

APRIL 2020

ISSUE 3 - VOLUME 95

# ALMAS

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# ALIBI

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**MASONS SUPPORTING  
CHILDREN**



Phone: 202.898.1688 - Fax: 202.789.1148  
[almasshriners.org](http://almasshriners.org)

# FROM THE POTENTATES'S DESK

## Coronavirus



Nobles,

I hope you and your families find yourselves well and in good spirits.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the COVID-19, reported by the media as the Coronavirus, currently has no vaccine to prevent infection. Our President, Donald J. Trump, officially declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020. This will provide our Nation with the resources vital in ensuring all measures are utilized to reduce and eliminate the risk to our citizens. While the government exercises their responsibility to us, we must trust them and take up our part in reducing the risk of exposure and contamination. This does not mean we hide! We just evolve to our present conditions.

As we come together as Nobles, Masons, and Countrymen, we will face this crisis with the same steadfast resolve to overcome as we have all our Nation's hardships of the past. I remind you, there have been several significant epidemics and pandemics recorded in history to which we as a people have overcome; and this current situation is just another reason, we as brethren, stand together. Given the gravity of our Nation's situation, I implore you not to panic as this condition will continue to rapidly change to a positive solution. Until its resolution, treat this virus with respect and diligence. But, do not alter your life in such a drastic manner which will create undue stress to you, your loved ones, and our society.

There is a fine line between taking proper defensive measures and overreaction to the situation. Crises not only have the potential to jeopardize and infiltrate our work, but also threaten our emotional stability and relationships. It is natural to be concerned but being preoccupied with this situation will lead to anxiety and create other health issues. Conducting our normal everyday life learning will give us peace of mind which is important to our emotional wellbeing. Do not let this crisis become all-consuming to the extent we isolate ourselves because we don't want other people to see us at our worst. Locking ourselves up at home, making lists, and pacing back and forth in constant agitation are not going to help. It is important to live as much of our normal life as we can. If we keep a constant vigilance of this crisis, it will maintain a continuous flow of adrenaline, which leaves us exhausted.



# FROM THE POTENTATES'S DESK

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By allowing ourselves the distractions of normal life we will have enough energy to confront the tough stuff when needed. Never operate from a place of fear. The first step is not to hide out but to build out. As brethren of this Craft, we will support one another and persevere.

Our Temple's Senior Nobility and their loved ones who suffer from severe underlying chronic medical conditions such as heart, lung disease, or diabetes appear to be at a higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. While we will not hide and face this issue, we must take precautions. It has been recommended to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after having been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Our Temple is a semi-public place. The Nobility currently is the consistent user of the space. Be assured, our Temple has been continually cleaned and disinfected long before this crisis surfaced.

Although hiding is not a viable or healthy option, we should not unnecessarily expose ourselves either. There is a significant difference between avoiding contact with strangers and avoiding contact with friends and family. As members of the Craft, we are both friends and family. And, to reduce exposure from people outside our Temple, several Almas Shriners' events have been postponed. The Potentate's Tea was rescheduled to the later part of the Spring. The Annual Crab Feast, which has a lot of external Temple guests was be rescheduled to late Summer. Keep in mind, we are not hiding, but minimizing exposure to external Temple Nobles and our Nobles who have recently traveled abroad. The Nobility should utilize conferences or video calls with friends or family. These tools will provide the needed interaction and help with emotional health.

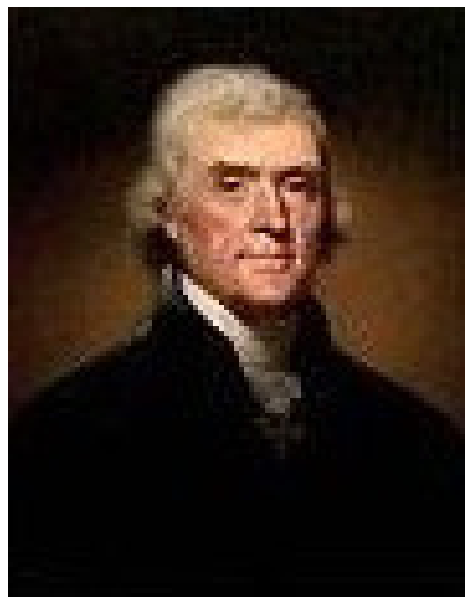
Until further notice ALL Almas Shiners Club and Unit meetings will be suspended. This will eliminate exposure to external factors. The Temple is constantly being cleaned and disinfected and is a safe and controlled environment. The Monday Meeting will continue as a conference call as previously planned before this situation came to light. The Thursday Business Meeting will resume in May providing a virtual solution can be identified.

I understand this is a difficult and stressful time. As news of the crisis continues to stream in and our emotions and uncertainty tend to govern our actions, please make every concerted effort to remain calm and safe.

