Centennial Celebration

Memorial Celebrates 100 Years of Service at Gala Event

On February 22, 2010, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association celebrated its 100th Anniversary at the Memorial with a festive day of events. Hundreds of Masonic leaders and guests from across the nation and around the globe attended this historic occasion on the 278th birthday of George Washington.

The day began with the Annual Meeting of the Memorial Association and included the unveiling of a new portrait of George Washington by local artist Christopher Erney. A bronze-toned cast of the Memorial’s new logo, also designed by Erney to commemorate the 100th Anniversary, was on display for the first time in Grand Masonic Hall. In honor of the occasion, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, hosted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, was held nearby in Arlington. Delegates attended the Association’s Annual Meeting and celebration events at the Memorial.

Following the Annual Meeting, the International Order of DeMolay rededicated the colossal bronze statue of George Washington in Memorial Hall on the 60th Anniversary of its unveiling by President and Past Grand Master Harry S. Truman. The statue was a gift to the Memorial from the DeMolay.

Concurrent with the Annual Meeting, a program for ladies and guests was held featuring colonial entertainment. The celebration also included the premiere of a new film titled *Built on Freedom*, which presents George Washington as the inspiration for the founding

Continued on page 4
Memorial Opens White House Stones Exhibit

by Mark A. Tabbert

The George Washington Masonic Memorial opened a new exhibit in February featuring 45 historic White House stones. Each stone is marked by one of the Scots Masons who helped to build the White House. The stones are reassembled now for the first time since President Harry S. Truman sent one to each U.S. Masonic Grand Lodge in 1952. Complementing the stones is a Minute Book from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scotland. It lists members of the Lodge who in 1794 immigrated to help build the White House. Accompanying the Minute Book is the Lodge’s Mark Book, which shows each stonemason’s trade mark. By comparing these marks to the marks on the stones, visitors can identify the men who helped to build the President’s House. The exhibit opened in conjunction with the Memorial Association’s 100th Anniversary and will run through May 2011.

In 1789, George Washington and the U.S. Congress were determined to build a great capital city. The site was chosen by 1792; designer Pierre L’Enfant’s street plan was adapted, and work began. At the city’s center would be the U.S. Capitol—the “People’s House.” The President’s House would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington reviewed the site and personally selected architect James Hoban’s design. The mansion’s cornerstone was laid with a civic and Masonic ceremony on October 13, 1792.

Foundation work then began in earnest, but the government soon discovered the young nation had an abundance of craftsmen, but few master stonemasons. What’s more, those it did have were working on the U.S. Capitol. After a thorough search in America and Europe, agent George Walker traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland. By spring 1794, he had recruited at least eight stonemasons from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8.

Continued on page 8

Memorial President Tony Wordlow welcomes guests at the opening of The Freemasons’ White House Stones exhibit featuring 45 stones marked by the Scots Masons who helped to build the White House.
MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA

Centennial Reflections
by George D. Seghers

One hundred years ago the Memorial Association was blessed with outstanding leadership. Without such men and Masons as Thomas Shryock, Charles Callahan and Louis Watres, the Memorial would not exist. They were determined, disciplined and inspired to erect a grand Memorial to the Father of our Country, Brother George Washington.

Today we are again blessed with outstanding leadership. Without the Officers and Members of the Board of Directors, the Memorial Association would not have celebrated its first 100 years of service to the fraternity and to the legacy of Brother Washington. Their leadership has set the Association on a strong and confident course with a new focus on education and promotion that has resulted in significant restorations, enhancements and improvements to the Memorial. Their commitment to the future of the Memorial and a rededication to the Association’s original purpose led to the creation of a new vision statement: “To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.” Indeed, there is no better example after which to pattern ourselves than George Washington. He was a man of strict moral convictions, integrity, unflagging courage, diligence and industry—truly a man who characterized and personified the teachings of Freemasonry.

As we celebrate this milestone in the history of the Memorial Association, let us pause to examine ourselves and our actions. Are we working and living in a manner that reflects honor and dignity on ourselves, the Association and on the Great Man to whom the Memorial is dedicated? This should be our goal and our desire. Our country was blessed with the right man at the right time. Without George Washington, the creation of the first truly free society in the world would not have been possible. This centennial year is an opportunity for us to remember and cherish the one man who did more and gave more to this nation than any other.

