

LIGHT

*of the George Washington
Masonic National Memorial*



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The George Washington Masonic National Memorial's Cornerstone Centennial

Our forebears in American Craft Freemasonry have left the brethren of the twenty-first century a tremendous material legacy of inspiring libraries and museums, beautiful lodge halls, and spectacular state-level grand temples. Among them all, one architectural gem emerges as a national focal point for American Freemasonry: the stately George Washington Masonic National Memorial of Alexandria, Virginia.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is led by Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters of the 52 American grand lodges, and was founded in 1910. The Association stated their goal clearly: *"To erect and maintain in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, a suitable memorial temple to George Washington, the Mason; one which will express in durability and beauty the undying esteem of the Freemasons of the United States for him, in whose memory it shall stand throughout the coming years."*

The Association secured an architect with strong neoclassical interests, Harvey Wiley Corbett, who visited Shuters Hill overlooking Alexandria and envisioned a towering "lighthouse of Freemasonry." This plan resonated with all the Fraternity, and the cornerstone of the majestic temple was laid in 1923. Through tremendous effort and the support of Freemasons and Masonic organizations at every level, Corbett's vision of the Memorial rose majestically, in due harmony and proportion, from its foundation.

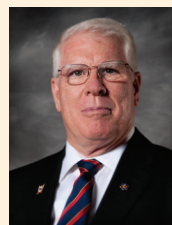


Over 2,000 gathered on the grounds of the Memorial in February 2023 to witness the re-dedication of the cornerstone.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A New Adventure

by Kenneth G. Nagel



Well, we did it!
We ALL did it together! As one great Masonic fraternity, as

grand masters representing the grand lodges of America, and as the board of directors — we all contributed to the cornerstone rededication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. As the new president, it was truly an honor to preside over the events of that remarkable day. More than 2,000 Master Masons joined with grand masters from every part of the U.S. A flawless cornerstone ceremony conducted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, under the direction of Master Donald E. Strehle. It was truly a Grand and Glorious day to be a Mason!

Before discussing new challenges, we acknowledge Claire V. Tusch for his impactful two-year presidency and fifteen years of service to the Association, marking the end of his term on dedication day. We also recognize Jerry Kirby of Texas and Carl Willi of Rhode Island for completing their service on the board. Special thanks go to George D. Seghers for his significant contributions to the Memorial,

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George Washington, and the Craft, including the renovation of the Memorial's interior, preservation of its exterior, and beautification of the grounds. Gratitude is also extended to the Grand Lodge of North Dakota for commissioning the marble bust of George, honoring him among the Memorial Association's most esteemed leaders.

Appreciation is extended to board members for coordinating support from their jurisdictions for the Association's efforts, and to the Memorial staff for the crucial roles they played. February 20, 2023, marked a significant moment for the Memorial Association and American Freemasons in honoring George Washington.

Now, together, we are embarking on a new adventure. The adventure is toward education and to pilot the way is our new Executive Director, Karl V. Hopkins, a Texas native, a Texas Aggie, holding a J.D., and having worked in international law for more than 30 years. Karl has all the talents, energy, and experience that will take the Association to a higher standard of service and outreach. With the Memorial now primed for another century of service and a refreshed executive team and board, the focus shifts back to the core mission: educating about and emulating George Washington's virtues, character, and vision.

The Memorial, unlike the Washington Monument and Mount Vernon estate, is dedicated to Washington's internal qualifications — his virtues, character, and vision.

Together let us now blaze forth its educational and inspirational light. Thank you all for your continued support. Don't forget to visit *your* Memorial whenever you are in the area. See you soon!

A Glorious Day of Rededication

A century later, it still dominates the skyline of Alexandria. One hundred years after the cornerstone was laid, Freemasons from around the country and around the world gathered in Alexandria to witness and celebrate the Memorial's rededication. On the morning of February 20, 2023, one of the largest gatherings of Masons in living memory took place. It began with an impressive parade through the streets of Alexandria, attended by over thirty thousand people, with Masonic Grand Lodges, lodges, and other groups interspersed with local organizations celebrating Washington's birthday.

The George Washington's Birthday Parade

Prior to the Rededication Ceremony on February 20th, the City of Alexandria held its annual George Washington's Birthday parade. This year's theme — *George Washington: The Man, The Mason, The Cornerstone of Our Republic* — highlighted the critical role of Freemasonry in Washington's life, and the profound respect that Freemasons around the world feel for Washington and his legacy. In a move unprecedented in recent times, the parade's usual route was altered to proceed through upper King Street toward the Memorial, connecting the parade to Alexandria's most appropriate backdrop. This strategic change allowed the Masonic processions to make their way up to the Memorial itself.

The Memorial's Director of Member Services, Tyler Vanice, served as the Chairman of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee over the past four years, building extensive collaborations with groups and organizations to enhance the parade's memorability. This year's parade featured over 4,000 marchers parading up King Street. A significant factor contributing to the parade's success was the substantial participation of Masonic fraternity members, marking this event as the largest Masonic procession the country has seen in many years. Approximately 1,300 to 1,500 Freemasons from dozens of Grand Lodges and other Masonic organizations proudly marched in the celebration.

