

# THE Ashlar

A PUBLICATION FOR MINNESOTA MASONS, STARS AND FRIENDS

MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHARITIES



November 2024 VOL. 1, NO. 11



INSIDE

## EMPOWERING VETERANS:

BUILDING COMMUNITY, CELEBRATING STABILITY, AND PAVING THE WAY TO LONG-TERM SUCCESS



A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

## Foster Solem



With Veterans Day upon us, it gives me pause to reflect upon our veterans and the impact that they have had on our world as well as on our fraternity,

We are so fortunate to live in this great country of ours! It is exciting to think that when the country was formed, several military men

who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were Freemasons. Many of the military men in those days were Freemasons. As you all know, most, if not all, of our Lodges, have a picture of George Washington, our first president, wearing his Masonic apron and hanging in a place of prominence somewhere in the Lodge. He is revered for all that George Washington represents to this country and to Freemasonry. He represents not only the Father of our country but also the Father of American Freemasonry. Because of this, we, as Freemasons, are to recognize and celebrate George Washington's birthday every year.

Where would this country be without our military? The United States has been known for its military strength throughout history. Many other countries depended on the strength of the United States military for protection and assistance. America would not be the country it is

without the courageous men and women, many of whom have given their lives to protect this great country's citizens and put meaning to the words of the pledge of allegiance, which we say at most public events. May those words ring loud and clear for generations to come.

Because of our strong connection with the military, Minnesota Masonry has been actively involved with veterans' groups in our communities for many years. We have and continue to support organizations like Mac-V, The Eagles Healing Nest, and many others. This is a testament to our commitment to service and our belief in the importance of community.

As we celebrate Veterans Day and all the holidays recognizing the military forces, let's never forget the sacrifices made for our freedoms. Let's also remember the rich heritage of Freemasonry that we have the privilege to celebrate. Let's keep the military personnel who fight and give their lives to protect our freedom close to our hearts. Let's offer a prayer for their safety and continue to uphold the values of our great country – the land of the free and the home of the Brave.

Fraternally,

Foster Solem  
Grand Master



A MESSAGE FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON

## CJ Brase

As we enter November, I think about two special holidays, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. I cannot fully express my gratitude to those brave men and women who have served in our armed forces to protect the freedoms that I cherish.

The United States has been a beacon for democracy on the world stage because of the sacrifices and commitment our veterans have shown for over a century.

My father served in the United States Air Force and our Worthy Grand Patron, Dan Hanley (my partner in the Grand Chapter of Minnesota), served in the Marine Corps. Our special project this term is supporting MACV - Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans whose mission is ending veteran homelessness. My heart breaks at the thought of these folks being without a real home for their families when they served so that we could have one. Learning that MACV served over 3000 veterans in Minnesota last year alone was astonishing to me - that so many needed our help.

We are hosting a special fundraiser on November 9th at the American Legion Post #102 in Anoka.

We are asking our members to keep the coins they receive as change during this year and donate those funds at our Grand Chapter session in May. This "change for a cause" will demonstrate that every little bit helps. We are also collecting supplies for move-in kits to give to the veterans when they move into their homes. Our veterans served us and now it is our turn to help them.

Please wear red poppies for Veteran's Day to show we care.

Thanksgiving is a holiday for many that is spent with family and friends. Let us pause to be grateful for our many blessings. I am thankful for our Masonic Brothers, our Eastern Star members, our Job's Daughters and DeMolay. We are truly blessed to have these chosen Masonic families. They add fulfillment and joy to our lives as we all strive to build a better world using the principles of our orders. We can and do make a difference!

And for that, I am thankful.

Fraternally,

C J Brase  
Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota

## CLAYS CAMPS 4 KIDS TWIN CITIES: A GROWING TRADITION OF GIVING



What began as a local fundraiser more than a decade ago has become a robust tradition of philanthropy and community involvement. Roger McNear started the Clays for Kids sporting clay shoot fourteen years ago

to raise funds for the Masonic Children's Hospital at the University of Minnesota. That event quickly gained interest from local shooting enthusiasts and hospital supporters across the region.

