

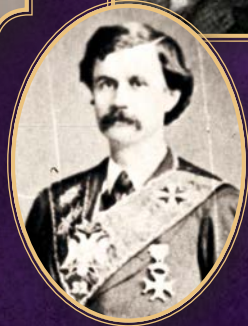
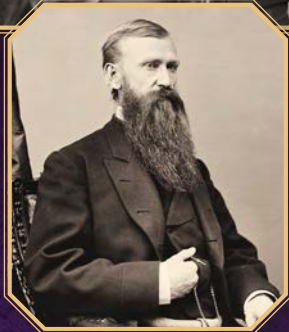
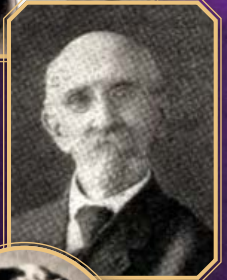
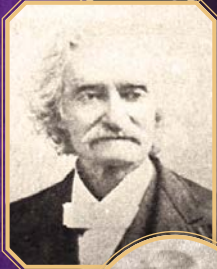
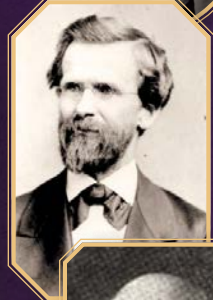
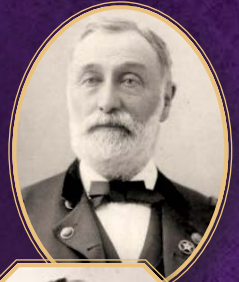


SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

# BULLETIN

VALLEY OF WASHINGTON • ORIENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPRING 2020

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH RITE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (1859–2020)



## SCOTTISH RITE CALENDAR • September through December 2020

Please note that the dates, times, locations and formats of all meetings and events listed below are subject to change in accordance with the directives issued by local masonic and/or civil authorities. The most current information may be found by visiting the Valley's website at [DCSR.org](http://DCSR.org). PLEASE CHECK MEETING STATUS ON WEBSITE.

**NOTE: In response to conditions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, schedules are subject to change and meetings may be cancelled or replaced with virtual online formats. Visit [DCSR.org](http://DCSR.org) for the latest updates.**

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 7 LABOR DAY – DCSR OFFICES CLOSED
- 8 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
- 15 Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh
- 22 Albert Pike Consistory
- 29 Fifth Tuesday – No DCSR Meeting



### OCTOBER

- 3 **DCSR Sesquicentennial Gala at the Library of Congress**  
(Advance registration purchase required)



- 6 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 12 COLUMBUS DAY – DCSR OFFICES CLOSED
- 13 Feast of Tishri
- 20 Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh
- 27 Albert Pike Consistory

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 7 **FALL REUNION**
- 10 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
- 11 VETERANS DAY – DCSR OFFICES CLOSED

- 14 **Sesquicentennial Musical Concert**  
(Advance reservations required)



- 17 Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh
- 24 Education & Community Service Awards Program
- 26 THANKSGIVING DAY – DCSR OFFICES CLOSED

### DECEMBER

- 1 Mithras Lodge of Perfection
- 8 Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix
- 15 **DCSR Sesquicentennial Membership Banquet (Members only)**
- 16 WINTER RECESS BEGINS
- 24-31 DCSR OFFICES CLOSED



Scan this QR Code with your Android or iPhone to access the SR mobile website.

SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

# BULLETIN

SPRING | 2020

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH RITE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (1859–2020)



**PUBLISHER**

Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°

**EDITOR**

Ill. Carroll J. Collins, 33°

This *Bulletin* is published twice a year for members of the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America. 2800 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

**FRONT COVER:** Pictures of some of the Founding Members of the Mithras Lodge of Perfection. See page 23 for names.

SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



2800



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**BY ILLUSTRIOUS LEONARD PRODEN, 33°**  
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE  
SUPREME COUNCIL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

My Scottish Rite Brethren:

The arrival of this publication, the *Bulletin*, into your hands has for many years served as your invitation to join our candidates and me to attend our Reunion. A time when we can gather to again observe, listen and learn from the four allegorical plays presented in our auditorium along with our candidates. Where we rekindle the thoughts of obligations we long ago took where we promised and vowed that in becoming a Master of the Royal Secret that we would value mental honesty and make a commitment to elevate our private conduct and our public values. We so looked forward to welcoming you face-to-face to our building for this special event. However, the novel coronavirus has drug on for nearly three months forcing us to abruptly halt our Scottish Rite activities here at our building. Our Body Heads, not to be deterred, have organized and created virtual programs for presentation and discussion via the iCloud platform, [zoom.us](https://zoom.us). The response of our membership to these SR communications has been most successful. Each of you should have received the postcards—[Rite@Home](mailto:Rite@Home) with instruction as to how to participate.

As you know this is our 150th Celebratory Year and we have delayed our Spring sesquicentennial events due to the pandemic. These Spring events (**Enlightened Knowledge** and **Scientific Discovery**) have been rescheduled for this Fall and Spring '21 respectively. We plan to move boldly ahead with our Sesquicentennial celebrations while closely monitoring life in the Washington region. We know it shapes up to be a complex decision-making time but we hope to fully reveal our schedule by mid-August.

In late January I sent each member a letter outlining our 150th Anniversary of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Washington, D.C. I mentioned that this year will be a joyous moment for celebration, recalling our Rite's past achievements here in our Nation's Capital and an operative time for our repositioning to meet future goals in an age of information. In that letter there were 2 primary objectives listed: **Showcasing the exceptionalism of the DC Scottish Rite and Building stronger community partnerships**. We remain as steadfast today as we did in January in achieving our objectives. The content of this periodical focuses on the 150-year baseline history of how our Rite arrived as to where it is today in recalling our past achievements.

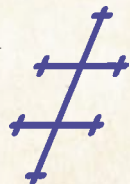
When visiting our website-[DCSR.org](https://DCSR.org)-you probably noticed that our building is closed until August 31. However, our staff, contractors and vendors are utilizing the latest methods in our building to combat the coronavirus. We will not return until our entire building environment is made safe for your return. To date this involves a total building disinfecting via wipe down/aerosol application and adjusting air movement and installing medical grade filtering. When we return, major modifications will be implemented for members: mandatory hand sanitization, taking of body (infrared) temperature, wearing of masks, social distancing in the refectory and Lodge room. Your health and safety are our utmost concern and we will follow all public safety protocols.

Oh, the Reunion. We will have a special 150th Commemorative Reunion. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 7. It will duplicate that of the Centennial Reunion of 1970 as a 1-day class. Be on the lookout for your next *Bulletin*.

In spite of these unprecedented times—EQUILIBRIUM prevails at your Scottish Rite.



*Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°*

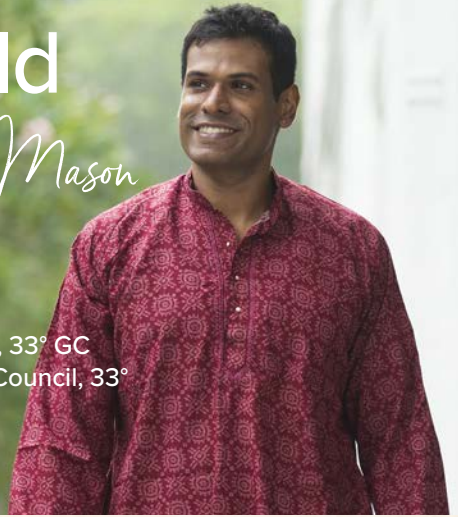


# Our New World

## & Being a Scottish Rite Mason



by Ill. W. Kenneth Lyons, Jr., 33° GC  
Grand Chaplain, Supreme Council, 33°



The world is upside down. As COVID-19 continues to take its toll in lives even as the necessary measures to slow its spread have deprived millions of their livelihoods and ruined a once vibrant economy. As if that were not enough, the evils of systemic racism and violence are doing the same thing. The pandemic took us by surprise, but racism and violence has been with us since our country began. We are now wearing masks to protect “others” from a deadly virus. What are we doing to protect others from the correspondingly lethal and destructive forces of racism and violence?

We can start by living up to the admonition expressed by our SGIG in his message that we will protect our brothers and sisters from the sicknesses of hate and violence. He reminds us that we vowed, in the Master of the Royal Secret, *“that we would value mental honesty and make a commitment to elevate our private conduct and our public values”*. Let’s be honest. We have to do more with our private conduct in order to elevate public values. “Elevate” means simply to “change for the better”! Live like the Good Samaritan, love unconditionally as did the founders of your faith, and most importantly adhere personally to the Rule that is contained in all religions. That’s why that Rule is Golden: *“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”*

So my brothers, I invite you to reflect on your racial/ethnic perceptions; are you contributing to the microaggressions of everyday life that others in this country must continually endure? Start a conversation; consider how you might help make a change; and, instill equity and inclusion throughout your family, your circle of friends, your organizations, your workplaces, and your community. You can be part of the solution by taking this meaningful action, one conversation and one person at a time. My grown goddaughter Katie sent my wife and me an e-mail: *“The world is upside down and I wish I could do more. But believe me, Jake will understand what it means to respect and value EVERYONE and every LIFE. We have to do better, and we will.....I promise.”* Jake is her four-year-old son.

# THE SESQUICENTENNIAL:

## *Celebrate, Reflect & Reposition*

by III. Akram R. Elias, 33°  
Chairman, Sesquicentennial Planning Committee



**A Sesquicentennial is a precious moment for celebration, reflection, and repositioning.**

### *A Time for Celebration*

As our Washington metropolitan area proceeds with a gradual re-opening enabling larger gatherings to take place in a safe and healthy environment, we look forward to kicking off our 150th Anniversary celebrations on October 3, 2020. We are planning an exceptional gala dinner event at the Library of Congress featuring a facilitated conversation with Gen. David Petraeus on the critical need to have free and enlightened citizens, ready to engage the Great Experiment that we call America. Members of Congress have been invited to attend.

The celebration continues with the *Reunion of the Elements* on November 14, 2020, at the DC Scottish Rite featuring a groove-centric journey through Fire, Earth, Air, and Water, and carries over to next year when we'll explore our fascinating universe over dinner with Nobel Laureate Astrophysicist Dr. Adam Riess on March 20, 2021, at the Cosmos Club.

As we plan our celebrations, we must also take a pause to reflect on today's difficult times, seeking inspiration and guidance from our past achievements.

### *A Time for Reflection*

We look around us today and see divided communities struggling with injustice and anger in an environment of fear and anxiety. As Scottish Rite Masons, we are called upon to exemplify our Masonic values through the practical applications of the teachings of our Scottish Rite Degrees. We must "walk the walk" and not simply talk the talk. Contemplating on current conditions in our country and city, my mind and soul traveled back in time to when America faced its most existentialist threat, looking for acts of inspiration, and I found them.





Let us, for example, reflect on one such act undertaken by our first SGIG, Illustrious Brother Benjamin B. French, 33°, Past Grand Master of Washington, D.C. On April 15, 1868, to mark the third anniversary of President Lincoln's death, our beloved SGIG delivered a powerful address at an extraordinary unveiling ceremony of Lincoln's statue by Lot Flannery, located at Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. In the presence of President Andrew Johnson and a crowd estimated at 15,000-20,000 people, SGIG French delivered the

following words that should be of great inspiration to us all today:

*"We have erected it [Lincoln's statue] where the earliest kiss of rosy day, as she approaches from the East, may fall upon it, and where the last gleam of evening's mellow light may salute it as the twilight darkens into night. Here it stands, as it were, in the plaza of the city; and here it will stand, we hope, to be seen by generations long hence to come. **Let the fathers of the city, in times of trouble, gather around it, and acquire inspiration by calling to mind the firmness, patience, fidelity, zeal, and nobleness of character of him whom it represents. Let the generations of young men gather around it, and recall, as their example and their guide, the virtue, sobriety, modesty, and uprightness of life and purpose of that great man. And let us all bear in mind and ever profit by the remembrance how Abraham Lincoln placed all his trust in God and implored His blessing upon every act of his exemplary life!**"*

Inspired by those words, every Scottish Rite Mason needs to find his own most meaningful way to contribute to the triumph of Justice and the healing of our communities. As you design your own tracing board as a Free Builder, be mindful of the lessons of our Scottish Rite Degrees and try to exemplify them: **act as a peacemaker** (6th degree), **let Justice be the guide of all your actions** (7th degree), **be vigilant to the interests and honor of our country** (9th degree), **serve the cause of truth with patience and industry** (19th degree), **practice the Masonic virtues both in and out of the Lodge** (20th degree).

## *A Time for Repositioning*

A Sesquicentennial represents in the history of institutions, especially this of ours, an inflection point, but in what direction? Our SGIG, Leonard Proden, inspired and guided by his illustrious predecessors the likes of Benjamin B. French, laid out a vision that takes our beloved Scottish Rite in an upwardly direction to achieve yet greater heights. By

redirecting our focus on the *Exceptionalism of the Scottish Rite*, SGIG Proden is guiding us in repositioning the DC Scottish Rite to be once again a most relevant institution in the world of Freemasonry and our Nation's Capital. The *exceptionalism* of the Scottish Rite lies in its "*raison d'être*" and is both *internal* and *external* in nature.

The *internal* aspect of Scottish Rite Exceptionalism is fundamental and pertains to the purpose of the Rite's degrees as defined by Albert Pike and reiterated by him in 1874: "the work makes known the real origin and meanings, heretofore wholly unknown, of the principal Symbols of Freemasonry." Indeed, the Scottish Rite degrees are uniquely crafted to provide insights into the deeper meanings of the teachings of Freemasonry. The Craft is universally defined as "*a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols*" thus requiring of its initiates to dig deeper into the true esoteric (hidden) meanings of the teachings of Freemasonry to improve themselves internally that they may be better enabled to improve the world externally. It is for this very reason that the 17th degree (Knight of the East and West) admonishes us to "*teach the truths that are hidden in allegories and concealed by the symbols of Freemasonry*."

To effect *internally* the repositioning of the DC Scottish Rite, under the direction of SGIG Proden, all of our Tuesday meetings, including virtual ones, have incorporated essential elements of Scottish Rite Masonic Education that enlighten the Brethren and keep them focused on their primordial mission of bettering themselves through Freemasonry.

