



R. Harry Muellich

GRAND MASTER

1977-78

GRAND LODGE OF IOWA, A.F. & A.M.

Born

October 24, 1924

Iowa City, Iowa

Died

July 30, 1983

Dubuque, Iowa

Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

CARLISLE, IOWA

To the Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the several Subordinate Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, and to all Grand Lodges with which we are in Fraternal Correspondence

Greeting

A man is as great as the dreams he dreams
As great as the love he bears,
As great as the values he redeems
And the happiness he shares.
A man is as great as the thoughts he thinks,
As the worth he has attained,
As the fountains at which his spirit drinks
And the insights he has gained.
A man is as great as the truth he speaks,
As great as the help he gives,
As great as the destiny he seeks
As great as the life he lives.

The word "great" is a very powerful adjective — one that should not be used at random or without due consideration. While the subject of this memorial did not have the outward appearance of a "great man" (as many might envision a "great man" to be), we have no hesitation in using the above verse to describe R. Harry Muellich. Each line in that verse is a perfect reflection of Brother Muellich and, when combined, the lines form a fitting benediction to his life.

All of Iowa Masonry was shocked by the very sudden and unexpected death of R. Harry Muellich on Saturday morning, July 30, 1983. He had suffered a mild stroke the previous Monday and his condition became complicated on Wednesday evening.

Brother Muellich was born on October 24, 1924 in Iowa City. When still an infant, his family moved to Dubuque. With the exception of three years in the Service of his Country during World War II, he spent his entire lifetime in that City.

He was educated in the Dubuque public schools and was a 1942 graduate of Dubuque High School.

On April 24, 1947, he and Betty Sinhold were united in marriage. The Muellich's had two daughters, Ruth Ann Caitham of Vallejo, California; and Cathy Van Cleve of Crystal Lake, Illinois. The girls have blessed the Muellich's with six grandchildren. Add to that number the 22 foster children whose lives were molded by Harry and Betty Muellich, and you have still another mark of his greatness.

Brother Muellich was the owner of Muellich's Auto Imports -- a service station, garage, and used import auto business. He thoroughly enjoyed rebuilding Porsche automobiles, and Betty shared his love of showing these works of art. One of his cars won first place in a national show sanctioned by the Porsche Club of America.

Harry served on an advisory committee of Project Concern and was a member and past officer of the Dubuque County Historical Society. The Muellich's were both extremely active in the Third Presbyterian Church, Harry having served as a Church Trustee, Church Treasurer, Treasurer of the Building Fund, and Chairman of the Sanctuary Building Committee. In 1958, he was ordained a Ruling Elder. In 1983, he was the Chairman of the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

Brother Muellich received his degrees in Mosaic Lodge No. 125, being raised on April 10, 1954, and served as Worshipful Master in 1961. The following year, he was elected Secretary of Mosaic Lodge and he held that office until 1979. He was also a Charter Member (dual) of Tri-State Morning Lodge No. 673.

He was a member of the Dubuque York Rite bodies; the Clinton Consistory, A.A.S.R.; Kaaba Shrine; Oxus Grotto; Eastern Star; and High Twelve. He was also a member of the Red Cross of Constantine (St. Bartholomew Conclave) and holder of the Honorary Legion of Honor (D. Molay).

In 1963, Brother Muellich was appointed Junior Grand Steward. In 1967-68, he was on the Grand Lodge Recognition Committee. He was called on to wear the purple of the Fraternity a second time with his 1969 election as Junior Grand Warden. He was a valued member and Chairman of the Lodges Chartered and Under Dispensation Committee from 1971 through 1973. In 1973-74, he sat at the right hand of Grand Master Joseph Z. Marks as Deputy Grand Master. Three years on the Long-Range Planning Committee (1975-77), coupled with the Chairmanship of the Division and Reference Committee (1976-77), prepared him for the Office of Grand Master of Masons in Iowa (1977-78), an office he served with dignity and pride. He returned to the Lodge

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Service Committee for two years (1978-80) and was serving his second year as a Trustee of the Grand Charity Funds at the time of his death.

He held District Lecturer Certificate No. 2413 and was one of the most sought-after Masonic speakers in Iowa.

The words chosen to close this tribute, written by still another who served in the Grand East, are a perfect reflection of the life of Brother R. Harry Muellich:

"...If you heed the lessons so earnestly recommended in Masonry, if you spread all through your life the cement of brotherly love and affection, if you serve your fellow man, the trowel in your hand will be the real emblem of the master and the fabric of your life, your spiritual temple, will rise, stately, magnificent, inspiring, a joy to the beholder, a serene satisfaction to yourself and acceptable in the sight of the Great Architect of the Universe."

As a mark of respect to our departed brother, I hereby order this memorial read in each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction at the first Stated Communication after receiving the same, and that the Charter or Great Lights be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge of Iowa to be affixed on this 10th day of August, A.D. 1983 - A.L. 5983.

Arnold F. Marks
Grand Master of Masons in Iowa



Attest:

Tom Eggleston
Grand Secretary

(I am indebted to Grand Secretary Tom Eggleston, who, at my request, composed this tribute to our brother, R. Harry Muellich, P.G.M.)