

The Cabletow

The Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines



THE RACE IS ON

2015 JGW BETS

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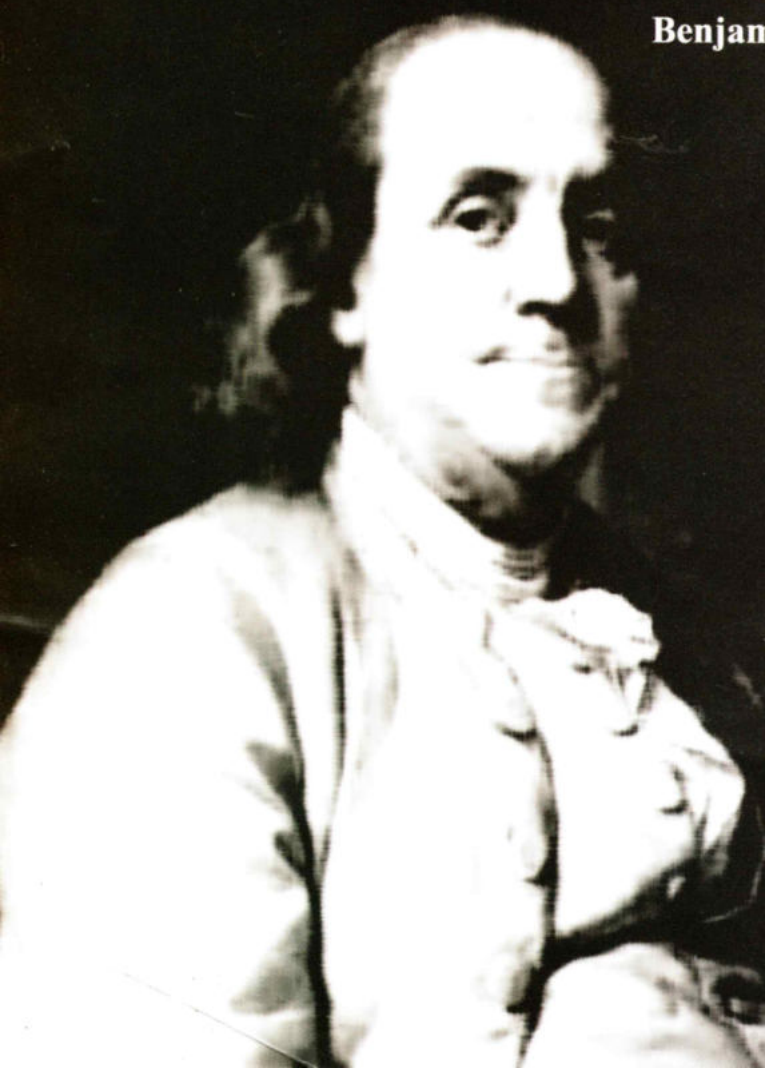
NOV & DEC

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- + Inauguration of the IMES Regional Center

"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

Benjamin Franklin





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The Cabletow

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The Cabletow

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Wanted: The right three lights of a Masonic Lodge

By Roberto C. Rebodos, PM

In our Lodge stated meeting in December, we elect the three Lights of our Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year. These three lights are the Master of the Lodge, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden.

What kind of three Lights of the Lodge do we want?

As for me, the three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who can give the "light" – the "light" which I replied to the Conferring Masters of the Lodge when they asked me

"Being in the condition of darkness, what do you most desire?" in my initiation as an Entered Apprentice Mason, in my passing as a Fellow Craft Mason, and in my raising as a Master Mason.

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I like are those who can put to deeds the obligations they took at the Masonic altar when they were initiated as Entered Apprentice Masons, passed as Fellow Craft Masons, and raised as Master Masons.

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who can perform their duties as mandated by the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, revised in 1994, updated in 2005, pages 78-80.

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who can perform the Charges given to them in their installations to their positions.

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who can show to their Brethren the performance of their duties that are

stated in the Monitor which are recited during the Opening and Closing of every Lodge meeting.

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who can live up to the Biblical verse, *"Whoever is chief among you shall be your servant."*

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who can preach Masonry by deeds, not by words.

The three Lights of the Lodge whom I want are those who are Freemasons for Freemasonry.

Brethren we call ourselves Freemasons.

But, what, what kind of Freemasons are we?

Are we Freemasons for Freemasonry?

Are we Freemasons for Convenience?

Are we Freemasons for Mercenary Purposes?

To show what kind of Freemasons we are, in the election of the three Lights of our Lodge during its Stated Meeting in December, let us elect those who we believe can meet the qualifications stated above, those who can preach Freemasonry by deeds, fulfilling by their acts the Charge given to us as a Mason, as a Citizen, as an Individual when we were initiated as Entered Apprentice Mason and proving that they are Freemasons for Freemasonry.

Please join me in saving Philippine Masonry from its "grave".

Mabuhay ang Masonerya sa Pilipinas! God bless us all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY 2015 to all! ❧

From the Grand East

By MW Alan LM Purisima
Grand Master



Christmas: A time to reflect and to hope . . .

Evidently, the Christmas season is the most proper time for us to reflect on the significance of the incarnation of Jesus the Christ, messiah, or redeemer. His coming down to earth to redeem humanity from the deadly stranglehold of Satan and his ilk, so to speak, is the first page of the beautiful love story between God and man's soul or spirit, which is described in our Monitor as *"the inspiration of that great Divinity whom we adore, and bears the nearest resemblance or affinity to that Supreme Intelligence which pervades all nature, which will never, never, never die...."*

The Christmas season is also a time for us to renew, if not increase, our determination to transform ourselves into spiritual temples fit for the Great Architect of the Universe to dwell in -- or, as the Lord Jesus phrased it, *"to become perfect as my Father who is in heaven is perfect."*

The Christmas season is, moreover, a time for us to renew, if

not strengthen, our resolve to help Masonry build up its symbolic temple of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity in the hearts of men and in the souls of nations so as to give due meaning and substance to the ministry of Jesus the Christ or Messiah, which culminated in his crucifixion and death on Mount Golgotha and by which he showed his great love for the human family, the Father of which is also his own Father, who is in heaven.

The Christmas season is, furthermore, a time for us to hope that our ancient and honorable fraternity will soon attain its long-term goal, which is to bring about, to use an expression coined by Ill. Joseph Fort Newton, 33°, *"a universal league of mankind"* -- or, more commonly, to establish upon earth a veritable brotherhood of men of different colors, creeds, and conditions under the Fatherhood of God.

The Christmas season is, therefore, an opportune time for us

to enhance our resolve to pursue the tenets or principles of our ancient and honorable fraternity with much zeal, enthusiasm, and vigor, with the hope eternally springing in our breasts that we will, in a large measure, help in the eventual realization of the very purpose of humanity dictated by God, which is the universal peace and harmony among His creatures.

The Christmas season is, in other words, a very appropriate time for us to practice, perhaps more earnestly than ever before, our Craft's priceless principles of brotherly love, relief (or service), and truth. This we must do; for, ironically, men have forgotten why the Son of God became incarnate and underwent the supreme sacrifice of dying on the cross. Indeed, we humans seem to have forgotten that we are all children of one almighty and all-loving Parent and inhabitants of the same planet; for, instead of aiding, supporting, and protecting one another, we continue to be inhuman one to another. Apparently, we have lost sight of the all-important truth that the hurt of just one human being is the injury of all humanity. This is, in a sense, the "lost word," which we, as children of God, must recover.

Aware of all this, Freemasonry has as its principal purpose *"to create in the world a band of men to whom others might look for example and inspiration – men who others will say are men of honor, virtue, and charitable feelings."* To attain this purpose, it has urged its votaries to found in every country or clime Symbolic Lodges, each of which is to become *"a sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no conten-*

tion should ever exist but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."

Hence, the continuing mission of each Symbolic Lodge is to make good men increasingly better.

Yes, it is the duty of the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, assisted by the other officers thereof, to initiate, pass, and raise men who are adequately motivated to develop themselves to their highest potential, or to attain self-mastery; for unless they have mastered themselves, their influence over other men would not bring any good result. It is the responsibility of the officers, particularly the Lights, to manage the various concerns of their Lodge with much skill and assiduity in order to enhance its honor, reputation and usefulness.

Masonic history informs us that in different countries and climes, Freemasonry established Grand Lodges, each of which is sovereign and the highest officer of which is a Grand Master, who, with the active assistance of other Grand Line officers, both elected and appointed, supervises the Lodges under its jurisdiction.

In due time, owing to the tremendous increase in the number of Lodges in its jurisdiction, Grand Lodge created Masonic Districts, each of which is headed by a District Deputy Grand Master, who is, in turn, assisted by other District officers. Grand Lodge and its constituent Districts and subordinate Lodges compose the Craft.

Subsequently, Masonic leaders made the Craft a stronger family by appending to it two Rites, the

Scottish and the York, which confer additional degrees designed to make Master Masons understand Freemasonry more deeply as a philosophy of life relationships.

Succeeding Freemasons founded Allied Orders like the Amaranth, Eastern Star, Job's Daughter, Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay, and thereby made the Masonic Fraternity or Family by far bigger and stronger than before.

Other Freemasons later on formed different side organizations or clubs like the Royal Order of Scotland, the Shriners International, the Order of the Secret Monitor, and many others. As a result, Freemasonry has become not only the oldest but the biggest fraternity or family that has ever graced the annals of the world's history.

Since we constitute such a big fraternity or family, we members of the Craft and those of the Appendant Bodies, Allied Orders, and side Masonic clubs or organizations endeavor most earnestly to work together as a great team of players, all of whom are disinterestedly dedicated and devoted to pleasing one another and uniting in the grand design of promoting happiness -- not only our own happiness and that of our worldwide fraternity or family but the happiness of other men and that of all mankind as well. All of us exert all-out effort to fulfill our threefold pledge, namely, to learn the Fraternity's simple lessons of practical morality and sublime teachings of religious philosophy, to persistently practice them in daily life in order that we will serve as example and inspiration to others, and to disseminate

them as widely as we can among other men, so that they, too, will exalt or ennoble themselves.

Indeed, in addition to continuously improving ourselves toward becoming Inward Masters, we initiates of Freemasonry must strive hard to help improve the world around us, particularly the communities we are living in, by both precept and example, as well as through charitable or benevolent work.

In this jurisdiction, as subordinate Lodges and Masonic Districts, we work quite hard to improve the lives of others through our various charities, such as scholarship program; adopt-a-school program; feeding-of-children program; caring-for-the-aged program; community outreach projects like medical-dental missions; giving relief to victims of natural calamities; livelihood program; and so forth.

The Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI), the Mabuhay and the Agila Shriners, and the Philippine Balanghay Association focus their attention on providing crippled, burned, harelipped, and other physically handicapped children with much-needed medical care and assistance. Other Masonic bodies or groups extend material and other kinds of assistance to the economically disadvantaged in Philippine society in order to help alleviate their afflictions or sufferings. All these benevolent or charitable projects and programs are an exemplification of the principles of Brotherly Love and Relief (or Service). Hence, they are worthy of praise or deserving of commendation particularly by the leaders of the Craft and those of

the other segments of our Fraternity or Family.

But, of course, we must ever bear in mind that charity begins at home, or that we must start our charitable or benevolent work at our own homes. This work consists in strengthening the bond that exists among members of our own families, so that these will serve as example for the other families in the community to emulate.

As Filipino citizens, we must never forget that the family is the most important and fundamental unit, as well as the primal source of the social and moral strength of our society. Instead, we must ever remember that the stronger our families are, the stronger our local communities or barangays can be; the stronger our local communities or barangays are, the stronger and more developed our nation can become; and the stronger and more developed our nation becomes, the more able it will be to participate on free and equal terms with other nations in the high enterprise of attaining human solidarity and therefore in the realization of the God-dictated purpose of humanity specified earlier.

Clearly, Freemasonry wants us, its initiates, to be exemplary in the discharge of our duties and responsibilities as family men. We must provide members of our respective families with a high quality of living and with a strong sense of security, as well as spend quality time with them each day. As we are taught in Masonry, if we do not spend quality time with members of our respective families, we are not real men. Aware that it is within the family that traditions

take root, individuals grow, and faith is nurtured, we must be so sincerely "present" to the members of our own families each day as to provide them not only with the feeling that we truly care for, sincerely love, adequately protect, and correctly guide them, but also with a sense of belonging to families they are justifiably proud of. Aware that it is within the family that individuals develop their basic moral or ethical values, we must imbue members of our own families, by both precept and example, with the ideals, principles, and values we have learned in Freemasonry.

To exhibit ourselves as exemplary family men, as Masonic Districts and as subordinate Lodges, we do organize projects and activities in which we get members of our own families, as well as those of other segments of the Masonic family, actively involved. The more frequently we organize such special events, the more the members of our own families, as well as those of our appendant, allied, and side organizations, feel that they are important to us and therefore will extend their active assistance and sympathy to us in all our Masonic endeavors.

We must, furthermore, extend our active assistance and sympathy to the government, both local and national, in the creation of an environment that perpetuates the importance of the Filipino family; for the cohesion and stability of the Filipino family are imperiled by the pressures of post-modern society, which is becoming increasingly materialistic and hedonistic.

We believe the following paraphrase of a couple of statements of

Pope John Paul II, whom Pope Francis recently canonized, is applicable to the situation of the Craft in this sovereign jurisdiction because the majority of its members are Catholic:

Parents must exert a daily effort to make their family a truly personal community, initiated and fostered by an inner communion of love.... They must strive to make their family a praying community – a community that turns to God, in whom it finds its joy, its strength for difficult moments, the energy it requires to carry out the exalted and difficult mission of fatherhood and motherhood.

Evidently, that is part of the unceasing message of the universal emblem of Masonry, which consists of the Square and the Compasses with the letter G at the center. God is, or should be, the center of the life of every Freemason, whatever his religious faith may be, as well as that of the life of his own family. If every Freemason and the members of his own family make God the center of their life, they will live in love and unity or in peace and harmony; they will work cooperatively to make their family cohesive, stable and closely-knit.

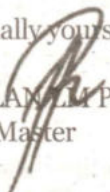
Our living distressed worthy brethren and their families, as well as the widows and orphans of our departed brethren, are an important part of our Masonic Fraternity or Family. In fact, we have sworn, on our honor, to aid and assist them. Clearly, we are

hypocritical and deceitful if we undertake big medical-dental missions, with hundreds or even thousands of indigent beneficiaries, while we neglect our obligation to our living distressed worthy brothers, as well as the widows and orphans of our deceased brethren. We must, therefore, fulfill our obligation to stretch forth our helping hands to raise them up from their distresses or afflictions. *Dapat lang na gampanan natin ang obligasyon na 'yan.*

Unless we members of the Craft and those of the different appendant bodies, allied orders, and side Masonic clubs or organizations convince the non-Masonic world, by our acts, that we are always people who work together in close unity and harmony toward common goals, solve common problems together, share things with one another in the spirit of sincere love and fellowship, and exhibit our genuine pride in our Masonic Fraternity or Family to one another and to the general public, we cannot help Freemasonry bring about a universal league of mankind – or to establish upon earth a veritable Brotherhood of men of different countries, sects, and opinions under the Fatherhood of God.

Fraternally yours,

MW ALAN L. PURISIMA
Grand Master



Due to press production reasons, the column "From the Table of the Grand Sec" is not printed in this issue. But it will certainly resume in the next January-February 2015 issue. Thank you.

NCR Junior Grand Lecturers backed GM in Msc affairs

Deep in many sizzling national affairs, yet MW Alan LM Madrid Purisima came well represented in a number of Masonic events by the ever reliable NCR (National Capital Region) Junior Grand Lecturers (JGLs).

VW Edwin Costes, JGL, came in place of MW Purisima as Guest of Honor and Speaker to the 11th Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay held in the DeMolay Leader-

hip Center at the GLP, Manila, on November 8.

Again, he stood as proxy to the Grand Master for the Wreath-Laying Ceremony in the Andres Bonifacio Shrine at Taft Avenue, Manila, on November 30.

Another Junior Grand Lecturer, VW Oliver Yabut, represented the Grand Master at the Cornerstone-Laying Ceremony of Silangan Lodge No. 19 held in the afternoon of Monday, November 24. ❏

Bros of Frank Reed Horton 379 gave "light" to Baranggay 893 Zone 99, 6th District of Manila, through "Optical Mission + Childrens Books Donation" project on Nov. 29, 2014.



MLQ 262 holds unique "Oplan Kaluluwa" tomb visits

By Bro. Arnold B. Novicio

Rather than hold an indoor Lodge of Remembrance, the bros of Manuel Luis Quezon Memorial Lodge No. 262 went outdoors on November 1, All Saints' Day, by visiting the actual burial places of departed members situated within the central municipality of Aurora province.

The tomb visits began at 9 a.m. Ten bros, led by WM Isaias A. Noveras, Jr., the lodge's Master, hopped from one cemetery to another, offering brief prayers and a bouquet over each grave and niche.

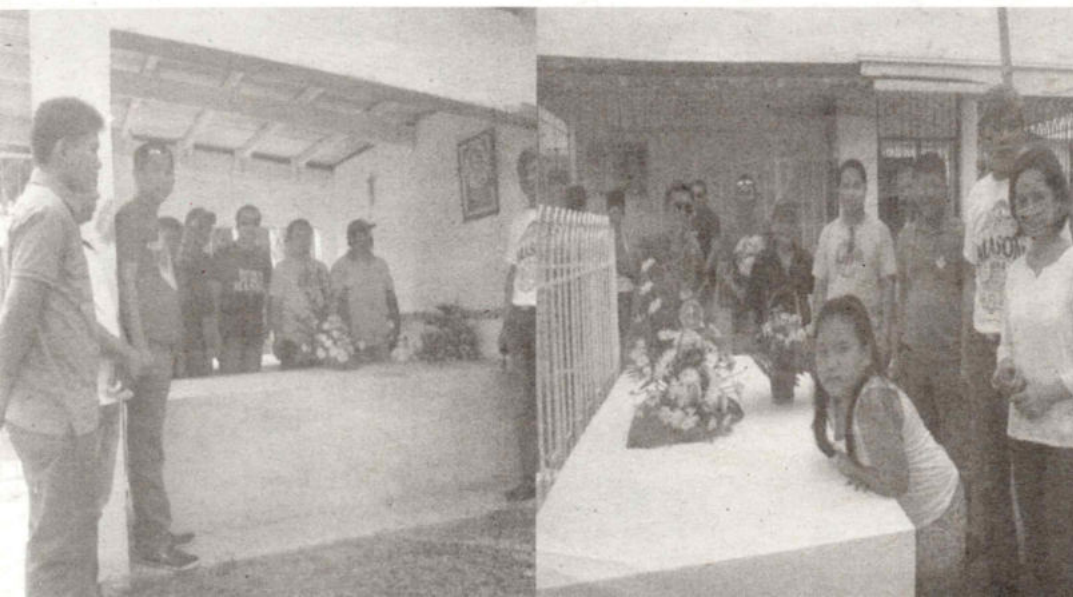
In Baler, the MLQ bros visited the resting places of the late brethren Joselito A. Angara; VW

Romeo Chua; VW Manuel Romero, PDGL; Bro. Ricardo Iglesias; Bro. Angel Mendoza; Bro. Francisco Lega; and Bro. Johny Angara.