The *external* aspect of Scottish Rite Exceptionalism pertains to the Rite's outwardly role within the community at large as a force for good not through activism of one kind or another as is done in the profane, but by being a bridge to light to help bring divided communities together through the wise applications of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. To be that bridge, however, the Rite must first build the kinds of partnerships with institutions in our city whose non-partisan missions are more aligned with our core Scottish Rite values.

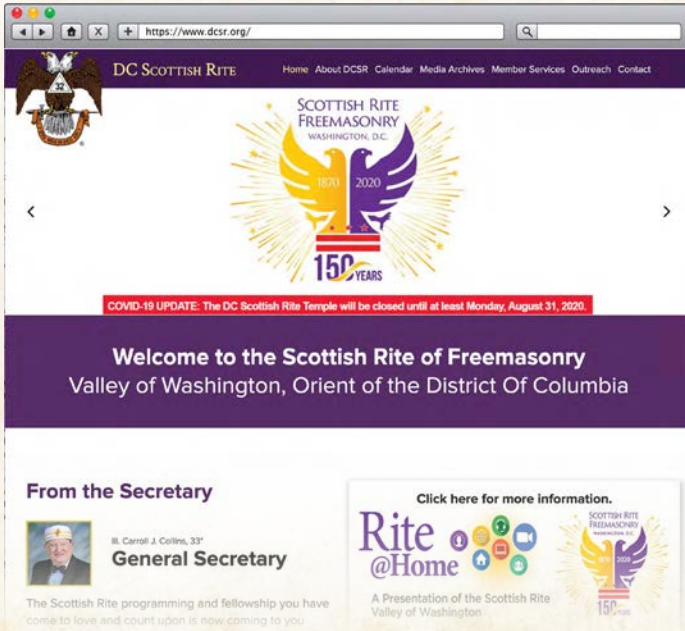
To that effect, under the leadership of SGIG Proden, our DC Scottish Rite forged a partnership with PEN/Faulkner and funded a scholarship at the School of International Service at The American University in Washington, D.C. While these are important steps in the direction of external repositioning, much more remains to be done. We need to strengthen the external capacity of our DC Scottish Rite through the types of partnerships described earlier, not for the purpose of gaining artificial visibility driven by vanity, but to earn the respect of our community at large through calm, noble and disinterested engagement. Then, and only then, the DC Scottish Rite can fulfill its outwardly mission of being an effective force for good in our Nation's Capital.

In closing, as we celebrate our glorious past, reflect on today's challenges, and dream of a yet brighter future, let us on the occasion of this 150th Anniversary band together as serious Scottish Rite Masons to make this repositioning a reality.

## Did you know that the DC Scottish Rite has a newly refreshed website?

Connect with us to stay up to date with what's going on at the Rite!

<https://www.dcsr.org/>



**Are you following us on Facebook?  
Have you downloaded our app?**



**DCSR - Orient of the District of Columbia,  
Valley of Washington Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DCScottishRite/>

**DCSR App available  
on the App Store or Google Play**



# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH RITE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (1859–2020)

*This article is based on works by past and present members of the Valley of Washington, including Ill. Ralph H. Gauker, 33°, Ill. William L. Fox, 33°, and SGIG Emeritus Charles S. Iversen, 33°.*



The Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, is a constituent of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, and has evolved into a major Masonic entity in the Nation's Capital. Its success has resulted from the inspiration and loving dedication of its thousands of members over the years.

The most authoritative description of the origins and history of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is to be found on the Supreme Council website at <https://scottishrite.org/about/history>, and will not be repeated here, except to note that the Grand Constitutions of 1786 had set forth a Rite consisting of thirty-three degrees and in some manner that remains a mystery, Colonel John Mitchell received the 33°. On May 25, 1801, Mitchell, in turn, conferred the 33° on Dr. Frederick Dalcho, a prominent Charleston physician and apothecary, and it was the two of them who opened the first Supreme Council at "Mr. Shepheard's Tavern" on May 31, 1801.

Most of the material contained herein was taken from a history by Ill. Ralph H. Gauker, 33° published in 1970. His book is entitled *History of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the District of Columbia, 1870-1970*. It starts with a full biography of Benjamin Brown French, who received the 33° in December 1859 and was appointed the first Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the District of Columbia in March 1860. There being no Scottish Rite in the Nation's Capital at that time, it was SGIG French, in collaboration with Sovereign Grand Commander Albert Pike, who established the first local Scottish Rite bodies there. The balance of Illustrious Gauker's tome consists of significant event extracts from the minutes preserved by the Scottish Rite Bodies during their first one hundred years.

### THE FORMATIVE YEARS

A Grand Consistory and a Lodge of Perfection had been created in 1860, but they lasted less than a year due to the impending national crisis of the American Civil War (1861 – 1865). Although the Scottish Rite was dormant during this wartime, Brother French continued to execute his Masonic duties as Grand Master, and it was not until January 1867 that he met with a few stalwarts of the earlier Grand Consistory to discuss the revitalization of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the District. One of his concerns was whether there were enough local Scottish Rite Masons to do the work, and he took steps to address that issue by authorizing Brother Christopher Ingle, 33° “to confer the degrees up to and including the fourteenth on such worthy Master Masons as he may think proper, by communication.”



*Ill. Christopher Ingle, 33°*



*Ill. Joseph Thomas Brown, 33°*

Unfortunately, French died in August 1870, and it was left to the interim Deputy in the District of Columbia, Joseph Thomas Brown, 33°, and Sovereign Grand Commander Pike to continue the revival of local Scottish Rite Bodies. So, in December 1870, the Mithras Lodge of Perfection No. 2 was chartered on a motion by Commander Pike. (Numbering of the Bodies was later eliminated by the Supreme Council.)

Mithras Lodge set the date of its stated meetings on the first Tuesday evening of each month, and this has never changed. The three additional bodies of the Scottish Rite came into being at sessions of the Supreme Council (which then convened in the even numbered years) when they received their charters as follows: Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix in 1872; Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh in 1874, and

## Brief History of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

Albert Pike Consistory in 1876. Each had its own set of degrees and purposes. The Chapter scheduled its meetings on the second Tuesday; the Council on the third Tuesday; and the Consistory on the fourth Tuesday. This order prevails today, and all four charters, signed by Albert Pike, are displayed on a wall of the lodge room.

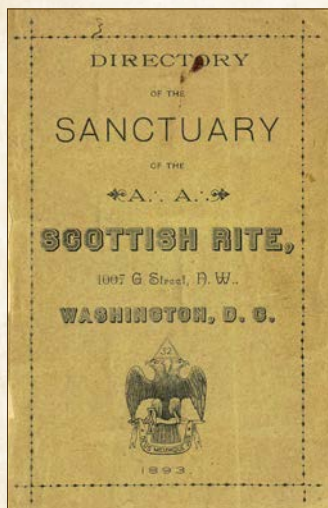
### MEETING PLACES

Prior to chartering the Mithras Lodge, there were no regular meetings of the Washington Scottish Rite, only gatherings at private residences for the purpose of promoting the Rite and taking in new members by communication of degrees. It was only after the Lodge of Perfection was chartered that regular meetings were set to be held monthly, as stated above. Over the years the Washington bodies have met in several different locations including the parlor of Joseph W. Nairn, 32°, at 1100 H Street, N.W., the Masonic Temple at 9th & F Streets N.W., and the bank building at 7th & D Streets, N.W., which the Scottish Rite leased and there met from 1875 to 1888.

