

June 2026



Worshipful Master Message

Brethren,

As we enter the month of June and prepare to go dark for the summer season, we are reminded that all things in life move in cycles. The changing of seasons speaks to us of both endings and beginnings — of loss, reflection, renewal, and hope.

Within the past year, many among us have felt the weight of sorrow, the sting of absence, and the quiet grief that accompanies the passing of loved ones, friends, and Brothers. Masonry teaches us that while death is an inevitable part of our earthly journey, it is not the end of the light we carry. The virtues we practice, the kindness we share, and the bonds of Brotherly Love endure beyond the grave.

As the lodge doors close temporarily, may we not grow distant in spirit. Let this season be one of rest, renewal, and gratitude. May we return from darkness refreshed in purpose, strengthened in fellowship, and hopeful for the work that still lies before us.

The summer sun still warms the stone,

Though some dear Brothers journeyed home.

Yet hope, like acacia after rain,

Reminds us we shall meet again.

May the Great Architect watch over each of you and your families until we meet again upon the level.

Fraternally,

Brother Aaron Combe

Worshipful Master 2026

Golden City Lodge #1

June 2026

Senior Warden Message

Brethren,

Abraham Lincoln, known as an introvert, was prone to listen to others rather than excessive dialog, "I am rather inclined to silence," Lincoln once said. "And whether that be wise or not, it is at least more unusual nowadays to find a man who can hold his tongue than to find one who cannot." This is as true today as it was in 1861. Introversion, often mistakenly looked at as a form of weakness, can lead to incorrect assessments of an individual as in our 16th President's demeanor noted above, who, as we all know, replaced multiple Generals until he found a few that could lead the GAR to keep the Union together, one of the greatest actions ever taken in history. Take the time to practice humility and listen to your brothers, rather than excessively bloviating, or you could find yourself thrown in the ring of arrogance and your own thoughts tossed onto the ash heap of history.

Fraternally,

Mike Current

Sr. Warden

Byron G. Walker

February 23, 1936 – May 16, 2026

Byron G. Walker, was born son of Mr Lynn Walker and Olive Price in Pueblo CO February 23, 1936. He grew up in Minturn CO graduated from Minturn High School, in a class of 8, in 1955, the same year the steam locomotives were replaced with diesel and the Roundhouse in the railyard in Minturn was torn down. His first job was in the Minturn Icehouse, where blocks of ice frozen in winter were stored for use in home iceboxes in summer.

He attended Colorado School of mines in Golden CO studying engineering geology and engaged in an impressive list of activities: Society of American Military Engineers, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi honorary band, Mines Society of Engineering Geologists and American institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. He was in the Advanced Reserve Officer Training Corps at the Colorado School of Mines with monthly pay of \$29 and an issued uniform while he was in the ROTC program After graduation on May 22, 1959 and completion of six weeks of boot camp at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the Engineers Corps, US Army Reserve.

He married his high school sweetheart Alice Marie Pierson at the church in Minturn December 26, 1959 and the young couple immediately departed as Byron began his US Army active duty service in Germany. Son Victor Lynn Walker was born February 2, 1961 in Heidelberg Germany. On August 19, 1962 Howard Andrew "Andy" Walker was born, the same year Vail Ski Area began operations. The Army would take Byron and family to Kansas, Missouri, Maryland, Virginia, Colorado, Alaska, New York and Byron served tours in Vietnam and Thailand. Byron received 5 medals of commendation including the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone. Byron retired from Army service in 1980, helped build the first buildings at Solar Energy Research Institute (now NLR) in Golden, worked for Sullivan Hays property developer in Denver, and worked several years for the State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources, taking a Jeep to remote areas to inspect abandoned mines to ensure public health and safety.