In Maria Aurora, they paid respect to the late Bro. Juan A. Noveras III; and in San Luis, to Bro. Ruben A. Aragon.

This special tribute to the dead brethren put the MLQ bros in direct contact with the widows, orphans, and other family members watching over the burial places. Lively conversations were exchanged and not without a gentle tap of consolation and solidarity being part of the closely-knit Masonic family. ❧

Bros of MLQ 262 pray over the tombs of the departed (left) and spare time to chitchat with the families (right).



Aguinaldo 31 turns 100

By Roger J. Camacho, PM

Bros of Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Lodge No. 31 celebrated their lodge's 100th anniversary in the afternoon of December 21 at El Palacio Hotel, situated along the Manila-Cavite Road, in Coastal Bay Subdivision, Noveleta, Cavite.

WM Nathan S. Lim, the lodge's Master, saw the celebrations through a 3-part program backed by Bro. Antonio DC Del Rosario, Jr., Senior Warden; and Bro. Edbert G. Lim, Junior Warden.

Special guest was Hon. Francis Gerald "Blue Boy" A. Abaya, 1st District of Cavite Representative.

MW Alan La Madrid Purisima, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, was Guest of Honor.

A holy mass was held, constituting the first part of the program. The second part kicked off with an invocation led by Past Master Rolando N. Fernandez.

Bro. Del Rosario delivered the welcome address. Awards were handed next to

WBs Rolando N. Fernandez, Jr. and Benedicto F. Pana, Jr.; also, to Bros. Anthony B. Ferrer, Romeo C. Enriquez, and Hernan O. Dagunan.

Congressman Abaya delivered a message. Next, he symbolically turned the lodge's land title, which had been donated earlier to MW Purisima, over to WM Lim.

After introduction, MW Purisima gave his remarks.

Mementos were finally presented to Hon. Abaya and MW Purisima.

The special occasion was capped by a fellowship dinner.

The occasion was graced by the presence of MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH, and GLP Grand Treasurer; VW Jose L. Bautista, Jr., DDGM for Masonic District R4-A-1; VW Domingo M. Mora, DGL; and WI Bienvenido R. Mejia.

Other Masonic dignitaries and brethren from other Lodges also came.

Bro. Carlo M. Bermas and this correspondent emceed the program. ❧

MCCCI boosted by aid from NY cleft surgeons

Efforts by the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI) to help cleft and hairlippped kids were pumped up lately by additional aid from the New York-based Smile Train, Inc.

Smile Train recently granted MCCCI an aid of US\$400.00 for every surgery. It raised MCCCI's chances to gather more beneficiaries.

Smile Train and MCCCI have begun partnership since 2008 with Dr. Zuriel K. Tan, a cosmetic surgeon in Mary Johnston Hospital in Manila.

Backed by Ms. Kimmy Co-seteng-Flaviano, Country Manager for Smile Train, MCCCI and the NY-based surgeons have helped some 33 beneficiaries since October 30, 2014.

...and treated kids to a Christmas bash

The MCCCI took the time off and treated its 51 kiddie beneficiaries to a Christmas Party on December 14 at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall in GLP, Manila.

Ten orthopedic doctors from the UP-Philippine General Hospital (PGH)—MCCCI's partner—grateful parents and the Jollibee mascot came.

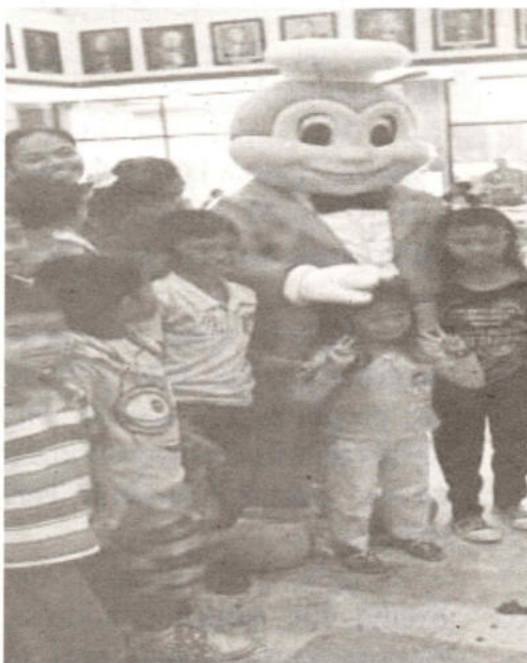
Thomas Cua, friend of VW Dr. Antonio F. Joson, Jr., put up a magic performance.

Bro. Dr. Michael Z. Rivera, MCCCI Medical Director, next gave a warm message.

Lunch was served and gifts were handed out.

VW Antonio F. Joson, Jr. ended the party with a concluding prayer. ❖

The Jollibee mascot brightens up the MCCCI Christmas party.



Circular 15

Proficiency test & seminar for Lights-elect a must

Circular No. 15, issued on November 17, ordered all Masters and Wardens-elect of the Ancient Craft or "Blue" Lodges to pass a proficiency exam prior to Installation to be administered by the District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs).

Titled "Proficiency and Mandatory Written Examination of Masters and Wardens-elect in the Work and Lectures of the Three Degrees, Laws Appertaining to the Government of the Lodge and Mandatory Attendance on Lodge Administration and Management Seminar Prior to Installation," the circular was bent on implementing the Installation requirement stated in Article X, Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Ordinances of the Mason Law Book.

Section a requires all Masters-elect to acquire a proficiency certificate in the works and lectures of the Three Ancient Craft Degrees; the Senior Warden, in the 1st and 2nd Degrees; and the Junior Warden, in the 1st Degree.

Section b instructs all Lights-elect to acquire proficiency in the administration of the lodge, including the Constitution and

General Regulations.

DDGMs must round up the Lights-elect in their respective districts and run the proficiency exams, both oral and written.

Dates suggested were December 27 to 29, 2014 for a morning class on Lodge Administration and Management Seminar); January 3-4, 10, 11-18, 2015 for the afternoon written and mandatory exams.

DDGMs must report to the Senior Grand Lecturer not more than 3 days after compliance.

District Grand Lecturers (DGLs), along with Junior Grand Lecturers (JGLs), must conduct the Lodge Administration seminar and tests with open Masonic Law Book.

Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLIs) must test the Lights-elect on the Opening and Closing of the Lodge; Reception of Dignitaries; Presentation and Retirement of the Flag; and Balloting of Petitioners; and Degree Lectures.

Attendance by all Lights-elect is compulsory. Non-attendance, or failure in the exams, disqualifies any Light from Installation. Test results are not appealable. ❏

Circular 16

Multi-discon sked out

The Grand Master announced the holding of the Multi-district Conventions (multi-discon) around the Philippine Grand Jurisdiction in Circular No. 16 dated November 19.

Seven multi-discons were lined up throughout the grand jurisdiction, from November to February next year, as follows:

- November 29, 2014, Central Luzon. Host: R3-B, Balanga, Bataan. All R3 districts.
- December 6, 2014. Southern Luzon. Host: R4-D, Batangas City (Venue: Camp Crame) All R4 & R5 districts.
- December 13, 2014. Northern Luzon. R2-C, Tuguegarao, Cagayan. All R1, R2 & CAR districts.
- December 19, 2014. National Capital Region (NCR). Host: NCR-C (Venue: Plaridel Masonic Temple) All NCR districts.
- January 3, 2015. Visayas. Host: R7-A, Cebu City. All R6, R7 & R8 districts.
- January 30, 2015. Overseas Districts. Host: Overseas A, Guam. All Overseas (A to E) districts.
- February 7, 2015. Mindanao. Host: R12-B SOCSARGEN. All R9, R10, R11, R12, R13 & ARMM districts.

The multi-discons intend to give the 14 Junior Grand Warden nominees a chance to meet the brethren and air their plans and programs for the Craft.

The nominees are: Northern Luzon—VW Van Cornelius D. Luspo, Baguio Lodge 67, R1 & CAR-B (Baguio & La Union); VW Gualberto E. Agatep, Jr., Gonzaga Lodge 66, R2-C (Cagayan); and VW Angel T. Bacoling, Saranay Lodge 193, R2-D (Isabela); NCR—VW Rudy L. Ong, Labong Lodge 59, NCR-B (Manila); VW Reynato D. Puno, Jr., Hiram 88, NCR-B (Manila); and VW Orlando M. Mabutas, Juan Sumulong 169, NCR-F (Quezon City); Southern Luzon—VW Manuel C. Espiritu, Jr., Tagaytay Lodge 165, R4-A (Cavite); Visayas—VW Elmer C. Balbin, Ernesto Salas Memorial Lodge 280, R6-B (Negros); Mindanao—VW Agustin S. Suan Jr., Macajalar Lodge 184, R9-A (Misamis Oriental); VW Romeo S. Momo, Red Mountain Lodge 241, R13-A (Agusan & Surigao); VW Tomas R. Garcia, Mt. Malindang Lodge 130, R10-C (Misamis Occidental); WB Oscar V. Badelles, Iligan Lodge 207, (R10-D & ARMM Lanao); VW Jose A. Lim III, Sarangani Lodge 90, R11-A (Davao City); and VW Adonis G. Agreda, Koronadal Lodge 209, R12-B (South Cotabato). ❏

PGM Circular No. 1

Eleven stand up for election —and change

Eleven Masons are vying for the Grand South—and the change that the new nomination process will bring.

Past Grand Masters (PGMs), in recent memory, rarely issue edicts of their own. But when they did, the proclamation was unprecedented as the move that ushered it.

On November 18, PGM Circular No. 1 was issued, officially announcing the names of the fourteen (14) brethren who had been nominated to stand election for the Junior Grand Warden post.

Signed by MW Danilo D. An-

geles, Grand Secretary, the circular read:

“For the information of all the members of this Grand Masonic Jurisdiction pursuant to Edict No. 268-A of the rules governing the Election of Junior Grand Warden, are the names of the fourteen (14) brethren namely, (1) VW Rudy L. Ong; (2) VW Reynato D. Puno; (3) VW Orlando M. Mabutas; (4) VW

Van Cornelius D. Luspo; (5) VW Gualberto E. Agatep, Jr.; (6) VW Angel T. Bacoling; (7) VW Manuel C. Espiritu, Jr.; (8) VW Agustin S. Suan Jr.; (9) VW Romeo S. Momo; (10) VW Tomas R. Garcia; (11) WB Oscar V. Badelles; (12) VW Elmer C. Balbin; (13) VW Jose A. Lim III; and (14) VW Adonis G. Agreda, who were initially chosen to be considered by the Past Grand Masters for the position of Junior Grand Warden, their bio-data and their individual programs for the Fraternity may also be published in the next issue of our Cabletow and the website of the Grand Lodge.”

The circular kicked off the race for the 4th highest office in the Craft—but a sure door leading to the Grand East.

The nominees will come along with the Grand Master in his sojourn to the scheduled Multi-District Conventions around the grand jurisdiction beginning on November 29 at Balanga, Bataan.

They will hop into 7 multi-discons until February 7, shaking hands, taking to the stage, and delivering their respective plans and programs for the Craft under time limit.

But the race had hardly taken off when a couple of the nominees began backing out.

WB Badelles submitted his profile to the committee but quit just before the deadline. So did VW Balbin and VW Bacoling.

All the B-surnamed candidates are out, reducing the race to 11 bets.

The GLP has never seen yet

the JGW bets on the stump since 1912. Masonic tradition banks on the close bond prevailing among the bros; hence, affording voters familiarity with every candidate for the Grand South. But a growing indifference, and the viral infections of political elections, have seeped into the Craft.

Expectedly, mounting talks about electioneering, and the disturbing turnouts at the JGW polls over the years, drove PGM Juanito Espino, Jr. to issue Edict No. 268 in 2014, an amendment to the constitutional provisions on the Junior Grand Warden nomination process.

Edict 268 strives for a more democratic representation by tasking the districts to come up with JGW nominees of their own, to be pitted against the other district bets in regional conventions.

Next, the PGM Council screens the nominees, and even checks on the nomination process, if they are up to Masonic standards.

Edict 268-A, issued by the current GM Alan Purisima, smoothens the process to make the new nomination process doable.

With a new process in place, districts will certainly get fairer chances of representation. Voters, in turn, will be afforded more informed choices. Rising stars from the provinces and never-heard districts will finally take the center stage and even the playing field.

With all these expectations worked in, let us pray that the new process will finally bring in a true-hearted Mason to the Grand Line in April next year. ❧



Gualberto E. Agatep, Jr.

I. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Family

Born on May 30, 1959 in Callao, Lasam, Cagayan to the late VW Gualberto C. Agatep, Sr., Past District Deputy Grand Master and Sister Atanacia Elizaga-Agatep.

Married Sister Eliza de los Santos-Agatep and they were blessed with five children: Mae Anne Grace, a Nurse; Gualberto III; Joe-ber; Eljay; and Enzo Justine.

Education

Educated in the public school system in the elementary years at Callao Elementary School of Lasam, Cagayan. Took up secondary education at Trinity College of Quezon City. Finally obtained his baccalaureate degree in Mechanical Engineering at the National University in Manila in the year 1980.

Professional and Work Experiences

- 1983 – 1995: Senior Mechanical Engineer, Department of Public Works and Highways–BOE, Dumman, Gattaran, Cagayan.
- Assigned as Engineer at the Department of Public Works and Highways in Solana, Cagayan.
- 1997–to date: assumed Directorship as an Elected Member of the Board of Trustees, Northern Philippines Academy, Centro Norte and performed the function of Director for Security.
- 1997–to date: as an elected Member of the Board of Directors, Rural Bank of Gattaran Inc. (RBGI), Centro Norte, Gattaran, Cagayan.
- 2008–to date: assumed the position of President and CEO of the Rural Bank of Gattaran Inc.
- 2014: undertook diversification of quasi-banking services of the Rural Bank of Gattaran Inc. for the national government mandate of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Non-Diploma Seminars, Training Programs and Workshops

- De La Salle University Graduate School of Business, 2002, Corporate Governance and Risk Management
- University of Sto. Tomas Graduate School of Business, 24 April 2010, Loan Portfolio Management “Sustainable Banking System: Greening the Banking Industry”

- Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines-MABS, 12-14 October 2011, Delinquency and Fraud Management
- Router Philippines, Management Development Program I, 15-16 February 2012, A Managerial Development Workshop
- Router Philippines, Advanced Management Development Program II, 16-17 March 2012, Strategic Management Workshop
- Comprehensive Drug Prevention and Control, 29-30 May 2012
- ITI Trainfolk, 27-28 July 2012, Finance for Non-Finance Managers and Business Owners
- Truth Verifier Systems Inc., Ateneo Professional Schools, 06 November 2012, Security Investigation Techniques on Background Investigation, Surveillance and Undercover Operations
- Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, Rural Bankers Research and Development Foundation, 07 November 2012, Taxation for Rural Banks
- Truth Verifier Systems Inc., Ateneo Professional Schools, 08 November 2012, Security Investigation Techniques on Investigative Interrogation & Investigative Interviews
- Truth Verifier Systems Inc., Ateneo Professional Schools, 13 November 2012, Security Investigation Techniques on Forgery Detection
- Truth Verifier Systems Inc., Ateneo Professional Schools, 15 November 2012, Security Investigation Techniques on Legal Aspects of Investigation and How to Spot Liars, Cheats and Thieves
- Truth Verifier Systems Inc., Ateneo Professional Schools, 03-05 December 2012, Security Investigation Techniques on Investigative Interviews and Interrogation

Professional Organizations

- Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers—since 1982
- President, Cagayan-Kalinga Apayao Rural Banks Federation—2011 to date

II. MASONIC LIFE AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Gonzaga Lodge No. 66
- Entered Apprentice Mason: 10 March 1984
- Fellow Craft Mason: 14 April 1984
- Master Mason: 12 May 1984
- Gualberto Agatep Sr. Memorial Lodge UD
- Junior Warden – 2001-2002
- Gualberto Agatep Sr. Memorial Lodge No. 341
- Senior Warden – 2002-2003
- Gualberto Agatep Sr. Memorial Lodge No. 341
- Worshipful Master – 2003-2004
- Grand Lodge Inspector – 2004-2005
- District Grand Lecturer, M.D. RII-C – 2005-2005
- District Deputy Grand Master, M.D. R-II, 2006-2007

- Lodge Treasurer, Gualberto Agatep Sr. Memorial Lodge No. 341, 2007 to date
- 32*, MRS, Aparri Consistory, Delta Bodies, A&ASR, 29 Nov 2002

III. PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FRATERNITY OF FREEMASONRY

Membership

The strong and passionate interest of Petitioners to become members is the key to a dynamic, long term, and sustained membership. Lodges must develop the skill to pinpoint good material for membership, and should undertake the fundamental education even at the onset from the very first stages of acceptance of petitions. Furthermore, the fair and above board treatment of petitioners by members should ensure that the former are treated on the level and should not be "abused," after all we are a Masonic Fraternity and not an ordinary university or college social club or fraternity. The primordial aspects of the obligation especially on the matter of continuous and sustained payment of annual dues and prompt settlement of degree fees should be a matter that should be taught and deeply ingrained from the very beginning, and, that those who cannot adhere and comply must and should be discouraged to apply. For those members who fail to sustain their membership in good standing, the same should be

dropped from the rolls in order to protect the interest of the lodge.