In 1888 they purchased a building at 1007 G Street, N.W., and moved into the first home which was exclusively theirs. Although it initially met their needs, soon an expansion was needed, and with that cost, they ran into financial difficulties that were likely exacerbated by the Panics of 1890 & 1893. The matter was resolved when they exchanged the G Street property for the Supreme Council's Temple at 433 Third Street, N.W., (the home of Albert Pike from 1870 until his death in 1891) and into which they moved in February 1910. The first Reunion on record of the four Bodies was held at the 3rd Street Cathedral and took place from Tuesday October 11th to Saturday October 15, 1892.



1007 G Street NW  
(Next to Palais Royale department store)



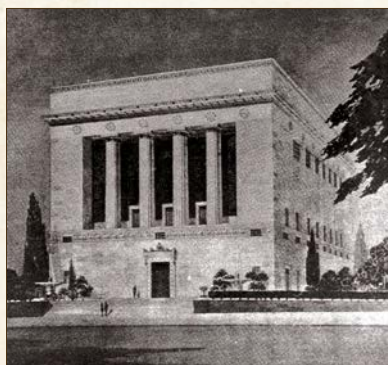
1893 Directory

From 1910 to 1940 the Washington Bodies continued to meet at the 433 Third Street Cathedral but with their membership increasing, they continued looking for a larger space. In 1919, they purchased the northwest corner of 13th and K Street, NW on which they anticipated building a new home. The following year, they engaged an architect who presented plans, and the membership voted to proceed: however, it was not to be.

In 1922, the Grand Lodge had purchased a ten-acre property known variously as the Dean tract, "Oak Lawn," or "Temple Heights" on the east side of Connecticut Avenue between Columbia Road and Florida Avenue, with the idea that all the Masonic bodies would relocate there. Throughout the 1920s, the Scottish Rite membership acceded to the requests of several successive Grand Masters to support their infamous Temple Heights project, so the plans for 13th and K Streets never came to fruition.



*433 Third Street NW*



*Planned 13th and K Street Temple*

In 1927, Almas Temple approached Deputy Elwood P. Morey, 33°, with an offer to purchase half of the K Street property, and the Scottish Rite sold them the western portion of its land. With this sale, the Scottish Rite did not then have enough space on K Street on which to build, so the Deputy began a search for a larger tract.

In September 1936, Deputy Morey presented a plan to the membership to buy several lots at 2800 16th Street, N.W., that totaled about a half-acre. The asking price was \$55,000 but was negotiated to a final price of \$50,619.

The architectural firm of Porter, Lockie, and Chatelain was engaged to draw plans and designs, a building committee of members was formed, and Charles H. Tompkins Company was engaged to construct a new cathedral. In May 1940, the building was dedicated and occupied debt free and fully furnished for a total cost of \$498,000, including the cost of the land. Not surprisingly, the architects and the builder were D.C. Masons, and members of the Scottish Rite: Porter and Thompkins were members of Temple-Noyes No. 32, Chatelain was a member of Theodore Roosevelt No. 44, and Lockie a member of Albert Pike No. 36.



*2800 16th Street NW*

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### SOME INTERESTING EVENTS OF THE PAST 150 YEARS

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Illustrious Gauker had read through the minutes of the four bodies of the Scottish Rite in preparation for writing his History, and some decadal highlights he noted are listed on the following pages:

# Brief History of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

## 1910-1919

The last meeting was held in the old lodge room at 1007 G Street N.W. on January 18, 1910. On December 6, 1910 the Camp Guard was formed with 18 charter members, and held its first meeting at 433 Third Street, N.W. Their duties were like those performed today by the Knights of Saint Andrews. 766 candidates received the degrees at four reunions in 1919.

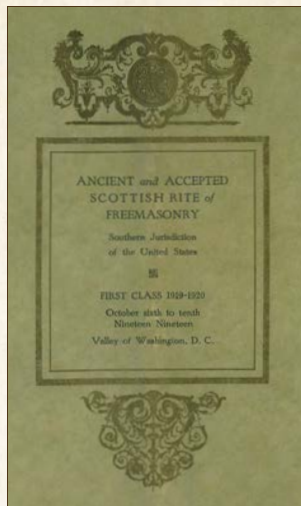
## 1920 - 1929

In 1920, Albert Pike Lodge No. 36 was chartered with a membership almost exclusively of Scottish Rite Masons. The following year, they made President Warren G. Harding, 33°, an honorary member. The Lodge is now numbered 33 following the merger with Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 33.

The Valley's first newsletter, the *Cathedral Calendar*, began publication in January 1921, and continued monthly until July 1927.

The Unknown Soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921, and Deputy Edward P. Morey sent a wreath of red roses in the form of a Rosy Cross to be placed on the casket.

In 1922, the Washington bodies sponsored Robert Le Bruce Chapter of DeMolay which was the first chapter to be chartered east of the Mississippi River and was active for many years. The ceremony of dedication was conducted by Frank D. Land, 33°, founder of DeMolay.



First Reunion of 1919-1920

### Scottish Rite Temple Ground Is Broken

With high officials of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry attending, ground was broken yesterday for a new temple on Sixteenth street just north of the Italian Embassy.

John H. Cowles, grand commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, dug the first spade of earth in the ceremony. Members of the Executive and Building Committees attended. Frank Stetson is chairman of the Building Committee.

Among those attending the ceremony were John C. Palmer, commander of Robert de Bruce Council, Knights Kadosh; Hector G. Spaulding, venerable master of Mithras Lodge of Perfection; Frederic B. Blackburn, wise master of Evangelist Chapter, Knights Rose Croix; John O. Bowen, venerable master of Kadosh, Albert Pike Consistory, and C. C. Combs, deputy of the Supreme Council of the District.

Evening Star, November 15, 1938

## 1930 - 1939

From 1930 through 1935 there was a sharp loss of membership due to the Great Depression; but in 1936, it began to rebound with a gain of 111.

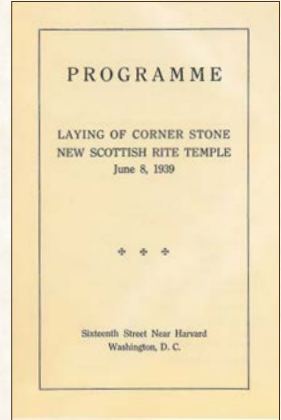
November 14, 1938, "on this afternoon at 12:30 o'clock occurred a ceremony which was of the highest interest to all members of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia—that is, the breaking of ground for the erection of the new Scottish Rite Temple on 16th Street, N.W., near Harvard. The day was windy and chilly and yet there were present approximately two hundred and fifty members of the Rite to witness the ceremony. Ground was broken by the Illustrious Sovereign Grand Commander



of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, John Henry Cowles, 33°, who took up the first shovel full of earth at the north-east corner of the location, the second shovel full being handled by the Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, Brother L. P. Steuart, K.C.C.H (later, 33°).”



