

THE



OKLAHOMA

MASON

THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE
OF OKLAHOMA

June 2025



James Roderick
Grand Master

Greetings Brothers,
as storm season
is upon us and
reminding us of
Nature's power,
please stay weather-aware
and safe. Check on your
friends, family, and brothers,
and stay connected. Offer
help when you can and ask for
help when it is needed.

As your elected trustees, we
continue our mission of serv-
ant leadership, educational
programs, budget, and lodge
assistance. My DDGMs and
Senior DDGMs continue work-

ing diligently with the lodges, doing our best to help with questions and
keep minor issues minor.

While we do our best to help all lodges, at-risk lodges are a priority.

What is an "At-Risk" lodge?

How can I know if my Lodge is At-Risk?

What are the signs that we need to look for?



The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA

Well, that definition can vary greatly, but it can be put into these categories for the most part.

- 1) Disharmony
- 2) Failing Attendance
- 3) Operating outside of our Constitution and Code.

Although there may be many causes, the Common Denominator and result is **Disharmony**.

Disharmony is born when unresolved disagreements occur, or power struggles within the lodge become prevalent, from disrespect shown between our brothers, and when the Constitution and Code is not used or is misused or abused.

Sure, there will always be disagreements. We are human. But we are also Masons, and we have sworn oaths to circumscribe our passions, to work for the good of Masonry, and to function similarly to the beehive, where we all work towards the greater good. We joined because of the desire to be better men and improve ourselves.

Disharmony ?... I'm not upset. They are.

And if they don't like it?..... They can leave and find another lodge.

True. But when the number of those leaving or being pushed out gets large enough, what then?

Then (hopefully before) is when you either take a good, hard, and objective look at why people are leaving and earnestly try to find the common denominator(s) and correct things, **OR** you go to the shed, get a shovel, and slowly start digging a grave for your terminally ill lodge. It's that simple.

Call it Masonic Hospice, if you will. It is not **IF** the lodge will die.....it is **WHEN**.

With rare exceptions, every lodge closure began with Disharmony. Brothers get upset, pick sides, decide to quit, or are pushed out. Attendance lowers, and the lights start to dim.

New members may come in but do not stay. If that happens, then it is the lodge's environment, the prevalence of Disharmony still lingering in the air.

After a while, it is no longer a True Lodge. It is a lodge building by definition, but in reality, it is just a place where people come to have coffee and talk for a while. It was just another coffee shop only with no waitperson.

Grand Lodge cannot cure chronic Disharmony. DDGMs cannot fix it. The Grand Master can-

not wave a magic wand and make it all better. We can assist you in identifying it and work with you to create a better environment, but WE CANNOT make a lodge play nice and be a welcome sanctuary if it doesn't want to be.

That is entirely up to the Brothers of that lodge.

You can create a brotherly environment. A place where everyone can have a common goal, agree to disagree, and, most of all, find sanctuary from that cold and conflicted world outside the lodge doors where we can let our guard down and just relax with our brothers.

Or you can make that power play, disrespect your brothers, be the guy(s) who say, "It's my way or the highway," be the stud duck of an all-volunteer organization and boss everyone around like they are beneath you..... and after that...start planning a funeral for your dying lodge.

The Grand Master can pull a few bad teeth if needed, but it is up to the lodge brothers to check for decay and practice good Masonic hygiene. Speak as Masons. Speak as Brothers.

It seems to me that I recall reading something about Acting on the Level, Being on the Level, and something about Brotherly Love and Compassion. I'm pretty sure it's a Masonic thing.

So what can be done to inoculate our lodges against this deadly thing called Disharmony?

It's actually pretty simple.

Follow the teachings, the oaths, and the tenets of Masonry. Be a GOOD MAN. Be a de-



cent human being, and treat others with the respect you want for yourself. Be a part of the sanctity of the lodge for the sake of the lodge and the community. We are bees in the hive. It takes ALL of US working together to survive.

Check your anger, your attitude, your disrespect of the day. Not only should it be left outside of the lodge, but it should also be left in the car. On the days you can't do that, Stay home. Go for a Drive. Go for a Walk.

Do something, but don't infect your brothers.

The sandbox is big enough for all of us to play in. But when only a few play there, there are not enough eyes to see approaching danger and that neighborhood cat will slip past you, get in the sandbox, and leave a little Kitty Karma for you.

When each of us joined, we made commitments, serious commitments. Commitments to reflect integrity, brotherly love, support, and sanctuary.

