of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA · VOLUME 25 · NUMBER 1 · 2019

Celebrating the Birthday of George Washington

n February 23, 2019, the Memorial held its annual Gala Celebration of George Washington's Birthday. The evening began with a special reception for Charter Members of the George Washington Memorial Society in the George Washington Museum on the fourth floor. The general reception took place in Memorial Hall, where a record-breaking number of attendees enjoyed refreshments and conversation in a beautiful setting that highlights Washington's Masonic legacy.

Attendees then enjoyed an entertainment titled "A Night at the Ball," which was a splendid reenactment of George Washington's birthnight ball from the eighteenth century. English country dancing was offered by the Alexandria Assembly Dancers, and period music was performed by Tea and Lace. The guest of honor at this re-created ball was none other than George Washington, portrayed by Bro. Dean Malissa. Washington offered his musings and reflections on the festivities.

Afterward, a banquet was held in Grand Masonic Hall. Guests enjoyed a fine meal, accompanied by spirited toasts to Freemasonry, to the United States of America, and to George Washington. Our new President, J.F. "Jeff" Webb, thanked former President Robert Conley and his wife JoNeil for their many years of service to the Memorial's work. During the banquet, the George Washington Memorial Award was presented to Jack D. Warren, Jr., Ph.D., Executive Director of the Society of the Cincinnati. Dr. Warren gave



Grand Masonic Hall provides a spectacular setting for the Washington's Birthday Celebration Banquet.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE An Opportunity to Serve by J.F. "Jeff" Webb



That an honor. privilege, and pleasure, to serve as President of the George

Washington Masonic National Memorial. I thank God, and my Masonic brethren, for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

On February 22, 2019, I had the opportunity to honor the memory of our beloved Brother George Washington by placing a wreath in his tomb at Mt. Vernon. The experience was both awe inspiring and humbling. As a product of the 1950s and 60s public school system, we recited the Pledge of Alliance every day, we were taught American History and Patriotism, and, at my school, in every classroom hung a picture of President George Washington.

Needless to say, he became one of my hero's and remains so to this day. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would have the blessing to serve in this position, or to call President and General George Washington "Brother."

The more I learn about the life and legacy of Brother Washington, the more my esteem for him grows CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

and my commitment to the Memorial is strengthened.

Having served on the Board of Directors since 2009, I have had the pleasure to meet and work with some of the top leaders of American Freemasonry. I have learned much from this experience and pray that I will be able, God willing, to put this knowledge to use in guiding the Board for the next two years.

Thanks to our immediate Past President, Brother Bob Conley, for developing our current Strategic Business Plan, and to all the Board members (past and present), including Brother George Seghers, Executive Director, who have worked so diligently to implement said plan. We will continue to update the Plan as we move forward, with our current emphasis being focused on the Memorial Centennial Celebration, to be held in 2023, and on long-term funding for maintenance and operation of the Memorial in perpetuity.

I can assure you that your Board members are rolling up their sleeves and working hard to bring both of these commitments to fruition. But Brethren, we seek and need your continued support. It is only with your help that the Memorial will be able to fulfil its mission and reach its fullest potential. The Memorial is far more than just another Masonic edifice. It is a beacon of Masonic Light that this world needs more than ever before.

Again, thank you for affording me this opportunity and for your support of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. I encourage all Masons to make a pilgrimage to the Memorial and pay your respect to America's foremost Mason and Founding Father, Brother George Washington! an impassioned address to the attendees, calling upon them to personally continue George Washington's work in the promotion of freedom for all people everywhere.

Prior to the Gala, two other events were held. Earlier in the afternoon, a new donation to the museum collections was unveiled (see below), and the George Washington Symposium was held in the Memorial's Theater (see the story on page 4.)

Once again, as it has for many years past, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial's annual Washington's Birthday Celebration brought together people from all over our nation and our world to honor the life and legacy of that great Freemason who is known as not only the Father of our Country, but as the Father of Freedom. It is our honor to be able to offer this beautiful event.



