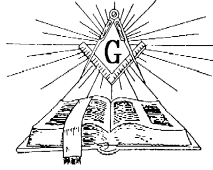


WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.
AUGUST 19TH, 2013 TRESTLEBOARD (#308)



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Brethren: The **Regular Communication** of Webb Lodge #166 F. & A.M. will be held at 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia, on **August 19th, 2013**. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. and a Lodge of Master Masons will be opened at 8:00 p.m.



1. **UNITY COURT NO. 21 O/A FUNDRAISER:** The Order of the Amaranth (who cooks dinner for us each month) is having a Steak Dinner Fundraiser on November 16, 2013, at the Scottish Rite Center, 2553 Washington Road. See one of the members for information and tickets. Please support this event; the proceeds go to Diabetic Research.



2. **SCOTTISH RITE FALL REUNION:** The Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite will hold their fall reunion on September 27th and 28th, 2013. If you are a Master Mason who desires "More Light", see a Scottish Rite Mason or call Greg Oblak (706-829-1665) for a petition.



3. **LADIES/WIDOWS NIGHT:** Webb Lodge is in the planning stages for a Ladies/Widows night in the next couple of months. WB Frank Valentine will be contacting the widows to determine if they may be interested in attending the Fort Gordon Dinner Theater. Information will be forthcoming as far as a date, time and name of the production. The widows and one guest as well as the spouse or friend of a member will be paid for by Webb Lodge and the members will be responsible for their ticket. We hope you can attend.

*If a man is standing in the middle of the forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him... is he still wrong?
(One for the men).*

4. **JUST A THOUGHT:** I have seen several publications recently refer to Freemasonry as a sleeping giant. Freemasonry is referred to as a giant because it began to build the human soul and spirit using man's hunger for knowledge, truth and goodness, a love of God and loyalty to his fellowman. And thus began our Masonic heritage. As this potential evolved, it moved across our earth gaining in strength and influence and created this **GIANT**. The sleeping aspect is readily comprehensible when we consider to relative quiescence of Freemasonry today as compared to our past. My Brothers, the potential to wake what we have chosen to term a sleeping giant is in our hands. If the giant sleeps too long, it may change from a sleeping giant to a dying giant. I constantly hear that Freemasonry is in a rut, and it would behoove us to remember that the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth of the hole. Freemasonry is too important to me to sleep, and it is certainly too important to die. But "**WE**" are the only ones who can awaken it.

Fishing is worth any amount of effort and any amount of expense to people who love it, because in the end you get such a large number of dreams per fish. (Frazier) (And the feelings I'm sure of Sid Putnam, the Bassmaster. Get Well Sid we all have you in our prayers.)

5. **AN OLD GUY AND A BUCKET OF SHRIMP:** It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean. Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.' In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place before he finally turns around and begins to walk on home. If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp. Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better. His full name: **Eddie Rickenbacker**. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft. Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific fighting the sun, sharks, hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft... Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull! Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea. Eddie lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull and he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude. Eddie Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became



America 's first ace. In WWII he was an instructor and military adviser. Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero and his story is just one of many sacrifices that brave men have endured for your freedom.

6. **CLAY BALLS:** A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. They didn't look like much but they intrigued the man. As he strolled along the beach he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean. He thought little about it until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone. Excited he broke open the remaining clay balls and found thousands of dollars worth of jewels. Then it struck him that he had thrown the majority of the clay balls with their hidden treasure into the sea. He had thrown away a fortune. It is like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside, it isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it as less important than someone more beautiful or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the real treasure hidden inside that person. I hope that we may see the people in our world as God sees them. I am so blessed by my friends; thank you for looking beyond my clay vessel! Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! Life is too short and friends are too few. **Pass this on to another Clay Ball!!**

Life is not a final. It is daily pop quizzes. (Crittenden)

The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way you choose to use them. (Unknown)

7. **THE PASSING OF "ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW":** Worshipful Brother John Sears passed away on Thursday, August 1, 2013. John lost his battle with cancer after a long hard fight. John was my Senior Warden in 1987 and Master (1988) and Life Member of Webb Lodge #166. I have many fond memories of John especially in the late 1980's when Webb Lodge had 337 members. We had three of the most successful years in the history of Webb Lodge. (1987, 1988 and 1989) John, Frank Smith (my Junior Warden in 1987) and myself started a three year trend for brothers raised, charities supported, fundraisers, support of our widows, visitations to other lodges, attended all District Conventions, Grand Lodge Annual Communications, Grand Master's Forums, Masonic Home Workdays, and Schools of Instruction together. John, Frank and I started a three year trend for getting all of our members families together at each other's homes for a family night,



(Actually a fish fry) I have many fond memories and many tall stories from those fish fries. John was the Chief Fish Cooker of the group (so was Frank) and I was the official Taster. (See photo). John eventually moved from the area when he was diagnosed with cancer to Texas to be close to the M.D.

Anderson Cancer Center for treatment and was doing very well. He fought the disease for several years and just recently moved back into the area in the last few months once he found out that the chemotherapy was no longer working. His son, John, (also a member of Webb Lodge) went to Texas to bring his dad home. I visited John just a little over a week ago. We talked of the old times, the good times and the recent struggles that he has gone through. He never gave up, he never let the disease defeat his spirit or belief in God. He stated that he had a great life, a great family (was especially grateful to his son for taking him into his home) and was ready to be with God. John was my Senior Warden, He was my Brother, He was my Friend. John was definitely **"ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW."** I will miss my friend but I know he is in a better place.



Editor & Secretary

T. Gregory Oblak, P.M.

Worshipful Master

M. Steven Fishman

829-1155	M. STEVEN FISHMAN	WORSHIPFUL MASTER
738-4278	JACK P. GOLDENBERG	SENIOR WARDEN
829-0216	RICHARD T. WILLIAMSON	JUNIOR WARDEN
863-8048	RICHARD T. PACHECO, P.M.	TREASURER
829-1665	T. GREGORY OBLAK, P.M.	SECRETARY
863-9459	TERRY M. DEWITT, P.M.	CHAPLAIN
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651-0699	CALOP J. BRADFORD	JUNIOR DEACON
267-3976	JOSHUA B. BATES	SENIOR STEWARD
691-9176	RANDALL J. KING, JR.	JUNIOR STEWARD
736-4389	ROBERT A. ELLIOTT	TYLER
855-1480	JAMES L. HUGGINS, SR., P.M.	DIRECTOR OF WORK
736-2835	ERIC FLEISHNER	CHARITY CHAIRMAN
284-5996	KENNETH E. BOOSE	MASONIC HOME AMBASSADOR

WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M. 2013 OFFICERS

(Return Service Requested)
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