

Naval Lodge No. 87
Free & Accepted Masons
Grand Lodge of California

March 2011 - Volume 18 - Issue 3

THE VALLEJO MASONIC NEWS

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By Naval Lodge No. 87

Free and Accepted Masons of California

NAVAL LODGE...

...attracts and brings together good men of diverse generational, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds for self-improvement, friendship, and service;

BECAUSE,

We provide an authentic initiatory experience and engaging education programs based on a tradition of living and animate speech to effect a personal transformation that inspires each man to a principle driven way of life based on brotherly love, relief, and truth.

"A man only learns in two ways, one by reading, and the other by association with smarter people."

- Bro. Will Rogers

Raised March 13, 1906

Clairmont Lodge No. 53, Oklahoma

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PLEASE NOTE!

If you have recently moved or will be moving soon, please notify the secretary so that we may ensure our records are accurate and that you won't miss any mailers.

Thank you!

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Naval Lodge No. 87 Officers for 2011

Master

Barry Hughes
(707) 333-7866 * barryhughes@sbcglobal.net

Senior Warden

Leo Guison
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Junior Warden

Joe Yow
(707) 553-8344 * yowwolf@aol.com

Secretary

Robert Wilson, PM
(415) 302-7270 * rww588@aol.com

Treasurer & Assistant Secretary

William Hems III
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John Wasson
(707) 552-2869 * jpwassel@att.net

Junior Deacon

Rick Lauziere
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Senior Steward

John Schaefer
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Junior Steward

Yassine Talha

Chaplain

Mike Woodruff
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Marshall & Officer's Coach

John Snell, PM
(707) 558-8309 * jvs724@comcast.net

Tiler

Albert Lawson, PM
(510) 921-4629 * jazzmoe39@aol.com

Organist

Charles Bailhache
(707) 644-1560 * charlesabailhache@prodigy.net

Inspector 131st Masonic District

Leo Paule
(707) 704-1920 * leobpaule@yahoo.com

Committees

Audit

Henry Budding PM, Albert
Lawson PM, Keith Wattles PM

Budget & Finance

Leo Guison, Bill Hems III,
Barry Hughes, Joe Yow

Candidates Coaching

Leo Guison

Charity

Leo Guison, Barry Hughes,
Joe Yow

Constitutional Observance

Albert Lawson PM

Entertainment

John Schaefer, Yassine Talha,
Joe Yow

Funeral

Henry Budding PM, Barry
Hughes, Tom Langford PM,
Keith Wattles PM

Lodge Ambassador

Bob Prenton

Masonic Formation

Frank Peterson, Brent Wolke

Masonic Homes

Kerry O'Brien PM, Gary Pirkig

Membership Retention

Albert Lawson PM, John Wasson,
Robert Wilson PM

Public Schools

Charlie Bailhache, Gerry Bettman

Scholarship

Bill Hems III, Albert Lawson PM,
Jeff Massingham

SMEF

Charles Bailhache,
Henry Budding PM, Barry
Hughes, Jim Jaeger, Matt King,
Glenn Munkres PM, Russell
Parker-Taft

Telephone/Phone Tree

Bill Hems III, Robert Wilson PM

Trustees

Glenn Munkres PM, Bob Prenton,
Brent Wolke

Widows

Brazen Pillars
(Gary Pirkig, Chairman)

Youth Groups

Albert Lawson, Bob Prenton
Joe Yow

Hiram Award

Bill Hems III, Barry Hughes, Tom
Langford PM, Russell Parker-Taft:
Albert Lawson PM Recipient

Mason of the Year

Bill Hems III, Barry Hughes, Tom
Langford PM, John Schaefer:
John Wasson Recipient

FROM THE EAST

As the Sun Rises in the East

Brethren,

The annual reports and audits were read and approved in lodge at the February Stated Meeting. The lodge is financially sound and has good stewardship minding the finances of the lodge. The Temple Association finished last year making a profit for the first time in a while and with the addition of the cell towers, should be in the black for years to come. I want to thank the Auditing committee for coming through at the last minute to get all this done on time and per CMC. This will make my year as Master much easier not having to worry about such matters. We have our 5 year plan moving in a positive direction with a strong line of upcoming officers to keep the plan in a positive direction and anticipating the goals and financial needs of the Lodge. This living document (the 5 year plan) changes from year to year as things get completed and future needs present themselves. We have appointed Bro. **Matt King** to SMEF which completes the board of directors for that committee, and I have got the Trustee situation straightened out with the proper trustees. Everything is in order. The following committees are amended as follows:

SMEF = Bros. **Russell Parker-Taft**, **Glenn Munkres** PM, **Charlie Bailhache**, **Jim Jaeger**, **Henry Budding** PM, **Barry Hughes** WM, & **Matt King**.