Another special aspect of the 2023 parade was that George D. Seghers, the Memorial's Executive Director, was bestowed the honor of being the Grand Marshal. He was escorted to the reviewing stand and recognized by thousands of Alexandrians and Freemasons for his decades of work in support of the Memorial.



A special replica cornerstone was created for use in the centennial re-enactment.



An inspiring point of view captured by Danny McHale of Georgia, one of more than 2,000 Freemasons who participated in the Washington's Birthday Parade.

The Cornerstone Centennial

The Masonic contingent, numbering 2,050 participants, continued their march up to the Memorial to witness the rededication of the Memorial's cornerstone. The President of the Memorial Association, California Past Grand Master Ken Nagel, served as master of ceremonies. McArthur Myers, Grand Historian of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Heartfelt speeches were offered by several distinguished public officials and guests, including Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, CEO of Mount Vernon Douglas Bradburn, and former Governor of Virginia James S. Gilmore III.

In his remarks, Mayor Wilson said that not only is the Memorial “a fitting tribute to our first president...for those of us who are in Alexandria, this is a symbol of home. [...W]e know we are home when we see this building.... And I want to especially thank the Masons for the work that they have done in opening this building up to our community.”

Mount Vernon's Douglas Bradburn praised the Memorial as “one of the great wonders of our region, a talisman and a testament to the vision of our forbears.” He said: “Our institutions of government only work as long as we are willing to work together to make the system function. And of all the values of George Washington that we need to continue

to emulate [is the] willingness to find common ground, union together, and work together to make this great experiment last.”

Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore, himself a member of the Craft, reflected on the special Masonic element of Washington's legacy: “Washington's name belongs to streets, schools, bridges... all across America. Surely he is the son of Virginia, but he is the father of all of us as Americans.... Truly George Washington was a true American but he was also a true Mason.”

The President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association then delivered a moving address: “Those who stood here when the Cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial was laid in 1923 inhabited a world that was very different from ours today. Few of them could have imagined the changes and the challenges the twentieth century would bring them and their children. Through all of those tests, this Memorial has been a Lighthouse proclaiming to the world the dream of Liberty so powerfully embodied in the person of our nation's first President.”

“The Memorial would not exist were it not for the efforts of those dedicated members of our ancient and gentle Craft who devoted their time and resources to its original construction. [...T]hey realized a vision that has been a blessing to all of us ever since. Raising this magnificent

Memorial to Washington over the city of Alexandria, in the shadow of the capital of our great nation, and so near to Washington's dear home, Mount Vernon, they well understood that the Memorial would communicate an important and civilizing message to all who make the pilgrimage to this region in order to learn about the founding fathers and their dream of a representative republic devoted to individual liberty and the pursuit of happiness. . . . Let each of us hold fast to George Washington's worthy legacy. . . . By observing this re-enactment, let us re-affirm that vision and re-dedicate ourselves to those values that can guide our nation into a free and prosperous future."

Finally, the officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia re-enacted the ceremony of dedicating the cornerstone of the building. A special replica of the cornerstone was used in order to allow all present to witness the work. As the ceremony was solemnly performed by Grand Master Donald E. Strehle and his officers, it was witnessed by more than two thousand people on site, and thousands more watching online. Two important artifacts used during the original

1923 ceremony were placed into service again. And most notably, the George Washington Trowel was used by the grand officers to spread the symbolic "cement of brotherly love" on the stone. This trowel was created in 1793 and used by George Washington when he laid the cornerstone of our Nation's capital. Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick received the trowel from Washington after that ceremony, and it has been in the possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge N^o 22 ever since. Also, the Holy Bible used at the original 1923 cornerstone ceremony was used in the centennial re-enactment.

Within sight of our nation's Capitol beyond the Potomac, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial stands as a sentinel of stability and a beacon of Masonic light. Dignified and stately, it expresses and continually reaffirms the admiration the Masons around the world feel for George Washington, and for his accomplishment of helping to enshrine the values expressed in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights — ideals that have secured the freedom of millions.

To access videos of the Cornerstone Centennial, please visit our website:
<https://gwmemorial.org/pages/cornerstone>



Kenneth G. Nagel, President of the Memorial Association, delivered an inspiring speech.



George and Martha Washington (portrayed by Brian Hilton and Amanda Carey).

MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA

The Cornerstone of Freemasonry

by Karl Hopkins



Looking up at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, we see more than an architectural masterpiece or a museum that informs and educates the public. Yes, it is those things — but it is also far more. Its classical proportions, refined form, and soaring scale remind us that architecture can transcend mere function and express real purpose. The Memorial stands as a powerful symbol of the cornerstone of Freemasonry, and of the values enshrined in our Constitution, and of the enduring principles that gave rise to the United States of America.

The ancient dream of liberty could never truly be established without the recognition of each individual's inalienable human rights. Since the early 1700s, Craft Freemasonry openly taught its members that within the lodge they were equals, that they possessed the rights of political and religious freedom, and they had the right to assemble as free men and elect their leaders.

