



The Passing of Brother Marc Cyr

From *Canada Lodge UD, GRC: The Craft at Work in Kandahar* by Bro 2Lt Joseph Curry

The death of a comrade while soldiers are on deployment hits hard, even if from natural causes. Such was the case for the Canadian troops in Kandahar, Afghanistan and for their Lodge — Canada Lodge UD, GRC — when the Senior Warden suddenly died. Bro Marc Cyr had passed to the Grand Lodge above on 1 August 2011, having just returned to Kandahar from leave spent with his wife and daughter in Ontario. The loss I felt was immense. It had fallen on my shoulders to notify the Brethren of Canada Lodge, as well as the Worshipful Master of Civil Service Lodge No. 148—Bro Cyr's mother Lodge.

Bro Cyr was a retired member of the Canadian Forces who had served in Bosnia. He was working

as a civilian contractor for the Canadian Forces in Kandahar, specifically for The National Support Element of Task Force Kandahar (the same unit I was deployed with). As some of you may be aware, there is a war memorial (in the Task Force Kandahar compound) that is made of Afghan marble. The memorial is a beautiful, peaceful place. Matching white marble walls rise from a base of black marble, which is also used to cap the walls. On these are mounted black marble plaques, each etched with the face of a fallen soldier along with his name and unit. When the body of a fallen soldier has been placed in the flag-draped transfer case it is laid on the Afghan War Memorial for viewing. A small ceremony is held for those close to the fallen before the ramp ceremony (seen on the news) is held. In honour of Bro Cyr's service in the Canadian Forces, and the fact that he passed away while on active duty in a theatre of war while in support of the Canadian Forces, his body was placed in a flag-draped coffin and placed on the memorial — the same honour given to soldiers who have fallen in battle. This



Bro Marc Cyr lies in repose on the Afghan War Memorial at the Canadian Forces Base in Kandahar where the fallen are honoured before repatriation to Canada.

is the only case I am aware of where a civilian has been given this honour.

Following the memorial service which was attended by uniformed and civilian friends and colleagues we carried his body off the Memorial to the waiting transport vehicle. As we passed, his civilian friends gave the sign that we know as the S. of F. and those in uniform saluted. As we passed the last soldier standing at a sharp salute I recognized him as Task Force Kandahar Commander, Brigadier-General Jonathan H. Vance.

While I could not let myself be consumed by the emotion of these events, they of course had a great impact on me. The lessons from the 3rd Degree were given new perspective. That great leveler, death, has never been so clear to me as it was at this time and place. While the fragility and value of life were illuminated for me in a new way by these events, I saw the level as well.

This beautiful, humble, unassuming man who never held or sought position of status or privilege in life, was in death remembered with the respect and honour of a hero and a founder. From Kandahar,

Stampeding Again — Yee-Haw!



Once again, as is our wont, Alberta Masons joined the annual celebration of the Calgary Stampede. Not only did we participate in the parade kicking off the festivities (see *The Alberta Freemason*, October 2012), The Grand Lodge of Alberta and the Board of Calgary Freemasons' Hall hosted a Stampede Breakfast. Bacon, sausages and pancakes were enjoyed by all. In the picture, Judy Rivers, Executive Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, chats with one of the guests.



Bro Cpl Nick Karsin, Junior Warden, salutes the Senior Warden, Bro Marc Cyr, at his memorial as Bro Cyr's co-workers attend.

Canada's top General in Afghanistan sent him home in the flag draped coffin of a Canadian Hero. In Ottawa he was given a Masonic Memorial Service attended by the Grand Master himself, MWBro Raymond S.J. Daniels, as a fitting tribute to his contribution to Masonry by sitting as the first Senior Warden of Canada Lodge.

I would like to share just one more small anecdote from that night. As I knelt at his coffin on the memorial and placed my hands on the flag stretched over it, my head bowed down... I opened my eyes and noticed that the red band which holds the flag in place was turned slightly. As I set to straighten it I discovered the cause: pinned to it was a small S&Cs, which I discovered later had been placed there by Bro Corporal Nick Karsin. The Light would accompany him on the long journey home.

