

CALIFORNIA 

# FREEMASON

Winter 2007

145362

## OUT OF THE ASHES

ONE MAN'S AMAZING JOURNEY

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THE GRAND MASTER'S TOUR OF

# *American Masonic History*



**May 21–31, 2007**     \$1,799\* for ten-day tour

This trip will begin with a welcome reception in Philadelphia. The following morning there will be a guided tour of Philadelphia with stops at the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and Congress Hall.

After departing Philadelphia the group will go to Valley Forge and tour Washington's encampment. We will continue on to Gettysburg, where the Friend to Friend Masonic Monument (see page 16) will be the highlight of the guided tour.

The next three days will be devoted to our nation's capital. There will be visits to the House of the Temple, Mount Vernon, and the George Washington Memorial Temple in Alexandria.

Tours of Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement, and Yorktown Victory Center will conclude the ten-day trip.

**Reserve your space early: 800-564-6312.**

\* Price based on double occupancy and does not include airfare.

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Phone: 800/831-8170 or  
 415/776-7000;  
 fax: 415/776-7170;  
 e-mail: [editor@freemason.org](mailto:editor@freemason.org).



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**cover story**

Since its founding, the values of loyalty and friendship at the heart of Freemasonry have spanned the continents. These values have endured in wartime and helped ease the suffering of others in peacetime. In this issue of the California Freemason that focuses on the meaning of the bonds of brotherhood, read about one man who survived Nazi concentration camps to live the American Dream and find belonging in the craft after losing everything he loved.

## FOR MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST, CHECK OUT CALIFORNIA FREEMASON ONLINE AT [WWW.FREEMASON.ORG](http://WWW.FREEMASON.ORG)



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The Masonic Homes of California reaches out to individuals and families in need, while looking toward the future. Learn more about services and plans for a new retirement community.



# There's Good News Tonight!

**California Masonry is making significant progress with a focus on the family, flag, and fraternity**

**I**t is both an honor and a privilege to be permitted to serve our craft as Grand Master and I look forward to the challenges for this new Masonic year.

A 1940s radio commentator named Gabriel Heater began his news program with the words: "There's good news tonight!" We begin this year with the same words and the concept that Masonry is on the move in California.

This year's Grand Master's emblem has substantial significance. Freemasonry recognizes that each man has a responsibility of devotion to his family, flag, and fraternity, and in that sequence of importance. These three words are emphasized in the emblem by the silhouette of the family with a background of red, white, and blue, denoting patriotism to the flag of our country with the symbol of Masonry in its traditional blue background. The emblem is in the form of a shield representing confidence, boldness, and protection, while the laurel wreath symbolizes honor, success, and achievement.

There is good news in Masonry today! We have received more applicants and performed more degrees in the last year than in any year in the last 16 years.

We recognize the importance of imparting Masonic truths to our brethren in order that they may know what Masonry teaches. California now provides basic Masonic Education Course

handbooks—which are mandatory for all candidates—that assist in explaining that which is seldom understood by simply observing the degrees. All



brethren are encouraged to read these handbooks available on the Web site.

Masons have long been confronted with the inability to respond in a 20-second reply to the question, "What is Masonry?" There is no time to be philosophical or explain the ritual or degrees. We should make use of the first paragraph of our Strategic Plan as a beginning point. The response could simply be: "Freemasonry is the first and largest men's fraternal organization, teaching that each man should improve himself by his own good conduct towards his family, his country, and all mankind. The Golden Rule is a basic tenant." In light of continuing media attention, a brother should always be ready to give a response to this question.

Masonry is on the move in California, as new DVDs are being prepared for each degree to explain and clarify. Additionally,

your Grand Lodge has commenced a Masonic Formation Certification Program to teach the craft to apply Masonic principles to the conduct of their lives.

At our Annual Communication the craft adopted a new Masonic Code and work has commenced on its index with full publication anticipated in February. While several major committees have been reorganized, your elected Grand Lodge Line has met with numerous key committee chairmen to set goals and objectives to serve our lodges and brethren.

There is "good news tonight," as our Child ID Program has photographed and fingerprinted over 435,000 children in California. Our California Masonic Foundation has committed this year over \$500,000 in scholarship funding and continues its Masonic Student Assistant Program, which has trained over 4,200 school teachers and administrators to recognize children at risk. This program has resulted in the active assessment and treatment of over 24,000 children. We reached out to the communities last year with 23 Masonic Cornerstone Ceremonies and will hold next year's Annual Communication on a weekend (September 27 to September 29, 2007) to permit a greater attendance.

Masonry is on the move in California and YOU are part of it; and yes, there is "good news tonight." ✦

**Melvyn B. Stein**  
Grand Master

# THE WORK OF HEROS

Former New York City fire chief shares an amazing story of tragedy and triumph

"And then it happened. That deafening, sickening noise from above, like nothing any of us had ever heard. Like an earthquake mixed with a thundering herd and fleet of runaway trains. All at once. And all headed right at us."

These are the words Chief Richard "Pitch" Picciotto used to describe the harrowing experience in the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Picciotto, the highest-ranking firefighter to survive the collapse of the World Trade Center, spoke to a crowd of 1,700 Masons and their families and friends at the Public Opening of the 157th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. With powerful images projected on large screens in the Masonic Auditorium, Picciotto gave his personal account of one of America's darkest days.

When news came that two planes crashed into the World Trade Center, Picciotto raced 130 blocks from Manhattan's Upper West Side, where he presided over FDNY's Battalion 11,



Chief Richard "Pitch" Picciotto at his Manhattan firehouse and (inset) speaking at the 157th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

to an epicenter of terror that would soon be known as "Ground Zero."

After arriving on the scene, Picciotto led a company of firefighters into the North Tower directing survivors to the nearest and safest exit. They climbed to the thirty-fifth floor when the unimaginable happened. The sound was deafening. The building shook violently. The South Tower had collapsed. When Picciotto heard what had happened, his mind quickly responded.

"It took only ten seconds for the South Tower to come down, which by my math meant that if we were on the thirty-fifth floor, it took about six and a half seconds to reach us, a beat to pass us, and another three and a half seconds to rush away from us to the ground below." He understood that if

the South Tower collapsed, the North Tower probably would too. And it did.

In his best-selling book, "Last Man Down," Picciotto gives a minute-by-minute account of the collapse of the North Tower, how he was trapped, and what it was like to later walk out of the ruin on his own two feet.

While nearly 3,000 people died that day, including 343 firefighters, tens of thousands survived and many because of the rescue efforts of the first responders. Picciotto ended his comments at the Annual Communication saying, "People call us heros, but we were just doing our jobs."

