

Henrico Union No. 130 & Sandston No. 216 conduct a Joint Table Lodge



Most Worshipful and Doctor Jeffery Eugene Hodges in attendance.



Hawaiian theme adds color and relaxed atmosphere to the event

What do you get when two Masonic Lodges with two hundred and thirty three years of Masonic service combine to enjoy the fruits of their labors? In this particular case, the result was a very successful evening enjoyed by over one hundred and fifty Masons.

Masonic fellowship at its very best was the singular goal, and without a doubt was achieved if the comments and smiling faces of the Grand Master and the brethren in attendance were any indication. The event took place on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at the Homewood Suites by Hilton in Sandston, Virginia. Right Worshipful Guy Maury Blankinship, III, Worshipful Master of Henrico Union Lodge No. 130 and Worshipful James Franklin Smith, Jr., Worshipful Master of Sandston Lodge No. 216 took great pleasure in receiving our Grand Master, Most Worshipful and Doctor Jeffery Eugene Hodges as the special guest and keynote speaker for the evening.

The attire was relaxed, and as planned and hoped for, all present wore Hawaiian style shirts and slacks. Grand Master Hodges commented on the high energy level felt in the room and among the Lodge brethren; he also commented on the multitude of beautiful colors observed in all of the various shirts and decorations. He congratulated the Worshipful Masters and the brethren for their enthusiasm, their love for the craft and for what would obviously be a very meaningful and enjoyable Masonic meeting. A meeting that Masons could be excited about as in keeping with the Grand Master's theme for the year, we continue to discover our potential.

Masons from all over Richmond and some from around the state arrived at the banquet room suites which had been converted to a huge Lodge Room with all of the appropriate paraphernalia. The room had been ornately decorated with white table cloths, pineapples, beautiful plants flowers and greenery. Upon arrival, the brethren were greeted and presented Hawaiian lei by the wives of the two Worshipful Masters, Mrs. Susan Blankinship, and Mrs. Dee Smith. After the ceremony of the lei and renewal of old friendships, the brethren found their assigned seats adorned with personalized tent cards, programs and souvenirs of the evening.

Dinner was served and included a delicious bbq, bread, coleslaw, potato salad, beverages and dessert prepared by Mason and locally renowned chef, Right Worshipful Wimpy Isgett, Sr. who is one of several dual members of both Henrico Union and Sandston Masonic Lodges.

Voices rang out as Masons joined together in toast and song, celebrating the traditions and ideology that we as Masons encompass. Right Worshipful Donald Ray Traser accompanied the Table Lodge tunes with music from a keyboard and each toast and it's response was delivered in an enthusiastic and motivating manor. The true spirit of brotherhood and Freemasonry was alive and well and was obviously felt by those in attendance.

Grand Master Hodges addressed the brethren on our patron saints and reminded all to be conscious of the blessings which had been showered upon us while not allowing anything to keep us from being the true men we are supposed to be, and thus truly discovering our potential. He closed with a very moving recitation of the poem, "Last Night I Knelt Where Hiram Knelt".

It is the sincere hope of both Worshipful Masters and the members of both Henrico Union and Sandston Lodges that each Mason present was enriched by his presence at the Table Lodge and by the spirit and teachings of the Table Lodge.

For the past few years, Henrico Union and Sandston Lodges have worked successfully in conjunction with one another under the same roof, completing numerous projects and community services both individually and working together. With the grace of God, these two Lodges will continue to serve mankind, Freemasonry, the Richmond area and the Sandston community long and well into the future.



**Grand Master Doctor Jeffery Eugene Hodges
at the Joint Table Lodge of
Henrico Union Lodge No. 130 & Sandston Lodge No. 216**

Contributed by: Michael A. Stewart, PM Secretary Henrico Union Lodge No. 130 A.F. &A.M.