

My dear brothers – greetings. I am sorry I was not able to attend this installation. COVID has put me in the defense for not only for myself, but my wife as well. Thank you for continuing the work, but please take maximum precautions, which I know you will.

Like you, I was very stoked for the 250th anniversary celebrations, and disappointed when we had to cancel – the right call of course. Still, I planned on presenting a small gift to the Lodge during the event.

So, this evening, I asked PM-Brother Parks to read this aloud and present this to the WM and Lodge in my place. And it's very fitting, since he was the marshal.

Behold – a new marshal's baton! Our beloved Lodge deserves cool stuff, and although I don't have anything against the old chair leg – with the silver Washington quarter I glued on for a bit of bling – it was time for an upgrade. I searched to buy one, and when I found out how much they cost to buy... it was stupid too much!

A few years ago, I started a new hobby – wood-working and turning. I've made a bunch of odd things and the idea for making a baton came easily. So, I set about crafting a plan, and after the baton was nearly done, I figured it need a home, so I made a case too.

The baton is bubinga, cocobolo and a bit of mango wood. There was no real method to the wood choices – they just looked cool. The finish is some friction polish with a coat of carnauba wax on top. The small blue jewel is semi-precious and denotes the blue lodge of course.

The other end is roughly 90% silver with 1770 stamped into it. My plan was to put 1770 and 2020, but my fat hands screwed it up, so I went with this. In comes a new hobby - metal casting. I made the silver disk from refined scrap, melting, pouring and polishing. It has some imperfections, but I thought that added to the look. If you are into dissolved ^{ing} precious metals in nitric acid – call me.

The box is some left-over cocobolo wood from another project, and the bottom is some tiger wood, because I ran out of coco. The finish here is linseed oil and butchers wax on top. I wanted to put a commemorative silver plaque on it, but you-know-who, the GL jeweler, sort of slow rolled me – thus – no plaque. Oh well.

Everything comes with a life-time warranty – my life of course. Caring for it should just be wiping it down with a soft cloth after use.

I've gone on long enough. Enjoy installation and congratulations to the new officers for taking on this responsibility. You are never alone in your duties – many brothers are more than willing to step forward to assist you.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Brother Steve Pomper 17 Jan 21

Post script: Brother secretary – can you add this note to the lodge minutes? Thank you.