

A Memorial Tribute To

Illustrious Allen Earl Roberts, 33° I.G.H. 1917-1997

Lloyd U. Jefferson

Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777

June 24, 1995

*I CANNOT SAY, AND I WILL NOT SAY
THAT HE IS DEAD. HE IS JUST AWAY
AND YOU — OH, YOU, WHO THE WILDEST YEARN
FOR AN OLD — TIME STEP, AND THE GLAD RETURN,
'THINK OF HIM FARING ON, AS DEAR
IN THE LOVE OF THERE AS THE LOVE OF HERE.
THINK OF HIM STILL AS THE SAME I SAY,
HE IS NOT DEAD — HE IS JUST AWAY.*

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

Our late brother, Right Worshipful Allen Earl Roberts, lived a long and fruitful life in our midst as a man of faith and dedication to the highest ideals of life. He was a man devoted to his family, faithful to his friendships, true to his tasks, committed to his faith, and loyal to our beloved Freemasonry.

He was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on October 11, 1917 and made his home in Highland Springs, Virginia since 1946 following his discharge from the Navy. He was a former member of the administrative board to Highland Springs United Methodist Church and a Sunday school teacher.



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Brother Allen married the former Dorothy Marie Grimes and they have four sons, Allen E., R. Wayne, Kenneth D., and Brian K., and one daughter, Marcia Lynne Roberts Weber; five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Brother Roberts was a certified administrative manager, and owner of Imagination Unlimited, registered with the U.S. Patent Office, and Anchor Communications.

The life and outstanding service of Freemasonry of R. W. Allen E. Roberts are engraved on memory's table. He was called to the Celestial Lodge above on March 13, 1997 and his passing is a loss to Freemasonry both in Virginia and the Nation. His record in the fraternity will stand as a benchmark of excellence for generations to come.

He became a Mason on April 1, 1948 in Babcock Lodge No. 322, served as Worshipful Master in 1959 and elected an honorary member in 1986. He was named District Deputy Grand Master of District 15B in 1974 by M. W. Stewart Wilson Miner, and served with distinction as Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia from 1964 to 1970. He served as High Priest of Temple Royal Arch Chapter No. 32 in 1965, and District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 4th Capitular District 1966-1967. He was elected Charter Master of Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865 in 1995. Brother Roberts served as Master of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 in 1966-1967 and Lodge Secretary from 1968 to 1969, and again from 1973 to 1996. He was named a Fellow of the Lodge in 1990.

In 1988 M. W. Donald M. Robey presented Bro. Roberts with the coveted George Washington Distinguished Service Medal. He was National President of the Philaethes Society in 1984-1985, and was serving as Executive Secretary at the time of his death. In 1990-1991 he served as Sovereign Grand Master of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America and Grand Chancellor of the Grand College of Rites of the United States in 1978. He was a Past Sovereign Master of George Potts Council No. 73, Allied Degrees; Founder and President of the Virginia Craftsman; Fort

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Lee-Richmond Chapter No. 72, National Sojourners; Founder and First Grand Tall Cedar of Battlefield Forest No. 170 and a member of James Monroe Camp, Heroes of '76.

Allen was a founder of W. Lance Walker Chapter, Order of DeMolay; Honorary Legion of Honor from the Order of DeMolay; Founder and Secretary of the Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not (Masonic educators and writers); Deputy Grand Abbott of the Society of Blue Friars (Masonic authors); and the author of twenty-five (25) books and thirteen (13) motion pictures.

In 1994 the library and museum of the Grand Lodge of Virginia was renamed and dedicated as the Allen E. Roberts Masonic Library and Museum. On October 3, 1995 he was coronated a 33° Mason by the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite.

Few possessed the fervency and zeal of Rt. Wor. Allen E. Roberts in working for Freemasonry to which he gave so liberally of his time, talents, and leadership. His distinguished and exemplary life left footprints on the sands of time. Napoleon once wrote, "Great men are meteors designed to burn so that the Earth may be lighted." Allen Roberts was just such a man.

We express deepest sympathy to his wife, Dorothy, and members of the family, with the assurance that he now rests from his labor on Earth in the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. A Masonic giant has gone home.

To a beautiful garden this friend has gone.

To the land of perfect rest.

His work is done, and the setting sun

Has sealed his life's long quest.

He has left this Earthly garden

For a home beyond the sea.

Though he is gone, he still lives on

In the garden of memory.