

January/February Volume 22, Issue 01

# TRESTLEBOARD

# **VIEW FROM THE EAST**

By Benjamin Hinderer, Worshipful Master

Hello,

Yuma Lodge

No. 17, F&AM

For those of you that don't know, my name is Benjamin Hinderer. I am the new Worshipful Master for Yuma Territorial Lodge #17 and I plan to rule with an iron fist. LOL just kidding! It has been a long challenging road to get to this point but nothing I couldn't get through without the help of my brothers and the support of my family, especially my wife Michelle.

I am looking forward to this year and all that it brings. I would like this year to be the year of innovation; if anyone has any ideas on any anything they would like to try or do in the Lodge or out of the Lodge, please do not hesitate to bring it up.

We have our annual BBQ coming up in February. Please spread the word and make sure to come by and join in the festivities.

We are also looking forward to the return of the Samuel J. Oppenheimer Outdoor degree. Spread the word and come join in the raising of our newest Master Mason.

Your Newest Worshipful Master, Benjamin Hinderer

Yes, I am a member of the Largest and Most Honorable Fraternity in the World. One which believes that through Brotherly Love, we are able to offer Relief to the destitute and help good Men find Truth.



#### STATED MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month, September through June.

Dinner at 6:30pm

Meeting at 7:30pm

#### **REGULAR MEETINGS**

Degree work most every Thursday at 7:00pm.

Call (928) 783–7993 or visit www.yumalodge17@gmail.com for schedule.

#### OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503–4356 for an appointment.

#### TRESTLEBOARD

Published bi-monthly.

Article submissions are due on the 15th of each even-numbered month.

Sabrina Arps, publisher (928) 246–6580 ncbudgirl88@gmail.com



#### **2022 OFFICERS**

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#### Junior Warden

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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

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#### Senior Deacon

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#### **Junior Steward**

Saleh Bahati (314) 943–6386 salehsylvain@gmail.com



### **VIEW FROM THE WEST**

By Douglas Arps, Jr. Greetings from the West,

I would like to introduce myself to the Brothers that might not know me. My name is Douglas W. Arps Jr. but most people call me D.J. I started my Masonic journey back in 2017 and since then I have enjoyed t. Now I get to serve as Service Warden for Yuma

every minute of it. Now I get to serve as Senior Warden for Yuma Territorial Lodge #17 for 2022.

Our next big event will be the Annual Masonic BBQ which will be held in February at the Civic Center. If anyone can help please let WB Mike White know. I was planning on doing a highway clean soon but there is road construction where we normally clean up. If we are able to do a different portion of the road that they aren't working on I'll plan on doing that. We also plan on getting some raffles going again at the start of the new year. For now, I came across a nice article about Father Christmas that I hope you enjoy.

Brotherly Love, Douglas Arps, Jr. "DJ" Senior Warden



Masonic Lodges in LeClaire, IA (left), Bedford, KY (middle), and French Lick, IN (right)



A view of the Masonic Cemetery at the Louisville Memorial Gardens

# **GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH**

By Brad Hamner Fraternal Greetings from the South,

It is an absolute honor to be your Junior Warden for 2022. We have a great line this year, and I'm really looking forward to all the hard work ahead of us. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there's anything you need or that I can assist you with.

Brad Hamner Junior Warden





Greetings,

It is an honor for me to be able to serve as the Senior Steward for this year. I look forward to all of the knowledge I will be receiving.

Stephen Bradberry Senior Steward

# **FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE** By WB Michael Kofta, PM

#### Brothers and Sisters,

Now that we are dark for the rest of the year, it is time to take a relaxed pace in our Masonic labors. For the new Officers, CONGRATULATIONS on your election or

appointment! This is no time, however, to rest on your laurels; please keep up with your ritual proficiency because we have some real fast learners in our new Masons. Let us be ready for them when they are ready to advance.

Dues notices have been sent out and will need to be returned in a timely manner. We had five members suspended last year for not paying their dues on time. Don't let it happen to you this year.