A bust of Tommaso Crudeli (1702–1745) was generously donated to the Memorial's collections by Raoul Tommasi Crudeli. Present for the unveiling of the bust were Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr., Past Grand Master of Maryland (left), Elisa Norio (center), and J.F. "Jeff" Webb, President of the Memorial Association (right).



The Alexandria Assembly Dancers performed traditional eighteenth-century English country dancing in a festive recreation of Washington's Birthnight Ball.



Memorial Association President J.F. "Jeff" Webb presents the George Washington Memorial Award to Jack D. Warren, Jr.

MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA

Restoration is Our Cornerstone

by George D. Seghers



In an address to the Legislature of Pennsylvania on September 5, 1789, Washington wrote, "... The virtue, moderation, and patriotism which marked the steps of the American People in framing, adopting, and thus far carrying into effect our present system of Government,

has excited the admiration of Nations; and it only now remains for us to act up to those principles, which should characterize a free and enlightened People, that we may gain respect abroad and ensure happiness and safety to ourselves and to our posterity."

A truly profound statement that could and should be the guiding principles for the leaders of our present government and the citizens or our country. Washington and our Founding Fathers worked mightily to create and establish an entirely new form of government which Abraham Lincoln described as "*a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*" Today our citizens reap the benefits of the diligence and work of our Founding Fathers but we seem to have departed from the virtue, moderation and patriotism that were present and noted by Washington.

The character of Washington can and should be the model of what a citizen of this great nation can and should be. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial was conceived and constructed as a physical representation of the admiration and respect that Freemasons hold for him in whose honor and memory it was erected, our First President and surely our Foremost Freemason, Brother George Washington. Washington's life was a journey of not only self-improvement, but also a journey of improving and uplifting the lives of the citizens of the newly-formed nation, the United States of America. It is fitting and proper that our Masonic Forefathers created this truly magnificent Masonic National Memorial to George Washington.

Under the guidance of our Board of Directors we began the restoration of the Memorial in 2006 with a complete architectural and engineering study. From that point on we have been restoring, repairing, renewing, upgrading and expanding the Memorial building and grounds. This ongoing process continues, with more than one-half of the Memorial building completely restored. Our goal is to have the restoration, improvements and upgrades completed by February of 2023 to coincide with re-enactment of the Memorial Cornerstone Laying scheduled for that year. We have opened the building for the use of Masonic and non-Masonic organizations and individuals. We have created informative and attractive exhibits on the many faces and facets of Freemasonry. We have educated and trained Memorial Staff, including Tour Guides, to interface with the public and present a positive, factual, and in some cases entertaining, exposure to Freemasonry and to George Washington.

The Memorial is alive and is being used and appreciated by more people than ever before. Doing all this requires significant funding and we need the assistance of the owners of the Memorial Association, the Freemasons of the United States of America, and the many Friends of the Memorial to continue and to complete this necessary and worthwhile effort to secure the Memorial for all future generations. We thank you all for your continuing interest in and support of the Memorial.



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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Elected February 22, 2019 J. F. "Jeff" Webb, President Claire V. Tusch, First Vice President Kenneth G. Nagel, Second Vice President Thomas K. Sturgeon, Third Vice President George D. Seghers, Executive Director

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Annual George Washington Symposium Held

