



THE BUZZ



September 2026

News from Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Officers

Office	Officer
Worshipful Master	David "Tide" Williams
Senior Warden	Stephen Orlando
Junior Warden	Bob Coleman
Treasurer	H. Bart Henderson
Secretary	Randal Smallwood
Chaplain	William Badders
Senior Deacon	Dennis J. Ross
Junior Deacon	Bart C. Harvey
Senior Steward	Jayson Moore
Junior Steward	Donald Williams III
Marshal	Raul Scully
Master of Ceremonies	Keith Borst
Musician	Abram Wallace
Tiler	Charlie Craig

Past Masters

2000-RW Mike Gower	2013-Phil Morehead
2001-Marion Devore	2014-Don Comedy
2002-Hugh M Smith	2015-RW Jerry Martin
2003-RW Gene Carnes	2016-Elmer Pete Mitchell
2004-Tom Guest	2017-Thomas Ellison
2005-Paul Adkins	2018-Kyle Mitchell
2006-Robert Glasgow	2019-Charles Murchison
2007-TJ Ramey	2020-Bruce Hammond
2008-RW W Vernon Burke	2021-Otto Carl
2009-Donald Sargent	2022-RW Ken Curry
2010-RW Elmer Murphy III	2023-Raul Scully
2011-Tim Rivers	2024-Clif Moore
2012-RW David Counts	2025-RW H.N. Chip Green

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Email: tranquilitylodge2000@gmail.com

Your Ideas Can Help Shape the Future of Tranquility

One of the greatest strengths of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 has always been the creativity, experience, and dedication of our members. As The Buzz continues to grow, we would love to hear from you.

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article, educational presentation, guest speaker, fellowship event, charitable project, membership initiative, or other activity that would benefit our Lodge? No idea is too small. Many of the best programs and traditions begin with a simple suggestion from a Brother who saw an opportunity to make our Lodge even better.

If you have thoughts, recommendations, or content you'd like to contribute, please share them with the Lodge leadership or newsletter team. Together, we can continue building a vibrant, engaging, and meaningful Masonic experience for Brethren around the globe.

Your voice matters. Your ideas matter. And together, we can make Tranquility Lodge even stronger.

A Message from the Master

As I sit down to write this article, I find myself filled with gratitude.

Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of serving as Master of Tranquility Lodge #2000 this year. Of all the opportunities Masonry has provided me over the years, this is one that holds a special place in my heart. Since the day I joined Tranquility Lodge, I have admired the vision, purpose, and uniqueness of this lodge. The possibility of one day helping guide its course was something I quietly hoped for, and today I am truly humbled to have that opportunity.

What makes Tranquility Lodge special is not its name, its programs, or even its reputation. What makes it special is all of you. Our members come from around the world, bringing different experiences, perspectives, and talents, yet we are united by a shared love of Freemasonry and a desire to make a positive difference. I am excited about what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

Join Us in October

Our next gathering is quickly approaching, and I sincerely hope to see many of you there.

Dutch Treat Dinner

For those arriving on Friday, we'll begin the weekend with a Dutch Treat Dinner:

Friday, October 16 at 6:00 PM - Longhorn Steakhouse - Southpark Meadows

9900 South IH-35 Frontage Road, Building U
Austin, TX 78748

These informal gatherings are often where some of the best conversations happen. Whether you're attending your first Tranquility event or your fiftieth, I encourage you to join us.

Saturday, October 17 - Onion Creek Lodge No. 220

706 N. Bluff Drive
Austin, TX 78745

8:30 AM: Lodge doors open. Join us for fellowship, coffee, and light breakfast treats as we reconnect with old friends and welcome new faces.

9:30 AM: We will be joined via live video conference by representatives from Space Center Houston, who will share information about the **Gene Kranz Scholarship Fund** and its mission to inspire future generations of leaders, innovators, and explorers.

As someone who has been inspired throughout my life by the achievements of America's space program, I am especially excited about this presentation. The story of Gene Kranz, the Apollo missions, and the countless individuals who helped humanity reach the Moon embodies many of the same values we cherish in Freemasonry: leadership, perseverance, teamwork, and a commitment to something greater than ourselves. I hope many of you will be able to attend and participate in what promises to be a fascinating discussion.