Psalms 133 says, and we hear in our ritual language, "BEHOLD, how Good and Pleasant it is when Brothers dwell in Unity."

We committed ourselves to our brothers and the tenants of Masonry.

Commitment means doing what you said you would do long after the mood you said it in has left.

The funny thing about commitment is that you are either IN or OUT - no middle ground there.

Is Disharmony fixable? Can we reverse it? **YOU BETCHA.**

But you have to want it fixed. You have to want that harmonious balance back.

If you don't want it back with all your heart, it won't happen.

Lodges cannot live without harmony, respect, integrity, and brotherly love, which work in unison.

REBIRTH HAPPENS WITH TRUE COMMITMENT

I have seen and am still seeing lodges who slid off the path, cruising fast to the cliff's edge, then turned in the right direction. They did so and are now on their way to a rebirth.

True Masons, Good Men, will always prevail when they join together. They will never allow the sanctity of their lodge to be violated for long. It may take time, it won't be pretty, there will be pain and digging deep into their soul to make things right, but they will do it. They

will do it in unison for the good of Masonry.

A simple thought to consider, deeply consider.

ARE YOU IN? or ... ARE YOU OUT?

Your Grand Lodge Officers are here to help you in whichever direction you choose.

Quality over Quantity. Oklahoma Masons deserve no less.

As for me - **I'm IN. I AM ALL IN**, and I have an army of True Masons, the best there is, thousands of them, right here in Oklahoma, right by my side. We all joined for a reason. To improve ourselves in Masonry. To help our brothers, our community, and the world around us.

When the Roots are Deep - There is No Reason to Fear the Wind.

I am All In. Who's with me?

Family Fishing Fun



Assistance

This year is moving along rapidly. I dare say a bit too quickly. The advanced planning for the new Masonic year is moving nicely. We will have a big event to celebrate next year. Thank you to all who have asked what they can do to help.

The events for next year you may want to consider will be outlined below. I hope you find these exciting and positive for our fraternity.

First, I am firmly convinced that we must become public relations specialists. We must sharpen our communication and outreach to a new generation of young men. I am proposing a campaign kickoff to deliver a positive message about Freemasonry. We will consolidate our efforts where possible and maximize our impact with public-facing messaging to young men. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join me in building this campaign and the associated follow-up prospects.

Second, in 2026, our country will celebrate its 250th birthday. The U. S. Semiquincentennial Commission and our state government have kicked off planning in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Tourism Board is also working on plans to celebrate the construction of Route 66 throughout the state. Please get in touch with me if you want to join me in working on these exciting festive projects for next year.

Third, I would like to see the formation of an Oklahoma Lewis Jewel program whereby a son of a Master Mason can honor his father, who was a Master Mason before him. The pocket jewel may be presented when raising a son. This special moment would be a wonderful father/son team event. I was blessed to have my father raise me. The bond between us was invaluable. Please ask me if you would like to become a part of this heartwarming tradition.

A fourth but not final area is the formation of a “krewe.” Young men must form friendship bonds early in their Masonic careers, or we risk losing them. A krewe can have a specific purpose, such as selling Masonic swag or competing in BBQ cookoffs. Much like the Shrine has a



