

# Sword & Trowel



November 2023

# From the Most Illustrious Grand Master



Hello from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California.

Our travels for the month of October started off with a 3-Way Reception in Santa Monica at the Santa Monica Yacht Club. What an amazing venue! Great reception was enjoyed by all. I believe this was the first reception they have had since before COVID hit a few years ago. It was so refreshing to see folks coming out and enjoying time for fellowship once again. I see this as yet another sign that York Rite is making a great comeback as we continue to meet new members across the state.

From Mendocino (Comptche, Ca.) to San Diego, I have to say it has been an awesome year thus far.

Next up was our long awaited trip to the Philippines for their Grand York Rite Sessions. We flew more than 7,000 nautical miles and almost 15 hours of flight time in order to make our way to spend time with these amazing people and share our mutual love of Masonry. I was able to attend and be received in both their Grand Chapter sessions and Grand Council's.

In Grand Council there was only one resolution. The resolution was to allow them to make me an Honorary Past MIGM of the Philippines. Truly an honor that I will cherish for the rest of my life!

There is a word they use to describe Masonry in the Philippines. It is called Mabuhay meaning LIVE. And I can tell you Masonry, and especially York Rite Masonry, is LIVING the dream and thriving in the Philippines. The people were friendly, helpful, and very accommodating throughout our entire visit.

Cathy and I were invited to partake in the Inaugural Celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cavite Lodge No. 2. While this was truly an event to behold, it did occur at the sacrifice of not being able to attend the Grand Commandery Sessions as they occurred on the same day.

We left traveled across Manila Bay (which is huge) aboard the Coast Guard Ship "Boracay" to the Philippine Naval Base at Sangley Point, Cavite City. We were accompanied by WM Ian dela Cruz Encarnacion (Cavite Lodge No. 2, Magluyan Hall), WM Ericsson B. Atanacio (Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1) and WM Dominador R. Rosario Jr. (St. Johns-Corregidor Lodge No. 3) and their officers. There was an inspirational message from RW Raul E. Canon, Jr., Senior Grand Warden, and the guest speaker was MW Don Treng Ramas-Uypitching, Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. Truly great fellowship was shared amongst all in attendance. We marched in a parade led by the Naval Band from the dock where we landed to the location of festivities and enjoyed a feast which featured different variations of pancit noodle dishes from different provinces. They almost looked like works of art with the color variations of the ingredients.

Special entertainment and musical bands performed during the day's events. Cathy enjoyed herself learning the Filipino Tinkling dance with some of the performers and singing a song with one of the Masonic First Ladies she met.

Last, but certainly not least, WM Ian dela Cruz Enarnacion arranged to take us to the old Lodge where my father was raised a Master Mason. What an incredible experience to kneel at the same altar where my father knelt for his Masonic obligation back in 1950. Personally for me, this was the highlight and most memorable point of my visit to the Philippines.

Attached are some pictures of our travels which I hope you'll enjoy as we did. In one photo there is a picture of me and a companion from Virginia who also attended. I also attach an article of the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cavite Lodge No. 2, along with a YouTube site so you could see the event. Please add the YouTube address to your browser and enjoy. Also included is a copy of the article that was released capturing the events of the day and the history behind such an historic landmark in the evolution of Masonry in the Philippines. (See the release further in this printing.)

At this stage in our travels, I believe we have had the last of York Rite festivals in the East Bay area for the year and there are no further Receptions or events until after the new year occurs. So as we begin to settle in to the upcoming holiday season, I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. This is the time of year that we are reminded to give thanks for all that has been given us and everything we hold dear in our lives. One item that I'm grateful for at this time of year is seeing the growth of our Councils and the commitment of our Members.

Last but not the least. I would like everyone to help me wish my Lady Cathy a wonderful and happy birthday. Though we weren't able to spend any time celebrating it due to last minute preparations getting ready to be installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Escondido Chapter No. 154 OES, she did get flowers, card and a piece of cake before the day was over. Love you babe.

I hope everyone is doing great, enjoying life, and reviewing their list of things to be thankful for as the day of Thanksgiving approaches. Wishing you good health, safety, and may many blessing be stowed upon you and your families.

