forward zeal in the cause of liberty; your singular attachment to this infant world; your ardent and persevering efforts, not only in America, but since you returned to France, to serve the United States; your polite attention to Americans, and your strict uniform friendship for me, have opened the first impressions of esteem and attachment which I imbibed for you, into such perfect love and gratitude as neither time nor absence can impair.

"This will warrant my assuring you that, whether in the character of an officer at the head of a corps of gallant Frenchmen, if circumstances should require this, whether as a major-general commanding a division of the American army, or whether after our swords and spears have given place to the plough share and pruning-hook, I see you as a private gentleman, a friend and companion, I shall welcome you with the warmth of friendship to Columbia's shores; and in the latter case, to my rural cottage where homely fare and a cordial reception shall be substituted for delicacies and costly living....

"You are pleased, my dear Marquis, to express an earnest desire of seeing me in France after the establishment of our independency, and do me the honor to add that you are not singular in your request. Let me entreat you, to be persuaded that to meet you anywhere, after the final accomplishment of so glorious an event, would contribute to my happiness; and that to visit a country to whose generous aid we stand so much indebted, would be an additional pleasure; but remember, my good friend, that I am unacquainted with your language, that I am too far advanced in years to acquire a knowledge of it, and that to converse through the medium of an interpreter, upon common occasions, especially with the ladies, must appear so extremely awkward, insipid and uncouth that I can scarcely bear it in idea. I will, therefore, hold myself disengaged for the present but when I see you in Virginia, we will talk of this matter and fix our plans .....

The following spring found Lafayette back in America. He was thus at his dear general's side when the blow of [General Benedict] Arnold's treason fell, and was able to perform his sad duty as a member of the court which condemned [British Major John] Andre to be hanged as a spy.

The sympathy Lafayette felt for this victim of Arnold's treachery endeared him to Washington only less than did his admirable treatment during the operations around Petersburg of the traitor himself, when he informed the officer who had brought him a message under a flag of truce, that while he would be glad to communicate with any other British officer, he would not even read a communication from Arnold.

"Your conduct upon every occasion meets with my approbation," Washington wrote to him, "but on none more, than your refusing to hold a correspondence with Arnold."

The bonds which united these two noble souls were never slackened. After the Bastille fell, Lafayette sent Washington its key, and when prison walls had closed round him he confided to his dear friend's care his only son, whom he had named George Washington. During the years of Lafayette's imprisonment frequent and affectionate letters passed between them.

True to his word, the general never visited France; but Lafayette came twice to America after the war was over. It is from his account of the first of these visits that we get that engaging picture of Washington in the garden of Mount Vernon, standing with Jack Custis' toddling little son by his side — "a very little gentleman with a feather in his hat, holding fast to one finger of the good general's remarkable hand, which, so large that hand, was all the little lad could manage."

Lafayette's last visit to this country was in 1824-25, and on this occasion he brought with him the son who had been named in Washington's honor.

Together these two who had so deeply loved the great chief and to whom he had given what was sweetest in his nature, paid a visit to Mount Vernon.

Again Lafayette passed through the rooms and over the grounds made sacred by association with the man whose friendship had conferred so much happiness on his life. Then he bent his steps to the old tomb near the river, and for a few solemn moments stood inside the enclosure, along with the ashes of one who had been to him more than father, to whom he had been more than son.

*Southern California Research Lodge F&AM*

## TILER'S HERITAGE IMPORTANT

The Tilers have the difficult task of setting up the Lodge Room for whatever degree the Lodge will open in the evening. This usually requires placing the Bible, Altar Cloth, Lights and Jewels in their proper place and seeing that the Masters and Wardens stations are in order. In some Lodges it is not necessary to do these chores. In all cases he remains outside the door guarding against any intrusion and announcing the arrival of visitors and latecomers.

Such was not always the case. there were times when we did not meet in the stately edifices we call Lodges today. Our Ancient Brethren did not have the comforts we have grown used to today. The Tiler's role was significantly different in those days.