Education

Masonic education from the standpoint of lodges should not and must not rely simply on Cabletow issues but must be a basic and cultural stimulant provided by each Lodge through its Worshipful Master and especially all Past Masters. The compendium of morals and ethics which are the fundamental formations in the construction and building of a true Masonic human temple should be taught independently by each Lodge, whose officers and members are expected to guide all petitioners, candidates, entered apprentices, fellow-crafts and newly raised Master Masons.

Moreover, labors and rituals are major contributory factors in the strength of a lodge and as such, the continuity of lodge activity to confer degrees will contribute to the proficiency of the lodge brethren, which when complemented with the independent drive for a continuing lodge Masonic education through a well-respected lodge lecturer should see to the development of a strong and sound Masonic Lodge. It is important; however, that the Brethren understand fully well as some others may, perhaps, fail to comprehend and see that proficiency alone is not that which makes a good man a true Mason. It is something more.

Organization

There appears to be a need

to address the failures or shortcomings of lodges to comply with the requirements for the proper documentation and records keeping. These include secretary's and treasurer's financial reports, as well as attendances, roster of membership to include the implementation of and the purging of membership of brethren not in good standing. Hence, an audit must be implemented with the end-in-view of undertaking the necessary updating and adjustment of records to ensure that the same are in consonance with that of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Further, that, grand line committees and their functions will be required to provide a list of deliverables on the basis of their respective timelines. This will especially focus on resolutions that are to be responded to and not left or brushed aside.

Lastly, that, the grand lodge organization will be organized on the basis of a decentralized committee clusters whose main function will be to substantively respond to the real needs of the fraternity and not to lose track of the importance of addressing pending cases which will have to be speeded up. The grand lights will be tasked to attend to their respective assigned functions.

Financials

The need for resources to ensure that Grand Lodge operations are kept in a good and well ordered state, will require a zero-based budgeting that will seek the hands-

on assessment of the Grand Treasurer and the Assistant Grand Treasurer, insofar as the need to line up programs and projects that are of critical necessity only. Likewise, that, a review of the number of lodges not able to settle their per capita obligations, if and when found to be at an alarming rate, may require the Grand Lodge to suspend the formation of more lodges.

Finally, that, lodges on the "red" may have to be dissolved or conjoined with other lodges in order to trim down the fixed cost burden of the grand lodge.

Fund raising activities will only be approved, on a case-to-case bases, at Grand Lodge level in order for the lodges, and districts, not to lose sight, and not to lose track, of their primordial purpose of labors, and rituals, and the need to ensure, that their financials, through the proper collection of per capita, and the trimming of inactive Masons can be effected properly.

Electoral Reforms

The present electoral system, in place, will have to be observed, as there is a new edict (286 and its revisions or amendments) being implemented. After 2016, which is two years from the present time, changes or improvements can be put in place. However, an audit mechanism can be put in place, long before the next 24 months, in preparation for the target date of 2017,

and a proposal for a grand jurisdiction constitutional amendment can be referred to, for the brethren to decide in an Ancom 2017 referendum.

Whatever is the result, will compel the then GM to issue the necessary edict that will put into effect the will of the brethren for implementation by Ancom 2018.

Widows and Orphans

The obligation of the fraternity to a fallen brother and his widow and orphans cannot be over-emphasized, nor can it be belittled, simply because of the limitations of resources. An assessment of the need to consolidate whatever funds utilized for this purpose, which can be set aside for a more meaningful and well-thought-out fund plan, that will be used for this purpose will allow for the improvement of the fraternal programs for scholarships (for courses in line with the disciplines of engineering, architecture and business), employment of widows and orphans for jobs and finally last-but-not-the-least; a future plan to put up an "old Masons" home. This program will be undertaken on the basis of a project proposal to be undertaken in 2015, which will allow for the utilization of a carefully managed and monitored investment program that will make use of well recognized financial institutions with good reputation. ■



Adonis G. Agreda

I. PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Birth, Education & Family

Adonis Garcia Agreda was born in Koronadal, South Cotabato on January 9, 1963. His parents, Cesar Soliman Agreda and the late Leticia Sales Agreda who hail from Visayas coming from Oton, Iloilo and Ibajay, Aklan respectively migrated to Koronadal and settled there.

He finished his Elementary at Koronadal Southern Elementary School and High School at Davao Christian High School. He graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Accounting in 1983 from the Notre Dame of Marbel University where he had somehow set his eyes on his future wife.

He is married to Marybelle Samodal Agreda, currently the Grand Royal Matron of the Grand

Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth. They are blessed with four smart children: Mari-doni, a BS Ad-Operations Management graduate from FEU, working with Oman Air as Flight Attendant; Angelini, a Registered Nurse and now a Second Year Medical Student at Fatima College of Medicine in Valenzuela City; Adonis Christian, a second year AB Political Science student at De La Salle University and Angela Mae, a Fourth Year High School Student at Davao Christian High School in Davao City.

He has two brothers who are also members of the Craft namely, VW Jose G. Agreda, PDGL from Sultan Kudarat Lodge No. 348 and WB Rodolfo G. Agreda, the incumbent Worshipful Master of the same Lodge.

Work and Profession

While studying in high school, he worked as a cashier in their family grocery. He became general manager of four various family businesses. Namely: Adofels Supermarket, Agreville Realty & Devt. Corp.(Housing Subdivision Developer), Lending and Gasoline Station. Today, he is the VP/CEO of the Agreda Group of Companies.

II. MASONIC CAREER

Adonis Agreda or "Toto" as he is fondly called, does not have any civic group membership. He has set his mind and heart to devote his time in Freemasonry, thus

forging an illustrious Masonic and colorful career since initiation in his mother lodge, Koronadal Lodge No. 209, 11 years ago. He never looked back in fulfilling an active Masonic life, to wit: Initiated: January 9, 2003; Passed: February 19, 2003; Raised: March 21, 2003. He was elected the next year as Junior Warden, Senior Warden in 2005; Worshipful Master in 2006.

He was appointed as Grand Lodge of the Philippines District Grand Lecturer in 2007; District Deputy Grand Master in 2008 and Centennial Junior Grand Lecturer in 2012.

He is an Honorary Member of Sultan Kudarat lodge No. 348 and a dual Member of Podomo Lodge No. 294.

He further made himself available to the Masonic endeavors and Appendant Bodies and became an active member of the following:

- Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Socsksargen Chapter - Member, 32nd Degree, KCCH.
- York Rite Freemasonry, Tinalak Chapter No. 35 - Royal Arch Mason, Past High Priest. Hari-bon Council No. 20, Davao City - Member. Rajah Commandery No. 20, Davao City - Member. Davao York Rite College No. 206 - Member. Allied Masonic Degree No. 504 - Member.
- Agila Shriners- Potentate's Executive Aide - 2014. Past President. - Socsksargen Chapter
- Order of the Amaranth - Royal Patron, Koronadal Court No. 39 - 2006. District Deputy Grand

Royal Patron of District 2 - 2010. Grand Secretary, Grand Court of the Philippines - 2012. Grand Associate Patron, Grand Court of the Philippines - 2013. Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of the Philippines - 2014.

III. PROGRAM FOR MASONIC YEAR 2015 FOR THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

The program of the Junior Grand Warden is always in consonance with his duties as provided by the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

Sec. 1, Article XI, Chapter 1, Part 1, provides for the duties of the Grand Wardens:

“It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master at all times and, in his absence and that of the Deputy Grand master, to preside at Communications of the Grand Lodge in the order of their rank.”

In the most logical sense, his subordination to the programs of the Grand Master during his term is most paramount than any program he may have envisioned for himself.

It is along this Masonic system of organization that I plan to chart my actions, as a tool of the Grand Master which can be used to pursue the fulfillment of his programs during his term.

However, should the honor of serving as a Grand Warden befall upon my person, aside from the assignments and assistance to the Grand Master as required by the Constitution, I am very emphatic about improving certain areas of masonic concern which could either be improved, revitalized, revised, reprogrammed or sustained. They are as follows:

1. Continue the implementation of reforms initiated by our former Grand Masters, sustain the programs which are currently in place and maintain the general policies presently practiced by the Grand Lodge
2. Strengthen membership through the very precepts that cement Masons universally, which is the exercise of brotherly love, relief and truth.
3. Continue to preserve and secure the dignity, integrity and good reputation of Masonry not only in the eyes of the fraternity itself but also that of the public, and to defend the craft from any publicity assault.
4. To improve the system of investigation of petitioners desirous of entering the craft, strictly adhering to the qualifications and other requirements for degrees and affiliations to ensure qualitative and not quantitative membership.
5. Support existing initiatives, both of local and global concerns, particularly on global warming (climate change),

pollution, renewable energy and forest conservation.

6. Continue to adhere to the comprehensive Masonic syllabus brought to the forefront during the Centennial Masonic Year, the mandatory Grand Lodge Masonic education and research, and to maintain uniformity in floor works and rituals.
7. Consistently support Masonic Appendant Bodies to ensure not only their survival but their progress.
8. Develop a system of leadership training across all lodges for prospective officers of subordinate lodges.
9. Improve communication, reporting, accounting, information dissemination, directory and publicity systems between the Grand Lodge, the subordinate lodges and the Appendant Bodies by keeping abreast with the development and adoption of current and available information technology.
10. Provide fast, efficient and cheap distributions of masonic books, literatures, paraphernalia, dues cards, identification cards, certificates etc. from the Grand Lodge to subordinate lodges and individual masons.
11. Strengthen family ties by inviting family members in every fellowship, sports and other family oriented activities of subordinate lodges or Masonic districts. ❏



Manuel C Espiritu, Jr.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Birth and Family

Birthdate: May 20, 1953

Birthplace: Manila

Parents : Father – Manuel Espiritu, Sr

Mother – Aurora C Espiritu

Wife: Freida Francisco Espiritu

Children: Carlo F Espiritu – MM, Tagaytay Lodge No. 165

Rafael F Espiritu – FCM, Solidarity Lodge UD

Grand children: Hershey Espiritu

Education

College: University of the East,
BSBA Major in Accounting

Work Experience

Worked in the following companies: Security Bank, Union Bank, Central Bank of the Philip-

panies and San Miguel Corporation. He is currently in the LPG industry and has established together with his business partners LPG refilling plants in Southern Luzon, National Capital Region and Central Luzon.

Trainings and Seminar

He attended various seminars pertaining to management and operation of LPG industry.

II. MASONIC SERVICE

Masonic Career

- Raised to the degree of Master Mason at Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322 in 2003
- Worshipful Master of Tagaytay Lodge No. 165 in 2010
- High Sheriff/Club President of Maharlika Shrine Club in 2009-2010
- Charter Master/Worshipful Master of Nasugbu Lodge No. 407 in 2012-2013
- Assistant Grand Treasurer in 2013
- Chief Rabban of Mabuhay Shriners in 2014
- District Deputy Grand Master of District RIV-D (Batangas) in 2014

Awards and Commendations

- Outstanding WM (Cavite District) in 2010
- Various Awards from LPG industry. Among them are the following:
 1. Elite Circle Award in 2014 &

2013

2. Sales Target Achiever Award in 2014 & 2013
3. Highest in Sales Growth Award in 2014
4. Bulk Supplier Award in 2013
5. Gas Petronas Dealer Award in 2013

II. STATEMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FRATERNITY

Proposed Theme: "True Masonry in Thought, in Word and in Deed"

The Preamble of our Constitution states that the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines was established to:

Set forth and exemplify the tenets and teachings of Freemasonry:

- Promote love, foster brotherhood and achieve harmony among Masons and men:
- Enhance the welfare of our Order; and
- Preserve liberty, equality and fraternity
- The above missions are the reasons for the existence of our Grand Lodge.

If and when elected as Junior Grand Warden and travel to the Grand East happens, Bro Manuel C Espiritu, Jr will direct his special attention to the programs to attain the mission, purpose and reasons for the existence of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Under his leadership, the Craft in this Jurisdiction will focus on the following:

Continuing Masonic Education

The Program of Instructions of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) will be reviewed and improved to make it relevant to the needs of our brethren. Courses that will increase management capabilities and improve leadership skills will be offered. Masons and non-masons who are experts in their chosen fields will be invited as guest lecturers to share their knowledge and experiences. Electronic learning, correspondence course/distance education will be offered to brethren who cannot attend classroom instruction type of masonic education due to conflict with their work schedule. We must bear in mind that masonry does not exist for the mechanics of ritual alone. Equally important is the learning, interpretation and exemplification of that ritual and for every member to fully understand these principles, as well as our responsibilities as Masons. A newly raised master mason will be required to take the basic IMES course within the next twelve months and before occupying an elected or appointed position in the lodge.

Youth Development

MW Bruce, PGM, Grand Lodge of Alberta said that "One of the greatest potential forces in the world for our country and for our Fraternity is the minds of the young

people. Freemasons must effectively deal with the fact that its future rests upon the quality of today's youth."

However, it is sad to note that only a small percentage of the youth today knows who are the Masons, what they believe in and the philosophy and teachings of the Fraternity. It is in this light that we will all help establish more De Molay, Rainbow and Job's Daughters Chapters. We will likewise give support to community and school-based youth organization for these groups to develop good men whom our Fraternity can attract to make them better. If we can keep in touch with the needs of the youth, we can be of assistance to our sons and daughters and their colleagues who are seeking direction.

Membership Growth & Welfare

There is a need to promote sustained growth in membership and the quality of members. We must be able to attract quality petitioners to get the degrees in Masonry. It is now high time that all blue lodges formally adopt the "Bring a Friend Program". We must tell our friends and the world what Freemasonry is, what it teaches, what it stands for. In doing so, we will attract our friends in the community to join our Craft. A methodical system for investigation will be strictly implemented to prevent petitioners with selfish interest from joining the Fraternity.

On welfare, an institutionalized support system for members of the Fraternity and their dependents/

immediate family members will be established. The Academic Scholarship Program and Employment Information System will be available for qualified children and family members of Masons.

GLP, District, Lodge Management and Governance

Planning is the key to success. The design must be placed on the trestle board carefully and revised as may be needed.

Under the present system of governance, the Grand Master chooses his vision, mission, theme, program thrust and strategy which are different from his predecessors. The efforts of PGMs were outstanding but were not fully accomplished due to time constraint.

It has been the clamor of the brethren that the GLP formulate a strategic plan/program of our Fraternity. It's time to make this happen. If given the honor to occupy the Grand Oriental Chair, Bro Manuel C Espiritu, Jr will call within three (3) months of his assumption, a special communication to be attended by PGMs, Grand Line Officers, incumbent lodge masters and brethren who are well-known and recognized authority on the field of seminar workshop management. The special communication will come up with a strategic/long range plan to chart the course of our Fraternity in the next 10 to 15 years. If we have the strategic plan, the medium and short term plans can be readily formulated and there will be continuity in Grand Lodge programs despite the

yearly changes in the Grand East. It is hoped that the special communication will also identify the problems/challenges that our Fraternity is facing and be able to come up with proposed solutions, a governance system that is doable and results that are measurable. Moreover, the special communication is expected to formulate the vision and mission of the GLP within the next ten to fifteen years.

Bro Manuel C Espiritu, Jr will continue the worthwhile plans and projects started by the PGMs. He will be an example of a traveler who will go back to the basics of Freemasonry and who will practice true Masonry in Thought, in Word and in Deed. ❧



Tomas R. Garcia

I. PERSONAL DATA

Date of Birth: May 14, 1948

Place of Birth: Manila

Profession: Security Professional

Education

- Mangatarem Elementary School :1954-1960
- Mangatarem High School 1960-1964
- Our Lady of Lourds Seminary , Tagaytay City: 1964-1965
- Centro Escolar University 1965-1969 Course - BSMED TECH

Family

Spouse: Maria Paz Custodio Garcia
Children:

- Bro. Kenneth C. Garcia—39 yrs old, Immigration Lawyer in New York
- Flora May Garcia de Fiesta—staff Nurse in New York
- Bro Earl Aaron C. Garcia —29yrs old, nurse in Florida. USA

Employment/Business

- Security Operator. 1980 to 2012
- Certified Security Professional. (CSP)
- Certified Security Management Specialist (CSMS)
- Certified security Trainer (CST)

II. MASONIC BACKGROUND

- Mother Lodge -- Mt. Malindang Lodge No.130
- Initiated. -- July 4, 1974
- Passed. -- August 29, 1974
- Raised. -- October 25, 1974
- Dual member of Leonardo T. Panares Lodge No.220
- Plural Member of Keystone

Lodge No.100

- Worshipful Master of Leonardo T. Panares Mem. Lodge No 220 -- 1979
- District Deputy Grand Master of District 17 -- 1987
- Regional Deputy Grand Master for NorthEastern Mindanao -- 1998
- Member -- OES CADENA DE AMOR CHAPTER
- Member -- Scottish Rite Mindanao Bodies
- Member -- York Rite Bodies
- Member -- Order of the Secret Monitor (OSM)
- Member -- AAOONMS - AGILA SHRINERS
- Active Charter Member of the Supreme Council of the Demolay. Past Executive Officer for Cagayn de Oro
- Conferred with LOH -- Legion of Honor in the Supreme Council of Demolay

Other Civic/Fraternal Organizations

- Past President of KIWANIS Club of Maharlika
- Past Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis International -Division 4-A
- Past District Governor of KIWANIS International Philippine South District
- Certified Kiwanis Trainer
- Member Guardian Brotherhood of the Phil.

III. PLANS AND PROGRAMS

1. Strengthen Masonry in the ju-

risdiction through GROWTH in Membership and activities involving the families of Masons.

