

CONSTELLATION LODGE NO. 81 205 6TH AVE E. ALEXANDRIA, MN



Dear Brethren of Constellation Lodge,

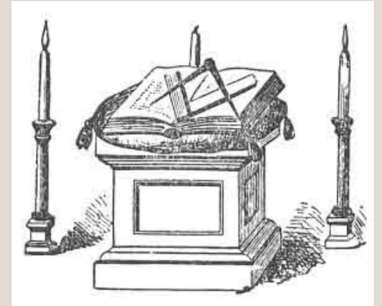
It is a great honor to be Master of Constellation Lodge N^o 81 for the year 2025. Looking at the coming year I am hopeful that we can make it a year of growth, and strengthen our lodge for the future.

When I first approached masonry, and first contacted our Lodge to look into becoming a Mason, I talked with WB Wayne Becker by phone. I remember that phone call well. I will never forget how friendly WB Wayne was and the impression he made on me while we first talked.

Eventually I went thru the degrees and became a master mason and have tried to be as involved in the lodge as I can. In those years it became very apparent that all of the elder Brothers were very helpful and wanted nothing more than to help me on my masonic journey and see that the lodge remained strong. There are many aspects that fit into this such as Lodge attendance, Lodge etiquette, Masonic laws and rules, and ritual work, etc.

All of the Brothers at our lodge Helped me in one way or another, and I do not know where I would be without that help, but one really stood out to me and that brother was WB Wayne Becker.

WB Wayne always had the lodges best interests in front, He could always be called upon to clarify



Officers for 2025

- WB Ron Mikel, Worshipful Master
- WB David Conover, Senior Warden
- WB Mike Pray, Junior Warden
- WB Jim Gratias, Treasurer
- WB Scott Giannone, Secretary
- WB Jim Bridenstine, Senior Deacon
- Jeremiah Denke, Junior Deacon
- David Mikel, Marshal
- Jake Holck, Chaplain
- Rudy Denke, Senior Steward
- Axel Anderson, Junior Steward
- WB Doug Sherman, Tyler

Articles may be sent to the editor, Scott Giannone , at ▼



Masonic code and laws, ritual, etc. all from memory. He was constantly aware of the lodges issue of membership and participation being in decline. He more than once stated that he was told years before that the lodge would not survive, but it did and he was very proud of that. WB Wayne loved to talk about Masonic topics and I have many good memories of our Masonic talks we held before lodge in our discussion group. What I am trying to say is that WB Wayne was as solid as they come, and with his passing we lost an enormous wealth of knowledge and fantastic friendships we had with him.

This year I have outlined a few areas we will be focusing on and I have had a letter sent out to all of the Brethren outlining them. The main areas are Masonic Learning and study, Lodge membership and growth, and Fundraising. All of these were areas that I know WB Wayne cared deeply about.

So my fellow Brethren I am therefore dedicating my year as Worshipful Master to WB Wayne Becker. I know he is looking down from the celestial lodge above and smiling knowing that because of his and your efforts our lodge is strong, and I am hopeful that we can make it even stronger.

Post script:

Some time has passed since writing the above. In that time we have held a few meetings, been busy planning upcoming events and also put on a first degree for our newest Entered apprentice Steven Dilly. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new Brother Steve! I also would like to thank all of our Brothers that helped do the ritual work, which was very well done. Along with a special thank you to WB David Zach Conover for his excellent work conferring the degree!

I would also like to Welcome Brother Calvin Kutzler From Glendive, MT, now living in Alexandria who has petitioned to become a member of Constellation lodge. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new Brother Calvin!

We have tentatively scheduled a second degree to take place on 17 March and will send out the information on it once we have everyone involved able to attend. This date may change.

We have a Prospect night with a seminar/lecture being put on at our stated meeting on 24 Feb. We also have our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser coming up on 2 March. Information on these events has been sent out.

Lastly I attended the Masonic Leadership Conference in St Cloud 7-8 Feb. This was a two day event full of seminar/lectures on many topics geared to help with having a successful lodge. Far too much to list here, but I can say it was well worth the time.

