Honorary Past Grand Masters

M.:W.: H. A. Atkins * – 1867

In 1867, at the 10th Annual Communication, he was elected Grand Master, but declined the honor on a motion, it was ordered that his name be added to the roll as a Past Grand Master.

Elected Grand Master H. A. Atkins Declines

From the Proceedings of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of Free and Accept Masons of the Territory of Washington, at its Tenth Annual Communication held at Masonic Hall, in the city of Olympia; Commenced on Wednesday, September 18th, A.D. 1867, A.L. 5868, and Terminated on Saturday, September 21, A.D. 1867, A.L. 5867.

Evening Session
Friday, Sept. 20, A. L. 5867.

The Grand Lodge was called to labor at 6½ o’clock, Grand Master Reed presiding.

Officers and members as in the afternoon.

Prayer by the Grand Chaplain, Rev. P. E. Hyland.

The special order of business being the election of Grand officers, Bros. Willard and Jameson were appointed tellers, and the result was as follows:

On the first ballot, Bro. H. A. Atkins was elected Grand Master; whereupon Bro. Atkins expressed his thanks to the Grand Lodge, and peremptorily declined the distinguished honor.

Bro. Evans objected to the declination of Bro. Atkins stating that from necessity the Lodges nearest the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge were likely to secure a larger representation in the Grand Lodge than remote Lodges, and for permanent members of said Grand Lodge, it was desirable to distribute the memberships among the various subordinate Lodges. Bro. Atkins owed it to the Lodge to which he belonged to accept the position. Bro. Evans questioned Bro. Atkins right to disobey this call. Bro. Atkins then stated his engagements were of such a nature that justice to the Grand Lodge and himself required the election of another.

Grand Master Reed ordered the brethren to resume balloting for Grand Master, which resulted in the election of M.:W.: James Biles, P.G.M.

The ballot for the other Grand officers resulted as follows:

Bro. E. A. Light, Deputy Grand Master;
“ W. S. Jameson, Senior Grand Warden;
“ A. B. Young, Junior Grand Warden;
“ Benj. Harned, Grand Treasurer;
“ Thomas M. Reed, Grand Secretary.

On motion, 7 o’clock to-morrow evening was the hour appointed for the installation of Grand Officers.

On motion of Bro. Evans, the name of Bro. H. A. Atkins was ordered to be placed on the roll as a Past Grand Master.
M.: W.: HORACE WALTER TYLER (9-96)
5TH GRAND SECRETARY – 1905-1944
HONORARY PAST GRAND MASTER – 1931


The ability of Brother Reed to weigh the character and capacity of other men was exemplified when he chose his successor. He brought Horace W. Tyler into his office as his assistant more than a year before his death. At the time of the 1905 Session in Bellingham, Uncle Tom was on his death bed, and Brother Tyler acted for him. The latter was appointed Acting Grand Secretary, after the demise of Brother Reed, by Grand Master Miller. He was elected to that office in 1906 and each year thereafter until and including 1944. He therefore performed the duties of Grand Secretary at 40 Grand Communications.

Brother Tyler was born July 7, 1855 at Oyster Bay, New York, the home for many years of another illustrious Mason, President Theodore Roosevelt, born in 1858.

His family took young Horace to Wisconsin when he was only a year old, and he grew up in Sparta in that state. Following graduation from high school he worked in a flour mill and a bank until 1887. In that year he decided to come West, and Spokane was the location he chose. He entered the abstract of title business, and was later elected to two terms as City Controller and two terms as County Auditor there.

In 1898 he removed to Seattle and engaged in business until he was appointed a Deputy U.S. Marshal. He held that office when he was selected as our Assistant Grand Secretary in 1904 at age 49.