MIGM Michael T. Sherman KYGCH, OSV



At the end of the day for Cathy's birthday



Santa Monica Yacht Club Event



An evening after GYR Chapter with dignitaries at one of their favorite dining establishment



Other examples of the presence of Masonic related groups in the Philippines



2023 ANNUAL GRAND SESSIONS  
New Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino Street,  
Ermita, Manila, Philippines 1000  
October 20-21, 2023



71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GRAND CONVOCATION  
GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
M.E. VICTORINO A. FLORO III  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest



67<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GRAND ASSEMBLY  
GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL & SELECT  
MASTERS  
M.L. MANUEL LIAM C. GARCIA, OSV  
Most Illustrious Grand Master



61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE  
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
S.K. XERXEZ S. CORONADO, KCT  
Right Eminent Grand Commander





Cavite Lodge No. 2, Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted of the Philippines is at Philippine Navy, Sangley Point, Cavite City.

Cavite City, Philippines

History is not always written in books and stones, but relived in the hearts and minds of men.

Cavite Lodge No. 2, F. & A.M., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, made history last October 21, 2023 (Saturday) when it reenacted the bay crossing of the American Masons of Manila Lodge No. 342 on board Police Boat Buckey O'Neill to constitute Cavite Lodge No. 350 in 1903.

The Manila Masons contingent was led by WM Ericsson B. Atanacio (Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1) and WM Dominador R. Rosario Jr. (St. Johns-Corregidor Lodge No. 3), who with their respective officers and members, boarded BRP Boracay of the Philippine Coast Guard (renamed as the Buckey O'Neill for this purpose). The contingent was then serenaded by the Philippine Navy Wind Orchestra to 12 songs from the 1900s to the present and were served with 12 different kinds of Caviteño and Filipino pancit, each song and pancit to represent a decade of Cavite Lodge No. 2's storied existence. Students from the Cavite National High School Special Program for the Arts (one of the programs being supported by the Lodge) also rendered period cultural presentations to the delight of the participants.

The 120th Charter Anniversary was likewise graced by Bro. Emmanuel F. Calairo, Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and Member of Dasmariñas Lodge No. 346 who shared with everyone the history of the masons in Cavite and how the lodge has contributed to the building of the nation.

Members of various masonic lodges in the Philippines, the Emmanuel Baja Chapter No. 2 (Order of the DeMolay), Bethel No. 8 Cavite (Jobs Daughter International), Cavite Assembly No. 3 (International Order of the Rainbow for Girls), and other appendant bodies of the masonic family attended the occasion.

This culminating activity closes the 120th Founding and Charter Anniversary of Cavite Lodge No. 2 (2022-2023) with the theme "Isang Daang Taon ng Pusong Mason Para sa Pamilyang Mason".

YOUTUBE.COM

120th Charter Anniversary of Cavite Lodge No.2 F&AM

Please click or put in your browser the link below to help Cavite Lodge No. 2 celebrate their 120th anniversary.

[https://youtu.be/cVRf2OxFWRk?si=waRTb3Bs3ZBt-3Q1&fbclid=IwAR1\\_hWuG79R7YSprA4HZc7eC1E619mE-WHshKWaAaS9Rx5RoidxN5KveULO](https://youtu.be/cVRf2OxFWRk?si=waRTb3Bs3ZBt-3Q1&fbclid=IwAR1_hWuG79R7YSprA4HZc7eC1E619mE-WHshKWaAaS9Rx5RoidxN5KveULO)





The logo is circular with a purple outer ring containing the text "GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF THE PHILIPPINES" in gold. Inside the ring is a gold triangle with a white background. At the base of the triangle, the text "AND DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES" and the year "2957" are visible.

**Grand Council  
of  
Royal and  
Select Masters  
of the  
Philippines**



# Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation



Companions,

Please use this form to make your donations, either personally or as a group. All donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated and will help advance the use of stem cells to help cure several problems of your vascular system, including diabetes and many heart conditions.

New situations that will benefit from the use of stem cells are discovered regularly and the research that CMMRF is performing is among the foremost in the industry to apply the stem cells to the recovery of normal function. These discoveries continue to evolve to solve many more cures than originally thought and may possibly be the “magic bullet” sought to treat most diseases, but that may be well into the future.