10:00 AM: Stated Meeting begins.

Following the Meeting, lunch and fellowship. This year, lunch is being graciously provided by T. Neal Porter Lodge No. 1354, and we will once again enjoy the legendary Byron Townsend Fish Fry. If you've attended before, you know why it has earned such a reputation among the Brethren. If not, you're in for something special.

Growing the Dream

Many of you remember a vision shared by our first Master, **Right Worshipful Mike Gower**. He dreamed that Tranquility Lodge would someday be **10,000 members strong**.

At first glance, that number may seem ambitious. Then again, the very concept of Tranquility Lodge was ambitious when it began.

Today, we have members spread across jurisdictions, states, countries, and continents. We have become a lodge unlike any other in Freemasonry, and that happened because Brothers believed in a dream and shared it with others.

I am currently working on several initiatives designed to expand our worldwide reach and introduce more Master Masons to everything Tranquility Lodge has to offer. While those larger programs continue to develop, every member can help right now in a very simple but meaningful way:

Bring a Brother to our October meeting. Growth happens one Brother at a time. It begins with a conversation, an invitation, and a shared experience.

To encourage membership growth, I am also introducing a new "**Growing the Dream**" membership initiative. Beginning this year, we will recognize and honor the member who sponsors the greatest number of new members each quarter. While the real reward is helping our lodge grow and thrive, I believe it is important to celebrate those Brothers who actively contribute to our future.

In addition to the existing membership reference program which can get you an endowment in Tranquility Lodge, some award ideas currently under consideration include:

- A custom **Tranquility Lodge Membership Ambassador** travel mug.
- Engraved recognition plaque presented during a stated meeting.
- Exclusive lodge polo shirt.



- Recognition in the newsletter and lodge website.
- A traveling trophy displayed by the winning Brother each quarter.
- Annual recognition for the top recruiter of the year.

I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Together, let's continue building toward RW Mike Gower's vision and ensure that Tranquility Lodge remains a vibrant force in Freemasonry for generations to come.

Reaching for the Stars

One of the things I am most proud of is Tranquility Lodge's commitment to supporting education, leadership, and the future of space exploration.

Through our partnership with Space Center Houston, we have been able to support several outstanding organizations and programs through the Conrad Foundation, the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, and the Space Exploration Educators Conference (SEEC).

These programs inspire future scientists, engineers, educators, innovators, and explorers who will help shape tomorrow's world. They embody many of the same values we as Masons hold dear: education, curiosity, leadership, perseverance, and service to humanity.

As we look toward future charitable initiatives, we are also exploring opportunities to support the Gene Kranz Scholarship Fund. Few individuals represent leadership under pressure and service to a greater mission better than Gene Kranz, and I believe this initiative aligns perfectly with the values and aspirations of Tranquility Lodge.

Every scholarship awarded, every student encouraged, and every educator inspired helps ensure that the spirit of exploration continues long into the future. In many ways, these efforts reflect the same mission we pursue in Freemasonry: helping good people become better and investing in those who will shape tomorrow.

Just as the Apollo program demonstrated what can be accomplished through vision, teamwork, and determination, our charitable efforts allow Tranquility Lodge to help inspire the next generation of leaders and explorers.

Looking Ahead

Brethren, I am incredibly optimistic about the future of Tranquility Lodge #2000.

In addition to our October meeting in Austin, we have an exciting schedule in the year ahead:

Remaining 2026 Meeting Schedule

- **October 17, 2026** – Austin, TX - Onion Creek Lodge No. 220
- **February 6, 2027** – San Antonio, TX – Perfect Union Lodge No. 10
- **April 3, 2027** – Cocoa Beach, FL - Cape Canaveral Lodge No. 339

- **May 22, 2027** – Decatur, TX – Decatur Lodge No. 447
- **July 17, 2027** – Waco, TX – Gurley Lodge No. 337

One of the highlights of the year will undoubtedly be our visit to Florida, where **Cape Canaveral Lodge No. 339** has graciously agreed to host Tranquility Lodge. We are deeply appreciative of their hospitality and excited for the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of fellowship between our lodges.