We are pleased to present the Memorial’s new newsletter. It has been renamed and redesigned for a second century of service. The Memorial is a beacon radiating the light of Freemasonry and the legacy of Washington out to the world. We hope that each issue will inform, interest and enLIGHTen you!

George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Lafayette Apron on Display at Memorial

A Masonic apron worn by General Lafayette is now on display in The Form and Function of American Freemasonry exhibit. On loan from Albert Pike Lodge No. 117 in Denver, Colorado, the apron was worn by Lafayette when he visited Apollo Lodge No. 13 in Troy, New York, during his tour of the United States in 1824–25. After the meeting, Lafayette returned the apron to Adna Treat, Master of the Lodge. Treat owned the apron until his death at the age of 103 in 1900. The apron was then given to his son, Charles A. Treat. It passed through a younger brother and then to a nephew, Nathan O. Vosburgh, who for many years was the Treasurer of Albert Pike Lodge No. 117. On September 27, 1928, he gave the apron to the Lodge. The apron will be on display through the end of the year.
New Name, New Design

I n commemoration of the Memorial’s 100th Anniversary and to launch a new century of service, the Memorial’s newsletter has a new name and a new look. We are pleased to present the first issue of LIGHT. Its name reflects the idea that the Memorial is a beacon that spreads the light of Freemasonry and the legacy of Washington out to the world. A fresh, new design gives it a cleaner, lighter feel and makes it easier to read. The task was artfully accomplished by Studio A, a local design firm that also produced the beautiful souvenir booklet distributed at the Centennial. The striking illustration of the Memorial in the masthead was done by local artist Christopher Erney, who also designed the new Memorial logo based on Washington’s Family Crest. Erney also painted a new portrait of Washington as a Mason for the Centennial and produced a large, bronze-toned cast of the logo for Grand Masonic Hall.

This issue is also a Special Centennial Edition and introduces a new department titled “Shining Lights” that features the testimony of a Member or Friend of the Memorial and highlights what the Memorial means to them. (See page 7.) We hope you enjoy this new publication. Let us know what you think!

Centennial Celebration, continued from page 1

The day concluded with a gala reception in Grand Masonic Hall with birthday cake, an ice sculpture of the Memorial, champagne toasts, and an appearance by special guests George and Martha Washington. A Centennial Celebration souvenir booklet was distributed and several commemorative gift items were available for purchase.

On display during the celebration were the trowel and gavel used at the 1793 Cornerstone Laying of the United States Capitol by George Washington and the 1752 Bible from Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 upon which a young Washington took his Masonic obligations. In addition, as part of the celebration, The Freemasons’ White House Stones exhibit opened on Sunday, February 21. (See article, page 2.)

This is a unique commemorative year for the Memorial Association. Together we celebrate 100 years of dedication to Freemasonry’s greatest brother and honor the countless brothers who built the Memorial and those who sustain it today. The Association will continue to shine as a bright light of Freemasonry as it fulfills its mission: “To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.”

COMMEMORATIVE KEEPSAKES

I n honor of our Centennial Celebration, the Association commissioned several beautiful keepsakes. Use them with pride, appreciation and remembrance of 100 years of service to the legacy of George Washington and the Masonic fraternity. Order yours today!

- Business Card Holder
- 100% Silk Neckties
- Collector’s Medallions
- plus more

Visit www.gwmemorial.org for full details

George (Dean Malissa) and Martha (Mary Wiseman), special guests of honor at the Centennial, are shown here at the reception next to an ice sculpture of the Memorial.
Clockwise from top left: The Honor Guard of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line opens the Annual Meeting with the presentation of the colors; General Washington makes a toast at the reception; Members of the International Order of DeMolay rededicate the statue of Washington in Memorial Hall—in the foreground are the trowel and gavel Washington used to lay the cornerstone of the Capitol and the Bible upon which he took his Masonic obligations; Guests enjoy the gala reception; Executive Director George Seghers unveils the new portrait of George Washington at the Annual Meeting. (View more photos at www.gwmemorial.org.)
Contributors

