

# THE Ashlar

A PUBLICATION FOR MINNESOTA MASONS, STARS AND FRIENDS

MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHARITIES

NOVEMBER 2022 VOL. 1, NO. 3

INSIDE

**It's not a HAND OUT it's a HAND UP.**

**MELONY BUTLER**

*Director | Eagles Healing Nest*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

# Tony Krall



### WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

We, as Freemasons, are all proud recipients of a history and a tradition. In other words, we have the opportunity to live the legacy of our forefathers. We have inherited great institutions, great rituals, and great traditions, but these did not come without pain and sacrifice. As Reverend Billy Graham once said: “The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life but rather, a legacy of character and faith.”

The examples of our Masonic legacy stand always before us as an example to emulate. We have recently lost some of the pillars of our Masonic community; however, there are many, many men who have worked in the quarries of Masonry who provide us with examples of how to be good men and good Masons. These are quiet, unassuming men who quietly labor for the betterment of themselves and mankind.

As fall and winter approach, it is especially relevant for all of us to ask ourselves: What will our legacy be? How are we working to shape our fraternity so as to provide examples and framework for future generations? Do we greet the young Mason who comes into the lodge, or do we let him sit alone by himself?

Do we welcome all brothers into the lodge, regardless of their background?

Being a Freemason means more than just what makes us happy. It means that we live by the principles inculcated in our lodge. It means that we show the world that we are Freemasons not by our pin or by the decal on our car, but by how we interact with people. Thus, as fall approaches, I would remind us all of the immortal words of Albert Pike who said: “What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others remains and is immortal.”

Thus, as we move forward in our Masonic lives, I urge all of you to consider your legacy, not the material legacy of buildings or monuments or even titles or jewels; rather, have you inculcated the principles of Masonry into your daily life? Have you reached out to others to treat others as valuable members of society and the fraternity? Have you lived your life in such a way that those around you will recognize you as a Freemason by your actions?

Working together, we can create a legacy that will assure not only the future of our fraternity, but also a better society.

Fraternally yours,

— Tony Krall  
*Grand Master*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON

# Pam Willette



I bring you greetings from Eastern Star.

We have been busy visiting Chapters around the State and raising funds for some of our service projects. I hope you will read the article by Kathie Brown regarding our service dog project with Helping Paws. The Gala that many of us attended was a wonderful experience. If you have never seen a service dog presentation, I hope you can someday. These dogs learn over 80 commands before being placed with a Veteran. The dogs are just amazing.

A few of us also attended a Gala for Jack’s Basket. Jack’s Basket is an organization that assists families with children born with Down Syndrome. Held at The Depot in downtown Minneapolis, WGP Jerry Oliver and his wife Peg donated two BBQ dinners for 20 people that were part of the live auction. Jerry and Peg have done these in the past. This year they donated three dinners. Hold on to your hats; each one of those dinners went for \$10,000 per dinner. The event organizers were hoping to raise \$30,000 for the live auction, which occurred in the first 5 minutes, and in total, they raised over \$600,000 at this event. This money will help many families get the resources they need for their children.

As we approach scholarship application season, I encourage you to remember that Eastern Star has three scholarships available.

You do not need to belong to Eastern Star to get a scholarship; you just need to be sponsored by one of our Chapters.

Students can find more information about our scholarships on the Minnesota Eastern Star website, [mnoes.com](http://mnoes.com). At the top of the page, click Events, and you can scroll down to see the various requirements for these scholarships.

Minnesota Eastern Star has a lot of money available to be given away. I hope you will encourage your children and grandchildren and mention Estarl to your religious leaders. We want to give away money!!

I hope everyone has a beautiful time with family and friends during the upcoming holidays.

— Pam Willette  
*Worthy Grand Matron*  
Minnesota Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star



For Pam’s full message scan QR code

# Eagles Healing Nest

CONTRIBUTED BY KEITH REIERSON AND LAUREN HAUTER

It's not a HAND OUT it's a HAND UP.

Melony Butler is the Director Of Eagles Healing Nest, over 124 acres in Sauk Centre with over 24 buildings on-site for veterans from all over the county to heal. Melony says, "we don't tell them how long they can be here, and when they come here, this is home. When they're here, they can function and be part of a community again."

The Nest receives support from many organizations, including Saluting Community Heroes, American Legion Riders, and VFWs. Locally, support from the community, churches, and of course, Minnesota Masonic Charities and Minnesota Masons. Since 2018 Minnesota Masonic Charities have donated over \$210,000 to the Eagles Healing Nest. This collective support helps these veterans receive the care, love, and security they need to recover. Opening in 2012 under the promise of home, hope, and healing with honor, today, over 100 veterans are living on campus. They are about to open Lady Liberty, another residence on the campus, which will house another 20 women, in addition to the plans for tiny homes at the edge of the property. There is a mental health clinician on site and also an addiction counselor.

