

# Freedom Lodge No. 118

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia

<https://FreedomLodge118.org/>

*The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia*

Stated Communication – First Friday

Dinner at 7:00p, Lodge at 8:00p

DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 2023, NUMBER 12

## 2023 Officers

### Worshipful Master

Philip Brooks  
405 Greear Place  
Herndon, VA 20170  
BrooksPJBE@aol.com

### Senior Warden

Matthew Duley

### Junior Warden

Wes Hirschhorn

### Treasurer

Dave Kirk

### Secretary

Mark Canter

### Senior Deacon

Bill Hohl

### Junior Deacon

Brad Westerman

### Chaplain

Harris McGarrah

### Tiler

Greg Valker

Freedom Lodge  
P.O. Box 293  
Lovettsville, VA  
20180

Brethren –

Welcome to the last Trestleboard of 2023! I've served six terms as Worshipful Master across three Lodges dating back to 2011. Publishing a monthly Trestleboard is far and away the most difficult piece of work to be accomplished in my view as Master of a Lodge. What to say, what words to use, did I run the spell checker, what did I forget to include, who did I forget to thank? I'm looking forward to retiring from this particular aspect of the job!

Congratulations to Most Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis on being elected and installed at Grand Lodge to lead Virginia Masonry for the upcoming year. I know Brother Jack to be a man of wonderful character and moral fiber. I am excited to see where he leads us next year. His personal representative to District 2 is Right Worshipful Brother Jason Wolfe of Hamilton-Thompson Lodge. Congratulations Brother Jason. We look forward to your help next year.

Also at Grand Lodge, Freedom was recognized as a recipient of the "Building Bridges" Award for YOUR work providing acts of philanthropy during 2023. We're continuing that with that sentiment by again supporting the Toys for Tots campaign. Please consider bringing a NEW, UNWRAPPED toy to donate a child in need to our December Stated.



Back at Freedom, we had an outstanding social at Catocin Creek Distillery. Brothers, friends, and family members were treated to a terrific program on the 400-year history of rye whisky making in the US. We bottled an entire barrel (about 80 bottles) of rye and got to sample the goods after the work was completed. It was a grand time!



Mid-month Freedom initiated a new member. This was only the second degree conferred by Freedom in 2023 as the state wide one-day conferral usurped much of the regular degree work. In 2024 I hope we get back to conferring more degrees in house.

Closing thoughts on 2023. It was, to say the least, a challenging year. I'd like to thank the Brethren at Freedom for their kindness and support throughout out the year. There was wonderful fellowship, the addition of several new members, thoughtful guest speakers, terrific socials, successful fundraisers, but also some heartfelt loses. The common underlying thread to everything at Freedom this past year was the energy, desire, compassion, and willingness of Freedom's members. That's the thing that makes Freedom special.




I look forward to what 2024 holds for Freedom. The Lodge is in good hands. But those hands will always perform better with your support.

Looking forward seeing you in Lodge.

*Sincerely and Fraternally*  
*Philip Brooks*

He who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.

- **Aeschylus**

<p><b><u>December Masonic Birthdays</u></b></p> <p style="color: blue;">Joe Evans, 1974 Fred George, 1986 Axel Alanis, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RRRRGGHHH</p> 	<p><b><u>Mark Your Calendar</u></b></p> <p>Dec 1 – Lodge Stated – Elections and Installation of Officers</p> 	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Most Worshipful</b> Jack Kayle Lewis Grand Master Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. &amp; A.M. <a href="https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org">https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org</a></p>
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**DECEMBER 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 New Year's Eve					1 <b>FREEDOM STATED</b> Dinner @7 Lodge @8	2 Santa visit to Bluemont Fire Hall
3 Herndon OES Christmas Party	4	5	6	7	8	9 Herndon Installation
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30

More Info at <https://freedonlodge118.org/>