These essential values were a cornerstone of the ideals and principles that George Washington and the other Founding Fathers used to establish our country.

The close association between Freemasonry and the early American Republic continues to inspire us — and not just as an interesting point of history. Our nation has been through many challenges, from a devastating Civil War to the immense global conflicts of the first half of the twentieth century. Our nation has grown and our economy has thrived thanks to the lasting strengths that a free society inherently enjoys.

The legacy of Freemasonry's principles — freedom of political and religious conviction, the ultimate equality of all human beings, and the central importance of brotherly love and charity — shine as a guiding light, steering the United States through periods of internal strife and external threats. These values have not only shaped our political system but have also fostered a culture of innovation and progress. The resilience



As the cornerstone rededication ceremony concluded, sunlight broke through the clouds and illuminated the proceedings.

and adaptability of American society, influenced in part by Masonic ideals, have enabled us to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

These principles help guide us as citizens and Freemasons today. Polarization and incivility have often, throughout our nation's history, threatened to erode our national unity — much to the benefit of those who would see our great experiment fail. But within the Craft, when we live as Masons, our amity is undisturbed by such issues. A Mason welcomes a brother of any faith, and befriends and supports those who think differently than he does. Just as our Constitution and Bill of Rights support the rights of all, a thoughtful Mason supports the rights of his brethren.

As we look towards the future, it is up to all of us to ensure that the spirit of unity and brotherhood espoused by Freemasonry remains a cornerstone in our ongoing quest for national improvement and social harmony. As Freemasons, we are familiar with the symbolic rough and perfect ashlar. We can

be inspired by what the Founding Fathers achieved, even as we recognize the flaws in the craftsmanship of their lives. Our nation's beginning may be well compared to a rough ashlar . . . but one cut from the kind of living stone that time and effort can bring ever closer to perfection.

We can be a part of that process by displaying the Light of Masonry in all that we do, actively contributing to the betterment of society, and promoting the common good.

The Memorial plays an important role both in educating the public about how Masonic values are reflected in our national identity, and also by inspiring Freemasons to reflect on how we can all aspire to emulate our highest ideals.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial belongs to every Freemason, and we warmly encourage you to visit it, support it, and learn from what it represents. Just as the degrees of Freemasonry are a treasured heritage, the blessings of freedom are a sacred inheritance. Look well to the Memorial and observe one rich symbol of them both.

Plan Now for the Memorial's Celebration of Washington's Birthday in 2024

On February 24, 2024, the Memorial will celebrate the 292nd anniversary of the birth of the Father of our Nation, Brother George Washington.

The Memorial Society Reception

Our celebration will begin with a special reception for members of the George Washington Memorial Society at 6 p.m. on Friday evening, February 23rd. This will be an opportunity for us to thank some of the Memorial's most committed supporters. (To learn how to join the George Washington Memorial Society, please see our website, gwmemorial.org.)

The George Washington Symposium

Then, on the afternoon of February 24th, we will host the annual George Washington Symposium in the Memorial Theater from 1 to 4 p.m. This educational event features three notable experts who will address the theme of *Commemorating Two-Hundred Twenty-five Years of George Washington's Death and Funeral*. The first talk is "George Washington's Death and Private and State Funerals, 1799-1800," by Susan B. Long, a Ph.D. student from the American Civilization program at the University of Delaware. She will guide us through the historical context and significance of George Washington's death and the subsequent private and state funerals.

The next talk is "Washington's Memory, National Mourning, and International Remembrance," presented by Craig Bruce Smith, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of History at National Defense University. This segment explores the national and international impact of Washington's death.

The final talk will be "The Legacy of Washington Funeral: 225 years of Presidential State Funerals" by Matthew Costello, Ph.D., Vice President of the White House Historical Association. His talk will offer a unique perspective on how Washington's funeral set a precedent for honoring America's leaders.