Byron was an outdoors man, enjoying fishing, hunting, camping and hiking, including taking his family up to the Dollie Mine up Bighorn Creek near Vail several times. With his boys he served as a Boy Scout leader and baseball coach. Annually he and Alice would take his grandchildren, Chris, Steven, Anna, Joshua, Alexander and Kirby for trailer camping that would always include fishing. Byron was a skier and he and Alice were members of the National Ski Patrol for 19 years, first at Pikes Peak and then at Cooper Hill near Leadville. Byron and Alice were very active in the Masons and Eastern Star, and served in leadership roles in Golden City Lodge Number 1. Byron lived the values of the Masons and helped a lot of people gain interest and advancement in the Masons.

Byron passed away May 16, 2026 at his home in Golden CO following an infection caused by kidney stones, and following treatment for heart problems and a broken hip bone. He was of good cheer, expecting to see Alice, and wishing the best for everyone.

Funeral Service : 9:30am – 11am at First United Methodist Church of Golden. 1500 Ford St, Golden, CO 80401

Committal Service – 11:30am – 12:30pm at Golden Cemetery. 755 Ulysses St, Golden, CO 80401

Reception – 1pm at Golden City Lodge #1, 400 10th St, Golden, CO 80401



From Desk of the Secretary

Brethren,

Dues reminders have been sent out and I've received a few more payments. Thank you!!

I will not continue the secretary position next year. If you are interested in taking on this position, please contact me so we can go over the MORI system. Our DL, WB Lee Miller, is another resource on MORI.

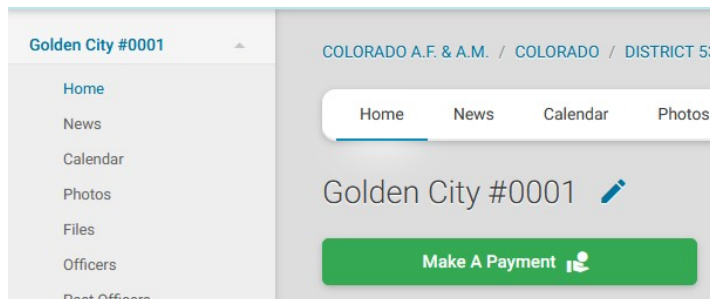
Regarding dues: remember, you can pay online:

at <http://goldencitylodge1.org/payDues.html>

You can also pay using Zelle sending payment to secretary@goldencitylodge1.org

Zelle will show secretary@goldencitylodge1.org as enrolled as GOLDEN CITY LODGE 1 AF & AM

You can now pay online via the Grand Lodge of Colorado and click on the green "Make a payment" button.
https://co.moriapp.com/connect/connect_groups/bbd5335f6720b4a77e2f0db6bbd172e9



Reach out to me if you need help to log into the site.

WB Ryan Puckett

rpucket310@gmail.com

secretary@goldencitylodge1.org

720-212-1751

Masonic Education

Masonic Burial

By the Committee on Masonic Education, Colorado.

November, 1941

The origin of Masonic Burial is unknown, but it is an ancient custom that the Fraternity suitably bury its dead. It may have come down to us through the Collegiate Architects of Rome, the Comacine Masters, the Cathedral Builders, and the old Operative Masons, as each were particular in burying their dead and possibly had some kind of burial service for them.

After the formation of the Mother Grand Lodge, among the earliest accounts of a Masonic funeral, is that of Dr. James Anderson, which took place in 1739. Dr. Anderson was a very prominent man and Mason, having compiled the first "Book of Constitutions." Dr. Theophilus Desaguliers, a prominent minister, scholarly Mason and a Past Grand Master, was present. Whether there was a funeral procession at that time we do not know, but in all probability there was, because in March 1741, a mock funeral procession was held in London in derision of the Freemasons.

Brother William Preston, a prominent English Masonic Scholar and Ritualist is credited as the author of the common service now used, as well as the regulations which are generally followed. These regulations are very complete as the foreword to the Burial Service in the Colorado Craftsman. It is our suggestion that these be read in full that all the Brethren may know and discuss them in connection with this service letter.

Some of the Concordant bodies of Masonry also have a Burial Service. The Chapter of Rose Croix of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite have a beautiful service, and the Council of Kadosh, a midnight burial service, while the Knights Templar have a beautiful, dignified and Christian Service for their dead.