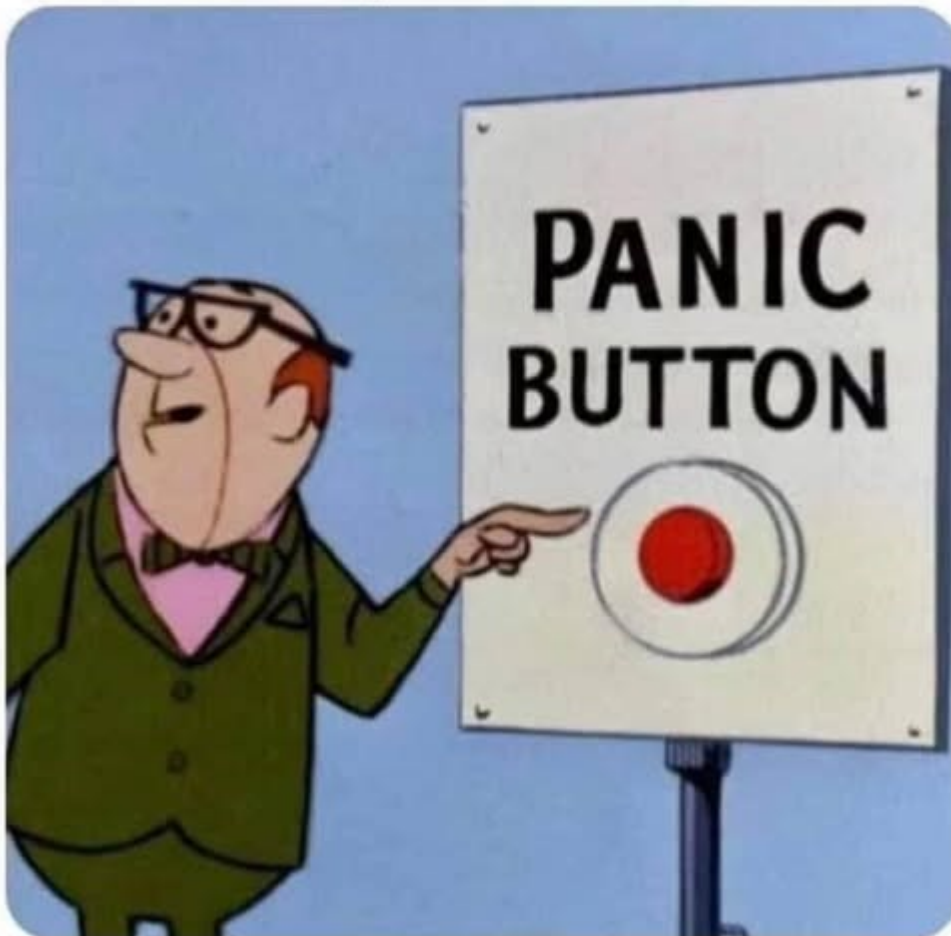
Don Stanton
Deputy Grand Master

variety of clubs a member may participate in, a krewe can have its traditions and rites of passage. Imagine what a krewe of young men could accomplish. They have great ideas, energy, and technical savvy to push projects to completion. If you are in your thirties or younger, contact me to discuss your interests.

As you can see, next year could be biting off more than we can chew, or it could be a start to something new and fresh. I will challenge everyone to become uncomfortable. Let us try something new.

Iron Sharpens Iron.

**Worshipful Master, we're
missing the Tyler, the Senior
Warden and both Deacons,
shall I press it now?**



Remembering Veterans



**Claremore
Veteran's
Center**



Myrtle Lodge #145

Empty Chair Degree



Degree Work



**India Lodge
#551
EA Degree**

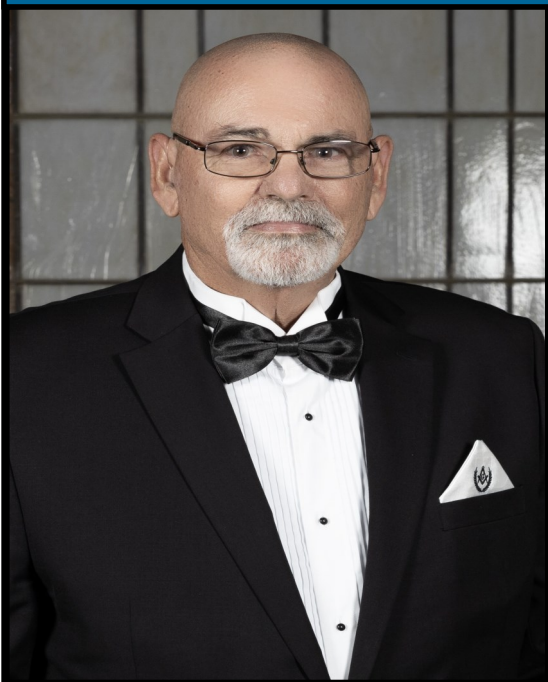


**Myrtle Lodge
#145
EA Degree**



**Drumwright
Lodge #468
MM Degree by
Cowboy Degree
Team**

The Importance of Our Masonic Family



James Oates III
Senior Grand Warden

Our Masonic family is an interconnected network of organizations tied to Freemasonry and promotes moral values, community service, and personal development. Masons, Eastern Star, Amaranth, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow for Girls, and various Masonic Bodies operate on a foundation of shared principles, including integrity, charity, and fraternity. While each branch serves a different demographic—men, women, and youth—we are united by our commitment to fostering strong individuals and stronger communities. One important aspect of our Masonic family lies in its ability to provide support, mentorship, and purpose across generations.

