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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lawrence E. Bethune of West Newton Installed as District Masonic Officer

BOSTON, MA – Lawrence Eugene Bethune of West Newton was installed a District Deputy Grand Master (or District Deputy) of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, and will preside over nine lodges in the Fifth Masonic District for the year. The 232 lodges and 35,000 Freemasons in the Commonwealth are divided into 32 Districts, and led by a District Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts is the oldest Grand Lodge in the Western Hemisphere and the third oldest in the world. It was chartered in 1733, following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, and Ireland in 1725. In 2013 the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts will celebrate its 280th Anniversary. A Grand Lodge is the governing body that ensures the activities of the lodges and members comply with its Constitutions and Regulations; it also maintains the uniformity of the centuries-old initiation ceremony candidates experience when they become members.

As a District Deputy Grand Master, Bethune serves as the Grand Master's personal representative to the lodges in the District. Richard J. Stewart of Shrewsbury, MA was installed for the third and final of his three one-year terms as the 87th Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts and the head of the fraternity. Bethune was hand-picked by the Grand Master for this position.

The Fifth Masonic District is comprised of the following lodges: Waltham Triad Lodge (chartered in 1820), Dalhousie Lodge (1860), Norumbega Fraternity Lodge (1875), and Garden City Lodge (1954), all meeting in Newton; and, Beth-horon Lodge (1870), Norfolk

Lodge (1874), Wellesley Lodge (1912), Moses Michael Hayes Lodge (1931), and The Masters Lodge (1983), all of Needham.

Bethune was raised in many different communities, as he is a child of a career U.S. Navy officer. He graduated from Toms River High School (New Jersey) in 1967, and Berklee College of Music in 1971. He also pursued a doctoral degree in music research at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. He is currently the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Dean of Students for the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. He served as a consultant for the New England Patriots for eighteen years from 1979 to 1997.

Lawrence and is married to Cynthia; a Past Worthy Advisor of the Watertown Chapter of the Rainbow Girls). They are members of 2nd Church in Newton where he is a past chair of the stewardship committee and the chair of the nominating committee for the church. He has three daughters, Shana, Brittany, and Michaela.

Bethune was a member of Harmony Chapter of DeMolay in Toms River, New Jersey and began his Masonic career in 1999 by joining Dalhousie Lodge. He served as the Worshipful Master, or presiding officer, of Dalhousie Lodge from 2007 to 2009. Masons use the original definition of “worshipful,” meaning “honorable”; English mayors and judges are still addressed as “Worshipful.” As District Deputy Grand Master, Bethune will be called “Right Worshipful.”

Bethune is also a 32nd Degree Mason in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston, a member of Aleppo Shriners in Wilmington, MA, and a Knight in the Royal Order of Scotland. He is currently serving as the Fifth Masonic District Ambassador and Secretary and Treasurer of the Fifth Masonic District Lodge of Instruction.

In November 2011, Bethune was presented the Joseph Warren Medal for Distinguished Service. Named for the Patriot killed during the Battle of Bunker Hill, Warren was the presiding Grand Master at the time of his death. The medal recognizes exceptional service at the Lodge level and is conferred by the Grand Master on the recommendation of the Lodge Master.

Freemasons belong to the world’s oldest and largest fraternity, which brings together men of every country, religion, race, education, income, and opinion and helps develop the bonds of friendship between them. Through a large variety of North American Masonic

philanthropies, approximately \$3,000,000 is given to charity *every day*, 70% of which benefits the general public. During its initiation ceremony, which uses symbolism and allegory, its members are encouraged to value principles and ethics and live their lives accordingly. By providing meaningful opportunities for fellowship, charity, leadership, and education, Freemasonry aims to “make good men better,” and hopes its members will make their families, workplaces, and communities stronger. For additional information, please call 800.882.1020, or visit MassFreemasonry.org.

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