

Masonic Happenings in The Magnolia State



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WILLIAM RAYFORD ROBINSON INSTALLED GRAND MASTER FEBRUARY 11, 2009



William Rayford “Billy Ray” Robinson was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, Tuesday evening February 10, 2009 and Installed Wednesday February 11, 2009, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Billy Ray received his education in the Brandon Public Schools.

He was born September 9, 1955 in Jackson, MS. He is the Son of William David Robinson and Martha Louise Fortune Robinson. He is married to the former Debra Lynn Whatley. They are the parents of three Sons, Billy Wade, Dusty Ray and

Case Lee who are all Master Masons.

Billy Ray is employed as an Ironworker in Local 469 Jackson, Ms.

Billy Ray was raised to the sublime degree in Tyrian Masonic Lodge Number 427, Brandon, MS, July 19, 1983. He served as Junior Deacon in 1985, Senior Deacon, 1986, Junior Warden 1987 Senior Warden 1988 and Worshipful Master 1989 and 2003. He received all the Scottish Rite degrees in the Jackson Consistory, May 3, 2003, serving as Lt. Commander in 2008. He was Exalted in Jackson Chapter Number 6, Greeted in Jackson Council Number 5 and Knighted in Jackson Commandery Number 1, April 1, 2006 in Jackson, MS. He was Created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Wahabi Shrine, December 4, 2004, Jackson, MS. Billy Ray is an Honorary member of Hamasa Shrine in Meridian, MS.

It is ironic that Brother Robinson has served the Grand Lodge of Mississippi in the same progressive office’s 20 years later to the year as he did in Tyrian Masonic Lodge Number 427. Junior Grand Deacon 2005, Senior Grand Deacon 2006, Junior Grand Warden 2007 Senior Grand Warden 2008 and Grand Master 2009. He served on the Credentials Committee in the Grand Lodge 2004.

He was initiated in St. Leonard Red Cross of Constantine, Jackson, MS., February 15, 2007 and received the Super Excellent Masters’ degree January 19, 2008. He was elected Master of the year in 2003. He is also the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

Billy Ray and his wife Debra are members of the First United Methodist Church, where he has been a member for 50 years.



GRAND LODGE OFFICERS 2009-2010: Front Row, Seated L to R: Danny Olan Alexander, PGM, Gr. Lec.: Charles Lynn Cox, JGW; Steven Dwayne Grantham, Dep. GM; William Rayford Robinson, GM; Willis Ralph Carlisle, SGW; T. Earl Creekmore, HPGM, Gr. Treas.; Micky Paul McMahan, Gr. Sec.

Back Row, Standing L to R: Myron Lewis Ware, Gr. Sword Bearer; Alford Silva Bettencourt, Gr. Orator; Lyndol K. Watkins Gr. Pursuivant; John Wayne Carroll, Sr. Gr. Deacon; Thomas Delve Swan, Jr. Gr. Deacon; Simeion Lane Langston, Gr. Marshal; John Randolph Fielder, Jr., Gr. Chaplain; Lonnie Lewis Rayborn, Gr. Tiler; Fred F. Bean, HPGM, Gr. Sec. Emeritus.



The Grand Chapter, Council and Commandery of Mississippi will meet in Annual Joint Session on May 7-9, 2009 at the Drury Inn and Suites in Meridian. Contact the Drury Inn at (601)483-5570 for reservations. Be sure to tell them you are with the Grand York Rite Bodies Meeting for our special group rate of \$87.00 per night. Reservations must be made by April 21, 2009.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 4 - Congressional School at Tupelo Lodge #318 at 8:30 A.M.
- April 18 - Meridian Scottish Rite Reunion.
- April 19-22 - Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Jackson.
- April 24-25 - Corinth Scottish Rite Reunion.
- April 25 - Congressional School at Hattiesburg Lodge #397 at 8:30 A.M.
- May 2 - Congressional School at J. A. Mayfield Lodge #165, Amory, at 8:30 A.M.
- May 7-9 - Grand Chapter, Council & Commandery of MS Annual Meeting in Meridian at the Drury Inn & Suites.
- May 16 - Congressional School at Clarksdale Lodge #286 at 8:30 A.M.