



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Illustrious Brother Gary D. Shepard raised to 33rd° at the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction



Worshipful Brother Gary Shepard

Easton CT: It is with great pride that we announce that our own Worshipful Brother Gary Shepard has been made a 33° Mason in the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Although there is no degree higher than the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Blue Lodge Masonry, the Scottish Rite and other concordant bodies confer additional degrees that build upon the lessons of our Craft.

The 33° is not something a Mason can petition for, nor is it assumed that all members of the Rite will become 33°. In fact, it is a rare distinction conferred by the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. As stated on their website:

“To become a 33rd degree Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, a Scottish Rite Mason must demonstrate honor, virtue, concern for humanity, and a devotion to Masonic duty. The Supreme Council confers the 33rd degree to honor outstanding and selfless work performed in the Rite or public life”

It stands apart from the other degrees because it is not part of the normal progression of advancement, but rather a recognition of a lifetime of dedication and contribution. Only a select few are chosen each year, underscoring the honor it represents. This distinction reminds us that true advancement in Masonry is measured by service, not by personal ambition

This recognition although exceptionally rare, our Lodge is fortunate to now count three such Brothers: Illustrious Brother Fred B. Candee Jr., Illustrious Brother Bob Furce, 33°, and now Illustrious Brother Gary Shepard, 33°.

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While commenting on this years ceremony in Indiana, Illustrious Brother Bob Furce remarked:

“It was my pleasure to witness and support all of the Connecticut candidates to receive the Illustrious 33rd° of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. I have a connection with each and every one of the 10 candidates from Connecticut. There was one candidate from my lodge Ashlar—Aspetuck No. 142 who I have had the pleasure of being present at his 1st and 33rd°s. I congratulate Gary D Shepard on his coronation to being made an illustrious brother of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. And to all the brothers who received the same.”

All the brothers of AA142 extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Brother on this outstanding achievement!



Illustrious Brothers Bob and Gary

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