2. Lodge Administration must be inculcated not only to the officers but the upcoming leaders of lodges through education in the lodge
3. Some lodges are weak and sometimes lead to de chartering due to inactive members and financial problem; so, we have to help them by training and/or seminar to make their finances sound and stable
4. Visits of grand lodge officers to the Districts is a must and should be given priority and importance.
5. Electoral reforms must be reviewed and further be improved. ❏



Jose A. Lim III

I. PERSONAL DATA

Birth Date: 08 january 1956

Birth Place: Buluan, Maguindanao
Occupation: Businessman

Family

Married to Dolly Echavarri French-Lim with 3 children: Denise (05/14/82), Jose IV (04/08/86), and Danielle (08/14/09).

Education

Studied at the Buluan Public Elementary School and Notre Dame of Tacurong High School. Took up Business Management at the Mindanao State University and the Ateneo de Manila University, as a scholar in both schools. Later, took up an Entrepreneurship Course at the Asian Institute of Management

Business Occupation

- President and CEO: 2013-Present
- Toyota Tagum City, National Highway, Tagum City
- President and CEO: 2008 - Present
- Toyota General Santos, Inc., National Highway, General Santos City
- President and CEO: 1998 - 2003
- Royal Davao Development Corporation, Shrine Hills, Matina, Davao City
- Developer of Royal Pines Subdivision, pioneering in American Country Homes in Davao
- President and CEO: 1995 - Present
- Toyota Davao City, Inc., La-

nang, Davao City

- 1996 Awardee of Excellence, Parts Department of the Year
- 1997 Awardee of Excellence, Service Department of the Year
- 1997 Awardee of Excellence, Dealer of the Year, 1st Runner Up
- 1998 Datu Award for Outstanding Customer Service Given by the Philippine Marketing Association, Davao Chapter
- 1998 Awardee of Excellence, Dealer of the Year (Provincial Network) 1985 - Present
- Duratrak Corporation, JP Laurel Avenue, Davao City
- Dealer of Goodyear Philippines, Inc. (1985-2005) with branches in Davao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan and Ozamiz
- Motorcycle Retailing and Financing (2005-Present) with branches in Cagayan de Oro, Valencia, Gingoog, Panabo and Don Carlos

Trainings Attended

- 1986 – 1990 Retail Business Management Training and Study Tours in Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand, sponsored by Goodyear Philippines, Inc.
- June 1987 Special Training in California, USA for Certified Tire Service Center and Retread Operations, sponsored by Goodyear Philippines, Inc.
- October 1989 Technical Study Tour at the Goodyear Technical Center in Luxembourg, spon-

sored by Goodyear Philippines, Inc.

Awards

- 1986 – 1991 Awardee of Excellence from Goodyear Philippines, Inc., as Dealer of the Year

Social Activities

- Member, 1979 – 1982 Philippines Jaycees, Davao Chapter
- Member, Class of 1984 Rotary District 3860 Group Study Exchange to the United States and Canada
- Member, 1984 – 1989 Rotary Club of East Davao
- 1992 – 1995 Director, American Chamber of Commerce, Davao Chapter
- Co- Founder, 1994 The Sports Foundation of St. Andrew, Inc. (SFOSA), an association of golfers who are Freemasons, for the promotion of Charity, Fitness and Fellowship
- 1999 Chairman of the Board, St. Andrew's, Inc., a corporation formed to establish and operate a Golf Driving Range, one of the main purposes of which is to support the masonic charities of SFOSA.
- Adopted Member, Class '68, Philippine Military Academy

II. MASONIC SERVICE RECORD

- August 26, 1978: Raised to the Degree of Master Mason, Sarangani Lodge No. 50 F & AM

- November 1978: Conferred the 4th – 32nd Degrees of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Davao Bodies (with special dispensation from then Ill. Ricardo Cruz, 330 SGIG on the 6-month prescription period from time of raising to qualify for the Higher Bodies)
- 1981: Chairman, Special Committee on Land Acquisition for the Greater Davao Masonic Temple site (now site of the Greater Davao Masonic Center)
- February 1981: Founder and First Editor-in-Chief, the Trestle Board, Official Organ of Sarangani Lodge which was named Best Publication by the Grand Lodge in 1997, copy of Resolution att.
- 1981–1985: Conferral Director, Davao Bodies under the supervision of then Ill. Bro. Ireneo Irasga, Sr., 330 IGH, copy of certificate of Training Seminar att.
- 1982: Master of Sarangani Lodge for which term the Lodge was awarded the Grand Master's Cup as the Most Outstanding Lodge
- 1982: Member, York Rite Freemasonry
- 1982: Master of Kadosh, Davao Bodies Scottish Rite Freemasonry
- 1982–1983: Co-Chairman, Executive Committee of GDMT Project under the Board of Governors chaired and vice-chaired by VW Paul T. Arcangel and VW Benjamin S. Geli, respectively. Specifically handled major fund raising activities.
- February 1984 Grand Lodge Awardee for Distinguished Masonic Services, copy of Diploma of Merit att.
- April 1984: Member, Harry S. Truman Centennial Class, Cebu Shrine Club, Aloha Temple, copy of certificate att.
- MY 1984–1985: District Grand Lecturer, District 18 and awarded Most Outstanding DGL
- 1994: Grand Master's Award of Merit for the Preparation and Implementation of Grand Lodge goals for Masonic Year 1993 – 1994, copy of certificate att.
- 1999: Awarded Most Outstanding Mason of the Philippines in the field of Business, during the 83rd Ancom held in General Santos City on the 22nd day of April 1999
- March 2008 Hiram Awardee, the highest award a Masonic Lodge can give its member
- May 2005 Member, IOTA Class, Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent
- MY 2009 -2010 District Deputy Grand Master, District RXI -A Awarded Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master
- July 2011 -Present Ambassador, Agila Shriners
- December 2012-Present Chapter King Cobra, The Philippine King Cobra [Banakon] Chapter - Davao Snake Pit, Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent

III. STATEMENT OF PROGRAM FOR THE FRATERNITY

Background

The Philippines is entering a new era of economic prosperity in which, among others, the relevance of Freemasonry can play a pivotal role.

The Freemasons of today have faithfully continued with the struggle to sustain this relevance that, however, appears to have had more prominence in the far historic past of the fraternity than anytime else.

Freemasonry remains to be a rich repository of tenets, teachings and moral ascendancy that can bring about a collective change among her members many of whom are in the private enterprise and government service and who, in turn, can serve as influence to our people into finding our rightful place among economically emerging nations.

Objective

To fortify the relevance of Freemasonry in nation-building by reinforcing the primacy of Masonic character in every Mason and by enhancing the image projected by every Masonic temple or center in its location in order to gain the respect and admiration of the community.

Proposals

A. Reinforcing the primacy of Masonic character in every mason

1. Design a 201 file for all Masons

in the jurisdiction, in coordination with the subordinate lodges, that will highlight the important attributes and special skills of each individual relative to the overall program that may not have been captured in their available and current personal bio-data and Masonic records.

2. Review and revise as necessary the petition process for membership in order to ensure that every petitioner who has been elected to receive the degrees truly has the core qualifications that can be enhanced by his membership to make him become a better person and a more responsible citizen, considering that no amount of enhancement can change anything that is not there in the first place.
3. Revisit, improve or design as necessary the applicable codes of conduct and practices of good governance as tools for Masonic Education that will emphasize the primacy of Masonic character, foremost of which is integrity, for Masons in private enterprise, professional practice and government service.
4. Create a program of cooperation in the academic field with reputable schools in the community, where Masons with competencies in their respective professions can participate in the lectures of academic subjects while injecting values that are necessary for the enduring sustainability of responsible individual pursuits in particular, and of every citizen's contribution to nation-building in general.

The population of DeMolays in these schools can capitalize on, develop and pursue the values in these lectures with other students while appreciating a new dimension of partnership with Masons that then is taking shape right within their launching pad to the outside world.

Notice too that there is a need for our fraternity to revive its relevance among professionals in the crucial field of the academe who, in our glorious past, occupied the highest ranks of our rolls as the great educators.

B. Enhancing the image projected by every Masonic temple or center in its location

1. Create a set of minimum facility requirements for all Masonic temples or centers that can project a consistent and strong positive image of the fraternity in the community.
2. This will all the more become necessary as foundations are set up to own the real properties where Masonic functions are held and which should, in turn, require the GL to adopt measures and controls over subordinate lodges and appendant bodies in the matter of ensuring that the image of the fraternity is consistently and properly protected.
3. Address the image projected by these facilities by starting with the five temples or centers in the jurisdiction that need the most improvement to comply with the requirements, and have

them prioritized in GM visitations, and then move up to the next batch of five until standardization is achieved.

4. This prioritization will give the GM a first-hand experience of the condition of these facilities and the opportunity to influence their improvement with urgency on the basis of a compelling fact that the image our temples and centers project of our fraternity can only be as strong as the weakest projection of the least of our facilities.
5. Encourage subordinate lodges and appendant bodies to hold an annual fund-raising event dedicated to supporting the maintenance and improvement of Masonic temples and centers.
6. The economic incline, evident in most if not all urbanized provincial cities in the country, brings about an influx of business interests from the country's capital and other countries in the region that require marketing activities where Masons can participate and take due advantage of the returns these activities bring. On the other hand, Masons who are entrepreneurs are expected to see appreciable gains in the upsurge of business during these times and, therefore, will then be in a better position to support endeavors of this kind.
7. Hold appropriate events within the premises of the temples or centers with the participation of children in the neighborhood and include a window to

augment their values in their formative years. This will earn us social approbation while at the same time help optimize the percentage utilization of our temples and centers and with a noble cause.

8. This is also a perfect opportunity for Demolays and Jobies under the supervision of Masons to take part in such values-formation activities and draw them more toward developing their own sense of social responsibility.

Timeline

A. Planning

1. If and when elected as JGW, initiate the detailed planning of the proposals in consultation with the PGMs, the Grand Line Officers and with the assistance of District Officers thru dialogues and their contributions to written Q & A reference materials.
2. Present the final proposal with their materials to the incumbent GM as a support program for his incumbency and for the initiation of its implementation.
3. If and when ascent thru the grand ladder happens, intensify the pursuit of the proposal thru its completion thru-out the jurisdiction. Otherwise, work for the adoption of the program in my own district in ways allowable for implementation by the GL at district level.

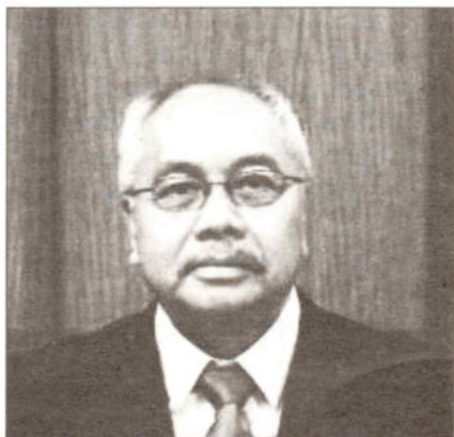
Overall Strategic Purpose

Freemasonry is the greatest fraternity in the world but, sadly, this may be largely by our own account.

The moral and legal entanglements of Masons in private enterprise and government service that we hear about around us everyday, collide with our most coveted view of the fraternity and weakens the convictions of the majority of Masons who, though may be less in social stature, form the base and stability of our foundation.

Freemasonry has never been found wanting in her guidance and, around us too, are embodiments and exemplifications of her nobility that can be subjected to a unified effort of multiplication by first addressing the basic Masonic character in us and by standardizing up our own backyards.

In conclusion, we all dream to belong to an institution whose composition and image we can be proud of. And out there is a growing population of good men who, without doubt, will submit to an attraction by an institution that can reinforce their character, especially under an atmosphere of brotherhood where each brother contributes his common share to the collective fortification of that institution. ❏



Van D. Luspo

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

A. Personal Data

Date of Birth: 16 September 1951

Place of Birth: Talisayan, Misamis Oriental

Height: 5' 8"

Weight: 195 lbs

Names of Parents:

Mr. Napoleon A Luspo

Mrs. Sofia D. Luspo

Name of Wife: Marietta L. Luspo

Children:

- Lawrence Van Luspo married to Ma Filipina Manaois
- Lorraine Marie Luspo married to Julius Managuelod

Names of Grandchildren:

- Raphael Angelo L Managuelod
- Lance Gabriel M Luspo
- Gian Carlo L Managuelod
- Mia Julianna L Managuelod
- Elisa Marie L Managuelod
- Liam Michael M Luspo

B. Education

- Elementary: Bagong Pag-Asa Elementary School, 1959 – 1965, Graduated Salutatorian
- High School: Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo High School, 1965 – 1969, Graduated Valedictorian
- College: University of the Philippines, Entrance Scholar, Bachelor of Science in Political Science - 2nd Year, 1969 – 1971
- Philippine Military Academy, Bachelor of Science (BS) 1971 – 1975, Graduated No. 2, Cum Laude; Secretary, National Defense Saber Awardee; PC Awardee for being No. 1 in the PC
- Mapua Institute of Technology, Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering - 1st Year 1982
- Jose Rizal University and Philippine Law School, Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Graduated
- 1999 – 2010, CHED SO No. (B) 70-380101-0040 Series 2010
- Graduate School
- Mindanao State University – IIT, Master of Business Administration (MBA), Graduated 1978 – 1980
- Saint Louis University, Master of Arts in Economics - 1st Year, 1984
- National Defense College of the Philippines, Master of National Security Administration (MNSA), Graduated, Policy Option Paper: "Communitization of the Policing System: A Philippine Approach," Bronze Medalist – 3rd Best Policy Option Paper, 1997 – 1998

- University of Asia and Pacific, Certificate of Business Economics/Strategic Business Economics Program (SBEP), Leading to Master in Business Economics (MBE), Completed the academic requirements, 1999 – 2000 Post Graduate School
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, (University of the City of Manila), Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Graduated, Dissertation: “Development Model for Camp John Hay,” 1993 – 1996
- Far East Advocate School of Theology (FEAST), Doctor of Public Service, Honoris Causa, 2014

C. Civil Service Eligibilities

1. Career Service Officer – (Cum Laude) per PD 907
2. Passed all the four stages of the examination process for CES eligibility as shown below and awaiting the approval of the CESB for the conferment of CES eligibility per certification from CESB dated 27 Jan 2004.
 - Accredited MATB for the CES eligibility as a MNSA graduate per
 - EO 696 as amended by EO 771 dtd 4 Feb 1982
 - Passed the Assessment Center for the CES Eligibility held last 15 Jun 2002
 - Passed the 3rd and 4th stages (Interview and Evaluation) for CES Eligibility last 21 Jun 2002
3. Passed the Civil Service Execu-

tive Examination (CSEE) held last 15 Nov 2001 at Talaba Elementary School, Bacoar, Cavite and awarded the Certificate of Eligibility per CSC Resolution No. 030142 dated 31 Jan 2003.

D. Work Experiences

1. Served with the Armed Forces of the Philippines until 1990
2. Absorbed to the Philippine National Police until retirement in 2007
3. Served in various capacity in the Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund, Inc., Public Safety Savings and Loan Association, Inc., and Philippine National Police Employees and Retirees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Inc.

E. Teaching Experiences

- Assistant Professorial Lecturer 2 since SY 1993, Colegio de San Juan de Letran
- Assistant Professorial Lecturer IV and Special Lecturer since SY 1993, Graduate School for Business/Government, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)
- Special Lecturer – Off Campus Program, Jakarta and Surabaya, Indonesia LPMB, YWC, and YNS in cooperation with PLM
- Lecturer – Police Intelligence Officers Advanced Course Intelligence Training Group, Directorate for Intelligence
- Lecturer – Finance Officer Basic Course Finance Training Group, PNP Finance Service Office
- Lecturer – PNP Comptroller-

ship Course, ODC, HPNP

- Lecturer – PNP Comptroller Officer Course, PNP Training Service
- Lecturer – Officer Senior Executive Course National Police College, PPSC
- Lecturer – Intelligence Officer Senior Executive Course, Intelligence Training Group, Directorate for Intelligence In coordination with PPSC
- Lecturer – Officer Senior Executive Course, Intelligence Training Course, Directorate for Intelligence In coordination with PPSC
- Lecturer, DILG, Street-Watch Trainors Training Development Academy of the Philippines, 1-5 Mar and 8-12 Mar 1999
- Invited Lecturer – National Defense College of the Philippines, Full Professor III, Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC)
- Member, Graduate School Evaluation Committee, PLM per AO No. 10 s1998
- Member, Graduate School Evaluation Committee, PLM per AO No. 4 s1999
- Chairman and Member, Defense Panel of Case Analysis MBA Program - PLM
- Chairman and Member, Defense Panel of 4 Dissertation Papers DBA Program - PLM
- Member, Defense Panel of Thesis Papers, IOAC PPSC and ITG, Directorate for Intelligence (DI)
- Member, Defense Panel of Staff Study papers, OSEC Classes NPC and ITG, DI
- Member, Defense Panel, Master

of Public Safety Administration National Police College, PPSC

- Part-time Professor, Rizal Technological University, SY 2006-07

F. Special Qualifications

1. General Management
2. National Security Administration
3. Comptrollership/Finance
4. Operations/Intelligence
5. Supply Management
6. Computer Operations
7. Security Consultant
8. Accredited Security Training Director
9. Ranger (Jungle Warfare and Mountain Operations) Qualified
10. Scuba Diver (Underwater Search, Recovery and Rescue) Qualified
11. Airborne (Paratrooper) Qualified

G. Civic Affiliations

1. Member, Lamitan JayCees, Lamitan, Basilan - 1977
2. Member, Maria Cristina Lion's Club, Iligan City - 1979
3. Member, Legaspi Kiwanis Club, Legaspi City - 1984
4. Honorary Member, United States Army Association
5. Member, International Association of Chief of Police
6. Member, National Geographic Society, International Member
7. Member, American Management Association
8. Member, Young Men's Christian Association of Manila