Three years later, Bill Vice launched his own sporting clay shoot at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club to raise funds for Shriners for Children Twin Cities. As Bill's event picked up momentum, he saw an opportunity to make an even bigger impact by combining the two events and partnered with Roger to expand the endeavor. In 2020, the two fundraisers were combined and ultimately incorporated as the 501(c)(3) charity, Clays Camps 4 Kids Twin Cities. Event



proceeds are split equally between the Masonic Children's Hospital and Shriners Children's TC (Woodbury).

The organization also provides funding and



support for the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, and several specialty camps for youth, Camp Achieve, Camp Bravo, Camp Splash, No Boundaries Sports Camp,

and Camp Explore. Since 2010, Clays Camps 4 Kids Twin Cities has raised more than \$450,000 for the benefit of children's health.

The annual sporting clay fundraiser takes place at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club on the first Saturday in May. Participation has continued to grow over the last three years; this year's event hosted more than 200 participants and was followed by lunch and an auction. The event is designed to be open and inclusive, with options for everyone.

Mark your calendar for May 3rd, 2025, and save the date! The Clays Camps 4 Kids event is an experience you don't want to miss. As Clays Camps 4 Kids grows, its impact on children and their families is immeasurable. What began as a local shoot has become an annual tradition, bringing the community together for a tremendous cause and making impactful differences in the lives of children.

For more information or to get involved, visit: [www.clayscamps4kidstc.org](http://www.clayscamps4kidstc.org)



The 172<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota will be held April 11-12, 2025, at The Park Event Center in Waite Park. This exciting weekend will feature breakout sessions, informative speakers, and plenty of Masonic fellowship. Attendees can reserve rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn and Residence Inn, conveniently connected to the event center. Be sure to secure your accommodations soon—room block reservations are open until February 23, 2025. Don't miss this opportunity for a memorable event.

For more information and registration links to the hotels, visit: [mnfreemasons.org/ancom25](http://mnfreemasons.org/ancom25)



# EMPOWERING VETERANS: BUILDING COMMUNITY, CELEBRATING STABILITY, AND PAVING THE WAY TO LONG-TERM SUCCESS



Building a vibrant Veteran community is about so much more than just meeting immediate needs—it's about creating a space where Veterans can truly thrive! Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities (UGMTC) and MACV are dedicated to empowering Veterans by hosting special dinners celebrating their stability. Together, we're paving the way for long-term success and stability.

A tight-knit community can provide emotional support, resources, and opportunities for Veterans to share their experiences and learn from one another. For many, it's the difference between feeling isolated and feeling included.

Community initiatives like these quarterly dinners and weekly scheduled visits are particularly vital because they address specific needs that Veterans may have. These include mental health support, employment opportunities, and social activities that promote engagement and connection. By fostering a vibrant community, we all play a part in ensuring Veterans can access the tools they need to thrive.

Special dinners hosted by UGMTC and MACV aim to celebrate Veterans' stability and achievements. Events like this are essential for community-building. These gatherings allow Veterans to connect with others who share similar experiences. They also offer a platform for Veterans to share their stories and find encouragement from their peers. They help build confidence and self-esteem, showing Veterans they are supported and appreciated. This sense of community can be incredibly empowering, instilling hope and motivation for the future.

The partnership between Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities and MACV is an excellent example of collaboration for the greater good. By working together, we can share resources and expertise, enhancing our ability to support Veterans in Ramsey County. Learn more at <https://www.mac-v.org>



# HONORING PAUL KIMBLER: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND BROTHERHOOD



This Veterans Day, we recognize one of our esteemed brothers, Paul Kimbler, for his service to his country and the Masonic community. Paul, who was married to his beloved wife Josephine for 61 years before her passing, served as a Seabee in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War era. While he never saw Korea, Paul was stationed in Japan and

the Marshall Islands, contributing to the vital work of the Navy's Construction Battalion, known as the Seabees.