At its core, our Masonic family emphasizes character development and ethical living. Members are encouraged to uphold high moral standards, to treat others with respect, and to strive for self-improvement. When instilled early and reinforced through consistent engagement, these values create a ripple effect in the broader community. Youth organizations such as DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow For Girls teach leadership, public speaking, and service skills, preparing young people for success in their personal and professional lives. Adults serve as role models and mentors, helping guide younger members through challenges and milestones.

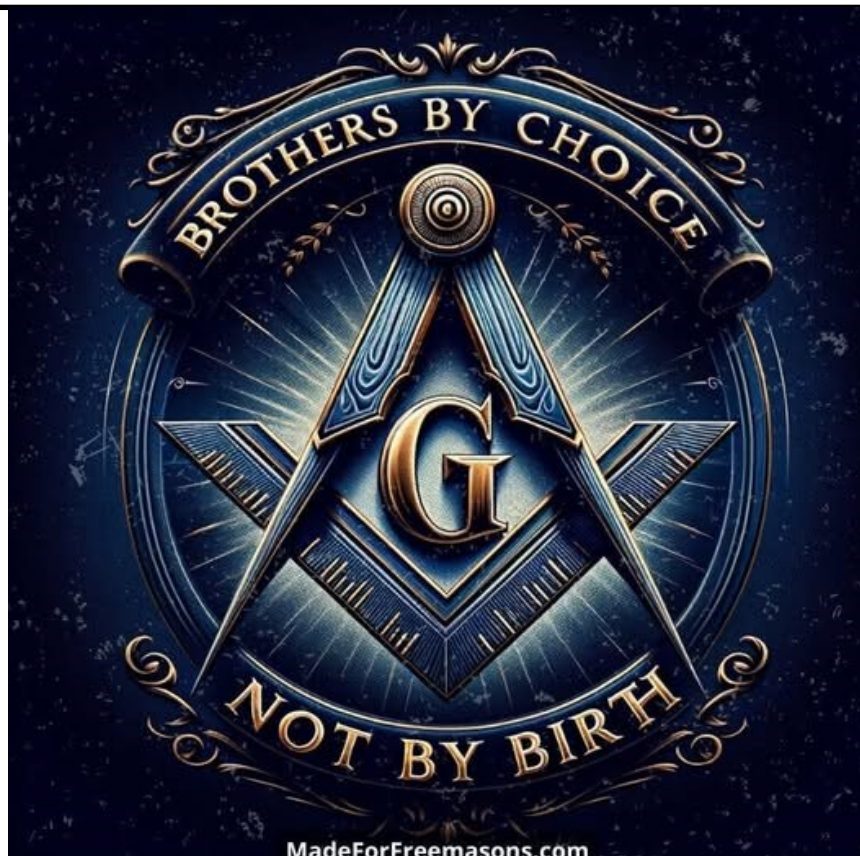
Another key component of our Masonic family is its commitment to philanthropy and community service. Whether it is organizing blood drives, sponsoring scholarships, or supporting local shelters, Masonic-affiliated groups are deeply involved in charitable efforts. This collective commitment to service strengthens communities and instills a sense of purpose and responsibility in members. These acts of kindness, big and small, are expressions of the Mason-

ic principle of “relieving the distressed.” They serve as powerful reminders of the importance of compassion in daily life.

Our Masonic family also provides a sense of belonging and fellowship that is increasingly rare in today’s fast-paced world. In a society where people often feel disconnected, the bonds formed through Masonic involvement offer emotional support and lifelong friendships. Events, rituals, and gatherings foster a spirit of unity, where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together with a shared mission. This inclusive environment promotes understanding, tolerance, and respect for different perspectives.

Furthermore, our Masonic family encourages lifelong learning and growth. Members engage in ceremonies and educational programs that challenge them to think critically, reflect on their values, and pursue excellence in all they do. This ongoing personal development is central to the Masonic tradition, as it reinforces the idea that growth is a continuous journey rather than a fixed destination.

I have recently contemplated that our Masonic family may consider these Bodies separate and distinct. My vision holds us as branches of the same tree. We all foster similar values of ethical living, supporting charitable efforts, and offering fellowship across generations. Our Masonic family helps shape better people—and, by extension, a better world. Let us never take each other for granted.



MadeForFreemasons.com

Myrtle Lodge #145

50 Year Pins



Tyre Lodge #42

50 Year Pin



Greetings from the Grand South

First, let me say today is a GREAT day to be a Mason in Oklahoma, and I assure you Masonry is still very much alive in our state.