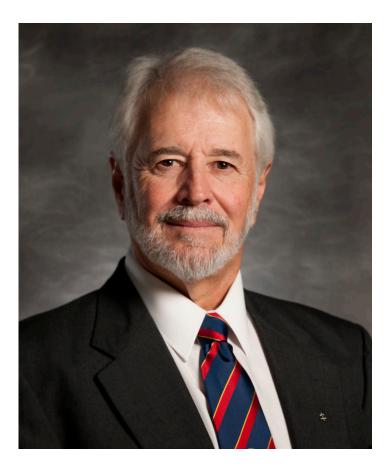
A s part of the Memorial's annual celebration of George Washington's birthday, the George Washington Symposium was held on February 23rd, with Mark Tabbert, Director of Collections, as Master of Ceremonies. This year's theme was *George Washington: Symbol for the Age*. The presentations were "George Washington, the Founders, and Republican Virtue," by Tony Williams, Senior Teaching Fellow at the Bill of Rights Institute, "Character on Canvas: George Washington in Early American Art and Material Culture," by Emily Schulz Parsons, Deputy Director and Curator at the Society of the Cincinnati, and "The American Revolution and National Identity," by Jack D. Warren, Jr., Executive Director of the Society of the Cincinnati. Dr. Warren was presented with the George Washington Memorial Award later in the evening and provided interesting and inspiring remarks about George Washington and our nation.



The scholars who presented at the annual George Washington Symposium: Tony Williams (left), Emily Schulz Parsons (center), and Jack D. Warren, Jr. (right).

New President Elected

J. F. "Jeff" Webb, Past Grand Master of Louisiana, was elected President of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association at the Annual Meeting held in Rapid City, South Dakota, in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. President Webb has been a member of the Board



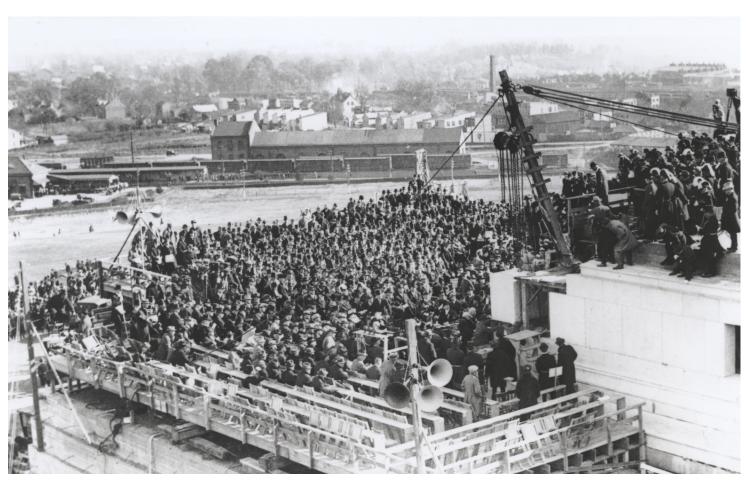
of Directors since 2009 and was elected Third Vice President in 2013.

Other officers elected for the ensuing year are: Claire V. Tusch, First Vice President; Kenneth G. Nagel, Second Vice President; Thomas K. Sturgeon, Third Vice President; and George D. Seghers, Executive Director.

The following Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters were elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors: Richard J. Elman, Indiana; Claire V. Tusch, Maine; Russell G. Reno, Nebraska; Carl B. Willi, Rhode Island; Jerry N. Kirby, Texas; and our Representative from Alexandria-Washington Lodge N^o 22, Michael P. Bible.

The Memorial Association was truly blessed to have the service and dedication of our Immediate Past President Robert P. Conley, Past Grand Master of Michigan, who served two years as President and served on the Board of Directors and in other capacities since 2006. His articulate, informative and inspiring leadership guided the Memorial Association in its mission not only for the twenty-first century but also into the future. He will be missed by all who served with him and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

The Memorial would also like to thank the following members who served admirably and completed their terms of service on the Board of Directors: Marty P. Alexander of Hawaii; Douglas L. Caudle of North Carolina, and Jimmie L. Windham of Mississippi. Through their dedicated service, the work of the Memorial has been promoted and the fraternal memory of George Washington has been preserved and honored.



Thousands gathered at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on November 1, 1923, to witness the dedication ceremony and placement of the cornerstone.