New Century Members
America-St. John’s Lodge No. 8  CT
David G. Boring  MI
Charles & Olive Bos  CA
John J. Goga  MI
Golden City Lodge No. 1  CO
Guildhall Lodge No. 553  OK
Frederick W. Haynes  ME
Andrew W. Hutten  VA
Wallace A. Kelley  CA
James D. Peterson  OR
Russell G. Reno  NE
Frederick S. Robinson  MT
Mark Smith  TN
Robert J. Thomas  KY
William H. Thornley, Jr.  PA
Richard H. Trout  NJ
Robert M. Walker  NY
Edward O. Weisser  PA

Platinum Presidential Members
John R. “Bo” Cline  AK
Mark Douglas  NH
Elmer E. Engberg  ND
Rodney H. Forristall  MN
Peter Gilson  MA
Robert E. Gresham, Jr.  NC
Junaluskee Lodge No. 145  NC
Lakewood Lodge No. 170  CO
James G. Liggett  CA
Michael F. Lintner  NV
Harold J. Littleton  DE
Richard M. Luther  SD
Mountain City Lodge No. 67  VA
Napa Valley Lodge N. 93  CA
New Jersey College, SRICF  NJ
Albert G. Opp  WA
Wayne Sirmon  AL
St. John’s Lodge No. 52  ID
Carloszodes T. Tchouambe  MN
Tunnel Hill Lodge No. 202  GA
Dennis K. Wickenden  ND
Richard H. Williamson  MD
Thomas L. Winter  NY

Gold Master Members
Albert Pike Lodge No. 117  CO
Amwell Lodge No. 12  NJ
Franklin K. Andersen  WI
Richard B. Anderson  WI
Russell S. Ault  NC
Robert L. Barthold  CO
Donald E. Baxter  MA
Kenneth D. Beebe  NE
William H. Bishop  OR
Samuel S. Blane  IL
Arthur L. Bright  DE
Paul Bryant Burkett  CA
Zivan Cohen  MD
Cotner Lodge No. 297  NE
Winston S. Dean  CT
Donald T. Dudeck  IL
Robert L. Engel  PA
Eureka Lodge No. 195  VA

Silver Craftsmen Members
Florence Adair  MI
Jerry S. Albrecht  NJ
Fred E. Allen  TX
David S. Allmuth  CA
Alma Lodge No. 244  MI
Seba T. Anderson  WV
Jerry Dale Asberry  TN
Jonathan G. Baatz  MN
Richard B. Barnett  PA
William F. Barquist  VA
Robert Bartlett  WA
Berne Lodge No. 724  NC
Lewis Blum  PA
Robert E. Braden  MI
Clarence D. Brainard  MI
Julian H. Buncutter  FL
Arnold Carlson  NJ
Clifton Lodge No. 203  NJ
Mark B. Cohn  FL
Armand E. Cote  MI
Crossville Lodge No. 483  TN
Jimmie K. Crowder  VA
Custer Lodge No. 148  VA
D. G. Davis  WA
William Demmers, Jr.  CA
John J. Dentino  DE
Charles R. Dodd  MD
Allen R. Duncan  CO
Jack K. Dunn  AZ
Marlin S. Easthouse  AZ
Eclipse Lodge No. 259  NJ
Paul K. Edman  CT
Thomas B. Eubanks  IL

Charles A. Folsom  NE
Fort Henry York Rite College  WA
No. 61
Rodger S. Fowler  FL
Richard F. Goward  GA
Jerry Green  TX
Wilson Green  DE
Maxine B. Greenberg  AZ
Seymour D. Greenstone  MI
Jewell Grein  IL
Daniel R. Gruber  VA
William T. Guise  ID
Hagerman Lodge No. 78  CA
John A. Haner  NY
Robert A. Harrison  VA
Philip Hayes  MN
George A. Hedblum  VA
Henry Lodge No. 57  CT
Herndon Lodge No. 264  NC
John E. Herschleb  CA
Adin A. Hester  CA
Douglas R. Hile  IL
Robert L. Hoaglin  MO
Stanley A. Hoff  NC
Randall E. Holce  MO
Melvin Holst  MO
Gordon E. Hopkins  CT
Clinton M. Hurlbut  MA
L. Bradley Hutchinson  MA
Kenneth V. Jackson  TX
Ted I. Jarrard  CA
Casey Joble  OK
Leonard P. Keirstead  OK
Walter Kevern  CA
Frank E. King, Jr.  TX
Frederick G. Klyen, III  FL
Lake County Shrine Nomad Band  MD
Richard C. Lang  NY
Walter W. Laramie  VA
Robert F. LaRonde  MA
James E. Lawrence  DE
Lawton Lodge No. 183  CA
Gary D. Lemmons  FL
Alfred T. Lilliendahl  CA
Russel S. Mattson  MA
Jerry D. McIntire  TX
Andrew J. McVeigh, III  MA
Carl E. Meissner, Jr.  MD
Barbara Miller  VA
Billy B. Millhollin  VA
Edward S. Milligan  MI
William R. Minch  MI
William A. Nelson  IN
Lavern A. Newburn  MI
Richard U. Niedt  NJ
Occidental Lodge No. 20  CO
Owasso Lodge No. 545  PA
Palestine-Roxborough Lodge  OK
No. 135
Richard A. & Orline L. Paris  CA
Shaun M. Peiffer  PA
William Perruccio  CT
Harlan E. Phelps, Jr.  VA
Norman W. Porch  MD
Porto Lodge No. 84  AZ
W. Bruce Pruitt  CA
Dean K. Quarnstrom  IL
Robert M. Reeder  CA
Thomas L. Reese  NY