65 Years of Service

Brother Tyler was raised in Tomah Lodge, No.132 at Tomah, Wis., on Aug. 15, 1879 at age 24. For 65 years thereafter he served the Craft in many ways. He began his official Masonic labors as Secretary of Tomah Lodge from 1880 to 1882. He was then its Master in 1885 and 1886. He affiliated with Spokane Lodge, No.34, in 1890, and three years later he helped launch Tyrian Lodge, No.96, and became its first Master. After he removed to Seattle he affiliated with St. John’s Lodge, No.9, in 1899. At the time of his death he was a dual member of Tyrian and St. John’s Lodges. He was made an Honorary Past Grand Master of Washington in 1931, as has been related.

He was the father of three children, one of whom, Edward Franklin Tyler, became his father’s assistant as the duties of his office increased. Ed Tyler, a Past Master of Eureka Lodge, No.20, at Seattle, continued as Assistant Grand Secretary until his retirement in 1953, when Daniel T. Simmons, a Past Master of Wynoochee Lodge, No.43, at Montesano, and a former District Deputy, took over the post. Ed Tyler died in 1956.

Always kindly and courteous, Horace Tyler was especially helpful to inexperienced Lodge Secretaries. He was a man of more than average height, with a pleasant and open countenance. He ran his office by rigid rules. He was an inveterate pipe smoker and must have been the largest consumer in these parts of his favorite tobacco.
He died peacefully and without the calamity of a long illness at the home of his son in Tacoma on Oct. 22, 1944. Three days later Grand Master Ford Q. Elvidge conducted Masonic services for him. There were present all elective Grand Lodge officers, numerous Past Grand Masters who had worked with him, and a large Masonic attendance, but actually only a handful of the friends of this best-known Mason in Washington. No hall in Tacoma could have held even a good fraction of his co-workers in the Craft who held him in respect adaptability admiration. He was laid to rest in the family plot in Old Tacoma Cemetery.

Eulogy by Frank Poole

His eulogy at the 1945 Grand Lodge Session was given by Past Grand Master Frank L. Poole, who said of him:

“He was a man of the highest integrity and faithful to the last to his great trust as Grand Secretary of this Jurisdiction. In his 40 years of service in the office, he established a record seldom equaled or excelled in our Fraternity. His service under 40 Grand Masters, all of whom without exception complimented him for his assistance during their respective years, evidences in the strongest manner his adaptability, courtesy, kindliness and dependability. . . . He lived a good life. He was a builder in Freemasonry. He left an imprint upon our Craft.”

This imprint was given even more recognition when Horace W. Tyler Lodge, No.290, was chartered in Tacoma in 1950.

At the time of his death at age 89 it was said of him that he was the second oldest Grand Secretary in the nation in both age and years of service.

Grand Lodge grew astoundingly during his tenure. Its membership of Master Masons more than quadrupled from 9,880 to 42,056 in the four decades. The number of chartered Lodges increased from 137 to 261.

Indeed during that period Grand Lodge had become not only a great moral and fraternal society, but also an institution with large financial responsibilities and resources. This was necessarily so. The Masonic Home became a larger operation than was expected as prices of food, goods and labor increased during World War II. When Brother Tyler died Grand Lodge had a net worth of more than a million dollars, and more than $327,000 of that was in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

GRAND SECRETARY MADE HONORARY PAST GRAND MASTER

Taken from our 1931 Grand Lodge Proceedings, Volume XXVII, Part I, Page 154

M:.W:. Bro. Edwin H. Van Patten, after gracious introductory remarks, read the following resolution, which, on his motion, duly seconded, was unanimously adopted by a standing vote:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington:

Whereas, It is a well known fact that Right Worshipful Brother Horace W. Tyler has been an active member of this Grand Lodge for over forty years, and, for the past twenty-five years has been its Grand Secretary; and

Whereas, By his earnest attention to the duties of that office, he has endeared himself to every Mason in the State of Washington; and,
Whereas, His services to Masonry have been unremitting, and his love for the Institution has never failed;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, in recognition of his outstanding ability, and genial character, and of his persistent efforts to further the interests of Masonry upon every occasion, and as a testimonial of our gratitude to him as a faithful servant of the Grand Lodge, we, the loyal members of the Grand Lodge of Washington, do hereby and now confer upon Brother Horace W. Tyler the title of Honorary Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge with the title of Most Worshipful and with all the honors appertaining to that high position.