I would like to part by saying THANK YOU! All of you are what makes our lodge what it is, without your help, support, determination and brotherly love none of this would be possible. I am fortunate to be counted among such men.

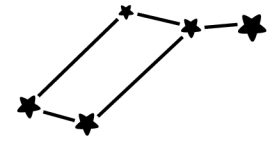
Thank you.

Fraternally,
Ron Mikel
Worshipful Master
Constellation Lodge N^o 81





Lyra Chapter No. 166

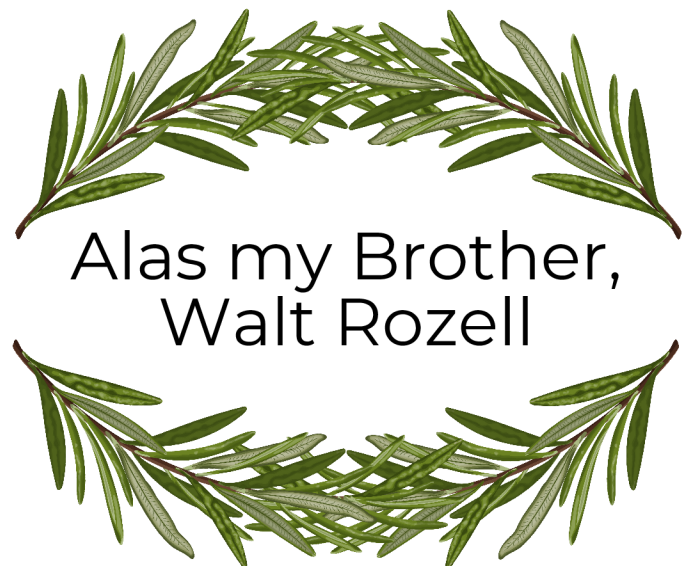
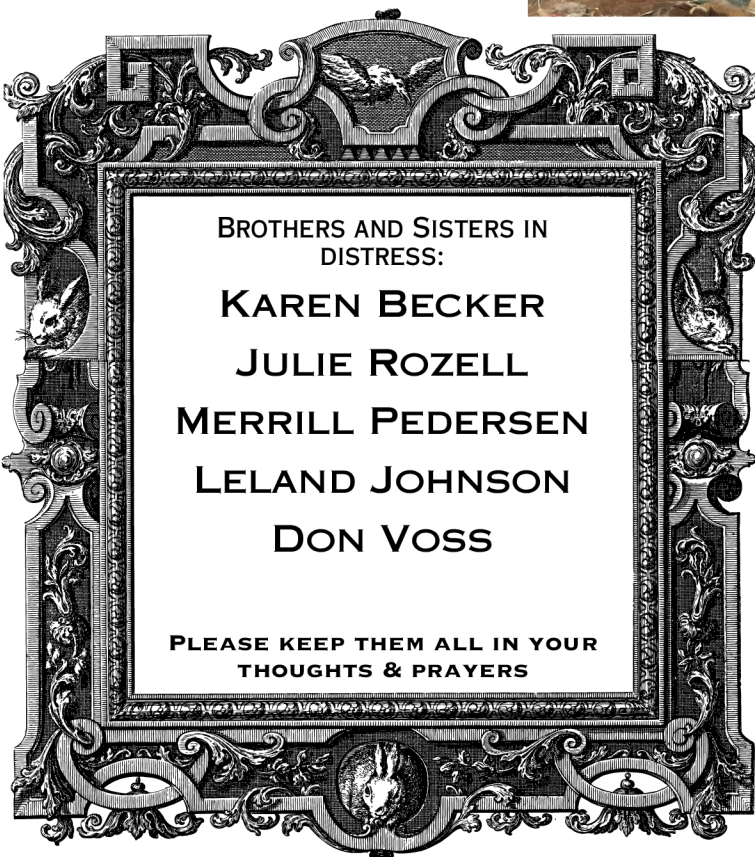


Lyra Chapter No. 166 held their annual Christmas Bake Sale December 13 and 14. This sale supports our High School Scholarships available to five area high schools.