There was another event in Kandahar which is of military and Masonic note. One evening Bro Sgt Steve Gardiner rose and removed a small clear plastic envelope from his pocket which contained a Masonic coin. He proceeded to tell us — his voice slightly quivering — that this coin was found on the body of Bro Sergeant Shawn Eades after he was killed in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) blast in August 2008. [Bro Eades was a member of Balmoral Lodge No. 185, GRA. See *Alberta Freemason*, Nov 2008, p 1.] His wife had requested that the coin travel to Canada Lodge with Sgt. Gardiner. The Master, VWBro Fulford,



Bro Shawn Eades of Balmoral Lodge No. 165 died in Afghanistan in 2008.

directed the coin to be placed on the altar until such time as it returned back to Bro Eade's widow with Sgt. Gardiner. It was laid beside the Volume of the Sacred Law as a memorial to our brother-in-arms, our Brother in the Craft."

More of Bro Curry's excellent paper will be presented at the coming meeting of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 to be held 24 November

2012 at Highlands Hall, Edmonton tyling at 14 00 h. A banquet will be held at Noon in conjunction with the Edmonton Chapter of the Allied Masonic Degrees (which meets at 11 00 h). All Master Masons are welcome. Cost is \$15.

Lodge Websites and Membership Development

RWBro Glenn McConnell, PDDGM

Many potential initiates now contact us via Lodge websites — or would like to. A serious impediment to this computer age recruitment process arises when Lodges either do not have websites or the websites don't include a prominent, user-friendly contact function.

A recent review of Alberta Lodges reveals that only fifty-nine (47 per cent) have websites and of these only forty contain a user-friendly means of Lodge contact. Several websites contain seriously outdated information, which leaves a poor impression.

There are, however, some great success stories regarding Alberta Lodge websites and membership growth, such as Elbow River Lodge No. 180, located in Calgary (<http://www.calgarymasons.com/index.html>). After a period of low growth they set up an appealing website and attracted more initiates than could be readily accommodated.

Many of us have considered website construction to be the restricted realm of IT professionals, but this is

no longer the case. Website construction information and templates are available for use by less experienced computer users, and information on low-cost website services is available at www.mastermason.com. Several Alberta Lodges are utilizing this service.



Basic information for a website home page should include Lodge name, address, meeting dates, name and telephone numbers/email addresses for the Worshipful Master and Secretary and a link to the Grand Lodge website. The website of Kitchener Lodge No. 95 in Rimbey (<http://www.mastermason.com/kitchener95/>) provides a well-organized home page which clearly identifies its officers, thereby readily facilitating enquiries.

Most initial contacts received in this manner appear to be from men who have already accessed considerable information about Freemasonry and are

well informed. It remains for Lodge members to confirm the nature and level of their interest via interviews and Lodge socials.

The average age of Freemasons is rapidly decreasing and it is incumbent on Masonic Lodges to reflect an

appreciation of modern communications in daily use by younger age groups. Websites make us accessible — particularly when they include a highly visible and direct contact function such as telephone number and personal email address. The alternative "Send Us a Message" box is generally less inviting and runs the risk of slow or no response.

If your Lodge is one of the fifty-three per cent without a website and you would like to create an additional route of enquiry for potential candidates, consider setting one up. It will be something your current members will take pride in.

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Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W. Kopp



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Concerning God and Religion

John L. Cooper III, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of California. *California Freemason*, August–September, 2012.

Freemasonry's ability to create "a centre of union," transcending religious differences, has been a defining characteristic since the early 1800s.

The question of the connection between Freemasonry and religion is not an easy topic to tackle. On the one hand, Freemasons are adamant that Freemasonry is not a religion, and not a substitute for religion. It encourages its members to be active in the faith community to which they belong, but does not favour or promote any particular faith. On the other hand, Freemasonry requires that all its members have a belief in God. It begins and ends its meetings with prayer. Members take their promises as Masons on a book sacred to their religion, and (at least in the United States) a Bible is always prominently displayed in the center of the room whenever a Lodge is in session. Its rituals have frequent references to God, and to the meaning that a belief in God has for an individual Mason. Why is this?

