

MAY 2020

ISSUE 4 - VOLUME 95

ALMAS

ALIBI

**MASONS SUPPORTING
CHILDREN**

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almasshriners.org

FROM THE POTENTATES'S DESK

National Day of Prayer



Nobles,

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

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It is a day which transcends differences, bringing together people from all backgrounds. The National Day of Prayer is a significant part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Ill. Bro. Harry S. Truman.

In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

The past few weeks, our country was both separated and united. Each of us experienced this situation in mostly the same way. We have been isolating ourselves and family, have designated one individual to travel for provisions in order to minimize exposure, and all have sat in front of the TV hoping for a resolution and return to normalcy. Unfortunately, COVID-19, as with the flu will remain as part of our normal lives after the pandemic is controlled.

This unseen enemy ravaged our homeland with illness and death resulting in a new or renewed prospective on how we lead our lives and protect our loved ones. As family should be the utmost important care in our lives let's not forget those brethren who may be less fortunate than us and traveling alone, for today, he may be in need. I thank the Grand Architect for my wife every day. While the thought of spending an occasional day alone was attractive, I cannot imagine what it would be like not to interact with anyone for the last few weeks. This realization struck me two weeks into the "Stay-At-Home" order. During the pre-virus life, I would not concern myself if I hadn't seen a brother at a Masonic meeting.

FROM THE POTENTATES'S DESK

It was not unusual for any of us to miss a meeting. Not a big deal, I would think most often, I'll see him tomorrow or later in the week at another function. There was always time I thought for conversation later. But some of us are not so fortunate to have another person sharing the same roof. A person he can talk, watch tv, and share a meal with. We are all experiencing the results of this pandemic, but none will feel it harsher, then a brother facing this alone. While it is not the same as a face-to-face interaction, I ask each of you to please, find the time to reach out and call a brother you may know in this situation and feed his spirit. This small gesture will mean the world to a lonely brother. This short conversation will be more gratefully received then any banquet at King Solomon's temple.




Join me in prayer that this too will pass and we, as brothers and countrymen, will be stronger for it. Stay safe, keep all others safe, and we all will meet at home soon.

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



ALMAS SHRINERS BUSINESS COMMUNICATION




GEORGE E. PEREZ
POTENTATE

MAY 7, 2020
7:30 PM GAVEL
VIRTUAL MEETING
VIA ZOOM

THE MEETING INFORMATION AND
LINK WILL BE EMAILED.

ATTEST



DONALD R. FERGUSON
SR. P.P.
RECORDER

Harry S. Truman

President



MWB Harry S. Truman was a statesman who served as our 33rd President; taking the office upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. A World War I Veteran, MWB Truman assumed the presidency during the waning months of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War.

MWB Truman is known as one of the most dedicated men to have joined our Crafts ranks. He was a member of a number of Masonic Orders, often while serving in the role of United States Senator, Vice President, and even while serving as the President.

He received his Entered Apprentice Degree at Belton Lodge No. 450 in Belton, Missouri on February 9, 1909.

He had entered the Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection and Chapter Rose Croix in Kansas City in 1912 and completed the Scottish Rite Degrees in 1917 before going on active duty. He was honored by being coroneted as a 33° Honorary, in October, 1945.

In 1919, through the York Rite, MWB Truman received the Chapter and Council degrees in Kansas City. In 1923, he was also honored as a Knight Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine in Mary Conclave, Kansas City.

MWB Truman was created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Ararat Temple, Kansas City in 1917. He served as Orator of the Temple in 1933 and Second Ceremonial Master in 1934. After his election to the United States Senate that year, he had to resign from the divan line due to his Grand Lodge and official duties.

He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master and Lecturer for the newly formed 59th Masonic District in 1925, serving until 1930. Shortly after this, he entered the Missouri Grand Lodge line and served the state as Grand Master in 1940-41. He was only the second Masonic President to serve as a Grand Master.

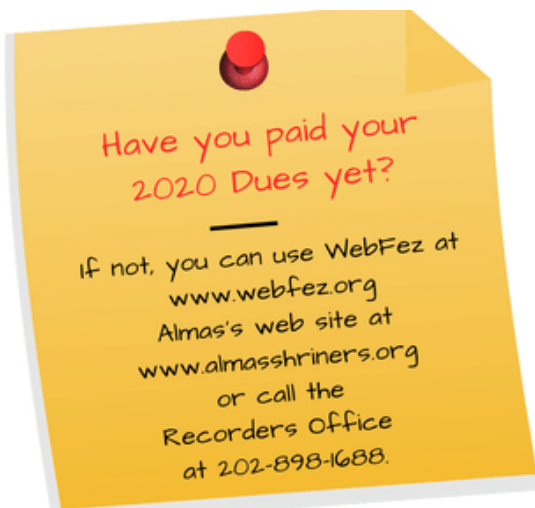
It was during MWB Truman's term that the Missouri Lodge of Research was reorganized. He served as Master of that Lodge in 1950, while he was President.

