

# TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Donald Novak, Worshipful Master

## ***Navy Vet Brother John Walford visits WWII Memorial***

Brother John Walford P.M., a Navy veteran of WWII, recently flew to Washington D.C. to visit the new World War II Memorial thanks to the local charity, Honor Flight Michigan. Honor Flight Michigan is the brainchild of Royal Oak insurance agent Dave Cameron of State Farm, himself a Navy veteran.

Cameron's mission with Honor Flight is to fly any and all Michigan WWII veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the recently completed WW II Memorial, built some 60 years after the war ended. The cost for each person is about \$300, all inclusive, with no cost to the veteran. Cameron and his dedicated staff of Honor Flight volunteers raise all of the money through contributions from the community. As Cameron told the veterans, "This trip is to honor you. You saved the world" Our organization is here to show you the love and respect that you deserve."

The problem is the age of most of the veterans. Many veterans will never have the opportunity to see the Memorial as more than 1600 pass away each day nationally. Bro. Walford, at age 82, quipped that he was the youngest veteran on the recent flight. Due to the age of the veterans and their infirmities, each group of three veterans is accompanied by a guardian. By good fortune, Bro. Walford's granddaughter, Elizabeth Elaquiere, was able to accompany John on the trip as one of the guardians due to Honor Flight's need for a doctor or nurse on the flight. Elizabeth, a registered nurse, volunteered to fill this spot.

So far over 200 veterans have made the journey that begins with a 4:00 a.m. departure and ends with a 9:00 p.m. return the same day. It's a long and arduous day that starts with a bus ride to Metro airport, a full breakfast and then a flight to Baltimore. A motor coach then whisks the group to Arlington National Cemetery where tram takes the veterans on a tour through the cemetery and then to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to watch the very moving Changing of the Guard. The veterans are treated to a box lunch before departing for the WWII Memorial. After having time to visit the Memorial it's back to the airport for the journey home to Michigan.

One veteran called it "the trip of a lifetime". Bro. Walford said it was a great honor for him to go on this trip. The Lodge felt grateful that Bro. John served his country. Northwood Ancient



**Bro. John Walford and Granddaughter, Liz**

Craft donated \$500 to Honor Flight Michigan to cover his expenses and as a tribute to our dearly departed Brother Bob Jones P.M., a WWII veteran, who had planned to make the trip. John wore a Navy hat given to him by his nephew and, of course, his Masonic bolo tie. Bro. John had the good fortune to also visit with his other granddaughter, Gina Vitella, a Washington D.C. attorney, who met him at the Memorial.

Bro. John served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46 or as he says "three years, 11 months and 4 days". After training at Great Lakes, Bro John was stationed at a

Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, N.J.

Bro. Walford joined Masonry in September of 1957 after talking with a neighbor he had seen in Masonic regalia on occasion. One question led to another and then to the E.A. initiation. Brother John was Worshipful Master in 1967 and then again in 1986. He helped found the Past masters Unit in 1970.

Bro. John related that it was a lot tougher to become a Master Mason in the era when he joined the Craft. All work had to be learned orally from a Brother Mason. Ritual was not written out in a manual as it is today. One had to complete his Master Mason proficiency before he could take an officers position. Once you became W.M., you had to know and memorize all of the Degree work, the charges, and the lectures. You were expected to deliver funeral and grave side services which might entail taking a day off from work. He said meetings were staid and business-like and chuckled that "the Brothers watched your every word and were quick to point out your errors."

Bro. John said that has enjoyed every minute of his almost 50 years of Masonry. He really enjoys the Degree work and is a member of the South Oakland Degree Team, taking the part of King Solomon on numerous occasions. He relishes the friendship and camaraderie. He related a story of meeting a Mason and his wife while in San Diego. The couple, having only just met John and his wife, invited them to visit anytime and stay at their home....whenever they wanted and for as long as they wanted. As John said, "what other group inspires this type of trust when you meet someone for the first time?"

Bro John has lived in Royal Oak with his wife Betty for 55 years. They have two daughters and a son and 7 grandchildren.