Trustees = Bros. **Bon Prenton**, **Glenn Munkres** PM, & **Brent Wolke**.

I want to thank all the Brethren that stepped up to the plate to help me make all this possible and fill the committees, etc. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Thank you one and all.

Fraternally,
Barry Hughes, Master
Naval Lodge #87
707-333-7866

FROM THE WEST

Congratulations ! To Bro. **Rich Maddux** for being raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason, to Bro. **John Wasson** who was recently elected as president of SMTA and to worshipful brother **Albert Lawson** recently installed as High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, Naval chapter # 35. I wish you all the best for 2011!!!

I would like to remind all the brothers who are working on their proficiency to work with your mentors and/or coaches and let me know how we can help you more. We hope to see you on our next stated pot luck dinner.

Fraternally,
Bro. **Leo Guison**
Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH

A new month, and another stated meeting potluck dinner. Judging from comments and the amount (or lack thereof) of leftover food, the dinner seems to have been quite well enjoyed. I again want to express my utmost sincere gratitude to my lovely wife, **Sarah**, for again taking the lead in preparing the main portion of the meal. She is definitely the shining star in my life. I extend a very special thank you to Bro. **Richard Maddux**, who again came quite early to the Temple to assist my wife in preparing the meal. My heartfelt appreciation goes to **Nas** and **Norma Maloney**, for their assistance with preparations. March's potluck meal will feature meatloaf, so please join us and bring your family and friends.

Sunday, the sixth of February, was Super Bowl Sunday. Fans for both Green Bay and Pittsburgh came to the Temple to show their enthusiastic (and often quite loud) support for their teams. We had barbecued hotdogs and hamburgers, and side dishes of all sorts. I want to express my sincere gratitude to **Albert Lawson**, PM, for his efforts in barbecuing all the hotdogs and hamburgers. As always, you are most appreciated.

Now for a few less culinary-related words.

As I ride, the sound of my bike's pipes is music to my ears. I am at one with both machine and road. An approaching biker gives me the "low five," a universal greeting among motorcyclists. At the stoplight, I sense the presence of those in the car to my right. I shift my gaze to this car. The children in the back seat are straining to see the dragons on my gas tank. The parents, however, present me with looks that say that I am nothing more than criminal scum. How is it that I, working in a respectable profession, possessing multiple college degrees, a productive citizen of the community and a caring family man, could possibly deserve to be viewed and thought of in such a vile manner? Quite simply, it is due to the fact that I was wearing a leather vest and riding a motorcycle.

Masonry teaches us that it is those qualities that are inside of us that make us good men, and thus worthy of being masons, not the external façade one registers at first glance. The poor can be rich in love and understanding. The uneducated can be highly knowledgeable through experience. Those who have failed can teach others how to succeed. The simple-minded can teach us some of the most beautiful and beneficial lessons we might ever learn. To understand this is to realize Brotherly Love, the first of Masonry's three principal tenants. It is truly by this principle that Masonry causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

Fraternally,
Joe Yow
Junior Warden

FREEMASONRY: SECRET OR NOT SECRET

Author Unknown
Submitted by Barry Hughes, Master

Many people are of the opinion that Masonry is a secret society, but I hope to dispel this misconception. There is much that may be told to wife or mother, father or friend - told to the glory and the help of the Ancient Craft with no violation of the solemn pledge sacredly to keep secret that which is secret.

It is no secret that he who becomes a Freemason joins an order which reverences womanhood, which upholds law and constitutional government, which cares for the widow and the fatherless, which inculcates the highest moral and religious principles, which fosters patriotism, which instructs in toleration and obliges conscientiousness in human relations.

The most careful brother may tell his wife that in his Lodge the Holy Bible lies open upon an Altar. The fact is written in a thousand volumes, and is proclaimed in Masonic books of the law.

The manuals and monitors of many Grand Lodges set forth the prayers which are uttered in the degrees -- what is printed by a Grand Lodge cannot in its very nature be a secret from any one. That all Lodges are opened and closed with prayer -- that every Lodge has a Chaplain -- is a secret from no one.

It has been well said that Freemasonry is not a secret society, but a society with secrets. A secret society is one of which only its members know; a society with secrets may be one of which the world knows much.