That may be true, Pitch, but it's heros' work you're doing. ✦



# “WHITHERSOEVER DISPERSED”

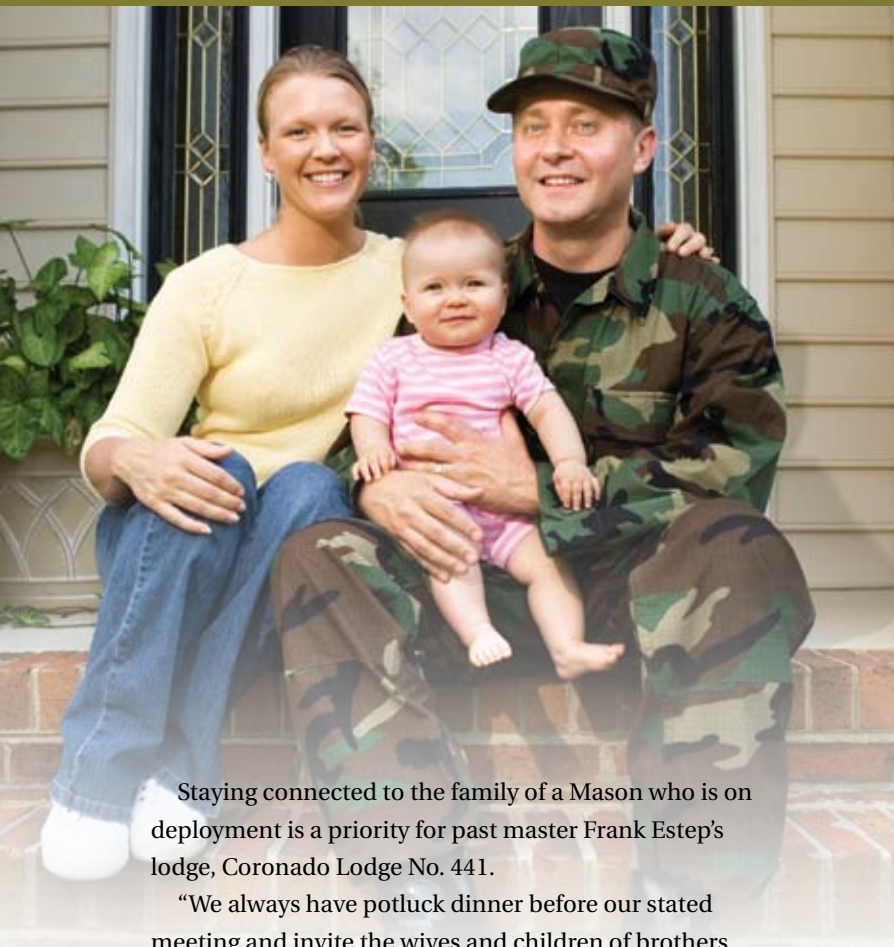
By Terry Mendez

## Supporting the troops' families

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**F**or the wives and families of those Masons deployed far from home on months-long assignments, being included in lodge activities makes the time go a little faster. And in case of need, they have, among other resources, Masons and Operation Homefront (see article opposite page).





Staying connected to the family of a Mason who is on deployment is a priority for past master Frank Estep's lodge, Coronado Lodge No. 441.

"We always have potluck dinner before our stated meeting and invite the wives and children of brothers who are deployed," Frank says. "The families can stay after dinner for line dancing, a movie, or some other activity. Attendance by just the wives and kids while the brother is away is good."

While JoJo Bautista's husband, Arnold, was master of the Coronado Lodge, he was deployed to Iraq for eight months.

"I became much more involved with the lodge and stood in for him at everything I could attend, particularly the dinners. I acted as his representative since he wasn't present," says JoJo. "I also made an effort to keep the families connected by planning more activities, such as a Christmas party that included children."

Kris Scarber, wife of Dan Scarber (see Lodge Spotlight) and herself a Marine, was deployed to Kuwait for nine months and returned to an assignment at the Pentagon while Dan was still in Iraq.

"I was by myself in Virginia," says Kris. "Dan's lodge (Oceanside-San Dieguito Lodge No. 381) kept in touch with me regularly by phone and email to make sure I was OK. They continue to reach out to us and have offered assistance when we return (to the San Diego area). I feel I can turn to a Mason or his wife if I ever need anything." ✨

## **OPERATION HOMEFRONT** **Betty Stein's philanthropic focus**

"If I can make someone's life a little easier for just a half hour, I'll do it," says Betty Stein.

Betty has chosen Operation Homefront as her philanthropic focus for this year that her husband, Mel Stein, serves as Grand Master.