We had a great sale with hundreds of cookies! Thank you to all who pre-ordered goodies and supported our efforts. Without those pre-orders it could never be nearly as successful! We also had several donations and those are so appreciated! And we had support from Thrivent which is appreciated as it offsets some of our expenses.

Thank you to ALL our bakers of cookies and other Christmas goodies! A great group effort for sure!

Photos are some of the cookie plates we put together. We think we did about 130 plates. That is a lot of cookies!



The Alexandria Shrine Club, Calliope, and 4-Wheelers

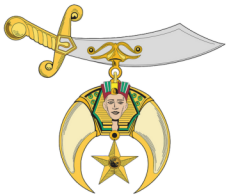
Greetings Nobles,

The Alexandria 4-Wheelers and Calliope Unit kicked off the year with a strong start. After our December meeting was canceled, we resumed in January with the installation of officers. Congratulations to Noble Ralph Tvrdik as Club President, Noble Brion Golde as Vice President and Circus Chair, Noble Mike Pray as Captain of the 4-Wheelers, Past Potentate Jim Gratas as Treasurer, and Noble Scott Giannone as Secretary.

February brought our annual Valentine's Brunch at Arrowwood, where Nobles and their Ladies enjoyed a wonderful gathering. A special thanks to members of the Divan for joining us and continuing this tradition.

With the King Borealis Parade now behind us, we look ahead to our next parade in June. In the meantime, regular club meetings will be held at Alexandria VFW Post #936.

Fraternally,
Noble Scott Giannone
Secretary



Greetings Brethren,

Brethren, this year is filled with great initiative—let's keep the momentum going! Now is the time to step up and challenge ourselves by learning new parts of our degree work. Whether you've been honing a role for years or are eager to explore a new aspect of our ritual, we can come together to practice, refine, and support each other as a team. Let's strengthen our Lodge and deepen our Masonic journey. If you're interested, reach out, and let's build something great together!

Furthermore the Red Cross Blood Drive was a success, we are scheduled again for Tuesday, September 16th.






















Fraternally,
Scott Giannone
Secretary





MARCH 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 
2 PANCAKE FUNDRAISER  	3	4	5	6	7	8
9  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	10 Alex. Ch. Meeting 6:30  Constellation Lodge No. 81 Meeting 7:30p 	11  OES Lyra Chapter No. 166 Fellowship 6:30p Meeting 7:00p	12	13    Underwood, MN Meeting 7:00p	14	15  Knight Templar Festival (1-day event) Mpls Scottish rite 8:00 am
16 Fellowcraft degree rehearsal 6:00p  Osman Shriner's Ceremonial Lost Spur Event Center 	17  Fellowcraft Degree starts 6:00pm 	18 Alexandria Shriner's Social 6:00p Dinner 6:30p @ VFW #9336 	19	20  Osman Shriner's Minneapolis	21  Osman Shriner's Minneapolis	22  Osman Shriner's Minneapolis
23	24 Constellation Lodge No. 81 Meeting 7:30p 	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3 across: 2.Charity 3.RoyalArch 5.Altar 7.East 9.JobsDaughters 10.Brotherhood 11.Freemasonry	4  down: 1.DeMolay 2.Calliope 4.Constellation 6.Initiation 8Lyra	5



APRIL 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 APRIL'S FOOL'S DAY!	2	3	4 Trestle Board Articles, Photos, & Reports Due Today	5
6	7	8 OES Lyra Chapter No. 166 Fellowship 6:30p Meeting 7:00p	9	10	11 Grand Lodge of Minnesota 172nd Annual Communication	12
13	14 Masonic Education 6:30p Constellation Lodge No. 81 Meeting 7:30p	15 Alexandria Shriner's Social 6:00p Dinner 6:30p @ VFW #936	16	17	18	19
20 Happy Easter	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24 St. John's Day	25	26 OsmanShriners Feast of Fools Lost Spur Event Center
27	28 Constellation Lodge No. 81 Meeting 7:30p	29	30	1	2	3

GERALD ANDERSON

HUSBAND - VETERAN - FREEMASON



Gerald Anderson's life has been defined by dedication—dedication to his family, his country, and his Masonic Brothers. Born and raised in Elbow Lake, Minnesota, Gerald grew up surrounded by the values of hard work and community. Following his graduation from high school in 1944, he answered the call to service, joining the U.S. Navy during the height of World War II.