S&F,  
George Perez  
Potentate

# Thomas Jefferson

Founding Father



Bro. Thomas Jefferson was a Founding Fathers of the United States, a Statesman and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. He served as the third President of the United States and served as the second Vice President under John Adams. More importantly, he was a Brother mason. Unfortunately, Bro. Jefferson served as a Mason during a time of Anti-Masonic sentiment which has caused controversy concerning affiliation with the Craft

Bro. Jefferson was born in Shadwell, Virginia, on April 13, 1743 and had a key role in shaping American politics and drafted the United States' Declaration of Independence.

Bro. Jefferson served as our nation's first secretary of state, second vice-president, and third president. He was strongly against oppressive governments and believed in freedom of speech and religion. His writings expressed his firm belief in God as our Creator and Nature's God in the Declaration of Independence. His conviction that church and state must be separate, his opposition to creeds and dogma, and his insistence on tolerance and mutual respect among religions is well documented. In 1786, the Virginia Act Establishing Religious Freedom, drafted by Bro. Jefferson, underlined the fact Almighty God created the human mind to be free. This statute supports the rights of Virginians to choose their faiths without coercion; the separation of church and state; and acknowledged the right of future assemblies to change the law but, concluded in doing so would be an infringement of a natural right.

Bro. Jefferson was committed to reason, natural law, and the inherent equal rights of man. He believed an enlightened society could govern itself and ignorant people could not maintain their God-given freedom. Public education was vital to his ideas of a truly republican government. In 1788 he proposed a plan for a free public grammar school education to the Virginia legislature. He desired a statewide public education system which would include a university to teach sciences, languages, law and philosophy. The university at Charlottesville resulted from Bro. Jefferson's personal leadership in lobbying the legislature, raising funds, recruiting faculty, selecting curriculum and locating the property site. Due to these remarkable efforts, he is considered the "Father of the University of Virginia." Bro. Jefferson believed knowledge was a prerequisite to wisdom and to a proper exercise of those rights. e

## Thomas Jefferson

Founding Father

Thus, I ask, are these not the traits of a Mason? Is there any question of Bro. Jefferson's affiliation to our beloved Craft? If not, consider the research by Bro. Denslow where he indicates Bro. Jefferson was reported by Bro. Joseph Guillotin to have attended communications of the Lodge of Nine Muses in Paris; marched in a Masonic procession with Widow's Son Lodge No. 60 and Charlottesville Lodge No. 90 on October 6. Bro. Jefferson attended the 1817 cornerstone laying of Central College; renamed the University of Virginia. In the Sept. 20, 1817 minutes of Charlottesville lodge #90, Thomas Jefferson is listed as one of those present at ceremonies. Ill. Bro. George Washington presided as Worshipful Master of a tiled lodge in which Brothers Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Robert Morris were present for communication.

Bro. Jefferson passed on July 4, 1826. Following his death, the Grand Lodges of South Carolina and Louisiana held funeral addresses and processions for him and a Blue Lodge at Surry Court House, Virginia, was named Jefferson Lodge No. 65 in 1801. On June 4, 1828, at a celebration of St John the Baptist, a toast of remembrance was given and the name of Thomas Jefferson was among those spoken. This ceremony was recorded by two publications, The Pittsburg Literary Gazette, Vol 1, Aug. 4, 1828, and in the Masonic Souvenir, July 1828.

There are still many who believe Bro. Thomas Jefferson was not a Master Mason, I disagree with their view. When one considers all the Masonic documentation available, the Masonic influence of our country's most precious documents, it is difficult to refute Bro. Jefferson's engrossment in the Craft. Even the United States' Printing Office has several publications which list the Presidents of the United States; in which Bro. Jefferson is listed as a Master Mason.

## Quote of the Month

Bro. Oscar Wilde



"If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well. If it is worth having, it is worth waiting for. If it is worth attaining, it is worth fighting for. If it is worth experiencing, it is worth putting aside time for."

— Bro. Oscar Wilde



# The Birth of American Freemasons

In mid of the controversy with Freemasons in Europe, it is no wonder we would seek out friendlier shores among the new colonies. In the 1700s, Freemasons migrated to America with other colonists and established lodges in Boston and Philadelphia, but these lodges remained under the control of an English Provincial Grand Master. In 1731, Benjamin Franklin joined the Philadelphia lodge, and became its Master three years later. George Washington was initiated as a Freemason in 1752.



As our nation prepared to cast off the shackles of English rule, Freemasons were reportedly stirring the fire of revolution. It is speculated, Freemasons were among the dozens of men who, dressed as Native Americans, boarded three British ships in Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773 and cast hundreds of crates of the king's tea into the water, setting off the American Revolution. Whether Freemasons actually were involved in the Boston Tea Party is a matter of speculation, but there is no doubt our brothers were among the bold signers of the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution.