*L.P. Steuart, GM 1938*

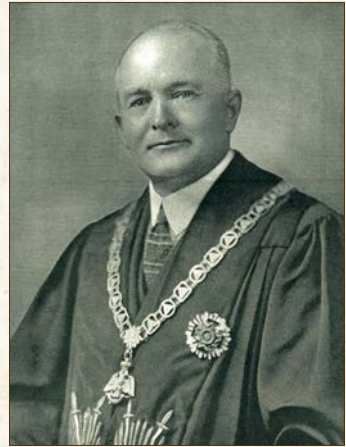


*1939 Cornerstone Program*

The following June 8, the cornerstone was laid according to Masonic tradition by Grand Master Eugene Thompson, 33°. The building’s dimensions are 129 x 114 feet with a floor area of 36,000 square feet. It was constructed of Indiana limestone with a façade consisting of 33 limestones, each nine feet square and weighting six tons. At that time, the lintel over the main door weighing 38 tons was the largest quarried face stone ever used.

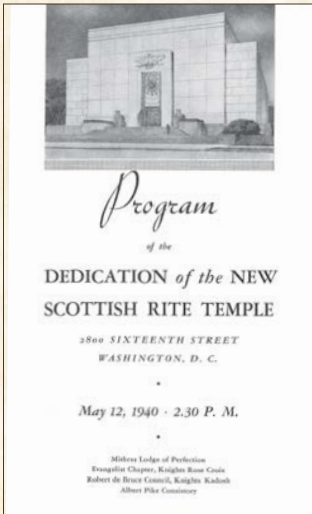
**1940 – 1949**

The new Scottish Rite Temple was dedicated on Sunday, May 12, 1940, with SGC Cowles and Deputy Charles C. Coombs, 33°, jointly conducting the services. Concurrent with the Temple dedication, was the dedication of a pipe organ donated by W.R. Frank Hines, 32° in memory of his father, Stephen H. Hines, 32°, a prominent undertaker in the District, and active Mason who had



*SGC John Henry Cowles*

died in 1921. During the week following dedication, a reunion was held taking in 64 new members. From May 20 and for a week thereafter, evening organ music recitals were conducted for the public by organists of Washington churches. For the first time, the Director of Work had a facility in which he could confer the degrees in proper style, a 392-seat auditorium and stage, an organ, and scenery drops to highlight each degree.



*1940 Dedication Program*

In February 1948, an opportunity arose to sell the property at 433 Third Street, N.W., but Grand Commander Cowles requested that it be retained because the Supreme Council might want to purchase it in order to create a museum in memory of Albert Pike who once lived there.

## Brief History of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

Later that year, however, the Supreme Council had lost interest in the idea and the building was sold to the Washington Housing Corporation. That site is now occupied by the D.C. Tax Court, with the Pike statue nearby.

Deputy Charles Cyrus Coombs, 33°, who had served as D.C. Grand Master in 1922, died in 1948, and a Rose Croix service was held for him in the temple auditorium. William E. Schooley, 33°, Grand Master in 1946, an attorney and bank officer, was appointed Deputy, later elected Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the District, and Grand Treasurer General of the Supreme Council.

General of the Armies John Joseph “Black Jack” Pershing, 33°, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force in World War I died July 15, 1948. He had lived his last years in an apartment at Walter Reed General Hospital and although a member of a Scottish Rite Valley in the west, he “attended (D.C. Scottish Rite) frequently and was very well liked by the brethren.”

At the end of the decade membership stood at 3570.

### 1950 – 1959

The heating system in 1955 was converted from oil to gas, and \$55,000 was spent to refurbish the temple. The secretary’s office was moved from the northeast corner of the temple to the southwest corner and air-conditioned in 1956.

Parking for the membership continued to be an issue, so a small parking lot on the southwest corner of Columbia Road and Mozart Place, holding about 30 cars, was rented each Tuesday evening to supplement street parking. The Festival Center now occupies that site.

The sesquicentennial celebration of the birth of Albert Pike was held at the end of 1959, and membership on December 31 was 4569.

### 1960 – 1969

In 1960, the auditorium and refectory, the largest spaces in the temple, were air-conditioned. A new lease was signed with longtime tenant Firestone for the K street property to produce net income of \$3,000 per month.

William E. Schooley, 33°, S.G.I.G., died in January 1962, and Renah F. Camalier, 33° G.C., Grand Master in 1952, an attorney, prominent District politician, and former Commissioner of the District of Columbia was appointed Deputy.

The Spring Class of 1963 was the 250th Class Reunion of the Washington Bodies. The first Reunion had been held on October 11, 1892.

In 1965, Deputy Renah Camalier arranged for the purchase of the row houses on the east side of Mozart Place behind the Italian Embassy with the idea in mind that they were to be razed in order to provide parking for the members. It soon became apparent that the number of parking spaces that could be made were so few that the idea was impracticable, so the buildings were sold to the embassy and the land was used by them for their more

limited parking needs.

District native C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, was appointed Acting Secretary General of the Supreme Council in 1966 and was elected both Sovereign Grand Inspector General at Large and Grand Secretary General in 1967. He continued in these offices until 1985 when he was elected Sovereign Grand Commander.

In 1968, representatives of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction performed the first production of the second section of their 20° in our auditorium with Grand Commander Luther Smith, 33° and several other dignitaries present. Later, the degree was altered to permit viewing by non-members and renamed “The Traitor.” It depicted the scene from a dream supposedly had by Benedict Arnold while in exile in England wherein he had returned to America under cloak of darkness to attend a lodge meeting at which most of the famous Masons of our colonial days were present, including Washington and Lafayette, and the unfavorable reception he encountered when he asked for forgiveness for his treasonous acts.

“To provide and promote Scottish Rite fellowship among the American military and civilian personnel stationed abroad during the Cold War years” the Supreme Council chartered the Orient of NATO Bases in October 1969.

The first open installation of officers in the D.C. Scottish Rite was held in 1969. Previously, installations were held in each of the four coordinate bodies at the time of the elections in January.

At the end of the decade, membership stood at about 5600.

### 1970-1979

The year 1970 was the 100th anniversary of the chartering of Mithras Lodge of Perfection and the beginning of the Scottish Rite in Washington.

With the large local membership, parking was obviously at a premium and lack thereof was deterring many brethren from attending the meetings. With the consent of the membership, Deputy Renah Camalier negotiated the purchase of the Cavendish Apartments in the 1600 block of Columbia Road, on the northeast corner of Mozart Place, which abutted the temple property on the west side. With the purchase completed in the summer of 1970, the apartment building was razed, and the land was blacktopped for the much-needed parking lot.

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Washington Scottish Rite  
Proudly Presents  
**THE CENTENNIAL CLASS**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1970

TO THE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE-

More than half a million Master Masons have taken the degrees offered by the Scottish Rite, and an ever active membership of the Southern Jurisdiction.

**THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED**  
*The cause of human progress is our cause, the enlightenment of human thought our highest goal, the freedom of human conscience our mission, and the possession of equal rights to all peoples everywhere, the end of our existence.*

Our function is to elaborate and explain the lessons of the symbolic degrees, and to carry on the challenging program of The Supreme Council 33°. We are the strong arm of Freemasonry and require our members to maintain good standing in their Blue Lodges.

You are cordially invited to join with us.