Assigned to the USS Tucson, a Cleveland-class light cruiser, Gerald played a role in the ship's operations in the Pacific Theater. His service took him to the heart of history when, in September 1945, he was stationed in Tokyo Bay, alongside the USS Missouri, during the signing of Japan's formal surrender. His naval career, which began as a seaman, led him to become an apprentice electrician, a skill that would later shape his civilian career.

After his honorable discharge in 1946, Gerald returned home to Minnesota. A close friend, already a Mason, introduced him to the fraternity, leading to his raising as a Master Mason on April 21, 1951, in Elbow Lake. Freemasonry quickly became a cherished part of his life, a source of fellowship and purpose that would remain steadfast for the next seven decades.

In 1955, Gerald and his wife, Marlys, relocated to Silver Bay, a town still in its infancy, developing alongside the expanding iron ore mining industry on the North Shore of Lake Superior. That same year, Gerald became a charter member of Taconite Lodge No. 342, helping to establish a new Masonic presence in the growing community. He worked in the warehouses of the local mines, where he built a stable career until his retirement in December 1985.


Silver Bay was home for 35 years before Gerald and Marlys moved to Baudette, Minnesota, where they spent a few years before settling in Alexandria in 2024. Despite the changes in location, Gerald's dedication to Freemasonry never wavered.

Through his involvement with Taconite Lodge, he's formed lifelong friendships that transcended time and distance. His Masonic journey came full circle on February 17th, 2025 when Gerald was honored with his 70-year service pin and certificate by the brethren of Constellation Lodge [which Elbow Lake had merged into]. The presentation was a heartfelt moment, marking not only his longevity within the fraternity but also the deep bonds he had cultivated over the years.

Gerald accepted the honor with humility and gratitude, reflecting on the countless friendships and experiences that Masonry had given him. "I am the most blessed person to have walked the face of the earth," he shared, a sentiment that perfectly encapsulates his outlook on life. At 99 years old, he remains a man of optimism and appreciation, embracing each day with a grateful heart.

