



CONNECTICUT
FREEMASONS

Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F.&A.M

April-June 2025

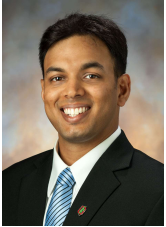
<https://lodgelocator.com/columbia-25>

Check web site for latest information!

Columbia Lodge #25 is on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view_public_for=342780670785

MASTER'S MESSAGE



Deenak Saluru

Greetings Brothers, families, and friends of Columbia Lodge #25:

Spring is upon us, and the first quarter of 2025 has flown by with several successes that showcase the strength and vitality of our lodge.

The joint feast honoring the birth of Brother George Washington, held with Washington Lodge #70, was a resounding success. More than 50 Brothers attended, including Grand Lodge officers, Past Grand Masters, and our current Grand Master. This event was a true demonstration of our undying patriotism and Brotherly Love.

We paid tribute to the lives of two cherished Brothers, Dave Gaston and George Zack, who will be deeply missed as they take their seats in the Celestial Lodge above.

We also celebrated the advancement of three Entered Apprentices as they passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, now awaiting their Master Mason degree. Senior Warden Gness stepped up to the East, and together with all the officers and our dedicated kitchen crew, we conducted another successful Masonic degree.

Our Masonic education efforts kicked off strongly with the first leg of instruction. Our new officers delivered an outstanding presentation of the second section of the Entered Apprentice lecture and led a Lodge of Instruction on the EA degree.

As we move into Spring, we look up to the heavens and cherish each other in celebration of our Lord as Good Friday and Easter approach—seasons of reflection and renewal. Looking ahead to Summer, we will honor our Patron Saints St. John at a Masonic table lodge, filled with canons and singing, further strengthening our bonds of brotherhood.

Lastly, I will be collecting donations for Protectors of Animals in East Hartford to support their mission of rescuing and caring for abandoned, abused, and stray cats and dogs. Please see the list of needed items on the next page and consider contributing what you can. Please leave your donations at the bottom of the staircase where we are also collecting non-perishable donations for the food drive. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for these animals in need.

Deepak Saluru, Worshipful Master 2025

CALENDAR

Unless specifically stated, all meetings start at 7:30 PM

All Dinners require Reservations.

- April 2** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
- April 4** **Grand Lodge Banquet – 6 PM**
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT
- April 5** **Grand Lodge Annual Meeting- 9:00 AM**
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT
- April 16** Stated Communication/ Business
- April 21** MM Rehearsal 7 PM
- April 28** MM Rehearsal 7 PM
- May 3** **Derby Night - Dinner and Bluegrass music**
5 PM - 10 PM
Reservations by April 29
- May 5** MM Rehearsal 7 PM
- May 7** **Master Mason Degree (Officers Tux)**
Dinner at 6:30
RSVP by 6/15 to JW Spooner
- May 21** **Awards Night (Officers Tux)**
Dinner at 6:30 - Reservations by May 16
- May 26** **Glastonbury Memorial Day Parade 9 AM**
- May 29** **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**
Composite Lodge #28
150 Bridge Street, Suffield, CT 06078
Dinner at 6:30 PM
- June 4** **Feast of St. John's (Table Lodge/Tux)**
6:15 PM - 10:15 PM
RSVP by 5/31 to JW Spooner
- June 7** **Grand Masters' Day 10 AM**
Wallingford
- June 18** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
- June 28** **Annual Summer Picnic**
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Upcoming Events

- July 27** Summer Planning Meeting
Fun, food and cigars
- October 4** **Wine Tasting**
6-10 PM
- December 3** Annual Meeting

Historian Corner



David Lockard

On Keeping Politics out of Freemasonry

These days, everything around us is saturated in politics.

Turn on the news, scroll through social media, or even step into a casual conversation, and it's nearly impossible to escape without a debate. Friendships and even family ties have been tainted if not ruined by the current political divides.

But in our Freemasonry, there's a sacred shield: We leave politics (and religion) at the door.

It's not just tradition; it's a conscious choice that makes Freemasonry a rare, unified space where all men can gather, no matter their beliefs or affiliations. Imagine if we allowed these subjects into our discussions. We'd start mirroring the world outside, where every opinion can drive a wedge, even between brothers. It would quickly dismantle the harmony we cherish, turning the Lodge from a place of fellowship into yet another battleground.

This is why, for centuries, Freemasons have honored the principle of keeping our fraternity apolitical.

It's not about ignoring the issues of the day but about creating a space where deeper connections can flourish beyond the conflicts of opinion.

Freemasonry offers a place for all of us to reflect, grow, and build genuine relationships without the weight of external agendas.