Addiction is usually a secondary issue when you're a veteran, it's the mental health struggles that come first. "There's no timeline to recovery here like at the VA and in other places. You recover on your own time and in your way, which is amazing." Thomas Snell says that in the two years he's been at the nest, he has made remarkable progress and hopes to stay in a more permanent role helping the Vets at the Nest.

Men, women, and children are welcome with the hope of keeping families together, despite some of the struggles they may be sharing. There is the main dining hall where they serve daily continental breakfast and enjoy house meals every Sunday.

Melony says veterans have created programs that help each other based on what they need when recovering. "They also create peer-to-peer groups and help each other along in their recovery process. We have an art studio, music studio, welding studio, horses, Project Delta Service Dogs, and something called Welcome Home Bed to help those ready to soar the nest. Sometimes if the bonfire is lit, that just means someone is here, and they need someone to listen to them because someone is always up."

For more information on the Eagles Healing Nest, visit [eagleshealingnest.org](http://eagleshealingnest.org)



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**The number of Veterans with PTSD varies by service era:**

**Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF):** About 11-20 out of every 100 Veterans.

**Gulf War (Desert Storm):** About 12 out of every 100 Gulf War Veterans.

**Vietnam War:** About 15 out of every 100 Vietnam Veterans (or 15%) were currently diagnosed with PTSD at the time of the most recent study in the late 1980s, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS). It is estimated that about 30 out of every 100 (or 30%) Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

**- National Center for PTSD**



# Leadership in Masonry: Lessons From Military Service

FROM THE GRAND LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER WB ANDREW NIEMYER



Just as our rituals, customs, and traditions have often borrowed from multiple other teachings, philosophies, and even religious beliefs, it bears fruit for Masonic leaders to look to other groups to learn from their leadership teachings. As any

Brother or Sister who is still serving their nation or has earned the title “Veteran” can tell you, the military begins teaching lessons in leadership very early on during initial training. That education does not stop during the entire course of service.

It’s worthwhile, then, to look at a few of the very many lessons in leadership that military experience teaches and see how well they fit into the life of a Masonic leader.

**1. Have A Vision:** Successful military units have a leadership cadre that knows what they want to achieve for that unit and then sets out to make that vision for success attainable. Likewise, the Worshipful Master’s Trestle Board is not just a calendar schedule; it can be the Master’s vision. It establishes the tempo of your Lodge life for their year in the East. One way a Lodge can be successful is for the Worshipful Master to envision the events of the year as part of a seamless continuity, all aimed at a singular goal that can be communicated to the Brethren. With their cooperation, that goal can be achieved.

**2. Constantly Communicating:** Besides external communications, which are fundamental for achieving a larger goal or assignment, the military experience emphasizes internal communications within the unit. Working together towards common goals, be it mentoring new Brothers or Sisters, raising funds for a worthwhile charitable purpose, or even just making a family picnic happen, a fundamental key is a constant flow of communications about the event through multiple platforms. E-mails, phone calls, texts, or even social media are all considered effective forms of communication, above and beyond the face-to-face communications achieved in Lodge or during the periods before or after our Communications. The more members know what is going on in their Lodge life, the more enthusiastic they will be.

**3. Empowerment Is Key:** A bedrock principle in modern Western

militaries is the reliance of even the most junior-ranking and newest member of a unit, ship, or squadron to do tasks they have been assigned to do. Those tasks grow in size and complexity as the member advances in the Armed Forces. Similarly, we build our future Lodge leaders in a stepping-stone manner. One crucial way we do that is to begin assigning the newest members to tasks and ensure they know we trust them to do that task. We can ask that they join more experienced members in a small matter, with those experienced members helping to show them how to achieve completion of the task that needs to be done, be it helping the Stewards prepare a post-Communication snack or making sure the proper materials are available for mentoring a new Brother or Sister. Early responsibility leads to more complex and essential assignments until, should they so choose, one joins the Lodge Line.

**4. Trust:** Going hand-in-hand with the above comes the more challenging task of carefully planning yet avoiding “checking in” too frequently with those who’ve been asked to achieve a part of your plan or Trestle Board. Few things will cause a member to stop volunteering faster than knowing that every decision they make will be second-guessed and criticized for not being “perfect enough.” While striving for perfection in ritual work, for example, is a most laudable goal, having a Deacon, Warden, or Past Master critique the choice of paper napkins for a picnic or demand last-moment changes in how a pancake breakfast food line is set up will send the message that the member’s efforts aren’t worthy. They’ll think again when we ask them to do more for the Lodge.

