

Prior to 1979, Lodges in other jurisdictions were giving Hiram Awards to their members as a token of gratitude for all of the work they had done for their Lodge. The idea of the Hiram Award came to California and in 1979 was formally adopted. When our Grand Lodge adopted it, there were neither formal requirements nor procedures. All we were told was that it was intended that an individual Lodge would be able to confer the highest honor a Lodge could confer upon a Member. Although most Lodges limited the Hiram Award to one member per year, some Lodges conferred several each year. It didn't matter if you were a Past Master, or even a current or former officer of that Lodge.

Since our Grand Lodge did not specify how a Lodge would determine who would



receive the Hiram Award, I suggested to then Master, Bobby Bingham, that Paul Chandler Shelly, our faithful organist since 1955, would be a very good choice. WM Bingham agreed and on October 18, 1979 Brother Shelly was the first recipient of the Hiram Award from Las Palmas Lodge.

During my year as Master, I selected Brother Wally Scott to be the Hiram Award recipient. Brother Scott had been our Lodge Chaplain since 1970 and was active in our Lodge and the Scottish Rite as well as the Boy Scouts of America. I was proud to present Brother Wally with the 1980 Las Palmas Hiram Award on June 19, 1980. Since then, Las Palmas Lodge has conferred 8 Hiram Awards and Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge has conferred 23 Hiram Awards. I was awarded my Hiram Award on August 15, 2013.



For many years, it was the practice of an outgoing Master to leave some candidates who were ready for their next degree, so the incoming Master had work to do. In my case, I left Gary Starr, the incoming Master for 1981, with A. J. Comte Jr. who was ready to receive his 3rd degree and a newly voted on applicant to be initiated.

On May 21, 1981, Worshipful Gary Starr conferred the Hiram Award on Brother



Bill Wharton. Brother Bill was a perfect example of a member who had served his Lodge for many years as our Treasurer and as a non-officer. Brother Bill was extremely knowledgeable about Masonry and held schools of instruction on Masonry and the Masonic degrees for candidates and members. He was always available to help out with whatever needed to be done.