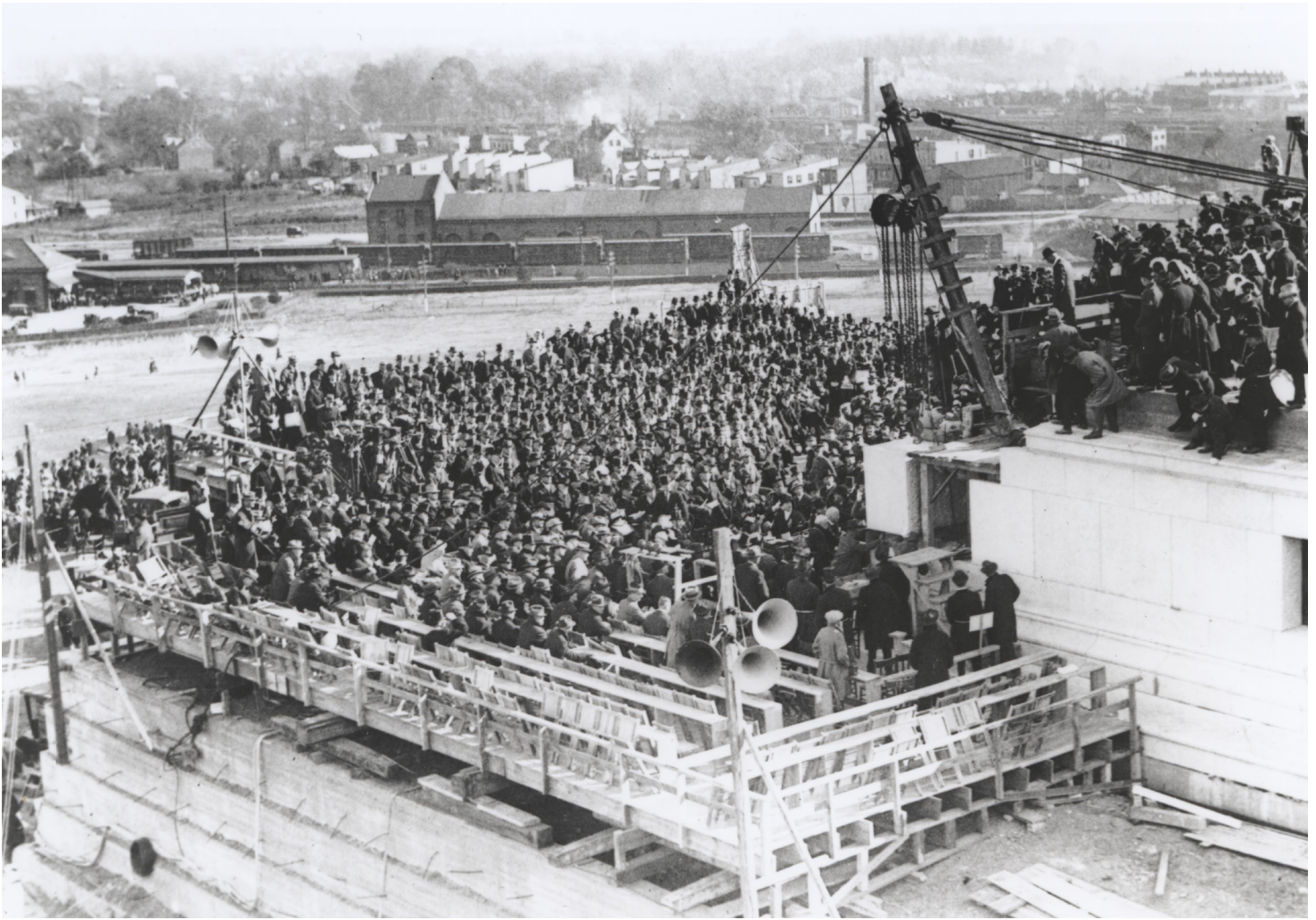
A panel discussion where speakers will address questions from the audience will conclude the symposium. This event is free and open to all, offering a unique opportunity to explore various facets of Washington's influence from his final days to his enduring legacy in national and international contexts.

The Washington's Birthday Gala

Our Washington's Birthday Gala then begins at 5 p.m. with a reception in Memorial Hall. This is an outstanding opportunity to reunite with friends and connect with new people in celebration of the birthday of the father of our nation.

This will be followed by entertainment in the beautiful Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Afterward, our guests will gather in Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. for the Gala Banquet, where fine food and drink will be served. One of the highlights of this banquet is the George Washington Memorial Award Presentation.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate Washington's Birthday with people from around the country at the beautiful and historic George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Come and gain new insights into the life and legacy of George Washington. More information, including tickets and hotel arrangements, is available on our website, www.gwmemorial.org.



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

Memorial Cornerstone Ceremony Preparations, February to November 1923

by Mark A. Tabbert

Construction of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial began with a small ground-breaking ceremony on June 5, 1922. As word of this event spread, American Freemasons immediately began anticipating a great and grand Masonic cornerstone ceremony and celebration. At the February 1923 Memorial Association meeting, President Louis A. Watres announced the target day for the cornerstone ceremony as November 4 — the anniversary of George Washington's initiation as an Entered Apprentice Mason in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

While coinciding with Washington's initiation anniversary was convenient, the Association decision was based on greater factors. Foremost was securing the necessary men and materials, along with sufficient fair weather, to properly prepare the Memorial and grounds for the ceremony.

The Association also had to negotiate a day within the busy American Masonic datebook. Between Labor Day and St. John

the Baptist's Day numerous grand jurisdictions held annual meetings. Freemasons in Washington, D.C., were already preparing for the Shrine Imperial Session in June and the biennial session of the Supreme Council 33°, Ancient and Accepted Rite in October. There was also the availability of important state and federal government officials. With all those factors, and others, in mind, Thursday, November 1, 1923, was ultimately selected.

Between February and August 1923, the Association's Executive Committee discussed and resolved several important issues surrounding the cornerstone event. Such matters as printing two different invitations: one for Masonic presiding officers and one for non-Masonic officials; securing reduced train ticket rates from railroad passenger associations; and reproducing the trowel used by President Washington at the 1793 U.S. Capitol Cornerstone ceremony. Only the attending Grand Masters would receive a trowel, with remaining copies to be given to attending high government

officials and Memorial Association officers.