RENAH F. CAMALIER 33°, G. C.  
Deputy of The Supreme Council 33°

Fall 1970, 1-day Reunion 1970 brochure

## Brief History of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

The elders of the Mormon Church, our original neighbor to the north, worked out an agreement with the Scottish Rite whereby they would dedicate an 8-foot easement across the rear strip of the church property, located adjacent to the new parking lot, as a means of egress from the lot onto Columbia Road. The entrance/exit then was off Mozart Place as it was until the sale of that parcel for development. Although Deputy Camalier had served for over five years as a Commissioner of the District of Columbia, he was unable to persuade the District Government to allow the curb cut, and Mozart Place continued to be the point of entry and departure. The lot held about 50 cars and was a boon to attendance for nearly 20 years until it was enlarged in 1989 as part of the Language Center construction.

At this point the history by Ill. Ralph Gauker, 33°, concludes, and the first 100 years of our organized Rite ends. The balance of this article contains a selection of highlights of the past 50 years.

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### THE LAST FIFTY YEARS – (1970-2020)

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Renah Camalier resigned as Deputy in 1977 after having served in office for fifteen years and Dr. William E. Eccleston, 33°, a Washington dentist and Grand Master in 1975, was appointed Deputy. Soon thereafter, he ceased his practice of dentistry and devoted full time to his new office.

In 1979, Eccleston was elected SGIG in the District and commenced a comprehensive renovation of the temple. He appointed Ill. M. Russell Stogsdill, 33°, the building engineer at that time, as supervisor of the work. It took over a year and necessitated cancellations of some of the meetings, but much needed modern improvements were made to the utilities infrastructure.

SGIG Eccleston also devoted considerable effort to increasing attendance at the Tuesday evening meetings by shortening them to one hour and providing interesting programs. The evening was always concluded by cake and ice cream in the refectory. The attendance was such that it was often necessary to supplement seating in the lodge room with folding chairs.

### 1980 – 1989

Early in 1980, SGIG Eccleston and Personal Representative Charles S. Iversen met with representatives of Children's Hospital to explore the possibility of building a facility to treat childhood language disorders in support of the charity which the Supreme Council had been sponsoring throughout the Southern Jurisdiction for more than two decades. In September 1980, the local Scottish Rite bodies signed a contract of sale for their remaining portion of their 13th and K Streets, N.W., property, but it was not until May 1985 that the proceeds of sale were available to underwrite the Language Center construction costs.

Ill. Martin D. Carlin, 33°, General Secretary 1988-1985, was appointed to oversee the construction of what was to be called the Scottish Rite Center for Childhood Language Disorders attached to the rear of the temple building. An expansion of the parking lot by excavation of a lower level was included as part of the new construction. The work began

in 1987 was completed in 1989, and dedicated by Mrs. Barbara Bush, then First Lady. The Center was to be the only public charity in the Washington area completely funded by a Masonic body.

In October 1989, having arrived at the maximum age for membership on the Supreme Council, William E. Eccleston, 33°, retired and Charles S. Iversen, 33°, a practicing attorney and Grand Master in 1990, was appointed Deputy in the District of Columbia, and elected as SGIG at the Biennial Session in 1991.

### 1990 – 1999

During the 1980s the assessment of the land and building at 2800 16th Street, N.W. increased annually, until the real estate taxes became oppressive. In 1990, Deputy Iversen filed a petition with the Office of Tax and Revenue to remit the real estate taxes because of the use of the property for charitable purposes. After a year's delay, the District of Columbia granted a tax reduction of 50% retroactive to January 1, 1990.

In 1999 SGIG Iversen petitioned the City Council to increase the real estate exemption on the property at 2800 16th Street, N.W. to 100% as had been done for the Prince Hall Masons at 10th and U Streets, N.W. The legislation was approved by the Finance Committee of the City Council but, despite extensive lobbying among the Council persons, the bill failed by one vote, and a motion to reconsider also failed.

The membership as of December 31, 1999 was 2961.

### 2000 – 2009

Due to the previously noted Supreme Council age limitation, SGIG Iversen retired on December 31, 2000, and Ill. George R. Adams, 33°, also a practicing attorney and Grand Master in 1993, was appointed Deputy of the Supreme Council in the District of Columbia effective January 1, 2001.

Deputy Adams continued most of the initiatives of SGIG Iversen and added some of his own. Among his additions were the implementation of dinners preceding the weekly Tuesday evening meetings, the creation of the departments of philosophy and of history, and a more generous use of the Scottish Rite building by other branches of Masonry.



*First Chieftain, Ill. JD Holt, 33°*

In 2004, Deputy Adams, accompanied by Brothers Jeff Holt, Bill Rule, and Joel Kahn traveled to Denver, Colorado to gather information on a new “black cap” internal service organization, the Knights of St. Andrews (KSA). Upon their return, Deputy Adams authorized a KSA Chapter to be formed, with Brother J.D. Holt, 32° as its first Chieftain. The KSA was destined to replace the Camp Guard, whose ranks had dwindled dramatically in the twenty-first century.

# Brief History of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

In the late summer of 2005, Deputy Adams, citing an increasing demand on his time by the needs of his legal practice, submitted his resignation, to become effective in October of that year. The newly elected Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronald A. Seale, 33°, appointed the then sitting Grand Master, Len Proden, to succeed Deputy Adams as Deputy to the Supreme Council.

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR OUR SCOTTISH RITE BROTHERS

## SCOTTISH RITE PROGRESS

Volume 1, No. 1  
Fall 2006

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Washington  
Chief of the District of Columbia

### THE DEPUTY'S DIALOGUE

The summer has always been a favorite time of the year for me. It is a great dash of positive childhood memories and continues into adulthood as an exhilarator. Ah yes! July and August, the favorite time of year for those engaged in the pedagogical professions. But those busy, busy days of summer are slow, but surely coming to an end. I hope that each of you have enjoyed this summer and all the innumerable pleasures of the season. Now it is time for us to ready ourselves for a return to our Scottish Rite activities.

This summer I had a chance to review some other periodicals and came across the phrase, *Helping Children Communicate*, in the context of our Rite's Care programs. It prompted me to evaluate the communication process which our Valley engages. Can we improve the process? Our Secretary had an answer and suggested that we should do more with written communications as too much dependence is placed upon email and our website. A referenced newsletter could certainly meet that need. Thus, the *Scottish Rite Progress* evolved. Its purpose is to provide information to members of our Valley not only with information and scheduling of our Scottish Rite, but to include topics such as current trends in medicine and medicine. Obviously, it is a work in progress. Your suggestions are solicited.

Speaking of our website, it is again fully functional. Please visit [dck.org](http://dck.org). I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Again, suggestions are welcome as to its content.

I look forward to greeting you at our first meeting in September as we return from refreshment to labor. Enjoy those few remaining lazy, busy days of summer.

Leonard Proden, 33°  
Deputy to the District of Columbia

### The Secretary Sec's Welcome Back to the Scottish Rite

Come the Fall season, and Masonic activity resumes at the Scottish Rite Valley of Washington. On Tuesday Sept. 19, 2006, we will resume our regularly scheduled meetings with The Matrix Lodge of Perfection. The program will be: "Fama and Fama of Southern Africa: A Masonic Interpretation". I hope all of you have had a pleasant summer and are ready to return to labor. It is with regret that we note the recent passing of a number of long time members of our Valley and pray their families will be comforted. (Memorial list) We are all walking on that level of time, to that unknown country from which no traveler returns.

To those of you, who have been away from the regular meetings of the Valley this year, you will see a number of changes in the officers and procedures, including yours truly. This is to be expected with any change of administration. We hope you find these changes positive and constructive.