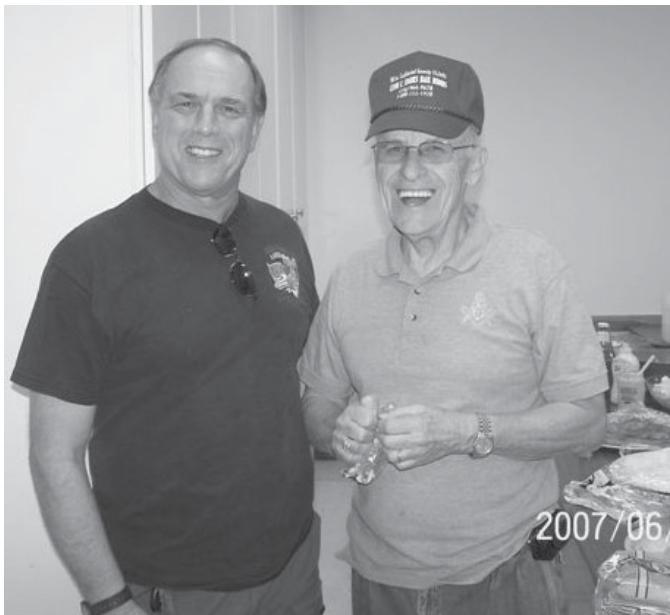
**IN MEMORIUM**  
**Roland Knightstep**  
**June 23, 2007**



**Bro. Roy Prince in**  
**Clawson Parade**  
**July 4th, 2007**



**Northwood Lodge # 551**  
**Annual Picnic**



**Bros. Don Novak and Jim Sparks**



**Bro. Ira Strickstein assists his son Larry,**  
**with the fire hose.**



**Madison Heights Firefighters enjoy the picnic >**



# FROM THE WEST...

Hello Brothers,

Well the tomatoes are beginning to ripen which means the B.L.T. sandwiches will be better than ever not to mention the sweet corn. But it's also a sign that fall is near and it will be time for the light to be turned back on.

I hope you have all been enjoying the summer with your family and friends and have stayed happy, healthy and not gotten sun burned too bad.

It looks alike we will be busy right from the start with new candidates in waiting. So that will mean we want all of the brothers from the lodge in attendance too help our new brothers be brought too light. Do you remember the thrill it was for? Well join us and make it just as big a thrill for our new Brothers.

I know it's my usual rant but I sure would like to see many of the brothers that haven't been to lodge in quite some time attend. If you have forgotten a little of what you need to know to attend please don't let that stop you as everyone here will be glad you are attending and will assist you in refreshing your memory. You will not be able to convince me you are so busy with your life that you can't spend a couple of hours a month with your brothers, in particular you that have retired, and gotten out of the habit. There is a lot of camaraderie here brothers you are missing out on. I would certainly enjoy seeing some of the men that I worked with a long time ago. How about showing up for one of our social nights where there is no lodge or ritual, just fun?

As your webmaster I'm proud to announce that we are still averaging 27600 hits a month. When was the last time you checked it out? [www.nac551.com](http://www.nac551.com) Have you checked the guest book to see who has signed in? You might want to do just that and see where some of our guests are from. Remember you do not have to leave any personal information in our guest book.

See you at the corn roast,  
S & F your Senior Warden

Ron Aldridge

# FROM THE SOUTH...

Brothers,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer with family and friends. As the late summer rays of *Masonic Light* begin to caress the corners of our Lodge, and foretell the return of our Lodge's activities, I reflect more intently on Masonry. I cannot help but ask; "Am I a good Mason?" "Do the people around me, in home and business, know that I am a Mason?" "If they know me as a Mason, is it because I have communicated it to them verbally, or have I communicated to them in other ways? Have I demonstrated Faith in God and humanity? Have I expressed Hope for the future? Have I acted in a Charitable manner to the world around me? I believe that I can do a little better, although I'll need a little help from You.

The following four literary-bits are taken from an Article reproduced with permission of the author and "Freemason Information" <http://www.freemasoninformation.com/>

## What is Freemasonry?

**In the home, it is kindness**

**In society, it is courtesy**

**In business, it is honesty**

**In work, it is fairness**

**Toward the unfortunate, it is pity**

**Toward the wicked, it is resistance**

**Toward the weak, it is help**

**Toward the strong, it is trust**

**Toward the penitent, it is forgiveness**

**Toward the fortunate, it is congratulations**

**Toward GOD, it is reverence and love.**

## AS A MASON

I'd like to think that here and there when I am gone there shall remain a happier spot that will be there unblemished by the thought of gain that someone's cheery voice and smile shall prove that I've paid with something fine my debt to God for life divine.

