



LAFAYETTE LODGE NO. 27 F. & A. M.
1550 IRVING STREET, RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY 07065

MASONIC MOMENTS

A Lafayette Lodge No. 27 Periodical
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Lodge Historian: RW Arjit “Artie” Mahal

Grand Reception of RW Arjit Mahal, Grand Chaplain

By RW Arjit Mahal, Grand Chaplain

On Tuesday, January 7th, 2020, an open Reception, presided by the Grand Master and his staff, in honor of 2019 Grand Officers of 6th, 8th and 10th Masonic Districts was held at Mayfair Farms, West Orange, New Jersey. It was attended by about 345 masons and their guests. From the 10th District, two of our Lafayette Lodge members were honored: RW Michael Holt, Grand Orator; and RW Arjit Mahal, Grand Chaplain. This issue is dedicated to RW Arjit Mahal.

Note: The speeches of the presenter and the honoree are included in this periodical. Except for minor cosmetic edits, these speeches are not edited for grammar, or sentence structure, since these were written by the speakers--as their own talking points.



Most Worshipful Gregory J. Scott
Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey



Honorees RW Mahal (4th from left) and RW Holt (far right)



Presenter's Speech: WB Gene Fucetola, Past Master Lodge #25

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Elected Line, District Deputy Grand Masters, RW Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, Brethren All, Family and Friends of Freemasonry.
Good Evening.

It is a privilege and honor for me to be here this evening to introduce my dear friend and brother, RW Arjit Mahal. When I think of how we can measure man's character, particularly the character of a brother Mason, there are three qualities which come to mind: Morality, Charity, and Integrity.

His Morality is his sense of right and wrong, in essence, his ethical character and compass. In the almost 40 years that I know Brother Artie, both personally, professionally, and as a Mason, I have seen him face numerous challenges and decisions and he has always chosen to do what is right, even if it wasn't popular, based on a strong set of moral and ethical principles.

Charity is what he does for others, whether or not there is any expected return from his investment. Over the years, I have seen my friend and brother put in countless hours for the betterment of others, working with charitable organizations, on state government committees, and for the benefit of the Craft.

Integrity is saying what you will do with honesty and trustworthiness, and then doing what you said you would do. Having spent almost 40 years with Brother Artie, I can fully attest to his integrity as a man, a friend

and colleague, and most of all as a Mason. Over the years I have seen Artie demonstrate his integrity and he can always be counted on to do what he commits.

In summary, RW Brother Artie is a man of high moral character, unselfish charity, exceptional integrity, and a credit to the Craft. You can see his Masonic journey listed on the program, so I won't go into those details. Rather, I now take great pride and pleasure in presenting to you our friend and brother, Right Worshipful Arjit Mahal, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, 2019-2020.

Honoree's Speech: RW Arjit Mahal, Grand Chaplain

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Elected Line, District Deputy Grand Masters, RW Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, Brethren All, Family and Friends of Freemasonry.

Good Evening

In 1968, over 50 years ago, In New Delhi, India, when my father RW Piara Singh Mahal, Past Regional Grand Master in the Grand Lodge of India, had initiated me in my Mother Lodge Formanite No 155., I could not have imagined that, half a century later I will be standing here in the company of distinguished masons, receiving such a great honor. **I am truly humbled.**

First, I thank the reception committee, for organizing this special event to create memorable experience for us. I am indebted to Worshipful Brother Gene Fucetola, for his kind words of introduction. Some 40 years ago, as I walked in to start my new job at Mars, Incorporated, I met Brother Gene, who made my transition there very welcome—especially when we came to know that our bond was ancient and noble--
-- The bond of Masonry. It can only be felt in this craft. **Thanks Brother Gene.**

When I was ready to embark on my journey to America, my father had told me “son, if you ever have any need anywhere in the world...just go to a masonic lodge and ask for help...”. Walking on a street one day in New Brunswick I saw a masonic lodge and decided to attend a meeting. In the process of validating my credentials, the brethren found me to be failing—I did not remember one password—as I was still new to masonry. The lodge happened to have a member from Burma--of Indian background. He was a refugee of the military coup; his family was still trying to get out of Burma. He took me in a side room and by asking questions in my own language he was convinced that I was qualified. He vouched for me and I was able to attend some meetings there.

One day, I received a call from the lodge's worshipful master informing me that this brother had unexpectedly passed away. When I attended his funeral, I found that since this brother did not have resources; his entire cost of funeral was paid for by the lodge. And a photographer was hired to take pictures to send to his wife and two daughters in Burma.

This was my first time to experience what masonic precepts of **brotherly love, relief and truth really mean--in practice. My first masonic step in America.**

Freemasonry is a family – and engagement in this craft is a masonic journey. In this journey many a brother, and well-wishers, both, in India and USA had helped me--in every step of the way: they guided me, coached me, and assisted me. To name a few, notwithstanding my gratitude to those who have passed on to the eternal grand lodge, I thank those who mentored me in the recent past: RW John Bergacs, RW Charles Kurowsky, RW C John Lashley, and RW Michael Holt, our Grand Orator.

Last but not least: For every mason to be successful, there has to be a life-partner who may unconditionally support the brother and the craft--in the background—in their own way. I want to acknowledge, and thank my, first lady, my wife of 48 years, Millie Mahal—for her contributions and support. First 25 years in this masonic journey, I was focused on the ritual and protocols; but the next 25, have been in exploring the deeper and spiritual meaning hidden in the recesses of our tools.

The journey continues. Thank you.

Masonic Resume

R.W. Arjit Mahal, Grand Chaplain - Lafayette Lodge No. 27

Raised May 29, 1968, Formanite Lodge No. 155, Grand Lodge of India
Worshipful Master 1980, Lafayette Lodge No. 27
Past Regional Grand Steward, Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India
Governor, General Williams Masonic Polyclinic, New Delhi, India
Lafayette Lodge Historian; publisher of Masonic Moments periodical (2019)

Memberships & Affiliations

Grand Lodge Education Committee (2017)
Lodge Continued Excellence Committee (2017)
Masonic Branding Workshop Facilitator (2017)
North-East Masons Workshop Facilitator (2018)
Masonic Sustainability Framework Consultant/Facilitator (2019)
Masonic Mentorship Class Consultant/Trainer (2019)
North American Masonic Renewal Committee Presenter, in
Washington DC (2019)
Grand Lodge Certificate of Appreciation (2018)
Recipient of 50 Years Masonic Service Award, Grand Lodges of New Jersey and India (2018)
Recipient of Meritorious Service Award (MSA) Grand Lodge of New Jersey (2020)



Millie Mahal and Arjit Mahal

Historian's Note: To enrich this Periodical, the Lodge would like to have brethren contribute their Freemasonry related history, experiences and stories. Contact RW Arjit "Artie" Mahal. Mahalzen@gmail.com, Tel 908-824-2862; or the Worshipful Master, RW Michael Holt; and/or WB Bryan S. Passione bsp@lafayette27.org.