These are just a mere handful of the many lessons that our Veteran members bring to the broad tent of Masonry. Let us translate those lessons into effective leadership within our own organizations and gain and profit thereby.

*Seek More Light, Quarite plus lucem*  
WB Andrew Niemyer  
Grand Lodge Education Officer  
PM Ionic Lodge 186  
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## OES Supports Helping Paws

In 2019, Minnesota Grand Chapter established a Service Dog Committee and Grand Line Officers decided to support Helping Paws, based in Hopkins, MN, as they provide service dogs for veterans with PTSD. (Service Dogs is Eastern Star’s primary and permanent charity internationally.)

Minnesota Grand Chapter has given a significant amount of money to Helping Paws, and a number of members felt OES was not getting sufficient recognition. A meeting took place with Helping Paws’ new executive director in April 2022, and she suggested a number of things to improve OES visibility. OES used \$5,000 of the money raised for the project in 2021-2022 to become a top sponsor for Helping Paws Tail Waggin Dinner, their largest fundraising event, held on September 10, 2022.

Eastern Star was given two tables at the dinner as part of the sponsorship, and 20 Minnesota members paid \$50 each to attend that dinner (so the entire \$5000 went to Helping Paws). Minnesota members also contributed gift cards for gift baskets donated to a silent auction held at the dinner. Those baskets raised a total of \$1250 for Helping Paws. Helping Paws definitely knows Eastern Star now! OES members are very happy with the improved visibility and look forward to continuing to make Eastern Star known in Minnesota for the support of service dogs.





# Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

Minnesota Masons are proud to support Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. MACV was Established in 1990 and has a long history of serving Minnesota veterans. At MACV, they serve Minnesota veterans who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and their families. Their long history in Minnesota advocates their mission to create sustainable opportunities for veterans across the state. MACV welcomes veterans wherever they are on their paths by honoring the dignity of all those involved.

Their services are focused on housing, employment, and legal services- the pillars for ending veteran homelessness. Case managers work with veterans across Minnesota to build personalized plans while providing support at each step toward progress. At MACV, they acknowledge every veteran's individual needs and goals and create actions to meet those needs and achieve those goals. Their Minnesota housing services go beyond just locating temporary shelters, we partner with Veterans to create sustainable opportunities.

Michael Borinitz, a US Army Veteran, connected with MACV. "When I was introduced to MACV, I needed some help. About three hours later, they put us in a hotel and gave us money for food, and it was the first time in about three years I didn't have to worry about anything. I could focus on myself and get sober; after that, they moved us closer to Minneapolis so that I could get help for my PTSD and TBI. I hope they get the support they need to keep doing what they're doing. They're amazing, and all they want is the best for us."

Since 2011 Minnesota Masons and Minnesota Masonic Charities have played a significant part in fighting to end veteran homelessness by donating over \$197,250 to MACV.

If you are a Minnesota veteran experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, please contact MACV for support. Their team is focused on providing direct support for housing, employment, or legal issues impacting your housing stability or access to housing. They can also help to navigate

other services provided by partner agencies. Contact us at (833) 222-(MACV)6228 or by email at [mac-v@mac-v.org](mailto:mac-v@mac-v.org). Their team will follow up with you for a conversation to better understand your situation and begin the process of helping to identify possible solutions based on your unique circumstances.



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 131,000 veterans are homeless on any night, and approximately twice that many experience homelessness over a year. Minnesota has more than 327,000 veterans (about six percent of the state's population).

- [va.gov](http://va.gov)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Santa Claus Photo Shoot

Sunday, November 27  
Forest Lake Lodge No. 344, Forest Lake

## Metrowest Masonic Association Presents: Johnny Royal - *Silence is Golden*

Wednesday, November 30  
Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple, Minneapolis

## Metroeast Area Conference

Saturday, December 3  
Garnet Lodge No. 166, White Bear Lake

## Grand Lodge One-Day-to-Masonry

Saturday, January 21  
Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple, Minneapolis

## Annual Texas-Minnesota Reunion

Saturday, January 28  
Rio Grande Valley Shrine Club, La Feria, TX



Corinthian Lodge in Farmington continues to revitalize the Lodge by attracting new members but recently undertook revitalizing the interior of the lodge. The photo with MWB Tony shows a completely remodeled "East" of the the lodge room.



Minnesota United Honorary Scorekeeper



Past Grand Masters Luncheon, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Masonic Heritage Center

# THE Ashlar



VIEW OUR LATEST PHOTOS  
Scan the QR code or visit [flic.kr/s/aHBqjAb667](https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAb667)



# Chippewa 275 Hiram

On September 9, 2022, Chippewa Lodge No. 275 in Bigfork, MN honored WB Ted Benson with the 2022 Hiram Award. Since becoming a Mason in 2003, WB Ted Benson has been asked to assume many responsibilities, and volunteered for many more. Throughout his time since first knocking at the door to the lodge Ted's life journey has been filled with highs and lows. Ted has persevered and forged his character as a man and Mason.

