



# THE OCCASIONAL BULLETIN

Texas Lodge of Research  
May 2024 Number 1



## June Meeting

**Saturday, June 22**

Meeting at High Twelve

Lunch will be provided

*Suggested donation \$15*

## Location

**Grand Lodge**

715 Columbus Avenue

Waco, Texas 76701

## Host Hotel

TBD (please check website)

## 2024 Anson Jones Lecture

Brother Chris Ruli, former Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Valley of Washington, D.C. will present: "Untold Stories of Freemasons and the White House"

## Location

Lee Lockwood Library and Museum  
(2801 Waco Drive) – lower atrium.

## From the Master's Desk

Brethren,

I hope this email finds each of you and your families well. I want to thank all those who attended our meeting and installation of officers in Lufkin. The weekend started with a fantastic dinner and fellowship at Ralph & Kakoo's on Friday night, which was only topped by the almost 40 members and visitors in attendance throughout the day on Saturday.

I want to especially congratulate our two newest Full Members, Shawn Murray and Marshall Inman. Both worked diligently on their papers and did an excellent job presenting.

Further, I also want to thank Brother Ken Cochran for his many years of service to Texas Lodge of Research. Ken made the tough decision not to serve as an officer this year. His comments to the Lodge were heartfelt and we understand. However, he will be sorely missed in our leadership. We look forward to seeing him at any meeting that he can attend in the future.

We are now only weeks away from our June stated meeting and Anson Jones Lecture, and I hope that you are planning to join us in Waco for this tremendous event.

Our meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual statewide York Rite Festival on Saturday, June 22nd. The Lodge will meet at approximately Noon, or as close thereafter, pending the conclusion of the Select Master Degree. We will determine who will attend the business meeting and make an effort at getting some sandwiches delivered. Our meeting will be held in the newly set up lodge room on the lower level of the building. (If you haven't seen the beautiful antique furniture donated by Faith Lodge in Wichita Falls, it's worth attending just for that!)

We will keep the business meeting as concise as possible to allow those who need to participate in the Commandery Orders in the afternoon to do so. There will be no paper presentations during

the meeting.

The 2024 Anson Jones Lecture will follow at 6:30pm in the lower-level atrium of the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum (2801 Waco Drive). Our lecturer is Bro. Chris Ruli, former Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Valley of Washington, D.C. Brother Ruli will present "Untold Stories of Freemasons and the White House." The lecture is open to all Masons and their guests. RSVP is required.

We will be offering two registration choices for the lecture:

- VIP Package – includes your choice of prime rib or salmon plus a copy of Bro. Ruli's book Freemasons and the White House for \$85. RSVP deadline June 1st.
- Standard Package – includes choice of prime rib or salmon. RSVP deadline of June 13th.

Please RSVP to PM Christian Moore by email at [cdmoorecprp@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoorecprp@gmail.com) or phone at 512-887-0775 with the names of your party and menu selections. We will accept cash or check payable to "Texas Lodge of Research" at the event. Electronic payment can also be arranged in advance. No tickets will be available at the door. Cancellations after June 14 will kindly require payment.

I hope to see you, and your guests, for our meeting and Anson Jones lecture.

Fraternally,  
Russell C. Brown, WM

**Editor's Notes**  
**Memorial Day 2024**  
*(by Bro. Cody Cockroft)*

The following is a message I sent to the Brothers of Masonic District No. 108 on Memorial Day 2020. I have adjusted it ever so slightly to reflect the date of Memorial Day 2024. This short message does not allude to masonry, but as masons and citizens of our great country, we should memorialize the sacrifice by those brave warriors who left it all on the field. I hope you enjoy.

As we enter this long weekend, I hope that each of you will afford yourselves quality time with family by poolside (or any body of water), perfecting your BBQ, and washing down said BBQ with your preferred product of fortified essence of corn. More importantly, each of us should recognize May 27 for what it means to you as an individual and your ability to embrace quality time.

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is much different than Veteran's Day and Armed Forces Day. Each of these days are meant to be in

tribute to our American warriors, however Memorial Day is a much more solemn day – a day we remember those men and women who paid the greatest sacrifice of all. This day is for the soldier that we cannot thank or shake hands with.

Since the American Revolution, our soldiers have defended us in eleven (11) official wars and numerous other domestic and international conflicts. More than 1,350,000 men and women have selflessly paid with their lives the freedoms we embrace.

In 1865, the Civil War ended, claiming more lives than any other U.S. conflict. This led to the establishment of our country's first national cemeteries. Following, American towns and cities would close businesses and the residents held spring tributes to honor the fallen soldiers. Graves were adorned with flowers and public prayer was encouraged. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, called for a nationwide day of remembrance in which he expressed,

*“The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.”*

Thus, Decorations Day, was established. On this day, 5,000 people decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers at the Arlington Cemetery.

Later, the U.S. found itself engaged in additional conflicts such as the Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War. And Vietnam War. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May to create a 3-day weekend for federal employees. This became law in 1971.

I was not a soldier. But I have known many. Some of you were (or are) soldiers and have lost a brother or sister in arms. I do recognize what this day means to you. God still has a plan for you, and I am glad that you made it home.

### **HOW LONG IS YOUR CABLE TOW?**

*(by the late Brother Jim Starks, PM of Morton Lodge No. 72 and updated by Cody M. Cockroft)*

In my home lodge in Massachusetts, our ritualist was an elderly gentleman of little more than five and a half feet in stature. He was kind, gentle, and understanding. But he had little time for Masons who took the degrees, or even went through the chairs, and then vanished into the ether. When he encountered one of

those men, he would stand very close to them and look up into their faces and say, "Son, your cable tow is simply not long enough."

In Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry we read:

*"according to the ancient laws of Freemasonry, every brother must attend his Lodge if he is within the length of his cable tow."*

In the Monitor of the Lodge (as adopted by the Grand Lodge of Texas on January 21, 2023, we read:

#### Cable Tow

*Rope, cable, cord; ritualistically, symbol or method of control of an initiate*

#### Cable Tow's Length:

*At one time, three miles; the scope of a person's reasonable ability; six hundred feet; nautical measure, one hundred fathoms. The length of a cable tow differs with individuals.*

Where did the cable tow come from? How did its use in ritual originate? There are various hypotheses expounded by Masonic authors throughout the centuries. All are interesting. But the origin hardly matters. Far more important is the symbolic meaning the cable tow imparts, and this is never disputed. Because, unlike facts themselves,

symbols can have more than one meaning. Indeed, a good symbol has many meanings, resonating around a common center to converge understanding around a common idea.

So it is that the cable tow leads us inexorably to the obligation. It is a bond, a binding, not just to the brethren of the Lodge who witness the event and ratify it in their differing perceptions -- the tree has fallen, and there was a sound -- but also before God Himself. By wearing the cable tow I have become tied, absolutely, to the promise to live a better life as an upright man and Mason. I have joined myself with the words I rendered in speech. They have touched the outside world. They have been heard. And the cable tow embodies them symbolically.

And, yet it also binds the brethren together. This is, perhaps, the most common understanding of the symbol, as we promise to aid those in need, "if within the length of my cable tow." We promise thereby to come to Lodge, to animate the Lodge with our own flesh and blood, our very breath. Without each member, the Lodge is dead -- in this light the cable tow is like the sinews that connect the limbs of a larger being, of which each member is just a part. And we promise to be of service to our brothers, to assist them. After all, a Lodge is not the building itself. The building is just a temporary locus whereby the Lodge may be

realized. The cable tow is the manifested result -- the symbolic equivalent in the tangible world -- of the intangible bonds of friendship and brotherly love that make our obligation real. We should never forget that.

We know, also, that cable tows come in varying lengths. The longer your cable tow the greater your spirit in service of Masonry. This length needn't be restricted to the physical plane (although that is certainly part of it). How far would you walk, barefoot and broken, to relieve a brother suffering? Would you risk your very life? To wear the cable tow says "Yes, I will. You can rely on me." It says, "I make Masonry, and my Brothers, a priority." These things, then, are also part of this "length". It is a type of commitment, as well as a journey.

How long is your cable tow? There can be no honor without duty. The length of your cable tow is the sum total of your duty. By it alone is honor rendered to the Fraternity. Perhaps service is rendered in bondage. And yet it is this bondage that sets us free.

# TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH

## 2024 – 2025 OFFICERS

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Worshipful Master	Russell C. Brown	903-657-8553	russell@rcbrownlaw.com
Senior Warden	Mark K. Dermitt	512-587-8547	kevit64@yahoo.com
Junior Warden	Erickson E. Ybarra	281-795-7521	erickson281@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christian D. Moore	512-887-0775	cdmooreprp@gmail.com
Secretary	Truitt L. Bradly, PM	512-567-4756	secretary.texaslodgeofresearch@gmail.com
Chaplain	Dana Ashby	903-722-4511	dana.ashby@protonmail.com
Senior Deacon	Corey M. Harris	817-903-7071	corey.harris87@gmail.com
Junior Deacon	Tyler A. Rowe	469-247-2697	trowe76@sbcglobal.net
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Junior Steward	Christopher J. Galloway	210-416-3599	christophergalloway@gmail.com
Marshal	Darron L. Ross	979-240-8230	dlross63@yahoo.com
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Non-Officers			
Bulletin Editor	Cody M. Cockroft	832-370-7603	cmc@freese.com

### From the Secretary's Desk

Texas Lodge of Research members can now order directly from Eternity Creations at [sales@eternitycreations.com](mailto:sales@eternitycreations.com). The cost for a name badge is \$23.50. If you have had a change of address and have not let me know, please email me or send me a note to the Lodge mailing address: P.O. Box 686, Hereford, Texas 79045-0686.





# Petition for Membership Texas Lodge of Research

Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Texas lodge, or of a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, shall be eligible to become a member of Texas Lodge of Research upon being proposed by a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research and elected by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the lodge.

The proposed member shall furnish the lodge Secretary with a copy of his current dues card, or a Certificate of Good Standing, and a photo identification (a photocopy is acceptable) with the petition. Membership will continue so long as the member is in good standing in a regular Texas lodge, or of a lodge in a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, and the annual dues are current.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Texas Member ID No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Number of Subordinate Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge City: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Lodge of \_\_\_\_\_ List additional lodge memberships, if any, on reverse side.

Past Master of a subordinate lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grand Master: \_\_\_\_\_ Past Grand Master: \_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Recommendation of a Full Member of Texas Lodge of Research**

Full Member Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues are \$35 per calendar year and are payable in advance.

Electronic Payments can be made at: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/TexasLodgeOfResearch>

Endowed Memberships are \$500 payable to Texas Lodge of Research

Mail petition with \$35 check, a copy of your current dues card, and a copy of a photo ID to:

**Texas Lodge of Research, PO Box 686, Hereford, TX 79045-0686**





## **2024 – 2025 Officers of Texas Lodge of Research**

(included also is Past Master Billy Hamilton)