E. H. Van Patten,  
Morton Gregory,  
C. D. Atkins,  
A. E. Emerson,  
T. E. Skaggs,  
R. C. McCroskey,  
George Lawler,  
Joseph M. Taylor,  
Stephen J. Chadwick,  
George R. Malcolm.

At the request of the Grand Master, M:W: Bro. Robert C. McCroskey escorted the Grand Secretary to the East where he was given the Grand Honors as Honorary Past Grand Master.

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NECROLOGY

Taken from our 1945 Grand Lodge Proceedings, Volume XXXIV, Part I, Page 12

Elsewhere will be found the names of those whom the Almighty has called during the past year. For them we bow in humble prayer.

But special mention must be made of the passing of the dean of Masons in Washington, Most Worshipful Brother Horace W. Tyler, Honorary Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary. He was a “grand old man.” It was with a shock that I was told on Sunday morning, October 22, 1944, on the telephone, that Horace had peacefully passed away at his home in Tacoma a few minutes before. At the instance of his son, our good Assistant Grand Secretary and Brother, Edward F. Tyler, I immediately assumed responsibility for all funeral arrangements.

On Wednesday, October 25, 1944, I opened a Special Communication of our Grand Lodge for the purpose of conducting services. We performed the last rites at 1:00 o’clock p.m. at the Buckley-King Funeral Chapel, Tacoma. His body was laid to rest in the family plot in the old Tacoma Cemetery. Many Masonic friends came to pay their respects. Every elective Grand Lodge officer was present and many Past Grand Masters.

At my request M:W: Bro. Frank L. Poole prepared the beautiful and dignified memorial pamphlet which has been sent to all Brethren in this Grand Jurisdiction.

His work in this life was well done. He has earned his rest.

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IN MEMORIAM

M:. W:. HORACE WALTER TYLER

BY: M:. W:. BRO. FRANK L. POOLE

Taken from our 1945 Grand Lodge Proceedings, Volume XXXIV, Part I, Page 138

M:. W:. Bro. Frank L. Poole, standing at the Chair of the Grand Secretary’s desk, read the following in memory of our departed Grand Secretary, M:. W:. Bro. Horace W. Tyler, Honorary Past Grand Master:

Most Worshipful Sir, for the first time in four decades the chair at the Grand Secretary’s desk is not occupied by that esteemed Grand Secretary and Honorary Past Grand Master

HORACE WALTER TYLER

whose death occurred at the home of his son, Edward F. Tyler, in Tacoma, Washington, on October 22nd, 1944. He carried on his duties as Grand Secretary to the last. His passing was peaceful.

The funeral services were conducted by the Grand Lodge under the direction of M:. W:. Bro. Ford Q. Elvidge, Grand Master, at the Buckley-King Funeral Home, Tacoma, Washington, on Wednesday, October 25, 1944, at 1 o’clock p.m., and the body was laid to rest in the family plot at the Old Tacoma Cemetery.

Brother Tyler was born at Oyster Bay, New York, on July 7th, 1855, his ancestral roots having been established in Massachusetts early in the seventeenth century by immigrants from England and Scotland. In 1856 he left with his parents for Wisconsin, and the family settled in Sparta where Horace grew to manhood. After graduating from high school, he was engaged in the flour milling and banking businesses in Tomah, Wisconsin, until 1887 when his friends in California urged him to come West. Arriving in Spokane Falls, now Spokane, Washington, and liking the town and its people, he decided to make it his home. Within a short time he built-up an Abstract of Title business, but during the hard times in the early nineties he entered politics and was elected for two terms as City Controller and for two terms as County Auditor. He moved to Seattle in 1898, and after short engagements in the abstract of title business and the flour mill business, he was appointed Deputy United States Marshal, serving in that capacity until he was appointed Assistant Grand Secretary by M:. W:. Bro. Thomas M. Reed. In 1905, shortly after Bro. Reed’s death, the Grand Master, M:. W:. Bro. Abraham L. Miller, appointed Brother Tyler as Grand Secretary. In 1906, at the Annual Communication held in Spokane, he was elected to that position, and thereafter re-elected each succeeding year.