It would be easy just to say that requiring a belief in God is a part of our heritage, and a part of the fabric of Freemasonry. It is, but it is also something more. In order to understand why we must return to the formative period of modern Freemasonry (what Masons call "Speculative Freemasonry") in the 17th and 18th centuries in Great Britain. All contemporary Freemasonry comes from Lodges in the British Isles, and from the first Grand Lodges which were formed there beginning in 1717 with the Grand Lodge in London. In those days a belief in God and in a revealed religion was universal. No one questioned whether God existed, nor that a man should be a member of the religion which God had revealed to mankind. The problem was, which religion? Europe had been torn apart by religious wars starting with the Reformation when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg in 1517. Although the wars started as a conflict between Protestants and Catholics, over the next 200 years it became a conflict between Protestant churches as well. In fact, religion had become the source of murderous conflicts which tore society apart. It was into this situation that Freemasonry emerged.

Freemasonry was a brotherhood, and as such believed that its members

should support one another and trust one another as brothers would do in a natural family. But how could this be the case if religious conflicts prevented it? How could a Mason from one religion consider himself to be a Brother with a Mason from a competing religion when those religions were at war with one another? The answer was worked out in the early years of Freemasonry, and this is the story.

Just six years after the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717, the young Masonic organization adopted one of the foundational documents of our worldwide fraternity. Grand Lodge had asked one of its prominent members, a Presbyterian minister by the name of James Anderson, to write a set of rules to govern the new society, and as a part of the project, he submitted a list of six "charges." Based on a free interpretation of the "Old Charges" of the manuscript constitutions, portions of which had traditionally been read at the "making of a Mason," Anderson may have envisioned that a similar practice would emerge using these six "modernized" statements

about Freemasonry. Regardless of the intent, the Six Charges became the standard interpretation of the Craft for a generation, and still remain an important source for understanding the fundamental principles of our institution.

The First Charge, with the title of "Concerning God and Religion," was probably the most important. It set forth clearly the position of Freemasonry concerning the relationship of an individual Mason and his loyalty to God as understood within his own religious community. It answered the fundamental question of how a man could be a Brother to someone who did not share his religion without diminishing the loyalty he owed to that religion, and to God as he understood Him. The First Charge of 1723 has become the foundation of Freemasonry's position on the issue of religion to this day. Freemasonry's answer to the bigotry and hatred of the partisans of competing religions was

to search for that which the warring parties had in common rather than that which divided them. It assumed that beneath every particular expression of religious opinion was a common thread of goodness and truth which, if properly understood, could draw men together rather than push them apart. Anderson was too astute a student of history to believe that religious differences could be disregarded, or replaced by some sort of an amalgam of all religions. He was instead interested in how men (and women for that matter) could learn to respect the strongly held beliefs of others without engaging in the destructive behaviour that caused such murderous activity by human beings

toward one another. Freemasonry held the answer for him: Learn to respect and appreciate the religious beliefs that others hold so dear by looking for the good and the true in others. It was this belief that was to transform Freemasonry into the power for good that it has exercised ever since.

Anderson, and Grand Lodge itself, knew that focusing on what is good and what is true in the

lives of others puts us on a different footing. Instead of talking about what divides us, it causes us to talk about what unites us. Freemasonry thus becomes a "center of union," to use Anderson's apt phrase, a place where we can become "friends and Brothers" without fear of compromising our own convictions.

Sectarian religion and partisan politics are not discussed in a Masonic Lodge, or in a Masonic setting. That does not mean that neither is important to a Mason. Far from it. Masons can be deeply religious as well as deeply passionate about political beliefs, and often are. But all Masons share a respect for the beliefs of others that binds them together in a brotherhood which can only occur if they share a commitment to finding that which is good and true in others. This affirmation is at the heart of our respect for one another, and the foundation of that brotherly love and affection which is the envy of the world.



