

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**  
Of  
**M.:W.: Bruce E. Vesper**  
**Grand Master of Washington 2013-2014**

Bruce Vesper was born March 21st, 1951 in Buffalo, NY to Virginia and Eugene Vesper. He attended school in Alden, New York, just outside of Buffalo, starting in a small school where two grades were taught in the same room. In High School, he ran Cross Country and Track, and played in the symphonic and marching bands. During his senior year, Bruce joined Amherst Chapter, DeMolay, this was the start of his Masonic career.

Despite a scholarship to Valparaiso University, Bruce joined the US Navy in September of 1969 as a Hospitalman Recruit. After boot camp and Hospital Corpsman A School in Great Lakes, IL, He reported to the Naval Hospital in Pensacola, FL for his first duty. He was selected for the Secretary of the Navy Scholarship program in 1970, after receiving a scholarship from DeMolay, and transferred back to Buffalo, where he attended the State University of New York in Buffalo from 1971 to 1975, graduating with his degree in Biology. In 1972, he was the Master Councilor of Amherst Chapter, and took his Degrees in Washington Lodge, No. 240 in February through March 1973, where he was raised by his father. Bruce started in the Lodge chairs, and also started performing the Middle Chamber Lecture at this time.

Military assignments at the Submarine Medical School in Groton, CT, the USS Woodrow Wilson (Blue) (SSBN-624) as an independent duty Hospital Corpsman followed, before he was commissioned as an Ensign in the Medical Service Corps officer in 1976. After several short schools, he reported as the Radiation Health Officer on the USS Holland (AS-32) in Holy Loch, Scotland, where he served until May of 1979. While in Scotland, he had duties as the Medical Division Officer and Radiation Health Officer for the ship, and was instrumental in performing three major steam generator refurbishments on Squadron assigned Ballistic Missile Submarines.

Bruce then reported to the Submarine Base in Pearl Harbor, HI. At the SuBase, he supported 2 SUBRONs and COMSUBPAC. During this time, he took a poorly performing program, and made it one of the models for the Pacific Submarine Force. He was involved in the revision of the SubPac Radiation Health Manual, which was the first manual that was jointly adopted by SubPac and SubLant. He was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for all of his efforts.

In 1982, he attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO for an advanced degree in Radiation Sciences. Two years later, he reported to the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, where he served as the Health Physics division officer and then as the Coordinator for the Medical Effects of Nuclear Weapons course. Shortly after his arrival, he was tasked to work on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific, heading the Radiation Safety of the cleanup of two highly contaminated missile sites. He was awarded a Joint Service Achievement medal for these efforts. He served as the technical director of the Nuclear Weapons Accident Advisory Team from 1985 to 1989 and was a technical advisor for congressional hearings on the Nuclear Testing program. He testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 1985. Bruce retired as a Lieutenant Commander in January 1990. During his service, he earned 13 military awards, including Navy

Achievement, Navy Commendation, Joint Service Achievement, and Defense Meritorious Service Medals. He is qualified in Submarines and has a Ballistic Missile Patrol pin.

Following his retirement, Bruce started work at the Hanford Site in Richland, working for Battelle, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, both in their Operational Health Physics and their Emergency Management Divisions. In 1993, he moved to Westinghouse Hanford, where he performed compliance audits for Radiation Health, Occupational Health, and Industrial Safety practices on the decommissioning facilities at Hanford. Just a year later, he moved on to Bechtel as a Senior Health Physicist. Bruce was responsible for the creation of Bechtel's radiation protection program, auditing the decommissioning facilities under Bechtel's control, and regulatory compliance in radiation protection, occupational safety and industrial hygiene. Bruce retired in 2005.

After moving to Washington, Bruce joined Kennewick Lodge, No. 153, and was Worshipful Master in 1998. Bruce has been involved in DeMolay, Rainbow, and Job's Daughters activities in the area, and was appointed to the Grand Lodge Youth and Grand Lodge Public Relations Committees. He was appointed Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 23 in 2009. Bruce still maintains his ties to Washington Lodge, No. 240 in NY, as well as being a member of Euclid Lodge, No. 125 in Prosser, Benton Lodge, No. 277 in Benton City, and Skykomish Lodge, No. 259 in Skykomish. Bruce is also an honorary member of Pioneer Lodge, No. 39, Prince Hall Affiliation, in Pasco.

Bruce was a chapter advisor or Dad for five different DeMolay Chapters. He has received the Chevalier and Active Legion of Honor Awards from DeMolay, and belongs to Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, and Shrine (El Katif). He is very proud of preparing for and running two marathon races (26.2 miles), in 1981 and 1988.

Bruce and his wife Janice have five daughters, and 13 grandchildren, four of which are currently in Masonic youth programs. Bruce has travelled very extensively, and has visited all the states except Maine, Vermont, and North Dakota, along with visiting numerous Canadian provinces, and all the continents except Antarctica. Bruce and Janice hope to fill in some of those missing places now that he has finished his time in the Grand line.

Bruce looks back very fondly at the memories he and Janice will share of his time as Grand Master, and all the friends he visited and the new ones he made while attending Lodges in the Jurisdiction. Bruce tried to visit as many of the smaller and more remote Lodges during his term, and is very proud of being the first Grand Lodge Elected Officer to visit some of them in more than a decade.