The pioneers, in settling this Country of ours, where there were no Masonic Lodges, many times formed an emergent Lodge and gave their deceased brothers a Masonic burial, and in a number of instances, emergent Lodges have been formed on board ships at sea by the brethren thereon, and Masonic burial given to those Master Masons unfortunate enough to pass away while making a journey. The steamship California records two such services within a few months in the years 1937 and 1938.

In the last quarter of a century there has been much discussion in the Grand Lodges of America, about the Masonic Burial Service. In our own Grand Lodge, the "Custodians of the work" were authorized in 1922, "to submit a revised burial service to include cremation services." After studying the services of thirty other Grand Jurisdictions and distinguishing between the symbolic meaning of the words "Fire" and "Earth", as used in the Farewell Funeral

Honors, they gave an unanimous opinion "that in conformity to the spirit of the Masonic Burial Service, and to the general directions as given in the Colorado Craftsman relative to this service, which reads, 'that the Lodge should fully complete the burial'; that the Lodge should hold its services at the crematory on such occasions when the body is thus to be disposed of, and not in a chapel or church away from said place, and that the Lodge take charge in so far as the authorities at the Crematory may permit in the final disposition of the body in the furnace".

After considerable discussion on the subject, especially the unsympathetic part therein, M. W., L. D. Crain, moved "that the Custodians of the Work be instructed to prepare a complete Burial Service and present their report to the Grand Lodge for action at the next annual Communication." The motion was carried.

Finding difficulty to revise the service, the committee asked for further time in 1924 and again in 1925. In 1926 they called an informal meeting of the members of the Grand Lodge, in the evening of the first day of the Communication, and after a discussion of decided opinions the following report was, on the next day, submitted by the committee and adopted by the Grand Lodge.

- That the burial service should be revised
- That it should be revised according to the Masonic Standpoint, and not for the profane.
- That it should be shortened, and that it should be accomplished by the elimination of all portions of our present service except those marked with an asterisk.
- That it be permitted the Worshipful Master to deliver as much of the service as he may desire in the Lodge, Chapel, Church or Mortuary.
- That the marching three times around the grave be abolished and the brethren merely step forward and deposit the ever-green.
- That it be optional with the Lodge whether or not the Funeral Hymn be sung, or the grave be filled by the members.

This seems to have ended the revision of the Funeral Service in Colorado. By omitting all parts not marked with an asterisk, it eliminated the objectionable unsympathetic part to which there was so much objection.

Other Grand Lodges also attempted to revise the Burial Service. The Builder for February 1922, carries a column as to what Massachusetts tried to do, and after two or three years this committee submitted a report to convey the true principles which should be embodied.

1. The Masonic burial service should be complete in itself. That is to say it should be so arranged that it could be used as a complete service in case there were no church or other service held. It should, however, be so arranged that it could be readily shortened so as to be used in connection with a church service if desired.

2. It should be simple and should be accompanied by sufficiently full directions to make it easy to be conducted by those not much experienced in such matters.
3. It should be deeply religious, but not exclusively Christian.
4. It should not be a repetition, in whole or in part, of the church service which might be used in connection with it
5. Its emphasis should be laid in life, hope and immortality.
6. Its endeavor should be to comfort and to convey the assurance of sympathy.

Massachusetts seems to have settled the question very much like Colorado. Whether or not the revision with them was ever made, this scribe does not know.

Freemasonry is not a Christian organization, nor is it Jewish, nor Mohammedan, nor Buddhist, nor any other religion, but of that one religion in which all men agree. Its burial service cannot be secular or it would be hypocrisy. Above all things it must be sincere and sympathetic, deeply religious, and triumphant in immortality. It should be brief, simple and heartening to the deceased's family and friends, expressing hope and faith in a Supreme Being which will enable us to conquer the fear of death. It should always be addressed to the loving and especially to those that mourn, not to the corpse in the grave. For the Masonic brethren it should display a conscience of brotherly feeling and affection for one another and for the deceased brother's family.

