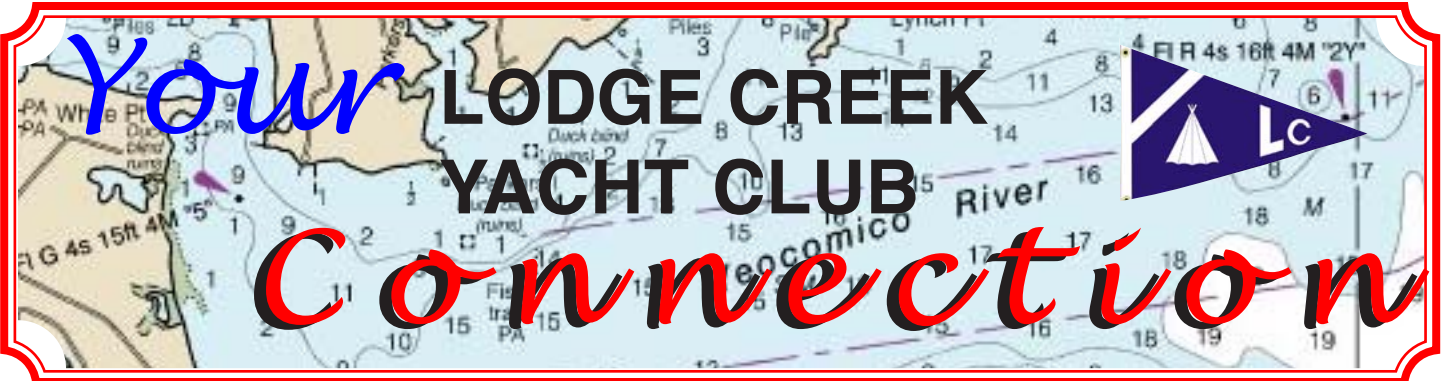


*Your* **LODGE CREEK  
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**FAREWELL FRED A. OLVERSON**  
April 14, 1936 – August 7, 2021  
**A CELEBRATION OF YOUR LIFE - LIVED “YOUR WAY”**



**W**ednesday August 12, 2021 brought a large contingent of Fred Olverson's family, loved ones, friends and members of the community to the Welch Funeral Home in Warsaw, VA for the final rights and ceremony and burial at the Memorial Gardens in Callao, VA.

Mr. David Teets officiated the service held in the Chapel of the funeral home, giving an uplifting eulogy outlining the impact that Fred had on many of those he came in contact with during his life.

The 8 members of the local Masonic Lodge which Fred was a member, presented the Masonic Funeral Rites for Fred and brought condolences to the family members present.

The contingent then motorcaded to the Memorial Gardens Cemetery for the Graveside service, which was officiated by Mr. Steve Thompson. Following the graveside service all in attendance were invited to a celebration of Fred Olverson's life at the Moose Lodge in Callao, VA.



For those unfamiliar with the Masonic Burial Rite, here is a brief outline of their service for their deceased members.

### **Order of the Masonic Funeral Service**

Mystery and speculation surround the understanding of the beliefs and practices of the Masonic Service Association of North America. Known as Freemasonry, the organization is the oldest fraternal group in the world. The core mission its members promotes brotherhood and their work forms a closely-knit family bound by traditions and rituals. The Masonic funeral offers an opportunity for Masons to honor the passing of a member.

The order of the Masonic funeral service is very structured. The Worshipful Master acts as the leader for the ceremony.

1. Introduction. The Worshipful Master discusses the tradition of offering a memorial for a deceased Brother. The proceeding is very direct and straight-forward.
2. Funeral Music. Solemn instrumental classical music is played to both set a tone and provide moments of personal reflection.
3. Sacred Roll. Like an obituary, the Sacred Roll gives the pertinent information about the deceased in relationship to their role in the Masonry. The person is mentioned as name, rank, member of (lodge's name and number), date of death and their age which is listed by years, months and days.
4. Prayers. Throughout the service, several moments give pause for a time of prayer. There are two prayers which are very focused. The prayer following the Sacred Roll is a lengthy prayer that serves as a tribute to the deceased and an encouragement to other Masons that life is short, that material pursuits are done in vain, and that the work done here on earth matters. Following the prayer, a chaplain is introduced. He continues the prayer and brings it to a close.
5. Music. Additional classical music provides a transition and a moment of reflection.
6. Prayer. This prayer addresses words of praise and comfort. There is attempt in these words to present a sense of closure to the mourning.
7. Visual Symbolism of the Apron. There are two dramatic visual symbols that are emphasized within the funeral. The first is the use of an apron. The apron is the uniform of the Mason, explaining his purpose and his mission of service. An apron is draped over the casket, much the same way a flag is placed for a veteran.
8. Visual Symbolism of the Acacia. The acacia is an evergreen, displaying a vision that eternal faith will never fade away.
9. Eulogy. The eulogy is very similar to those given in any other funeral setting. In fact, even in a Masonic funeral, anyone is allowed to deliver the eulogy. The Worshipful Master is always willing to deliver the eulogy should the family request it.
10. Condolences. After the eulogy, the Worshipful Master will offer formal condolences to the family and to those grieving.
11. Committal. Following the condolences, a special prayer of committal is given, committing the soul of the departed Brother to God. This prayer can be given during the ceremony or saved until the graveside.
12. Aaronic benediction. The service is brought to a close with the reciting of a set of Bible verses known as the Aaronic Benediction.

# MOVING ON - TO THE CELEBRATION OF FRED'S INCREDIBLE LIFE















# TELL US YOUR "FRED" STORY



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