

THE J. NED CULLER AWARD FOR MASONIC EXCELLENCE



Freemasonry, at its heart, is an educational institution. Upon his Raising, every Freemason begins a search for light that takes his entire lifetime and beyond to find. Searching for light means a quest to become more knowledgeable about the Craft, our world, and our inner self. The search means we must be involved in education. The J. Ned Culler Award is given to a Brother who has attained a high degree of excellence in our ritual, Masonic Education, or service to his 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 Craft.

In every generation, there appear among us giants among men who shape and alter the world around them in a highly positive way. 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 once said that “leadership is education and education is leadership.” Brother Ned’s life was centered on the precepts so eloquently put forth in our Ritual. He firmly believed in performing excellent ritual work and living out the meaning of the Ritual in his daily life.

James Ned Culler lived out this creed with the utmost humility and distinction. He brought to light the essence of Freemasonry and has 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. It is a good and proper thing we do to pay homage to this outstanding man and Mason.

Award Criteria

- The nominator may be from a Lodge other than Tuckahoe.
- The *nominee* must have been a member of Tuckahoe Lodge, in good standing, for a minimum of 10 years - no exceptions.
- The *nominee* must have lead, actively participated in, or demonstrated skill in two or more of the following areas:
 - Lodge Masonic Education Program.
 - Grand Lodge Leadership Correspondence Courses.
 - Mentoring one or more Brothers in the catechism of the degrees.
 - Leadership role in and support of Lodge activities and events.
 - Knowledge and presentation of our ritual.

The Nomination

A 2-part application form:

Part I consists of a brief biographical sketch of the nominee.

Part II provides a description of why the Brother is deserving of this award.

Selection Process

- Nominations must be forwarded to the Worshipful Master, to then be considered by the Award Review Committee.
- The Award Review Committee will consist of the current Worshipful Master, one Warden, one Past Master, and one master Mason.
- In the event that more than one nomination is submitted and the committee is tied in their decision, the Master shall have one additional vote.
- The award may be presented at a Stated Communication of Tuckahoe Lodge, or at a public event if so desired by the Worshipful Master or his designee.
- The J. Ned Culler Award may be awarded to only one Brother during a Masonic year.
- It is not to be awarded if there is no qualified candidate presented for consideration.

Award Design

The award presented to the recipient shall be of a unique glass, acrylic, or crystal type, similar to the examples below. A separate plaque, of appropriate design, shall be prepared noting all of the award recipients for display in the Lodge.



And, engraved with an appropriate legend similar to that shown below:



The J. Ned Culler Award
for
Masonic Excellence
Presented to
Name
For his outstanding service to Freemasonry
and Tuckahoe Lodge
Date

[Nomination Forms](#)

**TUCKAHOE LODGE NO. 347
J. NED CULLER AWARD
FOR
MASONIC EXCELLENCE
PART I**

Nominee's Name: _____ Phone #: () _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lodge: _____ District: _____

E-Mail: _____

TUCKAHOE LODGE NO. 347

J. NED CULLER AWARD

FOR

MASONIC EXCELLENCE

Part II –

Write a description of why this Brother is deserving of the J. Ned Culler Award. In each area, focus should be on accomplishments in Masonic Education, Leadership Skills, living out the Ritual in his daily life; also, how he influenced and guided others in his Masonic journey.

Include any information you feel is pertinent.

This description is very important in that it will form the basis of the final consideration and selection.

Print name of person completing this form: _____

Phone #: (____)_____ Member of Lodge # _____ District _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Presentation of the Award

Right Worshipful James Ned Culler, a dedicated 40 year member of Tuckahoe Lodge, passed away on May 2nd 2010 after a brief illness. Brother Ned and members of the Lodge celebrated his 98th birthday in January of that year when he read a poem he penned.... actually it seemed as though Ned was always working on a new poem, and he would share them with us individually, and at our meetings. We are justly proud of his talents and have created a special page on the Tuckahoe website with samples of his creative 'wordsmith' abilities. We invite you to visit and read some of Brother Ned's musings.

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. I am not sure Ned ever fully realized how much his friendship was valued and just how widely respected he was in the Masonic community. Like all of you, I have known many people in my lifetime and I don't think I have ever known anyone who touched his fellow man in such a warm and genuine way. Despite all of this, Ned was indeed a very humble person.

Since his passing, it seems like that almost every time members of Tuckahoe gather; Ned's name comes up in our conversations. It's hard to put into words just how missed he really is. 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 late in life, when he was about 58 years old. 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 was widely known and honored for his Masonic poetry, and his meaningful presentation of degree ritual and the several Masonic lectures. Up until a month or so before he passed on, Ned was reciting Masonic ritual with the members and candidates, always sharing the ritual from the pages of his amazing memory.

Ned had a way with the delivery of some of the best esoteric parts of Masonry. Most Mason's have taken part in the memorization of a portion of one or more of the degrees, or a lecture to a new candidate. 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 an 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 his Brother, helping him to be a better Mason and helping our Craft to be stronger.

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