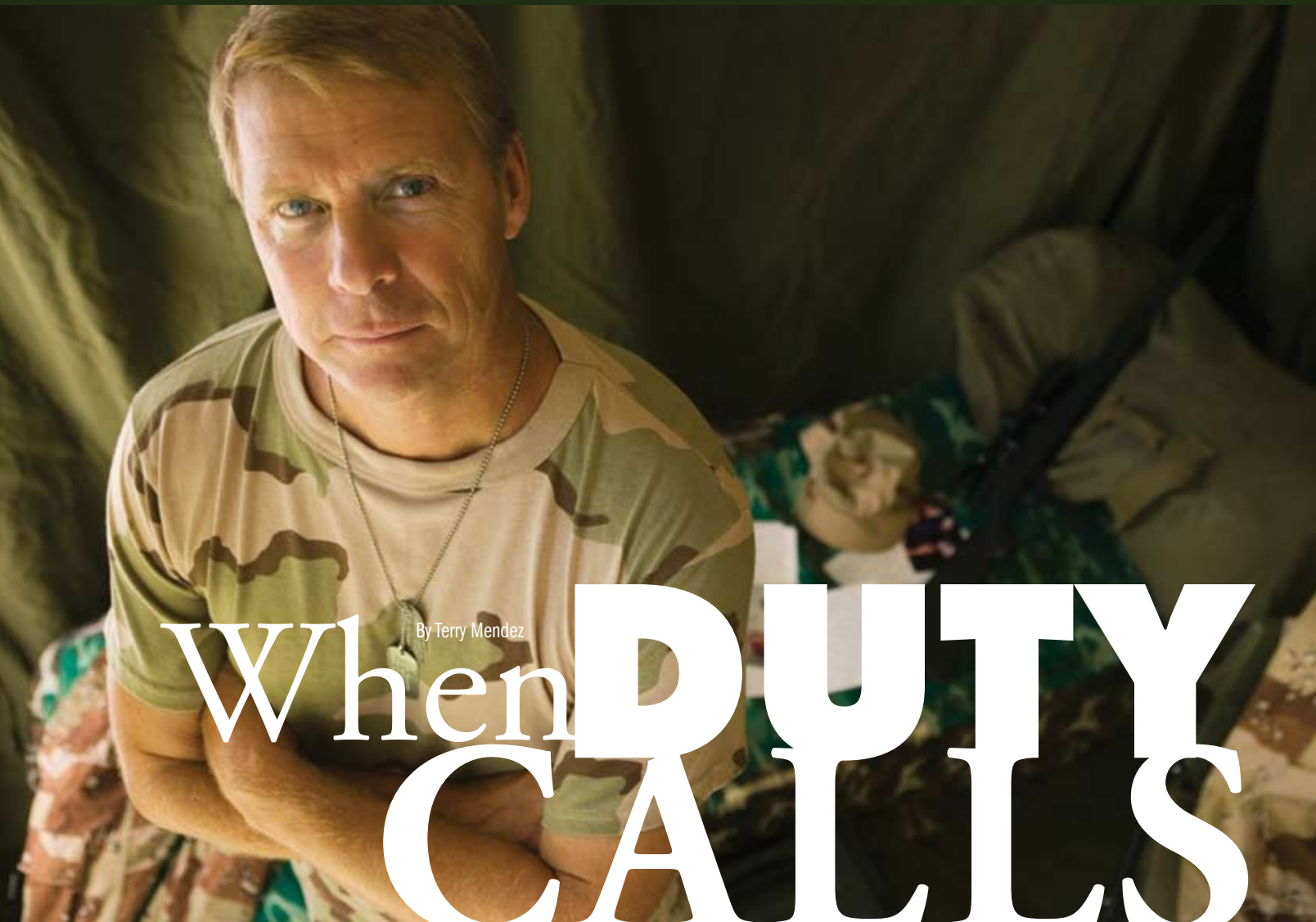
Sharing the Masonic tenet of relief for those in need, Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit that provides emergency support and morale to military troops, the families they leave behind during deployment, and wounded troops when they return home.

"Operation Homefront is of particular help, both emotionally and monetarily, to young military families who are away from home for the first time," says Betty. "It's an important and necessary support for the troops who are protecting our freedom and our future. They can focus on the mission instead of any crisis back home."

Betty points out that Operation Homefront serves all branches of the armed forces, including the Reserves and National Guard. Emergency assistance is provided within 24 hours of request. This assistance includes help with moving, auto repair, transportation to another location to visit a wounded loved one, and just about any other request for help.

When the need is met and the crisis is over, Homefront counselors work with the families to make sure they are aware of the resources available through the military and introduce them to other military families to help them develop a social support network.

To learn more about Operation Homefront, go to [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net).



By Terry Mendez

# When DUTY CALLS

## How lodges maintain connections with deployed and transferred military brothers

Lodges with a heavy concentration of active-duty military members deal with unique challenges, ones that require flexibility and adaptation. In a county such as San Diego, with more than five military installations, deployments and transfers are ongoing. Keeping military members engaged and moving candidates through the degrees is a constant challenge. “We put on degrees at unscheduled times to accommodate a military candidate’s degree completion

before deployment,” says Rick Baskin, master of Chula Vista Lodge No. 626. “If a candidate is transferred, we will coordinate completion of the degree work with a lodge in the candidate’s new location, if there is one. We want to help him become a Master Mason even though that may not take place at our lodge.”

Dan Scarber, a Marine now based at Quantico, had become a Fellowcraft at Oceanside-San Dieguito Lodge No. 381 just before deploying to Iraq





*"We want them to know that their lodge brothers are concerned," says Rick Baskin. "It increases the sense of fraternity and aids the transition back to San Diego."*

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in 2003. Knowing he probably would not have the benefit of being coached, he took his Fellowcraft manual with him.

"I rigged up a light in my tent and studied the manual every couple of days," says Dan. "I was raised a Master Mason right after I returned to Oceanside and became junior steward that same day."

Those candidates who deploy on ships usually have at least one shipmate who is a Mason, and there may be several members of the same lodge on one ship. The aircraft carriers in particular have a large Masonic contingent.

"Most of our candidates are shipmates with brothers who will often be their coaches," says Howard Ferguson, master of Lemon Grove Lodge No. 736. "We've had candidates who were

gone for six months but knew the proficiency and were ready to advance to the 3° when the ship returned. Deployments keep us focused on scheduling degrees or working around an original schedule. Usually it works out."

Another challenge to lodges with active-duty military members is continuity in the officer line. Those Masons who do not have land or shore duty may not be able to meet the commitment to progress up through the line.

"The way our lodge gets around that reality and involves our active-duty members as officers is to qualify more than one member for the lower chairs," says Howard. "If someone is deployed, then we have another brother able to sit at the station."

Detailed planning prevented the eight-month absence of the master of Coronado Lodge No. 441 from interrupting the officer line. Before Arnold Bautista was deployed to Iraq in 2003, he had prepared a month-by-month program to be implemented in his absence. Constant follow-up and status reports via email were beneficial to both Arnold and his lodge.

Military brothers say one of the benefits of membership is being able to meet other Masons wherever they're assigned.

"It's an instant connection that opens a lot of doors,"

says Dan Scarber.

"As we travel, we can visit Masonic lodges in other countries," says Jaime Villar, junior deacon at the Lemon Grove Lodge. Jaime researched Masonry before joining and liked the fact that the fraternity is worldwide, so he is able to continue to learn and find someone to help him wherever he's assigned. Jaime is in the Navy and has been a Mason for two years. "I have shore duty so I am able to progress through the line for now."

Traveling works to the benefit of some San Diego lodges, especially those located close to a military base. Masons from other countries who are in San Diego temporarily for some sort of military assignment often will seek out a lodge.

"Because our lodge is very close to two bases, we've had many foreign military visitors who are here for a school or joint training," says Frank Estep, past master of the Coronado Lodge. "Recently, we welcomed brothers who are pilots with the Mexican Air Force."

The Chula Vista and Oceanside-San Dieguito Lodges make an effort to stay in touch with deployed brothers, primarily through email.

