



**FIRST MEETING:**

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 576-6729

Reservations: (510) 576-6729

**Oakland Lodge #61, F.&A.M.**

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

[www.oakland61.org](http://www.oakland61.org)

**ORIGINAL CHARTER**

**SIGNED:** May 4, 1855

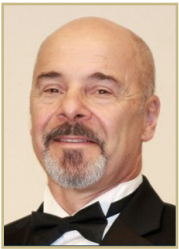
Secretary: (415) 425-2661

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**September 2026**

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**VIEW FROM THE EAST:**



Hello everybody,

I hope everyone's doing good and enjoying the weather. I would like to start off by giving credit to all the Brother's involved in the planning and work on our second and third floor of the lodge. Also, I want thank the brothers who show up week after week to do whatever is asked of them to help get the lodge ready for future meetings, etc. Their efforts also included countless phone calls and the many trips to lodge to take care of all the little details. Thank goodness we have such wonderful and talented brothers.

Our calendar is filled with many significant events. They include things like Founders Day dinner in Walnut Creek, the Hiram award for Brother Amir, the 100th Orinda visitation and a couple more Entered Apprentice Degrees. One being at Mission Lodge in San Francisco.

There is a lot more on the agenda. Please keep up with the Trestleboard and Constant Contacts. Finally, please make your reservations early for all these events.

Please be safe and hope to see you at lodge,

**Dana Janke, PM & HA**

**Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

What a busy and spectacular August it has been! Between our stated meetings, degrees, and the well-deserved Hiram Award. This Lodge has been buzzing. Not only have we been doing this ritual work in the lodge room. The officers and members have been putting in extra time and effort into making it happen with all the upgrades that the hall has been making to our amazing building. Thank you to everyone who showed up, lent a hand, and helped make it an incredible month.

September is shaping up to bring more of the same energy, and I'm excited to share what's on the calendar. We have the privilege of welcoming two new Brothers into Masonry this September. We'll confer a First Degree right here at our own Lodge on Sept 10th. We are also excited for a special night in San Francisco to visit Mission Lodge, where our own degree team will have the honor of performing another First Degree. This is a wonderful opportunity to represent Oakland #61 outside our walls, strengthen the bonds between our Lodges, and show our brothers in the City what our ritual work looks like. I hope as many of you as possible will join us for these degrees.

All the best,

**James McVey**  
**Senior Warden**

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren, hope all is well with each and every one of you,

As we depart the third quarter of our Masonic calendar, it has been a good year so far. We still have a few more degrees and events and meals to satisfy everyone's attention. Congratulations to our newly obligated brother Kaue Cavassani and our newly raised Master Mason Samson Wong. A wonderful degree was executed by The Chinese Acacia Club with the Grandmaster of Masons in California, Most Worshipful Garrett Chan, part of the degree.

The stated meeting meal for September will be Chicken breast sliced over noodle with Alfredo sauce, broccoli, Caesar salad and cheesecake for dessert. October will consist of stuffed pork chops, white rice, green beans and a green salad with pumpkin pie for dessert

As always, please RSVP for all lodge meals, thank you.

Fraternally,

**Luzon Byrd**  
**Junior Warden**

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

*"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness"*

*Bro. Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens)*



How many of us have visited another lodge? I was in Europe for summer vacation and found a lodge in Prague, Hiram #12, an international English-speaking lodge. There is something special about walking through the doors of a Lodge you have never visited before.

Customs and ritual may vary, officers may perform their work differently and everyone can be a stranger. When handshakes are made, introductions and conversation taken place, strangers become Brothers. The great privilege of being a Mason is to travel.

Throughout the middle and late medieval period operative craftsmen working on stone buildings journeyed from place to place in search of work, carrying knowledge and skills with them. For us as speculative Masons, traveling grants that experience which is also a privilege.

Oakland No. 61 is a welcoming lodge, it is comfortable; we sit in our usual seats at dinner and within the lodge room. We know the ritual work and even which Brother will tell the same story he told last month. We are at ease with that familiarity. But what value is there occasionally stepping beyond our comfort zone?

Visiting another Lodge provides us with an opportunity to look at Masonry from another angle, ritual that inspires us, traditions we have never encountered or perhaps we find something to strengthen our Lodge. Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion, importantly, traveling introduces us to Brothers we otherwise might never have known. We may arrive at the Lodge as a visitor but depart having made new friends.

When we travel, we have an opportunity to observe what others do well. When we return home, we can share what we have learned. This strengthens not only the Mason who travels but also the Lodge to which he returns.