9. Member, Board of Directors; Vice-President of Region X and CARAGA; and Chairman, Legislative Affairs and Advocacy, National Defense College of the Philippines Alumni Association, Inc., CY 1998-1999
 10. Member, Board of Directors, National Defense College of the Philippines Alumni Association, Inc., CY 1999-2000
 11. Member, Board of Directors, Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, CY 1998-1999 and Chairman, Committee of Complaints and Discipline
 12. Member, Representative to the Mother Board (PMAAA, Inc) Police Cavalier Association CY 1998 - 1999
 13. Member and Director of the Board of Trustees (2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004) Association of Chiefs of Police of the Philippines, Inc
 14. Member and President (2001-2002) of the ACPPI, Inc – Region IV Chapter
 15. Member, Board of Directors, Police Cavalier Association, Inc CY 2002-2003
 16. Ex-officio Member, ACPPI, CY 2006-2007
 17. Member, ACPPI, CY 2007-2008
 18. Vice Chairman, Police Retirees Association, Inc, 2007 – Mar 2011
 19. Vice Chairman, ACPPI, 2008-2011
 20. Chairman, ACPPI, 2011-2012
 21. Board of Trustee, ACPPI, Jan 2013-Jan2014
 22. Chairman, ACPPI, Jan2014-to date
 23. Chairman, Police Retirees Association, Inc., Mar 2011 to date
 24. Member, International Police Association
- ## II. MASONIC SERVICE
- ### A. Masonic Membership, Affiliations, and Positions
1. Initiated June 28, 1980; passed July 12, 1980; and raised July 26, 1980 in Manticao Lodge #243, Iligan City
 2. Affiliated Member, Baguio Lodge #67, Baguio City
 3. Charter Member. Bongabong Lodge #345, Bongabong, Mindoro
 4. Charter Member, Jacques DeMolay Memorial Lodge 305, Manila
 5. Charter Member, GS Fajardo Lodge #383, Manila
 6. Charter Member, Diego Silang Lodge UD, Agoo, La Union
 7. Honorary Member, Saigon Lodge #88, Manila
 8. Honorary Member, Cosmos Lodge #8, Manila
 9. Honorary Member, Walana Lodge #13, Manila
 10. Honorary Member, Biaknabato Lodge # 10, Manila
 11. Honorary Member, Maharlika Lodge # 253, Cauayan, Isabela
 12. Honorary Member, Kasilawan Lodge # 77, Manila
 13. Honorary Member, Kutang Bato Lodge #110, Cotabato City
 14. Member, Sublime-Benicia Lodge # 5, Grand Lodge of Masons of California, USA
 15. Member, Grandmaster's Lodge

- 3000, Grand Lodge of Masons of California, USA
16. Member, Baguio Bodies, AASR
 17. Life Member, Pilipinas Yorkrite
 18. Life Member, AlBahr Temple, AAONMS, San Diego, CA, USA
 19. Active Life Member, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Philippines
 20. Member, Philippine Shrine Association
 21. Life Member, Preceptory and Priory of Shanghai No. 195 (Yorkrite), Hongkong
 22. Past High Shereef, Maginoo Shrine Oasis, Manila
 23. Past Associate Grand Guardian, Grand Guardian Council, International Order of Job's Daughter
 24. Past Chairman, Advisory Council, Baguio Chapter, Order of DeMolay
 25. Past Grand Treasurer, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Philippines, 2007 - 2012
 26. Past Associate Bethel Guardian, Baguio Bethel, International Order of Job's Daughter
 27. Past Associate Grand Bethel, Guardian, Grand Bethel of the Philippines, IOJD, 1998 - 2000
 28. Past Committee Member, Fraternal Relations Committee, Supreme Guardian Council, International Order of Job's Daughter, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006
 29. Past Master, Baguio Lodge #67, 1992-1993
 30. Past Grand Lodge Inspector, Union Lodge # 56, San Fernando, La Union
 31. Past District Deputy Grandmaster, Masonic District 41, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, 1998 - 1999
 32. Past Chairman, Masonic Charities for Region 1, Grand Lodge of the Philippines 1998 - 1999
 33. Past Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, 1999 - 2000
 34. Past Vice Chairman, Youth Committee, Grand Lodge of the Philippines 1999 - 2000
 35. Past Junior Grand Lecturer for NCR 1, MY 2005-2006
 36. Past Assistant Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, 2007-2008

B. Masonic Awards and Recognitions

1. Outstanding Shriner, Maginoo Oasis, AAONMS
2. Outstanding Master Mason of the Year (1992), Grand Lodge of Masons of the Philippines
3. 32nd Degree, KCCH, Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
4. Grandmaster's Maltese Medal, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Philippines
5. Cross of Honor Medal, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Phil
6. Honorary Legion of Honor, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Philippines
7. Knights Templar, Supreme, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Philippines
8. DeMolay Grand Cross Award,

Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Republic of the Philippines

9. Certificate of Appreciation from Islam Temple, 1977
10. Certificate of Appreciation from Sublime Benicia Lodge No. 5, Grand Lodge of California, 1998
11. Certificate of Appreciations from various DeMolay Chapters as Guest Speaker
12. Certificate of Appreciations from various Job's Daughter's Bethels as Guest Speaker
13. Certificates and Plaques of Appreciations from various Lodges in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines as Installing Officer and Guest Speaker

III. MY MASONIC VISION, MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

Lodge Empowerment - A Vision Of Hope

A. Vision: Masonic Lodges that are empowered but tempered with responsibility.

Without violating the ancient charges and regulations of the Free and Accepted Masons, this is a vision of hope aimed to empower our Masonic Lodges. Simply stated, it is summarized in two words: "Lodge Empowerment". But in so many words, it means two things. Firstly, it means that power would be placed to where it should properly reside. Like in any democratic sphere where power resides in the people as declared in every Constitution adopted, power in every Ma-

sonic fraternity should reside in the Lodges. It emphasizes that it shall be the Grand Lodge which should serve the Lodges and not the other way around. However, power is not absolute. For power should not be something possessed to be used and abused. It should not be dictatorial under the very basic democratic principles we have been taught with. And if it has to be dictatorial at all under any worst situation, it should be a benevolent dictatorship to say the least, a social contract between the ruler and the ruled where the ruler demands obedience from the ruled but at the same time imposes upon himself, as the ruled demands of him, the duty to take care of them. Secondly therefore, but more importantly, Lodge Empowerment means that it is the use of power that is tempered with responsibility. To sum it all, an empowered lodge manifests power that is caring, power that breaches no ill will, and power that is benevolent.

B. Mission: To empower Masonic Lodges such that it will be responsible enough as empowered entities with their members developed to be worthy and qualified to become strong foundations of the Grand Lodge, thus, the Grand Lodge will be guided by them, serving them instead of the other way around.

C. Objectives:

1. To develop members of Masonic Lodges truly, worthy and qualified to be strong foundations of the Masonic Lodges.
2. To develop, in the process, em-

powered Masonic Lodges responsible enough to be, in turn, strong foundations of the Grand Lodge.

3. To enable the Grand Lodge, strong as it is founded on responsibly empowered Masonic Lodges, to truly of service to the Masonic Lodges instead of the other way around.
4. Strategy: The strategy in order to develop the ways and guided paths, the road map, to achieve these Vision, Mission, and Objectives is an engaged discussion starting from members, the individual masons, of the Masonic Lodges through the dialectic process whereby a thesis engaged by its antithesis would develop a synthesis aimed at empowering responsible Masonic Lodges. Done several times at different levels, from the Lodge level, the District level, to the Multi-district level, until the plenary level at the Grand Lodge, the process will produce a pure synthesis that would develop a road map truly owned by every masons of this jurisdiction. It maybe a long process but it will necessarily result to a road map owned by each and every member, each and every mason, that nobody would lay claim to have been imposed on them for they are part of the process in developing it. If it fails, everybody will be responsible for its failure similarly as everybody will be happy to tap each other's back when it succeeds. We have enough technology to communicate the result of the process at

every level. It just needs all members at all levels to engage in the discussion, capably and sincerely, in order that true ownership of the end result will be achieved. From this resulting road map, only then an edict shall be issued making it official ought to be followed by every masons under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. ❧



Orlando M. Mabutas

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Kuyang Orly to us was born on December 13, 1954 in Ago, La Union. He is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1978 and joined then Philippine Constabulary wherein his first assignment as Junior Officer was in Talipao, Sulu. His wit and accomplishments led him to various directorate positions such as acting Regional Director of the Philippine Drug and Enforcement Agency; Deputy Director of the Di-

rectorate for Intelligence; Director of the Highway Patrol Group; National Headquarters; and Regional Director of Police Regional Office 1 – Camp BGEN Florendo Parian, San Fernando, La Union.

In 2002 more or less, Kuya Orly petitioned for the degrees of Freemasonry and he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on August 23, 2003 in Juan Sumulong Memorial Lodge No. 169 F. and A.M. of Masonic District NCR-F. The young, very active and vibrant Kuya Orly initially served as Chaplain (2004), Senior Deacon (2005), Junior Warden (2006), Senior Warden (2007) and Worshipful Master (2008) in his mother Lodge. Later on he was appointed District Grand Lecturer (2009), Harmony Officer (2011) and District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District NCR-F in 2013. Further in 2012, Kuya Orly was elected as the President of the District Past Master's Guild of his own District.

Kuya Orly's other Masonic affiliations includes; 32° Master of the Royal Secret of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite – Quezon City Bodies; Past High Priest – Royal Arch Masons; Royal and Select Master and Imminent Commander – Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippine York Rite – Capitol Bodies; Mabuhay Shrine Temple – Maharlika Shriners Club; Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent; Grand Order of the Blue Rabbit; and Order of the Secret Monitor. Further, he received sev-

eral Masonic citations and awards such as Appreciations from the Brethren of various Philippine Lodges, Distinguished Master Mason in Government (2009), Hiram Award, Best District Guild of Past Master's President (2013) and thru his leadership and programs, achieved Best District Guild of Past Masters – Masonic District NCR-F.

Kuya Orly is the child of Paulino and Presentacion Mabutas where he was raised to be God-fearing, benevolent and to be just and fair in all walks of life. Kuya Orly is happily married to Sister Lorna who never failed to support our Brother in all his endeavours. They are blessed with five children; John Paulo, John Carlo, Jan Jericho, Lorlyn Mae and Lor Angela whom are all professionals and are experts in their chosen field.

Since his retirement from the Philippine National Police in December 2010, Kuya Orly is attending their family business, working and living a simple yet colourful life with most of his time devoted to the Craft; sharing his Lodge Management Skills to the brethren, guiding young Master Masons and, aiding and assisting distressed worthy brother Master Masons.

II. PLANS AND PROGRAMS

One Masonic Mission

The greatness and beauty of our Ancient and Noble Craft

nesses first with the written anecdotes of our Great Brother Historians, crafted and written down to become Masonic Books that contains our Laws, Ancient Landmarks, Ceremonies of Masonic Degrees and Obligations thus terminating finally to One Masonic Mission of Freemasonry – to make good men better – thru its teachings and way of life.

One Masonic Mission under the fatherhood of the Great Architect of the Universe, indeed that we have to continuously live our lives with these Great Tenets and Teachings we now honourably possess to share to our fellowmen – other than this, you will agree there is no greater mission for us Freemasons.

Though creativity, innovativeness or juris adventurism cannot be avoided, changes must still hold and contain the premiere foundations how our Laws, Ancient Landmarks, Edicts and Circulars were established – to create order and harmony amongst us.

In humble and sincere consideration of all the written Laws of Masonry, please allow me to share to you the Plans and Programs that we have prepared that still holds and contains the very essence, crowning and premiere foundations of our Great and Ancient Fraternity.

Streamline and specific communications from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines

To immediately inform the

brethren of all communications from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines thru the most convenient and immediate means necessary.

Lodge Jurisprudence, Administrative, Membership and Financial Reforms

To effectively improve the Lodge management procedures being undertaken by the brethren thus doing away with the customary Lodge procedures that does not comply with the requirements of our Masonic Law Book, Grand Lodge of the Philippines' Edicts and Circulars thus leading to confusion and unnecessary disharmony amongst the brethren.

Petitioning Process

To effectively implement and monitor the acceptance, balancing and conferring degrees upon any candidate and ensure quality membership.

Continuing and ladderized Masonic Education Program

To include or incorporate Masonic Education provided in the IMES (Institute of Masonic Education System) Program in the advancement of a candidate in the degrees of Masonry and ensure convenient compliance of our brethren.

Family, widows and orphans continued involvement

To ensure and strengthen continued involvement of our

families and as stipulated in our obligation whereby their active participation contributes to the success of the projects of our Fraternity.

Strengthening Masonic Ties with Appendant Bodies

To ensure continuity and development of Masonic Ties thru joint activities/ projects and, to efficiently implement the guidelines set forth in the creation of various Masonic Organizations such as "Clubs" and the like.

The above Plans and Programs as you see are all and already contained in what we have. You may perhaps appreciate that there is nothing new, which I in a way agree. These are the facts submitted to you long before our time and at times were not given proper attention.

The focus of our concern or purpose that we deem wanting to inform the brethren are the moving implementation, continued supervision and strengthening of the above details. We have not change anything great but it does not limit us to take on leaps of its improvement without taking our foot on touching the ground.

Grand Lodge exists because of the Blue Lodges and Blue Lodges exist because of the Grand Lodge—without one, the other cannot exist. These plans and programs are anchored on and humbly consider the empowerment of the Blue Lodges in the Philippine Grand Jurisdiction. ■



Romeo S. Momo

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal Data

Date of Birth : August 6, 1952
Happily married to Eleanor Darwin
of Davao City with four (4) children

Education

College : University of Mindanao,
1969-74, Bachelor of Science in
Civil Engineering
Post Graduate: Bukidnon State
College, Master in Public Adminis-
tration

Professional Experience

Undersecretary
Department of Public Works and
Highways (DPWH)
June 30, 2008 – Present

Regional Director
CARAGA, REGION XI|I

Department of Public Works and
Highways
January 12, 2004 - June 29, 2008

Assistant Regional Director
Department of Public Works and
Highways
Region XIII, CARAGA
March 15, 2002 - January 11, 2004

District Engineer
Department of Public Works and
Highways
Tandag, Surigao del Sur
August 1, 1998 - March 14, 2002

Assistant District Engineer
Department of Public Works and
Highways
Tandag, Surigao del Sur
February 19, 1987 - July 31, 1998

Commendations

Commendations for his constant support & cooperation in the successful implementation of the plans, programs & activities of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) for Calendar Year 2007, also for significant contribution particularly in the formulation of Contingency Plan for Flooding, Committee Action Plan for 2007 & Beyond, & the successful RDCC meeting with Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Awarded by Regional Disaster Coordinating Council.

Highlights:

- Honor Student in High School (Salutatorian)
- Academic Scholar (Mindanao

State University)

- Master of Public Administration, Bukidnon State University
- Graduated: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (University of Mindanao)
- Awarded a certificate of completion for the Leaders in Development program, June 2013, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education
- Awarded Most Outstanding Alumni of the University of Mindanao in Public Service
- Awarded as Asean Engineers by the Asean Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO), Jakarta, Indonesia, November 10, 2013
- Honorary Fellow, Asean Federation of Engineering Organizations

Affiliations:

- Two Term National President for CY 2013 & 2012 of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE)
- Past President: Rotary Club of Butuan RY 2005-2006
- Past Assistant Governor - District 3860 Rotary International
- Past District Deputy Grand Master: District 26 of the Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines
- Past First National Vice President: League of Infrastructure Directors of the Philippines
- Member: Road Engineering

- Association of the Philippines
- Past Member of the National Board - National Union of Career Service Officer (NUCESO)
- Past President; Association of Caraga Executives
- Member: Road Engineering Association Asia & Australasia
- Member, American Society of Civil Engineers

Attendance in Foreign Seminars and Studies:

- Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC) Exec. Com. Mtg., (Busan, Korea)
- American Society of Civil Engineers, Conference (ASCE), (Kansas City, Missouri, USA)
- Philippine Institute of Civil Engineering (PICE) Annual Meeting & Int'l Program, Fukuoka City, Japan
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Convention, Pittsburg, USA
- Delegate to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Convention, Orlando Florida, USA
- Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia, Bangkok, Thailand
- Advance Road Engineering Studies and Safety (Brunei, Darrusalam)
- International Road Federation Convention (Bangkok, Thailand)
- Member of the Philippine Team to the World Charity Service (WCS) - Chiba, Japan

- Moderator, 4th Civil Engineering Conference for ASEAN Regions (Tapei, Taiwan).
- Delegate to the Annual Conference & the International Round Table Discussion of the Japan
- Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE)- Tohoku University, Japan
- Delegate to the American Society of Civil Engineers 2008 Annual Conference, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA
- Seminar on applicability to ODA Flood control Projects (JICA), Japan
- Head Delegation to the Round Table Discussion at Mastuyama City, Japan
- Head Delegation to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), 2011 Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee
- Observance of New Technologies in Bridge and Road Designs, Seoul, South Korea
- Special Lecturer, Korean Concrete Institute, Seoul, South Korea, May 4-5, 2012
- Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education, Leaders in Development: Managing Change in a Dynamic World, June 3-14, 2013
- PICE 2nd International Conference, ABU DHABI, Oct. 17-18, 2013

II. MASONIC SERVICE

1. Red Mountain Lodge No. 241
 - Initiated: 30 May 1981

- Passed: 20 June 1981
 - Raised: 18 July 1981
2. Intramuros Lodge # 363
- Chartered Member
 - Dual Member

Other Masonic Affiliations & Services

- 2010 - Bamboo Shrine Club, Member
- 2010 - Scottish Rite-Quezon City Bodies, Member
- 2004-2005 - District Deputy Grand Master Masonic District R-XIII-A
- 2002 - District Grand Lecturer Masonic District R-XIII-A
- 1999 - Lodge Auditor
- 1998 - junior Warden
- 1995-1996 - Lodge Secretary
- 1994-1995 - District Grand Lecturer Masonic District R-XIII-A
- 1992 - Worshipful Master

STATEMENT OF PROGRAM FOR THE FRATERNITY

In light of providing better service, if elected and given the mandate by the brethren to eventually occupy the highest position in our fraternal society, I envision and intend to constitute and attain the following:

Theme:

“Synergy”, optimizing free-masonry services thru collaboration and linkages.

Vision:

A legendary and dynamic brotherhood of men devoted to the service of God and mankind, committed to develop better men who are at all times responsive to the needs of the society.

Mission:

To fortify the ancient craft by effectively adapting to the rapidly changing environment geared towards the upliftment of the common good.