The Memorial's Cornerstone Ceremony

by Mark A. Tabbert

Tovember 1, 1923, was a brisk and sunny day for the Masonic cornerstone ceremony of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Within seventeen months of breaking ground, Schuter's Hill was leveled and graded, a 168 by 268 foot concrete "anchor" was poured, the foundation was constructed, and thousands of tons of granite arrived from New Hampshire. As construction began, American Freemasons responded with ever greater support. The Memorial Association spent the summer of 1923 organizing every detail of the cornerstone event. The day began with opening Alexandria Lodge Nº 22, followed closely by the Grand Lodge of Virginia at 9:30 a.m. The parade, with a delayed start of 11:00 a.m., contained seven divisions that included 22 marching bands, and over 10,000 Freemasons. Leading the parade was a U.S. Army cavalry troop, a company of infantry, two platoons of engineers and "Pershing's Own" marching band. Then came a company of U.S. Marines and the Marine Corps Band, and lastly 500 sailors from the USS Richmond anchored in the Potomac River.

More than two hours after leaving the lodge room, the Grand Lodge of Virginia along with more than 15,000 Freemasons and spectators were in place on the hill. President Calvin Coolidge, Chief Justice William Howard Taft, Virginia Governor E. Lee Trinkle, most of the U.S. Grand Masters, and many other civic and Masonic dignitaries were escorted to their seats. Alongside the American Masonic leaders, including Puerto Rico, were representatives from Ontario, Panama, Philippines, Quebec, and Venezuela.

The cornerstone ceremony began with Virginia Grand Marshal W. A. James proclaiming to all assembled "to persevere silence and to observe due order and decorum." This he made "to the South, the West and to the East."

In an act of great fraternal kindness, Grand Master James H. Price handed his gavel to Deputy Grand Master Charles H. Callahan, known as the "Father of the Memorial," so he could conduct the ceremony. Acting Grand Master Callahan then made a brief announcement on why Freemasons conduct such ceremonies, and directed Grand Senior Warden B. W. Beach to inform Grand Junior Warden James Bowman, and he to the all those present, that the work was about to begin. After his orders were obeyed, Grand Chaplain F.T. McFaden made the invocation:It has come into the hearts of men to erect this temple, this memorial, and as succeeding generation shall see it, may they understand and live up to the principles for which he [Washington] stood, and to the life he lived, the life of consecration, the life he rendered to his country. And may it be instilled into their hearts until the end of the world, and be the foundation upon which shall stand, in the years to come, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Following the invocation, Memorial Association President Louis A. Watres addressed Acting Grand Master Callahan. He explained the Memorial Association's purpose then he respectfully requested the Grand Lodge of Virginia "to lay the cornerstone of this temple according to the ancient rites of Free Masonry." An ode to Freemasonry, "To Heaven's High Architect All Praises," was then sung.

After the cornerstone was raised by chain and pulley, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer placed a large sealed box under and within the stone. It contained items contributed from every U.S. Grand Lodge, foreign Grand Lodges, national Masonic-related organizations, and Alexandria Lodge N^o 22. The choir sang another hymn, "When Earth's Foundation First Was Laid."



The cornerstone in place at the northeast corner, shortly before the ceremony began.

The Grand Marshall then presented the working tools to the Acting Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden, and the Grand Junior Warden. Together they assumed their stations to the east, west, and south of the stone.

Acting Grand Master Callahan then requested President Coolidge and Chief Justice Taft to advance to the stone. He presented them with the same small silver trowel used by President Washington at the September 18, 1793, Masonic cornerstone ceremony of the U.S. Capitol. After the President and the Chief Justice dapped wet cement on top of the stone, every U.S. Grand Master who was present, or his representative, followed suit.

Acting Grand Master Callahan ordered the Cornerstone lowered into place. This was done in three distinct motions with grand honors given after each descent. Another hymn, "Father of Love and Might," was sung as the Grand Lodge officers prepared to try the stone. The Senior Grand Warden proved the stone level, the Junior Grand Warden proved the stone plumb, the Acting Most Worshipful Grand Master proved the stone square, and the Grand Marshall proclaimed the foundation stone "to be true and trusty, and duly laid."

