



BUILDING MASONRY

COUNCIL OAK LODGE NO. 745 APRIL 2025

19780 BRICK ROAD, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46619 574.272.4073

... AND GIVE THEM GOOD AND WHOLESOME INSTRUCTION...

JOSEPH WARREN: A DEDICATED DOCTOR, A PASSIONATE PATRIOT, A STEADFAST MASON, AND TRULY MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Recently, I watched a portrayal of the 31st degree of the Scottish Rite NMJ titled My Brother's Keeper.

The degree begins with Brother Paul Revere recounting a story about a Masonic brother who is attacked and left beaten. The injured man lies hidden in the darkness beside a path, calling for help. Two of his Masonic brothers pass by the area and hear his moans. Each sees him lying there but does not investigate further to identify him or offer assistance.

Each man, unsure of the individual's identity, rationalizes his decision to walk away.

The first, a deacon of the church, tells himself that stopping to help would make him late for a prayer meeting. As he walks away, he convinces himself that the man is probably a drunkard responsible for his own predicament.

The second man, the Senior Warden of the lodge, is on his way to a lodge meeting. He assumes the man is likely a rogue dock worker, possibly a decoy to lure unsuspecting passersby into a trap. He deems the situation too risky and justifies his inaction by telling himself, "My first obligation is to my lodge."

Had they taken the time to help, they would have discovered that the man was a fellow lodge brother with whom they had spoken earlier.

Finally, Brother Thomas Dawes passes by. Without hesitation or knowledge that the injured man is a Mason, he assists him to his Revere and Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Joseph Warren.

Brother Revere's story concludes when MWB Warren arrives for the lodge meeting and finds the injured man in need of medical care. Brother Dawes informs Warren that he has offered to cover the man's medical fees. Without hesitation, Warren responds that the fees are of no concern, as the man is in need of their help.

Continued on the Back...

CALENDAR APRIL 2024

APRIL 7th - STATED MEETING AND DINNER.
DINNER AT 6:30 PM. LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM

1st - Concord No. 101, R.A.M., Elkhart No 79, R.S.M. and Elkhart No. 31, K.T. Stated Meeting. 7:00 PM. At Kane Lodge Hall, Elkhart.

3rd - Mishawaka No. 83, R.A.M. Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Chapter convenes at 7:00 PM. At the Mishawaka No. 130 Lodge Hall.

9th - Plymouth Chapter, RAM. Dinner at 6:45 PM. Chapter convenes at 7:30 PM. At Plymouth.

10th - Valley of South Bend, AASR. 7:00 PM. At the Scottish Rite Cathedral in South Bend.

14th - Entered Apprentice Degree Practice. 6:30 PM. At the Lodge Hall.

21st - Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30PM. At the Lodge Hall.

15th - Zanzibar Grotto. 6:30 PM.

28th - Entered Apprentice Degree. 7:00 PM. At the Lodge Hall.

!! STATED MEETING AND DINNER !!

MONDAY, APRIL 7TH

DINNER AT 6:30 PM.

LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM.

GOOD FOOD! ... OUTSTANDING FELLOWSHIP!!

WB KEITH HAMMONDS SPEAKS ON PHILLIPINE MASONRY! ...

Most Worshipful Brother Warren then states, “We are Masons; this is what we do.”

In closing, Worshipful Brother Revere expresses his hope that Masons would emulate the actions of Brothers Warren and Dawes. He challenges us to, “Go and do likewise.”

Hopefully, the lessons imparted by this story resonate with you as they did with me. My Brother's Keeper teaches us not to limit the reach of our Masonic promises. It reminds us to uphold those principles—not just when convenient, not just when the need arises for a Masonic brother, and not just when we fabricate a narrative that absolves us from taking action.

Though the story may be fictional, the virtues displayed by Dr. Warren align with the man he truly was.

In an 1865 article titled Life and Times of Joseph Warren, the author wrote:

“He had a great love for his fellow man; and being a stranger to the passion of avarice, and even neglectful to a fault in pecuniary matters, he had an ear ever open to the claims of want, and a hand ever extended to afford relief.”

A 2016 biographical article further described Warren’s character:

“He could look beyond class and wealth to value a person for who they were and appreciate what each soul was capable of contributing to society.”

Dr. Warren played a crucial role in the events leading up to the American Revolution. Among his many leadership positions, he served as Chairman of the Committee of Safety, responsible for securing necessary armaments and organizing a military force in preparation for potential war with the British. It was in this role that, on the evening of April 18, 1775, he sent his Masonic brothers, William Dawes and Paul Revere, to warn of the British advance.

Dr. Warren died in the Battle of Bunker Hill at the age of 34. Upon arriving at the battle site, Colonel William Prescott offered him command, but Warren refused. Instead, he borrowed a musket and joined the front lines, fighting alongside his fellow soldiers.

He did so because he believed that a leader should not order men into danger without being willing to face it himself. Just three months earlier, at a ceremony commemorating the Boston Massacre, Warren had declared: “...[If] it appears that the only way to safety is through fields of blood, I know you will not turn your faces from our foes but will undauntedly press forward until tyranny is trodden underfoot.”

If you would like to learn more about Most Worshipful Brother Joseph Warren, here is a link to an article chronicling his life and his contributions to the American Revolution: The Revolutionary War Journal.

MIKE @ 365 A MASON

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE!

MONDAY, APRIL 25TH @ 7:00 PM

and

MONDAY, MAY 12TH @ 7:00 PM

AT THE LODGE HALL

JOIN US!

COUNCIL OAK LODGE OFFICERS - 2025

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: James Snyder, PM, 574.520.3335, snyderj24@att.net; SENIOR WARDEN: Charles Yost; JUNIOR WARDEN: Thomas Dolly, PM;

TREASURER: James Gillen, PM; SECRETARY: Anthony Meller, PM, ameller31@yahoo.com; SENIOR DEACON: Colton Eads; JUNIOR DEACON: James Arrvia;

SENIOR STEWARD: Austin Raab; JUNIOR STEWARD: Carl Sabinas, PM; CHAPLAIN: Terrence Vukovits; TYLER: Rodney Strozewski, PM; TYLER EMERITUS: David Vaughn;

TRUSTEES: David Wood, Michael Koziel and Kyle Dolby; PROPERTY MANAGER: Rodney Strozewski, PM; TRESTLE BOARD EDITOR: David Wood, PM, 574.286.5686, dwood52281@aol.com

FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Broken Column:

Prayers for **WB Tin Genge**, as his Father passed on February 28th in Lowell, Indiana.

Please be in prayer for **WB Dean Engle**, who has cancer.

Pray also for the **Vaughn Brothers and Bro. Bart Norville**, who are experiencing various illnesses and surgeries.

Please be in Prayer for our Country, our Service Men and Women and our 1st Responders!

April Birthdays: 4th –Gene Smith; 5th – Robert Mattasits; 13th - Tom Dolly; 18th – David Holdren and Kyle Dolby; 20th – Justin Schlemmer; 25th – Robert Howard; and the 27th – Chace Rigsby.

Give these Brothers a call and wish them a Happy Birthday or Best Wishes!!