Another concern was the actual cornerstone itself. Memorial architect Harvey Wiley Corbett's original design included the Masonic square and compasses emblem but omitted the "G" in the center. As can only happen among Past Grand Masters, this caused much consternation and heated discussion. The debate continued for several months until a final design was settled upon in mid-October.

During the growing excitement, U.S. President and Brother Mason Warren G. Harding died on August 2. Made an Entered Apprentice in Marion Lodge N^o 7, Marion, Ohio in 1901, he suffered a heart attack while on a speaking tour in San Francisco, California. Harding's Vice President and new President, Calvin Coolidge of Massachusetts was not a Freemason. (But his wife, Grace, was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.) Fortunately, President Coolidge did agree to honor the invitation to attend the cornerstone ceremony, but on the condition that he would not be required to give a speech. The November 1 celebration was one of his first presidential appearances.

By the first week of October all the details resolved and the program set. The U.S. Army Signal Corps would set up an electric amplifier system with the necessary loudspeakers to reach an audience of a hundred thousand. The D.C. radio station WCAP would broadcast descriptions of the parade and ceremony as well as the speeches given at the event and the evening's banquet.

On October 29, the *Alexandria Gazette* reported the arrival of the first train load of Freemasons. To fully accommodate the oncoming crush, the City encouraged vendors to sell food and drink on the street, before, during, and after the parade. Alexandria businesses would close and there would also be no mail delivery, but the Post Office would be open to accept mail. Schools would also be closed, thereby giving every child a chance to watch the parade and enjoy his or her Halloween candy.

The final schedule of events went as follows: at 10:00 a.m. the Grand Lodge of Virginia would open in Alexandria-Washington Lodge 22's room in the City Hall building. At 10:30 the parade would begin promptly from the intersection of King and Fairfax Streets. The Cornerstone Ceremony would begin at 12 noon and finish by 1:30 p.m.

First to arrive at the celebration from Norfolk was the U.S. Navy's new light cruiser USS *Richmond* (CL-9). It steamed into Alexandria on October 29th with its complement of 500 blue jackets ready to march in the parade. She served in the Caribbean through the 1930s and in the North Pacific during the Second World War.

The parade consisted of seven divisions with 22 marching bands totally over 18,000 men. Divisions assembled on side streets off King Street. Leading the parade was a U.S. Army cavalry troop, a company of infantry, two platoons of engineers and "Pershing's

Own" marching band. Behind the Army came a company of U.S. Marines and the Marine Corps Band, and lastly the *Richmond's* sailors. Army biplanes circled above the crowd.

The second division contained automobiles carrying all the government elected officials and other civilian dignitaries and guests. The third division consisted of Masonic Knights Templar with their marching bands with the fourth division containing officers from every U.S. Grand Lodge and brethren from many local lodges throughout the nation.

The fifth division contained Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia lodges, chapters, councils and commanderies. Honored among these were Washington's mother lodge, Fredericksburg Lodge N^o 4, Alexandria-Washington Lodge N^o 22 and Potomac Lodge N^o 5. The Sixth Division contained numerous Shriner marching bands, drill teams and choirs.

The last division contained the Memorial Association's officers and board members and the Grand Lodge of Virginia's officers. Also included in this division were the heads of the General Grand York Rite Bodies, the Sovereign Grand Commanders of both Scottish Rite jurisdictions, and the Shrine Imperial Potentate.

More than two hours after leaving the lodge the Grand Lodge of Virginia, with more than 15,000 Freemasons and spectators were in place atop 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. Among the American Masonic leaders, including Puerto Rico, were representatives from Ontario, Panama, Philippines, Quebec, and Venezuela. An arc of spectators assembled around the north and east of the Memorial. Later estimates claimed nearly 50,000 people enjoyed the spectacle on that brisk sunny day.

The cornerstone ceremony began with the 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." Acting Grand Master Charles 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 all those present that the work was about to begin. After his orders were obeyed, Grand Chaplain F. T. McFaden offered 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 Watres addressed Acting Grand Master Callahan. He explained the Memorial Association's purpose then he respectfully requested the Grand Master "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 praise," was then sung.

After the cornerstone was raised by chain and pulley, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer placed within the stone a sealed box. It contained items contributed from every US 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 Grand Marshal then presented the working tools to the Grand Master. After calling the Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden to the altar, he distributed them according to their office. 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 then presented them with the same small silver trowel used by President Washington at the Masonic cornerstone ceremony of the U.S. Capitol. After the President and Chief Justice dabbed wet cement on top of the foundation stone, every U.S. Grand Master, or his representative, followed suit.

Callahan then ordered the cornerstone lowered back 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 Senior Grand Warden proved the stone level, the Junior Grand Warden proved the stone plumb, the Most Worshipful Grand Master proved the stone square. Upon receiving affirmation, the Grand Marshal exclaimed the foundation stone "to be true and trusty, and duly laid."

The ceremony of consecration was then performed. The Grand Master poured upon the stone the Corn of Nourishment, the Grand Senior Warden poured the Wine of Refreshment, and the Grand Junior Warden poured the Oil of Joy and Gladness.

