

**Jerald K. Lingle**  
**Senior Grand Warden 2011**  
**By**  
**RWB Dean W. Heinemann**

RWB Jerald K. Lingle was born in Herrin, Illinois, on March 25, 1954, to Bernard and Alberta Lingle. Bernard was a coal miner and was raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason in 1951 in the Grand Jurisdiction of Ancient and Free and Accepted Masons of Illinois. Jerry died suddenly on August 19, 2011. He will always be remembered by his Grand Lodge nickname "Kuddles".

*What follows is in Jerry's own words, written in June 2010 after his election to Junior Grand Warden:*

My childhood began in Southern Illinois, just above the Kentucky border in the little town of Cartersville. I was the eighth son of Bernard and Alberta. The Lingles were very poor, but very dedicated to the family unit, staying extremely close over the years. After my oldest brother volunteered to join the Army, the family unit suffered its first separation anxiety and in 1966, after my mother remained heart-broken without her oldest, the entire family packed up and moved to Washington to reunite the family unit.

I attended North Thurston High School in Lacey, Washington, and then went on to attend Washington State University and St. Martins College. During my school years, I worked in construction to help support my family.

I have three daughters, Sarah, Melissa and Alicia and two sons, Joe and Frank. My youngest, Frank, was born in 1993 and is currently attending high school at my alma mater, North Thurston. (Many of you know Frank as the "Chairman of the Chairs" from his countless times assisting removing chairs at multiple installations.)

While continuing to work and provide for my family, in my spare time in 1979, I joined a local martial arts dojo (school) and eventually obtained a black belt in a Korean style of karate, Song Moo Kwan Tae Kwon Do Karate, an old Rock Marine fighting style. I eventually went on and fought in several tournaments, up and down the West coast.

In 1978, I finally asked the "question" of my father, Bernard and received a petition for the degrees of Masonry. Dad's only comment was "I was wondering when you were going to finally ask." I took my Degrees, starting at Delta White Center, No. 172, and eventually affiliating with Mt. Moriah Lodge, No. 11 in Shelton.

My Masonic career was somewhat delayed due to "old school" Masonry, where you sat on the sidelines until you were needed or called. Also, finally selecting a career in law enforcement prevented earlier Masonic advancement due to odd hours, special investigations and raising a family.

Eventually, I was called upon and picked up my Masonic career when I became a two-time Past Master of Union City Lodge, No. 27 and was appointed as the first District Deputy of the Grand Master in the newly-formed District 3 in 2006 and 2007. After serving both years, I

received additional appointments as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee, Grand Junior Deacon and then Grand Marshal.

After retiring with nearly twenty-five years of law enforcement duty in the Shelton area, I thought that I would settle in and just simply attend Lodge. My retirement lasted exactly eighteen hours before I accepted a position at a local Casino and was instrumental in the training of a sixty-man security force, while maintaining a security business specializing in personal safety to high profile celebrities such as Brother B.B. King, Jay Leno, Charlie Daniels, and Ron White, to name a few.

After accomplishing my work at the Casino, I began working for a private company, monitoring offenders on Electronic Home Monitoring, still maintaining the private security business and also beginning to dabble in local politics.

I consider Masonry an energizing force in my life. When I am down, when I am exhausted, when I am doubtful, I go to Lodge.... and wham! I am rejuvenated. The brotherly love that is so constant in Lodges, keeps me motivated. IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD DAY TO BE A MASON!

I was very honored and humbled to be elected by you as Junior Grand Warden at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound this June. I see the future of Masonry as bright and plan on assisting our Grand Master, G. Santy Lascano and the Brethren in making this Fraternity grow into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by being involved.

My platform has always been "Spread the Cement" and I hope that I will continue with this as the year's progress. The highest of titles, accolades and honors that can be given is being a Master Mason. Remember Brethren, no matter what trails we follow, no matter the accomplishments, no matter the trials, we are Masons and we shall forever be. Travel well and may peace be with you.

*Jerry's Message to all of us was going to be that we need "The Courage of Excellence".*

"In this time of uncertainty and turmoil, within the Nation and the World, there arises a strong need to belong, to seek out persons of like mind and like beliefs to associate with. Today the need to bolster our self-confidence and reinforce the values with which we build our lives becomes ever stronger. Moral and Spiritual excellence, our moral compass, must be boxed, much the same as a navigator boxes the navigators compass.

There are untold numbers of men of all ages who have not discovered Masonry. Our rituals, our belief in The Supreme Architect, and the self- fulfilling spiritual reinforcements associated with that belief.

Our brothers have passed the tenets and precepts of Free Masonry to each of us upon being initiated, passed and raised. Finally being brought to further light in Masonry we have filled that void that so many young men yearn for, and subconsciously seek, without knowing where to look.

WE MUST HAVE COURAGE. It is our calling, each and every one of us, to let that Beacon of Light, that flame of passion that wells up from within our souls to shine as never before. That courage, for being morally and spiritually excellent, will attract men like a moth to a light. Young men of like mind and like beliefs will notice us. They will seek that which sets us apart from today's norm.

What we see and read in the media assails our senses. The senseless plots, mind numbing dribble, lewd and immoral conduct are tearing at the very fiber and core beliefs of this Great Nation.

The belief in God, church, country, and family, along with moral rectitude, are being assailed relentlessly and with great fervor, by those who seek to destabilize and eventually destroy the value system that we, as Masons, pattern our lives after.

It is incumbent upon us to stand up even straighter, walk with even more confidence, and profess our beliefs in the 3 tenets and 4 cardinal virtue's even more vigorously.

The way that we treat each other, and the way that we act in the community must be so vivid an example of what we are, and what we believe, that we light the entire community with our beacons.

MY brothers we are Masons! We have "the courage of excellence". The WORLD Need's TO KNOW IT!"

*These are the words of our departed Friend & Brother.*