

I truly dislike the fact that this monthly column has too frequently been turned into an obituary. Unfortunately, the passing of our active members is out of my control. Let us pray that 2020 will be kinder to our members.

Richard Haggerty was best known to many of us for his tireless portrayal of Santa at our December Stated Meeting Dinner. Bro Richard moved to Southern California from his birth state of Michigan when he was 13. In high school he was on the track team as a runner. After school, he served 8 years in the military where he got training in missiles. He then spent his career in the same field working for Lockheed Martin.



In 1985 he served as Master of Mountain View De Anza Lodge No. 194. Subsequent to serving as Master, he affiliated with several other Lodges where he served as Secretary. After his retirement, he and his wife Lynne moved to Fresno. About this time, Las Palmas-Ponderosa was in need of a Secretary and since Bro Richard had previously served as a Secretary, he was asked to affiliate with us so he could be our Secretary and in 2003 affiliated with Las Palmas-Ponderosa. He served as our Secretary for three years starting in 2004. He also served as our Chaplain in 2010 and 2013. He was active in the Eastern Star, having served as Worthy Matron in various Chapters for a total of eight times. May he rest in Peace!

Currently, it seems to be frowned upon for an elected official or a Judge to be a member of our Fraternity. One reason may be that since we have only male members, the exclusion of females somehow makes us prejudice against women. For many years, however, it was common for elected officials to be members of the Fraternity. We know that we have had about a dozen US Presidents who were members of our Fraternity, starting with George Washington.

In 1925 Earl Warren was appointed District Attorney of Alameda County and was elected to that position three times. In 1935 Earl Warren was elected Grand Master of California Masons. He later became our Attorney General, Governor for three terms and later US Supreme Court Chief Justice. In July of 1974 he passed away at the age of 83. Notice of his passing was placed in our September 1974 Las Palmian.

At our September, 1974 Stated Meeting we elected four candidates to take the degrees of Masonry. Brother George Holstein presented 25 year pins to many of the thirty-six brothers that he raised when he was Master in 1949.