Finding the Silver Lining
by J. F. “Jeff” Webb

My worthy Brothers and friends, I hope and pray that this message finds all well and safe. I might add that I, like many of you, am looking forward to having “2020 hindsight!”

It has been a difficult and frustrating year for many: covid-19, economic shutdown, forest fires, hurricanes, etc. However, as the old saying goes: “There is a silver lining behind every cloud.”

As I’m from Southwest Louisiana, I witnessed the setbacks of the coronavirus (deaths and mandated lockdowns), followed by back-to-back hurricanes. Many, who were already suffering financially from the lockdown, suffered severe damage from the hurricanes. From a Masonic standpoint, a number of lodge buildings were damaged, some severely, and our Scottish Rite Temple and Shrine Temple both suffered damage. Much of the community was without water or electricity for an extended period of time. However, our Masonic brethren came together and reflected that “silver lining” hidden behind the dark clouds. They opened the damaged Shrine Temple, collected...
food, water, clothes, and household goods, which they distributed to all in distress. Masons from all over the state (and other states) delivered these goods to the Temple. The hospitality of our southern Masons shone through as they cooked jambalaya, gumbo, etouffee, and brisket, which they fed to law enforcement officers, first responders, and out-of-town emergency electrical workers. In addition, financial disaster support came to our Grand Jurisdiction from other Grand Lodges and appendant bodies. These are the actions of all true Freemasons.

As I witnessed this “service to all” by our Masonic brethren, practicing the principles and precepts of our beloved Fraternity, I couldn’t help but think that these were the same principles and precepts practiced by Bro. George Washington in his great endeavors. Washington never let the “dark clouds” block out the silver lining he knew was behind them. Why? Because Washington, like the Masons mentioned above and all Masons wheresoever dispersed, placed his faith and trust in God.

Although the George Washington Masonic National Memorial has suffered in 2020, there have been a lot of positive things taking place. Please see our Executive Director’s report and other articles in this edition of LIGHT, or go to our website and Facebook site for updates.

I have confidence that the same charity demonstrated by the aforementioned Masons, Grand Lodges, and appendant bodies, will be shared with the Memorial as conditions stabilize. We must preserve this Lighthouse of American Freemasonry and the memory of the Brother George Washington for all time.

God bless you all.

The Memorial’s Celebration of Washington’s Birthday in 2021—Announcement Coming Soon

February 22, 2021, will be the 289th anniversary of the birth of the Father of our Nation, Brother George Washington. Despite the coronavirus emergency that has gripped our nation and the world, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is hopeful that it will be possible to celebrate George Washington’s Birthday in 2021.

While, due to social distancing requirements, it will unfortunately not be possible to hold our traditional gala, under appropriate circumstances the Memorial does plan to host events for a smaller number of participants. The details of any such celebration will be posted on our website as they become available. It is planned that we will make an announcement by the end of November.

Passing of Two Directors of the Memorial: Stephen J. Ponzillo III and John R. “Bo” Cline

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is saddened to announce the passing of two very involved members of our Board of Directors: Stephen Joseph Ponzillo III and John R. “Bo” Cline.

Stephen Joseph Ponzillo III (1947–2020) worked as a history teacher, and had a true passion for communicating the value of history to his students. He became a Freemason in 1968, and was highly active in many branches of the Fraternity, including the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite, and the Shrine. Brother Ponzillo was Grand Master of Masons in Maryland in 2011–2012. He served nearly two complete terms on the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association: 2013 to 2016 and 2017 to 2020. He is survived by his loving wife, Marie, and their children and many grandchildren.

John R. “Bo” Cline (1947–2020) was an electrical engineer and a Renaissance man who enjoyed science, math, reading, writing and research. He became a Mason in 1995 and was deeply devoted to the ideals of the Craft. He was an active member of Matanuska Masonic Lodge and became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alaska in 2009. After an initial term on the Board of Directors of the Memorial Association from 2011 to 2014, he returned for a second term beginning in 2018.

