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Sands through

The Hour-Glass



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Trudy Burns



Blanche Highfield



Margl McMillian



Ina McKenzie



Martha McQuin



David Miekay



Bernice Nolte



Verna Palm



Alice Smith



Kathryn Stapp



Caryl Stearns



Margaret Worthman

Proudly Celebrating
the Beautiful Lives
of our
95 and Older
Residents

Words are Never Enough . . .

When I think of all the blessings in my life, which have been many, one of those blessings I am most grateful for is my 42-year career at The Nebraska Masonic Home. I know most of our loyal readers and Masonic Home family are aware that my retirement date will be here soon.



My career at The Masonic Home has been one of constant enjoyment, fulfillment, and pride. Some change is always necessary—The Masonic Home is a success today because of the foresight and vision of so many people. It has been a personal accomplishment for me to be an active participant in The Home's success.

When I was hired at the age of 23 as an LPN staff nurse, working in that capacity for 15 years, I never would have dreamed I would go on to get my Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Management and spend my entire adult career with one employer. I realized quickly that elder care was my passion because it was so personally rewarding. The last 27 years of my employment at The Home has been in administration. Personally assisting our residents every day of my career has been a rewarding experience.



It has been such a privilege through the years to work with so many dedicated and compassionate employees. Without the ongoing hard work and commitment of employees in every department, The Masonic Home would not have the excellent reputation that it has always had in the ever-changing health care industry. What pride everyone should feel for being a part of The Masonic Home's success.

As Executive Director I could not ask for a more committed and knowledgeable administrative/management team. Working closely with each of them on a day-to-day basis has been a privilege. They too should appreciate the role they have played in The Home's incredible success.

I have such deep appreciation, gratitude, and respect for our 15-member Board of Trustees for their years of dedicated service to The Home. The vital decisions that are made by the Board are always made with the main focus being our residents' care and their quality of life. Another important goal of the Board is to make The Masonic Home a desirable facility that draws quality employees who care deeply about The Home's mission. The Board has definitely succeeded in both areas.

Thank you to the Board – you have all paid me the highest professional compliments with your ongoing support and respect through the years.

Caring for hundreds of Masons and their eligible female relatives has been an incredible experience professionally and emotionally. The residents have been my role models and my constant inspiration on a daily basis. Forming so many special and close relationships with the residents and their loved ones will be forever imprinted in my heart.

The residents, employees, and Board of Trustees have been my inspiration to be a strong, committed, and caring leader.

I have also met so many wonderful ladies and gentlemen who have devoted their lives to the Masonic and Eastern Star orders. I commend all of you for your devotion to these incredible organizations and to The Masonic Home. I will cherish meeting and knowing each of you for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to share with you that my last day as Executive Director of The Nebraska Masonic Home will be December 31, 2015. I will miss everyone so much. Thank you all for being a part of my journey and for making my career and my life so enjoyable.

Mary C. Stapp

Mary C. Stapp
Executive Director

“99 and going strong - MEET MARTHA McQUIN - Oh, the stories she can tell . . .”

Martha McQuin celebrated her 99th birthday a few weeks ago, and she has led a most interesting life as a Nebraska farm girl, a 12-hour a day 7-days a week cook in a café, a traveling wife of a USAF husband and a mother of 2 daughters, an in home care giver for 15 years, a delivery coordinator for the Omaha World-Herald for 20 years, a Plattsmouth homeowner for 67 years, an LPN at The Masonic Home for 13 years, and since last year a resident of The Nebraska Masonic Home.

Her father was a native of Germany who came to this country about 1900, moved west and settled in Nebraska where he met and courted his future wife. When Martha Senf was born in late 1916 the family was farming near Elmwood. Because Martha’s mother worked in the fields alongside her father, Martha learned early on to work hard to “carry her weight”. One benefit of this was learning how to cook as soon as she was able, so dinner was ready for her parents and siblings when they came in from their farmwork.

A move to the Nehawka area had Martha attending Nehawka High School for all four years, graduating in the depression year of 1933.

Martha went on a blind date with Lowell McQuin, the brother of a friend, and they enjoyed the dances held on the second floor of a store in Union. Their relationship blossomed, and Lowell (“Mac”) and Martha went to Missouri to be married in 1936.



