

2015 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 that are 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. 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 exemplifies 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 has served as a fine example and lesson to each of us. Throughout his life, our Brother,

Rt. Wor. Clarence Edward Whitley

chose to strive for those attributes in his family life, his professional career, in his community and Masonic activities, while being strictly loyal to his own Christian principles.

Brother Whitley is a 50 year member of the Craft. He served as Worshipful Master of our Lodge in 1979, as DDGM in 1986, and was elected to Honorary Member status in 1995. Bro. 'Whit' served as a mentor and coach to numerous brethren, and taught the catechism of the degrees to various candidates. We were fortunate to have him keep us well fed at our meetings as he served as 'Master Chef' of Tuckahoe Lodge for over 20 years. He invested his time and efforts for our youth by serving as 'Associate Guardian' of Jobs Daughter's, Bethel 41. He has served in many capacities with the Scottish Rite Valley of Richmond, received the rank and decoration of KCCH in 1991, and was coroneted a 33rd degree Inspector General Honorary in 1997. He served in the ACCA Shrine in the 'Clown Unit' and was president of the Past Master's Club. He was accorded the 'Legion of Honor', the highest honor that can be bestowed on anyone by the International Order of DeMolay.

In addition to the long list of Masonic activities, Bro. Clarence has been at the forefront of leadership in his local community, including serving as an “Elder” of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Past Commander of American Legion Post 84, member of the Henrico County Election Board, and as a President of Richmond Host Lions Club. Bro. Whit is a proud veteran of military service in the United States Navy, from 1944 to 1947. He has been married for 63 years to Mary, who has supported his Masonic and community activities.

An outstanding characteristic of Bro. Clarence is the friendliness that he extends to those he meets in the community, church, and Masonic activities. He exemplifies the life we should all attempt to emulate. We are honored to add the name of Rt. Wor. Clarence Edward Whitley to the list those who have received Tuckahoe’s coveted J. Ned Culler Award for Masonic Excellence.



Rt. Wor. Clarence Edward Whitley(c) receives the 2015 J. Ned Culler Award from Rt. Wor. Robert W. Carpenter. Assisting with the presentation are Rt.Wor. Jack Cooke, and Rt. Wor. William Y. Roper, III.