"We want them to know that their lodge brothers are concerned," says Rick Baskin. "It increases the sense of fraternity and aids the transition back to San Diego." ♦

By John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary

# THE FRATERNITY<sup>and the</sup>

# FLAG

Some of the mystique of Freemasonry is the contrast between seeming opposites, which it successfully harmonizes as a new and more powerful understanding emerges. One such contrast is that a Mason is expected to both be a loyal supporter of his country, while at the same time acknowledging that the brotherhood to which he belongs includes men who owe allegiance to a country other than his own. A Freemason is expected to love his native land, while acknowledging that his "family" includes men of every language, race, culture, and homeland.



It was a Freemason who penned these immortal lines:

*Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,  
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd,  
From wandering on a foreign strand!  
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;  
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,  
The wretch, concentred all in self,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonour'd, and unsung.*

The author of these lines was Sir Walter Scott, and the lines are from the “Lay of the Last Minstrel,” published in 1805. Scott was a member of St. David Lodge No. 36 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He had become a Master Mason in that lodge on March 2, 1801—just a few years before he wrote these memorable lines. Scott may have had in mind the lessons that Freemasonry taught him about love of country, and then as now, the ritual of Freemasonry clearly states the importance of the linking of Family, Flag, and Country. Listen to what we tell an Entered Apprentice Mason:

*As a Citizen you are enjoined to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties, by never proposing or countenancing any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society; by paying due obedience to the laws under whose protection you live, and by never losing sight of the allegiance due to your country.*

There is no doubt that Freemasonry not only encourages patriotism and a love of one's country, but expects that to be one of the leading characteristics of a Freemason. And yet, Freemasonry is a universal brotherhood, the ties of which reach across national boundaries, and—as the Constitutions of 1723 state—“... Masonry becomes the Center of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons

that must else have remain'd at a perpetual Distance.”

During the Revolutionary War, for example, there were not only Masons on both sides of the conflict, but Masonic lodges as well—military lodges attached to regiments in the American Army and in the British Army. These lodges carried their paraphernalia in “lodge chests,” which sometimes were captured by the enemy. We know that there were instances when a truce would be called in the fighting so that the paraphernalia could be returned to the other side. Loyalty to one's country did not undermine a belief on either side that Freemasonry was important enough to stop the war for a moment, and act as brothers on the field of battle.

The Civil War also abounded in stories of brotherhood despite the heated emotions that prevailed amongst the troops on either side. Allen E. Roberts has documented many of these episodes, and one of them is memorialized in the Friend to Friend statue on the battlefield at Gettysburg, erected by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and pictured elsewhere in this magazine. How does this come about? And how can Masonry be both patriotic, and at the same time universal in its brotherhood?

First, Freemasonry never asks a man to choose between his family and his country and his fraternity. At the core of Freemasonry is a clear and unambiguous commitment to take care of one's family—and a brother's family as well. And that commitment extends to his country as well. Secondly, Freemasonry clearly teaches that all men, whatever their “native land” may be, are entitled to our regard. We learn in the First Degree of Masonry that we should “regard the whole human species as one family. ...”

Lastly, Freemasonry shows that the path of brotherhood can lead us into new ways of understanding—ways that allow us to rise above our own present interest, and place ourselves in the shoes of another. That is what is behind the stories of unexpected acts of charity and kindness toward a man who was otherwise an enemy in time of war. It enabled a Union soldier to render an act of charity and kindness to a Confederate soldier even in the midst of war—because his “enemy” was also his brother. Love of one's country does not preclude loving others who serve a different flag and a different nation. In that sense, Freemasonry is truly universal. ✧

# OUT OF THE

By Richard Berman

## THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF WILLIAM LOWENBERG

### IMAGINE HAVING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

That's exactly what 18-year-old William Lowenberg had on April 30, 1945, the day that the U.S. Army liberated the Dachau concentration camp. At the time of his release, Lowenberg had spent nearly three and a half years as a prisoner of the Nazis, and had managed to escape almost certain death in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp—where more than 1.1 million Jews were killed—by volunteering to be sent to a work camp in Warsaw. After more than a year in the Polish capital, where one of his jobs was incinerating corpses that had been abandoned in the streets, Lowenberg was one of 3,600 Jewish prisoners forced to march for 10 days before being packed in boxcars and sent to Dachau. Only 240 of them made it to Germany alive. For the next 11 months, Lowenberg endured starvation and beatings while being forced to work at Kaufering, one of the 94 camps that made up the Dachau complex. After being freed from Dachau, he had no money, little formal education, and almost no family: His parents, sister, and most of his other relatives had been killed in the camps.

More than 60 years later, Lowenberg, who moved to San Francisco in 1949, is the poster child for the American Dream. The Lowenberg Corporation, which he founded in the 1960s, has major real estate holdings in eight states, and today, at the age of 80, Lowenberg is actively involved with charitable institutions around the world. He currently sits on more than a dozen boards, including those of the San Francisco Opera and the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and was one of the five principal individuals who spearheaded the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial

Museum in Washington, D.C. He is also a 32° Mason and a member of the Asiya Temple of the Shrine, and in March 2006 he earned his 50-year pin from the Grand Lodge of California. And from 1953 to 1955 Lowenberg served with distinction in the U.S. Army—the same force that had saved his life only eight years earlier.

### BEFORE THE CAMPS

Even though the machinery of the “Final Solution” didn't reach its zenith of efficient brutality until the early 1940s, the groundwork for the Holocaust was laid nearly a decade earlier when Adolf Hitler came to power. Years before the Nazis built the gas chambers and furnaces that would eventually claim the lives of millions of Jews, Gypsies (Roma), homosexuals, and other untermenschen, Germany passed a series of increasingly harsh laws designed to limit the rights of Jews by restricting their right to work in most professions, levying heavy taxes on their property, and prohibiting them from attending public schools and universities.

It was in this climate of hostility and fear that Wilhelm Lowenberg grew up. Although Jewish, the Lowenbergs considered themselves every bit as German as their neighbors in the town of Ochtrup, where the family had lived for at least 500 years. Wilhelm's father, Julius, had been wounded while fighting as a member of the German Army during the First World War, and his uncle and grandfather both perished as a result of their war injuries. Like many men who fought in The Great War, Julius Lowenberg was active in German veterans groups and marched every year in the town's memorial parade to honor fallen soldiers.

Continued on page 14



# ASHES

The image is a composite. On the right, an elderly man with a balding head and a gentle expression is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark, pinstriped suit jacket over a white shirt and a red tie with a small, repeating pattern. A white pocket square is visible in his jacket. His hands are clasped in front of him. On the left side of the image, there is a black and white photograph of a large pile of ash or charred remains. A single strand of barbed wire stretches horizontally across the middle of the image, separating the man from the pile of ash. The background behind the man is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be a room with bookshelves and framed pictures.