This is what makes us unique. It's what allows us to look past the labels society places on us and see each other as Brothers on a shared journey.

Let's make sure we keep this spirit alive.

Let's protect Freemasonry as a space that transcends the noise.

A place where men can find common ground despite their differences.

By upholding these principles, we will be setting an example of unity in a world that needs it now more than ever.

Fellowcraft Degree-February 19, 2025



Phillip Crump, Brian Dukin, Dave Lockard, FC Julio Florez, Deepak Saluru, Chris Gness, FC Raul Sanchez III, Michael Lombardi, Keith Carlough, Chaplain Juan Diaz, FC Jesse Gay, Walt Grube, Tushar Meshram, VW Don Wills, RW John DiCioccio, and RW Thomas Duclos.

2025 Officers Installation-January 11, 2025.



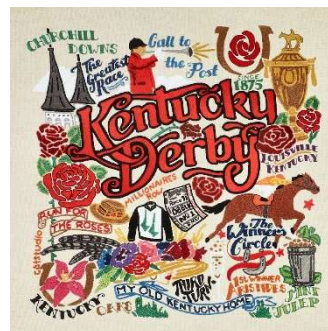
The Installed 2025 Officers of Columbia Lodge No. 25 were joined by RWB John DiCiccio, Jr. (DD), WB Brad Young (AGM), and PGM William E. Bohman (regally standing tall in the back).

Washington's Birthday Celebration.



On February 24, 2025 at the joint lodge Washington Birthday Celebration, MWPGM Chip Stamm (Past Board Member of GWMNMA) presented WL#70 (WM Ken Roach) and CL#25 (WM Deepak Saluru), as Society of Washington Lodges members, and Arnie Grot as a member of The George Washington Memorial Society with a 2023 Cornerstone Medallion and a George Washington Master Mason Medal.

Kentucky Derby Feast of St. Johns



May 3



June 4

Necrology



Sadly, in the past few months, four of our brothers have been called to the Grand Lodge on High.

Brother Charles L. Clapper passed away on November 15, 2024. Brother Charles was born February 5, 1929, in Raymond, Maine. He spent most of his life on the farm where he grew up, in Waterboro, Maine, where he graduated from Waterboro High School and then joined the Marines. He served in the Korean War and was in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. He was employed as a woodworker in a furniture shop until his retirement. Until recently he still cut and split wood to heat his home. Charles had a large vegetable garden and supplied his neighbors with tomatoes all summer long.

Charles sought light in Masonry and was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 16, 1966 in Orient Lodge No. 62, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, with Worshipful Brother K. Robb McCloy presiding Master, and has been a true and faithful Brother since then. He became a member of Columbia Lodge No. 25 when the two lodges consolidated in 2006. He was a member of the Craft for 58 years.

Brother Jay D. Trepp passed away on December 18, 2024. Brother Jay was born August 2, 1935, in Glastonbury, CT.

In addition to Glastonbury and Beverly, MA, he lived several years in Georgetown, MA and Salisbury, MD, and spent many summers in Harrison, ME. Jay graduated from Dartmouth College in 1957 and received his MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business in 1958. He started his career at Arthur Anderson in Boston, where he made lifelong friends. Jay was a Certified Public Accountant but didn't work as a traditional accountant for long. He loved variety in his work and, in 1977, found his place with Brede Exposition Services. Jay traveled to several Brede offices, setting up tradeshow across the U.S., including Hawaii, until COVID hit in 2020. Jay loved trucks, travel, airplanes and babies. He had his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) most of his life and loved driving 18-wheelers across the country. With his wife Karen and friends, Jay traveled to six continents, 49 countries and 49 states, just missing North Dakota. Jay was always up for an adventure! If you ever shared a meal with Jay, you know his favorite foods were spaghetti, potatoes, ice cream and Spam, not necessarily in that order.

Jay was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 28, 1958 in Daskam Lodge #86 (now Columbia #25), with Worshipful Brother John E. Davis presiding Master, and has been a true and faithful

Brother since then. He was a member of the Craft for over 66 years!

Brother George R. Zack passed away on February 1, 2025. George was born February 11, 1941, in Pottsville, PA. He joined the United States Army in 1960 and completed Basic Training at Fort Dix. As a Private First Class, he served overseas as an Armored Tank Crew Man on M-48A1 Patton Tanks. George was deployed to Vietnam as part of the Armed Forces Expeditionary in 1963-1964. Returning to Fort Dix towards the end of his term in the Army, he served as a drill instructor and worked in the fire department on base.

