



## Memories of a Friend Thomas E. Reynolds Past Grand Master

This article is difficult to pen, because it's being written far too early. Freemasons and friends were saddened by the death of our very own Past Grand Master, Thomas E. Reynolds, from a recurring illness on June 28, 2008. Most Worshipful Brother Reynolds served the Grand Lodge of Ohio as Grand Master in 2002. He was once described in the Fraternity as "an intelligent, inspiring man with a passion for education". These traits would lead to service, accomplishments, accolades, and friendships that exceed the span of this publication.

Akron was one of ten locales in Ohio that participated in the first Grand Master's One-Day Class during his term as Grand Master. This historic event, held on April 27, 2002, was a great success that drew national attention to our Grand Lodge.

Holding a Master's Degree in Microbiology, his teaching career included 36 years as a high school teacher and five years at the University of Findlay. In 1978, he received the award "Ohio's Outstanding Biology Teacher" from the National Biology Teachers Association. He served the University of Findlay as a member of the Board of Governors, as an Adjunct Professor of Education and Biology, and was awarded their Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1998.

He coached the Findlay High School Golf Team from 1974 until 1975, logging 21 winning seasons including the 1984 State Golf Championship. Elected into the State Golf Coaches Hall of Fame and

the Hancock County Sports Hall of Fame, his record of 136 wins and 1 loss in dual meets is still an Ohio record.

I remember Most Worshipful Brother Reynolds's remarks at the 2002 Grand Master's Reception in our 21 Masonic District. He spoke of a group called the "Reynolds' Raiders", recognizable by a simple red button-type pin. They were his students, his athletes, and all who embraced his philosophy of believing, committing, and improving. It seemed like just yesterday he spoke to our Valley's Abbott Scholars. His message to students was needed and inspiring. All listened and I suspect a lot became "Reynolds Raiders".

Farewell, friend. We miss your presence, your sincere friendship, and your ever-present smile.

John D. Gustafson, 33°  
Deputy's Representative

## MASONIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

It's probably hard to believe that in just a little over three months, snowflakes will be flying and it will be time for Masons to deliver holiday food baskets to the area's less fortunate. For the past 18 years, Masons have donated tens of thousands of dollars to feed the hungry in Summit and surrounding Counties. Last year, thanks to your generosity, the Masonic Assistance Program was able to deliver 80 food baskets and 27 food gift certificates, assisting 107 area families and individuals.

If you actively attend your Blue Lodge or the Scottish Rite meetings, you probably already know about this worthy charitable effort. However, for those of you who cannot attend your lodge meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about this charitable effort in which the Masons of Summit and the surrounding counties are actively involved. I receive the names of individuals and families who are in desperate need. These names are sent to me by Masons, local churches, the Salvation Army, the Akron Beacon Journal, etc. Then this year, on the Sunday, December 21, 2008, an army of Masons will assemble food baskets at

Craftsmen's Park and deliver them to needy families. Although our main emphasis is delivering food baskets during the holiday season, the Masonic Assistance Program is a year-round charitable outreach in Summit County and its surrounding areas designed to provide groceries to families with a financial burden. The contributions in past years have demonstrated our continuing Masonic commitment to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Any Mason can recommend an individual or family who has a need for a food basket or gift certificate. By sending some assistance, we convey the message that we do care about what is happening in their lives. So if you know of a person or family in need of our assistance, please call the Valley office at 330-666-8443. When you call, please have the recipient's name, address and phone number available.

As the holiday season approaches, we are relying on your caring generosity to once again provide sustenance to deserving area families. The average cost of our food baskets is \$50.00 each. If you are financially able to send any contribution, large or small, for this worthy cause, it would be most greatly appreciated. The letters of gratitude that we have received from the recipients show how the contributions from our hearts have touched their lives.

Funding is directed through the Valley of Akron. Checks should be made payable to: **Aroba Lodge of Perfection** with the notation: "Masonic Assistance Program." Mail your contributions to: Valley of Akron, 91 Springside Drive, Akron, OH 44333.

Thomas L. Spencer, 33°, Chairman

## WOOD NEEDED!

At the Western Reserve Masonic Community, a number of our Masonic and non-Masonic brethren love to work with wood. Some of these brethren are in wheelchairs, their legs may not be to steady, but their arms and minds are still great and they love to work with the wood working equipment as well as carving. They have a well furnished shop of wood working equipment and tools. But, there is one problem, there is a shortage of wood.

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