William Lowenberg was one of the relatively few surviving prisoners liberated from the Dachau concentration camp in 1945. Though 60 years have passed, he still carries with him a constant reminder of his time there. Beneath his suit coat and shirt sleeve is a number tattooed on his left forearm - 145362.

By the early 1930s, however, Jews were regarded as enemy outsiders rather than “real” Germans. Although many veterans kept their war rifles as a mark of honor, Julius Lowenberg and other Jewish former soldiers were required to surrender their guns because they were forbidden from owning firearms. In 1935, Julius had to get rid of his motorcycle and radio, as Jews were forbidden from owning all means of transportation or communication.

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“I remember standing on the corner of our house, waiting, hoping, that maybe they would ask me to play with them. They never did. I cried a lot.”

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For young Wilhelm, the situation was just as bad. In 1934 Germany passed a series of laws forbidding non-Jews from associating with Jews, meaning that starting at the age of six none of his friends were allowed to speak with him. “I had no one to play with. No one would talk to me,” Lowenberg recalls. “I remember standing on the corner of our house, waiting, hoping, that maybe they would ask me to play with them. They never did. I cried a lot.” The following year a young Nazi threw a knife at him, cutting his leg. Within a few years, the family moved away from Ochtrup and settled in the Netherlands, which at the time had a Jewish population of 160,000. And while life was more tolerable than it had been in Germany, the

Lowenbergs weren't far enough away from the Nazis, who invaded and occupied Holland in May of 1940. By the fall of 1942 Wilhelm and his family, along with the majority of the country's Jewish population (including Anne Frank), had been deported to the camps. Lowenberg says that of the 200 students in his Jewish school in the Netherlands, only three survived. No one in his immediate family did.

## COMING TO AMERICA

After the liberation of Dachau, 18-year-old Wilhelm didn't know where to go. He certainly had no intention of staying in Germany, so he moved back to the Netherlands, where he had lived before being sent to Auschwitz. After a few years working in Holland and Switzerland, Lowenberg decided to move to the United States. Fortunately, he knew how to find an uncle who had moved to San Francisco before the war. “I knew his address by heart because my mother used to send me to the post office to mail letters to him when I was a child. When I came here in 1949 I didn't really speak English, so it was difficult to find work at first.” That year, Lowenberg got the biggest break—perhaps the only break—of his young life, when he went to the Jewish Family Services office to see if the organization could help him find a job. He was hired (at a salary of \$125 a month) to work as a rent collector for a real estate company owned by a man named Albert Alberton, who was also a Freemason. It was a job that would change his life, and would ultimately lead to the formation of his own real estate empire.

Lowenberg joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 1951, and spent two years as a “weekend warrior” in the Presidio before being drafted into regular army service in 1953 during the Korean War. “After being liberated from Dachau, I really felt I owed something to the U.S. Army,” he explains. “I wanted to show my appreciation.” Ironically, his first overseas assignment was supposed to be a stint in Germany. After explaining to his commanding officer why this was a bad idea, he was instead ordered to go to Korea. As it turned out, Lowenberg spent his entire military service at Fort Lewis in Washington State before being discharged as a sergeant in 1955. “I was the oldest guy in my company. I was 28 years old, and everyone called me ‘Pops,’” he recalls with a laugh.

After returning to San Francisco, Lowenberg joined Pacific Lodge No. 136 (now Pacific-Starr King Lodge No. 136), and was raised as a Master Mason on March 20, 1956. “The head of our company was a Mason, and I really looked up to him. There was a lot of memorization for me to do, so every Monday night I would go to the warden's house to learn what I needed to know.”

Lowenberg (who adopted the anglicized name “William” when he moved to the United States) says that although he didn't become a Freemason until 1956, the first time he learned about Masonry was from a fellow prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. “I don't think this man was Jewish. I remember him telling me all about it being a brotherhood built on a belief in God. I don't remember his name, but I doubt that he survived the war. Most people in the camps didn't.”





**Prisoners of the Dachau Concentration Camp greet members of the U.S. Seventh Army joyfully from behind a barbed wire fence on May 3, 1945.**

In fact, Freemasons were one of the most reviled groups in the Axis nations, and being a member was a criminal offense regardless of a Mason's ethnicity or heritage. Hitler had sharply criticized the craft in his autobiography, *Mein Kampf*, and Nazi party officials were encouraged to incite hostility against Masons. Masonic lodges were shut down—and Masons were imprisoned, deported or killed—in Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Austria. When the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia, which had been home to two Grand Lodges before the war, they arrested 3,000–4,000 Masons. Fewer than five percent of Czech Freemasons were able to escape; most of the others were killed in the camps. On the other side of

the globe the Japanese government blamed Masonry for forcing the “Chinese to turn China into a spearhead for an attack on Japan, and thereby forcing Japan to defend herself against this threat. Japan is at war not with China but with Freemasonry, represented by General Chiang-Kai-shek, the successor of his master, the Freemason Sun Yat-Sen.”

Lowenberg was active in the Masons for several years and eventually became a Shriner. Although he has not been active in his lodge for several decades, Lowenberg still credits the Masons for helping him establish himself in his new country. “The camaraderie was wonderful, and I met some great people through my lodge and through

the Shrine. For a guy coming from the camps and everything that happened before that, it was really the first time I felt like I fit in. I can't tell you how much that meant to me. I'm still in touch with a few of the Masons I knew all those years ago.”

A year after becoming a Mason Lowenberg got married, and as he got busier with work, family, and charitable causes, his involvement with Masonry decreased. At the same time, he feels that the values of the craft have been an important part of his life. “I owe so much to the Masons. I have always had a lot of respect for Masons and what they do for the community.” ✧





# *Friend* to





*The Battle of Gettysburg is the most famous, most bloody, and in many ways, the most significant battle of the American Civil War. The climax of the battle took place on July 3, 1863, when General Lee ordered Pickett's Charge. Among the leaders of this event was Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead. The leader of the Union force under attack was Major General Winfield Scott Hancock.*

# Friend



## A brotherhood undivided

Armistead and Hancock were both career soldiers, and before the Civil War they were friends while U.S. Army officers in California. Both were also Freemasons.

When the Confederate attack reached the Union line at Gettysburg, there was fierce fighting. General Armistead was shot twice, and as he went down he gave the Masonic sign of distress. Brother Henry H. Bingham, a Union officer, came to Armistead's assistance. Armistead reportedly asked to see and talk with his friend General Hancock, but he was told that Hancock had been very badly wounded just a few minutes earlier. Bingham then helped Armistead off the field and to a hospital, where Armistead died two days later. General Hancock, to the surprise of many, recovered and resumed his command later in the Civil War.