There are few places in the world more closely associated with exploration, innovation, and human achievement than Cape Canaveral. From the earliest Mercury and Gemini missions to Apollo, the Space Shuttle Program, and today's commercial space launches, Cape Canaveral has served as the gateway through which humanity has repeatedly pushed beyond the limits of the known world.

Standing near the launch complexes that sent astronauts to the Moon is a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when vision, courage, teamwork, and determination come together in pursuit of a worthy goal. These are qualities that resonate deeply with the principles of Freemasonry and with the mission of Tranquility Lodge.

I look forward to sharing more details about our Cape Canaveral gathering in the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your confidence, your friendship, and the opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing old friends, making new ones, and sharing fellowship with you in October.

Until such time as it can relocate to its rightful place in or near the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon, may peace and harmony prevail.

Fraternally,

David Williams

Worshipful Master

Masons in Space

Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin – Gemini 12 and Apollo 11 – Claimed Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. Member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417 (Texas)

John Glenn - Mercury 6 (Friendship 7), STS-95 – Freemason and later 33° Scottish Rite Mason. Member of Concord Lodge No. 688 (Ohio).

Gordon Cooper - Mercury 9, Gemini 5. Member of Carbondale Lodge No. 82 (Colorado).

Gus Grissom - Mercury 4, Gemini 3, Apollo 1. Member of Mitchell Lodge No. 228 (Indiana).

Edgar Mitchell - Apollo 14. Member of Artesia Lodge No. 28 (New Mexico).

James Irwin - Apollo 15. Confirmed Freemason.

Walter “Wally” Schirra - Mercury 8, Gemini 6A, Apollo 7. Member of Canaveral Lodge No. 339 (Florida).

Thomas Stafford - Gemini 6A, 9A, Apollo 10, Apollo-Soyuz. Member of Western Star Lodge No. 138 (Oklahoma).

Donn Eisele - Apollo 7. Member of Luther B. Turner Lodge No. 732 (Ohio).

Paul Weitz - Skylab 2, STS-6. Member of Lawrence Lodge No. 708 (Pennsylvania).

A Message From the West

Mathematics and the Mason

Tranquility Lodge was created for the advancement of those students who have decided to earn a degree in the STEM fields. Today, I would like to share some information concerning Freemasonry and Mathematics

As we all know, Mathematics includes both Arithmetic and Geometry.

One example is Sir Isaac Newton, a Freemason, one of the most influential mathematicians and scientists who helped usher in a new age for science with his work on the laws of gravity and optics. Newton was also credited with developing calculus which had an influence over many other mathematical advancements. It was Newton’s development of calculus that lead to “integral calculus” used by physicists today for various purposes concerning motion and energy among other fields.

Another famous Freemason and mathematician is Albert Einstein. It was his theories about relativity that advanced the way we understand our universe. His formula for determining how fast light travels through space helped develop our understanding of space-time. He contributed towards math within the field of physics and energy with his famous equation $E=mc^2$ (energy equals mass times the speed of light squared).

More recently Freemasons have also made advancements in many branches of mathematics including cryptography and statistics. Freemasons were the first to implement “imaginary numbers” into math which is now widely used within science.

Imaginary numbers, while primarily a mathematical concept, are linked to Freemasonry. Freemasonry asks its members to study the deeper meaning, significance and truth about the lessons of the Craft. The use of symbols and numbers conveys a better understanding of esoteric knowledge, paralleling how imaginary numbers extend the real number system to explore complex dimensions.

So you see, mathematics, while seldomly heralded, is crucial to the development of mankind in so many fields. Henceforth, Freemasonry, while preferring to stay out of the spotlight of social society, is so important in the development of the brotherhood of mankind throughout the world!

I hope you enjoyed reading this periodical. I would offer a special thank you to our Worshipful Master for making this newsletter happen. See you next time.