He was married to Miss Emma Francis Erwin at the home of her parents in Tomah, Wisconsin, on May 30, 1877. This blissful union continued until her death February 27th, 1941, and was blessed by three children, Susan Harriet, Edward Franklin and Fannie Elizabeth (now deceased). In addition to the daughter and son, he left seven grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren to mourn his passing.

Brother Tyler was intensely interested in all branches of Masonry, the history of which is briefly as follows:

Ancient Craft Masonry: He was raised in Tomah Lodge, No.132, Wisconsin, on August 15, 1879; was its Secretary from 1880 to 1882; its Master in 1885 and 1886. He affiliated with Spokane Lodge, No.34, in 1890; charter member and first Master of Tyrian Lodge, No.96, in 1893; affiliated with St. John’s Lodge, No.9, Seattle, in 1899, remaining a member until his death, being also a Dual Member of Tyrian Lodge, No.96. He was appointed Assistant Grand Secretary in 1904; appointed Grand Secretary in 1905; elected to the position in 1906 and subsequently to date. He was an Honorary Member of Evergreen Lodge, No.51, Tacoma, and Tacoma Lodge, No.22, Tacoma, and was made an Honorary Past Grand Master by the Grand Lodge in 1931.
Royal Arch Masonry: He was exalted in Sparta Chapter, No.19, Wisconsin, in 1880; affiliated with Spokane Chapter, No.2, Spokane, Washington, in 1888, serving as High Priest in 1888, 1889; affiliated with Seattle Chapter, No.3, Seattle, in 1899, remaining a member to date. He was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter in 1894; Grand Treasurer from 1899 to 1933, and Grand Treasurer Emeritus thereafter to date. He was President of the Order of High Priesthood of Washington from 1895 until his death.

Royal and Select Masters: He was-greeted in Sparta Council, No.19, Wisconsin, in 1880; charter member of Spokane Council, No.4, Spokane, Washington, 1895; affiliated with Seattle Council, No.6, Seattle, in 1901, remaining a member to date, being its Illustrious Master in 1904. He was Grand Master of the Grand Council in 1911; Grand Recorder from 1913 to date.

Knights Templar: He was Knighted in La Crosse Commandery, No.9, Wisconsin, in 1881; charter member of Sparta Commandery, No.16, Wisconsin, in 1882; affiliated with Cataract Commandery, No.3, Spokane, Washington, in 1888, serving as its Commander in 1891; affiliated with Seattle Commandery, No.2, Seattle, Washington, in 1898, remaining a member to date, and was Recorder from 1899 to 1922. He was Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Washington in 1895, and its Grand Treasurer from 1899 to 1933, and Grand Treasurer Emeritus thereafter.

Scottish Rite Bodies: He received the Scottish Rite Degrees in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1883; charter member of Spokane Consistory, Spokane, Washington, in 1890, being Venerable Master of Lodge of Perfection in 1893 and 1894; affiliated with Seattle Consistory in 1899, and was Commander of the Council of Kadosh in 1904 and 1905; Coronated 33rd Degree in 1906; charter member of Tacoma Consistory in 1908, remaining a member to date.

A.A.O.N.M. Shrine: Received the degree in Medina Temple, Chicago, Illinois, in 1885; affiliated with Tripoli Temple, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1887; charter member of El Katif Temple, Spokane, Washington, in 1890, being its Potentate in 1892; affiliated with Afifi Temple, Tacoma, Washington, 1900, remaining a member to date.

Red Cross of Constantine: Charter member of St. Alban’s Conclave, 1911, remaining a member to date.

He was also a charter member of the Tacobat Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R., and an Honorary Member of Seattle Council, No.24, Universal Craftsmen of Engineers.

Order of Eastern Star: Charter member of Electa Chapter, No.20, Spokane, Washington, 1890, being Patron in 1892; affiliated with Myrtle Chapter, No.48, Seattle, in 1898; affiliated with Fern Chapter, No.7, Tacoma, 1909, remaining a member to date. He was Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter in 1893.