The ceremony of consecration was then performed. The Acting Grand Master poured upon the stone the Corn of Nourishment, the Grand Senior Warden poured the Wine of Refreshment, and the Grand Junior Warder poured the Oil of Joy and Gladness. After which Acting Grand Master Callahan made the following invocation:

May the All Bounteous Author of Nature Bless the inhabitants of this place with an abundance of the necessities, conveniences, and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this buildings; protect the workmen against every accident and long preserve the structure from decay

Acting Grand Master Callahan, with Grand Senior Deacon W. L. Davis on his right and Grand Junior Deacon John T. Cochran on his left, returned to the stone and with his gavel gave the stone three distinct knocks. Grand honors are then rendered with a final blessing by the Callahan.

Lastly, the working tools are presented to architect Harvey Wiley Corbett with the charge that as the cornerstone was truly laid, he is entrusted "with the superintendence and direction of the work, having full confidence in your skill and capacity to conduct the same." Corbett accepting the tools, the ceremony closed with one last hymn, "O Praise Ye the Lord, Prepare Your Glad Voice."

With the ceremony complete, Deputy Grand Master Callahan returned the gavel to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Virginia James H. Price.

Memorial Association President Watres introduced the Right Reverend James E. Freemason, Bishop of the Protestant Episco-



Grand Junior Deacon John T. Cochran (left) and President Calvin Coolidge (right) at the Memorial's cornerstone ceremony. The trowel in President Coolidge's hand was used by George Washington at the cornerstone ceremony for the U.S. Capitol in 1793.

pal Church of the Diocese of Washington, D.C. He concluded his speech with this charge:

There is a common level in our Fraternity, a great democracy that binds us all together. As the years come and go, may that bond keep us so closely knitted together that we shall contribute our part, dear Brethren, not only to perpetuate the memory of Washington, but perpetuate that for which he gave all he had of genius and of wealth, to perpetuate the fair Republic of which we, as citizen, are so justly proud.

Grand Master Price then ordered Grand Marshal James to proclaim the ceremony closed and the Grand Chaplain McFaden gave the final blessing. The procession reformed, returned to Alexandria-Washington N^o 22's lodge hall, where the Grand Lodge of Virginia was closed in ample form.

President Coolidge, Chief Justice Taft, and other civilian officials were escorted off Shuter's Hill, while the thousands of Freemasons and spectators found their own ways home. For many Freemasons, however, the long day was only half over, for a great Masonic banquet would be held that night. The banquet was held in the largest room available in town, the fourth floor of Alexandria's torpedo factory.

The banquet was a gift of fraternal hospitality from Alexandria's many Masonic bodies, including Andrew Jackson Lodge Nº 120, Mount Vernon Royal Arch Chapter Nº 14, Old Dominion Knights Templar Commandery Nº 11, and Martha Washington Chapter Nº 42, Order of the Eastern Star. Grand Master Price presided as toastmaster. Numerous smaller banquets were held by Masonic bodes at other locations around the city.

After dinner the first speaker was brother, the Honorable E. Lee Trinkle, Governor of Virginia, who declared: "Chief Captain in the world's great camp of leaders — Soldier of Truth — Champion of popular rights, and of democratic world destinies — Master Mason — Spotless Spirit — such was Washington."

Following the Governor, the Acca Temple Chanters sang a short selection of songs, accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band. Grand Master Price then introduced Memorial Association President Watres. His short speech focused on the Memorial's great purpose and concluded:

As nearly three million Masons in the Unites States reverently lay the cornerstone of this memorial to Washington the Mason, we dedicate ourselves anew to the principles of our Fraternity which he so fully reflected, to the Republic of our love which he so nobly fought for and founded, and to Almighty God, who rules over the destinies of nations and of men.