Grand Lodges publish "Proceedings" in which the actions of the Grand Lodge at annual and special communications are set forth. Many of these contain the names of every man who is a Freemason. To be found in Libraries the world over -- these are no more secret documents than is a telephone or city directory.

There is nothing secret about a man being a Freemason -- he is proud of the fact and the Fraternity is proud of him, Freemasonry appears at times in public -- usually to lay a cornerstone, or to conduct a Masonic funeral. Such ceremonies are performed by Masons who have met and opened a Lodge; the members wear Masonic aprons. Yet some men are so over-cautious they do not dare tell such simple facts as these.

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

"But my wife wants to know what we do in Lodge" - someone states.

Tell her what you do in Lodge! You meet and open. The opening is a ritualistic ceremony in which brethren are reminded of that which is high and holy in Freemasonry. The chaplain invokes the blessing of God. Minutes are read, visitors welcomed, matters of business and charity are discussed, action is taken. The ill are heard from, through the Committee on the Sick; letters from absent brethren are read. Is there anything here, except the words and form of ritualistic ceremony, that the world may not know?

Continued on page 8...

A degree is conferred. Here, indeed, is secrecy! But the degree is but a manner of teaching, and if Freemasons desire to keep it to themselves, it is because those who are not Masons cannot understand. The instructor of mathematics would gladly teach the binomial theorem to a kindergarten child, but the child would not know even the meaning of the words. He must have knowledge before he can comprehend. So it is with the degree -- it can only be understood by those who have been taught -- and it is itself that teaching.

The degree over, there follows a social hour, a fraternizing and fellowship. Then the Lodge is closed, again with a ceremony which is uplifting and inspiring. Again the blessing of the Most High is asked and the brethren return to their homes. He is poor of spirit indeed who takes not with him something of inspiration from this that he has heard as simple as it is profound.

If there be anywhere a member of the Order who is not a loving husband and father; who does not give loyalty to his friends and government; who is not honored of men and reverent before God; who is not charitable and compassionate in act as well as thought; who is not honorable before all men; such a one has not abided by that which Masonry teaches, nor lived up to the obligations he has most solemnly assumed. And of this there is no secrecy -- Masonry proclaims these teachings as her own, and any Freemason may tell them to whom he will.

Freemasonry is meaningless unless we shape those ideals into actual life and work. Only then will it and our work become real and effective.

The heart of the message of Freemasonry must be in our hearts and its ideals of brotherhood must be in the living practice of our work and lives in whatever form it takes.

A true Mason in his work inspires others, understands others, reasons with others, helps others, appreciates others and yet may even disagree without being disagreeable.

A true Mason in his work also recognizes others and knows that a thank you now and then strengthens the bond of goodwill among men.

If a person at his job is to be a moving force he must bring to it a sincere understanding heart and see each man's need as a challenge to service and to get the best out of our work or life we must put the very best into it. The art of true living includes the power of seeing good in others, in all our fellow men.

To be successful in our work we must remember those basic fundamentals -- tolerance and love. Masonry may be pushed aside at times for our job, TV, sports, service clubs, etc., but to be successful in whatever work we do we cannot push its principles aside, they must be a part of us.

A man is as great as the truth he speaks, As great as the help he gives, As great as the destiny he seeks, As great as the life he lives.

Let's get down to positive facts and positive life, as we can make it. Rather than waste our energy crying the blues, pointing at problems and practices which are often cited as sure evidence that the world and its people are headed for Hell, non-stop -- we would be better off and more people would listen if we would only Eliminate the Negative and Accentuate the Positive. If we can keep an open mind and have no prejudices toward our fellowman, have more tolerance toward his shortcomings and problems, our outlook on life will improve and strengthen through sharing and being a part of the community in which we live. For, as a rule, people are ready and willing to accept us; the only requirement is that they be given half a chance.

One of our main poor contributors to breakdown in our relations with others is poor communication. When ever people fail to express their feelings meaningfully, the distance between freezes over. It happens between nations too, unfortunately. When a person neither speaks his mind nor listens carefully to what is said by others, then he is on very thin ice. The result is usually a horrible death for personality or a nation.

There are times to forget Self and think of others. For instance, the Bumble Bee is built in a rather interesting fashion. Scientists say that physically speaking he should not be able to fly. The size and weight of his body do not provide a positive ratio when compared to the span and action of his wings. Aerodynamically the Bumble Bee is a Bungle.