I am honored and pleased to serve you, the Craft, as your Junior Grand Warden. As the past few months have passed, your Trustees have continued to bond and work as a cohesive unit while still holding on to their individuality. We have had an outstanding time visiting and spending time at different lodges across the state. We enjoyed fellowship from laying cornerstones to baseball games to enjoying each other's company with great food and fellowship shared by all.

Many questions have been asked and answered, and information has been provided concerning a few different types of training, including a Wardens and Deacons Retreat that is now being rolled out at three different locations.

Our membership is on the rise because of the hard work our lodges do by going the extra mile and ensuring we get the best men to join our fraternity while guarding the WEST GATE. My brothers, it is not only about how many men we get into the Craft. It is about ensuring we get quality men who will stay, learn, and respect our work.

I have noticed a renewed energy and excitement within the Craft and how new and old members are made to feel a part of something very special. Remember, obtaining new members is only a part of increasing our membership. There is that vital part called Retention that will ensure proper growth is taking place.

My brothers, there is a reason we all benefit from listening to a well-presented education piece that might be intended primarily for our new Brothers. However, I firmly believe that if



Michael Ray
Junior Grand Warden

we let it, the education piece can take us back to a place when we were first educated on the same subject. Consider this: every time we hear a new or old piece of education, it should positively influence our Masonic journey by giving us a new perspective or understanding.

While reflecting on last year, when I made myself available for the Grand South, I realized that my platform was based on three parts: new membership, retention, and budgets, and I still believe this today. These three parts are interchangeable at any given time, but we must have them all.

Many of our lodges struggle to make budget and are having difficulty getting new members, thus creating a stress-filled environment and what may seem like a never-ending circle. So let me say this: don't give up; the group of brothers you have now is a powerful group com-

mitted to Masonry. You don't have to be the fastest-growing lodge or even have a great deal of money; what you do have to possess is the determination to survive and succeed. So you keep having your breakfast events and inviting those around you to attend, and you keep being a part of the community and interacting with it. If your town has a parade that only goes for one block, be in it, be part of it, and be PROUD to be a Mason.

If there is anything I can do to assist you, your lodge, or both, please email me, and let's talk.



**THE BEST TEACHERS ARE THOSE
WHO SHOW YOU WHERE TO
LOOK, BUT DON'T TELL YOU
WHAT TO SEE.**



Made for Freemasons

Drumright Lodge #468

Drumright Schools

Cornerstones



Myrtle Lodge #145

125 Anniversary



Brotherhood

A Shared Ethos in Freemasonry, Military, and Law Enforcement

Just recently, we observed **Memorial Day**. While it's often a time for gatherings with food and family, its true meaning is remembering, honoring, and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died serving our country.

Similarly, we also recently concluded **National Police Week**. This remembrance was established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. May 15th is **Peace Officers Memorial Day**, a day to honor and remember law enforcement officers who died or were disabled on duty. The entire week is dedicated to showing appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices of all law enforcement officers.

Many of us share a common bond through our backgrounds in Freemasonry, law enforcement, military service, or a combination of all three.

At first glance, Freemasonry, the military, and American law enforcement might seem very different. Freemasonry is a fraternal organization with rich traditions, the military is a disciplined fighting force, and law enforcement is a civil service focused on public safety. However, when you look closer, you'll find profound similarities in the idea of **Brotherhood** that forms the core of each group's identity. Despite their different roles, these organizations all foster a strong sense of kinship built on shared values, mutual support, and a commitment to something bigger than themselves.

The most striking similarity is the profound sense of **mutual support and obligation**. In Freemasonry, this bond is created through solemn promises and teachings emphasizing "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth." Masons pledge to help fellow members in times of need by offering aid and advice without expecting anything in return. This assistance goes beyond financial help to include moral and emotional support, creating a network of people who stand by each other.

In the military, the term "**brothers in arms**" perfectly describes a bond formed through shared hardships and the dangers of combat. Soldiers rely on each other to survive, building



Mike Dixon
Grand Secretary

unshakable trust and loyalty that goes beyond individual differences. There's an unspoken understanding that you would risk your life for your comrade and they for you.

Law enforcement officers also operate under a similar unspoken agreement. Facing unpredictable and often dangerous situations, police officers depend on their partners and colleagues for their safety and lives. The "**Thin Blue Line**" isn't just a symbol of their role; it's a testament to the unbreakable bond and unwavering support they offer each other when facing challenges.

Beyond mutual support, these groups share a **commitment to a higher purpose and core values**. Freemasonry is essentially a moral system designed to guide members toward self-improvement and ethical behavior. Values like **integrity, honesty, loyalty, and service to humanity** are central to Masonic teachings.