Consider making a journey, visit a neighboring Lodge or show up to a degree you would not normally attend and introduce yourself to a Brother you have never met. Oakland No. 61 will be visiting one of our founding Lodges, Mission Lodge No. 169, in September, come along and join us, you may enter as a visitor with a good chance you will leave as a friend—and maybe a better Mason than when you arrived.

Safe travels, Brothers.

*Thank you for your support as your secretary, my door is always open.*

**David Forsyth, PM  
Secretary**

## ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

We have had a lot of activity around the building. All projects are being completed getting our building ready for it's 100th birthday. Our building is mechanically sound, and the interior is being upgraded. There are still some items on the Reserve List that will be dealt in the coming years.

We would like to thank the Brothers of the Lodge allowing us to make the changes and make the building sound for the future.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

**Brother Phil Williams**  
**Board President**

### ***Discovering Masonic Secrets***

Join us on the second and fourth Monday of each month for an illuminating deep dive into *Discovering Masonic Secrets* — an evening dedicated to exploring the rich tapestry of Masonic tradition, symbolism, and modern practice. This session will feature **guest speakers** sharing unique insights, **esoteric investigations** into hidden meanings, and an in-depth look at **tracing boards** and their deeper significance. Engage in **thought-provoking discussions and respectful debates**, explore **interesting articles** that challenge and expand your understanding, and examine the role of **modern Masonry** in today's world. We'll also cover the essentials of **Masonic etiquette**, ensuring every Brother is equipped to navigate the Craft with confidence and decorum. Whether you're a seasoned Mason or newly initiated, this gathering promises to be both enlightening and engaging.

Curious minds and open hearts welcome.

**Kirby Kinkad**  
**Lead Explorer**

## Announcements

**We will celebrate our 100th exchange visit with Orinda #122 on September 24th.** It will be a festive board with dinner and toasts beginning at 6:00 pm. Dress will be tuxedo or coat & tie. Orinda will be sending us a formal invitations after September 1st.



**Tired of a different QR Code for each event?** If you are, the QR Code will link to all events for which we are selling tickets or RSVPing. **See the attached QR Code.**

**LYFT Concierge:** We know that for some, getting to a Lodge event can be challenging. Members with transportation limitations are able to utilize our complimentary Lyft Concierge program to get picked up from your home, or wherever you may be before the lodge event and dropped off after the event. If you want to use this option, contact W. Tyrone Davis (341) 235-0271 to set up your ride.

### **iMember 2.0**

1. Go to [https://member.freemason.org/membership\\_registration](https://member.freemason.org/membership_registration) (there is an underscore between "membership" and "registration.")
2. Fill in the information: a) Lodge #, b) Member ID which is on both your dues card and the mailing label of you your California Freemason Magazine c) Your last name. Then click "Check Member Status."
3. Enter your "E-mail address, password (at least 8 characters long), and re-enter your password on "Password Confirmation," then click "Sign-in."

**2026 Dues:** If you haven't paid for 2026, you are delinquent. Please submit them ASAP or contact W. David Forsyth or Bro. Allen Rodda.

**Event pictures:** See elsewhere in this issue.

## **Sunshine Report**

- Bro. Phil Williams recent need for kidney treatment apparently stems from delayed pneumonia treatment. Anyhow, the docs finally have the right antibiotics and Phil is doing better.
- On the subject of medical treatment, I went under two spine surgeries in July and then spent a week in a rehabilitation facility. I've been home since July 28th and am receiving both home occupational and regular physical therapy. I'm doing well but in a brace and need a walker. I can't bend, twist or lift more than 5lbs until at least the first of September. Therefore, I will be doing my lodge work from home.
- The following news reached me since my hospitalization:
  - Bros. Saiid Mohamed and Uziel Reyes were reinstated.
  - The Chinese Acacia Club will perform Bro. Samson Wong's Master Mason Degree at our lodge on Thursday, August 20th.

*\* If any brother knows of another brother or a sweetheart whose status should be included here, please contact me at either 707-592-7217 or jr1943@pacbell.net*

### **Dues Payment Information**

Dues 2026 remain at \$131 per year. **We urge you to registrar for *iMember 2.0* and pay your dues online.**

Please note, there is a small service fee. Once Grand Lodge records your payment, you can print your dues card from your online portal at [member.freemason.org](http://member.freemason.org).