Objectives:

- Unceasingly nurture and inculcate the moral and spiritual values of Masonry thru a more focused masonic education program.
 1. Improve the continuing annual programs and seminars dedicated to Masonic education.
 2. Find ways how the blue lodge can encourage its members to attend Masonic education seminar at least once a year.
 3. During the fellowship after the stated meetings, at least one brethren will be assigned/encouraged to lead at some point the flow of discussion to Masonic education. it will be an opportune time to conduct Masonic education because it is when the atmosphere is light and cheerful, making

- it easy for Masons to open up heart to heart discussion.
- Cultivate goodwill and support of brethren, friends, and institutions for a strong and sustainable brotherhood.
 1. Hand in hand we Masons can provide better service, and as brothers work together, better understanding and relationship is developed. However, changing times and demographics have called for a more extensive provision of services, hence, we should seek for wider support base that would sustain our endeavors.
 2. Collaboranon with community organizanons/asociations should be set-up to help us implement all programs.
 3. Sunshine committees should intensify efforts in gaining back inactive members.
- Enfiance the good image of masonry bv spreading far and wide the meaning of fraternity thru extensive community outreach programs and charity works.
 1. Carry out civic and charity projects at least once a month,
 2. Masons relatives and friends, should be involved/encouraged to participate in Masonic seminars and activities.
 3. Organize public relations committee for better information dissemination.
- Identify and source out funds to support and implement grand lodge poltcies, programs and activities.
 1. Raffle draws, golf tournaments, benefit shows and voluntary contributions of members are the usual activities of Masons to source out funds. these activities have been effective since these are done for a good cause, however, there are times when sponsors grow tired of these activities, hence, we should find ways to enliven these activities, or look for some other means.
 2. Operationalize a nation-wide coordinating body to integrate annual plans and programs of all the lodges, and appendant bodies.
 3. Prioritization of Masons, and immediate families, if possible, in job vacancies which have Masonic as-sociation.
 4. Encourage the early submission and implementation of annual program of the blue lodges.
 5. Strengthen administrative and financial control system for better governance.
 6. Administrative and financial control should be reviewed to look for possible areas for improvement to make sure that the control system will always be effective
 7. Develop a mutually sus-

tainable linkages and networks of lodges and apendant bodies.

8. To keep abreast with the rapidly changing technology, it is hoped that all the blue lodges or at least all the districts will have their own website, aside from the webstte of GLP.

9. The website of GLP should be the focal site that would give information on the status, interest/concern, and various issues of different lodges.

10. Formulate a strategy that would facilitate election activities and minimize election expenses, like the possibility of electronic election of grand line officers within the blue lodge, etc.

- Support the government programs in the conservation of nature and environment, and in the mitigation of disasters and catastrophies.

1. Inform, promote, and encourage Masonic bodies in saving mother nature as a mitigation measure against green house effect, global warming and pollution by conducting enviromental awareness forums, tree planting projects, garbage segregation, waste water recycling program, etc.
2. Form core group that would spearhead the mitigation of disasters and catastrophies, and provide relief and assistance to human kind. ❖



Rudy L. Ong

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Education

Primary and Secondary School:
Saint Jude Catholic School, 1971-1981

Tertiary: B.S. Mathematics major
in Actuarial Science, University of
Santo Tomas, 1981- 1985

School, Professional & Civic Affiliations

- President, UST Math Society - 1984-1985
- President, The Travellers Group - 2001-2004
- President Pasay City (Host) Lions Club, the oldest running Lions Club in the Phils. - (2003-2009)
- President, SIDGAP (Screen Imaging, Digital & Graphics Association of the Phils., - 2009 to present

- President Feline Apparel Inc., licensee of Walt Disney, Nick-elodeon apparel
- Vice-President, UNO Seafood Group of Restaurants

II. MASONIC SERVICE

Masonic Affiliations

- Raised as a Master Mason: December 1992
- JW, Labong Lodge No.59: 1993-1994
- SW, Labong Lodge No.59: 1994-1995
- WM, Labong todge No.59, 1995-1996
- Grand Lodge Inspector: 1996-1997
- District Grand Lecturer: 1997-1998
- District Deputy Grand Master: 1998-1999
- Managing Editor, Cabletow: 1999-2000
- Editor in Chiet Cabletow: 2000-2001
- Junior Grand Lecturer, NCR: 2012-2013
- Vice President, Luzon Shrine Club
- Committee Chairmanship :
 1. Awards Comitnittee, the 1st non-PGM to hold this position
 2. Ritual & Works
 3. Resolutions
- Committee Membership :
 1. Revision and Updating of Constitution
 2. Masonic Temples and Buildings

3. Ways and Means
4. Necrology
5. Computerization
6. Management Audit

Masonic Achievements

- Most Outstanding Worshiptul Master, District Level NCR- B
- Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master, National Level, during the term of MWEnrique Locsin

III. PLANS AND PROGRAM

Platform of Bro. Rudy Ong

A. Programs

1. Work on a feasibility study on retirement homes for elderly masons
2. Come up with an ideal but workable health care program
3. Institutionalize the orientation of petitioners
4. Formalize the membership committee set-up
5. Organize a Grand Guild Lodge of Inspectors and a Grand Guild of Lecturers
6. Launch an "adopt a lodge" program
7. Initiate 'By The Plumb' projects, a community service programs that would raise awareness of the good deeds of Masons and correct misconceptions about Masonry
8. Invite notable speakers regularly on topics such as time management, leadership and

self-development

9. Foster twinning with local or foreign lodges
10. Contribute to the propagation of our nation's public education
11. Update changes in electoral reforms
12. Decentralizes IMES
13. Improve transparency and communication between the Grand Lodge and lodges and appendant bodies
14. Formulate a faster and more effective disaster relief response system

B. Edicts and Circulars

1. Designation of a Webmaster, a Chief of Corporate Communications as well as a Chief of Archives and provide a fixed tenure to ensure the safekeeping and proper management of records
2. Honoring departed brethren thru visual images every AN-COM
3. Setting a number of DGLs on every district tantamount to the number of lodges
4. Organization of Fun Run to raise funds for the awareness and prevention of Prostate Cancer
5. Put up Masonic logos on different localities where lodges are situated
6. Coordinate with the Grand Guild of Past Masters to expedite the release of benefits during the last rites
7. Restoration of charters of

lodges

8. Designation of Marshall as the only director of works during conferrals
9. Mandate all districts to implement lodge of instructions all year round
10. Effectivity of scholarship privileges to deserving candidates
11. Manage our own blood bank ❖



Reynato D. Puno, Jr.

I. PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Born on June 21, 1970 in Manila.

Eldest of MW Reynato Serano Puno and the late Atty Luzviminda Tolentino Delgado.

Comes from a family known for its involvement with the Methodist Church and its commitment to the masonic fraternity. A third generation mason, three generations serving the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and Hiram Lodge in particular, from WB Isaac Isip

Puno, his grandfather, the late VWB Isaac S Puno, Jr, WB Leven S Puno, Bros Carlito S Puno, Paul S. Puno and Isaac S Puno III, all uncles and now with his brother Emmanuel D Puno continuing the legacy.

In his elementary days in Philippine Christian University—Union Elementary School, he was involved in several school and inter school activities. Representing the school in several occasions and served as Vice President of the student council in his last year of stay. Came from Colegio De San Juan De Letran as his high school alma mater. Became president of two clubs and a member of the debate team. And a graduate of DeLa Salle University with a degree in BSBA Management.

Professionally, he became a part of Traders Royal Bank (later on merged with Bank of Commerce) with the Corporate Banking Department, as an assistant Account officer; later on elevated to Account Officer with the rank of Manager/AVP and almost Php 1B loan portfolio. Responsible for evaluating, studying corporations as they apply for loan with the bank and later on recommend to the President or Board of Directors of the Bank for approval. Part of the research and team which studied and created a bank product called "Asset Product Advantage," which aided small entrepreneurs in securing bank loans. Attended several seminars during his stint with the bank, some of which—risk assessment, product development,

legal risk management etc.

After his stay in the banking industry, he joined his parents in the Supreme Court as Court Officer II under the office of the Clerk of Court En Banc and later on joining the office of MW Puno.

To date, as a businessman, he is engaged in several small businesses. Ventured in the Oil and Gas industry as part of the Petron Family owning a gas station; ventured also in the poultry business as part owner of poultry- growing in partnership with Bounty Fresh, and finally ventured in the food industry being a part owner of a humble restaurant and grill.

As all members of the Puno family, he is an active member of the United Methodist Church. From his days of youth, he has chaired several committees and held the position of president in two church bodies.

II. MASONIC SERVICE

His Masonic career started in 1996 when he was raised in Hiram lodge No. 88, though a member of the International Order of DeMolay when he was 13 years old in 1984.

His official travel in Hiram 88 began in 96. He was elected Worshipful Master in 2009; appointed District Grand Lecturer in 2010; and Grand Orator in 2011 and is currently serving as District Deputy Grand Master for District NCR-D.

He was also appointed as member of the Awards Committee

and Youth Committee and at present a member of committees on Charity and Ancom Evaluation.

Belonging to several appendant bodies and masonic clubs, a 32 degree KCCH of Luzon Bodies, A and ASR, Luzon Chapter York Rite, a Past Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor, a Past President of Luzon Shrine Club and Metro Manila Shrine Club and Ambassador to Aloha Temple, served as Grand Line Officer on several terms of the Philippine Supreme Council Order of DeMolay.

III. PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

Philippine masonry, like the other species of masonry in the world, is no stranger to cycles of crises. We met these crises with our strongest weapon—the morality of the Square and Compass. And we emerged triumphant.

Today, the Craft is again in crisis. The crisis threatens to shatter the long held assumption of mankind that masonry makes good men better. For the inconvenient truth is that stories told by the lives of some brethren seem to belie our claim that masonry is the hatchery of moral and virtuous men. Hence, my first concern if the brethren will bless me with their sovereign mandate is to seal our gate in the West and prevent the entry of the unworthy. There is a long line of knockers in almost all of our lodges, from West to East and from North to South.

Our duty is to distinguish the worthy from the worthless from among these amorphous masses. If we fail in this duty, we shall be encumbered by members who will drag the reputation of the fraternity to the gutters with their malfeasance and misfeasance.

How do we frustrate the entry of these termites in our temples?

First, let us strictly follow our obligation not to invite anybody, regardless of filial and friendly ties, to the fold of the Craft. Masonry is not a commodity for sale in the market; masonry is a good to be searched for in its bosom can be found the secrets of the life devoted to the love of God and service to fellowmen. Second, the investigation of candidates must not be conducted in a haphazard way. All too often, the members of the Committee on Investigation either do not seriously investigate the character of the candidate or do not know the fundamentals of investigation. The result is the entry not of good but bad men to our temples. Third, the candidates knock at our door possessed of the scantiest knowledge about the history and tenets of masonry and worse, with a pervert purposes. Masonry cannot flower in an ignorant mind and neither will it flourish in an evil mind. Fourth, the candidates must undergo a deep immersion on the principles of masonry and practices of masons during their waiting period. They should not be made to do

menial jobs or made to do nothing while waiting during our meetings. Fifth, candidates must be treated with respect and dignity from the first to the third degree in order for them to fully comprehend their lessons. The conferring brethren should be competent in conferring the degrees. Sixth, the conferral of degrees on the candidates should strictly conform to our laws, rules and regulations especially on the casting of black balls, examination of candidates, and shortcutting of time. Seventh, the candidates must not be burdened with the cost of expensive banquets especially on their raising.

I therefore propose the following remedies to this serious problem. We should request the IMES to prepare a module to guide the members of the investigation committees how to do their job properly. The module should focus on the particular aspects of the character of the candidates to be investigated and instruct how to gather evidence to test the same. Similarly, the WM should be taught how to evaluate the sufficiency of the investigation report. As further safeguard, the investigation report should be preserved and open to examination by the GL inspector, district lecturer or DDGM upon demand. We should likewise ask the IMES to prepare a module that will provide basic reading materials to candidates on the core concepts of masonry from its history to its philosophy. Candidates should undergo a test on their comprehension of our tenets and their commitment

to live up to them. The Worshipful Master should be held strictly accountable that our laws, rules and regulation on the first, second, and third degree are followed to the letter. His compliance must be certified by the DGL or the DDGM and any violation of his duties must be summarily dealt with by the proper authorities. There should be a checklist of the duties and obligation which the WM ought to discharge and certified to be true and correct by the DDGM or the DGL of the district.

Let us remember that in masonry we do not subscribe to the immoral arithmetic of politics - that addition in number strengthens while subtraction weakens. The strength of masonry does not lie in the quantity but the quality of its members. For this reason, masonry is the haven of good men who seek to be better men. Masonry is not a safehouse of unrepentant rogues.

I now address the second serious threat to the viability of our Craft. This is none other than the growing number of members found to be violating our masonic laws and worse, infringing the laws of the land. There can be no successful downsizing of this problem now becoming our greatest source of public embarrassment. The data are undeniable. A sideglance at the unmasonic conduct cases pending in the Grand Lodge Committee on Grievance will show their skyrocketing number. And the violations involved range from financial dishonesty to out and out immorality of some of our members. They can-

not but make us blush in shame.

Again, what shall we do? This is not a problem with an easy solution. And worse, a problem which if we fail to address, can smash the name, reputation and sanctity of masonry to the ground and beyond salvation. Drastic problems require drastic solutions and we have to bite the bullet, however it hurts. By way of remedy, I respectfully suggest that we review our procedure of dealing with erring members. Any layman will tell you that our procedure of discipline is too legalistic. The consequence is that a lot of times, the guilty is not punished or punished after considerable lapse of time. The reasons are many. Lack of complainant, weak evidence, long timeline of decision, etc. These are reasons which are untenable in an institution that subscribes to the highest of moral virtues. I propose to review our system of administering justice taking into consideration the lessons imparted in our third degree. Masonic justice is swift justice, justice based on fairness not technical evidence, justice based not on retribution but reformation of the characters involved and the interest of the society in which they live.

There are other areas of concern in our fraternity today but they are more relevant to our tomorrow. I cannot discuss them for lack of time. I say, however, let us think more of our problems that threaten our present. We cannot step on the doorstep of tomorrow if we cannot secure our today. Today is also our tomorrow. Together brethren! ☘



Agapito S. Suan Jr.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Agapito S. Suan Jr.
Nickname: Jun
Birthdate: November 20, 1958
Spouse: Clarissa Mae G. Suan
Children: Atty. Lordan G. Suan
Lariza Nieves G. Suan
Agapito Eriberto G. Suan
Mary Clarisse G. Suan

Education

- College (Working Student/Scholar): La Salle University Ozamis (formerly ICC), BS Commerce, Major in Accounting (1974-77), Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental
- High School: Holy Rosary Academy, Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental
- Elementary: Sapang Dalaga Central School, Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental

Previous Employment

- 1979 to 1988: Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCOM), Credit Investigator, Loans Dept., Cagayan de Oro Branch
- 1978 to 1979: SOLIDBANK (now METROBANK), Distributing/Settling Clerk, Cagayan de Oro Branch
- 1977 to 1978: Resort Hotels Corp. (MINDANAO HOTEL) Internal Auditor, Cagayan de Oro City

Present Businesses

- Chairman/Founder, ULTRACRAFT Advertising Corporation (closed Family Corporation), Cagayan de Oro City
- Chairman/Founder, DXRU Radyo Ultra, AM Radio Station, Cagayan de Oro City
- President/General Manager, ULTRAWINDS MOUNTAIN RESORT, Cagayan de Oro City
- Incorporator/Board of Director, JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., ILIGAN CITY
- Contract Grower, Ultra Farms (Poultry), Opol, Misamis Oriental

Affiliations

- Board of Trustee, La Salle University Ozamis (2007-2013)
- Rotary Club of Uptown Cagayan de Oro (Paul Harris Fellow)
- Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Former Board of Trustee)
- Young Men's Christian Asso-

ciation (YMCA), Cag. de Oro (President 2012)

- Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), Mindanao Chapter President (2010 – 2012)
- Opol Livestock & Poultry Operators Association (OLPOA)

Philanthropies

Annual

- La Salle University Ozamis Scholarship Program: since 2013 - present

Monthly

- UNICEF: since August 2002 – Present
- P.O. Box 1076 Makati Central Post Office, 1250 Makati City
- House of Hope (CDO): since August 2004 – Present
- St. Augustine Cathedral, Archdiocese of CDO
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel (CDO): since June 2008 – Present, Carmen, CDO
- Balay Canossa Foundation (cdo): since October 2009 – Present, Purok 9, Linangohan, Tablon, CDO
- St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (CDO): since October 2009 – Present Camaman-an Hill, CDO
- San Jose de Mindanao Seminary (CDO): since September 2010 – Present Camaman-an Hill, CDO
- Discalced Carmelite Nuns of CDO (CDO): since October 2010 – Present Camaman-an Hill, CDO
- Local Superior of the Priest of

the Sacred Heart (CDO): since August 2013 – Present, Aluba Subdivision, Macasandig, CDO

- Daughters of Saint Paul (CDO): since April 2014 – Present, A Velez St., CDO
- RVM Sisters Regional House (CDO): since April 2014 – Present, Serina St., Carmen, CDO

Club Memberships

- Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club (Manila)
- Pueblo de Oro Golf & Country Club (CDO)
- Alta Vista Golf & Country Club (Cebu)
- Xavier Sports & Country Club (CDO)
- Camp Evangelista Golf & Country Club (CDO)

II. MASONIC SERVICE

Masonic Background

- Macajalar Lodge # 184 (Member), District 10A, Initiated: 8/18/84; Passed: 9/11/84; Raised: 10/25/84
- Worshipful Master 1992 – Macajalar Lodge # 184
- Adjudged “Most Outstanding Worshipful Master” 1992-1993
- District Deputy Grand Master 2001-2002, District 17, Cagayan de Oro City
- Adjudged “Most Outstanding DDGM” in 2002
- Junior Grand Lecturer: 2002 North Central Mindanao
- 33*IGH Scottish Rite Mason: Mindanao Bodies, Cagayan de

Oro City

- Shriner: (Divan) First Ceremonial Master 2014, Agila Shriners

III. PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FRATERNITY

A French Philosopher once said: “Commitment is an act, not a word.”