Remember that your donations are helping the medical industry to keep you alive and healthy. Your donation today may help find the cure for your disease tomorrow. Thank you for your contributions.

Guy Chalmers, Chairman

CMMRF Committee



**Cryptic Masons**  
**Medical Research Foundation**  
C.M.M.R.F.  
PO Box 210  
Brownsburg IN 46112-0210

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Donation Amount ..

Type of Donation

..... Normal donation

..... Memorial

..... Honorarium

Frequency of Donation

..... One time

..... Monthly

Additional Message or Comment

# A Past Illustrious Grand Master Speaks



MEC Antonio A. Tuason of Luzon Chapter #1 was the Recipient of the Clyde L. Whitfield Meritorious Service Award this year. The presentation was made by MEC Sonny Leviste, KYGCH, PGHP, IPGM, PGC, and current Grand Secretary. Our Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest was instrumental in the institution of this award, honoring my father after he passed a couple of years ago. Dad loved the Country that was the birthplace of my mother, and he served in the East of all three of the Philippine Grand York Rite Bodies, as well as the Philippine Grand Lodge. I am eternally grateful to the entirety of the Philippine Grand York Rite for keeping his memory alive.

In attendance was Most Illustrious Michael Sherman of California - who with the love and appreciation of the Grand Council of the Philippines was just made an Honorary Member. "Thank you" for sharing this treasured photo

On behalf of my family, a personal "Congratulations" to MEC Tuason, observing his special honor, to the membership of Luzon Chapter #1, Royal Arch Masons

Fraternally

Robert A.L. Whitfield, KYGCH, MIPGM, EKA, OSV, KCT - California





# Grand Director of Ritual

SOI



## Grand Director of Ritual Schools of Instruction

Saturday September 30, 2023 - **Whittier, CA**  
Sunday November 19, 2023 - **Escondido, CA**  
Saturday December 2, 2023 - **Union City, CA**  
Time 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Inspectors, ADR's, & DGO's** please make it a top priority to attend. Officers coaches and council officers are encouraged to attend.

[Click here to let us know you are coming](#)

Mark Harris  
415-505-2916  
[songmaster1@mac.com](mailto:songmaster1@mac.com)

Please use QR code to make reservations

Mark Harris 415-505-2916 [songmaster1@mac.com](mailto:songmaster1@mac.com)



# Grand Captain of the Guard



## Paso Robles Pioneer Day 2023

The community of Paso Robles, in northern San Luis Obispo County, has celebrated Pioneer Day every year since 1931. Organized by dedicated volunteers and funded by generous donations from individuals, businesses, churches, and service groups, this event aims to foster community bonds and honor the town's agricultural heritage. The recent celebration on October 14th featured a parade, showcasing antique tractors, horse-drawn wagons, a marching band, equestrian groups, floats, vintage cars, fire engines, historic military vehicles, and various organizations, including local Masonic lodges like Cypress Mountain Lodge No. 196 of Paso Robles.

Cypress Mountain Lodge No. 196, born from the consolidation of lodges in Cambria, Atascadero, and the original Paso Robles lodge, is one of only two lodges in District 534, along with King David's Lodge No. 209 in San Luis Obispo. I had the honor of walking with the brethren of District 534 in my Grand Captain of the Guard regalia, with thanks to Most Illustrious Grand Master Mike Sherman for granting me permission to do so. I also donned a hat which was a gift from Most Illustrious Companion Robert Morrison to his Grand Officers during his term as Grand Master in 202-2021. A float trailer towed by a truck driven by the District Inspector Worshipful Rod Smiley was also available for those who preferred not to walk.

Making the day even more special, the new DeMolay Chapter in San Luis Obispo, of which I serve as the Chapter Advisor, joined in the festivities, proudly displaying their DeMolay robes. With over 170 entries, including Shriners and other fraternal organizations, the Masons received a warm reception, and the DeMolay Chapter received very positive feedback for bringing back the sight of DeMolay robes on the streets of Paso Robles after more than 40 years.









# From the Editor

## GRAND SESSIONS 2024

Grand York Rite activities in 2024 will take place at the Marriott in Burbank on May 16-21. Dont forget to look at our website: <https://yorkriteca.org/cryptic/>



If you would like to submit an artical please contact me at the below email address.

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