It was the custom of our early Brethren to meet at various taverns, and the name of the Lodge was derived from the tavern. in which they met. In these taverns the floor was often sanded, just as they are today in some old out-of-the way inns.

The Tiler drew designs on the floor with chalk or charcoal. The figure employed was an oblong square representing a building with various Masonic emblems. Of course, the two pillars always had the most prominent place. In addition there were Seven Steps, Tessellated Pavement, the letter "G," the Tomb of Hiram, the Square and the Plumb Rule.

These figures were carefully depicted in black and white, the floor having been often whitened to form a strong contrast. This was the origin of our modern Tracing Board.

Degrees were much more explained to the candidate than they are today. After he had received the first Masonic lesson, he was handed a pail of water with a mop and directed to "mop" and then directed to rub out the drawing on the floor so no "cowan" or intruder might by chance see the "drawings on the floor," and learn the secrets of Freemasonry. The old French ritual described it as "The Mysterious Picture" drawn on the floor.

The Tiler usually received a small sum for "Drawing the Lodge." In the old cash books we find frequent such as "Paid Tyler and Drawer," "Tyler's Fee for Four Markings." One of the first entries made of the purchase of "pails" in Old Wrappings Lodge in Ohio was in 1766. The first purchase of a "mop" was recorded in 1793. The last mop bought in 1808.

Laurence Dermott in his writings makes sarcastic references to this old custom, when he says: "Nor is it uncommon for the tiler to receive ten shillings for drawing "Two Sign Posts" with chalk, charcoal, etc, and writing "Jamaica Rum" upon one and "Barbados Rum" upon the other, and all this (I suppose) for no other reason than to distinguish where those liquors are to placed in the Lodge."

The Lodge in those days did not mean the room in which the brethren met, but actually to the "Drawings on the Floor" of the various Masonic Signs and Emblems. Drawing designs on the floor with chalk and charcoal must have been quite a task, so that later metal or tin templates, cut to the shape of the object required to be delineated, were used.

This saved the Tiler a great deal of work and gave better results.

In some Lodges in California you can still find hanging on the walls tapestries depicting the symbols of the three degrees of the Blue Lodge. Those were used as visual aids in delivering the lectures of those degrees. Apparently, these replaced some of the "Drawings on the Floor" portrayed earlier by the tilers.

Tilers should be proud of their heritage. Wherever Masons meet in "Lodges," on the highest hills or lowest valleys, in taverns, stables, or guild house, the Tiler plays a significant role.

*Sam Pitassi KYGCH Past Grand High Priest*

## MASONRY AND THE ORDER OF THE GARTER (Continued from Page 3)

made of pure gold and weighs exactly 30 troy ounces. It consists of twenty-four individual pieces, each of which is in the shape of the garter. In the center of each garter is a Tudor rose. These twenty-four pieces are interconnected by four knots of gold located between two pieces. A pendant is suspended from the bottom front of the collar and depicts St. George on horseback engaging a ferocious dragon with a long spear. A Masonic officer's collar is constructed in the same fashion with the various pieces representing certain Masonic symbols. The two collars are worn in exactly the same way with the pendant representing St. George replaced by the jewel of the officer wearing the Masonic collar.

Aside from the Blue Lodge use of the title "Most" to distinguish many of its Grand Masters, there are several other titles in the Most Noble Order of the Garter which appear in the constituent bodies of Masonry. These include "Noble," "Sir Knight," "Companion," and, of course, "Sovereign," which is a prestigious title in the Scottish Rite.

As noted previously, these are all speculations which cannot be verified. However one cannot dispute the strong evidence relating to what our Masonic forefathers had in mind and what they intended for it to imply when they said "more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other order that can be conferred by King, Prince, Potentate, or any other person except he be a Mason."