Eric Reinhimer  TX
Donald A. Rippentrop  MN
Paul F. Ritenour  WA
James F. Robb  WI
William C. Robinson  VA
George P. Rutherford, Jr.  TX
Luella Sahrhage  IL
Saint Vrain Lodge No. 23  CO
Richard J. Sanders  IL
Louis T. Saxson  IL
Erling Scheldrup  ND
John F. Schweger  IL
Roger Seigel  FL
Lois F. Shaw  IL
Richard M. Sherman  NY
Joseph W. Sibbitt  IL
A. Eugene Smith  MI
Paul C. Snelgrove  MA
Robert E. Sprague  WA
Phyllis L. Stoner  PA
Geoffrey Stowell  CT
Ray F. Sundstrom  NH
Clarence A. Swartwood  MI
Charles R. Thomas  NC
Richard L. Tinker  MO
Triangle Lodge No. 748  OH
Vero Beach Masonic  FL
High Twelve Club No. 655  IN
Vesta Lodge No. 136  TX
Clayton Wadlow  IL
Byron A. Ward  OR
Robert G. & Larissa P. Watkins  VA
Thomas G. Webber  WA
Barbara J. Weiss  CA
Jack S. Williams  FL
John M. Winskie  WI
Donal N. Ziemer  CA

*In Memory of **In Honor of

Tree Dedications
Bethel Lodge No. 358  MI
Brethren Called on High-2009*  NJ
by Livingston Lodge No. 11
Arthur L. Bright**  DE
by Ruth Ann Bright
Charles E. Bruce**  VA
by Your Loving Family
Effie G. Conary*  NH
by Your Family
Lyle S. Crawford*  MI
by Alberta J. Crawford
Ray & Peggy Curry**  VA
by Your Loving Family
Harvey B. Eddy*  FL
by the Masons of Florida
John W. "Jack" Friday, IV*  VA
by Jack’s Fans
Grand Lodge Alpina Switzerland
of Switzerland
Grand Lodge of North Dakota  ND
Grand Lodge Alpina Switzerland  Switzerland
Melvin E. & Carol J. Ike**  CA
by Franklin K. Andersen
Fred Maxwell Kinder*  TN
by David & Beth Pickler
Landrum Lodge No. 48  GA
by Marcia, Laurie and
Donald & Louise MacHarg*  DC
Jean MacHarg
David O. Martinez**  NV
by Vegas Lodge No. 32
Yes! Count on me to support our Memorial. Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

$00 Silver Craftsman: Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.

$0 Gold Master: Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.

$00 Platinum Presidential: Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.

$000 New Century: Your gift will be acknowledged, you will receive a Membership Certificate and your name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.

Patrons

$5,000 Millennium Architect

$10,000 Millennium Master Architect

$25,000 Millennium Builder

$50,000 Millennium Master Builder

$100,000 Millennium Grand Master Builder

In addition to the above benefits, all Patrons will receive a Membership Plaque and your name will be permanently displayed on a Patrons Wall of Honor recognizing major benefactors prominently located in the Memorial. Already a Supporter? Great! Since Membership is cumulative, an additional contribution may upgrade your status to the next category.