George married Liboria (Libby) Zack in 1963. After working in the New York Fire Patrol, George took a position with the Hartford Fire Department at Engine 8 in 1968. George served as a firefighter for Engine 8 through 1978. In 1974, George became one of the first half dozen Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in the state of Connecticut who was also a firefighter (he notably and proudly "maxed" the practical exam for this). George proudly points to much of his success as a firefighter coming from the unwavering support from his wife Libby. An unexpected work injury brought an earlier than expected retirement.

George and Libby had two sons, George and John. Their son, John, passed away in 1998. His son George, Jr. lives in Colorado with his wife Tracy and George's two grandchildren, Kali and John.

George was a Connecticut Transit bus driver from 1979 to 2003, when he then retired from the workforce. George's love of his life, and wife of 43 years, Libby, passed away in 2006.

George was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on October 9, 2000, in Silas Deane Lodge #147. He became a member of Columbia #25 in 2010 when Silas Deane Lodge went dark. George served in the offices of Marshall, Junior Deacon, and Senior Deacon at Silas Deane, and served for many years as Tiler at Columbia #25. In 2022, Columbia Lodge honored George's years of service by presenting to him the Emerson C. Reed at the lodge's annual Awards Night. George was a member of the craft for almost 25 years.

George was a 32nd Degree Mason at the Scottish Rite Valley of Hartford, and a member of the York Rite Bodies – Pythagoras Chapter #17 of Royal Arch Masons, Wolcott Council #1 of Royal and Select Masters, and Washington Commandery #1 of Knights Templar. He served in the office of Sentinel for many years in both the Chapter and the Commandery.

Brother David R. Gaston passed away on February 15, 2025. David was born on January 24, 1940 in Johnstown, PA. He lived a life of faith, love, dedication and hard work - doing odd jobs while growing up to help

his family. His fascination with all things mechanical led him to the Marine Corps, where he served in Germany in the late 1950s before being transferred to the Army's Davy Crockett program.

David left the Army with honors and became an apprentice with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, where he worked for over 30 years, spending some time with the union and eventually ending up in a management position.

David was an avid reader, especially Civil War history, and had many different interests. He was a fifty-year plus member of both Masonic Columbia Lodge #25 and the N-SSA 1st CT Volunteer Infantry. He enjoyed bamboo rod fly fishing, traveling, especially his trips to Scotland and Italy, as well as several cruises with special friends. Above all, David lived his faith and was a "good man" loved by all. For almost 60 years he was a member of First Congregational Church in East Hartford where he was a Deacon and served on many boards and committees, as well as teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir. Dave was also involved with Scout Troop #1 and helped with the Food Bank.

Dave was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 30, 1966 in Orient Lodge #62 (now Columbia #25), with Worshipful Brother K. Robb McCloy presiding Master, and has been a true and faithful Brother since then. He was a member of the Craft for over 58 years.

Brother Peter J. Hunt passed away on March 16, 2025. David was born on April 22, 1937 in Laxton, Yorkshire County, England. His parents, Elsie and Winton Jon Hunt, moved to the White Mountains town of Franconia, New Hampshire to pursue an employment opportunity at Cannon Mountain, a well-known ski resort.

As a boy, Pete loved to ski, golf, fish for trout and play baseball. Peter's parents had a family membership at a local golf club, and after his dad came home from work, the entire family would play golf several times a week. Peter became a caddy at the age of 9 and then played golf both day and night.

Pete's father became the foreman at Cannon Mountain. Peter consequently had unlimited access to the mountain, and would ski every chance he could, both day

and night. His love was downhill racing. In his high school years, he was a ski instructor at Cannon Mountain. He was obviously an accomplished skier as he was selected to be an alternate on the 1956 USA Olympic Alpine Ski Team when he was 19 years of age. Despite his sporting activities, Pete never slacked his academic responsibilities and graduated as Valedictorian of his class at Dow Academy.

Peter's love of sports has never dimmed. He is an avid fan of the New York Yankee baseball

team. He also roots for the UConn men's basket team. Although somewhat disappointed with last season's results, he looks forward to a banner season this year.

Pete accepted a job opportunity at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in 1956, and was selected as an apprentice machinist, attending school for several years. He continued with Pratt upon completing this program, retiring in 1996 after 40 years with the Company. Not one for sitting around idly during retirement, Pete then accepted a part-time job here in Glastonbury at Components & Controls Company. He continues to work there on a part-time basis.

Peter and his wife Pauline were married October 5, 1979. They were blessed with five daughters, six granddaughters and two grandsons.

Pete followed an interest in masonry by petitioning Daskam Lodge No. 86 late in 1993. He completed the degrees, being raised a Master Mason on May 25, 1994. He demonstrated his desire to participate in the work of the Lodge by helping to rehearse the lectures for new candidates at the very next degree. This excellent work continued, and Pete was presented with the Lodge Emerson C. Reed Award for Excellence on May 7, 1997. Peter joined the officer line of his Lodge for the year 1996 and progressed through the chairs, and served as Worshipful Master for the year 2000.