"Being a sailor, I did more flying than sailing!" Paul jokes, recalling his military days. The Navy sent him to auto mechanic school, but amusingly, he never ended up working on cars during his service. Yet, that training would later prove useful in civilian life, helping him land a job with Studebaker for several years after his honorable discharge.

In 1959, a neighbor suggested Paul explore opportunities in the growing Bloomington, Minnesota School District. He joined as a custodian and eventually became the leader of the district's warehouse, a role he held for over 30 years before retiring. His commitment to hard work and

community service is a hallmark of his life.

Paul's Masonic journey began when he was raised in Bloomington Lodge #340. He took great pride in his role within the Lodge, serving as Master Mason twice, in 1996 and 1999. "I always enjoyed being a Mason," Paul reflects. "I liked the memory work and advancing through the degrees. I also prepared meals for the gatherings." For Paul, Masonry was not just a pastime but a pathway to improving his quality of life—and he believes it holds the same potential for others. "It's a great organization," he affirms.

In 2018, Paul moved into the Minnesota Masonic Home, where he had an unexpected but delightful encounter. While eating breakfast with fellow residents, Paul was surprised to meet another former Seabee. "I didn't keep up with many men from my battalion, so you can imagine my surprise when I found myself sitting next to another Seabee. That was really fun," he recalls.

When asked what advice he has for young men today, Paul doesn't hesitate: "I think every young man should be required to serve in some branch of the military after high school—not just for the discipline, but also for the organization, attention to detail, and learning how to take orders," he adds with a chuckle.

This Veterans Day, we express our gratitude to Paul and all those who have bravely served our country. Thank you for your service, Paul, and your continued example of dedication and fellowship within the Masonic Brotherhood.





# LOOKING THROUGH NEW GLASSES

FROM THE GRAND LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER BRADLEY PHELPS



Recently, I returned to the eye doctor after far too long. I was relieved to hear that my vision hadn't changed much, and it was the perfect opportunity to refresh my look. I decided to honor my grandfather by choosing a classic pair of horn-rimmed glasses, along with a more adventurous second pair with blue transitions. Not only did they look cool, but they also offered practical benefits for driving.

When I put on the second pair (the ones that were not a typical choice for me), I felt an instant boost in self-confidence. For a moment, my worries faded away, and I was ready to take on the world. Was this a bit vain? Perhaps, but it didn't feel wrong. However, I realized that such fleeting moments, while uplifting, aren't enough to truly inspire change in my life.

In the grand scheme, it might not seem significant—just a passing feeling. But maybe it is worth exploring further.

*"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip." – Bro. Will Rogers, US humorist and showman (1879-1935), Claremore Lodge No. 53 A.F.&A.M., Oklahoma, USA*

For some time now, there has been a movement to equate leadership with outward self-confidence. This perspective overlooks an older ideology that emphasizes caring for others, keeping our word, and holding each other accountable; principles rooted in ethics and reflection on our thoughts and actions.

The divide seems to have deepened as we build our own prisons of isolation, brick by brick, cementing our solitude with the false comfort of technology. The dopamine fixes from social media notifications only reinforce our place in this new reality, drawing us further inward. In a society that has turned so introspective, we may not even recognize what's happening—much like how my glasses momentarily clarified my vision.

In many ways, Masonry holds the key to the happiness and sense of contribution that our spirits truly crave. It resonates with one of the best compliments I've received recently: "You bring calmness through your ability to create order from chaos." This remark from a friend

in pain reaffirmed that I'm on the right path. We should all take to heart the important question posed by Most Worshipful Brother Tom McCarthy at Rochester Lodge #21: "Are we truly who we say we are?"

*"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment." – Bro. Benjamin Franklin, US author, diplomat, inventor, politician, & printer (1706-1790), St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia, USA*

Assuming we can avoid the 'fake it till we make it' hero mentality of merely filling rosters or checking off agenda items, and instead transform our thoughts into actions of competence and compassion, we unlock a tremendous gift: lifetimes of wisdom dedicated to a common mission and purpose, veiled in symbols and allegory.