After a year on a farm, the two newlyweds decided to buy a 24-hour cafe in Union. Mac worked the counter out front, and Martha did all the cooking in back. They worked 12 hours and then turned it over to another couple for the next shift. She remembers the experience like it was yesterday . . . “The meals were served on heavy rectangular platters with the meat of the day centered on the platter and sided by mashed potatoes and a vegetable. Everyone had bread, a salad, homemade pie and coffee – all for 25 cents” she recalls with a smile.

After five years Mac was inducted into the service, and Martha was fortunate to be able to move along with him. They lived in Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina before Mac was sent overseas to be stationed in England and France and served in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, Mac’s division liberated thousands of men in the Buchanwald Prison Camp.

In 1948 the two purchased a home in Plattsmouth. Mac joined Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 in 1947. Naturally, Martha joined Home Chapter No. 189 OES. She served as Worthy Matron and then Grand Martha. Her years in Eastern Star, Beauceant, and Nile have been a joy and gained her many dear friends. Mac worked in a men’s clothing store fitting suits and Martha was a care giver for the elderly.

Mac and Martha had two daughters, both of whom passed away unfortunately in their 60’s. A talented seamstress, Martha made all of her daughters’ clothing, including the gowns for her daughter who was Miss Plattsmouth, Miss Cass County, and the Kass County King Korn Carnival Queen. During their school years, Martha also worked for 20 years as a circulation coordinator for the Omaha World-Herald for the Plattsmouth area. She had 32 carriers working for her.



In 1958 Martha was a participant in the Mrs. Nebraska competition. The events included modeling a dress you had sewn and tailored, making an apron, ironing a white shirt, and preparing a noon meal. It was stiff competition and Martha was the runner-up that year.

After Martha’s daughters entered college, she was off to fulfill a life-long dream – she began nursing school in Omaha at the age of 57. Interestingly enough, Martha was an LPN for The Nebraska Masonic Home for 13 years. She retired at the age of 84.

Mac passed away in July 1984 after spending his final years as a milk man for Alameda Dairy in Omaha. Ten years later Martha married her good friend Richard Jones. They attended many Masonic-affiliated functions together until his death in 2000.

In 2014, Martha gave up driving at the age of 98 and moved – with the encouragement and help of her nephew Dick – to The Nebraska Masonic Home Assisted Living Center. She and Dick are in the process of selling the McQuin home in Plattsmouth, a bittersweet undertaking.

But she has her long lifetime of memories to think about and share. . . she has a memory that can recall the stories of a wonderful childhood, beautiful daughters and marriages, good friends, and several successful careers. An afternoon spent with Martha and her memories is educational, historical, and so very enjoyable.

"Husker Fever" Donor Recognition Dinner 2015



Gerilyn Mattheis & Cullen Pilker



Eunice Levisay and Darold Jordon



Diane Krantz



Chuck and Anita Sohm



Pauline and John Parsons



Bruce and Susie Baker



Russ and Ann Clark



John and Liz Ferguson

Thank you to our Donors who came to the Caring Club Donor Recognition Dinner September 27, 2015.
We appreciate having the opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

CCRC Status Confirmed

The Nebraska Masonic Home has attained an important goal this summer . . . The Home is now classified as a Continuing Care Retirement Community or CCRC by the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. A CCRC provides a "continuum of services to independent living, assisted living and nursing care services within the same municipality". The Masonic Home has been providing these services for many years and is now being fully recognized for doing so.

In 2011, a provider tax state plan amendment LB600 was passed that required all nursing homes to pay a Quality Assurance Assessment Tax. This tax is similar to others used by over 40 states to increase payments to Medicaid providers by increasing federal funding. The Nebraska Masonic Home does not and never has accepted Medicaid funding and did not benefit from this Quality Assurance Assessment Tax. Being classified as a CCRC allows The Masonic Home to be exempt from paying this tax which results in a considerable savings for The Home each year.