If you have any information that needs to be updated in our Lodge database, please contact me so that I can update it. It is imperative that you update your information in Grandview as well as our Lodge database so that your member information is accurate and up-to-date. If you make any changes in Grandview, please let me know. Grandview is the future, so please log in and update your information.

Looking forward to continued visits to other Lodges and visiting Brethren from other Lodges to our own. If you need any assistance in general or with practicing or on proficiency, feel free to contact me.

#### Fraternally,

Michael A. Kofta, PM

Greetings,

I have been a Master Mason for 35 years. I was raised in Holtville Lodge #425 in Holtville, CA. I'm now living in Yuma and was welcomed by the Yuma Lodge so warmly that I took up membership with them. I'm a fifth generation Mason and my son, I'm proud to say, is the sixth generation Mason. I'm a retired nuclear plant worker (among other professions) and am enjoying it. The Brothers in Yuma Lodge are some of the friendliest Brothers I've had the pleasure of knowing.

Ira Hearen Tyler



Change of

Address

Secretary: yumalodge17@gmail.com

Trestleboard: ncbudgirl88@gmail.com



#### <u>Marshall</u>

Cristobal Perez (928) 919–4818 Cristobalperez1030@gmail.com

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#### <u>Tyler</u>

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#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Stephan Bradberry, Jr., 2024 (928) 919–2250 stephen.l.bradberry.jr@gmail.com

Mikel K. White, PM, 2024 (928) 503–4356 mkandeswhite@aol.com

# Donate online at: YumaLodge17.org

## Yuma Lodge No. 17

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at **7:30pm** (Dinner preceding the meeting at **6:30pm**)

Degree Work: Most every Thursday at **7:00pm**.

Trustees' Meetings: Monday prior to Stated Meeting at **6:00pm**. Lodge members welcome.

#### **York Rite Bodies**

Stated Meetings: First Monday at **7:30pm**.

Practice: Third Monday at **7:00pm**.

#### **Order of the Eastern Star**

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at **7:00pm** (Dinner preceding meetings at **6:00pm**)

#### Yuma Shrine Club

Meetings: Second Monday at **7:00pm**.

#### Yuma Shrine Ladies Lunch

**12 Noon**, Second Monday of each month September through April Call Betsy Ramirez at (928) 210–8740 for location.



facebook.com/YumaMasons

January 2022									
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
						1			
2	3	4	5	6 Montezuma #35 OV (Phx)	7	8 Nelson Bledsoe/ Anauhac Installatio n			
9	10	11	12	13 STATED	14	15			
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (OBSERVED)	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
30	31								

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Degree Work – Check with Pedestal Officers Arizona Masonicon 2022 – March 25–27

February 2022										
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT				
		1	2	3	4	5 Robert Burns Supper				
6	7	8	9	10 STATED	11	12				
13 MASONIC BBQ (Civic Center)	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19				
20	21 President's	22	23	24	25	26				
27	28									



# MUSINGS FROM THE DESK OF THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN By WB Michael Dale

Have You Ever Traveled?

A question that I can definitely answer YES! We all use the same ritual book throughout the Arizona jurisdiction. I have learned a lot in my travels throughout this jurisdiction. I have found there are subtle differences from Lodge to Lodge. These subtle differences define who we are and should not be leaked down when These subtle differences have become Lodge traditions. Me



and should not be looked down upon. These subtle differences have become Lodge traditions. Maintain these traditions and do not let them be lost to history.

Being a Past Master I know for a fact that there is no Past Master that ever makes a mistake. He states exactly what he intends to state and performs ritual in the Lodge exactly what he intends to perform. We all can probably open a Lodge without thinking about it. You have seen the opening hundreds of times. If you don't travel, you maybe see the opening eight to ten times a year. If you travel once a month, you can double that number. If you travel once a week, you'll see the opening 50 or more time a year. After a few years, you will know the opening without studying it. You will have seen the opening so many times that when you do try to study, it will flow in your memory.