The idea to build a Masonic monument at Gettysburg to commemorate this great example of fraternity came from Brother Sheldon A. Munn in 1990. Munn, a jeweler, has dedicated considerable time to the research of Masons in the Civil War. Munn met with friend and business associate Brother Dean E. Vaughn, who had worked with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on a number of other projects. Vaughn's enthusiasm for the idea prompted him to immediately contact Brother

George H. Hohenschildt, who was then the senior grand warden. Within twenty minutes Hohenschildt arrived to listen to Munn explain his idea and view the detailed sketches and cost estimates.

Over the following year the location and design of the statue were decided. In September 1992 the officers of the Grand Lodge and all committee members met in Harrisburg and approved the clay model personally presented by sculptor Ron Tunison. The following day Park Superintendent Jose Cisneros and his staff at Gettysburg approved the project. The approval process was complicated in November of that year with the new administration about to take office and some of the present officials having already vacated their offices.

After a meeting on December 22 between the Grand Lodge and the National Park representatives, a verbal agreement was reached. At the recommendation of the Park Service the memorial would be called the Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial.

The memorial was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on August 21, 1993. This was the first time that a private organization had been permitted to erect a monument in a National Historic Park. ✧

# Book Reviews

## House Undivided: The Story of Freemasonry and the Civil War

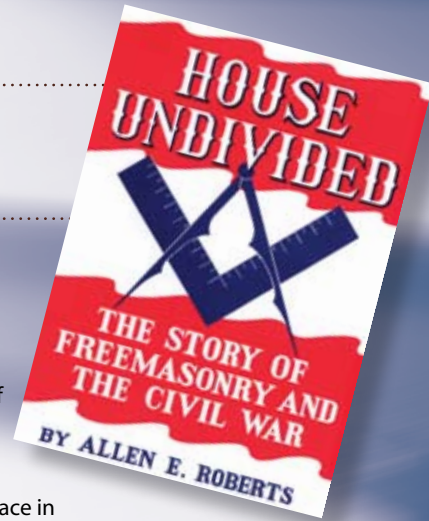
Allen E. Roberts  
Macoy Publishing & Masonic  
Supply Company  
ISBN: 0880530561  
Copyright 1990  
(Hardcover, 356 pages)

By Allen E. Roberts

"House Undivided" is a story about Freemasonry and the Civil War. It depicts the human side of the conflict with its portrayals of brotherly love in action. Included in the volume are many eyewitness accounts of battles never before published.

The story is written in chronological order, so the reader may better understand the reasons for the statements and activities which took place in Masonic circles.

It is a book that should certainly be included in any complete reference library, inasmuch as it touches a previously unexplored facet of Civil War lore which, after more than 18,000 titles, is a difficult thing to do.



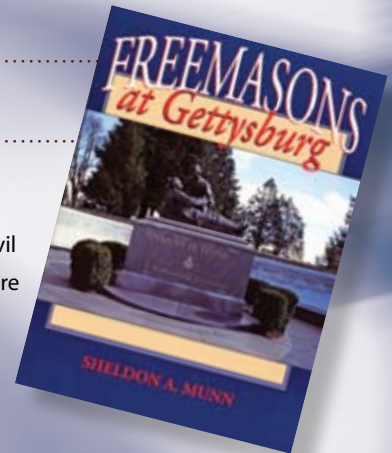
## Freemasons at Gettysburg

Sheldon A. MunnLorenz  
Thomas Publications  
ISBN: 0939631687  
Copyright 1993  
(Soft cover, 92 pages)

By Adam G. Kendall

Freemasonry was confronted with a difficult conflict when the Civil War broke out in 1861. Freemasons, both northern and southern, were forced to choose a side and go against the very foundation of the society of Freemasonry.

Written as a tribute to the Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial, "Freemasons at Gettysburg" documents the presence of over 50 Masons at the Battle of Gettysburg. Despite all their differences, Masons continued to practice their principles of brotherly love and good will on the battlefield, thus proving that the men who joined under the order would not, under any circumstances, sever their bonds of Masonic unity.





By Marlene Gogue

# The Power Of Partnership

## Caring for Masons and their families

As the Manager of the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) program of the Masonic Homes of California, I work with individuals suffering from physical disabilities, emotional losses, and/or financial difficulties. Through the generosity and support of generations of Masons, I am fortunate enough to be in a position to help alleviate that suffering.

The Masonic Outreach Services department provides ongoing financial and case management support to our low-income brethren who want to remain in their own home or home community. Our clients—Master Masons and their wives or widows over the age of 60—live across the state of California and are dealing with diverse and complex age-related issues and financial difficulties. One characteristic common to them all? They all knew they could call on their brothers, their lodge, and the Masonic Homes in their time of need.

One recent case exemplifies some of the challenges faced by vulnerable, older adults as well as the care and support provided by our fraternal system of care. A long-time California Master Mason retired after a solid professional career. At first he and his wife enjoyed their retirement years and the time they were able to spend together. However, as time passed his wife began to grow more frail and was unable to care for their home and then, finally, unable to care for herself without some assistance.

The brother's health was also unstable and he was concerned about what to do to ensure their safety. He thought a live-in caregiver would be the answer to his problems. He hired a woman with sound experience and gradually this caregiver assumed responsibility and control over their lives and well-being. Then his wife died and he grew even more dependent on the caregiver. His lodge brothers visited regularly but he really couldn't tell them how afraid he was of the future.

Time passed and the caregiver assumed control of his credit cards and bank account. Sadly, soon there was no money left. His life savings was gone and so was



the caregiver (the case is now pending with the district attorney's office). Unable to live by himself, he had no choice but to move into a board-and-care home, but his retirement pension would not cover the full cost of his stay. He turned to his lodge. The lodge leadership helped him out of his short-term financial difficulties and then contacted Masonic Outreach Services for a long-term solution. His brothers helped gather the necessary paperwork and complete the application for assistance.

I am happy to report that this gentleman was approved for assistance by the Board of Trustees and is now well-provided for in his current living environment. His care coordinator and his lodge brothers visit him regularly and this brother is now able to relax and enjoy his final years.