Stephen E. Orlando

Senior Warden

Astronaut Appearances at Space Center Houston

- **Mark Polansky** (STS-98, STS-116, STS-127)
 - September 18, 2026
 - Astronaut Mission Memories program.
 - **Michael Foreman** (STS-123, STS-129)
 - September 19, 2026
 - Breakfast with an Astronaut and Mission Memories presentations.
 - **Carl Walz** (Skylab/ISS veteran)
 - September 25-26, 2026
 - Mission Memories and Breakfast with an Astronaut.
 - **Hans Schlegel** (ESA Astronaut)
 - October 3, 2026
 - Breakfast with an Astronaut and Mission Memories.
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A Message From the South

Brethren,

It is indeed most humbling to be honored with the duty in which you have entrusted me as Junior Warden of Tranquility Lodge for this Masonic year. I am grateful to Past Master Marian Devore who first encouraged me to join Tranquility Lodge, and to our late Past Master Otto Carl who encouraged me to become an appointed officer. I am thankful to Past Master Raul Scully, Past Master Cliff Moore, and Past Master RW Chip Green for entrusting me to serve as Master of Ceremonies, Senior Steward, and Senior Deacon respectively. While serving in those appointed offices, I enjoyed the fellowship with so many Brothers, old and new alike, throughout our state and the privilege of welcoming visiting Brethren from other jurisdictions.

As your Junior Warden, I am honored to support our Worshipful Master Dave Williams in executing his plans for this year and to support our Senior Warden Stephen Orlando as he completes his plans for next year. As I begin to think of the possibility that I may one day serve as Master of Tranquility Lodge, I look to our Senior and Junior Deacon's, Dennis Ross and Bart Harvey, so that we may, as a team, envision a mutual plan for Tranquility for the near future.

This is such a wonderful and unique Lodge supported by Brethren throughout Texas, and in so many jurisdictions within our great country and around the world. How important an opportunity we have to continue the growth of Tranquility Lodge that Past Master Mike Gower envisioned over 25 years ago, as Past Master Marion Devore continued, and as each Past Master thereafter has continued. May each of us, the members of Tranquility Lodge, share in the work to assist and support our Worshipful Master Dave Williams in this noble endeavor to spread the knowledge of, and encourage membership in, Tranquility Lodge everywhere possible.

I look forward to welcoming each of you who are able to attend our Stated Meetings this year and to meeting the many visitors who will grace us with their attendance. May each of you have Safe Travels throughout this Grand Jurisdiction and Beyond.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bob Coleman

Junior Warden

Highlights from Space Center Houston (Latest Available)

New STEM and Workforce Development Partnership

Space Center Houston recently announced a partnership with **Houston City College (HCC)** focused on STEM education, artificial intelligence, robotics, and workforce development. The collaboration is intended to connect students with educational programs and real-world aerospace opportunities, helping prepare future talent for emerging technologies and space exploration.

Upcoming Thought Leader Series and Fall Programs

Space Center Houston's current events calendar includes:

- **"An Evening with Leland Melvin"** (former NASA astronaut, engineer, and NFL player)
- Hispanic Heritage Month speaker programs
- Space Center U educational experiences
- Family and scouting overnight programs
- STEM-focused special events throughout September and October 2026

Off World Summit Coming to Space Center Houston

The facility will host the **Off World Summit** in late September 2026, bringing together leaders from NASA, commercial space companies, investors, policymakers, and lunar economy organizations to discuss future space exploration and commercialization. Speakers are scheduled from organizations including NASA, Firefly Aerospace, Blue Origin, Voyager Technologies, Axiom Space, and others.

Recent Major Space Center Houston Announcements

Among the organization's latest published news releases:

- **Galaxy's Game**, a summer experience connecting sports and space exploration.
- Space Center Houston was ranked **#6 Best Science Museum in the United States** in the 2026 USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.
- The return of the **Moon 2 Mars Festival**, featuring STEM activities and special programming. [\[spacecenter.org\]](https://spacecenter.org)

Reminder Regarding Dues and Endowments

As of January 1st, 2027, annual dues will increase to \$35, and endowments increase to \$700