While lodge business and buildings are necessary, they do not define Masonry. Most Worshipful Grand Master Foster Solem has it right when he points us to the meanings of ritual for guidance. Where are you investing your time, and are you truly reaping the rewards? If not, why not? Are you willing to partner with those around you to make the world a better place? Are you learning and tending to the needs of your brothers and fellow men? ... Or do you feel pressured to set those concerns aside in favor of simply checking boxes?

*We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers. -- Albert Pike US author, poet, orator, editor, lawyer, jurist, and soldier (1809 – 1891), Western Star Lodge of Arkansas*

This article is not intended to evoke sadness or diminish the essential activities of a functioning lodge. Instead, like my glasses, it aims to bring clarity and focus. I hope to encourage readers to reflect on what truly matters and inspire a deeper, purposeful contribution to the greater sense of connectedness—something I deeply value. Without Freemasonry and the support of the Brothers who have invested in me, I would not be where I am today. I wish the same for all good men that found themselves knocking at our door. If you need someone to study with, I am here and would love to hear from you.

Until then, travel well.

Fraternally,  
Brad Phelps

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Masonic Area Conference

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Tusler-Summit Lodge (Roseville, MN)

### Membership Event

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Duluth Masonic Temple (Duluth, MN)

### Civility Project

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, Heritage Center (Bloomington, MN)

### One-Day-to-Masonry

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple (Minneapolis, MN)

### Masonic Leadership Academy

February 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, The Park Event Center (Waite Park, MN)

### Grand Lodge of Minnesota Annual Communication

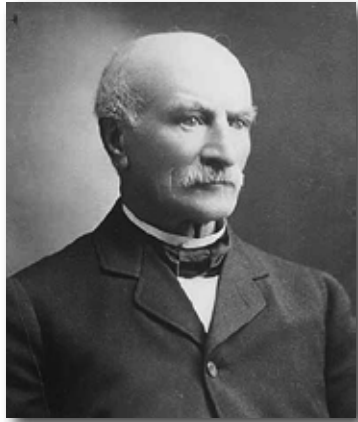
April 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>, The Park Event Center (Waite Park, MN)

### Minnesota Order of the Easter Star Grand Chapter

May 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Cloud (St. Cloud, MN)

**Conundrum #100 Answer: William Worrall Mayo**

When I began my orientation at Mayo, one of the first stories I heard was about William Worrall Mayo and his wife Louise Abigail Wright mortgaging their house to buy a



microscope. He did this to provide better care for his community. Later, while reading Rochester #21's 150th-anniversary publication, I discovered that he was also an explorer, prospector, soldier, local and state politician, father, and Freemason. Although his sons, Dr. Charles Horace Mayo and Dr. Will Mayo often receive the spotlight with the growth

of the Mayo Clinic, the story truly begins with Dr. William Worrall Mayo.

William Worrall Mayo was born in Eccles, England, on May 31, 1819. During his early education, he studied Latin, Greek, English literature, mathematics, and natural philosophy (what we now call physics). He also developed a strong interest in chemistry, which likely influenced his work when he migrated to New York, where he was employed at Bellevue Hospital and possibly worked as a chemist or pharmacist.

Eventually, Mayo headed west to the Minnesota frontier, working as a tailor and earning his M.D. degrees along the way. During his time in Minnesota, he participated in the Sioux War of 1862 and later settled in Rochester, MN, where he was appointed examining surgeon for the Union Army's Enrollment Board. It was in Rochester that he laid the foundation for what would become the Mayo Clinic—a legacy carried forward by his sons and continues to thrive today.