To do this it will be necessary for all possible brethren to attend the services and show their brotherly obligations at the last sad honors that can be given to a brother. It is not to be presumed that your affection will be as deep for your obligated brothers as for an actual brother, but it would be absolutely unmasonic to completely ignore them. It raises the old, old question, "Am I My Brothers Keeper?" Look to the three great tenets of a Mason's profession "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth," for the answer.

If you have an actual brother who is sick, you would be solicitous; you would go to his bedside; you would minister unto him. If he died you would attend his funeral and deeply mourn him. If any of his family were in distress and needed sympathetic treatment you would be as energetic in their behalf. Such should be the disposition of all Masons to their brethren in the Fraternity and their families. It is far too often that we see the officers of the Lodge conducting the funeral services, extend their sympathy to the widow and family while still at the grave, and then proceed to forget them completely. We must sadly confess that we have let the masculine nature of our institution make us, many times, perfect strangers to the families of our members. They know little or nothing of us and of our work. They do not feel that close relationship that should prevail. When their grief comes, and only a mere handful of his brethren are present to show their brotherly affection, the families lose their admiration and respect for Masonry.

If there are any sons in the family they will, possibly, never join with us and the husbands of daughters will be persuaded likewise. It should be the bounden duty of the officers to call at the home of the

bereaved at regular intervals and see that the family are in no distress of any nature and offer such assistance as they may need. It is the duty of every Mason to see that the widow is not induced morally into some affair that will bring sadness to her, or financially wrecked by smooth salesmen, some of whom have been members of our Fraternity, (but never Masons) with beautiful lithographed stock certificates, (but never Masonic) value. Some of those members have been expelled by Lodges in Colorado and by the Grand Lodge itself, and there are probably others who have escaped the penalty. For these and numerous other reasons, Masons should not neglect the families of our deceased brethren.

A kindly Mason's last and most unpleasant duty to a late brother is that of attending his Masonic funeral. It isn't a pleasant hour for the living, when the departed brother is laid to rest, whether he be one of close acquaintance or a sojourner in our midst, but we should ever bear in mind that this hour is the last that we can ever show a true fraternal spirit towards him, a fraternal respect that will long remain in thoughts and minds of his family and friends, so let us ever be ready and willing to spare that hour from our vocations that the public may be better impressed with the affections shown to our brethren, and the officers in charge be given an incentive to conduct the services with all the dignity and decorum taught in our ancient Institution.

This is the one appearance outside the Lodge room where Masonry is more publicly criticized than any other, and if the regular officers cannot render an eloquent and appropriate service, or cannot command public respect, then the service should be delivered by some Mason who can, that the honor and dignity of the Fraternity may be ever maintained and the reputation kept on the high standard set by the great founders of our Institution.

From Apprentice to Master Mason

Most men think the journey ends when they're raised. You go through the degrees. You learn the work. You stand as a Master Mason. And that's it. You're done. But that's not how it works...

When you're an Entered Apprentice, you're focused on getting through it. Learning your part. Memorizing the catechism. Figuring out what all the symbols mean on a surface level. You're trying not to mess up. Trying to absorb everything being thrown at you. Trying to keep up. And that's fine. That's what the Entered Apprentice degree is for. It's the foundation. The introduction. The first layer. But then you move to Fellow Craft...

And suddenly, the things you learned as an Entered Apprentice start to make more sense. The symbols connect to something bigger. The catechism you memorized wasn't just words to repeat but ideas to understand. You start seeing the structure. The architecture. The way everything fits together. And then you're raised to Master Mason...

And if you're paying attention, you realize something. The degree didn't finish the work. It opened it up. Because now you're not just learning symbols. You're living with them. You're trying to apply what the degrees taught you in your actual life. In how you handle yourself. How you treat people. How you make decisions when no one's watching. That's where the real work begins.

