



*Stikas - Continued from Page 1*

Bob's stint in the U.S. Navy brought the couple to Connecticut. It was while on active duty that he developed a strong interest in volunteerism, setting the stage for his involvement with Masonry.

"Around 1980," Bob recalled, "I started an organization with a group of guys at the submarine school where I was stationed that went out on weekends and helped anybody who needed it. Primarily, we helped the elderly. We'd clean the brush from the backyard, build a temporary wheelchair ramp, or construct a raised flowerbed for someone so they didn't have to get down on the ground to do their planting. A man who worked in the office next to me belonged to Somerset Lodge, and he had heard about what I was doing with this group. One day he asked me if I would ever be interested in joining the Masons. My father had once told me, 'If you ever get the

chance to join, do it, because it's a good group.' But I didn't know you have to ask to become a Mason ... so I asked."

Adjusting to life without the responsibilities that come with being a Grand Lodge officer, Bob is looking forward to devoting more time to his family (which now includes two children and five grandchildren), his lodge, and some of the many Masonically affiliated organizations to which he belongs.

"I'm such a shy, quiet person," he says, his voice dripping with sarcasm. "Truth is, I really enjoy being with people and it'll be a real pleasure to focus on my own district again."

Another benefit of being a *Past Grand Master*?  
No more speeches. ☆

### The Foundation's Bequest Language

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut deeply appreciates gifts of all kinds. Should you wish to remember The Foundation in your Will, we encourage you to provide the following bequest language to your attorney:

*"I give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, or \_\_\_\_\_% (percentage) of my estate, or \$\_\_\_\_\_ (sum of money) to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, CT."*

Bequests provide important revenue in support of the mission of Masonicare, enabling us to provide the highest quality healthcare programs and services to our residents and patients regardless of their ability to pay. If you wish to discuss a bequest to The Foundation, please contact Jennifer King, President of The Foundation, at 203-679-5555.

# THE MASONICARE ANNUAL APPEAL NEWS

BY THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT



Fall 2009

## For Bob and Sandy Stika, Supporting MCF “Just Makes Sense”



MW Past Grand Master Robert J. (Bob) Stika and his wife, Sandy.

If there is one duty associated with being Grand Master of Connecticut Freemasons that MW Bro. Bob Stika won't miss, it's delivering long speeches. In fact, he's quite proud to hold what he insists is the record for the shortest speech ever given at Grand Masters Day.

The Past Grand Master's aversion to public speaking is surprising, given his outgoing personality. Fortunately, Bob has no such reservations about discussing his support of The Masonic Charity Foundation of

Connecticut (MCF), which recently included a generous gift to the Masonicare Annual Appeal.

“During my time as a Grand Lodge officer, but mostly during the last year when I was Grand Master, I received some money from the districts and from my lodge to cover expenses,” Bob explained. “My wife, Sandy, and I decided to donate part of that money to charity. It just made sense.”

Half the funds were directed to MCF, with an equal amount earmarked for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M.

“Masonicare is doing things to help people,” Bob said, “and that's how I was raised. Sitting on the various boards of Masonicare, I learned more about the services they offer than I ever could have imagined. I was really impressed.”

Echoing a sentiment that's been expressed many times by donors, patients, residents, and others whose lives have been

touched by Masonicare, he added, “The people that we've come into contact with at Masonicare tend to be very high-level individuals, and I don't mean in terms of positions of authority. I mean in terms of character.”

In recognition of their gift, the Stikas were inducted into the Masonicare Society, a giving society founded by Gail L. Smith and Gail

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**“Masonicare is doing things to help people, and that's how I was raised.”**

*-- MW Past Grand Master  
Bob Stika,  
Annual Appeal donor*

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N. Smith, Past Grand Masters, acknowledging donations of \$520 or more to the Annual Appeal.

Born and raised in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Bob met Sandy, a Nebraska native, while the two were working at the Electronics Supply Office in Great Lakes, Illinois. They were married in 1966.

*See Stikas - Continued on Page 4*

## Dan Shattuck, 62-Year Mason, Faithfully Supports MCF



Bro. Dan Shattuck

A resident of the Leslie G. Wright Residence on the campus of Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford, Bro. Danforth (Dan) Shattuck believes deeply in the ideals of Freemasonry and the mission of Masonicare.

That's why he supports the Masonicare Annual Appeal.

"Sometimes I have some extra money," he said, "but I don't need it. I don't go out to eat and I don't really buy anything. I have everything I need, including medical supplies. Plus, I'm 100% happy with the services I receive here. I give to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut because it's the best place for it."