When you travel, no matter what Lodge you travel to, you get this feeling of belonging. There is nothing like going to a strange place and being greeted as a lifelong friend. You feel as though you are a member of that Lodge.

So get out and travel. Get those feeling that I have been getting. Travel; you won't regret it. I am a traveling man.

Fraternally, Michael Dale, PM

# **IS FATHER CHRISTMAS A FREEMASON**

By John W. Bizzack

December 18, 2017 Stated Communication – Lexington Lodge #1

I have a very serious question to ask you tonight. I would like to raise this question and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to an answer.

You ask, what is this serious question? Here it is: Is Father Christmas a Freemason? Let's consider the facts of this case. Of whom does this remind you?

- A worthy gentleman, who is (we must admit) getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight,
- He wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities,
- He provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship,
- He is surrounded by secrecy and mystery; dispenses goodwill and the gifts, charity as it were, all over the world,
- And, he does so year and after year.

Well, my fellow Masonic detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof. Let us start with his movements on the evening in question.

All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the east to open and rule the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore, Father Christmas must begin his journey at the northeast corner of the world. This, of course, is exactly what we've all done as Entered Apprentices. Similarly, you would assume he would finish his work, he gives his salute then heads for home. But, think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most Brethren provide the gift of their charity to the Lodge...

And, the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember. What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)





#### IS FATHER CHRISTMAS A FREEMASON (CONTINUED) By John W. Bizzack December 18, 2017 Stated Communication – Lexington Lodge #1

faith that they should have kept. And I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent. Surely all this evidence shows us Father Christmas is a Freemason.

He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him - and sorry to part. All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male...

On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other. For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Well, Father Christmas, or Santa Claus or St. Nicholas, has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the remarkable story of the Great Architect's wonderful gift to the world. By the eighteenth and nineteenth century, these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritual activities, and sayings.

This does all sound very Masonic. St. Nicholas was a 4th-century Turkish bishop who had originally been a wealthy nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his three daughters. St. Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney, and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after. He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since.

The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St. Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St. Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to inquire about their behavior the previous year. Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave a pair of shoes or clogs out, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning these would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous 1823 poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore (American Professor of Oriental and Greek Literature, as well as Divinity and Biblical Learning) which begins "Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house...." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today. Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sled, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem, but Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia, and they have stuck and become a single story.

You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies. While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people, with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many various sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter. It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves and all the happiness it creates is just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry.

Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other.

We look to a New Year where things can be better. We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity, or the Jewish Hanukkah with its lights and gifts and story of peace, or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys, or even if we hold no formal religion except the pleasure of seeing a child's face transfixed with wonder and delight. And why are we Freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other.





We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic, Masons, to help to build that future. So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is more likely than not, a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the entire year: May there be peace on earth and good will towards men.

Merry Christmas to you, Brethren.







Congratulations the new Worshipful Master Benjamin Hinderer and the new 2022 elected and appointed officers! Thank you to the Installing Officers and everyone who was able to attend.















Se. 56





A huge congratulations goes out to Brother Tim Williams, PM, for being selected as Mason of the Year! His hard work and dedication not only to our Lodge, but the craft as well has been a tremendous asset to Arizona Masonry.





Brothers DJ Arps, Brad Hamner, and Ira Shearen traveled with Junior Grand Warden Michael Dale for the Degree in the Desert with Prometheus Lodge #87 and King Solomon Lodge #5 in Tombstone on November 20, 2021. Every year this degree is special because of the setting, given the rich history of Tombstone. *All photos provided by Brother DJ Arps* 



Brother Mike Kofta traveled with Junior Grand Warden Michael Dale to the Official Visit of Havasu Lodge #64 on November 9th, 2021.





TUCSON SCOTTISH RITE KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW ROBERT BURNS SUPPER

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Tucson Scottish Rite Cathedral,

160 S. Scott Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

# \$50 per person

See any Knight or Squire for tickets Pre-paid tickets only No tickets at the door the night of the dinner



# **STAR IN THE EAST**

Submitted by B.J. Dale, Associate Matron (Linda Gillis, Worthy Matron)

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!! We hope everyone's year has gotten off to a safe, healthy, and wonderful start. We know some of you have traveled this holiday season. We hope that your travels were fun and safe.