He is survived by Bethany, his best friend and wife of 47 years, his son Joshua, daughter-in-law Kenyatta, daughter Megan, and grandsons Zachary and Elijah. He is also survived by his brother Bill Cline and sister Maggie Buckholz.
MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA
The Memorial as a Symbol of Fortitude
by George D. Seghers

These last few months have been the most challenging times for the Memorial Association since its inception. We have lost a significant portion of our income due to the closure of the Memorial this summer and the general result of the pandemic. However, we are maintaining the Memorial as a citadel of calm among the seemingly societal madness that has gripped our nation. We are moving ahead with the restoration of the Memorial and we are open to both the Masonic family and to the public. We are striving to keep the Memorial, as an institution and as a Temple, a Memorial that is worthy of that great man that it memorializes.

The Irish historian, W.E.H. Lecky (1838–1903) wrote of Washington, “On the appointment of Washington, far more than any other single circumstance, is due the ultimate success of the American Revolution…. he possessed to an eminent degree not only the common courage of a soldier, but also that much rarer form of courage which can endure long-continued suspense, bear the weight of great responsibility, and encounter risks of misrepresentation and unpopularity.” Lecky further wrote, “He never acted on the impulse of an absorbing or uncalculating enthusiasm, and he valued very highly fortune, position, and reputation; but at the command of duty he was ready to risk and sacrifice them all. He was, in the highest sense of the words, a gentleman and a man of honor, and he carried into public life the severest standard of private morals.”

These words, written so long ago, are worth repeating, pondering, examining and can serve as a reminder that the challenges faced by Washington and the Founding Fathers were far greater than those we face today. These are trying times and we should use the actions, thoughts, and vision of Washington as our guide through the stormy seas of societal unrest. We must have faith in God, in our country, and in ourselves and we must strive to think, speak, and act with honor and dignity. We must keep the Light of the Memorial shining as a Masonic Beacon of Hope to not just the Masonic world, or just our nation, but to all whom we encounter. Thank you for your continuing support during these trying times and please contact us if we can be of assistance. And when this pandemic has ended, as it will, please come and visit your Memorial.

A Deserving Brother Manuscript Completed

Director of Collections Mark A. Tabbert has finished his manuscript on George Washington’s Masonic membership. Titled ‘A Deserving Brother: George Washington and Freemasonry’, the book details more than sixty Masonic events in Washington’s life—from his lodge initiation in 1752 through his Masonic funeral in 1799. It is composed of more than 100,000 words and 50 color images of letters, books, and artifacts related to Washington’s membership in, and relationship with, Freemasonry.

Tabbert has spent the better part of five years researching and writing the book, including a fellowship at Mount Vernon’s library. The University of Virginia Press will design and publish this full-color “coffee-table” size book. It will be available in the fall of 2021.

A Deserving Brother examines lodge minute books that record Washington’s attendance and Grand Lodge constitution books sent to him. Featured images include Washington’s Masonic aprons, the working tools from the U.S. Capitol cornerstone ceremony and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts’ gold urn, made by Paul Revere, that contains a lock of Washington’s hair. Every Masonic letter to, and from, Washington is transcribed.

The book’s introduction, written by Dr. Edward Lengel, Ph.D., is an academic understanding of Washington’s membership in, and support of, the Craft throughout his life. The book’s epilogue traces Freemasons’ admiration of Washington from the 1770s, through the dedication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in 1932, and into the 21st century. Five appendices include the current location of every known letter, book, apron, and other items, as well as a robust list of unsubstantiated Masonic items attributed to Washington.

A Deserving Brother will settle all questions over Washington’s membership and lifelong dedication to the Craft, and reveal his affection and admiration of the great principle and virtues of Freemasonry. It is not simply a good history book, but will make a handsome gift and a worthy addition to every Mason’s and every American’s library.

Masonic Digital Archives Project Update

In February 2020 the Memorial Association relaunched its project to digitize American Masonic proceedings. Over the last eight months, more Masonic grand bodies joined the project, new informational webpages were created, and additional collections of proceedings were digitized.

As of October, there are 30 collections available within the searchable database. In the last several months the Grand Lodges of Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, as well as the Knights Templars Grand Encampment of the USA and the Grand Commandery of Ohio have joined the project. There are now a total of 21 Grand Lodges, two Grand Royal Arch chapters, two Grand Cryptic Councils, and four Grand Knights Templar Commanderies online, totaling more than 4,500 years of Masonic history.

To better navigate the Archives we have created new web pages within the Memorial website: https://gwmemorial.org/pages/archives. The main page includes an alphabetical list of states, along with information on joining the project, and instructions on how to use the searchable database. Most of the listed states have links to additional pages that contain the seals of that state’s grand bodies, and either the proceedings currently online or available for posting into the system.