Two more songs were sung by the chanters and Toastmaster Price introduced Andrew L. Randell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Randell focused his sentiments on the Memorial's Founder, Charles H. Callahan:

I do not believe there is a Mason in this audience who has watched his course for the last fifteen year as he has put his heart and mind and soul into this movement, who did not feel a deep sense of emotion and gratitude, and whose eyes were not wet, when he stepped before that cornerstone and let fall his gavel as the Acting Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

The evening's last speaker was Past Grand Master of Massachusetts, Melvin M. Johnson. Well-known as a great Masonic leader, jurist and after-dinner speaker, Johnson began his talk with a few jokes, but finished with a poem:

But may that day, more beauteous, soon come When man, though loving not his country less, Shall more than country, love his fellow man.

Grand Master Price declared it the end of a perfect day, and the orchestra played "The Star Spangled Banner."

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Library & Museum Collections of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

The Landmark Century Campaign

for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

Restoration Update: From Exterior Lighting to Interior Light

by Shawn E. Eyer

The Memorial's ongoing restoration efforts are continuing. As 2019, we look forward to a productive year of making improvements at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Thanks to the growing support that we receive from individuals and organizations, many major projects continue to take place both inside the Memorial and on the building's exterior.

The Memorial's Exterior

Visitors to the Memorial over the last few years have noticed that scaffolding has usually been present on the Memorial's tower. This is because part of our work on the building includes a topto-bottom restoration of the exterior masonry. These repairs are approximately halfway completed. Beginning with the Pyramid level in 2014, and progressing to the Observation Level in 2015, the eighth floor Chapel level in 2016, the sixth floor Library level and fifth floor in 2017, this project's goal is to completely repoint the building's mortar joints, repair any underlying issues, and restore the stonework to its original condition. A visual comparison between the completed floors and those remaining to be restored reveals the striking improvements being accomplished.

As 2019 begins, work will continue on the third and fourth floor exteriors. The third floor houses *The Family of Freemasonry* exhibit, and the fourth floor is the location of *The George Washington Museum*. Once completed, the entire tower section of the Memorial will appear as pristine as it did when originally constructed — a truly worthy testament to our Fraternity's profound respect for George Washington.

A Monumental Improvement to the Lighting

Those who have visited or seen recent photos of the Memorial at night are aware of the dramatic improvement in how the Memorial's tower is being illuminated. New LED-based exterior lighting has already been added on the Pyramid, seventh, and fifth levels. In 2019, we will add additional lighting to the Pyramid level, and new lighting to the ninth and third levels of the building. This will allow the Memorial to be lit in different colors, in keeping with the architectural inspiration of the Lighthouse at Alexandria, and the Masonic symbolism of Light as the transmission of knowledge.

Documenting the Restoration

We know that because this is an historic restoration project, it needs to be documented as part of the American Masonic story. This is why we have been careful, from the beginning, to ensure that each major step of the process is recorded photographically — and in some cases, on video. Last year, a milestone of the Memorial's restoration was reached when the restored Cornerstone Mural in Memorial Hall was reinstalled. This mural is an



On January 28, 2019, a video crew took the final shots of the fully-restored Cornerstone Mural. The story of its conservation will soon be available for viewing.

impressively large oil painting, measuring 48 feet wide by 18 feet high, and was completed in 1955 by the great American painter Allyn Cox. It depicts George Washington laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol. Through the years it had suffered significant damage, including a 30-foot line of strain on the fabric, causing visible tearing and loss of paint.

Thanks to your support, the Cornerstone Mural has been preserved to educate and inspire future generations. The painting was carefully removed, and during its restoration the wall behind it expertly repaired. In early 2018, the Mural returned to its place in Memorial Hall. All of these steps were documented by the same film producers who created the Memorial's outstanding *Built on Freedom* video. This footage is being edited into a format for all to enjoy on our website later this year.