Rev James Anderson ca. 1680–1739

Alberta Filipino Masonic Conferral Team.

65+ Members Attend the First Ever Filipino Degree

RWBro Doug Wade, PDDGM

A wonderful day of Freemasonry was enjoyed in Drumheller on 15 September 2012, when two candidates were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. While their proving-up was excellent, it was the work after, by the newly formed Alberta Filipino Masonic Conferral Team, that impressed the many who attended, among them two DDGMs, Dinosaur District's RWBro David Carter and Central District's RWBro Dick Cameron.

The Degree team consists of approximately 25 members from Calgary, Red Deer, Drumheller, Ponoka, Medicine Hat and Edmonton, and is made up of Master Masons, most of whom were raised in the Philippines and affiliated with Lodges in Alberta along with a few who have joined here.

"This is just the first of many works we are hoping to perform. The purpose of the group is to make the other Brethren of Alberta aware that there is a thriving community of Filipino Masons in Alberta and to showcase and exemplify the beauty of the Works as performed in the Philippines," enthused Bro Rey Isidro deGuzman of Symbol Lodge No.93,



coordinator of the group.

"I feel privileged to have been the very first candidate in Alberta raised to the Sublime Degree by this excellent group of Brothers," said Bro Peter Montoya after his degree conferral. "I found myself learning a lot about how the degree is performed in the Philippines. I think observing and participating in the Filipino degree work has educated me and enriched my knowledge of the Craft," said Bro Efrén Obillo of Drumheller Lodge No. 146, one of the Brothers present during the event.

The members are prepared to travel to Lodges to assist in raising candidates of Filipino descent, exemplifying the opening and closing of the Lodge in the 3rd Degree and installing officers of the Lodge based on the Works of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, F&AM. They welcome your inquiries. Please direct your inquiries to:

Bro Rey Isidro deGuzman, Symbol Lodge No. 93 (403-543-9680 h; 587-436-9680 c) or

Bro Martin Gatan, Ashlar Lodge No. 28 (403-764-2227 h; 403-671-7266 c).

John & Dorothy Cameron's 2013 Grand Master's Tour

British Isles 2-20 August 2013

Cruise Southampton return — 12 Nights

Ports of Call — Guernsey, Cork, Dublin, Glasgow, Belfast, Orkney Islands, Inverness, Edinburgh, Paris / Normandy

30 Staterooms to choice from including 15 balcony staterooms!

Rates per person from Inside — \$2150 / Balconies — \$3160

Other stateroom categories available

Cruise gov't fees and taxes — \$440 additional

Visit the Grand Lodge of England, the New Titanic Museum in Belfast & Rosslyn Chapel

Air / Pre Cruise and Post Cruise London Package — \$3589

(Estimated based on 30 passengers)

Includes: airfare Calgary/London Heathrow; All transfers; Pre cruise 5 star Southampton hotel, with dinner and breakfast; 4 night post cruise central 5 star London hotel, Daily breakfast, Day tour lunches and speciality dinners; Taxes and Gratuities on all land arrangements. **Tours included:** Belfast Titanic Museum; Grand Lodge of England; Bath & Stonehenge; Windsor Castle; Kensington Palace; Buckingham Palace (TBV); and Farewell Dinner Cruise on the Thames.

Please note – The Land portion of the tour is still being organized at time of the *Alberta Freemason* publication deadline. Some tours items may have to be adjusted to accommodate and reflect the pricing - *The Titanic Museum tour in Belfast and the Rosslyn Chapel tour in Edinburgh is part of the Air / Land London Package and is not part of any ship board tours from Princess Cruises. Air / Land package does not include Air tax of \$630*

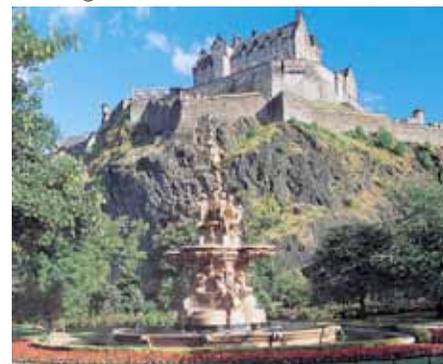
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Buckingham Palace



Edinburgh Castle

Full itinerary and booking inquiry will be available at website

www.mvptravel.ca

The Wages of a Master

Brother Dewey H. Wollstein, PGM Grand Lodge of Georgia
From *Rays of Masonry*, 1953

There is a saying which you have heard in Masonry many times: "You get out of Masonry only what you put in it." There may be a great deal of truth in such a statement, but it is a rather conservative estimate.