For his generosity, Dan joined the Masonicare Society, a giving society that recognizes contributions of at least \$520.

Danforth -- a name he says he shares with a minister who sailed over on the Mayflower -- was born in 1918 and grew up in Waterbury. His father owned a lumberyard and

from the time Dan was 14 years old, he worked there after school, on weekends and during vacations.

After graduating from high school, he took correspondence courses to learn more about carpentry and the trades. He then enrolled in what was then known as Connecticut State College in Storrs. Money was tight, however, and he was forced to withdraw from the college after only a year.

Dan soon found himself back in Waterbury running the lumberyard, with help from his father. It was a tremendous challenge, especially for a young man in his early 20s.

Then, in 1943, he received notice that his draft status had

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**“Being able to do something for someone else is always good. That’s what Freemasonry is all about.”**

*-- Bro. Dan Shattuck,  
Masonicare resident and  
Annual Appeal supporter*

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changed and he would be leaving for the Army in two weeks. In the blink of an eye, he was forced to give up the business.

During World War II, Dan served in a unit responsible for clearing harbors of sunken ships. He was stationed in Southampton, England when he met a young girl who would turn out to be his future wife, Audrey. Together, they had

three children.

He held a variety of jobs after the war, including carpentry and security, and spent nearly 40 years working in a lawyer's office handling conservatorships.

A 62-year Mason and dual member of Wolcott Lodge No. 146 (where he served as secretary for over 20 years) and Ashlar Lodge No. 332, Bro. Dan has strong family ties to the fraternity. Both his father and grandfather were Masons, which led to him joining the Order of DeMolay as a youngster. He was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth, and the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem.

These days, Dan participates in many of the activities available to residents of Masonicare -- especially Bingo -- but particularly enjoys volunteering at the front desk in the lobby of the Wright Residence because it lets him interact with so many of his neighbors.

"I told one lady that when I win Bingo," he said, "we'll take a ride on the bus. So after I won, we got on the bus and rode all around Wallingford for 60 cents a person. That lady was so happy. We also have some residents who can't see very well. They have trouble filling out the order slips for what they want for breakfast. So they'll come down and ask me to fill out the slips for them. Being able to do something for someone else is always good. That's what Freemasonry is all about." ☆

## John Morgan: Confidence in the Masonicare Mission

**B**ro. John Morgan supports the Masonicare Annual Appeal because he knows that every contribution helps Masonicare provide its residents and patients with the highest level of care available.

“It’s needed,” he said, “and I know it’s going to be appreciated.”

“John is certainly right,” said Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. “Thanks to his generosity to The Foundation, and that of all our donors, Masonicare is able to improve the lives of seniors in our care every day.”

A retired farmer, John was born in Newtown, where his father raised baby chicks that were then shipped by rail throughout the country. Circumstances led to the family giving up the hatching business in favor of dairy farming, but the Morgans found their 30-acre farm to be too small for cattle. So, they moved to a 194-acre parcel up in Sharon, where John still lives.

“Back in 2005,” John said, “some people approached me about selling some real estate. I agreed and got a very good sum of money for it. From then on, I’ve tried to help local charities. Masonicare is

one place where I know I can really help out. I know my donation to Masonicare will be used, and used properly.”

Gifts to the Annual Appeal have funded “quality of life” purchases like transportation services, wheelchair batteries, recreational equipment, and many other goods and services designed to make the lives of Masonicare’s patients and residents more comfortable and rewarding.

If there is another reason that Bro. John, a Mason raised at Hiram Lodge No. 18 in Sandy Hook, supports the work of Masonicare, it might date back to the early 1900s.

“My aunt, Hattie Hubbard, worked at the old Masonic Home (now Masonicare Health Center) for most of her life,” John recalled. “She eventually worked her way up to running the dining room. One day, the chef had the day off, and someone asked my aunt if she would do the cooking. She had never cooked a meal in her life, but now she was going to take care of 300 people. Well, when the chef



**Bro. John Morgan prefers to support local charitable organizations like The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.**

never came back, she stayed on as the new cook.”

Hattie’s lack of culinary expertise must not have fazed the residents or managers of the Home, because she continued to work in the kitchen for many years. She retired briefly during World War II, but returned to work there as a pastry chef.

It was around this time that Hattie was badly injured in an explosion in the kitchen at The Masonic Home.

“After that,” he said, “The Masonic Home took care of my aunt for the rest of her life. We never forgot that.” ☆

*If you would prefer not to receive any future fundraising communications from The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, please write to us at MCF of CT, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492. In order to ensure that we accurately reflect your request, please provide your full name and street address. Please note that it may take six to eight weeks to make your request fully effective.*