Most Master Masons stop here. They think being raised means they've arrived. That they've completed something. But the best ones keep going. Not to the next appendant body. Not to the next title or office. They go back to the Entered Apprentice degree and see things they missed the first time. They revisit the Fellow Craft lecture and realize it's talking about something they're dealing with right now. They sit through the Master Mason degree again and catch a line that hits completely different than it did five years ago. Because the degrees don't change. You do. That's what it means to "make a daily advancement." Not collecting more degrees. Not chasing more knowledge outside the Craft. But going deeper into what you already have. The journey from Entered Apprentice to Master Mason isn't a straight line. It's a spiral. The Brother who thinks he's done learning the moment he's raised will never understand what Freemasonry is actually offering him. But the Brother who keeps returning, keeps reflecting, keeps applying what he learned years ago to what he's facing today...

He's the one who actually becomes a Master Mason. Not because he went through the degree. But because he let the degree work on him long after the ceremony ended.

~ MasonicFind

PS: Most of you reading this are already Master Masons, so I don't often bring this up...

But if you're helping someone through the petition process, or you know a man who's curious but hesitant, "[How To Become A Freemason](#)" is the guide I wish I'd had before I joined. Grab it here if it's useful.

Masonic Find - Teaching the world about Freemasonry!

401 College Street
Richmond Virginia 23298
USA

June 2026

Pizza and Pool, every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays!



Golden City Lodge No. 1
A.F. & A.M.
Chartered Oct. 17, 1860

POOL & PIZZA
FIRST AND THIRD
WEDNESDAY
6:00P - 8:00P
GOLDEN CITY LODGE
400 10TH ST
GOLDEN, CO



Contacts

303-279-9902

To contact Golden City Lodge #1 AF&AM,
Mt Zion Chapter #133 OES, Friendship Court
#7 Amaranth, Bethel #43 Job's Daughters,
Columbine Assembly #96 Rainbow for Girls

303-961-6455 (Lee Miller)

For York Rite Bodies at Golden:

Golden Chapter #5 RAM, Jefferson Council
#24 R&SM, Jefferson Highlands
Commandery #30

303-861-4261

Denver Consistory

866-289-6797

Scottish Rite Child Language Disorders
Foundation

303-455-3570

El Jebel Shriners

800-237-5055

Shriners Hospital / Burn Center

303-756-9489

Rober Russell Eastern Star Masonic Center
and Village

860-402-4372 (Jason Evarts)

Chapter Advisor Golden DeMolay Chapter

720-786-3929 (David Barnes)

Scribe Golden DeMolay

Youth Groups

Brethren, these groups are “Masonic” Youth Groups, and as such have the requirement that Master Masons are present. Please support the future of Masonry by making time to attend their meetings.

Bethel #43 Job’s Daughters

- 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:45pm

(Girls, 11-18 / Jobie-to-Bee 8-10)

Columbine Assembly #96 Rainbow for Girls

- 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7pm (be there at 6:30pm)

(Girls, 10-18 / Pledges 8-9)

Golden Chapter Order of DeMolay

- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm

(Boys, 12-21 / Squires 9-11)

Golden City Calendar

Monday, June 1st

- Dinner at 6pm
- Regular Meeting at 7:00p

Wednesday, June 3rd

- Pizza and Pool at 6:00p

Wednesday, June 17th

- Pizza and Pool at 6:00p

Pancake Breakfast Flyer



**WE INVITE YOU TO BREAKFAST
ORDER OF EASTERN STAR, MOUNT ZION #133
AT
400 10TH STREET, GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401
EVERY FOURTH SUNDAY FROM 8AM TO 11AM**

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH FOR PANCAKES!!