We ended our last meeting in December 2021 with a bang. We welcomed back a few more of our winter visitors along with more of our members to make it a fun-filled night. We also had a special visit from the Worthy Grand Patron, Dan Gross and his beautiful wife from Nevada Grand Chapter.

Our Chapter sponsored ten angels from the Angel Tree out at YPG (the local Army base), bringing some extra Christmas cheer to some military kids. We want to thank everyone that sponsored a few of the kids. Our Chapter voted to sponsor four and the other six were sponsored by members.

Brother JC Reece wasn't able to attend our meeting that night, but asked someone to thank everyone for their donations that helped him provide bags to the homeless. JC has been doing this for years, but especially at Christmas. Some of the items that he puts in the bags are hats, gloves, snacks, and toiletries.

We talked about the upcoming Masonic BBQ that will be held on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm at the Convention Center. The cost of the meal is \$13. Tickets will be available soon. The meal will consist of pit BBQ, beans, and tortillas. OES will be doing desserts as they usually do. We will need volunteers to bake pies to be sold or other desserts to be sold. Since that is the same day that we will be doing our annual Valentine's Day Flower deliveries, we will need as many people as possible to help with dessert sales. OES will voted to also have a craft table to help with fundraising. If you are a crafter or have any items that you would like to contribute, please let Carolyn Simson or any other member know as soon as you can. Yuma Chapter #14 also plans to have a craft table at the annual Fiesta Day on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Carolyn Simson if you have anything you would like to donate.

The Stated Meeting dinner that we provided food and helped serve for the Deputy Grand Master, Jim Baker and his wife Shirley, was a HUGE success. The Deputy Grand Master brought a couple of guests with him and they were very complimentary of our Yuma Hospitality. We would like to thank EVERYONE who contributed to the meal and help serve.

Over the holidays, the Dale and Arps Families went home to Kentucky to visit family. While there, they contacted the Grand Secretary, Debbie Ballinger, for a possible tour of the Rob Morris house located in LaGrange, KY. Debbie contacted one of the Rob Morris Trustee Board members, Linda Holman, to see if she could help us out since they were technically closed for the holidays. Linda graciously contacted us and offered to meet us for a tour. They were very excited to give us a chance to see this beautiful part of our OES





history. Even the granddaughters enjoyed it and thought it was "pretty cool". If you ever get a chance to see this part of our OES history, you will not be disappointed.



As stated previously, we will be helping out the Flower Mine again this year with their Valentine's flower deliveries. This is a huge fundraiser for our Chapter and we need anyone that can drive or ride along with a driver to help out if at all possible. It's amazing and so rewarding to see all the smiles and making someone's day.

Upcoming Birthdays:

- JANUARY: Antero Trujillo (1/3), Josette Sutton (1/5), Bert Wagner (1/14), Myrtle Bassell (1/16), Jay Learn (1/18), WM Linda Gillis (1/19), Barbara Geir (1/19), Sean Godfrey (1/25), Eileen Whitmore (1/26), Diane Grider (1/26)
- FEBRUARY: Mike Dale (2/7), Tim Williams (1/24), Douglas "DJ" Arps (2/27), Debra Learn (2/28)

We hope to see more people at our upcoming meetings on January 11th (welcome in the New Year), January 25th (Hawaiian Night – wear Hawaiian), February 8th (Valentine's Day – wear red), and February 22nd (Honor Star Points). We are also expecting more of our winter visitors back. We are only serving dinners on the 2nd Tuesday of the month before our meeting.

