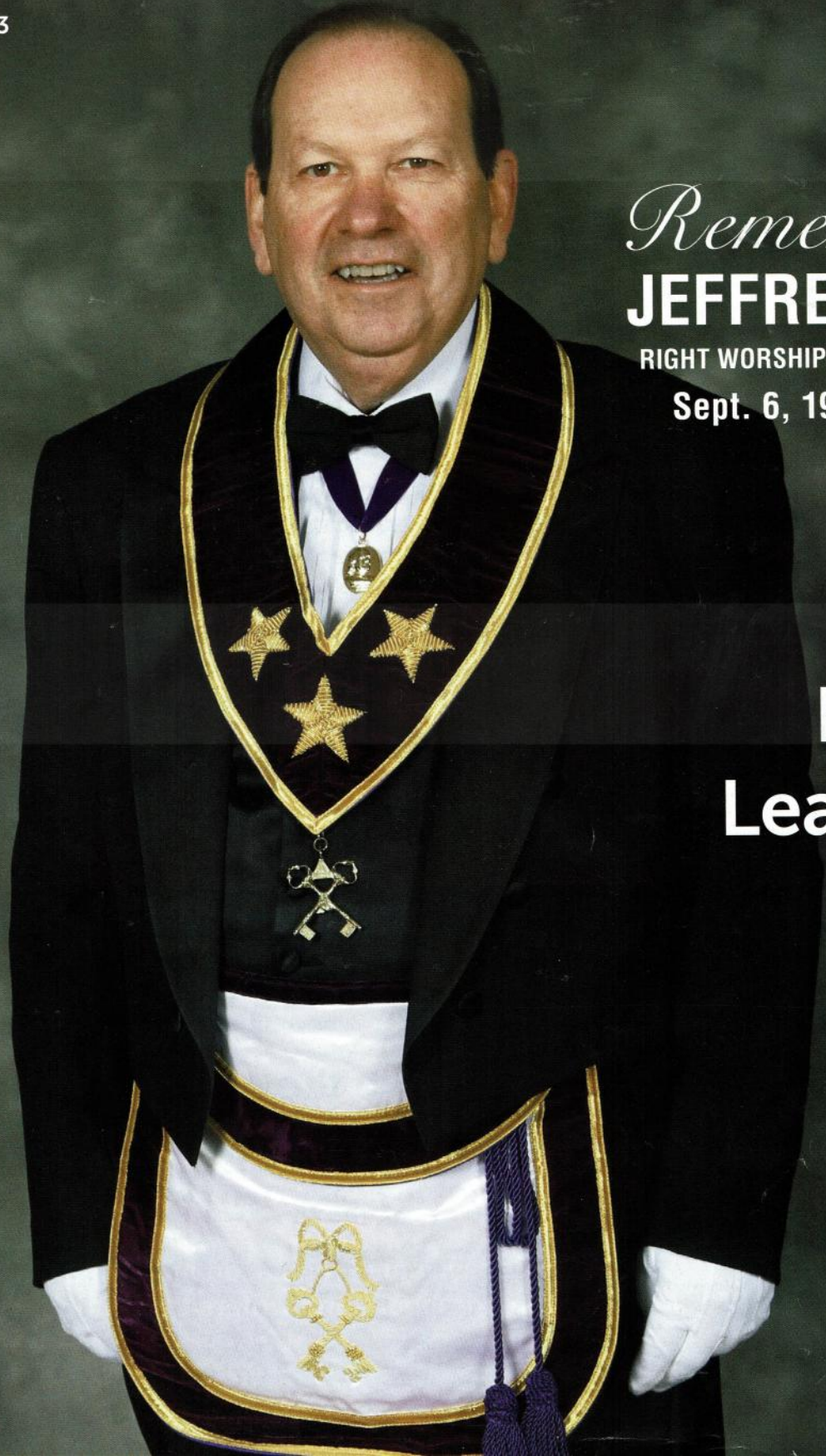


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*Remember*

**JEFFREY W. [Name]**

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND TR [Name]

Sept. 6, 1951 – June [Name]

**Build  
Leaders**





## MEMBERSHIP



# MASONIC RENEWAL IS NEEDED NOW, FOR THE FUTURE

By Brother Salman S. Sheikh, St. Alban Lodge No. 529, Philadelphia

*Pictured above, l-r. Brother Salman S. Sheikh, Grand Master S. Eugene Herritt and Brother Mohammed AlJumaili*

This essay is an original work of my own experience as a young Freemason in today's society. As the first person in my family to become a Freemason, along with being a Millennial and a minority at the same time, I offer a unique perspective on how we can bring this brotherhood back to life. The only way there will be that interest again is if there is honest love for one another in an ever-changing world and society.

The concept of the Masonic brotherhood has different meanings for all those great men who have walked this path in the past and present. To me, it means the idea of bringing myself closer to the Most High and spreading the light in this world that is desperately needed by being kind and virtuous to others without any motive. I started researching Freemasonry while I was in high school, along with the occult, secret societies and how the world really worked, which I knew would lead me down to the path I was meant to walk in life.