WB Ted's work with the Bigfork Improvement Group (a local non-profit that works to keep Bigfork thriving through community works) is commendable. During his time as Worshipful Master, WB Ted together with other brothers were instrumental in saving the building which houses our lodge. This effort was critical so we didn't move from Bigfork.

Ted took on the project of repairing and painting the interior walls of the lodge room as well as the entire lodge. He took a very humble lodge room that was in need of critical care and transformed it. WB Ted continues his work on the project by repairing the lodge.

Last year working at his regular painting employment WB Ted was power-washing a roof when he suffered a fall that could have killed him. As he recovered from the injuries he continued to work on the lodge project. WB Ted is truly a remarkable man and a steadfast and worthy Mason. WB Ted Benson is truly a builder and keeper of those Masonic ideals we hold so dear. He

is a worthy recipient of the 2022 Hiram Award for Chippewa Lodge No. 275. Congratulations Ted!

Chippewa had a great turn out for WB Ted's Hiram Award and our Grand Lodge officers present included: Past Grand Master MW

James Christensen, Deputy Grand Master RWB Dayton Berg, Senior Grand Warden RWB Foster Solem, Senior Grand Deacon WB Shawn Carrick, District Representative WB Matt Curry, and the Grand Marshal and Chippewa's WM Lloyd Cheney. WB Roger McNear, and WB Brian Erickson, two of WB Ted's respected friends and mentors spoke about Ted and his masonic journey. Thank you to all who attended this amazing night.

I encourage everyone to check out our website: [chippewalodge275.com](http://chippewalodge275.com)

You will find lodge information, yearly calendars, officer line, dinner schedule and how to join our lodge.

With fraternal love,  
**WM Lloyd Cheney**



94

MASONIC CONUNDRUM

**Welcome back to the Masonic Conundrum!** Conundrum #93 looked back at the earliest years of modern speculative Masonry. It asked the question as to who, in the early-to-mid 1700s in English Freemasonry, before the Saints John were recognized as the Patron Saints of Masonry, were previously recognized at the Patron Saints of Freemasonry?

THE ANSWER: *The Legend of the Quatuor Coronati*

The Four Crowned Martyrs or 'Quatuor Coronati' – the traditional patron saints of stonemasons and the building trades more generally, were venerated in medieval times. 'Coronati' is translated as 'crowned ones' and refers to their martyrdom.

The legend of the Quatuor Coronati is interesting from the standpoint of Masonic research partly because of its inclusion in the Arundel MS, one of the earliest surviving documents that detail the legendary foundation of the masons' craft. The legend is also emblematic of Masonic research in that what at first appears straightforward becomes more complex on detailed analysis as contradictions and uncertainties are revealed.

Told at its simplest, the story refers to four stone masons who were asked to carve the image of Æsculapius for Emperor Diocletian but refused because as Christian converts they were forbidden to produce an image of a pagan god. Diocletian consequently ordered their execution. The Saints are traditionally named Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian, and Castorius. (Those names are not verified by Catholic Church historians) The legend takes a variety of contradictory forms. The Arundel legend is taken from a 12th century MS in the British Museum: Ar: MSS, 91, f. 2186. Other versions include the Harleian MS, No. 2802, f 99, and the Regius MS, 8, c, 7 f 165.

**Correct Answers:** Two Brothers got the answer to our Conundrum this past quarter. They are WB Rick Vance, Corinthian No. 67, and Kjell Turner, Prudence Lodge No. 97.

**Conundrum #94:** Coinciding with Veterans Day this year, Conundrum #94 asks this question:

*Can you name any US military unit since 1900 that was intentionally and deliberately formed exclusively by Master Masons?*

Send your answers by January 15, 2023 to [masonicconundrum@gmail.com](mailto:masonicconundrum@gmail.com)



MINNESOTA MASONIC CHARITIES GALA VIDEO

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MINNESOTA MASONIC CHILDREN'S CLINIC FOR COMMUNICATIONS DISORDERS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To contribute news articles and photos about your Lodge activities or upcoming events, please email them to [theashlar@mnmfreemasons.org](mailto:theashlar@mnmfreemasons.org).



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## MINNESOTA FREEMASON APPAREL SHOP

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## THE ASHLAR

The perfect ashlar shows what can be done with a rough, unpolished and unsightly piece of stone as a result of skill, industry and perseverance, so man, with all his rudeness, roughness and imperfection, may, under the operation of the Divine workman be polished and prepared until he becomes a noble character fit to be included as a part of the great spiritual temple which will abide forever.