Those Masons who knew Most Worshipful Brother Tyler intimately know that upon acquiring the Masonic Degrees sixty-five years ago, he chose its teachings and philosophy for his guide in his future life. That this is correct is evidenced by his loving, kindly and considerate care of the members of his family and those related to him. Respite his devotion to the cause of Freemasonry, and its many requests for his services, which required much of his time, he never neglected his responsibilities nor wavered in his duties as husband and father.

He was a Mason of the highest integrity and faithful to the last to his great trust as Grand Secretary of this Jurisdiction. In his forty years of service in the office, he established a record seldom equalled or excelled in our Fraternity. His service under forty different Grand Masters all of whom without exception complimented him for his assistance during their respective years, evidences in the strongest manner his adaptability, courtesy, kindliness and dependability.

During Brother Tyler’s life as a Master Mason he found frequent opportunities to advise and assist those younger in the Craft, and was a helpful guide to many in their search for Masonic Light.
He lived a good life. He was a builder in Freemasonry. He left his imprint upon our Craft.

Brother Tyler was next to the oldest Grand Secretary in age and in years of service in the United States, and probably in the world at the time of his passing. We shall miss this “Grand Old Man” of Masonry, as he was affectionately known throughout the length and breadth of our Grand Jurisdiction.

October 1905 - October 1944

* Died in Office, October 22, 1944, John I. Preissner appointed to fill vacancy.

Served as Grand Secretary from October 1905 through October 1944. Died in Office, October 22, 1944, John I. Preissner appointed to fill vacancy.

Lodge named for him: Horace W. Tyler Lodge No.290, University Place, Washington – Chartered: June 21, 1950

Mother Lodge & occupation: St. John’s No.9, Seattle - Businessman / Deputy U.S. Marshal

Served as Grand Secretary from October 1905 through October 1944. Died in Office, October 22, 1944, John I. Preissner appointed to fill vacancy.

Lodge named for him: Horace W. Tyler Lodge No.290, University Place, Washington – Chartered: June 21, 1950

Mother Lodge & occupation: St. John’s No.9, Seattle - Businessman / Deputy U.S. Marshal
M.: W.: Ralph S. Stacy * – 1948

Honorary Grand Master, 1948-1964
of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

Born: Stacyville, Iowa February 3, 1868

RESOLUTION

The following resolution, submitted by M.: W.: Bros. John I. Preissner, Charles P. Kirtland and Tom W. Holman, Past Grand Masters, was read by M.: W.: Bro. Tom W. Holman, and on order of the Grand Master, referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington:

With the tributes now recorded on pages 130 to 136, inclusive, Proceedings of 1947, and with the expressed favor of the respective Past Grand Masters who are present at this Ninety-first Annual Communication, as our background,

Be It Resolved, that there is hereby conferred by this Ninety-first Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington the title of Honorary Past Grand Master, with the full rights appertaining thereto, upon W.: Brother Ralph Sewall Stacy.

PRESENTATION OF M.: W.: BRO. RALPH S. STACY


M.: W.: Bro. Ralph Sewall Stacy responded as follows:

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I do not know what to say. If there ever was anything unexpected that has happened to me during my eighty years of life, this is it. I most thoroughly and sincerely appreciate the honor you have bestowed upon me and I can tell you, Brethren, that during the many years I have been on the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge, nothing has given me more pleasure, because that is the only kind of work I would be worth a continental in this Grand Lodge. As an orator – well, you know what I mean.

Again, I can only tell you that I thank you from the very bottom of my heart for this unexpected and very much appreciated honor.

... M.: W.: Brother Ralph S. Stacy who was made an honorary Past Grand Master at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge held in 1948. This Brother, who had served in many capacities in our Grand Lodge, principally in connection with finances, left this life one month and twenty days after he had passed his ninety-fourth birthday.
The Supreme Grand Master of the Universe, on March 10, 1995, called a great Mason and Brother to that Celestial Lodge above. In his passing, this Grand Jurisdiction, along with the Brothers, friends and family, have lost a most devoted and dearly beloved Brother, husband, father and grandfather.