**SERVING UP
EGGS, SAUSAGE, HASHBROWNS, PANCAKES, OR WAFFLES**

**WITH
COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, MILK, AND ORANGE JUICE**

ADULTS AND CHILDREN \$10

OVER 12 YEARS OLD

KIDS 8 TO 12 YEARS OLD \$5

KIDS 5 AND UNDER FREE

SUPPORTING OES, YOUTH GROUPS, AND CHARITIES

Officer Line

Worshipful Master	Aaron Combe, 720.255.3464, aacombe@comcast.net
Senior Warden	Mike Current
Junior Warden	Aaron Russell
Treasurer	Richard Wenzel
Secretary	Ryan Puckett, 720.212.1751, rpucket310@gmail.com
Senior Deacon	Tom Zumalt
Junior Deacon	David Martinez
Tiler	Nick Puma
District Lecturer	Lee Miller

Committees

Welfare

WM Aaron Combe (Chairman)
Bro. Aaron Russell
Bro. Mike Current

Grievance

Bro. Mike Current (Chairman)
Bro. David Martinez
Bro. Joe Myers

Memorials

WB Andrew Smith (Chairman)
Bro. David Martinez
WB Tom Zumalt

Technology

WB Ryan Puckett (Chairman)
Bro. Joe Myers
Bro. David Martinez

Scholarship

WB Nick Puma (Chairman)
WB Drew Albrecht
WB Tom Zumalt

Finance

Bro. Aaron Russel (Chairman)
WB Andrew Smith
WB Rick Wenzel

Posting

WB Tom Zumalt (Chairman)
Bro. Joe Myers
WB Rick Wenzel
WB Andrew Smith

Investments

WB Rick Wenzel (Chairman)
WB Drew Albrecht
WM Aaron Combe
WB Ryan Puckett

Education

Bro. Aaron Russel (Chairman)
Bro. Nick Puma
WB Drew Albrecht

Volunteering

WM Aaron Combe (Chairman)
WB Nick Puma
Bro. Mike Current

Birthdays

**Happy
Birthday!!!**



Brother

William Johnson

Brother

Hemchandra Mahaseth

Brother

Joseph Myers

Brother

Kenneth Park

Brother

Perry Pillard

Worshipful Brother

Merritt Smith

Brother

Paul Stoltman

Living Past Masters



WB Merritt E. Smith

1967



WB James Arbuckle

1980



WB Michael Mills

1984



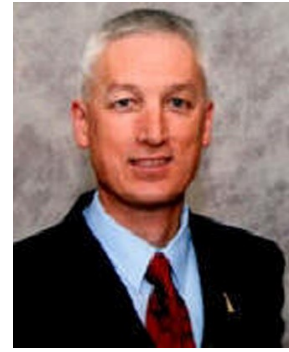
WB Timothy Johansson

1985



WB Craig Petty

1997



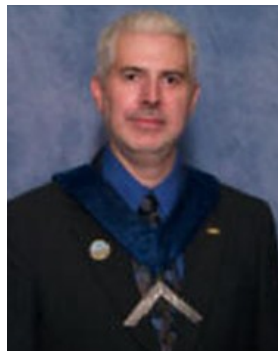
WB Richard Wenzel

2005, 2010



WB Michael Tims

2009



WB Daniel Hayman

2011



WB Christ Westerhoff

2012, 2013



WB Steven Walker

2014



WB Kevin Alcox

2015



WB Bob Ceriale

2016



WB Ryan Puckett

2017



WB Tom Zumalt

2018

Patrick Good

2019



WB Wyatt Page

2020



WB Drew Albecht

2021



WB Tom McKean

2022

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WB Andrew Smith

2023



WB Benjamin Miller

2024

Picture TBA

WB Nick Puma

2025

Miscellaneous

Fees for Degrees is \$150

2025 Annual Dues and Per Capita

- \$228 – Regular Members
 - (\$125 + \$103)
- \$203 – 65+ years of age with 25+ years as a Master Mason
 - (\$100 + \$103)

Items for Sale

Contact the secretary to purchase. Especially for shirts to make sure we have in your size.

Golden Lodge T Shirt (S, M, L, XL, XXL)	\$20
Golden Lodge Polo Shirt (S, M, L, XL, XXL)	\$20
Golden Lodge Cap (blue, gray, black)	\$20
Golden Lodge Challenge Coin	\$10
Clear Text Key (must be master mason)	\$35