*[From the Fall 1990 issue of The Voice Of Freemasonry, an official publication of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, of the District of Columbia]*

# Colorado River Fall Festival

October 15/16/17, 2006

Riverside Hotel / Laughlin, NV

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(NOTE - ALL TIMES PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME - SAME IN CA, NV AND AZ)

### Sunday, October 15, 2006

- 1:00 PM Registration for candidates and attendees (until 5:00 PM) - Harbor Room 1
- 5:30 PM Team Leaders Orientation - Starview Room - **MANDATORY** for team leaders
- 7:00 PM KYCH - Harbor Rooms 1/2/3
- 8:30 PM Candidate's Orientation (*Public invited*) - Starview Room - **MANDATORY** for candidates

### Monday, October 16, 2006

- 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM and 2 PM - 6 PM - Registration - Harbor Room 1
- 8:00 AM Open Chapter, confer Capitular Degrees \* - Starview Room
- 3:30 PM Open Council, confer Cryptic Degrees \* - Starview Room - Degree work by the Southern Nevada York Rite Bodies
- 7:00 PM Confer "Super Excellent Master Degree" - Starview Room
- \* Candidates *must be* in assigned seats 10 minutes prior (times may vary)

### Tuesday, October 17, 2006

- 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Registration - Harbor Room 1
- 8:00 AM Open Commandery, confer Templar Orders \* - Starview Room
- \* Candidates *must be* in assigned seats 10 minutes prior (times may vary)
- 7:00 PM - Grand Banquet, Starview Room

### Attention Participants:

We have not scheduled lunches for any day. Please budget your time on lunch breaks - lines, particularly for the buffets, can be long, and there are no clocks in the facilities.  
Dress is dark suit or uniform (Lodge dress).

### Ladies Activities:

Riverside Hotel has 6 movie theaters, Bingo, Bowling Alley on premises.  
Horizon Mall (outlet stores, shopping, food court, 9 movie theaters) is one block away.

(Note - due to the presentation of the "Super Excellent Master Degree" for the men , there will be no "Royal Arch Widow's Degree" put on for the women in 2006, but it will return next year!)

### Special Rooms

Hospitality Room  
Los Angeles Fraternal Supply  
Maury Marshall  
Sid's Pins

**Note: This schedule is subject to change without notice or obligation please make sure you have the latest schedule.**

Where would you like to go from here?  
(Other than the to the Riverside in Laughlin, NV, October 15/16/17, 2006 to be with us at the colorado river fall festival?)

# Colorado River Fall Festival Riverside Hotel & Casino, Laughlin, NV October 15/16/17, 2006

### For your Hotel Reservation

All reservations/cancellations must be made through CRFF by mail by September 30, 2006  
Hotel check in 2:00PM ...check out 12:00 noon. All times Pacific Daylight time.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Room Request (circle appropriate):**

Handicap    King    Double    Smoking    Non-Smoking    (No Room)

**For our information and your Name Badge, check as applies:**

Candidate  Non-Participant or Hotel Room only (No Name Tag)   
 (If Candidate, your Sec./Rec. must send "Request for Courtesy Work" to the Candidate Registrar by 9/30/2005)

For your badge: (All attendees must register for Name Badge to attend sessions or participate.)

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TITLE (IF DESIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME FOR YOUR LADY'S BADGE  
 (IF DESIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

### THE CHARGES

<b>Festival Registration (Masons, Cand's only)</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$ _____ .00
<b>Hotel Room Sun/Mon/Tues</b>	<b>\$85.00 single/double</b>	\$ _____ .00
<b>Banquet</b>	<b>\$32.50</b>	\$ _____ .00
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>		\$ _____ .00

**Make all checks payable to, and mail to:**

**Colorado River Fall Festival**

7938 Center Street

Mohave Valley AZ 86440-9206

Need Confirmation? Include a self addressed, stamped envelope or email address.

**PLEASE DO NOT SHRINK OR CHANGE SIZE OF THIS FORM**

# COLORADO RIVER FALL FESTIVAL

October 15, 16, 17, 2006 -- Riverside Hotel, Laughlin NV

## REQUEST TO CONFER COURTESY WORK

**NOTICE: Request must be postmarked not later than September 30, 2006**

Please type or print everything except signatures!