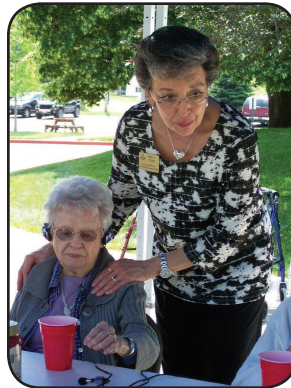
I wish to thank the Board members and Administrative Staff that helped to achieve this classification for The Nebraska Masonic Home.



Mary Vrbka

Mary Vrbka
Administrator

Mary's Touch



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Winter 2015

Dear Friends,

With the approaching retirement of our Executive Director, Mary C. Stapp I'm in awe of the fact that she is one of the disappearing professionals who pride themselves in devoting virtually their entire career to serving one employer.

For 42 years Mary has helped The Nebraska Masonic Home evolve into the fabulous care facility that has been here for the members of the Masonic Family who have chosen to make it their home. During her years at The Home Mary has always made the quality of care for the residents her primary focus. Anyone who knows or has been around Mary is quick to recognize she is and always has been an incredible caregiver to the residents, their families and the staff. Every definition of exceptional caregiver that I could find contained words that could be used to describe Mary Stapp:

- compassionate
- empathetic
- caring
- respectful
- knowledgeable
- patient and kind . . . the list could go on!

Besides serving in the beginning as an LPN, then as Administrative Assistant and Assistant Director, and the past 17 years as the Executive Director, Mary Stapp has been a mentor, a coach and a leader to over 100 staff members in any given week. Not to mention, the direct attention she personally delivers on a daily basis to her 90+ residents.

As Executive Director of The Home, Mary has often been called by frantic family members in search of a place for their aging or sometimes ailing family member. Her reassuring manner and knowledge of health care quickly puts even the most worried individuals at ease while she helps them work through their options. Her gentle laugh will elicit a smile even from the most serious-minded folks. She is one of those people that you feel blessed to have crossed your path — as a nurse, a friend, an employer or a casual acquaintance.

Over the years Mary C. Stapp has willingly made caring for the residents of The Nebraska Masonic Home her passion. She has been available 24/7 to check on a resident, return phone calls or answer questions that might arise in her absence. If ever you or a family member has experienced one of those moments, you know the Mary I'm telling you about. The Nebraska Masonic Home has been very fortunate to have been under her exemplary leadership. It has become even more of a special place because of Mary's touch.

As we prepare to close this chapter of history at The Nebraska Masonic Home, we want to say ***“Thank You, Mary!” – from all of us – whose lives you’ve touched.***

This holiday season I am asking you to make your holiday gifts to The Home in honor of Mary C. Stapp, retiring Executive Director, or someone who has been just as inspirational to you in your life.



Sincerely,

Jo Peters

Jo Peters
Foundation Director

P.S. Wishing you very special and meaningful celebrations with loved ones this Thanksgiving and Christmas!!!

FALL FUN



SPOTLIGHT DONOR

“We have been blessed in our lives and are honored to be able to give to The Nebraska Masonic Home and help The Home in a small way for it to continue its outstanding legacy to the Masonic Family. Since we started our Masonic journey we have met so many wonderful people and have become very familiar with The Home’s staff and facility. With the outstanding care the staff provides to our treasured members and their families, it is only natural that The Home receives our continued support.”

--- Ron and Tami Sities
Papillion, NE



Charitable Giving

A charitable gift in your will could easily be the most important— and lasting— gift you ever make!

Through the years, legacies and bequests have played a vital part in the success of The Nebraska Masonic Home. Every department of The Home has benefitted from gifts given in the wills of family, friends and supporters.

A gift in your will can help The Home continue to be an option for Masons and their eligible female relatives for many years to come.

Contact your attorney or call Jo at The Foundation Office, 402-296-7334 to learn how easily this can be done.



Tax Reminder

As the end of the year approaches, please remember The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. Your charitable gifts to The Home can qualify as income tax deductions, so make sure you remember to provide your tax preparer with your receipt letter(s).



Address and Email Corrections

Please contact Lisa Davis in The Foundation Office at (402)296-7336 or ldavis@nemh.net with corrections or updates to your mailing address and e-mail. Thank you for your help.