**14° Degree Rings:** Yes, brethren the rings are in and their presentation will be made to all the members of the Fall 2006, and Spring 2006 classes on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at a special Scottish Rite Ring Ceremony. The families and friends of recipients are also invited. We apologize for the long delay which you have endured, as numerous problems arose with our previous register.

**Americanism and Education:** On Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM, The Scottish Rite will present a program hosted by Dr. Bill Farmer, 33° that will honor the outstanding works of the JRCITC. It will also include the recipients of the 2007 Scottish Rite Foundation scholarship program. The program will be preceded by a buffet from Atlantic Catering.

**Fall Reunion:** Now is the time to bring in petitions for the Fall Reunion, which will be held on Nov. 17-18 at the Scottish Rite Center.

**Web Site:** The new web site of the Scottish Rite Center can now be visited at [dck.org](http://dck.org) and you will receive the latest information concerning the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia.

John Vangelis, 32° KCCH  
General Secretary

A gaily reporter told Jack Nicklaus, "You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?" Nicklaus replied, "The holes are numbered".

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First issue of the Progress

Yavuz Anatar, 32° KCCH, was set into the wall of the Center by Grand Master Akram R. Elias and Officers of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

In 2009, SGIG Proden established a relationship with the PEN/Faulkner Foundation, an organization that, among other things, "brings literature to life in public and charter schools...of D.C." Since that time, an annual program has been presented by PEN/Faulkner that is open to the public, and well attended.

At the 2009 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council, Past Deputy George R. Adams, 33°, and Former Stage Crew Director and PGM Robert F. Drechsler, 33° were elected to receive the Scottish Rite's highest honor, the Grand Cross.

The membership as of December 31, 2009 was 2001.

## 2010 - 2019

The PEN/Faulkner event in June 2010 was "A Family Tribute to Frank McCourt." McCourt, who had won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for his memoir *Angela's Ashes*, and had died in July 2009. The program consisted of readings and somewhat colorful reminiscences by Frank's

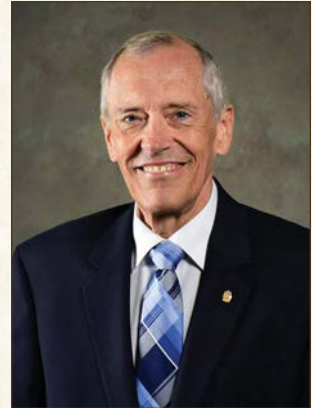
In the Fall of 2006, Deputy Proden instituted the creation of a new periodic newsletter called the *Progress* to provide the membership "with tools to make more reliable decisions," and keep them informed of upcoming events. The Valley had not had such a publication since the old *Scottish Rite Bulletin* (not to be confused with the current semi-annual reunion publication so named) that had ceased publication decades before.

At the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council in 2007, Deputy Proden was elected as Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the District of Columbia.

Subsequent to a major renovation of the Scottish Rite Center for Childhood Language Disorders in 2008, a commemorative stone designed by Brother

brothers Malachy and Alfie, and his widow, Ellen.

Illinois Deputy John Phillips, 33° (since deceased) led a large contingent of Brethren from the Valley of Chicago, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, to the Valley of Washington to participate in the 2011 Fall Reunion. The NMJ Brethren presented a video of their 4° and performed a full-cast conferral of their 31°, *Knight Errant*, which has since become their 32°.



*Ill. John Phillips, 33°*

At the 2012 Fall Reunion, the 2012 Spring Class presented the 24°, *Prince of the Tabernacle*, which had not been seen in the Valley in 50 years.

On January 1, 2013, at the direction of SGC Seale, the Valley assumed jurisdiction over the former Orient of NATO Bases, which had been established in 1968 by the Southern Jurisdiction “to meet the needs of our Masonic brothers who were in the military in Europe following World War II and in the years thereafter.” This action also removed American Scottish Rite involvement in the sovereign territory of the Supreme Council of Germany but added several hundred members to our Valley rolls.



*AMSRB NATO Club Banner*

After more than a decade of studies, meetings, and discussions on how best to secure funding to maintain the Scottish Rite into the future, in December 2014, it was decided to monetize the parcel of property containing the parking lot by assigning it for development. This decision necessitated the removal of the Language Disorders Center from the property, and they vacated the premises in December 2017. At the time of this writing, a new facility is under construction in Takoma Park, and with the continuing support of the D.C. Scottish Rite,

the new Scottish Rite Center for Childhood Language Disorders will be there to provide remedial services for the children of the Washington Metropolitan area that are so afflicted.

In 2015, SGIG Proden dramatically changed the structure of the officer lines in the four bodies by reducing their numbers to nearly half, and began an annual review of the names of those in line to be advanced to ensure that they were regular in their attendance, and actively participating in the work of their body.

Some much-needed repairs, and a bit of redecorating were begun in 2015. The elevator and HVAC received a major overhaul, most of the interior incandescent lighting was retrofitted with LEDs, and the auditorium was repainted, emphasizing the ornate detail of the molding. The north and south corridor walls were stripped of wallpaper and painted in a color close

## Brief History of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C.

to that of 1940, and decorated with restored, historic portraits and artifacts.

SGIG Emeritus Charles Soren Iversen, 33°, passed to the Celestial Lodge in January 2018 at the age of 97. By the time of his passing, Charles had served the D.C. Masonic community for over fifty years, as Grand Master, Potentate, and SGIG. He was also active in the Royal Order of Scotland and the Red Cross of Constantine.

In July 2019, demolition of the parking lot and Language Disorders Center began, and construction started on the 10-story, 172-unit apartment building got underway: it is scheduled for occupancy in 2021.



*Rendition of new apartment building*

The membership on December 31, 2019 was 2556.

### **2020 & BEYOND**

This sesquicentennial year of the Mithras Lodge of Perfection began with great expectations and plans for a number of singular celebratory events. However, the advent of the pandemic COVID-19 virus, and the safeguards established to avoid infection have thwarted all in-person activities until such time as they can be safely resumed. We have resolved to continue fellowship and Masonic education through bi-weekly virtual meetings and hope that we can return to something approaching normalcy after our annual summer hiatus.

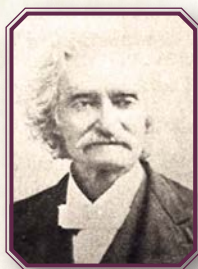




# SOME OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE MITHRAS LODGE OF PERFECTION



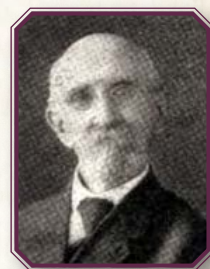
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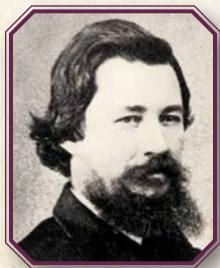
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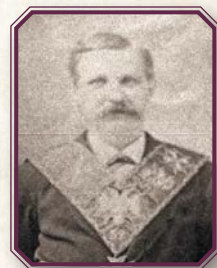
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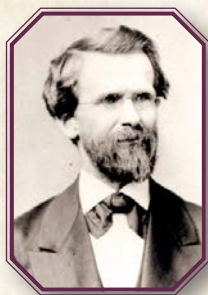
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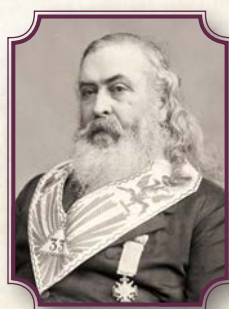
IRELAND



LONGLEY



MORTON



PIKE



POORE

# ORIENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## General Guidelines

Stay informed with calendar updates at the newly refreshed [DCSR.org](https://www.dcsr.org) and the *Scottish Rite Progress*.