Sheer objectivity contends that he should never make it off the ground - but the Bumble Bee doesn't know that, so he flies anyway.

Many people are so conscious of themselves, so inhibited by their fears and so dominated by their own shortcomings or the opinion of others, that they never get off the ground either, not in their personal lives or in the field of productive living. They may know the facts of life and be completely familiar with the habits of the birds and bees, but life only begins there. Hopefully it will not end before what appears to be impossible has been achieved by transcending personal and physical failings. Let's not forget that funny old Bumble Bee in our approach to love and marriage and life in the community.

Every day is a present. How do you open it? Are you excited about how you will use it? There is nothing much sadder than to hear someone say, as we often have, "You know I have wasted my life, if only I could live it over again". Comments like this come from people over 40, who have taken life pretty much for granted. They have managed to fill in the time with the usual rounds; eating sleeping and earning a living. Then suddenly they realize that better than half their life span has slipped away and they haven't been living at all - just existing.

There is a great deal more to life than this. We have minds which transcend the body and talents which, when developed, nurture the soul. Most, I am sure, would agree and say, "Yes, life is more than existing". Perhaps even those who do little more than exist would agree. This leads me to believe that there must be still another key to life. Indeed, there is the conviction that each new day is not just time to be spent but a treasure to be wisely invested.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF OUR LIVES ---- a brand new day for us to enjoy. More days will be coming, but no one of them will be more important than today. There will never be another just like it. It is waiting to be filled creatively and joyously with your living.

As we reflect on some ways by which we might better fill our days, here are some thoughts by Alice E. Chase in her poem, "If Suddenly We Knew".

"IF SUDDENLY WE KNEW"

by

Alice E. Chase

If suddenly we knew today
Was going to be our last
I'm sure we'd do a lot of things
Neglected in the past.
Like rising very early
So we wouldn't miss the dawn
Or running barefoot down a hill
Before the dew was gone.
I think we'd greet our neighbors
With a very special smile
And visit friends we hadn't seen
In quite a little while.
I'm certain we'd be careful
Not to tread on any toes
And listen with a kinder ear
To other peoples woes.
We'd find much greater magic
In a sunset or a star
And wish we'd noticed sooner
Just how beautiful they are.
And finally I think we'd ask
For extra time to do
These things we didn't do before
And lots of others too.
For all at once we'd realize
That our spiritual worth
Depends upon the way we live
While we are here on earth.

SPRINGBROOK MASONIC TEMPLE

A LITTLE HISTORY

By Bro. **Henry Budding**, PM

Construction of the Springbrook Masonic Temple commenced under General Contractor Bro. **Archie Q. Smith** according to the plans laid down by Bro. **Charles N. Dougherty**, the architect. The building shell was contracted out, but all the finishing work was accomplished by the Brethren, who invested untold hours of their time and energy, constructing, wiring, painting and all the other jobs necessary to the finishing of the Temple.

From the formation of the initial planning to his untimely death in 1980, a period of 19 years; Bro. **Leonard "Len" Dickinson**, P.M. was indeed the "Master Builder" of the Springbrook Masonic Temple. Bro. **Len** was the one who, first as chairman of the committee, and then as President of the Temple Board, coordinated the efforts of a diverse group while always keeping the final goal in sight. Once actual construction was underway he directed the efforts of many volunteer workers, while at the same time contributing thousands of hours of his own highly skilled and meticulous work. On every hand can be seen the results of his dedicated effort. It is safe to say that without him, the Temple might not be realty. We will always remember, with gratitude, the "Master" Builder, who played so great a part in its erection.

Bro. **Len** had a lot of help. Bro. **Ernest Branstetter**, P.M. headed up the painting, Bro. **Aaron Parfet** the electrical work and Bro. **Len** headed up the wood working crew. After the completion of the Temple, Building Manager Bro. **Loren McKasson** reported that the maintenance was ably handled by Bro. **Ken Pastore** and Bro. **LeRoy Lindbloom** repaired refrigerators; Bro. **Clem Farlong** welded tables and made rack for pots and pans ; Bro. **Will Chavez** repaired the Lodge room rugs; Bros. **John Lehman**, **Howard Whorten**, and **Orville Johnson** performed landscaping and gardening; Bros. **Hal** and **Harold Pierce** repaired the Masonic emblem on the Temple and changed the flag; and Bro. **Aaron Parfet** repaired the stoves and his advice on many other problems was very much appreciated. There were many, many other brethren who helped in small and major ways during the construction and the continuing maintenance of the Temple. I am sure they know their work was appreciated then and also now.