Since the spring, digitization of the Memorial’s available duplicate proceedings continued alphabetically. The Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery Proceedings of Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New Mexico are ready for uploading. By the end of 2020 we expect to complete the proceedings for New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. This should leave only 13 states to digitize in 2021.

The Memorial Association will digitize a U.S. Masonic governing body’s complete annual proceedings collection for $1,000. Offered as a service to the Craft, this flat rate is non-adjustable regardless of the number of books or pages digitized. A $200 annual subscription fee will maintain the collection as future proceedings are added. To learn more or to join the project, please contact Mark A. Tabbert, Director of Collections at mtabbert@gwmemorial.org.
Promoting the Memorial’s Membership Programs

by Tyler Vanice

One of the roles the George Washington Masonic National Memorial was lacking over the years was a person responsible for directing and coordinating all the various members and membership programs and inquiries. Being a national organization, we have members from across the country that believe in our mission and what we give back to the community and the Craft. This developed into a need to have a person handling our outreach programs and so I was appointed to the position of Director of Membership Services in the beginning of October. It is an honor to serve this organization in this position and I will do my best to serve you in this new role and to further the mission of the Association in my duties.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial was built in the 1920s and 30s by brethren contributing to a shared cause from across the country because of the lack of such a building and organization with our specific mission. With the combined efforts of Freemasons, Grand Lodges, and those interested in the preservation and promotion of George Washington and the few Washington artifacts that survive had all led to what we know and enjoy today as the Memorial.

Being a national memorial and museum the board of directors that make up the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association are composed of Member Grand Lodges from across the country. As the Association is governed by Grand Lodges, many of which help support the Memorial in various ways like having a certain amount of initiation fees being donated or an annual per capita donation to the Memorial, one can say in a sense that all Freemasons in the United States are helping support the mission of the Association: “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.”

As one would expect, we receive a lot of correspondence from Grand Lodges, Freemasons from around the world, those inquiring about George Washington and Freemasonry, and those who simply believe in the mission of preserving the legacy of General Washington. Many contact us about wanting to support us, for which we are thankful, and there are various ways we are able to do that. For the different audiences, we have various memberships where Freemasons and non-Freemasons alike are able to join and not only help support the memorial but to also help us with our mission and annual programs.

One of the unique memberships we offer at the Memorial is the Society of Washington Lodges. Our newest program, it promotes the legacy of Illustrious Brother George Washington. Unlike a regular membership where a person joins to receive benefits and helps a certain cause, this membership is specific and only allows Lodges to join. The Society of Washington Lodges is a membership status that Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodges of the United States can participate in to show their support for the Memorial and continuing the legacy of General George Washington.

The emblem of the Society is unique as it plays off the crest of the Memorial Association, having a profile of Washington in the center. This exclusive emblem is only available to Society members and is not sold to the public.

Your lodge will receive the following items and perks when it joins the Society:

- Portrait of Washington with a plaque attesting their membership in the Society
- Patent signifying the Lodge's membership
- Specially commissioned Society of Washington Lodge medals for the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens
- Listed on the Memorial’s Website
- Listed on a plaque prominently placed inside the building near the entrance
- Invitation to attend the gala celebration of Washington’s Birthday held each year

Members of the Lodge are welcome to display their support by purchasing these specially produced jewels by contacting the Director of Membership Services at tvanice@gwmemorial.org.

Now more than ever the Memorial could use your support. With Lodges slowly allowing to operate once again, it would be a great opportunity to have your lodge recognized at the Memorial.
Freemasons are well known for embracing scientific advancements. Using a very interesting new technology called photogrammetry, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is now offering an extensive virtual tour experience. Over 5,000 visitors have already “walked through” all of these beautiful and informative spaces as though they were present in the building.

During the period in which the Memorial was closed to the public, the Memorial’s Director of Communications, Shawn Eyer, scanned all of the public spaces of the building using a special camera that combines 360-degree images with 3D “point cloud” information to produce a truly three-dimensional experience. Those with access to so-called “virtual reality” equipment such as an Oculus Go or Quest may enjoy a completely immersive experience of actually standing within the Memorial, right from the comfort of their homes. But the tours work on any computer system, and even using a typical computer, tablet, or smartphone, the tour is highly engaging and informative.