### Scottish Rite Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Closed Friday

SGIG's Office (1st Floor, southeast quadrant)

General Secretary's Office (1st Floor, northeast quadrant)

### Monthly Meetings of Four Bodies

(except during Summer and Winter recesses, or as otherwise noted)

7:30 - 8:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Lodge Room

1st Tuesday – Mithras Lodge of Perfection

2nd Tuesday – Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix

3rd Tuesday – Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh

4th Tuesday – Albert Pike Consistory

**PLEASE NOTE: In response to conditions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, schedules are subject to change and meetings may be necessarily cancelled or replaced with virtual online formats. Visit [DCSR.org](https://www.dcsr.org) for the latest updates or contact the staff at [whoenes@dcsr.org](mailto:whoenes@dcsr.org) or [jdholt@dcsr.org](mailto:jdholt@dcsr.org).**

### Recesses

Summer Recess: July - August 2020

(Meetings resume Tuesday, September 1, 2020)

Winter Recess: December 16, 2020 – January 18, 2021

(Meetings resume – Tuesday, January 19, 2021)

### College of History – Master Craftsman Program

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:40 p.m. in the Conference Room, 1st Floor

Open to all members

### College of Philosophy – Teaching of Degrees

Every 3rd Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. in the Conference Room, 1st Floor

Open to all members

### Refreshments

Meals will be served before all four monthly meetings

Dinner: 6:00 p.m., Lower Level Refectory





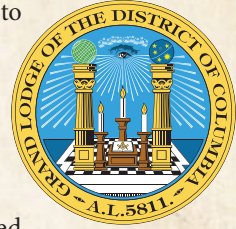
**Most Worshipful Brother  
Michael D. Nicholas, Sr., 32°  
KCCH**

**2020 Grand Master of Masons  
Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M. of the  
District of Columbia**

Most Worshipful Brother (MWB) Michael D. Nicholas, Sr. was raised in Ocean City, New Jersey. After graduating high school, he matriculated at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering in 1977.

After graduation, he immediately began his service as an Airborne Ranger-qualified Armor Officer, serving in various United States Army tank and Armored Cavalry leadership positions. In 1985, he transitioned his service to the Army Reserves until 1997, when he was honorably discharged and continued in civilian life as a Professional Project Manager for commercial and Department of Defense IT

projects. He was assigned to Pentagon Operations during the tragedy of 9-11 and worked as part of the recovery and rebuilding efforts at the Pentagon.



MWB Nicholas was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at Lafayette-Dupont Lodge No. 19 in 2001. He served as Secretary of that Lodge from 2003 to 2008, and as Worshipful Master 2009 and 2010. He was appointed as Aide to the Grand Master in 2011 and Grand Marshal in 2012. The following year, he was elected Junior Grand Steward and subsequently elected Grand Master in December of 2019.

MWB Nicholas has a long resume of accomplishments as an active Mason in the District of Columbia, including service on the Boards of both the Masonic Foundation and the Masonic and Eastern Star Homes. He is also a member of several Masonic Bodies, including the Royal Arch, Scottish Rite (where he is a Knight Commander Court of Honor), Almas Shriners, and Red Cross of Constantine. He is a founding member of the Grand Chapter of the Widow Sons Motorcycle Club and the organizer of the Masonic Choir of Washington, D.C.

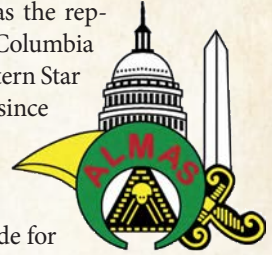
Married to his partner of 42 years, Maryann, Mike is the proud father of sons Michael Jr. and Matthew (deceased), and a grandfather of two to Davis (8) and Lainey (5). In his somewhat limited spare time, he enjoys motorcycles, landscape and portrait photography, historical reading, genealogy research, playing the acoustic guitar, pistol-shooting, and playing some very poor golf.



## **Illustrious Sir George E. Perez, 32° KCCH 2020 Potentate of Almas Shriners**

Illustrious Sir George Perez, was Initiated, Passed, and Raised in 2012 at Potomac Lodge No. 5 by Worshipful Brother Robin Bodie. In the Fall of 2014, Ill. Sir Perez was accepted for affiliation to Justice-Columbia Lodge No. 3, and quickly became home to George; he was appointed as a Steward in 2015 and progressed up the line, serving as Worshipful in 2018 and 2019. Throughout his time with Justice-Columbia Lodge, George has been committed to rebranding and growing the Lodge.

George has also served as the representative from Justice-Columbia Lode to Masonic and Eastern Star Home (MESH) Charities since 2015, and has been elected as a member of its Board of Directors. He is proud to be able to provide for the welfare and care of the needy Sisters and Brothers of the District of Columbia Grand Lodge, and the Order of the Eastern Star of the District of Columbia.



In the Spring of 2013, George was accepted into the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia. That year, he became the Assistant Almoner and joined the Knights of St. Andrew, serving as Chieftain in 2016. George was Invested to the Knights Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) in 2017, and served as the Venerable Master of Mithras Lodge of Perfection in 2019.

George is an active Companion of Columbia Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons, and was an appointed Aide to the Grand Master of D.C. in 2019.

In June of 2016, Ill. Sir Perez became a Noble of Almas Shriners, and is a proud member of the Temple's Mini-Motors Unit. In an effort to raise awareness to the mission of the Shrine, George has participated in numerous parades and events throughout the D.C. metropolitan area. Ill. Sir Perez has also served as a Divan member for several years, culminating with his election as Potentate for 2020.

George lives in Northern Virginia with his wife, Lesly Sierra, and their two dogs. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and works in the Cyber Security field with the US Government.

## The Correct Position During Scottish Rite Prayer



Predicated on a basic, foundational of belief in a personal Supreme Being, the Scottish Rite gives primary importance to prayer in its Degrees and at its meetings.

While there is an established position and sign to be used by all Scottish Rite Masons during prayer, this position and sign are not uniformly practiced. All Scottish Rite Masons (except when engaged in ritual at the altar) stand during prayer, with caps remaining on the head as part of a uniform.

Scottish Rite Masons also give the accompanying “Sign of the Good Shepherd.” This is done by folding the arms, the left over the right, with the outstretched fingers touching the shoulders. The position represents the Good Shepherd carrying a lamb around his neck and holding its feet by crossed hands.

During prayer, the head is slightly bowed.

The practice of this prayer position and sign, will add much to the meaningfulness of our devotion.

# VALLEY OF WASHINGTON



# THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

HUMAN PROGRESS  
IS OUR CAUSE,

LIBERTY OF THOUGHT  
OUR SUPREME WISH,

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE  
OUR MISSION,

AND THE GUARANTEE  
OF EQUAL RIGHTS  
TO ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE  
OUR ULTIMATE GOAL.





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