

James Stewart De Mond, R.E.P.D.C.

Introduced by

William W. Pond, Generalissimo

Ladies, Gentlemen, Sir Knights, Distinguished Guests, Family, and especially those who have been friends of Jim and Pat for so long, welcome and thank you for celebrating the 90th birthday of James Stewart De Mond, born this day in 1924 in the home of his grandfather, Frederick W. Stewart, MD (Jim must have a penchant for the cold because his birth was accompanied by a low temperature of 7 degrees that quickly dipped to 7 degrees below zero within the next 24 hours. In fact the town he chose for his birth was called Coldwater.)

Thank you for coming and braving the elements on this cold winter day. I am Bill Pond, Generalissimo of Fort Wayne Commandery #4 and son-in-law of Sir Knight De Mond, since I married his charming daughter, Camille.

James Stewart De Mond has a rich heritage of masonry dating back 5 generations on both sides of his family to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge Francaise in France. He was knighted 55 years ago and he has graciously consented for us today to use the Sword of his father, Raymond John De Mond knighted in 1922. In fact, the Jim's earliest recollection of his father is at the age of 3 is when his father entered his bedroom in full Templar regalia.

Matriculating at Michigan State College in 1941, his academic studies were interrupted when he was called to serve in the European Theater of Operations, concentrating in the areas of England, Scotland and France. Following the war, he returned to Michigan State to complete his studies and graduate in 1948.

And 1948 witnessed an even more important event in his life, the marriage to his wonderful wife, and consummate Masonic hostess, Patricia Ann Bullis of Hudson, Michigan. In fact, they just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with the attendance of family members from across the nation.

After the marriage and graduation, James continued graduate studies in anthropology and history for 3 years before beginning, in 1951, a career in transportation with a nationally recognized leader in the industry working his way up to a position as director. In fact, even to this day, it is fascinating to ride in the car with him as he gives detailed information on every truck on the road, its capacity, dimensions, limitations, carriage weight along with some interesting stories of how great items have been moved across our country.

After his successful 26 year transportation career, he was called to serve as Executive Director of the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne which he faithfully served for the next 17 years.

His avocations include fishing and sailing the Great Lakes as well as playing bridge. In fact Camille and I cruised with Pat and Jim 2 years ago and we could not find them anywhere on the ship, until we found them thoroughly engaged at the bridge tables.

In addition to Freemasonry, his civic activities include service for Trinity Episcopal Church where he has organized the yearly Masonic St. John the Baptist Observance (This year on June 29th at 10:00 am). For many years he was active in Rotary and Scouting, assisting and encouraging his son, Derek Paul De Mond to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. He and I share stories of campouts and Philmont of Troop 419 at Good Shepherd, because it is the same troop at which my son, Scott, attained the rank of Eagle, due in large part to the heritage and foundation laid by Jim and his colleagues 30 years before.

James Stewart DeMond exemplifies the best in mankind and has touched and enriched each of us.

It is with greatest admiration that we thank him for his service and extend to him our heartiest 90th birthday wishes. It is my honor to introduce, Sir Knight James Stewart De Mond.