

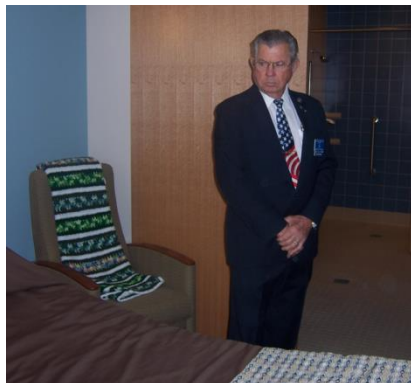
It is again with sadness that I must write about the passing of one of our Past Masters.

Marvin Wallace was our Master in 2007. Brother Wallace was born in Wagner, Oklahoma in 1937. After his family lost all of their belongings due to the Dust Bowl, they moved to the Fresno area later that year. While serving a career in the US Air Force, he had a friend who joined a Masonic Lodge and Marvin was impressed with the changes that Masonry made on this friend. In 1964, he received the degrees of Masonry in Spessart Lodge No. 875 AF&AM, a Military Lodge in Asachaffen, Germany, with a charter from New York. Upon his return to the United States, he became a member of Lawton Lodge No. 183 in Lawton, Oklahoma.

After retiring from the US Air Force, he worked as a truck driver, and then a tax examiner for the IRS in Fresno. In 1991 he petitioned Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge to affiliate. He served as our Lodge Secretary for several years before being appointed to the officer's line. Since he got his degrees in an AF&AM Lodge, he had to unlearn much of the work that he had learned as a candidate and re-memorize the California ritual which is F&AM. Quite a task when you are almost 70 years old.



During his year as Master, Brother Wallace suffered a stroke and was recovering for several months. He continued to serve as Master, even though he was suffering from the disabilities of the stroke. Brother Wallace also served as our Tyler for many years after serving as Master.



On October 19, 2013 Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge assisted our Grand Master in laying the corner stone to the newly constructed Fresno Veterans Home. I took this picture of Brother Wallace looking at one of the rooms where Veterans would live.

Brother Wallace received the Hiram Award in 1999. On December 18, 2014 he received his Golden Veterans Award at Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge.

For the last several years, Brother Marvin could not drive so Brother Bersani would bring him to Lodge and take him home. When I discovered that he lived in an apartment on my way home, I started to drive him home after Lodge. While we were in the car together, we would talk about different things. One night he told me that he and his first wife never had an argument. He told me that he continued to miss her every day even though she died from cancer at a young age. He told me that he wanted his ashes to be buried next to his first wife in the Clovis Cemetery.

Since we have only one Worshipful Master every year, at least up to several years ago, we should, therefore, have only one Past Master pass on each year. Let us hope that Brother Marvin will be our only Past Master to pass away in 2021.