Use one form for each Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_, RAM  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_, CM or R&SM  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_, KT

To: David G. Stankow, Candidate Registrar 480-897-9555  
 2714 West Nopal Circle stankow@worldnet.att.net  
 Mesa, AZ 85202

Dear Companions and Sir Knights:

Please confer the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite indicated below on the following candidate, who has been) (will be) elected to receive them.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (with A/C) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check Degrees and Orders to be conferred:

RAM: MM \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_ MEM \_\_\_\_\_ RA \_\_\_\_\_

CM: RM \_\_\_\_\_ SM \_\_\_\_\_ SEM \_\_\_\_\_ (SEM even-numbered years only)

KT: RC \_\_\_\_\_ OM \_\_\_\_\_ OT \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above-named Candidate (has been) (will be) elected to receive the Degrees and Orders indicated, and that he is in all ways duly qualified. (If he has not yet been elected, I will notify the Candidate Registrar if he fails to be elected before the Festival.)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

SECY-REC NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (with A/C): \_\_\_\_\_

..... (Please emboss seals below this line).....

CHAPTER  
SEAL

COUNCIL  
SEAL

COMMANDERY  
SEAL

**NOTICE**

1. Requests for courtesy work must be mailed to Mesa, **postmarked not later than September 30, 2006.**
2. Appropriate seals must be embossed in the appropriate spaces.
3. **CANDIDATES MUST ALSO REGISTER FOR MEALS AND LODGING ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2006, TO THE MOHAVE VALLEY ADDRESS!**
4. You and your Grand Secretary/Recorder will be notified of courtesy work completed.
5. **Any request postmarked AFTER September 30, 2006 will not be honored -- no exceptions.**

**GRAND HIGH PRIEST RUSSEL D. ROBERT'S CALENDER 2006**

- Sept 3 Southern California DeMolay Conclave  
Riverside, California  
Sept 5 Selma Bethel #151 - Stated Meeting  
Sept 6 Tulare Commandery - Stated Meeting  
Sept 11 Auburn Chapter - Reception  
Sept 13 Orange County Chapter # 73 - Reception  
Sept 14 Norris C. Viles Chapter - MSA/Reception  
Sept 16 Outdoor Degrees @ Manton, California  
Sept 17 Red Cross of Constantine - Pacifica Conclave  
Sept 20 Sequoia Council - AMD - Tulare, California  
Sept 22 Nevada City Chapter - Reception  
Sept 23 Stockton Chapter - Stated Meeting - 8:00 A.M.  
Sept 23 State Center DeMolay - Installation - 3:00 P.M.  
Sept 27 Tri-angle Chapter - Visitation - San Diego, California  
Sept 28 San Diego Chapter - Visitation - San Diego, California  
Oct 5 Napa Valley Chapter - Reception  
Oct 8 Grand Lodge Opening - San Francisco, California  
Oct 12 Sonora Chapter - Reception - Sonora, California  
Oct 14 DeMolay Grand Master's Class - Oakland, California  
Oct 15-18 Colorado River Fall Festival - Laughlin, Nevada  
Oct 19-20 Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star - Fresno, California  
Oct 24 Olive Branch Lodge - 50 year Members, Tulare, California  
Oct 28 Fresno Scottish Rite Fall Class - 9th & 10th Degrees  
Oct 31 Fresno Hi-twelve Program Speaker - Fresno Ramada Inn  
Nov 2-5 Southwest Regional Conference - Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Nov 8-11 Grand Guardian Council - Anaheim, California  
Nov 12 St. Alban York Rite College - Ventura, California  
Nov 14 Visalia Chapter - Visitation  
Nov 20 Fresno Scottish Rite - Election of Officers  
Nov 24-26 Northern California DeMolay Conclave -  
Sacramento, California

