



# Laverne R. Clary



Grand Master

1979-1980

Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M.



Born

November 29, 1923

Frederika, Iowa

Died

November 22, 2007

Waterloo, Iowa

Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M.  
**OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

To the Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the several Subordinate Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, and to all Grand Lodges with which we are in fraternal correspondence:

From page 3 of the 1980 Grand Lodge Proceedings

*“If you can talk with crowds  
and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings—nor lose  
the common touch.  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but  
none too much  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With 60 seconds worth of  
distance run,  
Your’s is the Earth and  
every thing that’s in it.  
And which is more—you’ll be  
A man my son! Rudyard Kipling”*

“Surely those lines best epitomize the year of distinguished service just completed by Grand Master Laverne R Clary. Grand Master Clary did, without doubt ‘walk with kings’ without, for a single moment, losing that all important ‘common touch with his brethren. It has been said that some men **grow** under responsibility others merely ‘**swell**’. No Iowa Mason who has come in contact with “Louie” (*for he has remained to be just “Louie” to countless friends*) would catalog him in the ‘swelled’ list. He has never been conspicuous by his honors, but ever by his dedication to the sublime principles of the Order. He did, in fact, ‘fill every minute with a full 60 seconds full of distance run.’ He has spread the good word of Freemasonry to the four corners of this Grand Jurisdiction and beyond, never sacrificing one ounce of the dignity, sincerity, and fervency which must be associated with the title he so proudly carried – GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN IOWA.” – Tom Eggleston, Grand Secretary

Those were the words chosen to preface the biographical sketch of Most Worshipful Grand Master “Louie” Clary in the 1980 Grand Lodge Proceedings. They were also used to eulogize Brother “Louie” in the Grand Lodge Masonic Memorial Service which was held in the Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly on November 27, 2007. Over 70 Masonic brethren were in attendance. Pastors Tony Nester and Keith Tomlinson officiated for the Christian Service.

“Louie” was born November 29, 1923 in Frederika, Iowa. Following graduation from Waverly High School in 1941, he went to work for the Waverly Feed Mill. On October 22, he and his high school sweetheart, Helen L. Curry, were united in marriage and to that union three children were born, Dianne, Michael and Margaret. He served three years (1943 -1946) in the U.S. Army. On June 3, 1946, “Louie” went to work as a city mail carrier at the Waverly Post Office. He remained with the U.S. Postal Service until his retirement in December of 1978 with nearly 35 years of government service.

“Louie” was a 23 year old letter carrier when he knocked on the door of Tyrrell Lodge No. 116 on April 10, 1946. He was Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft on May 8 and Raised a Master Mason on May 29 of the same year. He served in several of the line offices in Tyrrell Lodge and in January of 1953 he was Installed as Worshipful Master. That same year, “Louie” received his Masonic Instructor’s Certificate and three years later, in 1956, he was awarded District Lecturer’s Certificate No. 1981. It didn’t take too long for that 33 year old District Lecturer from Waverly to catch the attention of Brother Glenn Foster who was marked to serve as Grand Master in 1957. Grand Master Foster appointed Brother Louie to serve as his Senior Grand Deacon. Just two years later, in 1959 Brother “Louie” was installed as Junior Grand Warden to serve with, yet another ‘Masonic giant’ Grand Master Wendell W. Bishop. He wore the purple of the Fraternity a third time when he was installed as Deputy Grand Master for Hoyt Woody in 1964. In 1967, he was appointed as a Custodian of the Work as a replacement for none other than Past Grand Master John T. Ames. He served as a Custodian of the Work for the next 20 years and in 1988 he was appointed as Custodian *Emeritus*. In 1979, Brother “Louie” was installed as Grand Master of Masons in Iowa, an office he served with pride, with dignity, with honor, with distinction and with great humility.

The honor with which I accepted the family’s request to conduct the Masonic Funeral Service for my good friend and Brother “Louie” Clary was matched by the request by Grand Master Donald Mosier to write this memorial. Thank you Most Worshipful Sir.

*So mote it be.*

As a mark of respect to our departed brother, I do hereby order this Memorial read in each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction at the first Stated Communication after receiving the same, and the the Charter or Great Lights be draped in mourning for a period of 30 days.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Grand Lodge of Iowa to be affixed thereon on this 7th day of December, A.D. 2007 – A. L. 6007.



Attest:

Grand Master of Masons in Iowa

Grand Secretary

*(I am deeply indebted to Tom Eggleston, P.G.M., who at my request composed this tribute to our departed Brother, Laverne R. Clary, P.G.M.)*