

As I reminisce over my almost 55 years of Masonry in Las Palmas Lodge, I try to bring to you some of the highlights of these many years. Definitely many things have changed during this time. The one that I am going to talk about today is **COMMON COURTESY**.

Every Master Mason in our Lodge enjoyed having all three of their degrees performed by officers and sideliners who took the time to attend Lodge, learn their work and participate. It looks like we will be having 3 third degrees within the next couple months. Due to the pandemic, it has been over two years since we last performed a 3rd degree in our Lodge. Since I may be the last person to have given the important Lecture for this degree, I offered to give it for the upcoming candidates. Every day I spend about 30 minutes going over it so that this lecture will have meaning for the candidates.

Last week I attended a 3rd degree practice, there were a couple of officers present and I was the only sideliner in attendance. If this continues, what will these 3rd degrees look like to the candidates. If you are a Master Mason, I am sure that you appreciated the fact that your degrees were attended by sideliners who took an active part in your 3rd degree. Now it is your time to reciprocate. Since the 3rd degree requires participation from sideliners, you are not only needed to attend the degree, but to actively participate. Don't let these candidates be disappointed like you would have been if no sideliners participated in your degrees. Come to our rehearsals, learn your part and attend the degrees. This is only **Common Courtesy** to the candidates.

Several days ago I was asked by the Master of another Lodge to do a courtesy funeral for a fallen brother who I did not know. I agreed as I strongly believe that every fallen brother is entitled to a Masonic funeral. I subsequently contacted the local funeral home to see if they had aprons for the brothers who would attend. They informed me that they did not. I then drove to our Lodge, got my apron and the apron that is used in the funeral ritual as well as the aprons for attending brethren. I then spent about 20 minutes each day going over the funeral so that my presentation would go well. I also wrote a preface to the funeral ritual so that the fallen brother's family and friends would learn a little more about Masonry and the fallen brother's participation in Masonry. On the morning of the funeral I left my house at 9 am, drove to the funeral home, verified that the fallen brother was wearing his apron properly and talked to several of the brothers who were friends of the fallen brother. I stayed for the complete service at the chapel and when I left, I drove back to Lodge to put the aprons in their proper storage location. When I got home about noon, Therese asked me one question. "Did anyone thank you?" With sorrow, I replied "no".