**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER  
ROBERT G. GRAUER'S ITINERARY**

- SEPT 1 IGM Reception - Omega Council  
SEPT 9 Arthur N. McBain York Rite College Vallejo  
SEPT 10 Sun Redwood Council No. 165 AMD  
SEPT 22 Fri 3 Way Reception Nevada City  
OCT 28 50 Year Class Reunion Oakdale  
NOV 1 IGM Reception - San Jose No. 29  
NOV 12 Redwood Council No. 165 AMD  
NOV 18 Knight Masons Meeting Vacaville  
NOV 20 3 Way Reception - Alpha Council  
2007  
JAN 26 Red Cross of Constantine Meeting Oakland September

**GRAND COMMANDER CHARLES WATERMAN'S ITINERARY**

- SEPT 3 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DEMOLAYCONFERENCE  
SEPT 5 BLUE LODGE VACAVILLE #134 MEETING  
SEPT 6 SOLANO CHAPTER #43 MEETING  
SEPT 8 VACAVILLE COMMANDERY #38, RECEPTION (6 PM)  
SEPT 16 DEPARTMENT 4 RECEPTION  
SEPT 22 NEVADA CITY (3WAY) RECEPTION (6PM)  
SEPT 25 QUINCY-LASSEN VISIT (6:15PM)  
OCT 3 BLUE LODGE VACAVILLE #134 MEETING  
OCT 4 SOLANO CHAPTER 43 MEETING  
OCT 6 SANTA ROSA #14 RECEPTION (6PM)  
OCT 8 GRAND LODGE MEETING  
OCT 9 GRAND LODGE MEETING  
OCT 10 GRAND LODGE MEETING  
OCT 11 GRAND LODGE MEETING  
OCT 16 COLORADO RIVER FESTIVAL  
OCT 17 COLORADO RIVER FESTIVAL  
OCT 23 MODESTO #57 MEETING  
OCT 28 ALAMEDA COMMANDERY FESTIVAL

## Tunnel Vision

Our new Freemason has been brought to light - or has he? Does he ever get away from the "tunnel" he saw when he looked toward the East? Or will he, along with most of those who attend our lodges, continue to have "tunnel vision?"

There are many definitions for "tunnel vision" - narrow-minds, seeing only what we want to see, looking at a field in a wide world, never being able to see the whole picture because our vision is focused on one small segment.

All of us look at life through restricted windows. Our view is restricted because of what we learned in our childhood from our parents, the schools we attended, the places we worshiped, our friends, our neighbors and neighborhood, our places of employment, the associations to which we belong or don't belong. And the list can go on and on.

The one place that should defeat the curse of tunnel vision and broaden the outlook, by taking away the restrictions from our windows, is Freemasonry.

Does it do the job it's supposed to?

Freemasonry does, but we, the individuals who are responsible for seeing that it does, don't. We have gotten away, far away, from the teachings of our founding fathers. We have taken the work "speculative" and added it to our vocabulary when we should have left in the word "operative."

*- From an article in The Royal Arch Mason,  
Autumn 1987*

## Quick Quotes

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that things are difficult.- Seneca

If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them, and half as much money.-Abigail Van Buren

Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are. - Bernice Johnson Reagon

Don't mistake pleasures for happiness. They are a different breed of dog. -Josh Billings

The test of enjoyment is the remembrance which it leaves behind. - Logan Pearsall Smith

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which everyone has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which everyone has some. - Charles Dickens

***Contributions are solicited for this Calendar Page and for the entire publication. Please forward all contributions to the Grand Secretary or Donald J. Spencer, 8350 Rathburn Ave., Northridge 91325. Phone 818-885-0289. Fax 818-885-5913. E-mail Dspen39087@aol.com. Copy deadlines are February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. Publication schedule: March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.***

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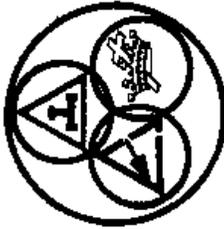
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