

Masonic Spotlight: R.W. Robert S. Vartanian

Richard H. Ryder, 2017)

The members of the Sixth Masonic District of Masons in Massachusetts proudly congratulate Right Worshipful Brother Robert S. Vartanian as their new District Deputy Grand Master. After a distinguished Masonic career thus far, R.W. Vartanian assumed responsibility for the Sixth District in December, 2016.

I had the pleasure of meeting with our new DDGM at Perk's Coffee House in Norwood, MA, where he shared a bit about himself and the goals for his term.

Born in 1955 in Boston, the youngest of three boys, R.W. Vartanian grew up in Roslindale and Jamaica Plain, MA. In 1982 he married Kathleen Morowitz, first living in Roslindale before moving to his current residence in Walpole, MA, where Kathleen and he proudly raised their two sons, Joseph and Stephen. While building his professional career R.W. Vartanian received his degree at Fitchburg State College. He was employed at Magnetic Imaging Company; ARP, a musical synthesizer company; and then spent 33 years at Raytheon Company. Now retired, Brother Vartanian spends much of his time with Masonic endeavors.

In his spare time Brother Vartanian enjoys music, a love of which goes back to his youth. At 13 years of age he was a professional drummer with an Armenian band and played in several U.S. cities. At the age of 19 he joined another local band and continued his music career. A graduate of Radio Broadcasting School, Brother Vartanian worked at WBOS radio (Disco 93) as an online engineer and disc jockey, inspiring him to pursue another career as a professional DJ. Today, he and his DJ company, *Music-X-Press*, can be seen playing at venues throughout New England.

Brother Vartanian comes from a family of Freemasons, including his late father, a 50 year Mason. Proud to be a third generation Mason, his uncles and other extended family members were also members of the Craft. Wor. Robert Peter Shedd, well-respected among local Masons, inspired Brother Vartanian to pursue the benefits of Freemasonry and he approach his dad to learn more. Like any young and active man R.W. Vartanian was concerned about the time commitment; he also felt the need to satisfy his personal belief of paying proper attention to his commitments. However, after considering the values of Freemasonry, as explained by his dad, a man he greatly admired, Brother Vartanian sought Freemasonry as a sanctuary from the world's craziness.

As a result of his decision to make Freemasonry a part of his life, life-long friendships were formed. Over the years, many fine Masons have influenced R.W Vartanian, but none more so than his father, Vahan Vartanian. R.W. Vartanian admired his dad for his humility; for being highly revered among friends and contemporaries; for pride in his Armenian heritage; for his work ethic, professional resiliency, and attaining the rank of General in the Massachusetts National Guard. When Pope John Paul

He visited Boston in 1979, General Vartanian, as the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, was responsible for protecting the Pontiff. It is plan to see where our District Deputy gets his many admirable qualities

Our new DDGM was raised as a Master Mason in 1994 at West Roxbury Lodge, Dedham MA, and advanced to Master in 2005. He has since served as Senior Warden. Realizing the benefits of serving at a district level, R.W. Vartanian has been extremely active. In 2015 and 2016 he was instrumental in helping plan and conduct two well attended Donation Day and Open House events. But more impressively, Brother Vartanian played a key role, along with R.W. Glenn Kubick and R.W. Stanley Gaw, in planning and organizing the dedication of a 6' bronze statue of M.W. Joseph Warren at the Warren gravesite, Forest Hills Cemetery, Jamaica Plain. For his exceptional work, during a two year effort, R.W. Vartanian was awarded the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal. Click [HERE](#) for details about the statue and events leading up to the dedication ceremony on October 22, 2016.

As District Deputy Grand Master for the Sixth Masonic District, R.W. Vartanian hopes to enhance the Masonic experience, through commitment, accountability, and inclusion. He plans to include each lodge in decisions that impact the district, inspiring Masters to take active roles in planning district events and to become ultimately responsible and accountable for success. He feels strongly that if the Masters are in agreement and working as a team, their consensus will trickle down through the lodges and improve the Masonic experience for all. Equally important is commitment on the part of all Masons, officers and non-officers. A commitment made is a commitment to fulfill; anything less is not taking responsibility seriously.

I ended my discussion with R.W. Vartanian speaking about his values and his guidance for the newly raised Mason. Being people orientated, Brother Vartanian wants others to feel he is approachable and possesses a sincere desire to help others become the best they can be. Acting ethically and practicing morality are high on his values list. For those who are new to the Fraternity he advises them to observe, learn, and identify a Mason to emulate.

On behalf of all members of the Sixth Masonic District, best wishes to R.W. Vartanian for a successful term as District Deputy Grand Master.