## Brother Who ?

I do not attend the meetings  
For I've not the time to spare  
But every time they have a feast  
You'll surely find me there

I cannot help with the degrees  
For I do not know the work.  
But I can applaud the speaker  
and handle the knife and fork  
I'm so rusty in the ritual  
that it seems like Greek to me  
But practice makes me perfect  
in the knife and fork degree.

## UNIVERSE

Don't waste a curse on the Universe  
remember it was here before you  
Don't butt at the storm with your puny form  
But bend and let it go over you  
The World will never adjust itself to  
suit your whims to the letter  
some things must go wrong your whole  
life long  
And the sooner you know it the better.

## A Masons Prayer

Teach us that sixty minutes makes an hour,  
sixteen ounces and also twenty shillings makes a pound.  
Help me to live that I may lie down at night  
with a clear conscience and un-haunted by the faces of whom I have wronged.  
Grant that I may earn my meal ticket on the square,  
and in earning of it that I do unto others as I would that they do unto me.  
Deafen me to the jingle of tainted money,  
and the rustle of unholy skirts.  
Blind me to the faults of others fellows  
but reveal to me my own.  
Guide me so that each evening when I sit down  
at the dinner table and look into the face of my wife,  
who Has always been a blessing to me,  
I may have nothing to conceal.  
Keep me young enough to laugh with children  
and considerate enough to be sympathetic with old age.  
And when comes the hour of darkened shades,  
and the smell of flowers, and the tread of soft footsteps,  
and the crunching of wheels in the yard,  
make the ceremony short and the epitaph simple. "Here lies a man."

Contributed by Wor. Bro. G. Gunton

Together in Masonry;  
Jim McPherson, JW

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2007

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Donald Novak ..... (248) 541-5518

### SENIOR WARDEN

Ronald Aldridge ..... (248) 548-3905

### JUNIOR WARDEN

James McPherson ..... (248) 588-1623

### SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM ..... (248) 544-4613

### TREASURER

Earl VanCise, PM ..... (248) 288-3561

### CHAPLAIN

Ryan Koponen, PM ..... (248) 647-0237

### SENIOR DEACON

### JUNIOR DEACON

James Novak ..... (248) 565-6417

### STEWARD

Scott Hudson ..... (248) 546-3403

### STEWARD

Phil Leese ..... (248) 543-2109

### STEWARD

Brent Lilly ..... (248) 645-7251

### MARSHALL

Raymond Doyscher, PM ..... (248) 545-7443

### TILER

Jack Parken, PM ..... (248) 589-1692

## TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald Aldridge (2007) ..... (248) 548-3905

Elton Scott, PM (2008) ..... (248) 545-4276

Donald Novak (2009) ..... (248) 541-5518

## DINNER RESERVATIONS

James McPherson, Jr. Warden . (248) 588-1623

Ronald Aldridge, Sr Warden . (248) 548-3905

Donald Novak, W. Master ..... (248) 541-5518

## LODGE SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM

848 Venoy Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 544-4613

## LODGE WEB PAGE

[www.nac551.com](http://www.nac551.com)

## MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

# FROM THE EAST...

Greetings Brothers:

It is with great sadness that I begin this column by relating to you the passing of good friend and Brother Mason, Senior Deacon Roland Knightstep. Bro. Roland laid down the working tools of life on June 23rd and went on to his Celestial Home above.

As I write this column, a group of our Brothers and their families together with the brethren of Royal Oak 464 are rooting for the Tigers on a beautiful night at Comerica Park. Thank you Worshipful Brother Gerald Christie and the Brothers of Lodge 464 for inviting us to join you in a night of fraternal friendship and camaraderie.

Our upcoming Corn Roast on August 23 is a sure sign that Fall is just around the corner and the Lodge will be brimming with activity. Check the calendar for details. Its had to believe that my year in the East is in the waning stages.....time does fly and there always is so much more to do.

We have new candidates awaiting the start of their Masonic journey in September. Please try to assist in bringing these new candidates to light by attending the degree work and participating if you so choose. Check the calendar for the dates and times.