As a Muslim growing up in America, this brotherhood was my acceptance into American society. Boundaries of race, religion, socioeconomic status and other factors were

eliminated, as those same men I never knew became my brothers, and unbeknownst to me, were watching over me my whole life. I just never had that awareness until the Most High blessed me with the eyes to see and the heart to feel the power of this brotherhood on an international level.

Fate brought me to the doors of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at the age of 23, when I became the first person in my family to become a Freemason. I am proud of the decision I made, because through my efforts as a Muslim and Muslim in this country, I was able to plant those seeds of positivity and make a difference in the minds of others I had not seen that before. I believe many brothers don't realize the gift of this brotherhood, where we can all come together as a family of man. I was raised by a Jewish Past Master with camaraderie of brothers of all faiths standing together shoulder to shoulder, to show the world that if we can love one another without any ill motive, why can't you?

The night I became an Entered Apprentice, I was amazed when I saw men of all different backgrounds sitting together. That's when an older Past Master told me, "People are people." I disregarded his comment at first, just



other young person who gets advised by an elder. However, as time went on, I was able to see things that made me realize that even our own brotherhood is not perfect and could always use improvement. The one thing which amazed me was seeing men who would call me "brother" in lodge just for the sake of being there, but would later post anti-Islamic rhetoric on their Facebook pages, or my spirit would be able to pick up on their vibrations on how they really felt about me. I tried to change them by showing them how a real Freemason makes a difference in the world. I made the effort to get involved in every appendant body and visited different lodges, went up to brothers who were sitting alone, and gave hugs to as many as I could to let them know that there was still some good left in the world, including in the world of Freemasonry. The only way there will be a renewal in this brotherhood is when brothers like myself and others make the effort through actions to show them how we can be a shining example of light to the world.

Moving on to the attendance issues, I believe after a good man gets raised, he should be given the opportunities to explore different levels of Masonic knowledge. I spent my whole life going down the rabbit hole, and I believe there is so much invaluable knowledge not being taught to brothers who make the effort to be there. Those who do come eventually fade away and just become card-carrying members when they see the same thing one stated meeting after another and do not learn anything. As a man in today's world, leaving your busy schedule and family to spend an evening somewhere should always be a fruitful endeavor. As a Millennial, I always had an interest in Esoteric Freemasonry and how I could connect myself to the Most High creator. What would the world become if we teach each other how to become ascended masters, awaken third eye and kundalini and have the eyes to remove all illusions that are walking among us?

The real change will come for this Masonic renewal when men look past that illusion of division and use the power and privilege of being brothers to make a real difference in the world. My concept was always wearing my Islamic prayer cap, wearing my Masonic ring and working odd jobs in different scenarios to show people that Muslims and Freemasons are good people who are trying to get by just like them and help eliminate the online conspiracy mindset once they got to know me. By sowing that seed, I was able to clear misconceptions of many different groups by myself, as a single man who adopted those identities, including at my current work place, where I was able to change the spiritual paradigm in their thinking. Some of them might join or not, but the inevitable fact is the impression I make in their minds and hearts of

what a Freemason really is will always remain, even after I disappear from their lives. That is the true spiritual victory of the Masonic renewal in this age of deception, where everyone is fearful of one another and not willing to open their minds to the true potential of the human spirit.

Many young people today are spiritually drained and are not experiencing the same level of jobs, relationships and other things which were more moral at the time of our parents and grandparents. The Masonic brotherhood has to show them that path toward spirituality and becoming one with their family of man and the Most High who loves us all dearly.

This past winter, I visited a lodge where the brothers were arguing about donation money to the local Shriners, and one Past Master screamed, "They have the money, we don't need to give to them!" That was not true, and as a Shriner myself, I stood up and told them because of the Shriners, my friend and Brother Mohammed AlJumaili, Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, was able to come to America to find a new life with his mother and get a new (artificial) leg to replace the one he lost while serving in the U.S. Army in the battlefield in Iraq. The Past Master then shook my hand and told the Worshipful Master to approve the request. The Most High put me there for a reason, so that money could reach those kids, instead of listening to those who have held power for too long over their lodges without giving the new blood a chance to make a difference.

To conclude my thoughts on the Masonic renewal, I want to say that I love my brothers all very dearly, but the only way we can revive this brotherhood here in America is when we all come together and be that shining example when our nation is at a time of great divide. The great revolutions in history took place when all good men came together without worrying about petty things like who is taking the chair next year or how can I make myself stand out from the next brother. Our wealth, degrees, titles and other worldly illusions will be left behind after we pass. However, we will take our good hearts and good actions with us, and when I face the Most High, I will tell him with pride that I did not do anybody wrong and loved all my brothers dearly. That is true Freemasonry. Peace be upon you all.