Truly, we do not get what we ask for from our thoughts, but rather from what we demand with our actions. On this note, I humbly lay down to you my proposed program if given the privilege to serve in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. As I have always done in the past, I obligate myself to live by my declarations.

Many of the plans and programs embraced by our revered past grand officers touched mostly on basic concerns affecting the management and administration of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, operational matters ranging from human resource management budgeting, finance, mutual fund to fundamental issues involving membership growth, conflict resolution, electoral reforms, continuing Masonic education etc.

On those systems and programs that are proven valuable and effective, we will continue to upgrade them as we embark to bring about better, faster and more efficient services to our no. 1- clients - you, my brethren.

Unfortunately at present, we have become too concerned

with complicated issues that have brought controversies and conflict to the craft and we may have overlooked the real purpose of Freemasonry. More emphasis therefore must be directed towards the observance of our traditionally held values, those which have made this fraternity strong, united and distinct from the rest for generations. My proposed program therefore will revolve around the principal tenets of our craft: "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth." This is where we have built the foundation of our institution and this is what we must at all times propagate. No intelligent man can question these universally accepted precepts, and yet ironically, we take them for granted.

ON BROTHERLY LOVE AND RELIEF

Objective: To aid, support and protect each other. To provide relief such as Financial Assistance & morale support to the distressed, as a duty incumbent upon all men. but more particularly upon us, Masons.

PROGRAM AND STRATEGIES

1. MUTUAL AID FUND

a) To strengthen the GLP Mutual Aid Fund so that it will be able to efficiently address the urgent needs of the brethren. For emergency cases, processing and releasing time will be three (3) days. For regular claims - 5 working days;

b) To increase the claims and expand the coverage of relief. To study carefully other options without having to increase the member's annual contribution. Optimizing available funds through efficient accounting and management, and investing idle funds on secured income yielding instruments;

2. MORATORIUM ON ANNUAL DUES

a) To waive annual lodge and GLP dues for brethren suffering lingering illness or those who are permanently disabled without prejudice to their application for lifetime membership (For application must be filed yearly. Application must be filed on the year sought for exemption);

3. WIDOWS AND ORPHANS TRUST FUND

a) To aid and assist the widows and orphans of Masons through modest cash assistance in times of dire need (victims of calamities, medical assistance, etc.);

b) To extend short-term educational loan (tuition) to deserving orphans

ON TRUTH

Objective: To be a good man and true, is the first lesson taught us in Masonry. To be guided by the Truth at all times as it is a divine attribute and the foundation of every

virtue with the end that ours is a fraternity of honor and integrity.

PROGRAM AND STRATEGIES

1. LODGE MASONIC EDUCATION FOCUSED ON VALUES, MORALITY & ETHICS

a) The blue lodge Masonic Program will focus on subjects about Values, Morality & Ethics. The District Grand Lecturers' monthly talk will touch the GLP's theme for the

month so that there will be no overlapping;

b) For the months of November, the Masonic education topic will touch on choosing the right lodge officers and for March, the proper conduct of lodge officers voting in the annual communication and applying the Masonic values and principles in electing the best candidate for the GLP positions.

c) Continued support to the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES).

2. CRYSTAL CLEAR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

a) Establish an advanced online accounting system for faster, smoother and efficient implementation of financial and audit procedures;

b) Aside from the internal auditors, external auditors to conduct periodic audit to ensure that the

GLP financial records are accurate. This is also vital in order to establish the credibility of the GLP financial reports to the blue lodges;

c) Real Time Online Reporting (GLP website) for funds solicited and disbursed for natural calamities and other national emergencies. (A "blow to blow" report on where the funds come from and how they were spent).

OTHER PLANS FOR THE GLP:

a) Continuous upgrading of office computer programs and facilities;

b) Devolution of some GLP functions to the Districts, such as the setting up of regional Supplies centers for Districts with regular district offices so that the lodges can immediately procure needed materials, and can place orders for jewels and other Masonic paraphernalia;

In Closing

Masonry consists of honorable men who are highly placed in society. In contemporary times, we are both hailed and assailed and it is up to us where we want to take our fraternity. To my mind, the program I have proposed addresses both the present and the future needs of our beloved fraternity. Briefly stated, what is still workable, we will retain, improve and upgrade. What needs to be change, we will adjust.

But let no Mason commit this mistake amidst the changes brought about by modern times, the principal tenets of Freemasonry, "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, including our Masonic values and principles will remain immutable and let them be our distinct identity, for no institution was ever raised on a better principle or more solid foundation; nor more excellent rules and useful maxims ever laid down than those inculcated by Freemasonry.

"There is only one thing that Masonry will not survive", as MW Reynato Puno would say, "and that is the lack of Masonry among us." Let us therefore live by our tenets and principles, that our light may so shine before men that they will continue to desire our fellowship and join our fraternity.

To you my brethren, I submit my fate. God bless you, God bless us all. Mabuhay ang Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

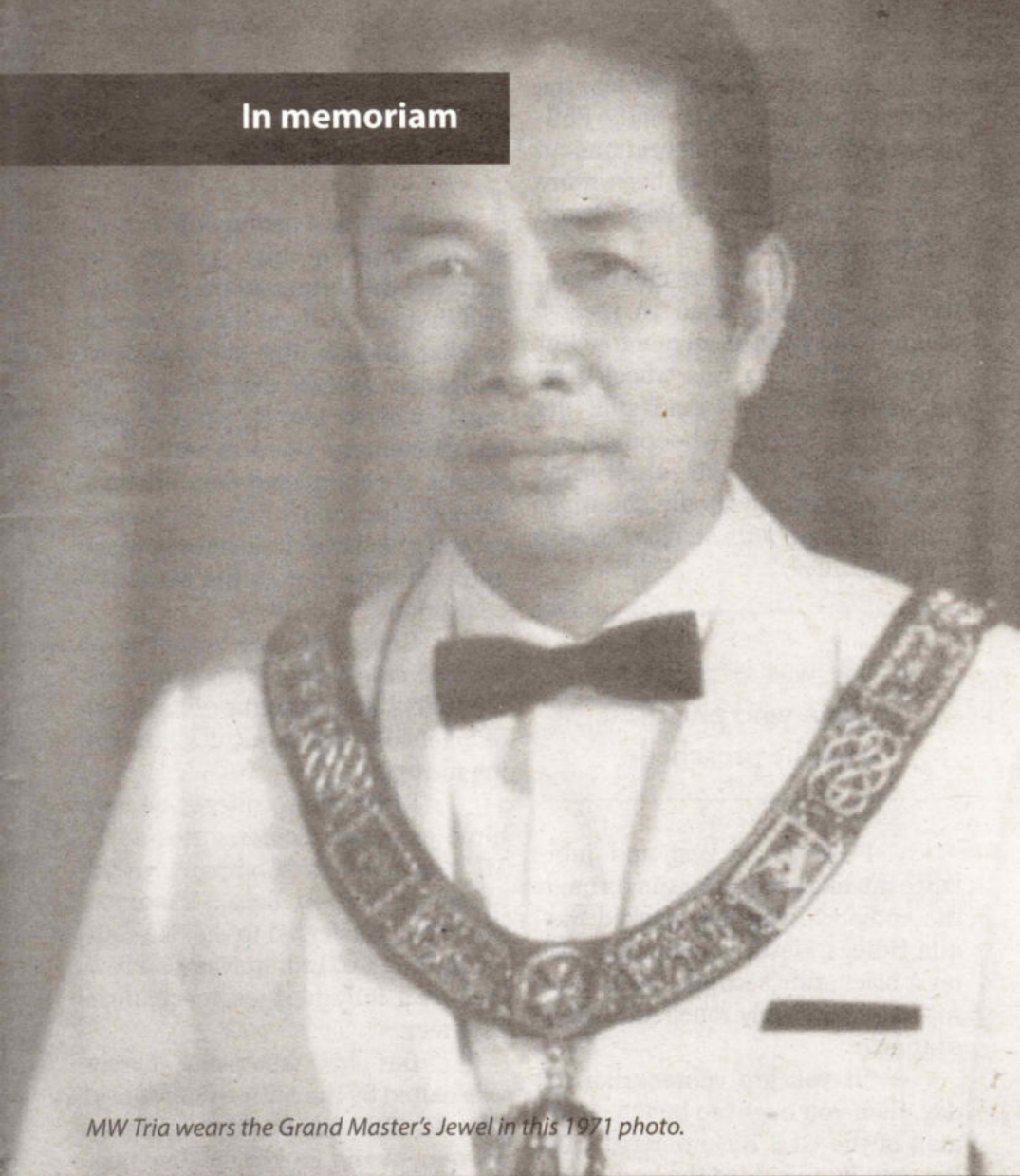
Salamat sa pagkakataon na mapaglingkuran kayo. ❖

"Although I hold the highest civil honor in the world, I have always regarded my rank and title as a Past Grand Master of Masons as the greatest honor that had ever come to me."

Harry S. Truman,
U.S. President & Past Grand Master
of The Grand Lodge of Missouri



In memoriam



MW Tria wears the Grand Master's Jewel in this 1971 photo.

Damaso C. Tria, PGM, 1911-2014

The passing of an era

With PGM Damaso Tria gone, a whole era also went with him.

Photos courtesy of the Tria Family

None of the awardees on the night of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines Centennial Celebrations on December 19, 2014 had been more jubilant than the late Past Grand Master Damaso Tria.

All the awardees climbed up the light-flooded stage to receive plaques and framed mementos. But instead, MW Tria was wheeled by his daughter below. And still, the centenarian bro was whooping it up, limply waving his half-raised arms in the air and repeatedly shouting, "*Mabuhay ang Masoneriya!*" (Long Live Masonry!)

"He was certainly a
Mason who practiced
what he preached."

PGM Tria's zest and jubilation ran like a moral lesson through the audience who jam-packed Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavillon hall. After a brief stilly seconds, everybody rose up in a visibly touched rousing ovation.

"If you are centenarian today, then you ought to be the chairman of the GLP Bicentenary," MW Reynato Puno kidded the late Grand Master who relished the plaque and frame like Christmas presents.

But just as any man born of a woman, the long-enduring PGM called it quits. Aged 102-years old, he finally dropped his working tools on the morning of October 3, 2014.

With Tria gone, a whole era went with him. It was a halcyon era

when the Craft enjoyed consistency and form.

Diligence

Born to a fishing folk couple on December 9, 1911, he came to embrace the virtues of simple living and industry early in his hometown in Pilar, Bataan. But his inborn intelligence opened many doors for him to a better life. He whizzed past his elementary years in his village school. He completed next his high school education in the provincial capital of Balanga in just three years and still came out as the class valedictorian.

Expectedly, he enrolled at the University of the Philippines and graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1934.

Right after college, he was hired as apprentice engineer by L. M. Hausman & Company. After passing the 1940 Board Examinations, he transferred to the San Carlos Milling Co. Ltd. in Negros Province as a fully-pledged mechanical engineer.

But his fast-rising career was halted by the outbreak of World War II. Tria joined the resistance movement and fought the Japanese under the 72nd Division in Negros.

It was after the war when Tria joined Freemasonry. He was raised to the sublime degree on November 29, 1949 at Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 in Manila.

Similarly, it was also after the war when Tria's career picked up fast. He rejoined the L. M. Haus-



A portrait of MW Tria in the full-habilliment of a Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry.

man & Co. in 1952, becoming its Chief Engineer. He was promoted to Vice-President in 1955. Twelve years later, he became the Company President.

He also became President of Griffin Industrial Engineering Corporation.

Tria was prolific not only in his career but moreover, in Masonry. In 1957, he was elected Master of Bagumbayan Lodge. Still, he was called later to sit next in the East of two other lodges—Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147 in Quezon City where he was a dual member; and Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034 of the Scottish Constitution.

In November 1952, Tria took his Scottish Rite degrees in the Luzon Bodies, A. & A.S.R.

In February 1957, the Supreme Council invested

him, with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and in February 1961, with the rank and dignity of Inspector General Honorary, 33°.

On January 25, 1966, he was crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General, and Active Member of the Supreme Council. Since then, his service to this appendant body would last uninterrupted until 1988 in varying capacities such as Grand Treasurer General, Grand Prior and Lieutenant Grand Commander.

During the Supreme Council sessions in 1988 he was duly elected to succeed Raymond E. Wilmarth as the sixth Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council and served up to 1991.

Self-discipline

Tria was deep into the Scottish Rite when he was called to render services to Grand Lodge. He was appointed Junior Grand Lecturer in 1966 which, again, opened the door for him to the topmost rung of the Craft.

In 1968, he was elected Junior Grand Warden, becoming a Senior Grand Warden in 1969, and Deputy Grand Master in 1979.

In 1971, he was finally elevated to the Grand Oriental Chair. In his Installation Speech, Tria said, "Freemasonry is the practice of every social and moral virtue; it is a way of life worth living but which requires self-discipline."

Nobody could utter this precept better than Tria himself.

His rise to a successful career was founded on self-discipline. He was certainly a Mason who practiced what he preached.

How well he had embraced Masonry also showed on how he had steered the Craft clear off troubles. He came in a year when the country was being rocked by tumultuous political events.

Noteworthy, American and Filipino Grand Masters alternately took turns at the Grand East until 1974.

Tria stayed active in the Craft even after his stint at the Grand East. He was a member of Keystone Chapter No. 354, under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and also of Luzon Chapter No. 1, under the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Republic of the Philippines.

“He had straddled over two eras so that he served as a wellspring of wisdom for the Grand Masters that sought for it.”

Similarly, he was a member of the Oriental Council No. 1, Royal and Select Masters; of Far East Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar; and of Asoka Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. He was elected Grand Royal Patron of the Order of the Amaranth in 1981.

If PGM Tria was a man of his words, it was his family who first believed in him. So much so that they



MW Tria shows off his white cap.

followed him into the Craft.

His late wife (nee Paz Ocampo Castro, of Rosario, Cavite), whom he wedded in 1937, was a member of the Order of the Amaranth and of the Order of the Eastern Star. Their daughters—Felicitas, Patria, and Melinda—were all Past Worthy Advisers of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Their sons—Roberto and Oscar—are Master Masons.

Eras

From the rustic coastal village in Pilar, Bataan, Tria made his mark here and abroad. He was listed in the 1981 edition of “Who’s Who in the World,” a trade publication by the Machinery Trading Executives of New York.

In 1988 he was awarded the coveted Legion of Honor by the International Council of the Order of DeMolay, U.S.A.

On September 10, 1993, the Supreme Council of the Philippines conferred on him its highest award, the Grand Court Cross of Honor. The Resolution accompanying the award cited him for his unending exemplification of "the Masonic way of life in its purest and sublime characteristics by his uncompromising commitment to its tenets and teachings, his constant readiness to serve its interest and by his demeanor that reflects fidelity to the highest and noblest virtues of Freemasonry."

Tria was the last of the Grand Masters who had shared the Grand Oriental Chair with our American bros. He lived the placid years of brotherly Fil-Am coexistence. He saw and heard the growing pains that came with total GLP independence after 1974. He had straddled two eras so that he served as a wellspring of wisdom for the Grand Masters that sought for it.

With PGM Tria now gone, the Craft cautiously sails into an entirely new century with one mast, one light, less. *EC*

A Eulogy for Dad

By Melinda Tria Kerkvliet

Delivered at the Masonic Funeral Rites of the late MW Damaso C. Tria, PGM, at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines on October 7, 2014.

Magandang gabi po sa inyo. Nagpapasalamat po kami, buong pamilya ni Damaso C. Tria sa inyong kabutihan at kangandahang loob. Good evening. The Tria family thanks you for your kindness and generosity.

My father, as many of you know, lived a long, full, rich and remarkable life. There are many ways we can talk about and remember him. For instance: as a sickly boy from a fishing barrio in Pilar; as a UP [University of the Philippines] engineering student; as a lover courting my mother (Paz Ocampo Castro)

in Salinas (Rosario, Cavite); as the professional engineer in San Carlos (Negros) sugar milling company; as a guerrilla resistance fighter when the Japanese occupied the Philippines; as a devoted Mason; as a badminton player; as a person who loved his wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and so on. Indeed there are many stories—serious and funny—that we can tell about him.

I would like to weave a story: "My Father, Masonry and Me."

In the beginning, I had

only a vague idea of my father as a Mason. But my mother already had a good idea what Masonry was about and she gave him support as long as I can remember. She often said: I am no. 2; Masonry is no. 1 for your Dad. When Dad attended meetings at the Scottish Rite Temple, Mom and I would wait for him at the downstairs ladies lounge. Mom sat there with her bag of sewing items – she was hemming, replacing buttons, darning socks. I believe I just sat there, idle, probably wondering when we would get home. When the *balut* [duck egg] vendors started announcing their presence, Mom and I would rush out and treat ourselves to *balut*.

As a teenager I had a conflicted view of Masonry. My classmates and some of my teachers in high school had a negative view of Masons. They did not think Masons could go to heaven; they seemed so sure about it. I was confused. I had joined the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, following the steps of my two older sisters, and through this organization I met many good-hearted Masons whom we called our Rainbow Dads. I was sure they were number 1 candidates for heaven.

In college, I decided to write a term paper on Jose Rizal, on the subject of his retraction from Masonry. Did he really retract? Who said so? Who said he did not, and why? Dad and Mom did not give me an-



MW Tria (center), with wife Sister Paz, enjoys a light moment during his Installation Rite in 1971 at the old Plaridel Temple Hall with his predecessor, MW Edgar Shepley, PGM (right).

swers but they supported my research; they accompanied me to the National Library, before it transferred to its present site.

Around this time, my mother and sisters were attending Masonic activities open to public—such as installation of officers, necrological services—here in Manila, in the provinces, and outside the Philippines. I remember the trip to Jolo where I met Muslim Masons. My Mom and I accompanied my Dad, then Grand Master, when he visited lodges in Okinawa, Guam, and Japan.

