

THE SPRIG

JULY 2011

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 16 Issue 7

2011 OFFICERS

Jeffrey Hall WM
Rick Sirmons SW
Richard Miner JW
Art Ford Treas.
Jack Coker Sec.
Doug Hall SD
John Rotureau JD
Tom Rotureau Stew
Roger Doyon Stew
Thomas Baker Tyler
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain
Charles Marthers Organ



DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
7/7

Proposed MM Degree
7/28

JULY BRITHDAYS

Charles Brown
Robert Milling
John Rotureau
Leroy Taylor
Travis Whitfield
Donald White
James Gantt
Thomas Park
Sidney Krauss
James Harrison
Stephen D. Hall
Frank Broome
Lyth Clark, Jr.
Clarence Martin
Vernon Davis, Sr.

FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL, WM

Brethren, on behalf of the Officers of Acacia Lodge, I bring Fraternal greetings and hope each of you are doing well and enjoying the summer vacation season. We had a great turnout at our Second Annual Festival of St. John the Baptist Fish Fry. Several of our newest members made it out and brought wives, girlfriends and even Mothers to enjoy some fried catfish and fixins. This year was about twice as good as last year. I hope this trend continues in years to come. We may have the makings of an annual summer festival. Thanks to all the Sinclair Brothers for coming out and supporting us. This is what Masonry is all about. I appreciate you guys.

I am very encouraged at all of the participation lately. Our membership is increasing and the new Brothers are anxious to participate in the workings of the Lodge. I had the pleasure of visiting with WB Don Michie one recent Sunday. I stopped by and picked him up and we drove over to Lizard's Thicket and enjoyed a great meal. WB Don loves their hamburger steaks and we enjoyed some good fellowship as well. After we finished our lunch, we drove out to Greenlawn Memorial Garden and spent some time visiting with WB Mack McKee. Brother Michie had not been to WB McKee's grave and was unable to attend his funeral. I think Brother Don enjoyed getting out and having a good meal. I know he

enjoyed visiting an old friend.

Brothers, let's not forget our duty to our fellow Brothers and their widow's and orphan's. Call or stop by and visit with them if you can. It will give you a good feeling and they certainly enjoy the fellowship.

I want to wish you all a very safe and Happy Fourth of July. Be safe in your travels and remember the sacrifices of those who made this Holiday possible. Thank a veteran for their service. It is by the grace of the Grand Architect and the dedication of our soldiers that we enjoy the freedoms we have in this great country.

I hope to see you in Lodge soon and often
Jeff Hall WM

FROM THE SOUTH By RICHARD MINER, PM

If you missed our St. John's Day fish fry you not only missed an excellent meal but also fellowship with brothers from lodges in both the 8th and 10th Masonic districts. We owe a big thank you to our Worshipful Master Jeff Hall for planning and making this observance of St John's Day a resounding success. Our next big event will be our ladies and awards night which will be held on Nov 22. I have received only one suggestion that we hold this event at the lodge.

If you have another suggestion for either the place or program please let me know, so I can begin making the necessary arrangements.

I echo our worshipful master and have also been encouraged by the participation we have seen in the last couple of months. However, as the summer months approach do not forget lodge, your attendance is appreciated. If you are traveling out of town find a lodge in that area and attend one of their meetings.

They will appreciate it and you will have the opportunity to see how other lodges conduct business and plan events.

Have a safe July 4th and looking forward to see each of you in lodge.





SCENES FROM OUR ST. JOHN'S DAY FISH FRY



IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR WORKING TOOLS

Bro. George Robinson
Wise

THIS MONTH'S DONATIONS

W/Bro. Hugh J. Bickley
Bro. Roger Doyon
Bro. Jared Smith
Thank you brethren for
your support.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By Jack Coker, PM

For those of you who missed the fish fry on June 24, you sure missed some good food and fellowship. We had a pretty good turn out, but I am sure the W/M will tell you about it in his message. I will say though that Bro. Jared Smith's wife makes some fantastic cheesecake. Brethren as we celebrate the Fourth of July and our American independence, let us pause to honor our flag and the men and women who have shed their blood and given their lives to protect it. Let us listen as our flag speaks.

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice. I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world. Look up and see me. I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident.

I am arrogant. I am proud. When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my color a little truer. I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped—I am saluted. I am loved—and I am feared. I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Appomattox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches at Normandy. Guam, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me. I was there. I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me. And I was proud. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped to set free. It does not hurt, I am invincible. I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country. And when it's by those I've served in battle—IT HURTS. But I shall overcome—for I am strong. I have slipped the bonds of earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are yet to come. When I am torn into strips and used for bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldiers, or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY-LONG MAY I WAVE. DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN LONG MAY I WAVE.

What is a veteran?

A veteran—whether active duty, retired, National guard or reserve is someone who at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount “up to and including their life.” That is HONOR and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it. (Author Unknown)

YOUR SPACE ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY YOU

The Herbert Hucks Award for outstanding service in historical preservation and interpretation was presented to James A. Neal for the publication of *Historic United Methodist Churches and Places in South Carolina* at the 2011 South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 11, 2011 in Florence, South Carolina. Jim is a Past Master of Acacia Lodge # 94.

PUBLISHERS NOTE: Each month this space will be reserved for articles submitted by the brethren. Articles can be sent to rminer@sc.rr.com.