At the end of the Revolution, American Freemason lodges separated from British forebears and were reorganized under individual state Grand Lodges. These lodges never centralized under any formal authority, but we recognized each other as mutual fraternities. Two different forms of Masonry came to life in America; the Scottish Rite (following English traditions), and the York Rite (following French traditions).



At the turn of the 20th century, the Freemasons were 860,000 members strong. By the 1930s, there were more than two million Masons in the United States, and our numbers continued to grow.

## Joke of the Month



A man was checking into a small hotel on the outskirts of town when he saw a sign on the wall which read,

"HIRAM LODGE, Meetings every Wednesday at 7PM."

The man said to the lady at the front desk, "I wonder what they do in there. Do you think they'd ever let me join?"

"I don't think so."

"Well why not?"

"I don't know. That guy there," she said pointing at the man sitting outside the door, "has been knocking on the door for weeks and they won't let him in."

- Unknown

## Friends of the Temple

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Fax: 301-762-8847

E-mail: [info@alqcpa.com](mailto:info@alqcpa.com) • [www.alqcpa.com](http://www.alqcpa.com)

## Nobles Ill or Homebound

Call our Brother, they are eager to hear from you.  
If you know of a Noble in this condition, please let us know at: 202.898.1688



### Paul Adams

2101 Deyerle Ave. No. 318  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
540.333.5822

### Scott Miskovic

Summit Place Assisted Living  
491 Highway 17, No. 29566  
Little River, SC 29566  
843.658.5554

## LIVING PAST POTENTATES



1982 Donald P. McDade  
1995 Charles W. Corey, III  
1998 Grant R. Berning  
1999 Ralph F. Connolly  
2000 William M. Lanham  
2001 Anthony S. Murray  
2002 Donald M. Holliday, Sr.  
2003 David W. Finn  
2004 Kenneth J. Collins  
2006 Lonnie L. Ramos  
2007 Jeffrey G. Bodie  
2009 Donald R. Ferguson, Sr.

2010 Paul Friedlander  
2011 Alan L. Gordon  
2012 Ricardo Rodriguez Kroger  
2013 Rick Hall  
2014 John R. Garrison  
2015 Luis G. Cisneros  
2016 Fred W. Evans  
2017 Michael A. Gordon  
2018 Jeffrey D. Holt  
2019 Frank Ireton



# ALMAS SHRINER'S DIRECTORY

## ELECTED DIVAN/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GEORGE PEREZ .....202-999-0327  
Potentate george-perez@outlook.com

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Chief Rabban embcamera@aol.com

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Treasurer almas@michaelgordon.com

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Recorder dferguson@almasshriners.org

## MEMBERSHIP

Derek M. Rivas, Chairman .....202-880-9733  
Scott Farrell .....662-889-9221  
Geoff Newman .....301-452-5841

## POTENTATE'S ADVISORS

Fred W. Evans, P.P.  
Melvin E. Harrison  
Edwin J. Whitcomb

## FINANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mike Gordon, P.P. Chairman  
Fred W. Evans, P.P.  
Geoffrey Newman

## APPOINTED DIVAN

DEREK M. RIVAS.....757-632-8647  
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Chaplain senicajgb@comcast.net

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FRANK IRETON, P.P. ....301-254-5893  
Lt. Colonel of the Units fireton@mac.com

## EMERITUS MEMBERS

Raymond F. McMullen .....Recorder  
George E. Whetzel .....Recorder  
Anthony S. Murray, P.P. ....Trustee  
Melvin E. Harrison .....Treasurer  
Alan L. Gordon, P.P. ....Treasurer

# ALMAS SHRINER'S DIRECTORY

## COMMITTEES

100 Million Dollar Club, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. ....	202-898-1688
50 Year Members & Past Potentate's Lunch, .....	202-999-0327
By Laws, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. ....	202-898-1688
Children's Holiday Party, George Perez .....	202-999-0327
Custodian of Candidates, William M. Lanham, P.P. ....	301-622-0492
Endowment, Wills & Gifts, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P., .....	202-898-1688
Financial Oversight & Real Estate, Michael A. Gordon, P.P. ....	817-366-6377
Golf Tournament, Anthony S. Murray, P.P. ....	301-648-0800
Hospital Representative, Paul Friedlander, P.P. ....	301-949-6211
International Member Relations, Michael A. Gordon, P.P. ....	817-366-6377
Installation, Anthony S. Murray, P.P. ....	301-648-0800
Potentate's Tea, George Perez .....	202-999-0327
Memorial Service, Walter Simon & Jeffery D. Bodie, P.P. ....	301-318-2485
Potentate's Ball, George Perez .....	202-999-0327
Public Relations, Lawrence S. Farrell .....	662-889-9221
Photographer, Larry Villegas-Perez .....	202-421-4652
Sick & Shut-In, Bruce D. French .....	301-942-0364

