Three Times Three

In ancient times, the Entered Apprentice Degree was alone prevalent among most Masonic Lodges. No Brother could be passed or raised except in the Grand Lodge, and few availed themselves of the privilege.

Hence, they had only one sign, one token, and one word, and these three constituted “honors.”

But the members of the Grand Lodge had three signs, three tokens, and three words and therefore, three times three were appropriately termed the Grand Honors.

—Bulletin of the Masonic Relief Association, 1974

Ohio Brother Honored for Service to Veterans

Gary Cox, the Masonic Service Association’s Coordinator in Ohio, in November received the Scottish Rite Medal for Masonic Service. The presentation was made during the Veteran’s Day Program at the Ohio Masonic Home, in Springfield.

Brother Cox, a Vietnam War veteran, has dedicated a great deal of time and effort over the years to assisting Ohio’s veterans, particularly in the Cincinnati and Chillicothe areas.

Several years ago, he was informed that there was need for socks for veterans in Cincinnati, so he launched a “sock drive,” resulting in 2,000 pairs of socks. A similar drive collected Gatorade, and on another occasion, he facilitated the gathering of 20 crock-pots to enable veterans to prepare nourishing meals in their homes.

For the annual Labor Day weekend at the Chillicothe Veterans facility, Brother Cox gathers about 80 bags to present to the residents, with each bag containing socks, underwear, tee shirts, and toiletry items. Also, veterans receive a hat recognizing their branch of service.

Brother Cox also coordinates other monetary and in-kind donations. He is a true example of Freemasonry’s tenets of Brother Love, Relief and Truth, through his efforts to serve veterans.
Masonic Relief Quickly Follows Tornado

Brethren at Kathleen Lodge in Florida, reacted quickly when a sweeping tornado, just missing the Masonic Lodge, heavily damaged an elementary school a half mile away.

The roof on the two-story school, built in 1940, was blown off. The school was closed for about a week, until portable classrooms were brought onto the property. Permanent repairs may require a year.

The Lodge asked school officials how the brethren could help, and they were told that the teachers in the 15 damaged classrooms lost all of their personal belongings, teaching supplies, books and other items. The Lodge quickly presented $200 in gift cards to each of 15 teachers to restock their classrooms.

For members of Kathleen Lodge, this was just a new addition to their regular charity work. Lodge brethren, the week before Christmas, delivered 32 food baskets for needy families, designated by four area school districts. In addition to food supplies and children’s toys, each family received a $50 debit card for perishable items.

On the day the baskets were delivered, a group from the Lodge, accompanied by Santa Claus, also presented 100 stuffed animals to the 33 children at Lakeland Regional Medical Center children’s wing.

The Lodge annually presents $2,000 scholarships, one each to the two high schools near the Lodge. This is in addition to monthly support of at least $100 to numerous local charity efforts.

The Kathleen Lodge brethren are generous in their time and support of these projects, which also bring much outreach and light in the community.

33 Hospital Rooms Corresponds to 33 Degrees

In the previous story, there are 33 rooms in the Lakeland Regional Medical Center’s Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children, made possible by a generous charitable donation.

Carol Barnett is the daughter of George W. Jenkins, prominent Lakeland businessman and philanthropist. The name “Jenkins” is attached to numerous roads, buildings, businesses in the Lakeland, Florida area. He was the founder of Publix Super Markets. Carol became the president of the Publix Foundation following the death of her father in 1996.

George Jenkins was a well-known Mason as well, and a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite member, which perhaps is significant in the 33 rooms built into the children’s wing of the hospital.

Good Advice From a Working Man

Two men cut wood all day long. One worked straight through without stopping to rest. At the end of the day, he had a sizable pile of logs. The other would chop for 50 minutes and then take a 10-minute break. At the end of the day, he had a much larger pile.

“How could you chop more?” asked the man who’d worked continuously. His friend replied, “When I stopped for rest, I also sharpened my ax.”

-Baptist Bulletin Service