We also attended luncheon meetings at the Scottish Rite

Temple. On those occasions, a guest speaker would give a talk, followed by a lively and friendly discussion. There were social functions when my Dad, my sister Ditse Pat and I provided the entertainment. Dad loved to dance the "*Pandanggo sa Sambalilo*." Ditse played the piano, Dad and I waltzed towards the center of the room. At the end of the dance, as Ditse pounded the piano more vigorously, I would place the hat at the center of the room, challenging my Dad to pick it up using his head. He would dance around the hat, try to pick up the hat and fail (*kun-yari* [fake, not really]), and finally succeed in picking it up. There would be a loud applause. Mom, Ditse, and I were not surprised because Dad had been practising that routine at our garage in Philam, picking up that hat from the floor. My Mom would often say jokingly: "*Mayabang ang Daddy mo!*" [Your Daddy is a showoff!]

From just being curious, then confused, then attending Masonic events, I researched Masonry. I wrote a conference paper titled "Philippine Masonry and Nation Building," which I reworked later for publication with a title "Interpreting Masonry in the Philippines." Dad pointed me to the Grand Lodge and introduced me to Masons I would like to interview. I used the Library downstairs, and was given access to a few files at the Grand Lodge. I interviewed Ray-

mond E. Wilmarth; Samuel P. Fernandez, then editor of THE CABLETOW; Reynaldo S. Fajardo; and the then Grand Master Rizal D. Aportadera. I also had long taped interviews with Dad when he came to visit me and my husband in Canberra, Australia.

The basic tenets of Masonry, like fraternity, harmony, tolerance, charity, are known to many of us. Reading documents and discussing with several Masons, including my father, convinced me of the vital role of Masonry not only in building the Philippine nation, but also its potential role in building a more peaceful world where all religions are given respect and tolerance. The statement, "Masonry is not a religion but is religious," struck a deeper chord in my being. For this wisdom, I thank my father and Masons like you all gathered this evening to honor my father.

My niece Linda in London wrote upon hearing of Dad's death that the world is lonelier now. Indeed the world is lonelier now, but it is wiser.

History is not all serious research but it is also a world of feelings and hidden thoughts captured in letters and conversations. I would like to share parts of letters that my parents wrote on April 19, 1988.

My father first: "Dear Ben and Melinda. Two weeks from tomorrow we are flying to Cebu City for the Grand Lodge Communication. The Grand Mas-

ter invited the Sovereign Commander [Dad] to be received at the opening on the morning of the 28th. Am researching on the protocol how a Sov. Grand Commander is clothed when he enters from the reception. I'll be conferred the Legion of Honor (LOH) by the Supreme Council of Demolay of the Philippines on Saturday afternoon. *Hamak mo iyon! Siempre nandoon si Doña Chitang [Mom], at naki-kinita na masaya siya sa mga sandaling iyon. Sino naman ang hindi?...Gaya ng mga sinabi ko sa huling visitation namin sa Daet, Legaspi at Dagupan, ipinagdididi-inan ko ang 'positive thinking' sa isang tao, sapagkat hindi nakakatanda ito, bagkus maluag ang pakiramdam, hindi ba?"* [Imagine that! Of course, Doña Chitang [friendly joking, endearing name for Melinda's mom] will be there. It's possible to imagine her being happy on such occasions. Who wouldn't be. ... In recent visits to Masonic lodges in Daet, Legaspi, and Dagupan, I stressed positive thinking, something that doesn't make you old and moreover enhances good feelings.]

My mother: "Hay Melinda and Dr BJK. I'm here now at your Dad's office [Hausman and Co.] at 2:30 now of Tuesday afternoon. Your Dad has gone to the Temple to do some readings, *alam mo naman, eh*, Grand Comannder. He is so busy, *kaya maski na palingtiklingtik ay pinilit kong sumulat*

maski kaunti. Nanginginig na ang aking daliri at naninigas na.... Okay naman si Daddy mo pero pilay siya ngayon, gawa ng Badminton. He's overdoing it playing with young ones, eh mayabang si Daddy mo eh. By the way, natanggap din namin ang card mo congratulating him as Sov. Gr. Commander. You should be proud of him. Hindi lahat ng Masons ay maakyat sa Kataastaasang Puestong iyon, and he deserves it." [... Your Dad has gone to the Temple to do some readings. Such is the Grand Commander, as you know. He is so busy. Despite poor penmanship, I'm forcing myself to write, even if just a little. My finger is stiff and it trembles. Your Daddy is okay although a bit crippled now from playing badminton. He's overdoing it, playing with young ones – he's such a show-off. By the way, we received your card congratulating him on becoming Soverign Grand Commander. You should be proud of him. Not every Mason can attain such an exalted, lofty position, and he deserves it.]

In closing our family would like to thank you all, especially the Bagumbayan Lodge, Grand Lodge and Supreme Council, for the honors you had bestowed on my father, for the visits to Philam, the food you brought and songs you sang to him. I heard that at one time he reprimanded some of you for not coming to visit him on time. So sorry. He appreciated

your thoughtfulness very much. He wanted to accept your invitations to attend several functions but for health reasons he had to decline.

In my September 16, 2005 diary entry, I wrote down the conversation I was having with Dad at the garden patio. Part of the conversation ran like this. I asked him: "*Anong gusto ninyong mangyari pag may mangyari sa inyo?*" [What would you like done in case something happens to you?] Dad answered: "*Gusto ko ang Masonic Services. Doon na sa Scottish Rite Temple. Hindi na sa Grand Lodge sa San Marcelino. Kasi ang bulwagan doon, mataas, sa fourth floor pa.* (Sorry Dad; we're here, 3rd floor of the Grand Lodge.) *Pag namatay ako tawagan lang Grand Secretary. Bahala siyang mag-ayos ng Masonic funeral services. Sabihin mo sa mga kapatid mo na gusto ko ito, OK?*" [I'd like Masonic Services – at the Scottish Rite Temple. Not at the Grand Lodge on San Marcelino street because the large hall there is high up, on the 4th floor. (Sorry Dad; we're here, 3rd floor of the Grand Lodge.) When I die, call the Grand Secretary; leave it to him to arrange Masonic funeral services. This is what I want, so tell your brothers and sisters, okay?] (Masaya ka ba Dad?) [Are you happy, Dad?]

Magandang gabi po ulit sa inyong lahat. [Good evening again to you all.] ❧



MW Tria clowns with
wife Sister Paz during his
Installation Rite in 1971

Launching of Regional IMES in Munoz, Nueva Ecija

By MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM

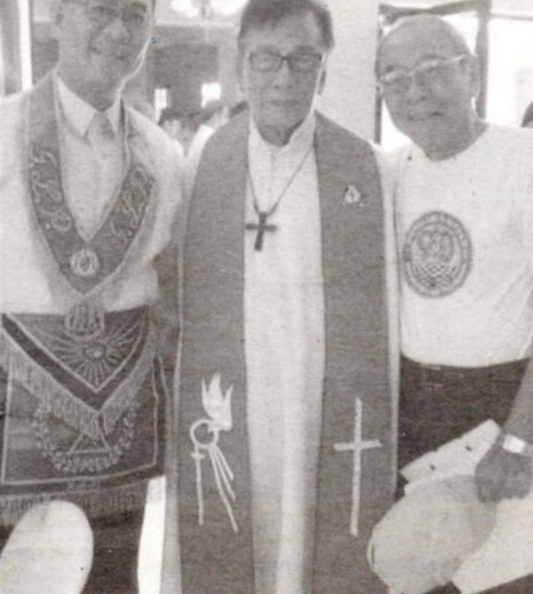
This is a historic day for masonry in the Philippines. This is the day that will be marked as the day the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, launched its first Regional Center. I am glad that this historic event has taken place in Nueva Ecija. I am sure that MW Purisima shares this sentiment. If there is one thing that MW Purisima and I share in common, it is our bond to this great province. MW Purisima by his own choice, is a resident of Nueva Ecija, my late mother on the other hand was born in Penaranda, and raised in Cabatuan City.

For the record and for posterity, let me acknowledge our brethren without whom, the birth of this first Regional Center would remain an unmanifested idea. First, let me acknowledge the all-out help, support and assistance of our Grand Master, MW Allan La Madrid Purisima to the IMES and all its projects, especially the effort of IMES to cascade masonic education to every nook and corner of our jurisdiction with deliberate speed. Let me tell you I am near 75 years of age, and I have spent the best years of my life in the service of the fraternity. Last year and the year before that, I have been seriously considering to slow down on my activities, including my masonic engagements, to adjust to the wear and tear of life. But out of the blue, MW Purisima sent word that he wanted me to be the President of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies. The offer posed a problem for me, the proverbial dilemma caused by two opposing forces --- the centripetal force, the force of my abiding belief that our fraternity can move forward

only if its members immerse themselves in masonic education and the opposing force, the centrifugal force that tells me that a worn out, 74 year old body may no longer be able to carry on his shoulder the heavy burdens of the office. I resolve the dilemma by accepting the offer of MW Purisima for during his installation as our MW Grand Master, I listened to his program of government for our brethren and one of its keystones is the institutionalization and intensification of masonic education throughout the length and breadth of our jurisdiction. I knew he would match his promise with performance and I was not mistaken. Under his leadership, the IMES was given all the assistance it needed, including the effort to fast track the devolution of masonic education thru regional centers in our jurisdiction. In other words, we shall not be here today launching our first regional IMES without the all-out support of MW Purisima.

Let me acknowledge also the efforts of the IMES Academic Faculty, some whom are here - VW Armando Cazzola, executive director, VW Sammy Fernandez, VW Joby Magbanua, and especially VW Billy Aportadera, our VP for Regional Centers. It is VW Aportadera who crafted the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Edict No. 264 issued by MW Espino, Jr., PGM, on April 1, 2014 entitled, "Decentralizing IMES by Creating Regional Centers and Progressively Developing Certain IMES Functions and Activities." Without these Implementing Rules and Regulations we could not have launched this first IMES Regional Center.

And let me express my gratitude, nay, my appreciation to the brethren of



Nueva Ecija, led by VW Escudero for achieving this record --- the first in our masonic jurisdiction to establish a Regional IMES. This is a major feat for in doing so, you beat Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, Cebu City, Clark-Angeles City, Santiago City, Baguio City and Legaspi City in the brotherly competition who can first establish an IMES Regional Center.

It is not easy to establish an IMES Regional Center. Among others, the center must have a permanent office which will serve as its administrative and logistical situs of operation for the region. It must also have a pool of qualified and duly accredited lecturers who shall comprise its Academic Faculty. Initially, it must have at least one lecturer for (1) Masonic History (2) Masonic Governance (3) Masonic Philosophy (4) Masonic Symbolism and Ritual and (5) Lodge Management. These lecturers are vetted by your IMES -GLP. And the Center must have the financial capability to sustain its administrative expenses and other expenses for the conduct of classes, seminars and lectures. All these requirements were satisfied by you, brethren of Nueva Ecija. Again, our congratulations.

Let me just stress one point and I will be done. Edict No. 264 calling for the creation of IMES Regional Centers used the

word devolution --- devolution of leadership in transmitting masonic knowledge to the brethren. In other words, we are now passing the baton of leadership in masonic education in this region to the Chancellor and lecturers of this new Regional Center. In doing so, I wish to remind you of the history of leadership, how it is changing in theory and in practice. In her book entitled 'The Ethics of Leadership,' Dr. Joanne Ciulla narrates how the concept of leadership has changed from the 1920s to the 1990s. She said:

x x x

In the 1920s, leadership was understood as the ability to impress the will of the leader to those who are led.

In the 1940s, leadership was understood as the result of an ability to persuade men. In the 1960s, leadership was understood as the power of a person which influences other persons in a shared direction.

In the 1990s, leadership was understood as an influence relationship between leaders and followers who intend real change that reflect their mutual purposes.

I hope you have not missed the evolution of a leader --- 1920s, they impressed their will on their followers; 1940s, they persuaded followers; 1960s they influenced followers; 1990s leaders and



followers influenced each other.

How do you influence others and hence be a leader? You can influence others, you can be a leader because you have the power in your hands which you can wield like the gavel, for good or for ill. You have power because you have knowledge and knowledge is power. But you do not have only knowledge, you have masonic wisdom. And you imbibed this masonic wisdom by undergoing our three degrees. To quote a masonic scholar:

Our degrees teach and constantly remind us of ourselves and our fellow creatures. In the Entered Apprentice Degree we are taught to extend charity to all. Not just material charity but also that more charity of mind and spirit that inspires us to help every other human being who is in need. The Fellowcraft Degree instructs us to engage ourselves in the pursuit of knowledge. It encourages us to study the classical and liberal arts and sciences which leads to an enlightened mind. The mind should be free from the dross of all prejudices, natural, cultural, ethnic, racial and religious. For masonry is universal, extending its benevolence throughout the entire terrestrial globe. The Sublime Degree of Master Mason goes even further. It is called "sublime" that is elevated in thought, "Inspiring awe" because it teaches us of our further duties to each other and indeed to all mankind.

As the bearers of our masonic wisdom, it is your duty to transmit this first

to the brethren and then, to mankind. Masonic wisdom is the distillation of spiritual values, values that are eternal because they are the essence of the more enduring values that came from the ancient mysteries, as well as the ancient and modern religions; in other words, these spiritual values are nothing less than divine. It is these spiritual values that transform men when they join masonry, that make good men better when they are raised by the grip of a brother mason, that make them restart life without the baggage of the life of the outside world, yes, restart a life minus the stains of material life, a life as clear as our white apron which only a master mason has the privilege to wear.

When you were admitted to the order of masonry, you did not enter a monastic order. The lodges of masonry are not monasteries. The lodges of masonry are not havens of cloistered lives. When you were raised a mason, you were immersed in new values – the values of brotherly love, relief, truth, temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice. These new values should have a refining process on our nature as rough ashlar. These new values must make you new, a new man, new because of masonry. Go and teach the truth of masonry first to ourselves, then to others, then to the world. And remember the best way to teach the truth of masonry, the best way to impart its lessons is less thru our lips but more thru our lives. ☒



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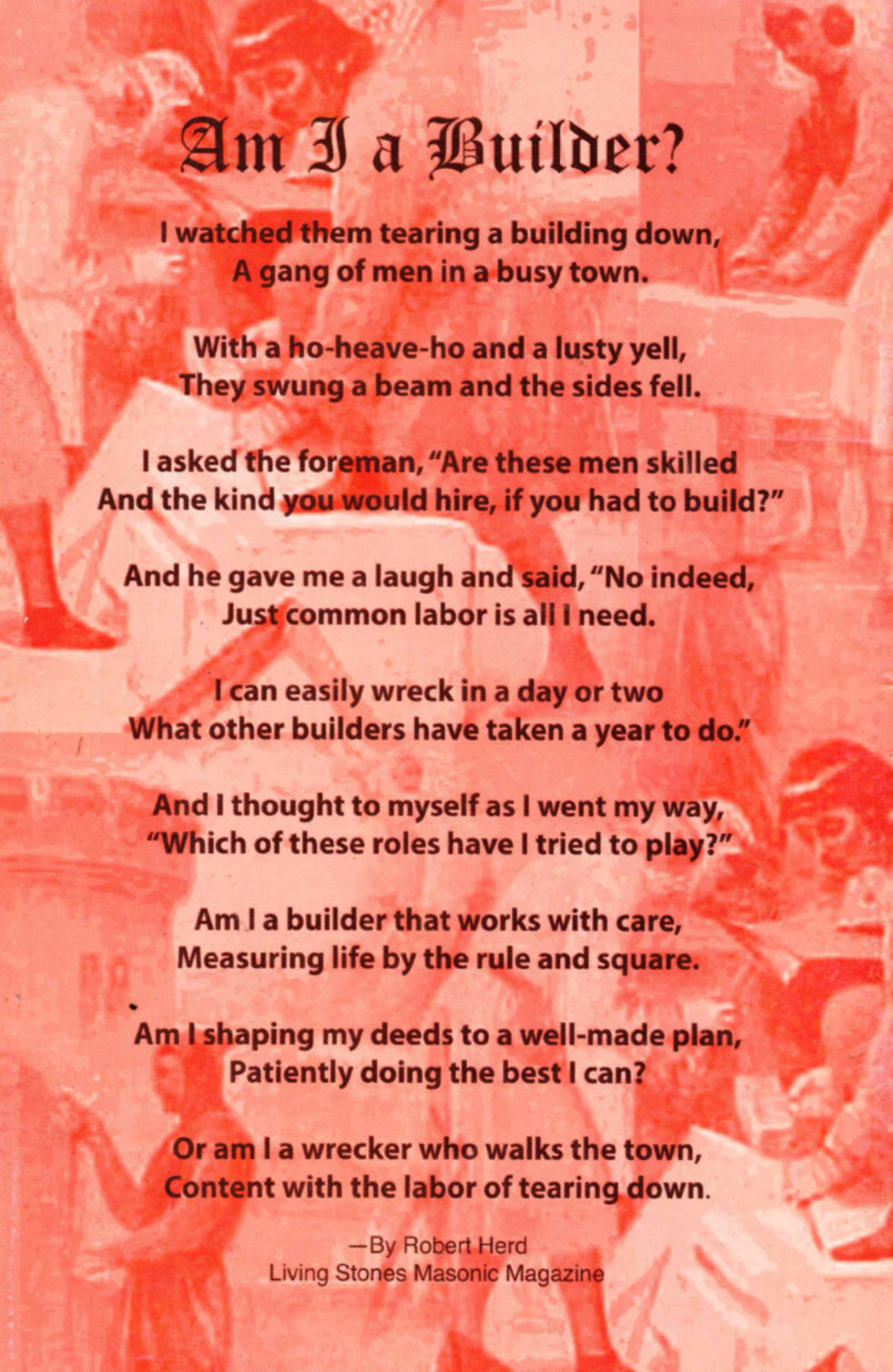
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Am I a Builder?

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.

With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and the sides fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled
And the kind **you** would hire, if you had to build?"

And he gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed,
Just common labor is all I need.

I can easily wreck in a day or two
What other builders have taken a year to do."

And I thought to myself as I went my way,
"Which of these roles have I tried to play?"

Am I a builder that works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square.

Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down.

—By Robert Herd
Living Stones Masonic Magazine