Callahan then 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 building; 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 J.T. Cochran on his left, returned to the stone and with his gavel gave the stone three distinct knocks. Grand honors were then rendered with a final blessing given by Callahan.

Lastly, the working tools were presented to architect Harvey Wiley Corbett with the charge that as the cornerstone was truly laid, he was entrusted "with the superintendence and direction of the work, having full confidence in our skill and capacity to conduct the same." Corbett accepting the tools, the ceremony closes 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.

After a speech by the Right Reverend James E. Freemason, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Washington, D.C., Grand Master Price then ordered Grand Marshal James to proclaim the ceremony closed. Grand Chaplain McFaden gave the final blessing. The procession formed again and returned to Alexandria-Washington N^o 22's lodge hall, where the Grand Lodge of Virginia was closed in ample form.

The automobiles carrying President Coolidge, Chief Justice Taft, and other civilian officials were escorted off Shuters Hill, while the thousands of Freemasons, spectators, and the idle curious found their own way home. For many brothers, however, the long day was only half over, for a great Masonic revelry was to be held that evening.

The grand banquet was held in the largest room available in town — the fourth floor of Alexandria's torpedo factory. It was a gift of fraternal hospitality from Alexandria's many Masonic bodies, including Andrew Jackson Lodge N^o 120, Mount Vernon Royal Arch Chapter N^o 14, Old Dominion Knights Templar Commandery N^o 11, and Martha Washington Chapter N^o 42, Order of the Eastern Star. While Grand Master Price presided as toastmaster, numerous smaller banquets were held by other Masonic bodies throughout 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.

The evening's last speaker was Past Grand Master of Massachusetts Melvin M. Johnson. Grand Master Price then declared it the end of a perfect day and the orchestra played the Star-Spangled Banner.

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Archives & Exhibits of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

Monumental Objects for a Monumental Celebration

The 2023 centennial anniversary of the Cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial was graced with a grand total of four relics once in the hands of our illustrious brother, George Washington.

Prior to the Grand rededication Ceremony, thousands of visitors to the Memorial were able to view a temporary exhibit in the Memorial Theater. This single large display case housed three George Washington relics. To describe the objects in order of Washington's association with them, we start with the Bible that was used for Washington's Masonic obligations in Fredericksburg Lodge. This bound Washington to the fraternity at his initiation on November 4, 1752. He was passed to the Fellow Craft degree on March 3, 1753, and raised a Master Mason on August 4, 1753. This Bible is still owned and preserved by Fredericksburg Lodge N^o 4.

Next was the Bible used for George Washington's inauguration as our first President. The Bible used was that of New York's St. John's Lodge. The General placed his right hand on the 49th chapter

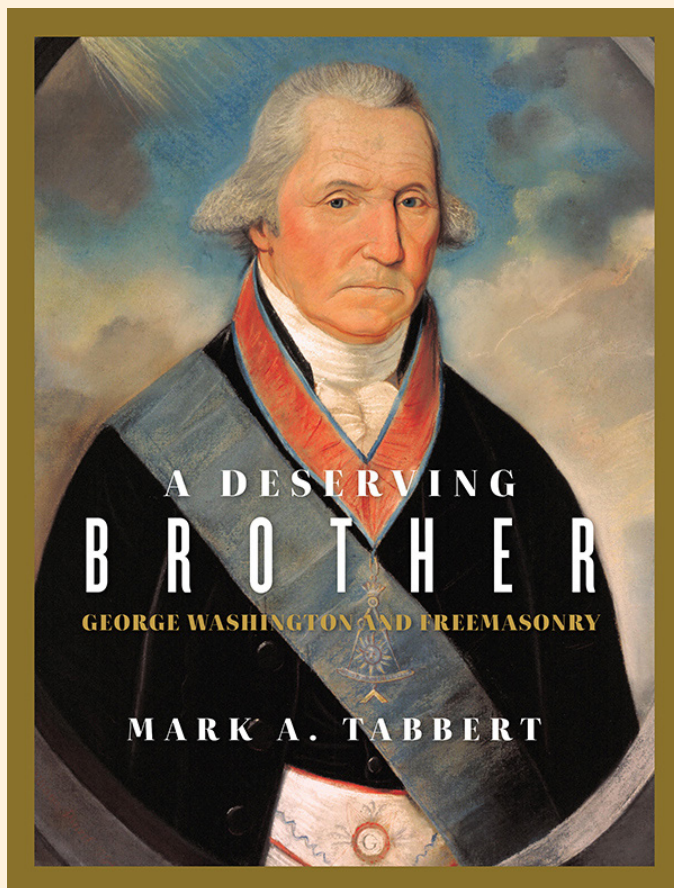
of Genesis 49 and took the first Presidential Oath of Office.

The final object on display in the Memorial Theater was the marble-headed gavel used by Brother Washington at the Cornerstone Ceremony for our United States Capital. It was made by John Duffey, craftsman and Mason. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Washington gifted the gavel to Valentine Reintzel, the Master of Potomac Lodge N^o 5. At the death of Reintzel the artifact was given to Potomac Lodge of the Grand Lodge of the district of Columbia where it is still cared for to this day.