You get far more out of Masonry than you ever can put into it. There is no work or study that pays greater spiritual dividends than the work of Masonry. There is no time better spent and which yields more happiness and satisfaction than time spent in the work of Masonry.

If one is looking for a purely material or financial reward, then his time in Masonry is only a waste of effort. From the time you evidenced a desire to become a Mason, it was made plain to you that Masonry offered an opportunity

for spiritual and mental growth, and did not offer or promise the least financial reward. The Wages of a Master are in keeping with the thing sought through Mastership.

Then, is this work of Masonry confined to the Lodge room? No! It is important that every Mason attend as many meetings of his Lodge as he possibly can, and it is important that the Mason participate in as many

activities of the Lodge as he possibly can, according to his talents, large or small. Yet, the work of Masonry is as extensive as life itself. The work of Masonry calls for an examination of *self* to determine how our own lives reflect the teachings of Masonry. If we are honest in this, then other fields of work in the interest of humanity will be opened, and we will enter into them with joy and enthusiasm because we are Master Masons and cannot do otherwise.

Try it! You'll find a harvest of happiness.

District Meetings

November

- 3 Battle River District; Forestburg Masonic Hall; Reg 13 00 h; Mtg 15 00 h; Dinner 19 00 h; SGW
- 10 Beaverhills District; Highlands Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton; Reg Noon; Mtg 13 00 h; Dinner 16 00 h; GM
- 17 Alpha District; Calgary Freemasons' Hall; Reg 11 00 h; Lunch Noon; Mtg 13 30 h; DGM
- 17 Lakeland District; Masonic Hall, Holden; Reg 10 30 h; Mtg 13 00 h; Dinner 16 30 h; GSec
- 22 Dinosaur District; Acme Masonic Hall; Reg 17 30 h; Dinner 18 30 h; Mtg 19 30 h; SGW
- 29 Phoenix District; King George Freemasons' Hall, Calgary; Reg 17 00 h; Festive Board 17 30 h; Mtg 19 00 h; GM

Grand Master's Itinerary

November

- 6 Vulcan Lodge No. 74, Game Dinner; Vulcan Masonic Hall
- 7 Orion Lodge No. 51, BC&Y, Fraternal Visit; Penticton, BC
- 10 Beaverhills District Meeting; Highlands Masonic Hall, Edm; Mtg 13 00 h
- 14 Meridian Lodge No. 129, Fraternal Visit; Freemasons' Hall, Stony Plain; 19 30 h

The Mayan civilization have dictated their prophecy:

"That the destruction of our fifth Sun and evolution of the human species is coming and Men of pure and clean heart that wish to live in harmony will be the only survivors of mankind".

It is The Brothers of Empire Lodge No. 63 wishes to enlighten you of the Seven Prophecies of the Maya people. May we be together on this great day of immense change, with our wives, sweethearts, friends and fellow Brothers by our side.

Let us celebrate the happiness of life and live harmoniously with brotherly love, relief and truth. It will be a Mayan K'inil festival of epic proportions, where we dress as we choose, eat to excess, drink with temperance and dance and celebrate until the bells of the new era ring.....OR END.

Tickets \$40.00 | Cocktails 6:30 PM | Dinner 7:30 PM | Freemasons' Hall
Contact: jw@empirelodge63.com for tickets

Your DDGMs 2012–2013

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2012–2013 term. This will be continued in the next two issues of The Alberta Freemason.