As always, if you are unable to pay your dues because of financial hardship and/or serious health issues, please contact the Secretary or Assistant Secretary at [secretary@oakland61.org](mailto:secretary@oakland61.org) & [assistant.secretary@oakland61.org](mailto:assistant.secretary@oakland61.org)

### **Life Members**

2026 Dues Cards are now available. That said, if you are unable to print your card from your online portal at [member.freemason.org](http://member.freemason.org), please let the Secretary or Assistant Secretary know. One of them will print and mail it to you.

For those interested in purchasing an Oakland #61 Life Membership, please see the chart below.

***One makes a single payment of the amount equal to the Lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership multiplied by the factor indicated opposite the member's age in the following schedule:***

*Age 49 and under, a factor equal to or greater than 24 times annual dues  
50 to 54 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 20 times annual dues  
55 to 59 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 18 times annual dues  
60 to 64 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 16 times annual dues  
65 to 71 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 14 times annual dues  
Age 72 and over, a factor equal to or greater than 12 times annual dues.*

### **Brothers Birthdays in September**

John A. Peterson (1), William F. Butler, Jr. (2), Joshua S. Elowsky (2),  
Stephen S. Hawkins (2), Douglass R. Emberton (3), Eduardo Rodriguez (6),  
Marcos M. Valerio (7), James W. Holland, Jr. (8), Dustin D. Brace (9),  
Joseph M. Sahagun, Sr. (10), Donald R. Colbert (11), Mickey L. Benko, PM (12),  
Alexandre M. Bayen (14), Robert C. Ellis (14), Donald G. Nelson (14),  
Rolf K. Haas (15), Jack L. Fair (17), Saïd B. Mohamed (17),  
Stennis Scruggs, Jr. (18), Michael T. Baird, PM (19), Scott B. Beaver (19),  
Herbert F. Bradley (19), Daniel Mullane (20), Robert A. Gordon, Jr. (23),  
Nicholas L. Daly (27), Nicholas L. Hayworth, PM (28),  
and William S. Sereni, Sr. (30).

### **September Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service**

James C. Macintire, PM (9/18/1964), 62 Years  
Richard B. Parkin (9/20/1967), 59 Years  
Daniel E. White (9/17/1971), 55 Years  
David R. Arp, PM (9/26/1972), 54 Years  
Patrick A. Love, PM (9/30/1977), 49 Years  
William F. Butler, Jr. (9/9/1978), 48 Years  
Richard D. Nutting, PM (9/25/1978), 48 Years  
Victor G. Borlaug, II, PM (9/18/1980), 46 Years  
Grove L. Gill (9/15/1981), 45 Years  
Bradley A. Gill (9/29/1981), 45 Years  
Richard D. Ketels, PM (9/27/1983), 43 Years  
David A. Hansen (9/21/1984), 42 Years  
Barry R. Rodriguez (9/23/1986), 40 Years  
Donald G. Heckenlively (9/27/1988), 38 Years  
James W. Holland, Jr. (9/12/1989), 37 Years  
Donald R. Parker, PM (9/15/1990), 36 Years  
David F. Ewing, PM (9/21/1990), 36 Years  
Christopher R. Weaver (9/14/1999), 27 Years  
Azi Vajravai (9/10/2002), 24 Years  
Robert A. Gordon, Jr. (9/24/2002), 24 Years  
Otha L. Cotton, PM (9/18/2004), 22 Years  
Richard T. Edick, PM (9/14/2006), 20 Years  
David E. Davis (9/10/2007), 19 Years  
David C. Renshaw (9/13/2007), 19 Years  
Eduardo R. Rodriguez (9/30/2010), 16 Years  
Jesse W. Wallin (9/8/2011), 15 Years  
Andrew L. Altomare, PM (9/29/2012), 14 Years  
Willard N. Smith, Jr. (9/19/2015), 11 Years  
Raed Y. Alfayoumi (9/8/2018), 8 Years  
Olushola S. Bello (9/12/2019), 7 Years  
Eric R. Skinner (9/17/2019), 7 Years  
Daniel F. Dietzel (9/9/2021), 5 Years  
Benjamin P. Woosley (9/9/2022), 4 Years  
James M. McVey (9/12/2022), 4 Years  
Jesse L. Schultz (9/27/2022), 4 Years

### **2026 Memoriams**

**William R. Lenheim**, passed away on 12/6/2025  
**Jim Odle**, passed away on 2/26/2026  
**John M. Burk**, passed away on 4/20/2026  
**Craig M. Baker**, passed away on 4/29/2026  
**Larry E. Fingerut**, passed away on 7/21/2026