How You Can Help

Our work is made possible by the generous support of individuals, Masonic groups, and other dedicated supporters. The Memorial is a National Historic Landmark, and it is our responsibility and privilege to carry its important mission forward to the next generation. The greatest gift of Freemasonry to our civic culture is this inspiring Memorial that highlights the important role that Freemasonry played in the life of George Washington and the ways in which Masonic values shaped the American Republic.

Today, you can be an essential part of helping us to reach our

next milestones. All funds given as part of the Landmark Century Campaign are dedicated to the ongoing restoration and improvement work described on these pages.

Many of our existing donor programs are now part of the Campaign. Donations from the Friends of the Memorial and Patrons now directly support the restoration. And today, it is easier than ever to participate in these valuable programs. Using our website (see the story below), donors may make monthly pledges in amounts to fit any budget.

All donations to the Landmark Century Campaign are cumulative. That means that a monthly pledge of \$25 or more will accumulate over time, passing through the levels of recognition that are noted in our publications and on our website (see pages 10–13 for a list of recent contributors by level).

Because the Memorial is a 501(c)(3) educational foundation, these donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please visit our website today. Whether via a monthly pledge of \$25 or more, a single donation, or a bequest, you can be a part of this inspiring and important work.

To make a donation to the Landmark Century Campaign by mail, please use the form on page 13. Simply select your chosen amount and whether it is a one-time gift or monthly pledge.

Shawn Eyer is the Director of Communications & Development of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

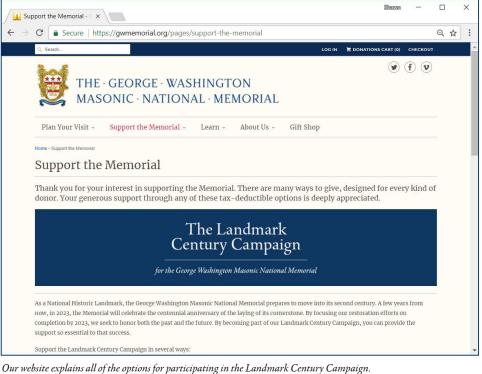
Monthly Giving Option Makes Supporting the Campaign Convenient

The Memorial's website makes it easier than ever to participate in the Landmark Century Campaign. One of the most important new features of the site is the ability to make an automatic monthly contribution.

Simply visit the site and select "Support the Memorial" in order to see various options. To make a monthly gift choose either "Take a Friend of the Memorial Pledge" (for gifts of \$25 and up) or "Take the Patron Pledge" (for gifts of \$100 or more per month).

Convenient monthly payments allow you to support the Memorial's restoration at your own pace. It is easy to make onetime donations on the site as well.

If you wish to send your gift through the mail instead, please use the convenient form on page 13 of this edition of *LIGHT*. Thank you for your support.



Our website explains all of the options for participating in the Landmark Century Campa Visit www.gwmemorial.org today to discover more.

Contributors

Patrons

Landmark Century Architect

\$100,000	or more
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Alexandria-Washington Lodge Nº 22	VA
W. David Hanisch	CA
William A. Simms	VA
Alvin I. Singer	IL

Master Builder \$50,000

Anthony & Marilyn Wordlow	CA
Andrew Jackson Lodge Nº 120	VA

Builder \$25,000

Tuoc Kim Pham	CA
J.F. "Jeff" Webb	LA
H. Malvern Marks	TX
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Architect \$5,000

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Monumental Commandery Nº 3	MD
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The Memorial Tree & Bench Programs were conceived in 2001 to beautify the Memorial grounds, reduce erosion and run-off, provide a habitat for birds and wildlife and to establish a tree canopy to create much-needed oxygen for the community. The program is a meaningful way to honor and remember individuals and organizations with a living memorial. Since inception of the program 720 trees have been planted on the grounds of the Memorial.

With a contribution of \$750.00, a tree is planted on the Memorial grounds. An Acknowledgement letter and a Certificate describing the Dedication are received by all participants and a granite marker is installed near the tree identifying the Honoree(s) and Donor(s).