The work was interrupted on two occasions by a minor and major tragedy. On New Years Eve a fire was started inside the Temple by trespassers. Fire damage was negligible but smoke damage necessitated the sealing of all interior surfaces. Divine providence was smiling upon as our next project was in fact sealing the interior and because of the fire, our insurance paid for the necessary work. The major tragedy occurred when Bro. **Melvin C. Nelson** P.M. died when he fell from a scaffold in the dining room. A plaque dedicating the dining room of the Temple to his memory was installed.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the outstanding service rendered to the Springbrook Temple Association by Bro. **Lee Hazen** who served as Treasurer during and after the construction phase. His judicious handling of the Temples finances saved the Board a considerable amount of funds

Time Line of the Temple:

1962	Planning started
1967 Feb.	Plans presented to the 3 Lodges
1970 Sept. 22	Contract awarded
1971 May. 22	Cornerstone laid
1975 Nov. 15	Building Dedicated

Most Worshipful Grand Master **John F. Roberts, Jr.** officiated at the dedication ceremonies. He remarked to the three masters of the Lodges that he hoped to be present at the “mortgage burning ceremony”. He was absolutely amazed when the masters of the lodges informed him that there would be no mortgage burning ceremonies as the Springbrook Masonic Temple had no mortgage and the building was owned free and clear by the three Masonic lodges, Naval #87, Solano #229 and Vallejo #487. To my knowledge this is the only temple in California to have been built and completely paid for when completed. Each of the Lodges donated about half their assets to the temple building fund and the very generous donations of the lodge members allowed us to accomplish.

Brethren, be proud of your temple and give thanks to our not too ancient brethren who accomplished this deed.

It's coming...



MARCH 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 RAINBOW BOARD 7:00 PM	3 NAVAL LODGE POTLUCK 6:30 PM STATED MEETING 7:30 PM	4	5 NAVAL LODGE GOLDEN VETERANS 1:00 PM BRAZEN PILLARS 9:00 AM
6	7 DEMOLAY 7:30 PM	8 ROYAL ARCH 7:30 PM	9 THIMBLE CLUB 12 NOON RAINBOW 7:00 PM	10 NAVAL LODGE PROFICIENCY AND PRACTICE 7:30 PM	11 OES 8:00 PM	12 CANCER SUPPORT 10:30 AM
13	14	15 SMTA 7:00 PM	16	17 NAVAL LODGE ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER 6:30 PM	18 OSI BENICIA 7:00 PM	19 RAINBOW MIEVEAL DINNER 5:00 PM
20	21 DEMOLAY 7:30 PM	22 DEMOLAY COUNCIL 7:30 PM	23 THIMBLE CLUB 12 NOON RAINBOW 7:00 PM	24 NAVAL LODGE 1ST DEGREE MR. JOE CRUDO 7:30 PM	25 OES 8:00 PM	26
27	28	29	30	31 NAVAL LODGE GUYS NIGHT OUT 7:00 PM		

Make sure you check us out on
Facebook and flickr.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Terry L. Parsley	March 1
Brian L. Lunceford	March 2
William Schofield	March 3
Edwin L. Mobley, PM	March 3
Brian D. Morton	March 5
John O. Hull	March 7
Luisito B. Pangilinan	March 7
Henry A. Budding, PM	March 8
Clayton C. Ketchum	March 11
Kenneth E. Ronning	March 11
Lawrence D. Vierra	March 12
Carl H. Warren	March 13
Donald E. Foss	March 13
Alvin J. Stout, PM	March 13
Garth A. Patterson, Jr.	March 14
Edward M. Kelley	March 15
Horia M. Tanasescu	March 16
John A. Hammack, Jr.	March 21
Karl R. Guidotti	March 22
Richard E. Christensen	March 23
Billy J. Snelling	March 25
James H. Crane	March 27
Gary Cronhardt	March 27
William R. Stewart	March 28
Jay R. Snyder	March 29
Anastacio N. Marquez	March 30