# September

| Sunday    | Monday                                                                                                           | Tuesday                                                                                                | Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 30 August | 31                                                                                                               | 1 September                                                                                            | 2                                                                             | 3<br>Stated Meeting.<br>Dress is Coat & Tie for officers and dressy casual for others. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:30.<br>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729. | 4      | 5        |
| 6         | 7<br><br>The lodge will be Dark | 8                                                                                                      | 9<br>Rockridge Hall Association Meeting<br>6:30 - 9:00 pm<br>Dress is casual. | 10<br>Mr. JR Sheetz's EA Degree.<br>Dress is tuxedo for officers and Coat & Tie for others. Social time begins at 6:00 pm. with dinner at 6:30 and the degree at 7:30.<br>Please RSVP via the email ann. or (510) 576-6729.       | 11     | 12       |
| 13        | 14<br>Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets<br>6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.                          | 15                                                                                                     | 16                                                                            | 17<br>DOSI.<br>@ Fiat Lux #894.<br>This meeting will be held at the Orinda Masonic Center.<br>Dress is casual.<br>Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30<br>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.  | 18     | 19       |
| 20        | 21<br>Candidates Coaching<br>6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.                                                        | 22                                                                                                     | 23                                                                            | 24<br>Oakland #61 visit to Orinda #122:<br>Dress is tuxedo or coat & tie.<br>Masonic Festive Board beginning at 6:30 pm.<br>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.                                             | 25     | 26       |
| 27        | 28<br>Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets<br>6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.                          | 29<br>EA Degree.<br>@ Mission Lodge #169. Details forthcoming.<br>Please RSVP email or (510) 576-6729. | 30                                                                            | 1 October<br>Stated Meeting.<br>Dress is Coat & Tie. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 & mtg @ 7:30.                                                                                                              | 2      | 3        |

## National Preparedness Month



# OCTOBER

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                              | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Wednesday                                                                            | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 28<br>Candidates<br>Coaching &<br>Discovering<br>Masonic Secrets<br>6:30pm - 9:00<br>@ Oakland #61. | 29<br>EA Degree.<br>@ Mission Lodge<br>#169. Details<br>forthcoming.<br><i>Please RSVP email<br/>or (510) 576-6729.</i>                                                                                       | 30                                                                                   | 1 October<br>Stated Meeting.<br>Dress is Coat &<br>Tie. Social time<br>begins at 6:00 pm<br>with dinner at<br>6:30 pm and the<br>meeting at 7:30.<br><i>Please RSVP<br/>via the email<br/>announcement<br/>or (510) 576-6729.</i> | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3                                                                                         |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 5<br>Candidates<br>Coaching<br>6:30pm - 8:00<br>@ Oakland #61.                                      | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 7                                                                                    | 8<br>Presentation of<br>2025 - 2026 Grand<br>Communication<br>Legislation.<br>Dress is casual.<br>Dinner at 6:30 pm<br>with the<br>presentation<br>to follow.<br><i>Please RSVP email<br/>announcement or<br/>(510) 576-6729.</i> | <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px;">           Friday - Sunday, Oct 9 -11:<br/>           The 177th Grand<br/>           Communication will commence<br/>           at 1:00 p.m. on Friday.         </div> |                                                                                           |
| 11<br><div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px;">           Fri - Sun,<br/>           Oct 9 -11:<br/>           The 177th<br/>           Grand<br/>           Comm. will<br/>           commence at<br/>           1:00 p.m.<br/>           on Friday.         </div> | 12<br>Candidates<br>Coaching &<br>Discovering<br>Masonic Secrets<br>6:30pm - 9:00<br>@ Oakland #61. | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 14<br>Rockridge Hall<br>Association<br>Meeting<br>6:30 - 9:00 pm<br>Dress is casual. | 15<br>Oakland Lodge<br>#61 Officers<br>Proficiency Night.<br>Dress is casual<br>with a light meal<br>at 6:30 pm with<br>proficiency work<br>to follow.<br><i>Please RSVP email<br/>announcement or<br/>(510) 576-6729.</i>        | 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 17                                                                                        |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 19<br>Candidates<br>Coaching<br>6:30pm - 8:00<br>@ Oakland #61.                                     | 20<br>DOSI.<br>@ Bay Cities #337.<br>Dress is<br>dressy casual.<br>Dinner at 6:30 pm<br>followed by<br>instruction<br>at 7:30<br><i>Please RSVP<br/>via the email<br/>announcement<br/>or (510) 576-6729.</i> | 21                                                                                   | 22<br>TBD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 24                                                                                        |
| 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 26<br>Candidates<br>Coaching &<br>Discovering<br>Masonic Secrets<br>6:30pm - 9:00<br>@ Oakland #61. | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 28                                                                                   | 29<br>Whiskey Tasting<br>Presentation.<br>Dress is casual<br>with a light meal<br>at 6:30 with pres-<br>entation to follow.<br><i>Please RSVP</i>                                                                                 | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 31<br> |