Upcoming Official Visits:

- JANUARY: 7th Scottsdale #43, Scottsdale; 8th Chandler #18, Chandler; 14th Glendale #20, Glendale; 15th Friendship #40, Glendale; 28th HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Ruth #6, Deming, NM; 29th HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Pearls of Venus #6/Electa #51, Sierra Vista;
- FEBRUARY: 5th Southern Star #71, Green Valley; 18th Havasu #61, Lake Havasu City; 19th Sunrise #60, Bullhead City; 20th HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER Southgate #18, Las Vegas, NV; 26th Golden Rule #1, Prescott

Until next time, please keep all of our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers. If you know someone who isn't feeling well, would appreciate a phone call or card, or may need assistance running errands, please call Linda Gillis (Worthy Matron) at (928) 580–4403 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We miss seeing all of you and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces at our meetings. Take care and be safe!

# YUMA CHAPTER NO. 14, ORDER of the EASTERN STAR

The meetings are held the SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY of each month, September through June. All members are welcome. Our Worthy Matron plans to restart dinners and refreshments when we return in September. Meeting begins promptly at 7pm. Hope to see you there. If you have guestions please call the Lodge at (928) 783–7993.



# **Masonic Anniversaries**

# When you became a Master Mason

# JANUARY

Donald Beaton Ernest Cunningham Vernon Dugan Carl Greenwell David Johnson Mark Jones David McBride Mark Melton John Mullins Wilbert Orem Menelaos Patsiouras Robert Payne Maurice Peters Jacky Pettigrew Philip Schrier Gary Stigall William Treherne Jermey Voorhies Leon Wilmot

# **FEBRUARY**

John Alguire John Armour Jesus Barraza Chris Dempsey James Dennis Randall Gaetz Robert Gordon Glen Harris Harold Hawes Travis Kniss



Daniel Weedle

Mikel White



# Deadline for the March/April Trestleboard is **FEBRUARY 20TH**



# **PUBLISHER'S CORNER**

A new year brings a clean slate, to make things right or better for ourselves. But one thing I hope we can continue is our fellowship. Fellowship between the Brothers, fellowship between our organizations, and fellowship between our families. Being a part of the Masonic family is one of the great joys we have and our family looks forward to the times we can all get together, so let's continue our love of fellowship in the new year and make it grow!



If there is anything you would like to see in the Trestleboard or have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know! If you see any corrections that need to be addressed, please let me know those as well so they can be corrected. If you attend an event, don't forget to take pictures and submit them, either to me or on Facebook. Take care and stay safe!

Sincerely, Sabrina Arps



# **Committees**

## **MASTER'S PROGRAMS**

Audit Michael A. Dale, PM

**Budget** Worshipful Master

**By-Laws** Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH Hector Aponte

**Cemetery Clean-up** Roy Wright, Chairman

**Facilities Maintenance** Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

**Funeral** Mikel K. White, PM

**Grievance** Michael A. Dale, PM

Library/Archives Roy Wright

Masonic Education & Ritual Mikel K. White, PM Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM Michael A. Dale, PM

Masonic Relief Worshipful Master

Master's Advisory Michael A. Dale, PM Dale L. Kreger, PM Timothy W. Williams, PM, DDGM

**Wives, Widows, and Orphans** Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Candidate Instruction** Michael Kofta, PM

**Officer Instruction** Mikel K. White, PM

## FUNDRAISING

**Chairman – Dale Kreger, PM** Co-Chairmen – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Brad Hamner Barbeque Mikel K. White, PM Balloon Glow Dale L. Kreger, PM Midnight at the Oasis Mikel K. White, PM

Raffle & Other Venues Stewards

## PUBLIC SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bikes for Books Brad Hamner Law Enforcement Memorial Hector Aponte Roadside Clean-up Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Scholarship/Classroom Grants Hector Aponte Dale L. Kreger, PM Roy Wright

# MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/FRATERNAL SUPPORT

**Birthday Cards** Benjamin T. Hinderer

Facebook Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

**Mason of the Year** SW & JW

**Membership Participation/Retention** Worshipful Master

Sickness and Distress Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH Antero Trujillo

**Trestleboard** Sabrina Arps, Publisher Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Website Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ" Wills and Bequests TBD













# **Masonic Specialty License Plates**



ServiceArizona.com Fee goes to charities supported by Arizona Masons.