This gentleman's story reminds us all how vulnerable we can become as we grow older and more dependent on others—particularly when we are alone. More importantly, it reminds us of the importance of caring for each other and the power of the fraternal support system. It is truly a privilege and an honor to be part of this organization. ✨

# Eyes on the Future of the Fraternal Family

By Larry L. Adamson,  
President Acacia Creek, BOD

**I**n keeping with this issue's theme of "Family, Flag, and Fraternity," the Masonic Homes of California has spent the past several years planning for the creation of two new retirement communities for our fraternal family.

When sufficient interest has been expressed by the brethren, these new facilities will be built as Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) to serve California Masons over the age of 60, and their wives, widows, or mothers. They will be located on the properties of our existing Masonic Homes in Covina and Union City, and will be called Acacia Creek at Covina and Acacia Creek at Union City.

Thus far, the response from the fraternal family has been positive. We've learned that many, many of you are interested in moving to an Acacia Creek community, primarily because you know you'll live in an atmosphere of fraternal values, companionship, and care. Over 300 of you have shown your interest by attending presentations and making \$1,000 deposits.

Our plans are to make both Acacia Creek communities places where California Masons, their wives, widows, and mothers can enjoy a retirement lifestyle filled with everything that makes life wonderful. Things like on-campus activities and events, health and wellness programs, and fine dining. Things like friendship, security, and peace of mind. Things like outstanding services and the finest amenities to enjoy.

## HERE IS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR EACH CAMPUS:

- *Fine Dining*
- *Continental breakfast service*
- *Delicious luncheon buffets*
- *Restaurant-style dinner served daily in the main dining room*
- *Delicious Sunday brunch followed by a light supper*
- *Private dining rooms and catering services*
- *Heart-healthy, vegetarian, and low-/no-sugar menu selections*
- *Lounge*
- *Indoor pool and spa*
- *Computer/technology center*
- *Library*
- *Barber/beauty shop*
- *Basic satellite/cable TV service*
- *Emergency call systems in all apartments*
- *General maintenance and repair of all buildings, apartments, and common areas*
- *General upkeep of grounds*
- *Wellness programs*
- *Exercise classes*
- *Routine health screenings*
- *Planned social, recreational, educational, cultural, and spiritual programs*
- *Flat-linen service weekly*
- *Weekly housekeeping services*
- *Access to all facilities at Acacia Creek*
- *Round-the-clock security*
- *Scheduled transportation*



## FLOOR PLANS

The plans for Acacia Creek at Covina call for spacious independent living apartments, duplex cottages, and patio homes in various styles—some up to three-bedrooms-plus-den. The plans for Acacia Creek at Union City include building more independent living apartments; some of these are planned to offer up to three-bedrooms-plus-den styles.

## THE FOUNDERS OPPORTUNITY PLAN

In planning these two communities, we've introduced the Founders Opportunity Plan, which gives members of our fraternal family several important benefits:

- *Priority selection of their new home at Acacia Creek*
- *Invitations to exclusive Founders events*
- *Discounted monthly service fees for assisted-living, memory support, or skilled-nursing care*

- *Ten complimentary, temporary skilled nursing days each year*
- *Eight hours of complimentary move-in assistance*

## A 100% REFUNDABLE ENTRY FEE IS AVAILABLE

Both Acacia Creek at Covina and Acacia Creek at Union City are planning to offer a 100% refundable entry fee for our founders. This is a remarkable way for members of our fraternal family to enjoy the Acacia Creek lifestyle and still leave a legacy for their loved ones. To understand how this is so, it's important to understand how CCRC entrance fees work.

A Traditional plan offers an entry fee that is less expensive than the Refundable Plan; however, no money is returned to a resident's heirs. With the Refundable Plan, residents pay a higher entry fee when they first move in, but their heirs will receive a 100% refund of that entry fee. Acacia Creek will offer both the Traditional plan and a Refundable Plan, but the

100% Refundable offer is only for founders who make deposits early. After that, Acacia Creek will offer 90% refundable options.

## CHERISHING OUR VALUES

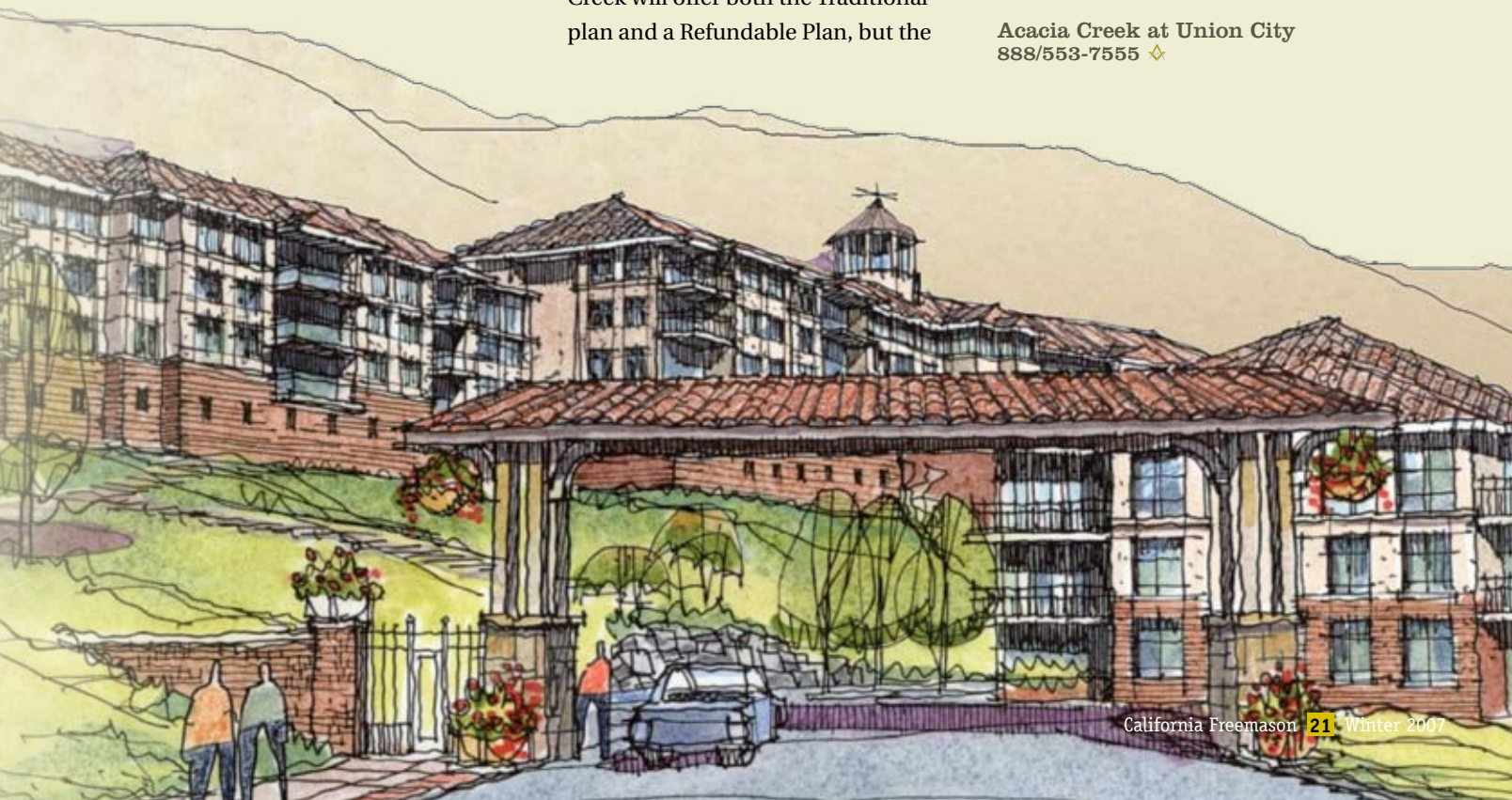
All of us at the Masonic Homes of California are very excited about offering the fraternal family this opportunity. As we move forward with the plans for Acacia Creek at Union City and Acacia Creek at Covina, we will keep our eye toward the future of creating communities where California Masons and their wives, widows, and mothers can live in the security and integrity of the Freemason values we so cherish: Family, Flag, and Fraternity.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you or someone you know may be interested in learning more about the plans for the Acacia Creek communities, please call the following numbers:

**Acacia Creek at Covina**  
800/801-9958

**Acacia Creek at Union City**  
888/553-7555 ♦



# NEWS YOU CAN USE



## **MASONIC HOMES WEBSITE ▶**

Visit **[www.masonichome.org](http://www.masonichome.org)** to read about the latest developments in the Homes, initiate an application, download recent mailings, and learn all about the programs and services we provide.



## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES ▶**

For information on our children's program or to find out how to sponsor a child in need, please contact:

**Masonic Home for Children**  
**1650 Old Badillo Street**  
**Covina, CA 91722**  
**626/251-2226**  
**[mespinoza@mhccov.org](mailto:mespinoza@mhccov.org)**



## **COMMUNICATIONS ▶**

The Masonic Homes have speakers available to come to your lodge or function to speak about the services available through the Homes and other issues related to aging. For more information, please contact the communications office at **510/675-1245** or **[communications@mhuc.org](mailto:communications@mhuc.org)**. We look forward to hearing from you!

## **MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS) ▶**

We know that many of our constituents prefer to live out their lives in their own homes or home communities. Yet many need help coping with the challenges and issues associated with aging. In response, the Masonic Homes of California have expanded the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) program to better meet the needs of our elderly constituents who wish to remain in their own home or community.

Our goal is to provide our fraternal family members access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their own homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

Our services include:

- Ongoing financial and care support for those with demonstrated need
- Interim financial and care support for those on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California
- Information and referrals to community-based senior services providers across California

For more information on MOS, please contact us at: **888/466-3642 (888/HOME MHC)** or **[intake@mhuc.org](mailto:intake@mhuc.org)**

## **Masonic Homes of California invite the fraternal family to special informative events about Acacia Creek—Masonic Senior Living Communities ▶**

Masonic Homes of California is conducting a series of informational sessions across California to introduce the fraternal family to proposed new Masonic Senior Living Communities—Acacia Creek at Covina and Acacia Creek at Union City.

The Acacia Creek communities are both planned as Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) for California Master Masons, their wives, widows, and mothers. A CCRC is defined as “an organization that offers a full range of housing, residential services, and health care in order to serve its older residents as their needs change over time.” These communities are planned for development on the existing Masonic Homes of California Covina and Union City campuses, sharing their beauty and benefits. And, because it is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, residents of Acacia Creek at Covina will enjoy additional amenities, services, and on-site health care.

If you are interested in learning more about these communities or attending one of the informational sessions, please visit our website at **[www.acaciacreek.org](http://www.acaciacreek.org)** or contact our offices.





Meet Billy A. Adames  
US Marine  
Mason since 2005

## *Faces of Masonry*

Masonry has given me a great sense of belonging," says Billy Adames. "I am able to apply the teachings of Masonry to everyday life." In 2006 Billy served as marshal of San Diego Lodge No. 35.

Billy has completed two deployments with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. He provided humanitarian assistance in East Timor as part of Operation Stabilize. After September 11, he supported Operation Enduring Freedom. Most recently, Billy completed a successful tour in the Drill Field at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego. Billy says he remains a Mason

because, "I like spending time with people that are a positive influence and I love the brotherhood, unit cohesion, and being able to share a common interest."

Billy, 27, lives in Chula Vista with his daughter, Mia Cristina. He is currently a student at San Diego State University studying criminal justice and hopes to be made an officer in the Marine Corps after his graduation.




Masons of California

# 2006/2007 Grand Lodge Officers



Front row (left to right): Paul D. Hennig, Grand Lecturer; Glenn D. Woody, Grand Treasurer; Larry L. Adamson, Senior Grand Warden; Melvyn B. Stein, Grand Master; Richard W. Hopper, Deputy Grand Master; Kenneth G. Nagel, Junior Grand Warden; John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary. Second row: (left to right) A. Glenn McBride, AGL Division II; Vernon M. Dandridge, AGL Division III; Stephen R. Miller, Assistant Grand Organist; Ralph B. Dash, Grand Orator; George L. Geanoulis, Grand Marshal; Robert A. Reynolds, Grand Sword Bearer; Timothy A. Wood, Junior Grand Deacon; Allan L. Casalou, Assistant Grand Secretary; Richard M. Timmins, Grand Organist; Redentor M. Manuto, Grand Bible Bearer. Back row (left to right): Dennis T. Dyer, Grand Standard Bearer; Robert L. Sills, Senior Grand Deacon; James E. Banta, Senior Grand Steward; Fenton R. Mereness, Grand Pursuivant; Jack M. Rose, AGL Division IV; E. Dale Armstrong, AGL Division V; Randall T. Freeman, Junior Grand Steward; Maxwell S. Roth, Grand Chaplain; Donald R. Taylor Sr., Grand Tiler.

 Grand Lodge F & AM of California  
1111 California Street  
San Francisco, California 94108

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE

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AT SAN FRANCISCO CA  
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