Military service is fundamentally about defending a nation, its ideals, and its people. This service demands **courage, honor, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to duty**, all instilled through rigorous training. American law enforcement embodies the principles of **justice, public safety, and the rule of law**. Officers swear an oath to uphold the Constitution and protect their communities, often risking their own lives.

Individuals understand that their actions contribute to a greater good in all three areas. These actions foster a shared identity and a deep sense of responsibility to their peers and the principles they uphold.

The **shared experiences and rituals** within each group further strengthen this Brotherhood. Masonic lodges provide a structured environment for shared rituals, lessons, and fellowship, creating a shared understanding among members. Through joint training, deployments, and intense combat experiences, military units form bonds that are often deeper than family ties. The shared experiences of stress, triumphs, and losses create an unforgettable connection. In law enforcement, daily patrols, high-stress incidents, and the unique challenges of the job build a strong sense of camaraderie. These shared experiences, often unimaginable to outsiders, cultivate a profound understanding and empathy among those who have walked similar paths.

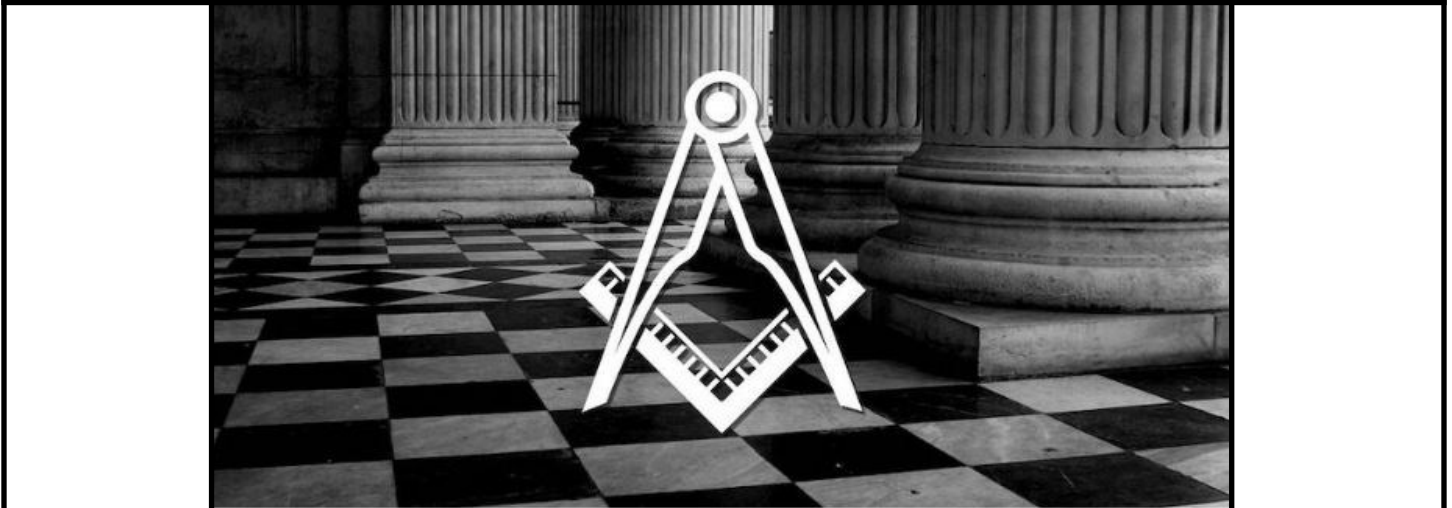
In conclusion, the Brotherhood found in Freemasonry, the military, and American law enforcement, while appearing in different forms, is built on a common foundation. It's a brotherhood defined by **unwavering mutual support, a strong commitment to shared values, and the lasting bonds forged through common, often challenging, experiences**. This powerful sense of kinship goes beyond individual differences and is a vital source of strength, identity, and resilience for those in these unique and demanding fraternities.

I want to thank each of you for your commitment to Brotherhood, whether within the Brotherhood of Freemasonry, the Brotherhood of the Military, or the Brotherhood of Law Enforcement.

Red Fork Lodge #505

Dedication & Cornerstone





Sand Springs #475 School Cornerstone





The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA

**Not just a man.
A Mason.**



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102 S Broad St

PO Box 1019

Guthrie, OK 73044

Phone: (405) 282-3212

Fax: (405) 282-3244

www.gloklahoma.com

www.beanoklahomafreemason.org

James Roderick, Grand Master