

# The J. Ned Culler Award for Masonic Excellence



## The award.

The J. Ned Culler Award for Masonic Excellence may be awarded to a member of Tuckahoe Lodge who has attained a high degree of excellence in our ritual, Masonic Education, or service to this Lodge, and has dedicated his Masonic life to the betterment of the Lodge and brother Masons through education, research, demonstrated mentoring, and furthering of the lofty goals of our Ancient and Gentle Craft.

## To honor the legacy of a dedicated Mason.



In every generation there appear among us giants among men who shape and alter the world around them in a highly positive way. We at Tuckahoe Lodge believe J. Ned Culler was one of those giants. He helped and nurtured Masons who firmly believe in the value of Masonic Education and the effect that Masonic Education has on leadership. Brother Ned's life was centered on the precepts so eloquently put forth in our Masonic ritual.

Right Worshipful James Ned Culler, a dedicated 40 year member of Tuckahoe Lodge, passed away on May 2, 2010 after a brief illness. Brother Ned and members of the Lodge celebrated his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in January of that year when he read a poem that he penned. Until a month before his passing Ned was working with newly raised Masons on their ritual proficiency.

James Ned Culler lived out this creed with the utmost humility and distinction. He brought to light the essence of Freemasonry and led many of the Craft's leaders to be involved in "higher thoughts and greater achievements." He stood as a beacon of light for Masonic Education throughout his 40 year Masonic journey. He firmly believed in performing excellent ritual work and, just as importantly, living the meaning of the ritual in his daily life.

Ned was an extraordinary person, he was a man who loved and valued his family, was highly respected, and was the picture of what a Mason should be. He was generous in many ways... with his time, his resources, and something we all probably miss the most, his spirit.

Despite all of this, Ned was indeed a very humble person. His very presence was such a strong part of this Lodge. He was a mentor, and without question, he was a true friend. Whether you knew Ned casually or very well, you knew that he was a good, decent man, someone who exemplified what it meant to be a Mason, and like all of us who call ourselves Masons, he was a good man trying to become a better man.

His work and efforts on behalf of our gentle Craft were tireless. He became a Mason somewhat late in his life, when he was about 58 years old. However, he quickly learned the ritual that many of us committed to memory in our younger days, and entered the line of officers in Tuckahoe. He served as Worshipful Master in 1976, District Deputy Grand Master for district 15-C in 1978, served 10 years as Secretary of our Lodge, was elected to honorary membership in 1998 and coroneted a 33°, IGH in the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies.

Ned had a way with the oral delivery of some of the best esoteric parts of our ritual presentations. Ned's approach to presenting the memory work of Masonry was to make it a conversation from his heart. His delivery was so much more than just repeating the words we all learned, for when Ned spoke those words, you felt the meaning....you knew it was from his heart, it was a conversation with a good friend who was telling you something important. The truth is, his impact on this Lodge and on all of us may never be fully measured.

Because of all that Ned meant to us, individually and as a band of brothers, the officers and members of the Lodge have created this award of recognition to honor Ned's legacy. On special occasions this award will be presented to a very deserving Mason who through his hard work for Craft Masonry, his friendship and brotherly love, best represents all that J. Ned Culler stood for. In following Ned's example, the award will be presented not only to a brother who seeks light in Masonry but to those who shine the light along the path for another Brother, helping him to be a better Mason and helping our Craft to be stronger.

### **Ned Culler Award recipients.**

#### **2013 Recipient:**



**Wor. Douglas M. Messimer (r) receiving the 2013 J. Ned Culler award from Rt. Wor. Jack Cooke.**

**2012 Recipient:**



**Rt. Wor. Robert C. Eades, Sr. (l) receiving the 2012 J. Ned Culler award from Rt. Wor. Jack Cooke.**

**2011 Recipient:**



**Rt. Wor. Robert W. Carpenter, Jr. (r) accepts the 2011 J. Ned Culler Award from Wor. Gray W. Bradford, Worshipful Master**