



The Ashlar



November 2022

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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Brother Richard Luther Miles Shibley



In keeping with “The Lifesavers” theme for 2022, the Worshipful Master has requested each issue of The Ashlar to feature an article honoring a deceased member of our Lodge who has preserved life in addition to being a distinguished community member.

“Distinguished” could mean anything from notable military service, an esteemed political career, or virtually any other qualifying instance elevating that member to recognition on a local, statewide, and/or national scale. For this month’s article, we feature Brother Richard Luther Miles Shibley.

Shibley was born in 1925 to Karl & Eleanor Shibley in Akron, OH. After graduating from Akron Central High in 1942, he attended Kenyon College in Gambier, OH, where he broke his neck while playing football. With WWII underway by 1943, he decided to join the Marines. Due to his broken neck, he couldn’t pass basic training, and returned to Akron to work as a dairyman.

In late 1943, Shibley learned of the greater pay available for overseas army volunteers. Eager to serve and support himself, he joined that summer, received paratrooper training, and was assigned to the 139th Airborne Engineer Bn. His Army exploits are immense, but are summarized here: in the fall of 1944, he played the bugle onstage with Glenn Miller in Wiltshire, Eng.; in the winter of 1944/5, he used explosives with the 101st Airborne Div. to stifle the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge; on 24 Mar. 1945, he crash landed into Wessel, Germany when his glider collided with another during Operation: Varsity, the largest airborne invasion to occur on a single day and in one location; at the end of Mar., 1945, he was injured by shrapnel in an ambush near Cologne, Germany. He and others were captured and confined to a basement near Cologne, where most would die from their wounds. When found by another division in April, his wounds facilitated his return to the US days before the end of the war in Europe, and; after his recovery he was sent to Colorado to work as a smokejumper- he was discharged in 1946.

Back in OH, Shibley returned to Kenyon and again played football. In 1947, he married his wife Rose Marie, raising 5 daughters with her. After graduation, he moved to Mt. Vernon, OH in 1948, working as a machinist for Cooper-Bessemer Corp. He became Personnel Manager there, while coaching football at Kenyon. He was so active in Mt. Vernon that the City once named him “Outstanding Man of the Year.” After 1960, he was Training Director at Professional Instruments Co. Outside of work, he was a Lay Assistant at Lutheran churches in Nebraska and Wisconsin, before enrolling in Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN in 1964.

Upon graduating and receiving his ordination in 1968, Shibley returned to OH to begin his career as an Evangelical Lutheran minister. Initially minister of Trinity Church in Niles, he became minister at 1st Lutheran in Galion by 1979; Emmanuel Church in Coshocton by 1981; Zion Church in Reedsburg after 1981; and concluded his career at Zion Church in Wooster in 1987, where he lived for many years. He continued his service in the decades that followed as an interim minister at numerous OH Lutheran churches. While serving in this capacity, his wife passed away in 1996 after 49 years of marriage. Devastated, Shibley continued devoting his time to over 20 different organizations. When he wasn’t volunteering or working, he enjoyed gardening, ice cream, music, and woodworking.

Continued on page 3

From The East



Although cooler temperatures, football games, and turning leaves may signify the approaching end of the calendar year, it also marks the beginning of the Lodge's end-of-the year holiday schedule!

Throughout the month of November, the Lodge will be taking donations for Harris Teeter's and Virginia Beach City Public Schools' annual Thanksgiving dinner program. This program assists in providing less-fortunate Virginia Beach families with a hearty Thanksgiving meal. This program experienced rampant success last year, with over fifty families participating! If you're able to donate, please coordinate with your Treasurer, Worshipful Chris Anders.

November also marks the beginning the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. This program facilitates the delivery of Christmas gifts to the children of less-fortunate families. This year, the DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Order of the Easter Star will be participating. Your Senior Deacon, Brother Pat Blankenship, is in receipt of thirty-eight Angel Tree tags for an equal number of needy children. Please coordinate with him if you would like to participate.

Our stated meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022 at 7:00 PM, with dinner served at 6:00 PM. The dinner menu is still under development, but it will feature festive fall flair! This will be a special meeting for our Lodge, as November is the final month of Right Worshipful Bob Stanek's term as our District Deputy Grand Master for Virginia's 56th Masonic District. Right Worshipful Stanek will speak during the meeting to provide his home Lodge with closing remarks.

On Saturday, December 3rd, 2022, we will gather at the Lodge at 9:00 AM for coffee and fellowship before embarking on our annual poinsettia deliveries to our local Lodge widows. The Lodge will provide the poinsettias to be delivered- please consider joining us that morning to continue this tradition of love for our widows!

Also in December is our final call for 2022 donations to the Food Bank. Donations can be made in the form of cash, checks made out to the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, and/or nonperishable food products. Brother Bob Hughes, who has completed another year of superb work with this

cause, is the appropriate contact should you have any questions.

Thank you all for your continued gifts of faith, hope, and charity to the Lodge, its widows, and the remainder of our community. As the holiday season approaches, remember to take a moment to reflect upon your many blessings; familial, fraternal, and spiritual.

Brother John Settle, III, Worshipful Master

From The West



The Twenty-Four Inch Gauge. This is the first implement placed in the hands of the workman to enable him to measure and ascertain the size and extent of the work in which he is about to engage, so that he can compute the time and labor it may cost. Now this is the gauge of our ancient operative brethren, but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, apply it emblematically to a more important service. We should derive a daily lesson of admonition, prayer, labor, refreshment, and sleep. It is easy to run over these things according to the ritual, and then let the candidate forget all about it. But the earnest student of Masonry will note that these explanations of the working tools must, of necessity, and are only the seeds which the craftsman plants in the mind of the candidate to grow and develop. The gauge recalls to the candidate the solemnity and impressiveness of the scene and ceremony. He begins to see and partially understand the speculative character and hidden philosophy of our fraternity. Here he holds a small instrument that he has seen and handled many times before without a thought or even a glance, yet from this moment it becomes an object of interest to him. It has taught him a most useful and important lesson. The twenty-four-inch gauge has caused him to think, and he questions himself as to how he has previously spent his time, and if that time has been occupied in a manner that would reflect credit on himself. He remembers how he has forgotten to offer up his daily prayer and praise to the Great Architect and how frequently the twenty-four hours have rolled by without a thought of that Great Creator. Then he remembers that he is also admonished to labor. To do this properly, he is also taught by the same implement to devote a portion of his time to necessary refreshment and sleep, not to riotous living followed by uneasy, restless sleep, but to the joyous refreshment of home and the necessary rest between the hours of labor. Now

series as a pronounced lifesaver. If you're aware of a deceased member of our Lodge who may fit "The Lifesaver" criteria, please email johnrs4@vt.edu.

Salvation Army Angel Tree



Kempsville Masonic Lodge will continue the tradition of the Salvation Army Angel Tree again for 2022. Please stop by the lodge to pick up your angel tree tag and place your contact info on the list.

Do not wrap your angel tree gifts. Please place them into the gift bags provided by the Salvation Army. All angel tree bags must be back to the lodge by Saturday, November 26th. We will be collecting the bags between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm on the 26th.

Please see Brother Pat Blankenship or Brother Bob Hughes if you have any specific questions.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	John Settle, III	675-9695
Senior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Warden	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Michael Turner	581-4239
Junior Deacon	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Chaplain	James Boone	515-0131
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Dennis Dimaggio	582-3320
Instructor of Work	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Eddie Foley	581-8144



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