Other amount enclosed: $ ____________________

Check enclosed made payable to GWMM

Please charge my:

○ American Express  ○ Discover  ○ MasterCard  ○ VISA

(Please Print)

Card Number

Expiry Date

Name (as it appears on card)

Address

City, State, Zip

Signature

E-mail address to receive the newsletter via e-mail

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. All Memberships are gratefully acknowledged, published in the newsletter and permanently displayed in the Memorial.

Mail to GWMM Membership, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301-2751 or fax to 703.519.9270

Join the GWMM Today!

We look forward to spotlighting more Members and Friends in future issues. Thank you to all the “Lights” that shine on behalf of the Memorial.
New Century of Commitment

On February 22, 1910, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was founded to create a suitable memorial to George Washington, the Mason. Despite overwhelming financial challenges, the Founders achieved this momentous task and today the Memorial stands as a symbol of light, spreading the message of Washington's legacy and Freemasonry to the world. But we must continue to preserve what the Founders began. Our mission is “To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.”

Will you join us during this historic Centennial year, and help us to launch a second century of inspiration? Support from individuals like you helps the George Washington Masonic Memorial to inspire so many in the community, our nation and, indeed, around the world. Will you make a Centennial gift of $100 today? Your participation is vital since the Memorial is entirely funded by private contributions.

Please help us continue our efforts to ensure that the George Washington Masonic Memorial forever remains to inspire all future generations.

Yes! I’m proud to join the Centennial Celebration!

☐ I have enclosed my Centennial gift of $100.

☐ Please accept this gift of $__________

☐ Yes, I’d like the Memorial to communicate with me via e-mail.

My e-mail address is: ____________________________

Please charge my:

☐ American Express  ☐ Discover  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ VISA

Amount: $__________________________

(Please Print)

CARD NUMBER _______________ EXPIRATION DATE _______________

NAME (AS IT APPEARS ON CARD) ______________________________

ADDRESS _____________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP __________________________

SIGNATURE ________________________________

Mail to GWMM Membership, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301-2751 or fax to 703.519.9270

Memorial Opens White House Stones Exhibit, continued from page 2

With the arrival of the eight Scots stonemasons, the White House walls rose to completion in 1798. During construction, the stonemasons, being Freemasons, joined the local lodge. Federal Lodge No.15 had been chartered September 12, 1793 by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. James Hoban was its first Worshipful Master. Federal Lodge became the first lodge when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was constituted in 1811. The current exhibit also includes Federal Lodge’s first Account Book, which lists the Scots stonemasons and White House architect James Hoban as its first Master. Additional materials include a letter from President Truman, historic photographs and other items.

The White House stones were discovered soon after Truman became president in 1945, when major plaster cracks appeared and a piano nearly dropped through the floor. The First Family relocated to Blair House as work began on a complete overhaul of the executive mansion. By 1950, only the White House facade and some of the original foundation stones remained. During one of his frequent inspections, President Truman noticed a large number of stones engraved with Masons’ marks and recognized that they were made by Scottish stonemasons. He contacted the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and had more than 100 of them delivered to the Grand Lodge headquarters on New York Avenue—just three blocks away.

In 1952, President Truman asked the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to send one of the marked stones to each U.S. Grand Lodge. Each had a small White House brass plaque affixed to it and was accompanied by a letter from the President, framed in recycled White House wood, to the Grand Master. Additional stones were distributed to Canadian Grand Lodges, several Order of Eastern Star state grand chapters, a few local lodges, DeMolay International, the two U.S. Scottish Rite Supreme Councils, the Grand Lodge of Israel, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Many were hand delivered by Truman or by Carl Claudy, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presented stones to the recently independent Grand Lodge of Alaska and Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

Our unique exhibit of American and Scottish Masonic history is sponsored by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia and by the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia. It is also made possible through the cooperation and support of many U.S. Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia, and the White House Historical Association.

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.
Memorial Participates in Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mount Vernon


President Anthony P. Wordlow presented a wreath and spoke on behalf of the Memorial. Executive Director George D. Seghers was also in attendance as were several members of the Memorial’s Board of Directors. Other distinguished guests and speakers at the ceremony included Andrew U. Hammer, Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22; James C. Rees, President of Mount Vernon; and William E. Rorer, Jr., Grand Master of Virginia. Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 meets in the South Lodge Room at the Memorial and organizes the annual event. The tradition began in 1799 and has continued ever since.

