Humboldt Lodge No. 79 – March 2025

Brethren,

Masonic Development, Fellowship, & Charity. It's what we do.

Our stated meeting on Feb 6th was quite busy. Masonic Development is going well, as we balloted favorably on Mr John Vance & on Mr Travis McBroom. Their initiations are scheduled for March. We know fellowship is strong when we see our brothers choose to spend Super Bowl Sunday together. We were delighted to spend time dining with our ladies at the Sweethearts Night at the Sea Grill. At February's stated meeting we heard from our Inspector representing Most Worshipful Salazar who invites us to celebrate our commitment to charity by participating in a statewide day of service March 17th followed by a Grand Lodge Festive Board on the 19th. Housekeeping – check.

Have you ever wondered what 'Our Ancient Landmarks you are carefully to preserve' means? I did a bit of poking around, and as with our craft there is a literal (operative) and a metaphorical (speculative) meaning. Reference to 'landmarks' goes back to Old Testament bible and refers to what today we would call surveyors' markings. In a modern context, the landmarks can be interpreted as a warning against disregarding the boundaries set by previous generations. In 1856, Bro. Albert Mackey wrote what he believed were 25 Ancient Landmarks. My favorite is 22, restated thus:

Equality of The all Masons is another Land-mark of the Order. This equality has no reference to anv those gradations of rank which of subversion have been instituted the usages of society. The monarch, the by entitled the nobleman the gentleman is to all or

influence. and receives all the respect which rightly his exalted position. But belona to the doctrine of implies that, as children Masonic equality of one we meet in the Lodge upon the level -Father, great that level we are all traveling to that on one predestined goal — that in the Lodge genuine merit shall receive more respect than boundless wealth, and knowledge alone virtue and should be the basis that of all Masonic honors, and be rewarded with preferment. labors of the Lodge When the are over, and the have retired from their peaceful retreat, brethren to mingle once more with the world, each will then again that social position, exercise resume and the of that rank, to which the customs privileges of society entitle him.

In the last century, several American Grand Lodges attempted to enumerate the landmarks, ranging from West Virginia (7) and New Jersey (10) to Nevada (39) and Kentucky (54). While brothers may disagree on the speculative meaning of Landmarks I contend, nevertheless, that reading them and contemplating them ourselves is a worthwhile reflection. For those reading this on the website, here is a link to <u>Mackey's Landmarks</u>.

Davin Bowerman,

2025 Worshipful Master, Humboldt 79