# CHINESE ACACIA CLUB

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS – EST. 1946



August 21, 2026

Oakland Lodge No. 61  
5449 College Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94618

**Dear Worshipful Dana and Members of Oakland Lodge No. 61:**

On behalf of the officers and members of the **Chinese Acacia Club**, please accept our sincere appreciation for your generous contribution of **\$2,000** to the **Chinese Acacia Club Scholarship Fund**, received on **August 20, 2026**.

Your generous support helps us provide financial assistance to deserving graduating high school students as they pursue higher education. Through contributions such as yours, we can continue our meaningful tradition of encouraging young scholars and investing in their future success.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and continued support of the Chinese Acacia Club Scholarship Program.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Cua', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Albert Cua**  
Scholarship Secretary/Treasurer  
**Chinese Acacia Club Scholarship Fund**  
180 Melissa Circle  
Daly City, CA 94014

## **Masons4Mitts**

### **Step Up to the Plate for Kids in Your Community and Give a Mitt Today!**

**We're on the verge of a major milestone—help us Push Masons4Mitts past the \$3 million mark!**

Now in its 18th year, our favorite Masonic baseball fundraiser is back, and this season comes with our most ambitious goal yet! The California Masonic Foundation is **aiming to raise \$325,000, a goal that will officially bring Masons4Mitts to \$3 million** in support for young players across California.



Each year, we team up with the San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Angels, Los Angeles Dodgers, and the San Diego Padres for one of our fraternity's most impactful philanthropic traditions. Through Masons4Mitts, we provide high-quality leather baseball mitts to children in our community programs supported by our Major League Baseball partners—giving kids in our communities the tools to build teamwork, grow confidence, and enjoy the game in a safe supportive environment.

Last season alone, Masons4Mitts raised \$298,000—enough to provide 14,950 mitts to young players. Since 2009, our fundraiser has contributed over \$2.675 million, positively impacting more than 100,000 children across California. Now, with your support, we can reach our highest goal yet and celebrate crossing the \$3 million threshold. Let's lift up our youth, and show what Masons can accomplish when we rally together!

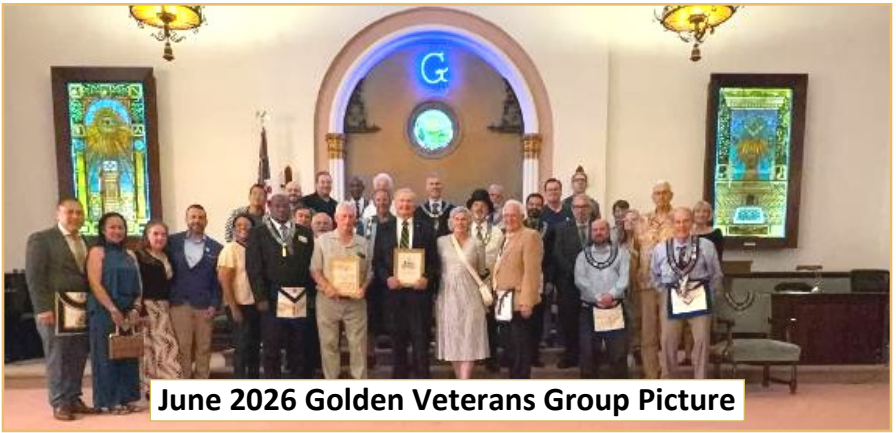
***Give a Mitt and Make a Difference for  
Local Kids In Your Community!***

**ORANGE COUNTY REGION**

**SAN DIEGO REGION**

**LOS ANGELES REGION**

**NORCAL REGION**



**June 2026 Golden Veterans Group Picture**



**July 2026 Stated Meeting Group Picture**



**Aug 2026 Stated Meeting Group Picture**



**Picture of Bro. James Beere  
being sworn-in as  
Oakland's Police Chief**



**Picture of our  
Jr. Warden with Chief  
Beere for the Chief's  
swearing-in**



**Bro. Kaue Fietzo's EA Degree, 8-13-2026**



**Another Fietzo  
EA Degree picture**



**A third Fietzo  
EA Degree Picture**



**Bro. Samson Wong's MM Degree picture, 8-20-2026**