The Master’s Message

Warm Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

It’s hard to believe I’m writing my Masters Message for September; time really does fly by! I hope this message finds you all well, happy and in good health! September looks to be a very busy month for St. John’s Lodge #1. St. John’s Masonic Association continues to work on our beautiful building and I would like to give special thanks to the Board and all that are working diligently to complete the work both on the exterior as well as the interior. As you may have noticed as you drive by or attend some of the many meetings held at the Lodge, the exterior painting is nearly complete on all the trim, the portico has received a facelift and the decking is soon to go down. As for the interior, the Lodge room is currently under construction, but will be available for the Lodge of Instruction. That said, our Stated Communication for September will likely be held in the auditorium as the work continues upstairs. Please bear with us as we complete these much needed repairs.

The Lodge of Instruction will be held at our Lodge on September 7, 2019 with book sales available to the Brethren at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 followed by the meeting at 7:00pm. The topic of the evening will be Masonic Funerals. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend. Again, this will be hosted in the Lodge room, however, the room may look a little different than you are used to, as the construction will be put on hold for this meeting and started again directly following the meeting.

Visitation season is now in full swing with Major General John Sullivan on the 18th, St. Andrews on the 23rd and St. James on the 30th. Please help us to have a good showing at these visitations and show our support for all the Lodges in District 1.

September 25, 2019 we will be having our Past Masters Night. This is always a wonderful event, this year even more special as the son of one of our Past Masters will be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason! Please mark your calendars; this one should not be missed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 2019 St. John’s Lodge #1 line of officers along with those who have so graciously filled in along the way. We are so fortunate to have such a great group of individuals working hard on the Craft and keeping our Lodge looking crisp and sharp through all of our meetings. Thank you all ever so much for all your efforts!

A quote in closing: “Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealing with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness and these are the wages of a Mason.” *Benjamin Franklin

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Gregg W. Annis

Gerald R. Ford

As you probably know, there have been 14 US Presidents that have been Masons. Gerald Ford was the last.

Brother Ford was a member of Malta Lodge # 46 Grand Rapids, MI although he was actually raised at Columbia Lodge # 3, Washington D.C. on May 18, 1951 as a courtesy to Malta Lodge.

Brother Ford was born in Omaha, NE in 1913 as Leslie Lynch King, Jr. When Ford was only two weeks old, his mother fled from an abusive relationship and moved back in with her parents. Three years later, she married Gerald R. Ford Sr, a businessman from Grand Rapids.

On his 12th birthday, Ford joined the Boy Scouts and two years later attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Ford was also an outstanding football player. In high school, he was named to the “All City” and “All State” teams. After graduating from the University of Michigan, he received contract offers from the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions.

In 1935, he legally changes his name to Gerald R. Ford, Jr. During WWII, Ford enlisted in the US Navy and saw action in the Pacific theater. During his service, Ford received one silver star, four bronze stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with bronze stars, the American Campaign medal, and the WWII Victory medal.

A 13 term Congressman, Ford was elected to his first term in 1948. After Spiro Agnew’s resignation in 1973, Ford became the first Vice President nominated under the 25th amendment to the Constitution. Then, after Richard Nixon’s resignation in 1974, Ford became the 38th President of the United States. Brother Gerald Ford is the only person to have served as President and Vice President of the United States without having been elected to either office. Gerald Ford died on December 16, 2006 at the age of 93.
1980 at the age of 33 years and his dear wife Agnes who died on September 2, 2002 at the age of 84.

Bernard was a good man, a good husband and father, a successful businessman and active community member. It shouldn’t be a surprise to learn that he was also a member of the Masonic fraternity. Brother Bernard Cavous Maxam Entered St. John’s Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on June 1, 1949, Passed on July 6, 1949, and was Raised on October 19, 1949. He found more light in Masonry through the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and at the time of his passing from labor to refreshment, was a 52-year member of our Lodge.

Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian

September 2019

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Stated Communication
Wednesday, September 4, 2019
(4:45—SJMA Meeting)
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Chicken Cordon Bleu ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/1GqzF1ZX9F
Officer dress—White tie and tails

Grand Master’s Lodge of Instruction
Saturday, September 7, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00-9:30)
Dinner—Baked Haddock ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/qtpTx6JR3

Special Communication—MM Degree
Past Master’s Night
Brother John Roland Haslam,
Brother Justin Wills Kelcourse
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Lasagna ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/ttXGx5adm
Officer dress—Business Suit

Visitations:
9/18—Major General John Sullivan Lodge—Epping
9/23—St. Andrew’s Lodge—Portsmouth
9/30—St. James Lodge—Hampton

Your dinner can be free!
Each meeting, we will draw the name of a brother for a free dinner. In order to qualify, you MUST have made a reservation for that night’s dinner.

Contact Information:
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Thomas W. Haslam, PM
Secretary
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Bernard Cavous Maxam was born on April 2, 1918, a son of Ida M. and Welcome E. Maxam. His family, that included his sister Doris and brother Kenneth, lived in Springfield, Massachusetts. On February 19, 1920, when Bernard was just two years old, his father, Welcome, died at the young age of 45 years. Not long after his father’s death, his mother, Ida, moved the family to New Castle where they lived on Cranfield Street. Bernard attended local schools and graduated from Portsmouth High School with the class of 1935. He continued his education at the University of New Hampshire and at the Wentworth Institute, a technical school located in Boston. In 1941, he was elected Master of Walbach Grange, No. 344, of New Castle.

During World War II, Bernard was employed as an architect and draftsman for the U.S. Navy. It was during 1945 that he met Agnes M. Blow of Grand Isle, Vermont, on the shores of Lake Champlain. He and Agnes were soon married and enjoyed 57 years together. That same year, he left the Navy and with his brother Kenneth, formed The Maxam Company. For the next 45 years, he served as president of the company and was involved in more than 114 construction projects that included the construction of Dondero School in the Elwyn Park neighborhood of Portsmouth. Bernard built a beautiful home at 254 Wallis Road in Rye and he and Ida moved their family that now included their son David and daughter Diane there in 1947. While Bernard worked as a general contractor from his headquarters at 175 High Street in Portsmouth, his wife Agnes owned and operated an art supply store called Tech Products next door at 185 High Street. She was a professional artist and her paintings are in many public and private collections in the United States and Europe. In 1956, they began their active involvement with horses at their Wallis Road property that they called Ryemeadow Farm. They built a twenty-two stall boarding facility and offered quality care for horses. Ryemeadow Farm continues to operate and provide a relaxed atmosphere where you can enjoy your horse and the society of other people who share a passion for horses. In 1970, they purchased their first Morgan which led to a successful breeding and show career with that breed. They produced numerous world-class show horses and several regional and national champions. Both Bernard and Agnes were members of Granite State Morgan Horse Society, New England Morgan Horse Association, American Morgan Horse Association and American Horse Shows Association.

Bernard and Agnes were very active members of the community and were especially devoted members of what is now called Rye Congregational Church. Bernard taught Sunday school and led the fundraising effort to build the church parish hall. Later he led the fund drive to rebuild the church after it burned. He was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader, and from 1953 to 1989 served on the Board of Commissioners for the Rye Water District where he was instrumental in establishing Rye’s deep-well water supply. He was past president of Portsmouth Lions Club; served on the board of trustees of the Chase Home for Children for approximately 30 years; and was a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Portsmouth for over 20 years. He was also involved in the startup and as a faculty member of the light construction curriculum at the University of New Hampshire.

Bernard enjoyed playing the piano, fishing, and photography and was an avid Red Sox fan.

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He died on June 22, 2008 at the age of 90 years. His funeral service was conducted at his beloved Rye Congregational Church and he was laid to rest in the family plot in the Rye Central Cemetery alongside his son David who died on July 4,