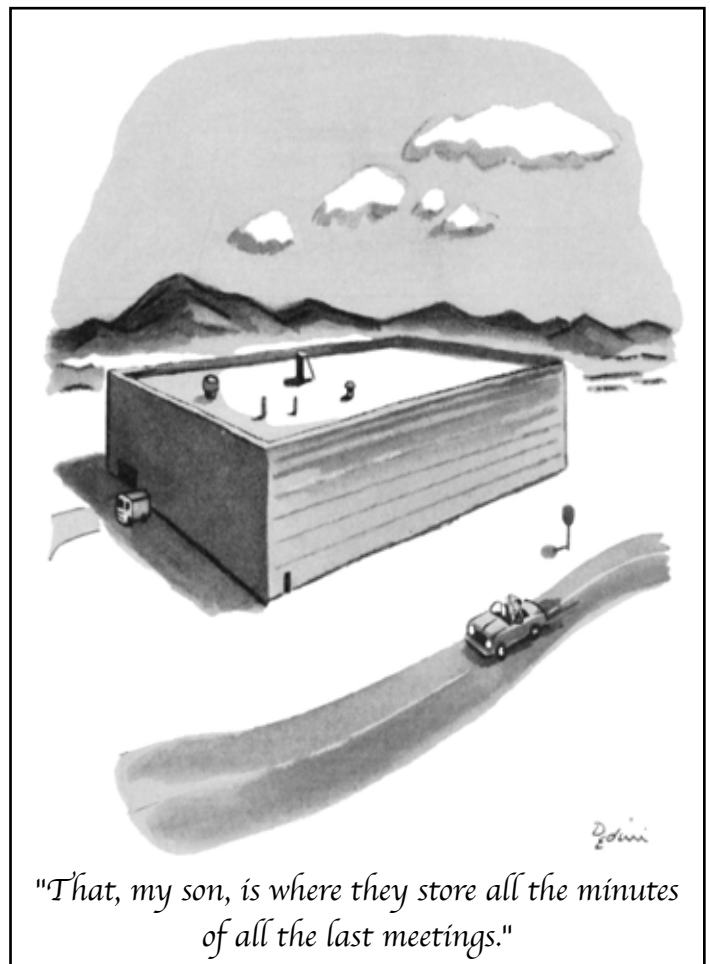
Mayo's commitment to community service extended beyond medicine; he was also active in local politics and later served as a Minnesota state senator. During his tenure, he pushed for the people: focusing on modernization and education. These were decisions and callings that demanded his time, and likely kept him from accepting officer positions at Rochester Lodge; trading Masonic titles for putting into practice the lessons of Masonry in his daily life.

Three months after arriving in Rochester, William Worrall Mayo petitioned Rochester Lodge #21 for membership in Freemasonry. While it's unclear what drew him to the fraternity, he became an Entered Apprentice on September 21, 1863, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on October 5, and raised to the degree of a Master Mason on October 19, 1863. He later joined Halcyon Chapter No. 8 Royal Arch Masons and Home Commandery No. 5. Mayo passed away in 1911 at the age of 92.

In total, three generations of the Mayo family—four men with the Mayo surname—became members of Rochester Lodge #21. The history of the Mayo family's influence on Minnesota Freemasonry is detailed in Rochester's 150 Years of Light publication and is being commemorated in a new Mayo family Masonic Museum at Rochester Lodge #21. To this day, the cornerstones from the referenced Masonic temples can still be seen in the walls of Rochester Lodge.

**Conundrum #101 Question: This Oklahoma man of Cherokee descent joined a circus that took him to Australia and was once one of the highest paid person in Hollywood. He was an entertainer and writer, and you can't help but think of him when traveling across one of America's most iconic highways. He passed away in a plane crash and was so mourned by the country that flags were ordered to be at half-mast in his honor.**

Please submit responses to:  
[masonicconundrum@gmail.com](mailto:masonicconundrum@gmail.com)



*"That, my son, is where they store all the minutes of all the last meetings."*



2024 GALA PHOTOS



ASHLAR PHOTOS

# THE Ashlar



MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHARITIES

11411 Masonic Home Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
mnmasoniccharities.org

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES, MN  
PERMIT NO. 6243

## 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).



If you would like to receive the digital version of the Ashlar in lieu of the paper issue, please sign up on Grand View.



## MINNESOTA FREEMASON APPAREL SHOP

Click or scan the QR code or visit:  
[mnmfreemasons.org/shop](http://mnmfreemasons.org/shop)

## 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.