Our sorrow at his not being here amongst us is softened by our thanks to the Almighty Father for allowing him the 83 years and 11 months and for allowing us the privilege of associating with one whose life and friendship has had such a beneficial influence upon the lives and character of those who knew him and upon our Masonic Grand Lodge.

M: W.: Brother Bennett was born in Peru, a town in the northern central part of Indiana, on April 15, 1911. Peru, being a rather long way from salt water, Ed yearned to see the sea so he joined the Navy on September 26, 1928. His sea travels took him around the world, but surely more importantly, to Bremerton; for it was in the Bremerton/Tacoma area where he met and, after convincing this beautiful young girl, Jean Betty Baker, to marry him, he didn’t let her change her mind. They were married on September 26, 1943, in Tacoma, exactly 15 years after he joined The Navy. Ed said, “When she said yes, a girl in every port was history.”

Ed’s Naval career took him, and many times Jean, to places around the world; including Texas, Florida, Hawaii, the South Pacific and the Far East. In 1958, while serving in Puerto Rico, Ed said, “That’s enough, I want to retire.” So on February 18, 1958, Ed retired [Jean says, “we both retired”] from the Navy at a Lt. Commander. That’s almost 30 years in the government’s service which included time during World War II and other conflicts. If his leaving the naval service was felt as deeply as it was felt when he left the Grand Lodge office, I’m sure they felt it clear to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

They then returned to Tacoma, Jean’s hometown, where her father was a Dentist, and a Brother Mason, and her mother thought Ed was heaven sent. The times when Jean told her mother of Ed’s sometimes mischievous doings, she would always “stick up” for Ed and claim it was just O.K. No need to relate that Ed thought he had the most wonderful mother-in-law on earth. Both of Jean’s parents passed away before Ed retired from the Grand Lodge office.

But now there were four Tacoma Bennetts. Ed and Jean were blessed with two children, a girl and a boy. First a girl, Susan, an then along came Tracy. They were raised with loving care and they always show deep respect and love for both their parents. Susan is married to Jeffrey Lee and now lives in Sumner. Tracy and his wife, Lockey, live in Sonoma, California. They have two boys, Sam and Max, who thought POPPY, their grandad, the best thing – ever!

Both Tracy and Jeff belong to Evergreen State Lodge in Tacoma, Ed having the honor of Raising them both.

Ed joined State Lodge, now Evergreen State Lodge, No.68, becoming a Master Mason on May 8, 1946. He served the Lodge as Master in 1962 then was Treasurer of the Lodge for 8 years.

His first taste of Grand Lodge was his appointment as Assistant Grand Secretary on August 3, 1962.

An anecdote that set the stage for Ed happened during this time of his appointed duties. Being Deputy in District No.10 at the time, I called for the District Meeting to be held in Blaine with the accustomed dinner for the Grand Master, who was then M: W.: Brother Albert N. Bradford. Ed,
calling for reservations, said he had to come to get the Grand Master’s signature on some papers and get some of the apple pie he heard was always served in District No. 20. Weil, he got to Blaine, got the Grand Master’s signature and the coveted apple pie. As it is our custom to have a local Brother offer words of welcome at the meeting, the Junior Grand Warden was then asked to give the response for the Grand Officers. The Junior Grand Warden was not present at the affair, so I thought W. Brother Ed Bennett would be a great substitute choice. As he was eating his second piece of pie, I informed him of the assignment and he said, “I don’t make speeches.” When I said this time you will be called upon to do it, he said, “This pie just turned sour.”

After the welcoming address as delivered, Ed, sure enough, was asked to give the response. I can’t quote exactly what he said, but I can come pretty close. I remember him saying:

“They don’t pay me to make speeches, and
I only came here to get the Grand Master’s
signature and a piece of apple pie. I got
his signature and the pie. Thanks for the welcome.”