Athabasca District

RWBro Bhajan Singh Deol was born 2 February 1941 in Navivumbi, a small town in Uganda. His family moved to Mwanza, a town on the shores of Lake Victoria in Tanzania, where he was raised, educated and trained as a Heavy Duty Technician by British Leyland. In 1975 he immigrated to Canada, settling in Fort McMurray. He worked in the oil sands industry with Caterpillar dealer R. Angus Ltd., and later with Finning Canada Ltd. as a supervisor in their service shop, retiring in 2008. RWBro Deol has been married to Kulwant for fifty years and they have three children



In 1971 RWBro Deol was initiated, passed and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Mwanza Lodge No. 7485 EC in Mwanza, Tanzania. When he moved to Edmonton with his family in 1989, he affiliated with Dominion Lodge No. 117 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1995. In 2005 he was appointed a Grand Steward in the Grand Lodge of Alberta. RWBro Deol is a member of North Star Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons and is a Noble with Al-Shamal Temple in Edmonton. He is also a Past President of Millwoods Lions Club in Edmonton.

Palliser District

RWBro E. Neil Russell was born in Innisfail, Alberta on 24 August 1939. He graduated from the University of Alberta with Bachelor of Physical Education and Master of Arts degrees, with doctoral work in Special Education and Counseling. RWBro Russell was an Instructor/Administrator at Medicine Hat College for 29 years. He has been married to Joanne for 44 years, and they have three daughters and seven grandchildren.



RWBro Russell was initiated in Mizpah Lodge No. 35 on 29 January 1980, passed on 18 March 1980 and raised on 15 April 1980. He was Master of that Lodge in 1986 and its Secretary for a number of years.

Battle River

RWBro Greg Lemay was born and raised in Camrose, Alberta. He attended Camrose Composite High School and did his post secondary at Camrose Lutheran College and the Alberta Insurance Institute. RWBro Lemay was active in sports growing up, especially on the football field. He married Susan in 1986 and they have two adult daughters. He purchased Forestburg Agencies Ltd. in 1991 and



moved his family to Forestburg that year.

He served with the 20th Field Artillery Reserves and the 644 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron as the Commanding Officer for many years, holding the rank of Captain in the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve. He is very active in his community, and served three terms on the local town council and as the Mayor. Not much happened in the community that he wasn't involved in. He served on many boards and was involved with many of the local clubs and service groups. He received the Alberta Centennial Medal from the Lieutenant Governor for his community efforts.

RWBro Lemay was initiated into Masonry in Forestburg Lodge No. 128 in February 1992, and has held all the offices, including Master in 1999 and Secretary-Treasurer on two occasions over his Masonic career. He was also a Royal Arch Mason with Bethel Chapter No. 36 in Forestburg.

Dinosaur District

RWBro David Carter was born 18 September 1954 in Calgary. He met his wife Debra Jungling in 1974 and they have been together for the past 37 years. They currently reside in Drumheller, where Debra has her business. He has worked in health care for over 30 years and is currently stationed in Edmonton with Bowers Medical.



RWBro Carter was initiated in Symbol Lodge No. 93 in 1993 and was its Worshipful Master in 1999, 2008 and 2009. He served as DDGM for 2006–2007. He is also a Member of Ehehyeh Chapter No. 27, Royal Arch Masons.

Yellowhead District

RWBro Jack William Drebit was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on 16 January 1954 and moved to Alberta in 1983. He has been married to Cheryl for 20 years and they currently reside on an acreage near Edson. He has worked as a professional entertainer and musician and is currently employed as a realtor with RE/MAX® in Edson. Jack has a strong sense of community spirit, and is a Director of the Edson and District Chamber of Commerce as well as Family Services Coordinator on the Edson Habitat for Humanity project.



Jack was initiated, passed and raised in Edson Lodge No. 68 and served as Worshipful Master in 2007–2008. He was appointed a Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 2011 and elected District Deputy Grand Master for 2012–2013. He currently sits as a member on the Lodge Officer Training Program. Jack is also actively involved in many other concordant Masonic Bodies