Dedicatory Granite Benches are also available for a contribution of \$2,500.00 and are installed on the grounds of the Memorial and can be dedicated in Honor or Memory of an Individual or Organization.

For additional information about how you can participate in this program with a tree or a bench, please contact George D. Seghers at *gseghers@gwmemorial.org* or 703-683-2007, ext. 2010.



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Inside the Museum

uring tours of the Memorial, guests visit wonderful exhibits on many floors of the building, ending with the Observation Deck on the ninth floor. One floor that is not on the tour is the Library. Opened in 1952, the Library contains a substantial collection of Masonic literature and the annual Proceedings of the United States Grand Lodges and other major Masonic organizations. In fact, if you were to visit our library today, you would be see shelves upon shelves filled with just Grand Lodge Proceedings, at least one book per jurisdiction is added annually, currently totaling over 7,000 volumes. While the library opened in the 1950s, the library already had a large boost to its masonic collection thanks to a donation decades ago. The nucleus of the library belonged to Brother Rae John Lemert, past Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Montana. When Brother Lemert passed away in 1929, Mrs. Florence M. Lemert planned on selling the library in full to the Grand Lodge of Montana, which a committee described as an "extensive and valuable library consisting of some six thousand volumes, there is but about one-eighth pertaining to Masonry...." The Grand Lodge declined this purchase since they were only interested in the Masonic literature.

A year later, Mrs. Lemert, without breaking her conscious of keeping the library intact, decided to donate the library to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. On behalf of Mrs. Lemert, the well-known Masonic historian Jacob Hugo Tatsch submitted an offer to the Memorial Association, which was accepted.

In 1931, Louis A. Watres, President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, said that "since

The Society of Washington Lodges

The Member Lodges of the Society of Washington Lodge are those regular Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodges of the United States who are committed to supporting the Memorial and who make a one-time donation of \$2,500.00. The Lodges receive a portrait of Washington with a patent attesting their membership in the Society and specially commissioned Society of Washington Lodges jewels for the Officers of the Lodge and specially commissioned lapel pins for the Lodge Members. Also, individual Masons belonging in good standing to Lodges that are Members of the Society may purchase the specially-produced jewels. The Member Lodges of the Society are listed on the Memorial's website and on a plaque situated outside the Replica Lodge Room at the Memorial. The Society of Washington Lodges is now comprised of 26 member Lodges. our organization, it has been prominently in the minds of all our Brethren that...the Library which is to be established in our Temple shall be so broad in its scope as to take in Masonic Information not only in own country but in lands beyond the seas."

In 1952, the library opened with the sixth floor of the Memorial Tower. Fittingly it was named for President Watres. By 1999, the book collection had grown over 20,000 volumes, requiring the addition of more cases to be added to the lower level. In the last twenty years the library has more than doubled in size. It how hold proceedings from every U.S. Grand York Rite body. Assuming each Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery is, on average 150 years old, then each grand jurisdictions has approximately 600 annual proceedings. Multiplying 600 by 51 grand jurisdictions equals 30,600 York Rite Masonic proceedings. Many of these proceedings were the gift of Wilbur Bell, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA.

The library holds proceeding from not just other Masonic bodies, such as the Scottish Rite and Shrine, but also from many foreign jurisdictions. It also maintains Masonic periodicals, general Masonic literature, research lodge proceedings and histories. Watres vision still rings true for his library. It continues to grow, and with every additional item the repository of Masonic history and knowledge is preserved for future generations' use and enjoyment. If you would to contribute to the Library, please visit *gwmemorial.org/pages/library* to learn about our policies and interests in books. We are always happy to help, aid, and assist a brother Mason.



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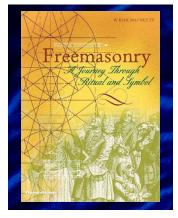


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