Then he sat down. His remarks were true, to the point and short. He received a great round of applause.

Most of us have heard him make a like speech many times with the reward being a thunderous, and sometimes standing, ovation.

Ed was elected Grand Secretary at the Grand Lodge sessions in June of 1967, and continued in that position until he decided to retire, serving through the 1987 June Grand Lodge meeting.

In his tenure as Grand Secretary, Ed certainly proved himself as to knowing how an office should be administered. Information was always available and one could rely on it being right. He forever considered a question needed to be answered and he most often obliged. He sometimes said, “You may not like the answer, but here it is.” Financial data was always up to date and easily understood. Ed’s great desire was to acquaint all Lodge Secretaries with detailed information to help them in their labors. He loved to get together with Lodge Secretaries on a one to one basis, spending as much time as necessary to pass on ideas to make their work easier, understandable, better and complete. Ed set a goal to make the Grand Lodge office a place where all the Craft could get Masonic information by just asking, and he achieved that goal. He left no doubt as to his ability in office procedures and management. He never once forgot or misused his obligations to the Grand Master nor the Craft. He upheld the dignity of the Fraternity and was forever mindful of his obligations in the discharge of his duties. He rightfully earned the respect and acclaim of his Brethren.

While Grand Secretary, M.: W.: Brother Ed Bennett attended the yearly Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America, held most of the time in Washington, D.C. At the 1982 session, Ed was elected and installed as President of the Conference, which was a great honor for him and for this Grand Jurisdiction as well. He arranged for the Conference to be held in Seattle in 1984.

In appreciation of his devotion to the Craft in general, his outstanding participation in Masonic activities nationwide, his attention to assure a ready Grand Lodge office and never forgetting he was there to help the Grand Master and all the Craft in their needs, the Grand Lodge unanimously voted him the title of Past Grand Master, Honorary. So now it was, MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER EDWARD L. BENNETT.

Shortly after retiring, Ed and Jean moved to Sonoma, California. Both for the better weather there and to be nearer their children.

His other Masonic activities, as well as being an honorary member of untold number of Lodges, include the following: he joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Tacoma in 1964, which decorated him a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 1975; he became a Royal Arch Mason of the York
Rite in 1987, going on into the Rite’s Council of Royal and Select Masters. After moving to
California he joined and took a part in the work of Temple Lodge, No.14, located in Sonoma.

He also joined the Moose Lodge in Sonoma; he belonged to the Heroes of ‘76 of the Sojourners,
the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of Scotland, was an Honorary member of the Legion
of Honor of DeMolay. He also belonged to the Navy’s Retired Commissioned Officer’s activities.

He served as Grand Representative to the Masonic Grand Lodge of Nevada, near the Grand Lodge
of Washington, for many years.

All of this involvement, along wit the Grand Secretary’s duties, kept him in a whirlwind of
activity. As a matter of fact, Jean took a job in the Grand Lodge office as she said, “Ed goes to the
office, then home for dinner if I’m lucky, then to some meeting ’til later into the night. I have to take
a job in the office so I can get to see him once in a while.” She proved herself a great asset to the
clerical functions of the office.

Brethren, this is not a time only for mourning; it is a time to pause and reflect; to feel that surely
there must be another chapter in the book of life; to realize the designs placed upon the trestleboard
of life by our departed Brother were there for a real and meaningful purpose.

The Lord willing, we hope to “meet Ed on the level in that undiscovered country from where no
traveler returns.”

Let us not mourn his going;
But let us rejoice just to know
That his earthly labors were finished
And that he was fully prepared to go.
Let us emulate his virtues
That men of us may say;
Our world is brighter and better.
Because Ed was allowed to pass our way.

Memorial Prayer

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with
whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and
felicity: We give Thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those Thy servants, our brothers,
who, having finished their course in faith, do not rest from their labors.

We pray to you, Father, for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them Your peace; let light
perpetual shine upon them; and, in Your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good
purpose of Your perfect will. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Allan E. Carter
Grand Chaplain

2, Vol. LXXIII, 1995, pg. 123