Some other objects of note were used during the rededication ceremony itself: first, the George Washington trowel, crafted by John Duffey who also made the marble-headed gavel; next, the Holy Bible that had been used at the original cornerstone ceremony in 1923. Learn more about these last two items in the story on pages 1–4 of this edition of *LIGHT*.

James H. Ferguson is Collections Manager / Registrar for The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

The Definitive Account of George Washington's Masonic Life



This article, "George Washington as General Grand Master of the United States," is an excerpt from the upcoming book *A Deserving Brother: George Washington and Freemasonry* by the Memorial's Director of Archives and Exhibits, Mark A. Tabbert.

Published in 2022 by the University of Virginia Press in conjunction with The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, this book will be the definitive account of Brother Washington's Masonic membership. Relying on the latest research, this book will fully explore Washington's relationship with the fraternity, including a chronology of his involvement, color photos of documents, aprons and other items which bring his Masonic life to light. Also featuring:

- An Introduction by Dr. Edward Lengel, Ph.D.
- Over 60 entries on the items that document Washington's Masonic membership, with annotations placing the item into the context of Washington's life.

Cloth, 304 pages, 8 × 10½ inches

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<https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/gwbook>



Member Services Update

This was a major year for us at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial as we celebrated the centennial of the laying of the Memorial's cornerstone on February 20th. We honored the occasion with nearly a week's worth of activities surrounding Washington's birthday.

The weekend leading to the Cornerstone Centennial, the Memorial opened its doors to lodges from around the world to open a meeting in one of its two lodge main rooms. Being a national Memorial, we wanted to have a broader, national scope of events that Freemasons could enjoy and experience. This turned out to be the correct, and well-received idea. We had lodges lining up for our limited slots to use the spaces, and they were well-attended. How wonderful it was for all involved to experience about a dozen different lodges from around the country without needing to travel from coast to coast.

Previous to this rededication ceremony on February 20th, the City of Alexandria held a parade honoring the Memorial's anniversary in conjunction with celebrating Washington's Birthday. As the City Chairman for the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee for the last four years, I worked with various groups and organizations attempting to make this parade as memorable as possible. This year, the theme was *George Washington: The Man, The Mason, The Cornerstone of Our Republic*. We changed the parade route to proceed up King Street, leading toward the Memorial. Our former Executive Director, George D. Seghers, was named the Grand Marshal for the event. For more information about the parade and the Cornerstone Centennial, see pages 1–4.

Tyler Vanice is the Director of Member Services for The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.



Approximately 1,300 to 1,500 Freemasons marched up Alexandria's King Street as part of the 2023 Washington's Birthday Parade.

Development Update

As you read this, the Cornerstone Ceremony is now a somewhat distant memory. But a good memory... of a beautiful, crisp day in Alexandria; the driveway and Memorial itself full of brethren and ladies from across the country and beyond; a great job of welcoming our guests and serving as Master of Ceremonies by our brand new President of the Board of Directors, Ken Nagel of California; and a re-enactment of the cornerstone dedication ceremony of 1923. Don Strehle, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, went back in the archives and picked up the ceremony in effect in 1923 so what was presented that day was a true re-enactment of the actual ceremony used 100 years ago. What a great way to launch the Memorial into its second century of service to the fraternal world and the general public as a true beacon of light... Masonic light... about the man more than any other responsible for the creation of this country we call home!

Now, with the refurbishing/rehabilitation of the physical structure of the Memorial all but completed, we can turn our attention to the pursuit of our 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.* In the coming months/years, we will develop programs and information to share within and outside the fraternity to accomplish this mission. And, as always... as any not-for-profit organization does... we need your assistance in doing so. I have been asked... at the Cornerstone Ceremony weekend activities and at other, random times... "How can I/we help the Memorial?"

There are, of course, a number of ways in which one can assist in supporting us. I'm highlighting just a few here and will bring others to your attention in future writing. Here are several of them:

- The simplest way is to make an outright gift online (www.gwmemorial.org) or via check (send your check to us here at: 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301-2751). All gifts, regardless of amount, help us maintain this site which has been on the National Historic Register since 2015.
- Another easy way is to leave a bequest in your will or estate plan. A specific amount, specific asset, percentage of the estate or all or a portion of the residue of the estate are ways in which such gifts can be made. Our bequest language and other information about making a gift is available at: www.gwlegacy.org.
- Also easy is a beneficiary designation. Life insurance and retirement plans are two instruments, for example, through which you can give to the Memorial by making it the primary or contingent beneficiary as you establish or review the provisions of those plans. And if you establish a Donor Advised

Fund, remember that it, too, should have a designated beneficiary; otherwise, the remainder will go to the financial institution holding the fund.

- Making a bill payment once which automatically repeats itself every month has become a popular way to pay utility, department store, and credit card bills. In the same way, you can make a recurring gift to the Memorial by setting it up once and having it give again every month until you stop it. You may do so by going to our website, www.gwmemorial.org, clicking on Support the Memorial and then Online Giving. Complete the form and your gift will begin on the date you designate. It will then be made each month on the same date until you stop the gift. One time gifts can also be made this way.

We are thankful to all our donors and friends who support the Memorial and give us the ability to carry out this important mission.