Harry S. Truman

President

On December 26, 1972, MWB Harry S. Truman died at 88 years of age. The last rites took place on December 28, 1972 mainly from the stage of the auditorium of the Harry S. Truman Library. It is the right of every Mason to have a Masonic service. But, this was not to be. Despite his wishes, the protocol which takes place with the death of a President didn't allow a Masonic funeral service.

The Masonic portion of his service was limited to five minutes. And, he was almost even deprived of that. MWB W. Hugh McLaughlin was told he would be limited to five minutes for his presentation to a nationwide television audience. The Grand Master was given an enormous task which he did in the time allotted. Many of the important points covered in the last rites of the Masonic Fraternity were woven into MWB McLaughlin's address. It has been said, that MWB Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, would have been pleased.



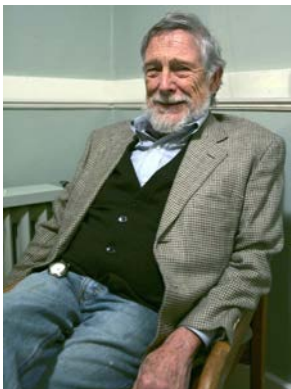
The Almas Transportation Fund

If you know of a friend or family member who has a birthday or some special occasion coming along, think of a donation in their honor. We will be very happy to receive this kind donation and acknowledge everyone for their generosity.

Thank you in advance for helping the children of the Shrine Hospital system.

Quote of the Month

Thomas Pynchon



The magic in these Masonic rituals is very, very old. And way back in those days, it worked. As time went on, and it started being used for spectacle, to consolidate what were only secular appearances of power, it began to lose its zip. But the words, moves, and machinery have been more or less faithfully carried down over the millennia, through the grim rationalizing of the World, and so the magic is still there, though latent, needing only to touch the right sensitive head to reassert itself.

~ Thomas Pynchon

Loyalty Day

The holiday was first observed in 1921, during the First Red Scare. Originally called "Americanization Day," it was intended to replace the May 1 ("May Day") celebration of the International Workers' Day.

Loyalty Day was first celebrated in the 1920's. Communism was on the rise, and dreaded in United States. At the time, May Day (May 1st) was perceived by some citizens as a Communist holiday. Loyalty Day was intended to counter this sentiment.

The United States was founded by patriots who risked their lives to bring freedom to the nation. We remember our nation's founders on Loyalty Day, which is a day when people celebrate their freedom while remembering their responsibilities to continue the inheritance of liberty.



On this day, we have an opportunity to reaffirm our loyalty to our country. In proclaiming this day, President George W. Bush wrote: "We express allegiance to our Nation and its founding ideals, we resolve to ensure that the blessings of liberty endure and extend for generations to come." We should also take a moment to appreciate the members of our armed forces who are displaying the ultimate in loyalty and service to protect our freedoms and liberty, and our way of life.

On May 1, 1930, around 10,000 Veterans of Foreign War staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted on May 1, 1949, it evolved into Loyalty Day.

Observances began on April 28, 1950, and peaked on May 1, when more than five million people across our nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for the United States of America.

The U.S. Congress designated this an official holiday on July 18, 1958 with the signing of Public Law 85-529. Then President Ill. Bro. Dwight D. Eisenhower, proclaimed May 1, 1959 the first official observance of Loyalty Day.

Pandemic Tales

So, my fiancé, Jennifer, has been working from home now for six weeks. About three weeks ago, we made an urgent trip to Towson, MD to pick up PPE for her rehabilitation therapists in skilled nursing facilities that she oversees. Well, halfway there she looks down and busts out laughing, realizing she still had her Ugg fuzzy topped house shoes on. We got the PPE and then delivered it to two buildings in Philadelphia that were not able to acquire any supplies.



We had a good laugh and I told her that it was ridiculous... I told her this working from home has got to stop soon. She cracks me up. I am very thankful for our time together; as this is a silver lining during this pandemic.

Scott Farrell

I discovered early on the best time to go food shopping and avoid both people and reduce the risk of infection was at 5:00am. This one particular morning, the supermarket had opened late and instituted a one-way aisle travel policy which was clearly indicated by large arrows stickers on the floor. This was to encourage social distancing and create efficient travel throughout the store.



