



Allocution of the Worshipful Master

Delivered by WBro.: Alvin Benemerito
During the 125th Charter Anniversary Celebration of
Long Pine Lodge No 136
October 16, 2010

Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies, Friends, Brethren All,
Good Evening.

On behalf of the members of Long Pine Lodge No. 136, we thank you for your support. Not only with your presence here tonight, on the biggest Nebraska football game of the season, but on your continued support in our lives as Freemasons and in the existence of Long Pine Lodge.

Grand Master with your permission I will introduce the members of this Lodge.

Brethren will you please line up in the West as your name is called.

Brethren and Guests may I present to you the members of Long Pine Lodge No. 136.

The Masons of this Lodge have toiled in the quarries. We have done our Labors with the help of an inspiration. Our inspiration has provided us with generous support and understanding. I tell you, without their blessings all this would not be possible. For we at Long Pine Lodge believe, and I am sure most of the brothers here believe, in the ancient wisdom that states: "If Momma ain't happy, nobody ain't happy!"

Ladies, would please stand as your name is called.

My Dear Ladies, Thank You for all the sacrifices you have afforded us.

Brethren, you may now present your Lady her token and return to your seats.

In 1881, the Sioux City & Pacific railroad reached Long Pine. On January 1884 the Brown County Commissioners granted the petition making Long Pine a village. On October 6, 1884 a dispensation was received from Grand Lodge granting the formation of this Lodge. On June 25, 1885 the Grand Lodge of Nebraska issued the Charter to Long Pine Lodge No. 136.

On April 25, 1908 this Temple was consecrated. There are no records showing a cornerstone being laid at that time. In 1933 Bro. George Hubbell, whose picture is displayed in this room, gave the Lodge the amount of \$4,000 for the building mortgage. Our eternal gratitude to him. The City of Long Pine was incorporated in 1934. Therefore, Long Pine Lodge is older than the City of Long Pine. And may possibly be, one of the oldest organization in the area that can claim continuous and uninterrupted existence for 125 years.

In the last few years Long Pine Lodge has been re-invigorated. We have embraced the use of new technologies like emails to send our summons and correspondence. We have established a presence on the Internet with a website. On top of this, the Lodge facilities were improved and many more has yet to be done. All of this are attributed to the physical manual labors and the generous financial support of the members. Yes, we did more than 90% of the work ourselves.

In addition to the established Grand Lodge activities and charities - such as Scholarships, Band Camp, Donations to the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth and Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont, and the Change for the Troops - this Lodge has adopted the following:

- Performing The Lodge of Military Tribute. This Masonic Military Memorial Service has been performed by us, at Lodges in Ainsworth, Chadron, Hastings and on November 6, 2010 at the Scottish Rite in Omaha.
- Providing a Flag Detail for the Long Pine Cemetery during Memorial Day due to aging and dwindling population of Long Pine's Veterans organizations.
- Over the summer, we have opened our doors for use by the Long Pine 4H program and the Ainsworth School summer program.
- Donations to the Local Food Pantry.
- Two Child ID Programs in the last 5 years.
- Performing Courtesy Initiations to Area Lodges. Either we go there or they come here. This has been done for the Lodges of O'Neill and Valentine.
- Masonic Education. A different member is assigned every month. The brother who brings in the Festive Board, most of you know it as snacks, is also the brother providing the Masonic Education. Learning by teaching.
- And what you see right now, from the suit & tie, the dress aprons & officer's collars, and the white gloves are worn by us, not just during degree work and on special occasions such as this, but also, during our Regular Monthly Meetings. Please do not get us wrong, we are not trying to make ourselves superior. We have consciously agreed to do this - to emphasize one thing - Preparation. That we have prepared, not just our physical appearance, but also our minds. Remembering that we are not just going to any other place to participating in something trivial. But that, we going to a Masonic Lodge. A place that we consider sacred. It is a place where serious thoughts and important work for the betterment of ourselves, our local communities, and maybe, even the betterment of human kind - are discussed and carried out by men - who respect and enjoy each other's company.

It is a great pleasure to have you share this momentous occasion with us. We hope that you are having an enjoyable stay. And, we pray that you have a safe passage home.

Grand Master, it is therefore my distinct honor to report to you - that - Freemasonry is alive and well in this part of Nebraska.