

Our Master for 1981 was Gary Starr. Gary followed me in the Master's chair and while I was Master in 1980, he was the Chaplain for most of the Masonic funerals that I gave to our fallen brothers.

During my year as Master, our daughter, Erica, turned 4 years old and our son, Wesley, turned 2. Therese supported me in going through the chairs and especially when I was Master. This allowed me to be away from home sometimes several nights a week. Our agreement was that once I became a Past Master, I would stay home in the evenings to be a good father. For a good number of years, the only Lodge functions that I participated in were Past Master nights.

It was not until the early 2000's that Sam Pavlovich asked me to join him and do an audit of the books of the newly consolidated Las Palmas-Ponderosa lodge. When John Herring personally called and asked me to attend his installation as one of the two remaining members of the night when he got his 3rd degree, this sealed the deal and I returned to Las Palmas Lodge. Richard Ehorn was the other and this invite also brought him back to Lodge.

Upon my return to Lodge and by attending all of the degrees, the ritual came back to me and it was common for me to mouth the words as the officers gave their parts. With the help of Larry Bennett, I re-learned the 3rd degree Master's lecture and even gave it several times over several years.

When Bro Chuck Bersani passed away, WM Bill Lyons suggested to our inspector that I be appointed the Officer's coach. This is a job that do enjoy, but I do wish that Brother Bersani was still alive as his memory of our ritual was far better than mine.

As I was holding several practices for our 2025 Past Master's night, I asked Brother Starr if he was willing to participate and he agreed. Since it had been many years since he had last seen a 3rd degree, he questioned his memory of our ritual. Because of this I gave him an easy part. While we were practicing the parts that came before his part, I noticed that he was mouthing the ritual. When I mentioned this to him, he acknowledged that his memory of parts that he had not seen or repeated in decades was quickly coming back to him.

While our Masonic Ritual has been around for several hundred years, it is so impressive that our minds will just not let us forget it.