I was nearly done with the list provided to me by my wife (with strict instructions on NOT to deviate from the list); of course, being the good husband that I am, I mostly obeyed the directive. I say mostly because under normal circumstances I would just buy the products on the list and head back to the safety of our home. Unfortunately, this time, I was craving potato chips and figured a few bags wouldn't hurt my waistline. I left my cart to one side and pondered what variety of chips to enjoy. A couple entered the aisle. I didn't think much of it as it is, a supermarket and they probably figured out the ease of shopping during this time. They appeared to be in their sixties and were about

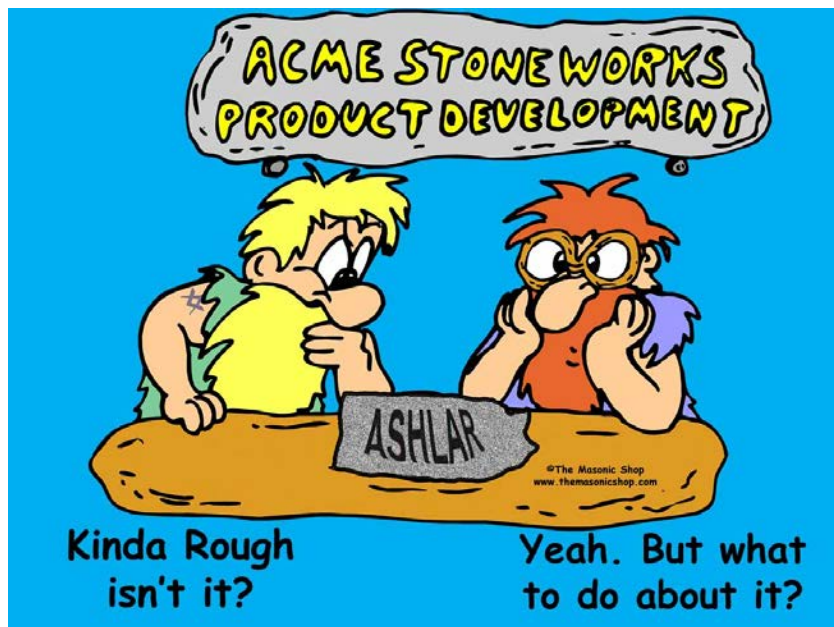
Pandemic Tales

fifty feet from me. She was about five feet tall and he towered over her at about six two. I made my selection and turned back to walk the five or so feet back to my cart when a shriek came out from the direction of the couple. I stopped, thinking something terrible was happening and someone was being attacked. When I looked in the direction of the couple, the woman was yelling at me that I was violating the social distancing directive and going in the wrong direction of the arrows. She continued yelling and pointing to the floor. At times, I could not hear her clearly as she appeared to have more than one mask over her face. I pointed to my cart, which was now at arm's length and tried to explain I just wanted my cart. The yelling continued as other customers came to look at what the racket was all about. I guess, like a car accident, people still feel the need to see what is happening and if there are injuries involved.

At this point, I secured possession of my cart and began to make my way down the aisle in the correct direction. I looked at her husband, he was wearing a mask too, but he had stopped and distanced himself from the yelling. As the looky-loos peaked around the entrance of the aisle, he pretended to be looking for that elusive snack he had been craving.

I was not sure if he was that shade of bright red when he entered the aisle; and the mask was not helping to conceal it either. Though I did notice he was in the nut section of the snack aisle; I hope he found some less salty than his wife.

George
Perez



WANTED

A FEW KLOWNS IN FUNNY COSTUME TO ENTERTAIN CHILDREN AND LOVE BEING FUNNY.

PARTICIPATE IN PARADES AND ALMAS TEMPLE ACTIVITIES.

SHOW YOUR INNER AND OUTER SELVES AND MAKE CHILDREN AND ADULTS SMILE.

DRIVE THE KLOWN FIRE ENGINE OR BE A HOSE MEN.

CONTACT WALTER SIMON,
WEIRD WALLY
AT 301-318-2685

Joke of the Month



A recently raised Master Mason applied for a job and knowing his prospective boss to be a prominent Mason he made sure to wear his square and compass cuff links. When he arrived at the interview, he approached his interviewer in the regular manner and proceeded to shake hands (yes with THAT handshake).

After an hour or so (with the candidate dropping numerous Masonic references) the prospective boss asked if he were to be offered the job, what package would he expect. Our candidate, now feeling very confident said that he would like \$200,000 and five weeks of annual leave.

His interviewer replied, "We'll halve it and you begin."

-- Unknown

Friends of the Temple

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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

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Recorder dferguson@almasshriners.org

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Scott Farrell662-889-9221
Geoff Newman301-452-5841

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Melvin E. Harrison
Edwin J. Whitcomb

FINANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

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

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

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George E. WhetzelRecorder
Anthony S. Murray, P.P.Trustee
Melvin E. HarrisonTreasurer
Alan L. Gordon, P.P.Treasurer

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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

Klowns, 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,	

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Donald M. Holliday, Sr. P.P.,
Alan L. Gordon, P.P.,

JURISPRUDENCE AND LAW

Donald Hadley, Temple Attorney

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

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George Stoklas, Chief Rabban

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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# _____

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Almas Alibi

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Almas Temple Chartered June 14, 1886
134 Years of Service