

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we lost Brother Marvin Wallace. In researching Brother Wallace's life, I discovered that he was born in Oklahoma and his family moved to California during the time of the "dust bowl". He served in the Army Air corps in Germany for many years. It was while he was in Germany that he had a friend who had a very good character. In talking to this friend, he found out that he was a Mason.



Bro. Wallace petitioned a military Masonic Lodge which was chartered out of New York State where he got his three degrees. Upon his return to the United States, he joined a Lodge in Oklahoma and after moving to Fresno, he joined Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge in 1991. He served as our Secretary for several years and in 2007 served as our Master. It was during his year as our Master that he suffered a stroke. He recuperated for about a month and returned to Lodge to finish his year as Master. Bro. Wallace attended just about all meeting of our Lodge and for several years was our Tiler.

Bro. Wallace is a good example of how Masonry accepts men from all socio-economic backgrounds and places them on the level. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of doing his Masonic funeral service at the Clovis Cemetery. At the beginning of the Masonic funeral the funeral master says that we "assemble in the character of Masons". For all of the service that Bro Wallace gave Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge, only 5 members of the Lodge, including myself, were present. To me, that is not assembling in the character of Masons. I know there is a pandemic, but for a 9:00 am cemetery service, more of us can and should attend the funerals of our fallen brethren.

While I hope it is a long time before we have another brother to pass, when he does, I hope that more of you attend his funeral.

After Bro. Wallace lost his ability to drive, Bro. Bersani would bring him to Lodge meetings and I would drive him home. On our way home one night he told me about the tremendous love he had for his first wife, Ellen, who died from cancer in 1994. He expressed to me his desire to have his ashes placed next to Ellen. After his service, I placed his urn, lambskin apron and past master's apron in the burial vault and watched the cemetery staff seal the vault and place it in the grave next to his beloved Ellen.