

**A Short History and Biography
Of Herbert Arthur Fisher
Most Venerable Past Sovereign Grand Master
Allied Masonic Degrees
United States of America**



H.A.F.O.V.A. Council No. 442
Allied Masonic Degrees
United States of America
Alexandria, VA

Written and Presented by James M. Stevenson, Senior Warden
Saturday, August 5, 2006

At the Constitution of the new AMD Council

Brethren and Companions:

What brings us here together this evening? It is more than the simple consecration of a Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees. We are also here to honor the man for which the Council was named; a man who has literally shaped the foundation of Masonry as we know it today, particularly here in the Commonwealth of Virginia; a man who has labored long and hard in the quarries of the Craft.

Herbert Arthur Fisher was born on November 19, 1924 in Portlock, Virginia, to Charles Cleveland Fisher and Sally Latimer. He served in the Pacific Air Command of the United States Army and the 1938th Corps of Engineers of the Army Air Corps and was discharged as a T/5 (Technician, 5th Class). He married his beautiful bride, Phyllis, on April 23, 1977.

Bro. Fisher began his legendary journey in our fraternity by joining South Norfolk Lodge No. 339 over 55 years ago. Initiated February 1949; Passed and Raised in March and April, respectively, in the same year. Since that time, he presided over many bodies and Grand bodies and has received some of the highest honors that can be conferred to any Master Mason, nationally and internationally.

He has served as:

- Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Romania near the Grand Lodge of Virginia
- The Right Eminent Grand Commander of Virginia
- Honorary Past Department Commander
- Senior Aide de Camp for five Most Eminent Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment, equaling a total of 15 years of service
- Preceptor of Garden of Gethsemane Tabernacle, HRAKTP
- Puissant Sovereign of St. Polycarp Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine
- Intendant General for the Red Cross of Constantine, Division of Virginia
- Chief Adept, Virginia College, MSRICF
- Secretary General of the High Council, MSRICF
- Great Chancellor and Great Prior of the Great Priory of America, CBCS
- Sovereign Master of the Council of Nine Muses
- Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master and Grand Secretary-Treasurer of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States

His various honors include:

- Recipient of the Knight Commander of the Temple and Knight Grand Cross of the Temple from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States
- Recipient of the Chevaliers Grand Croix De La Sainte Sagesse, Honorary, of France
- Recipient of the Knight Grand Cross for five national organizations
- First Recipient of the Marvin Edward Fowler Distinguished Service Award of A.M.D.
- DeMolay Legion of Honor
- Honorary Past Secretary General of the Rosicrucians in France and Portugal
- Knight Commander of Constantine award of the Red Cross of Constantine

...To name but a few

But all this is - is a list of titles and accolades that can only hint at the character of a man and the love of the Craft that he has shown over his many dedicated years of service. Most importantly, we are just so very proud to call him a dear, dear friend.

I am told that Herb loves Cowboys and Indians. Several years ago, Most Venerable Brother Thurman Pace took him on a trip down to Tombstone, Arizona – the heart of the Old West. A town filled with reenactors in period costumes, they visited the “Big Nose Red Saloon”. One can only imagine this pair of stately world travelers sitting in rickety chairs on a sawdust floor drinking whiskey, singing wild songs and being winked at by the local working girls – reenactors, of course. They took a short detour to Boot Hill where they discovered the tombstone of Lester Moore with the famous epitaph “Here lies Lester More. 4 shots with a .44. No Les, no more!” I am told that Herb has a place of honor reserved next to the famous Boot Hill resident should he choose to become a resident himself.

The point is, wherever Herb seems to wander, he has a home with friends and colleagues. We, here, choose to humbly honor Brother Herb this evening in our own way, giving him another home away from home. HAFOVA Council No. 442 AMD is named in honor of Herbert A. Fisher of Virginia. It is our sincere hope that this Council will fulfill its charter and assist in providing the Masonic Community with some of the finest research projects that have been undertaken by any Council. This is a lofty ambition, to be sure, but one worthy of its name.

I would like to personally thank Most Venerable Thurman C. Pace, Jr., Honorary Past Sovereign Grand Master, AMD USA and Venerable Robert B. Maynard, Sovereign Master of Harold Van Buren Voorhis Council No. 260, AMD USA in New Jersey for the wealth of information they provided to me for the preparation of this work.

Thank you and please enjoy the rest of the evening.

Respectfully Submitted,
James M. Stevenson
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HAFOVA Council No. 442