

2014 J. Ned Culler Award

Searching for light in Masonry is personal quest to become more knowledgeable about the Craft, our world, and our inner self. The J. Ned Culler Award is given to a Brother who has attained a high degree of excellence in our ritual, Masonic Education, service to his Lodge, and has dedicated his Masonic life to the betterment of the Lodge and brother Masons through education, demonstrated mentoring, and furthering of the lofty goals of our Ancient Craft.

In every generation there appear among us giants among men who shape and alter the world around us in a highly positive way. We at Tuckahoe Lodge believe J. Ned Culler was one of those men. 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.

Rt. Wor. 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 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.

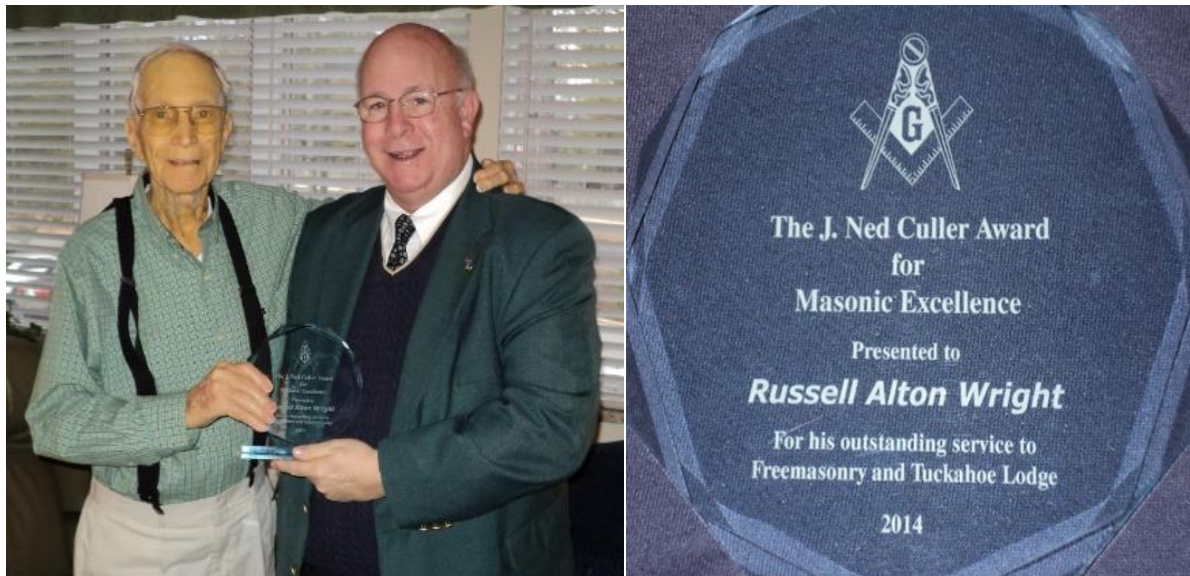
Because of all that Ned meant to us, individually and as a band of brothers, the officers and members of the Lodge have created this award of recognition to honor Ned's legacy. On this occasion this high honor is presented to a very deserving Mason who through his hard work for Craft Masonry, his friendship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

Today we are honored and proud to present the J. Ned Culler Award to a member of Tuckahoe Lodge who served as an example and lesson to each of us. Throughout his life,

Wor. Russell Alton Wright

chose to strive for those attributes in his family life, professional career as a lawyer, in community and Masonic activities, while holding steadfastly to his Christian principles. Our friend and brother practiced in his chosen profession for nearly half a century, and encouraged many young people and associates to 'be the best they could be'.

Brother Al is a 54 year member of the Craft. He served as Worshipful Master of our Lodge, served as a mentor and coach to numerous brethren, taught the catechism of the degrees to various candidates, the most recent candidate is his own grandson. Brother Al served as Chaplain for many years is proficient in the Entered Apprentice lecture and provides leadership in conducting Masonic funerals. He is active as a 33° Scottish Rite Mason and is a member of the ACCA Shrine ceremonial cast. He is always ready to extend a helping hand to others within his community, church, and Masonic family. Brother Al exemplifies the life we should all attempt to emulate, and we are sure Ned would be pleased to see this name added to the list of recipients of this award.



Wor. Al Wright (l) accepting the Culler Award from Rt. Wor. Bill Roper, III



Present for the ceremony at Wor. Wright's home on January 18th were previous Culler Award honorees (l-r) Rt. Wor. Bob Carpenter (2011) Wor. Doug Messimer (2013) Wor. Al Wright, our 2014 recipient, and Rt. Wor. Rob Eades (2012). Also present for the occasion were Wor. Wright's family and several Brethren of the Lodge and their family members.