As we look to the future, another major event appears on the Memorial's horizon. February 22, 2025 will mark, to the day, the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the iconic statue of Brother Washington, the central feature in our beautiful Memorial Hall, by President Harry Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri. We are planning another rededication event in observance of this occasion and already have a commitment from a significant featured speaker for it. Stay tuned here for updates about this event. On the same day, we will celebrate General Washington's birthday with our annual Gala. What a day that will be!

Yes, we are definitely looking to the future here at the Memorial... and to the new and as yet unborn generations who must learn about the virtues, character and integrity of the man primarily responsible for establishing this nation where they have the many freedoms we still enjoy today. We hope you'll join us on this journey forward... with your prayers, your visits and your financial support. We'll be there! Will you?

Timothy Strawn is the Director of Development for The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

Make a gift today at:
www.gwmemorial.org

Learn about planned giving options at:
www.gwlegacy.org

Support the Memorial and Receive a Limited-Edition Fine Art Print

Commissioned by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association last year in order to celebrate the Memorial's cornerstone centennial, this impressive work will soon be on display in the Memorial's collections. A limited-edition canvas print has been created and is available for a contribution of \$1,000 or more toward the centennial celebration.

The beautiful new painting by local Alexandria artist Kurt Anderson depicts the fully-restored George Washington Masonic



National Memorial on a sun-drenched and perfect day. Rising majestically from the verdant green of Shutters Hill to the clouded blue sky, the Memorial's tower signifies the lofty respect that every Freemason feels for our Nation's first president.

Kurt Anderson's studio is located in Alexandria's famous Torpedo Factory Art Center. He received his primary artistic education with four years in the traditional atelier, which makes him part of a master-pupil lineage that can be traced back to nineteenth-century masters such as Jacques-Louis David. Anderson received his B.A. in studio art from the University of Arizona.

Reflecting upon the scale and beauty of his theme, Anderson said, "I wanted to capture the Memorial's monumentality. I like how the building appears in direct sunlight. It gives it a glow and the sensation of white marble. I painted portions of the building in shadow from the clouds. This provided needed variety and it allowed me to emphasize the top of the tower, which I left fully in sunlight. This accentuates the soaring quality of the tower."

While the work was being executed, many patrons were able to see the work in progress. "Since my studio is at the Torpedo Factory Art Center," Anderson told us, "the creation of the painting was carried out in a very public place and under the observation of the many visitors who came by. It was the subject of a lot of positive comments. I came to understand that the monument is a truly beloved landmark in this community."

Obtain a Limited-Edition Canvas Print

To mark the Memorial's cornerstone centennial, a limited edition of only 100 canvas prints of the Anderson's painting is now available. Each numbered print is 20 × 30 inches and suitable for framing. To obtain your canvas print, please make a donation of \$1,000 or more at <https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/painting>. All proceeds will go to offset the costs of the Memorial's historic celebration of the cornerstone's centennial.

Limited-Edition Medallion

Celebrate the Memorial's Cornerstone Centennial and receive a special limited-edition medallion struck to commemorate this historic occasion that brought a record number of Freemasons together on February 20, 2023. Were you there, or do you know someone who was? This is a perfect memento of the occasion.

Only 400 of these special medallions were created, and a limited number remain in stock. You can obtain yours today for a gift of \$250 or more. This contribution will be used to offset the expenses of the spectacular February 2023 centennial celebration.

Visit our website at <https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/medallion> to order yours!



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LIGHT lists donors who have given \$1,000 or more since the prior edition of the newsletter. Thank you for your generous support!

Limited-Edition Ashlar Made from Original Memorial Granite

Over the years, adjustments to the Memorial have required a small amount of the building's stone to be removed. Carefully crafted from this precious supply, the Cornerstone Centennial Ashlar can now adorn your lodge, office, or home.

The Cornerstone Centennial Ashlar is a 2 ¼-inch cube of New Hampshire pink granite, cut from the original stone of the George

Washington Masonic National Memorial, set into an 8 ½-inch wide cherry-wood base with a commemorative brass plate.

Because of the scarcity of this stone, only 200 of these Ashlars can be produced. You can obtain yours today for a gift of \$500 or more. Visit our website at <https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/ashlar> to order yours!



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2023 Cornerstone Print

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LIGHT

of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

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Now Available: The Limited-Edition Cornerstone Centennial Trowel

Celebrate the Memorial's Cornerstone Centennial and receive a special trowel designed as a replica of the very trowel used by George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the United States Capitol in 1793! Washington entrusted it to his Masonic brother, Dr. Elisha Dick. Today the trowel, a precious symbol of the exercise of brotherly love, is on display to visitors in the Memorial's Replica Lodge Room.

Just as it was used in 1923 to lay the Memorial's cornerstone originally, it was used in the 2023 centennial rededication ceremony.

Now, a beautiful replica of this trowel can be yours. This can make an excellent addition to anyone's Masonic collection. There are only 100 of these special souvenirs in existence, so act quickly to reserve yours. You can obtain yours today for a gift of \$250 or more. Order yours now at <https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/trowel>.