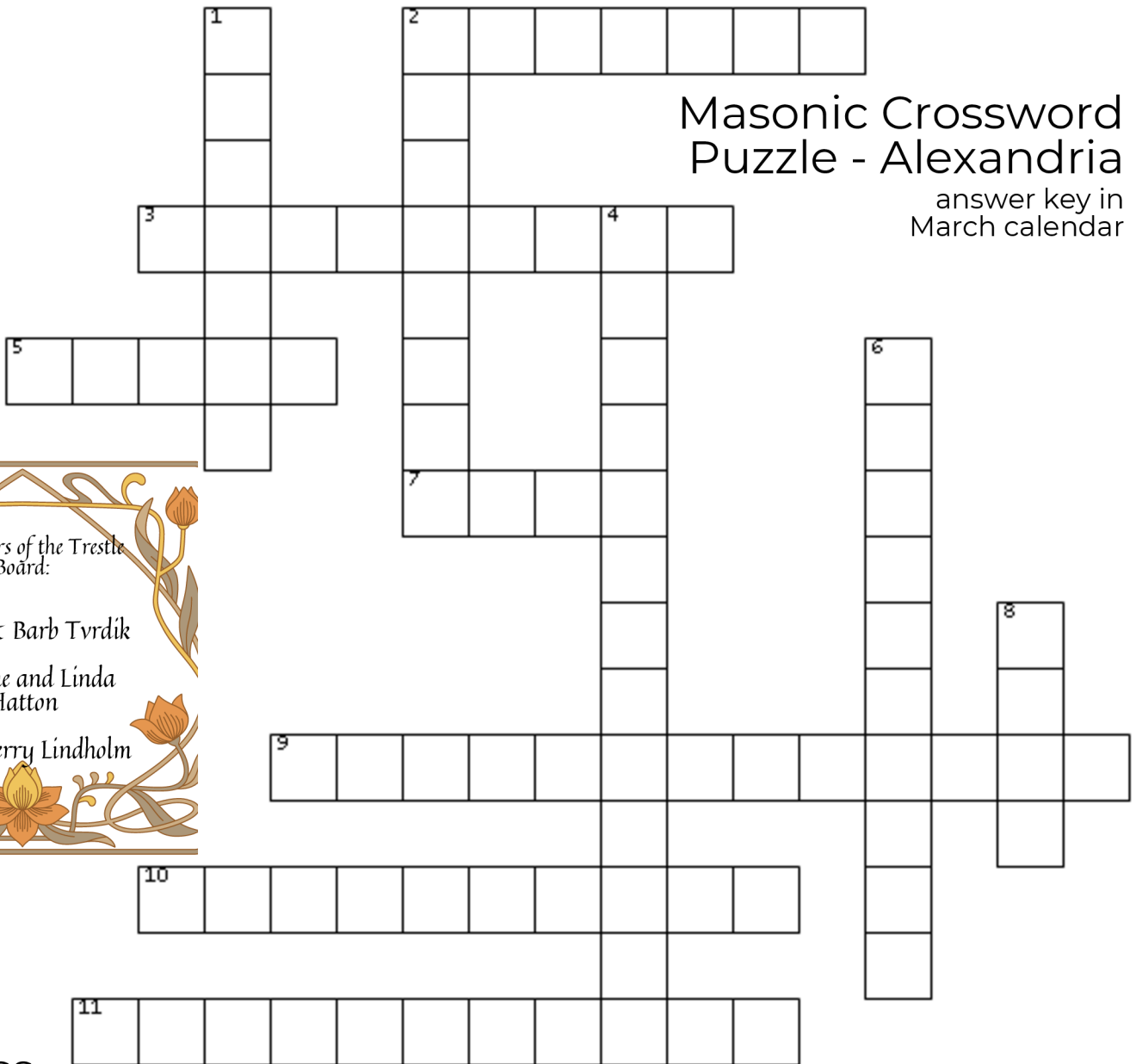
His gratitude extends beyond the fraternity—he cherishes his life with Marlys, his beloved wife of many decades, and their family. The couple raised two sons, one of whom works for Lockheed Martin in New York, and the other residing near Austin. They are also proud grandparents to two grandchildren, both of whom have graduated from college and are forging their own paths.

Though he did not impart specific words of wisdom, Gerald's approach to life speaks for itself. He takes joy in the simple blessings—his health, his memories, and the people he holds dear. His ability to wake each morning without stiffness, to enjoy a conversation with a Brother, and to reminisce on a life well lived is, to him, a gift beyond measure.

Gerald's legacy is one of service, commitment, and unwavering fraternity. His presence in the Masonic community has left a lasting impact, and his story is a testament to the values of dedication and brotherhood. As he continues to welcome calls and visits from friends and fellow Masons, his spirit remains as strong as ever—a reminder that a life built on gratitude, integrity, and connection is truly a life well lived. 

Masonic Crossword Puzzle - Alexandria

answer key in
March calendar



ACROSS

2. A central value in Freemasonry, often expressed through acts of kindness.
3. A degree in Freemasonry that is part of the York Rite.
5. The sacred platform where Masonic ceremonies take place.
7. A Masonically important cardinal direction.
9. A Masonic youth organization for young women, focused on leadership and charity.
10. The bond shared by all members of Masonic organizations.
11. The worldwide organization that includes the Masonic lodge and its appendant bodies.

DOWN

1. A youth organization founded by Freemasons for young men.
2. Our Shrine Club is known for this instrument
4. Local; _____ Lodge, for members of the fraternity.
6. The ceremony marking a new member's entry into a Masonic body.
8. The local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

"The Trestle Board"

Constellation Lodge No. 81 A.F. & A.M.

205 6th Ave. E.

Alexandria, MN 56308