Included in the virtual tour selections are Memorial Hall (including the Portico and areas immediately outside the facade), the Replica Lodge Room, The Family of Freemasonry Exhibit, The George Washington Museum, the Templar Chapel, the Observation Deck, the North and South Lodge Rooms, the Memorial Theater, The Form and Function of Freemasonry Exhibit, and The Golden Age of Masonic Architecture Exhibit.

Many parts of the virtual tour include special features. For example, in Memorial Hall, at the famous mural depicting George Washington laying the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol in 1793, there is a button that allows the virtual visitor to see the short film that was produced about the restoration of that painting. And in the 4th floor George Washington Museum, guests may select detailed information about some of the artifacts on display there.

To experience this sophisticated new way to visit the Memorial, visit https://gwmemorial.org/virtual and follow the directions on the screen. If you have any questions about how to use the system, contact Shawn Eyer at seyer@gwmemorial.org.
During Our National Emergency, Restoration Work Continues

by Shawn E. Eyer

The arrival of the coronavirus pandemic has been disruptive not only for our nation but for all the world. While events like these are foreseeable in a general sense, it is impossible to predict when the next one will appear. While the adaptations we have all undergone throughout 2020 seem strange, we have been fortunate in several ways. First and foremost, the state of our technology has made it easier to cope with and work around the restrictions made necessary to inhibit the disease. Our ability to use the Internet to get things done has saved countless lives. Within the Masonic world, we have even seen an increase in educational efforts and projects, as the brethren adopt creative ways to maintain their fellowship while unable to gather in person.

For the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, the pandemic has been an opportunity to get many things done. Although our revenue from visitation and event rentals has been severely curtailed by the months of total closure and the limitations of being open during an active health emergency, we are grateful for the generosity of those individuals and organizations that have helped us through the difficult year.

Throughout the pandemic, and even during the months the Memorial was closed to the public, our essential staff were working in the building to keep key projects moving forward — including the restoration efforts of the Landmark Century Campaign. Whatever the challenges may be, we must fulfill our vision: 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.

New Memorial Hall Windows Completed

From August to October, workers undertook the process of exchanging the old stained glass windows in Memorial Hall for...
windows that would shed more light on the features of the space. Memorial Hall is the first area that guests experience after entering the Memorial, and it is surely the building’s most beautiful space. Here, visitors are inspired by the towering statue of George Washington as a Mason, gazing serenely eastward, clad in his lodge apron. On the side walls, colorful murals depict Washington’s attendance at Masonic ceremonies.

But few guests realize that the original blueprints for Memorial Hall reveal seven sources of natural light: the portico’s grand doorway and six windows. The windows were to be of amber glass, braced by a neoclassical bronze grille. Although darker stained glass windows were installed in the 1950s, the original intention has been restored. With brighter light upon the statue and the murals, visitors may at last experience Memorial Hall as the architect of the Memorial truly intended. Thank you to all who participated and will participate in supporting this project (see page 13 for more information).

Other Current and Upcoming Projects
Another significant project now taking place is the expansion of the clean storage room for the library and museum collections. Located on the Memorial’s mezzanine level, this space allows for materials to be safely stored without contamination.

In the near future, several major projects will also begin. The Memorial’s second-floor roof needs to be ressealed to prevent water penetration into rooms below. Some exterior stone remains to be restored on a section of the tower, and LED lighting must be installed on the third floor. And finally, repair and restoration of the Portico remains a priority, as the northeast corner of the Memorial’s architrave — the slab just above the capital of the pillars, shows some cracking. Because this stone supports significant weight above it, our intention is to erect a scaffolding in the near future to stabilize and repair it.

How You Can Help
All of these projects are made possible only by your ongoing generosity. Without the enthusiastic support of individuals and lodges, the Memorial would not be able to fulfill its mission. 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. 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. You may also use our website to donate online: http://gwmemorial.org. For more information about how you or your organization can help the Memorial at this critical time, please contact me at seyer@gwmemorial.org, or call 703-683-2007, ext. 2013.

