

# **Grand Monarch**

## **Dr. David C. Blythe, Jr., DDS**

Summer Time Greetings and Salutations to all the Prophets and their Ladies in the Realm.....

Now that the weather is really getting midsummer hot, and the ice and snow have melted from all the places they're going to melt from, it's time again to meet and greet your newest Grand Monarch...me!

Little Davy was born David Crockett Blythe Jr to David Sr. of New Orleans and Sybil Campaigne of Spooner, WI on August 6, 1943. He is a direct descendant of Davy Crockett's father, through his older brother, William. William Crockett's daughter, Sarah, married a Blythe in Tennessee.

When WWII ended and David Sr. returned from the Pacific war, having served in the US Army Air Corps, Davy was living with his mother and grandparents in Minneapolis, MN, the city of his birth. The Blythe family then moved to New Orleans, where little Davy was educated, mostly in Catholic schools, and grew up. He attended St. Vincent's College, a Vincentian Seminary in Cape Girardeau MO for one year before continuing high school in New Orleans. He is the eldest of four boys.

Following high school, Davy (now not so little) enlisted in the US Air Force, serving at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson AZ as an E-3 Missile Maintenance Technician on the ICBM nuclear Missile, the Titan II.

After that came college at Southeastern Louisiana University and dental school at Loyola University of the South at New Orleans School of Dentistry. Another three years spent at Charity Hospital of Louisiana at New Orleans in the Oral Surgery Residency Program has qualified him to become a practicing Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon. He completed a Fellowship in Maxillofacial Trauma in the North Wales Hospital Group in the UK and moved to Houma with his British wife, Jennifer and new son, David III and has been in private practice since 1973 in Houma, LA. In the late 1970's he served as a Major in the Dental Corps of the US Army Reserve (O-4). He attained his Diplomate status in the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in 1985 He is a member of numerous professional Dental and Oral Surgical Societies. He and Jennifer will be celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this October. They have two children, David 42 and Amanda 39 and one granddaughter, Delilah 5.

During dental school, he worked part time as an autopsy assistant at the New Orleans Parish Coroner's office and continued his interest in forensic sciences by joining and attaining Fellowship status in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Odontology Section, and has served for many years as an Assistant Coroner in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

He is a member of Unity Lodge #267 in Houma, LA and is a founding member of Terrebonne Fellowship Lodge #481 and Ka Jon Grotto in Houma LA, serving as Monarch twice, in 1998 and 2008, and is a plural member of Farhad Grotto in Harahan, LA. He was elected as Grand Captain of the Guard in Hot Springs, AR in 2008 and is honored and humbled to serve the Grottoes of North America as its Grand Monarch for 2015-2016.

As this is being written, I have had the honor of doing something few living Grand Monarchs have been able to do--Institute and present a NEW Charter to a new Grotto. I'm honored to say that Zanzibar Grotto in Plymouth, Indiana is our newest Grotto, having gotten together about 30 Masons from northern Indiana to join in the fun and frivolity that is Grotto-ism. Welcome Zanzibar Grotto!!

With the able participation and assistance of Junior Past Grand Monarch Mitch Weinsting, Deputy Grand Monarch Mark McCombs, and Grand Chief Justice Mike Dempsey, Zanzibar Grotto was Instituted, its new members were initiated and obligated, the Monarch was presented with its new Charter, the Grotto was Constituted, and elected and appointed officers were installed--all in one night!!! Then we had some fun, which is the real point of being a Grotto Prophet.

This past weekend, my Lady Jenny and I flew from New Orleans to Portland, OR to attend and enjoy the company of the North West Grotto Association and to install their elected Officers for the ensuing year. It was well attended and included a train trip from Portland up to Mount Hood. Being a flatlander, I found the scenery spectacular!! Another rather rare thing happened – Gul Reazee Grotto in Portland celebrated it's ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY and was presented with a SPECIAL Enchanted Lantern Certificate in recognition of that event.

As I travel around the Realm, I will try to impress upon everyone I meet to get involved in the FUN portion of Masonry, namely Grotto. Unlike some appendant bodies, our families are totally and fully welcome to join us in all we do, except tiled meetings. So get thee to your Grotto and have some fun!