Memorial President Tony Wordlow presents a wreath and speaks on behalf of the Memorial at the tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon.

Memorial Premieres New Film at Centennial

One of the highlights of the Memorial’s Centennial Celebration on February 22, 2010, was the premiere of a new film about George Washington as the inspiration for the founding of our country and the founding of the Memorial as seen through the eyes of present-day admirers. Titled Built on Freedom, it is a stirring presentation of insightful commentary and beautiful imagery. Commissioned by the Memorial, the film was underwritten by the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma. Copies are available upon request at no charge. Send an e-mail to rmavrova@gwmemorial.org or call the Memorial at 703.683.2007. For a sample preview, visit the website at www.gwmemorial.org.

A-W Lodge No. 22 Makes Generous Pledge to Memorial

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 pledged a generous $100,000 contribution to the Memorial at their meeting on February 22, 2010, the 100th Anniversary of the Memorial Association. Master of the Lodge Andrew U. Hammer presented the first installment to Association President Anthony P. Wordlow and Executive Director George D. Seghers. Stating that other great Masonic buildings throughout the nation had been lost, sold and even razed, Hammer vowed, “We must never let this building fall, either structurally or out of the hands of our fraternity. Our Lodge will do whatever it can to help maintain it. We have taken this first step today, and I challenge other Lodges and Grand Lodges of this nation to match or exceed this donation.”

Neither Wordlow nor Seghers knew anything about the contribution prior to the presentation. “It was a wonderful surprise. And to accept it on the day we commemorated 100 years of service to Washington’s memory and Freemasonry made it that much more meaningful,” Seghers said. The presentation took place during the Lodge’s annual meeting in honor of Washington’s Birthday that followed the Memorial’s Centennial Celebration. The contribution will be paid out in equal installments over the next four years.

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 was founded in February 1783 as Lodge No. 39 under warrant from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. In 1788, the Lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia as Alexandria Lodge No. 22 with George Washington listed as its Charter Master. In 1805, the Lodge was renamed in Washington’s honor. Alexandria-Washington Lodge meets in the South Lodge Room at the Memorial. For more information about the Lodge, visit www.aw22.org.

Photography by Chester B. Simpson

Grand Master of Virginia Bill Rorer (left) and Andrew Hammer, Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, next to the wreaths they presented.
Nebraska and New Jersey Pass $1 Per Member Resolution

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is pleased to announce that the Grand Lodge of Nebraska and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey passed a resolution at their Grand Lodge sessions in February and April respectively, to increase their per member contribution to the Memorial to $1. The Memorial wishes to extend its appreciation to Russ Reno, PGM of Nevada; John Ryan, PGM of New Jersey and member of the Memorial’s Board of Directors; Ed Peppler, PGM of New Jersey and Past President of the Memorial Association; Bill Berman, IPGM of New Jersey; and all the brethren of Nebraska and New Jersey for their outstanding show of support for the resolutions.

This brings the number of Grand Lodges participating in the Memorial’s $1 Per Member Campaign to ten. The other participating Grand Lodges are: District of Columbia, North Dakota, Alaska, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, Washington and Massachusetts. Every increase to $1 per member brings the Memorial closer to its goal of financial security. The Memorial hopes that all other Grand Lodges will participate in the campaign during this historic centennial year.

Grand Lodge of California Visits Memorial

In one of the largest Grand Lodge gatherings ever, the Memorial was thrilled and honored to welcome over 200 members of the Grand Lodge of California on May 4. The visit was part of Grand Master Ken Nagel’s Grand Lodge trip, which also celebrated the Grand Lodge of California Month at the Memorial. The visit also coincided that week with the 160th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of California.

Members spent a full day at the Memorial enjoying a variety of programs and events. The day began with a special dedication of the California Grove, a beautification project of Kathy Nagel, the Grand Master’s wife, to support the Memorial. The dedication ceremony was a surprise to Mrs. Nagel who was overcome with emotion and gratitude as she unveiled the marker designating the area for the new grove on the Memorial’s front lawn. She presented a check for $16,000 to Executive Director George Seghers as the first installment toward the planting of 60 trees.