MARCH 3rd DEGREE ANNIVERSARIES

Full Name	Raised Date	Years
Casper A. Sweikert, Jr.	3/16/1944	67
Virgil F. Williams	3/30/1950	61
Francis W. Bauer	3/8/1951	60
Donald R. Mathews	3/17/1953	58
Antonio G. Espinosa, Jr., PM	3/10/1958	53
Dean L. Miller, PM	3/29/1958	53
Marion C. Freeman	3/12/1959	52
Gerald R. Doherty	3/30/1960	51
Carl A. Fowler	3/31/1960	50
Wade A. Hanson	3/31/1966	45
William R. Stewart	3/15/1967	44
Ronald F. Daniels	3/16/1967	44
Kenneth E. Tool	3/19/1970	41
Augusto V. Vidal	3/3/1971	40
Frederick C. Loyd	3/17/1971	40
John A. Hammack, Jr.	3/30/1972	39
Alphonse Fithian, PM	3/18/1976	35
David R. Vick	3/26/1977	34
Clyde E. Gann, Sr., PM	3/13/1978	33
Barry L. Hughes	3/23/1981	30
Robert S. Prenton	3/27/1986	25
Noel G. O'Brien	3/26/2009	2

24" GAUGE

The following Brethren have reported as being ill, injured, or indisposed. Please feel free to call, drop off food or medicine, visit, and/or send a card. Call the Master, or the Secretary, if you need phone numbers and addresses. Please notify the Senior Warden to report any Brother not on this list.

Martin Aurelio

Jim Cowan

Antonio Espinosa

Kenneth Kershner

Jack Kirkley

Brad Larson

LeRoy S. Lindbloom

Eddie Martinez

George Miller

William A. Pratt

Gus Quezon

Ned Shamlan

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

March 17 🍀 6:30 PM

Come one, come all! Enjoy the
fellowship of Naval Lodge No. 87
over a corned beef dinner.

BYOL
(Bring your own Leprechaun)

Vallejo Rainbow Girls Assembly #3

proudly presents

Rainbow Dinner

A MEDIEVAL DINNER

March 19 ○ 5:00 PM

\$10.00 for Adults * \$5.00 for Children Ages 3 to 8

Beware of a Raffle, Fines, Auction,
and more merriment than you can
swing at with a sword!

No tickets are sold at the door! Contact Sarah Barbee-Yow at
707-533-8344 or Norma Maloney at 707-642-5825 for tickets.

SPOTLIGHT ON A BROTHER

Captain K.C. O'Brien, USMM (Ret)

This time, the spotlight is written
by Bro. Brent Wolke

On the surface, Kerry O'Brien seems like a caricature of fiction; a rough around the edges (but kind) tough talking (but eloquent) former sailor with a heart of gold, a generous spirit, and a patriotism matched by few. Only this isn't some invention of fiction, but a real man I am proud to call Brother.

Bro. O'Brien is a retired Captain of the United States Merchant Marines, and a retired Chief Warrant Officer of the United States Navy. He has received numerous awards, and commendations; recognized for his tireless service and support of our veterans and current duty soldiers the world over, including the donation of thousands of dollars of his own money as well as fund raising thousands more. He's a member of numerous military and civic associations and yes...a brother Mason of many Lodges and Masonic organizations, including Naval Lodge No. 87.

The list alone of Bro. O'Brien's accomplishments literally takes up several pages, and to focus on any one of them would be an article in and of itself. I shall not dwell on any of that, but rather on my own personal experience with Kerry.

The very first time I visited Naval Lodge, it was a stated meeting potluck dinner, and by chance I sat at a table with Kerry O'Brien. In one hour, I came to recognize a man of great patriotism and a driving passion to see that no man who has committed himself to the service of this great country goes without.

The next time I saw Kerry was soon after I became a Mason, and was attending the funeral of a brother. Kerry was the funeral Master and spoke not just from memory, but from a deep abiding love of the craft and the departed brother. I was captivated.

Sometime later at another stated meeting dinner, with my family in attendance, he charmed my wife, and spoke at length with my son about love of country, showing pictures of himself dressed up as revolutionary for his part in the *Heroes of 76*, a group within the *National Sojourners* (a Masonic organization devoted to military service) who teach school children about the Constitution of the United States.

At another time, I saw Kerry give an inspiring speech about Old Glory, the flag of our country. I've seen him raise money, and put together care packages for our troops. Every single time I see this man, he is in some fashion evoking the patriotic spirit.

Say what you will about this Brother, but at a time when so many talk about doing something to help others, Kerry is actually doing it. That is admirable and good.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Apr. 17th - Naval Lodge Building Fundraiser Breakfast
Apr. 28th - Hiram Award Dinner

MAY

May 21st - Widow's Luncheon

JUNE

June 23rd - Past Master's Dinner
June 30th - Game Night