



# Hamilton Thompson No. 37

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia  
[www.hamiltonthompson37.org](http://www.hamiltonthompson37.org)

Stated Communication – February 17, 2022  
Dinner at 6:30p, Lodge at 7:30p

February 2022

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## 2022 Officers

### **Worshipful Master**

Joshua V Goff  
16339 Woodgrove Rd.  
Round Hill, VA. 20141  
571-230-7446  
[WMHT37@gmail.com](mailto:WMHT37@gmail.com)

### **Senior Warden**

William Craig

### **Junior Warden**

Larry Brissing, PM

### **Treasurer**

Greg Levine

### **Secretary**

Jim Cromer, PDDGM

### **Senior Deacon**

Bradley Vaughn

### **Junior Deacon**

Tommy Chapman

### **Senior Steward**

Jon Herman

### **Junior Steward**

Brett Choyce

### **Chaplain**

Robert Kline

### **Marshal**

Richard Wilson

### **Tiler**

George Haas

### **LIW**

Chris Thompson, PDDGM

### **LEO**

## From the East

Thank you everyone who attended our January Stated meeting. Also thank you brother Michael Heufelder for providing dinner. I look forward to seeing you all at our February 17 Stated meeting. This will be the official visit of our DDGM RW Bennett James Corrado.

Over the past 4 years I have enjoyed reading the articles submitted to the Midnight Freemasons. This is one that I set aside to use one day. I believe the message is a good one.

If you find yourself looking for some Masonic reading, I highly recommend them.

<http://www.midnightfreemasons.org/>

Joshua V Goff

Worshipful Master.

## Brother John Wayne On Political Discourse

*by Midnight Freemasons Founder*

**Todd E. Creason, 33°**



**“This is a good country. With good people in it. Good people don’t always agree with one another. Maybe the best thing we can do in this country is agree to disagree every once in a while.”**

~John Wayne

*Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, Tucson, Arizona*

John Wayne was never shy about expressing his opinions when it came to politics. He was a conservative, and a life-long Republican. He supported candidates that shared his great love of America, and those values that make America great. He was a patriot at heart, and developed friendships with many American Presidents, starting when he campaigned for Eisenhower. Then Nixon. Ford. Reagan.

His friendship with Richard Nixon was probably the closest. They exchanged letters frequently, and got together on many occasions. Shortly after Nixon won the election in 1968, the Duke wrote to him and said he better watch himself, because he was thinking about running for President himself. Nixon responded, “Duke is a better title than President!”

However, even though he was a Republican, he respected every President that was elected by the people and sat in the Oval Office. He sent a telegram to John F. Kennedy after he was elected saying, “Congratulations, sir, from one of the loyal opposition.” He did the same with Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter. Jimmy Carter replied to his telegram, “I trust the only area in which we will find ourselves in opposition is that of Party loyalty. I will need your help in the coming years, and hope to have your support.” Carter invited the Duke to Washington, DC to participate in his inauguration ceremonies, and John Wayne accepted.

When John Wayne died in 1979, it was none other than Jimmy Carter that put what the nation was feeling over the loss of the famous actor into words. He said to the nation, “John Wayne was bigger than life . . . He was a symbol of so many of the qualities that make America great.”

Somewhere along the way, we have forgotten something that John Wayne understood so well. We are all Americans, and we should always show respect to each other. And we should always put our Country before our politics.

~TEC

**Todd E. Creason, 33°** is the Founder of the *Midnight Freemasons* blog and is a regular contributor. He is the award winning author of several books and novels, including the [Famous American Freemasons](#) series. He is the author of the [From Labor to Refreshment](#) blog. He is the Worshipful Master of Homer Lodge No. 199 and a Past Master of Ogden Lodge No. 754. He is a Past Sovereign Master of the Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees. He is a Fellow at the Missouri Lodge of [Research](#). (FMLR) and a charter member of a new Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, *Admiration Chapter No. 282*. You can contact him at: [webmaster@toddcreason.org](mailto:webmaster@toddcreason.org)

## From the West

William Craig  
Senior Warden

Congratulations to RW Chris Thompson for reaching 25 years in the fraternity. At the January meeting, RW was honored with his 25-year pin, a certificate and his Past Master's plaque. Later in the month, RW also received his instructor's certificate at the District 2 school.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> I had the fortune of attending the Division Leadership Conference (DLC) at the Alexandria Scottish Rite. Including having the opportunity to talk to our Most Worshipful Grand Master in a one-on-one conversation, I was able to meet Senior Wardens from across our district and the surrounding districts. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one, I highly recommend marking your calendars for the next conference. They are actually a lot of fun.

Coming up this month, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 will be hosting the 290<sup>th</sup> George Washington Birthday Celebration. February 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a parade at 1:00 PM. February 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of Washington at 8:00 AM and a stated communication at 7:30 PM (*MM only*). For more information on this birthday celebration events, please reach out to me. Remember to keep our ill and distressed brothers, and their families, in your prayers. If there is something that you need, please reach out to me.

-Bro. Craig, SW

## Living Past Masters

William Rodgers  
Chris Thompson  
Fred Meyer  
Herb Goodfellow  
Bob Gardner  
Greg Jay  
Jim Cromer  
Paul Bock,  
Jeff Gould  
Jamie George  
Joe Ray  
Don Young  
David Marsh  
Mike Cox  
Jason Wolfe  
Ed Ziemba  
Larry Brissing

### Calendar •

February 4<sup>th</sup>  
Freedom NO.118  
Stated Meeting

February 7<sup>th</sup>  
Olive Branch NO.114  
Stated Meeting

February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Ashburn-Sterling NO.288  
Stated Meeting

February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Hamilton-Thompson NO. 37  
Stated Meeting

February 21<sup>st</sup>  
Herndon NO.264  
Stated Meeting

## From The South

Larry Brissing  
Junior Warden

Call the craft from labor to refreshment, call them on again so that he may have honor and they profit thereby  
There has been a lot of progress made towards defining roles and organizing our trustee committees. I am convinced that this outline will see to it that Hamilton-Thompson #37 prospers perpetually. Not for monetary profit but for the good of freemasonry in general and the members of this lodge in particular. The framework is set, now is the time to act. Please determine where you best fit and reach out to the committee chairs. We will be gathering for our first meetings in the next couple weeks. The purpose; to start working on the deliverables. If you don't have a particular skill its ok. Part of masonry is improving upon yourself and it is only through experience, struggle and perseverance that this will come to fruition. Below are the names and contacts. Next will be the date and time for conversation. I am looking forward to an exciting year in Masonry.

### Finance

Bro. Eric Refert  
[eareffett@gmail.com](mailto:eareffett@gmail.com)

### Outreach

Bro. Chuck Shotton  
[chuck@shotton.com](mailto:chuck@shotton.com)

### Buildings and grounds

Bro. Mike Orsinger  
[morsinger@mveinc.com](mailto:morsinger@mveinc.com)

S&F  
Larry Brissing PM