## UNIT HEADS

Clowns, Walter F. Simon (Director) .....	301-318-2485
Greeters, Alan L. Gordon, P.P. ....	301-570-8865
Legion of Honor, Scott Jacobs (Commander) .....	443-878-2042
Motor Corps, Eddie Dixon (Director) .....	301-254-2087
Provost Guard, Fred W. Evans, P.P. ....	301-460-1982

## CLUB HEADS

Cast, Jean Paul Dongmo (Director) .....	240-375-4581
Cabiri, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. (President) .....	202-898-1688
Northwest-BCC Shrine Club, George Stokals, Jr. (President) .....	202-256-7448
Peruvian Shrine Club, Jose Boggio (President) .....	703-930-4007
Southeast Shrine Club, Fred W. Evans, P.P. (President) .....	301-460-1982
Shepherds Club, Carlos Landazuri (President) .....	703-282-7612
Yacht Club, Jesse Villarreal (Commodore) .....	703-282-6366
Club Shriners del Uruguay	
Alfonso Manuel Perez Cobas (President) .....	aperezcobas@gmail.com
Club Shriners Brazil-ES, Brazil	
Eduardo Antonio Bertacchi Uvo (President) .....	5527-99874930
Almas Brasilia Shriners Club	
Germano Cesar de Oliveira .....	germanocesar@hotmail.com
Austria Shrine Club, Johannes Kollar (President)	
UK Shrine Club,	

## INSURANCE ADVISORY

Scott Wallace, Chairman  
Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P.,  
Donald M. Holliday, Sr. P.P.,  
Alan L. Gordon, P.P.,

## JURISPRUDENCE AND LAW

Donald Hadley, Temple Attorney

## WAREHOUSE

Paul Friedlander, P.P. Manager  
Frank Ireton, P.P. Asst. Manager

## SPHINX CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melvin E. Harrison,  
President

Bruce McMullen,  
Vice President

Richard E. Hassler,  
2nd Vice President

Mike Gordon, P.P.

William D. Hines

George Perez, Potentate

George Stoklas, Chief Rabban

Alan L. Gordon, P.P., Treasurer

Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P.,  
Secretary

# Petition for Initiation and Membership

## *Almas Shriners*

To the Potentate, Officers and Nobles of Almas Shriners, situated in the Oasis of Washington, Desert of the District of Columbia: I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am a Master Mason in good standing in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge # \_\_\_\_\_ Located in \_\_\_\_\_. Which is a lodge recognized by or in amity with the conference of Grand Masters of North America. Furthermore, I have resided at my current address for not less than six (6) months, as required by the By-Laws of Shriners International. I respectfully pray that I may be made a Noble of the Mystic Shrine and become a member of your Temple. If I am found worthy and my request granted, I promise to conform to the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of Shriners International and the By-Laws and Ceremonies of your Temple.

Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever a DeMolay? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what was the Chapter Name and Location? \_\_\_\_\_

Profession or Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously applied for admission to any Temple of the Order? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, to what Temple? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Residence Address:**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Business Address:**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hat Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Initials are not sufficient)

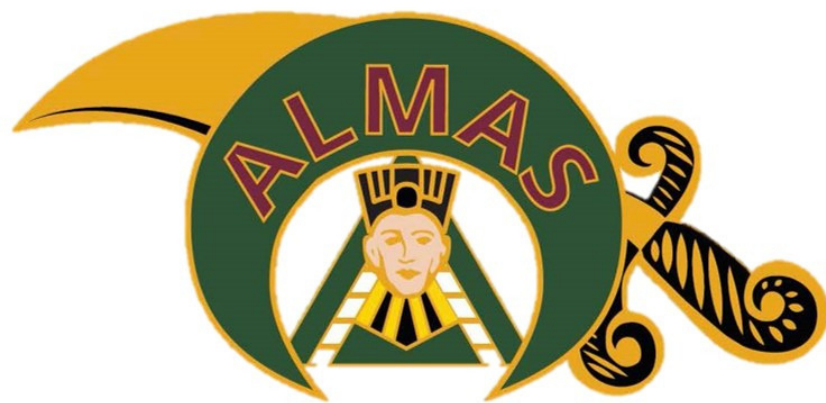
### **Recommended and vouched for on the honor of:**

Noble: \_\_\_\_\_ Shrine # \_\_\_\_\_  
Noble: \_\_\_\_\_ Shrine# \_\_\_\_\_



**Almas Alibi**  
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# **Almas Alibi**

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**Almas Temple Chartered June 14, 1886**  
**134 Years of Service**