The group proceeded inside for lunch followed by tours of the Memorial. The Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren convened the Grand Lodge of California in the North Lodge Room. Liberty Lodge, the home Lodge of the Grand Master, opened Lodge in the South Lodge Room and conferred the Master Mason Degree on one of their new Brothers while the ladies met in the Theater for an entertaining program. All enjoyed dinner in Grand Masonic Hall with special guests President and Lady Washington and several re-enactors from the colonial period. After dinner they were treated to a rousing musical production in the Theater followed by tours of the observation deck for a nighttime view the city.

The week-long trip also included visits to Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and many other popular sights in the Washington, D.C. area. The group stayed in Alexandria, near the Memorial.

Left: Members of the Grand Lodge of California gather in what will soon become the new California Grove on the front lawn of the Memorial. Right: Grand Master Ken Nagel, (left) with his wife Kathy (right of marker) along with members of the Grand Lodge of California, dedicated the future site of the California Grove, a beautification project of Mrs. Nagel’s to help support the Memorial. Also participating in the ceremony was Memorial President Tony Wordlow and his wife Marilyn (second and third from left) and Executive Director George Seghers and his wife Louise.
Memorial Inspires Nebraska to Create New Lodge

Other Grand Lodges to Follow

Inspired by the beauty and message of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, Masons in Nebraska have started a lodge with the purpose to help support the Memorial. The George Washington Memorial Lodge will have statewide membership and meet twice a year in six locations across Nebraska. Members will pay nominal dues and make a donation to the Memorial. The Lodge will offer members education about Washington, the Revolutionary War and the colonial period.

The Lodge will offer members education about Washington, the Revolutionary War and the colonial period.

Revolutionary War and the colonial period at dinner meetings, which family members can also attend. In addition, every other year the Lodge will make a trip to an area significant to that era. The Lodge’s first trip will occur this September to Alexandria and Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. To raise money between meetings, members will work with local lodges to develop fundraisers and present educational programs. To date, 111 Masons have expressed interest in joining. The Lodge aprons and jewels will be specially designed and will be unique for this and other Lodges created for this purpose. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey will also create a George Washington Memorial Lodge.

Virginia Masonic Bodies Distribute Portraits

Lynn Commandery No. 9 and the Masonic bodies of Smyth County, Virginia sponsored 15 George Washington portraits and presented them to the Smyth County School Board on December 15, 2009. They are to be distributed to all the schools in the county and placed in the main hallways of each school. A joint project of Mount Vernon and the Memorial, the goal is to distribute portraits of Washington to every school in America. The Memorial thanks the Masons of Smyth County for participating in this worthy program.

Grand Lodge of the Month Program

Every month the Memorial honors one of the 52 U.S. Grand Lodges (in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico). A state flag flies on the Memorial’s grounds, Grand Lodge publications are available for visitors, and the Memorial’s website features a short informational article and Grand Lodge seal. Grand Lodges also send outstanding materials, including artifacts, items of interest and even video, for a special display case located in The Form and Function of American Freemasonry exhibit. Grand Lodges are encouraged to visit the Memorial during their month. Several take this opportunity to confer degrees, hold special communications and visit the many Masonic and historic sights in the area. For more information, please contact Mark Tabbert at 703.683.2007, ext. 25 or mtabbert@gwmemorial.org.

Ken Nagel, Grand Master of California, visits the display sent by the Grand Lodge to commemorate its month in May. He brought more than 200 members of the Grand Lodge to the Memorial as part of his Grand Master’s trip to Alexandria.
MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

The Memorial Tree Program was created primarily to beautify and stabilize the Memorial’s 36 acres, most of which had been cleared. The front grounds had been terraced during the construction of the Memorial but never fully stabilized. We also strove to create a tree canopy to produce much-needed oxygen for the City of Alexandria and to provide a habitat for birds and other wildlife. We are currently working with an arborist and a landscape designer to develop a comprehensive plan to plant a diverse mix of trees including hardy natives, flowering ornamentals and fruit and nut varieties. The Grand Lodge of Arkansas contributed the first tree to the program on July 25, 2001. Since that time, we have planted 380 trees. Our goal this year is to plant 100 trees to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Memorial Association.

Please join us in this program to beautify the grounds of the Memorial, to remember and honor individuals and organizations, and to honor the history of the Memorial.

To participate, please contact George Seghers at 703.683.2007 or at gseghers@gwmemorial.org or visit the website at www.gwmemorial.org. Note: All donors can now locate and view their trees on the website.