Most Worshipful Brother Walter E. Kaechele, newly elected Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut, appointed Pete on April 10, 2002 as District Deputy in Masonic District 6B. During this year the District was realigned, and on April 2, 2003 Most Worshipful Grand Master Clifford F. Stamm, II appointed Pete District Deputy of District 6C. Pete's selection of Associate Grand Marshal for these two terms was Worshipful Brother Franklin J Davis, Jr., who first spoke to Pete about joining Masonry.

Pete was a consistent supporter of the Sixth District Blue Lodge Council, serving in the office of President for the year 2002. He was also a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Hartford. He, with his wife Pauline, was a member of Good Intent Chapter No. 17, Order of The Eastern Star, Pete and Pauline, led the Chapter in the offices of Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron respectively for the year 2002-2003. Pete and Pauline were also members of the Glastonbury Grange, where Pete was a 7th Degree Member.



PROTECTORS OF ANIMALS

144 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06118 | Phone: 860-569-0722 | www.poinc.org

Below are the donation items needed at POA cat and dog shelter locations

Please drop off at the above location on Saturdays between 11 am - 4pm. Call or email for special appointments.

CATS Wish List & Needs

1.) Dry Food

- Blue Wilderness by Blue Buffalo Chicken
- Purina ONE Indoor Advantage
- Purina ONE Healthy Kitten

2.) Canned Food (Pate Only - No Shreds or Chunks)

No Seafood or Fish Flavors

- Friskies Country Style
- Friskies Liver and Chicken Dinner
- Friskies Mixed Grill
- Friskies Poultry Platter
- Friskies Turkey and Giblets
- Fancy Feast Cat Broth Packets
- Wellness Kitten (Chicken, Turkey)

3.) Cat and Kitten Care

- Chicken or Turkey Baby Food (human)
- KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer) Powder or Liquid
- Flea Preventative (Advantage Multi, Revolution)
- Litter (any type of Pine Litter or Clay Unscented Litter)
- Toys (any small toys, wand toys, little mice, jingle balls, ping-pong balls)
- New or Gently Used Towels, Washcloths, Blankets, and Bedding (must be machine washable)
- New or Gently Used Cat Carriers (side or top loading), Traps, and Carrier Liners
- New or Gently Used Cat Trees, Cat-Furniture, and All Types of Scratching Posts

DOGS Wish List & Needs

1.) Dry Food

- Nature's Recipe Chicken Meal and Rice (SMALL BITES)
- Purina Pro Plan Focus Adult Small Breed Formula
- Purina Pro Plan Savor Adult Shredded Chicken and Rice
- Wellness CORE Grain-Free Puppy (Chicken and Turkey)

2.) Canned Food

- Blue Buffalo
- Natural Balance (including Limited Ingredient Diets)
- Taste of the Wild
- Wellness

3.) Treats and Toys

- Zuke's Mini Treats, Pupperoni, Soft Dog Treats
- Bully Sticks, Marrow Bones, and Split Elk Antlers
- Nylabones, Dentabones, Dentastix, and Rawhide Chews
- Tuffy Brand and Kong Brand Toys (for strong chewers)
- Kongs (black and red), Kong Fillers (cookies or paste)

4.) Dog and Puppy Care

- Braided Rope/Nylon Slip Leads
- Pug-Life Brand Harnesses, Easy-Walk and Sporn Harnesses
- Leashes (all sizes), 30-50 Foot Nylon Training Leads
- Traffic Handle (Double-Handle) Leashes
- Flea/Tick Preventative (Bravecto - all weights)
- Heartworm Preventative (Interceptor Plus - all weights)
- Puppy Pee Pads/Housebreaking Pads
- Soft Dog Beds, Blankets, Towels, and Sheets (machine washable)

SHELTER SUPPLIES Wish List & Needs

- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Brooms, Dust Pans, Bleach (6% sodium hypochlorite)
- Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags (6 gallon & up), Disposable Nitrile Gloves (small, medium, large)
- Hand Sanitizer, Ajax Antibacterial Dish Soap, Liquid Hand Soap, Dish Sponges
- Copier Paper (white, pink, blue, green, red, yellow), Stamps, Post-It Notes
- Basic First Aid Supplies (bandages, gauze, bandage wrap, human disinfectant)

*** We also accept Gift Cards to supermarkets, pet stores, Walmart

*** Monetary Donations can be made through check (payable to POA), cash, or credit cards - to help defray the cost of veterinary care, rent, and other operational expenses