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 one-time 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.
**Contributors**

**Patrons**

**Landmark Century Architect $100,000 or more**
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John Ryder MA
Ed Bousquet OR
Paul Ricciardi MA
Austin Ryan VA
Richard J. Stewart MA
Jeffery Derocher MI
Karl Buschhaus WI
Alexander Jordan WA

*In Memory of **In Honor of
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**New Century**

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**The Society of Washington Lodges**

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**Mount Rushmore Lodge # 220**

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**Bench Dedications**

- Dean S. Clatterbuck*
  - by St. Simeon Stylites Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine
  - Clifford "Skippy" Stamm**
  - by Chip & Cindy Stamm

**Tree Dedications**

- Gabriel Baroudi*
  - by Joe Baroudi
- John Black*
  - by William J. Black
- William R. Black*
  - by William J. Black
- Dean S. Clatterbuck*
  - by Joe Baroudi
- Dean S. Clatterbuck*
  - by Grant R. Berning
- Dean S. Clatterbuck*
  - by St. Simeon Stylites Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine

**Friends of the Memorial**

- by Sandra Clatterbuck
- & Masonic Friends

**Diamond**

- 8th Masonic District
- Bernard H. Allen
  - CT
  - Ed Bousquet
  - OR
  - Michael D. Brumback
  - AZ
  - Gilbert W. Carlton, Jr.
    - CO
  - Robert P. Conley
  - MI
  - Preston L. Doerflinger
  - OK
  - William R. Ederle
  - MI
  - Curtis Golgan
  - TX
  - Larry & Sandra Hall
  - PA
  - Thomas W. Hall
  - SC
The Memorial Dedicatory Tree and Bench Program

The Memorial Tree and Bench Programs were conceived in 2001 to beautify the Memorial grounds, reduce erosion and runoff, 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, a tree is planted on the Memorial grounds. An Acknowledgment 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 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 gseggers@gwmemorial.org or 703-683-2007, ext. 2010.
Thank you to the Royal Order of Scotland

The Memorial gratefully acknowledges Sir James E. Winzenreid, Provincial Grand Master of The Provincial Grand Lodge, U.S.A., The Royal Order of Scotland, for his generous support of this issue of LIGHT and for his continuing support of the Memorial and our programs. The Royal Order of Scotland is an invitational Masonic Order that preserves and confers two beautiful ancient degrees. To learn more, visit their website at http://www.roosusa.org.

Support the Memorial Today

Friends and Patrons
I wish to make a contribution:

Friend Levels Patron Levels

- Silver $100 □ Architect $5,000
- Gold $250 □ Master Architect $10,000
- Platinum $500 □ Builder $25,000
- New Century $1,000 □ Master Builder $50,000
- Diamond $2,500 □ Landmark Century Architect $100,000

Monthly Pledge
I wish to support the Memorial with a Monthly Pledge:

- Friend of the Memorial Pledge ($25 or more)
  □ $25 □ $35 □ $50 □ $75 □ $100 □ $_______
- The Patron Pledge ($100 or more monthly)
  □ $100 □ $150 □ $200 □ $250 □ $500 □ $_______

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

□ My employer will match my gift. Please contact me to file the appropriate forms.
□ Please send me information about making a bequest to the Memorial.
□ I am enclosing a check payable to GWMNMA.
□ I prefer to charge my contribution on □ Mastercard □ Visa □ Amex □ Discover

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

CCV CODE

SIGNATURE

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

Mail to GWMNMA, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301-2751 or fax to 703-519-9270
**George Washington Pen Knife**
This is a replica of a pen knife in the collection of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. The handle is made of saltwater mother of pearl, and the knife comes in a velvet gift box. Closed length is 3”, with a folding blade length of 1⅜”. $49.95. (№ 1284)

**Challenge Coin, 1923–2023**
This attractive challenge coin commemorates the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Memorial’s cornerstone in 1923, featuring George Washington’s profile on one side and the Memorial on the other. The coin is 3mm thick and 1⅞” in diameter. $12. (№ 1283)

**The Trowel: United in Brotherly Love**
Masonry’s symbol of the Trowel, a symbol of fraternal affection, is celebrated on our 2019 ornament. Gold-plated, made in the USA. $25. (№ 1254)

**Houdon’s Washington Statue**
Our 2018 ornament celebrated the return of our own bronze casting of this important work of art. Gold-plated, made in the USA. $25. (№ 1138)

**The George Washington Memorial**
The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is proudly displayed on our 2017 holiday ornament. Gold-plated, made in the USA. $25. (№ 1038)

**The Eye of Providence**
Our 2015 holiday ornament depicts the All-Seeing Eye of the Great Architect of the Universe. Gold-plated and made in the USA. $25. (№ 858)