I am pleased to report that the first award from our endowed scholarship for the Oakland Police & Fire Academies was realized after only one year of investment by Oakland Community College. The recipient was Edward A. Ryan of the Police Academy graduating class. Mr. Ryan wrote a gracious letter of appreciation to the Lodge which will be available for review at the September business meeting and also posted on our website [www.nac551.com](http://www.nac551.com).

On Saturday, September 29, the Lodge has scheduled a new event, an Oktoberfest with German style food and beverages. The adult event will run from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with tickets priced at \$15 per person. Please purchase your tickets from any of the Officers at your earliest convenience so food/beverages can be properly estimated. Brothers, I implore you to assist the Lodge make this a successful event that can be anticipated yearly. We do need your help....just volunteer !!

## Point To Ponder

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not: unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is filled with educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are alone omnipotent. The slogan "Press On" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." -Pres. Calvin Coolidge.

I closing, let me offer a special prayer for our friend and brother, W.M. Steve Sleziak and his wife Patty from Hazel Park Lodge. Steve recently suffered a debilitating stroke, but is in therapy and on the road to recovery. I am sure when he comes home in the next week or so, he would appreciate a Masonic visit. Steve always enjoys his visits with our brethern,

On the Level

Don Novak, W.M.

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

### AUGUST, 2007

8-23 Thurs Welcome Back Picnic (C)  
Annual Corn Roast 5:00 p.m.  
Family Event

### SEPTEMBER, 2007

9-6 Thurs Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
**Business (B)** 7:00 p.m.  
9-13 Thurs Social Night (C) 7:00 p.m.  
9-20 Thurs **E.A. Degree** (tux-officers) 7:00 p.m.  
9-27 Thurs **E.A. Degree** (tux-officers) 7:00 p.m.  
9-29 Sat Oktoberfest Dinner Event 6:00 p.m.  
German Food/Beverages

### OCTOBER, 2007

10-4 Thurs Potluck 6:00 p.m.  
**Business (B)** 7:00 p.m.  
10-11 Thurs F.C. Practice 7:00 p.m.  
All Officers moving up  
10-18 Thurs **F.C. Degree** (tux-officers) 7:00 p.m.  
Officers moving up for Degree conferral  
10-25 Thurs Guest Speaker 7:00 p.m.  
Social night following (C)

### NOVEMBER, 2007

11-1 Thurs Potluck 6:00 p.m.  
**Business (B)** 7:00 p.m.  
**Election of Officers**  
11-08 Thurs **M.M. Degree** (tux-officers) 6:00 p.m.  
**Details T.B.A.**  
11-15 Thurs Social Night (C) 7:00 p.m.  
11-22 Thurs HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
11-29 THURS Widow's Night Memorial Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
Memorial following (B) All Welcome

Help me to be, to think, to act what is right,  
because it is right;  
Make me truthful, honest, and honorable in all  
things;  
Make me intellectually honest, for the sake of right  
and honor without thought of reward to me.  
Give me the ability to be charitable, forgiving, and  
patient with my fellow man –  
Help me to understand their motives and their  
shortcomings – even as Thou understand mine !  
Amen, Amen , Amen

*Most Worshipful Brother Harry S. Truman*

## NORTHWOOD ANCIENT CRAFT LODGE 551

### *Third Annual Welcome Back Picnic & Corn Roast*

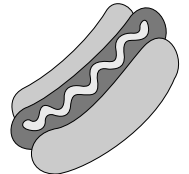
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2007**

**5:00 P. M. – 8:00 P. M.**

**HAVEN'T ATTENDED IN A WHILE...THIS IS THE  
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO GET REACQUAINTED.  
BRING A FRIEND. BRING A PROSPECTIVE MASON.  
THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT.**

**Hamburgers ★ Hot Dogs & the Trimmings**

**★ Corn On The Cob**



# Oktoberfest



**Saturday, September 29th  
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**German-style Dinner and Refreshment  
Open to all adults \$15 per person**

See Officers for tickets or Call J.W. Jim McPherson 248-588-1623

# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Ad space is now available on the Trestleboard. You may purchase a business card size for \$50 for one year ( 6 issues) or a large ad for \$100 for one year (6 issues).

Below are samples of our ads. Please support our Brothers and Friends of the Lodge who advertise here.

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ROUGH AND FINISH CARPENTRY

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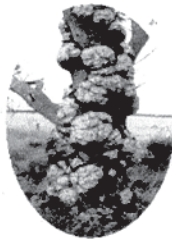
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