

David Gomes of Hawaii Receives Jack Jones Humanitarian Award



Worshipful Brother David Gomes received the honorable Jack H. Jones Humanitarian Award at the 2024 Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries in Seattle, Washington in February. The presentation was made by MW Brother Roger VanGorden, President of the Masonic Renewal Committee and a Past Grand Master with the Grand Lodge of Indiana, F. & A.M. The Masonic Renewal Committee chartered by the Conference of Grand Masters established the Jack Jones Humanitarian Award.

The Jack H. Jones Humanitarian Award was established by the MRC for his significant accomplishments and contributions that Imperial Sir Jack made for the Conference of Grand Masters, the Masonic Renewal Committee, Shriners International and the families of Freemasonry. Imperial Sir Jack was a founding member and advisor to the Masonic Renewal Committee when the committee was established in 1988. Jack was a Past Imperial

Potentate for the year 2008-09, Honorary Past Grand Master of DeMolay International and Past Imperial Recorder for Shriners International for many years. He was renowned as a Shrine-Mason for his loyalty in exhibiting the fraternalism of unity with all Masonic families.

The committee believed that we had an outstanding slate of nominees to be considered and all were very strong and first class nominees.

After careful consideration of the nominees, the committee unanimously selected Worshipful Brother David Gomes of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii for this prestigious award. He is the Chair of the Masonic Charities of Hawaii, a Grand Lodge Inspector, a Past Master of Hawaiian Lodge, a Past Venerable Master of Honolulu Valley, and a Past Potentate of Aloha Shriners. But beyond titles and accolades, David Gomes is a brother, a friend, and to many, a hero.

Worshipful Brother Gomes has been instrumental in stepping up to the cause and was the beacon of light in the aftermath of the most devastating fire in Hawaii in over a century. Under David's leadership, the Masonic Charities of Hawaii executed a relief effort that stands as a testament to what we, as Masons, aspire.

In August 2023, Lahaina, a vibrant community of 12,000, was reduced to ashes. Over 2,700 structures were destroyed, 2,170 acres scorched, and most heartbreakingly, 93 lives lost.

Through his leadership, the Masonic Charities of Hawaii raised nearly half a million dollars, with an additional \$100,000 in grants. Under his guidance, these funds provided funds for rent, utilities, food, clothing, and water, ensuring those affected by the tragedy are supported until they can stand once more on their own.

His tireless efforts have not only provided immediate relief but laid the foundation for the long-term recovery of Lahaina. He has shown us what it means to be a Mason in the fullest sense—not just in word, but in action what a true Mason is all about. Worshipful Brother Gomes upheld the valued principles of Jack Jones in carrying out the mission of helping his fellowman and to enhance Freemasonry.

The Jack Jones Humanitarian Award found a deserving Brother whose actions have transcended the bounds of obligation, touching many lives and healing a community in desperate need. When a desperate cry for help came from the men, women, and children of Lahaina, a Mason answered the call!



Worshipful Brother Gomes has the vision to help and assist where needed in his community and state. His loyalty of dedicated service toward helping his fellow being goes unmatched. He is truly a faithful servant to humanity and the fraternity of Freemasonry.

Pictured is the MW Brother Roger VanGorden, President of the Masonic Renewal Committee and a Past Grand Master with the Grand Lodge of Indiana, F. & A.M. presenting Worshipful Brother David Gomes his award.

Freemasonry is the oldest, prestigious, largest and most widely recognized fraternal organization in the world. Today, there are more than 2 million Freemasons in North America alone.

Charity is an important tenet of the Masonic fraternity and Freemasons are contribution over 2.5 million dollars a day to benefit charitable deeds and worthy causes to assist the needs of people in our communities. We as the Masonic fraternity are constantly striving to make a better world in which to live.

We would like to continue this honor of recognition of Jack H. Jones for years to come. Nomination forms and information are available through our MRC web site. We would like to encourage your Grand Lodge to make a nomination for the 2025 honoree.

General information is available at the Masonic Renewal Committee web site by going to www.masoncirenual.org for further information about the honoree and the award.