**The Double Headed Eagle**
The classic emblem of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite comes to life in this splendid gold-plated holiday ornament. $25. (№ 213)

**The Three Great Lights in Masonry**
The Holy Bible, Square, and Compass have been long revered within Masonry. Our 1994 ornament displays them within a golden wreath. $25. (№ 2012)

**Knights Templar Holiday Ornament**
This commemorative holiday ornament depicts the Crown and Cross of the Masonic Knights Templar. Gold-plated, made in the USA. $25. (№ 43)

**Butterfly Greeting Cards, Set of Five**
These 6 x 4” cards are printed on heavy-weight cardstock with a linen finish. Blank inside, with envelopes included. $20 per set of 5 cards. (№ 1277)
The 2020 Commemorative Holiday Ornament

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is proud to offer for the 2020 holiday season a beautiful gold and enamel plated ornament: The Master’s Square.

This ornament features the Square, an emblem that is worn by the Master of every regular lodge of Masons. Invested with this jewel at his installation, the Master is reminded of the Masonic teaching that each of his actions should be squared or made consistent with the “Square of Virtue.”

In geometry, the Square is defined as an angle of ninety degree or the fourth part of a circle. This is known as a “right angle” because its use allows structures to come together properly. As such, it is an essential tool in architecture and stonemasonry.

In Freemasonry, its moral meaning denotes that our interactions with others should be “square,” just like the meeting of two walls in the corner of a good building. Because the angle of the Square is unchangeable, Masonic tradition also explains that it is a divine symbol reflecting the eternal and unwavering nature of the Great Architect of the Universe — the ultimate source of the Master’s wisdom to govern the Lodge.

To order, please call 703-683-2007, ext. 2017, visit our website at gwmemorial.org, or use the order form below (Item No 1290, $25).

Due to the coronavirus emergency, shipments may experience delays. Thank you for your understanding.

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Subtotal ___________________________

VA residents add 6% sales tax

Add S&H ___________________________

Total ___________________________

USPS Priority Mail rates:
$8.50 — small package 8½” × 5 ½” × 1½” up to 10” × 7” × 4 ¼”
$14.35 to $19.95 — tube 24” × 3” × 3” or large package 12” × 12” × 8”

Shipments may be delayed during the coronavirus emergency. Please call if you have any questions on your shipping fees.

We are unable to accept International Orders at this time.

Make checks payable to: AW22 Gift Shop, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301
Order by phone: 703-683-2007, ext. 2017, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. EST
Order by fax: 703-519-9270
Order online: www.gwmemorial.org email: giftshop@gwmemorial.org

A telephone number is required for all orders. Thank you!
Despite Coronavirus, the Memorial Continues Its Important Mission

In March, the Commonwealth of Virginia took emergency measures against the coronavirus pandemic by closing non-essential businesses and venues. This meant that the Memorial was required to close its doors to the public for many months. While core staff continued to report to work during this period, it had a major impact upon our operations. Facility rentals were not possible during the period of closure, and all tourist revenue stopped.

During the closure, our staff worked on important projects. Tremendous progress was made on the Masonic Digital Archives (see the story on page 4), which allows access to thousands of historically significant Masonic documents over the Internet. A new virtual reality tour was created, covering all of the Memorial’s galleries (see page 6 for more information). While the interior of the building was closed, members of the public were encouraged to visit the grounds and enjoy the natural and architectural beauty of the Memorial and its setting overlooking the City of Alexandria.

Our primary focus, of course, was on reopening and doing so safely and in compliance with all regulations and best practices. In fact, like many Alexandria venues, we went beyond them. The Memorial partnered with the City of Alexandria’s ALX Promise program, which restaurants, shops, other venues adopted in order to demonstrate their commitment to public safety. All guests and employees are screened for symptoms and temperature. A new reservation system was created for the tours in order to limit the number of guests at any given time. The tour itself was modified to avoid the use of potentially crowded elevators. While this meant that visits to the tower exhibits and observation level cannot be made, visitors are given an enhanced tour of the two lodge rooms and the Memorial’s theater.

The Memorial re-opened on July 18, and is proud to be open to the public, even with necessary precautions, because we believe that it is vital that our message be experienced. Visit us soon!

With extensive safety procedures in place, the Memorial has reopened.