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## A Presidential Legacy

By George D. Seghers

As citizens of this American Republic, which provides us with more freedom, choices and opportunities than any other place in the world, it is incumbent upon us to examine the course we are taking. Our country is in economic, political and diplomatic turmoil. This is a time when we need to look to our first president, George Washington, for inspiration and guidance. George Washington faced every adversity with courage, perseverance and honesty. In a “Circular to the States” dated June 8, 1783, Washington wrote, “...notwithstanding the cup of blessing is thus reached



*Washington takes the oath of office as the first President of the United States. (An engraving after a painting by Alonzo Chappel, 1859)*

out to us, notwithstanding happiness is ours, if we have a disposition to seize the occasion and make it our own; yet, it appears to me there is an option still left to the United States of America, that it is in their choice, and depends upon their conduct, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and miserable as a Nation; This is the time of their political probation, this the moment when the eyes of the whole World are turned upon them, this the moment to establish or ruin their national Character forever [sic]... .” These words could have been written yesterday instead of 226 years ago. Washington knew that for the country to survive and prosper, both the citizens and the political leaders must act with honesty and courage.

On April 30, 1789, Washington took his oath of office as the first President of the United States. It is reported that when he entered the Senate Chamber

to deliver his Inaugural Address to the assembled Congress, his face was grave; his words almost inaudible. The challenges that faced him and the new government gave him reasons to be grave. The United States was a small, new republic. Its treasury was empty and it had no army or navy worthy of mention. Washington carefully followed and established the form of government that was written in the newly ratified Constitution. He was influential in shaping it as presiding officer over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia a few years earlier. His strong sense of responsibility and his strength of character were such that he did not infringe upon the policy-making powers that he felt the Constitution bestowed upon the Congress. On

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### Greetings From The President

**Michael D. Brumback**



*“We must never despair; our situation has been compromising before, and it changed for the better; so I trust it will again. If difficulties arise, we must put forth new exertion and proportion our efforts to the exigencies of the times.”*

- George Washington

Tough times have historically been good for Freemasonry. Some of our biggest increases in membership have been during or immediately following periods of war. Some of the greatest architecturally significant Masonic edifices were constructed around the time of the Great Depression. Could it be that we are entering another significant period of prosperity for the fraternity, as we have begun this recent period of financial fear and military conflict?

George Washington endured these same concerns during the Revolutionary War. Congress failed to provide the financial support necessary to effectively wage a military campaign against the British army. This new nation had no war ships as we feebly attempted to protect our coasts against the mightiest navy in the world. Washington’s army was made up of citizens who had to be trained to be

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### **Greetings From The President**, *continued from page 1*

soldiers. Yet with all these adversities, George Washington persevered and overcame odds to which lesser men would have surrendered.

Our fraternity is reflected in the character of the man who we most especially honor as our Brother – George Washington. The George Washington Masonic Memorial’s cornerstone was laid in 1923, and the building was dedicated in 1932. The Great Depression fell between these two dates. I (and I hope you) will be eternally grateful that our forefathers had the courage and vision not to let hard times deter them from their mission to honor Brother Washington. Lesser men might have given up, or waited for times to get better. Instead, they held fast to their mission and forged on.

Today we enjoy the fruits of their labors. The Freemasons of the United States can proudly proclaim that our fraternity played a significant role in molding this great nation under God by instilling Masonic principles into the character of George Washington.

I would like to invite you to make it your mission to renew your vision for Freemasonry by visiting the George Washington Masonic Memorial. It will fill your spirit with pride that you belong to the same fraternity as our Nation’s Founders. You will learn of the importance that Masonry played in the founding of our country. Hopefully, you will depart feeling as Washington did when he wrote, *“Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving Brother.”*

As I complete my final message to you, I would like to thank the Masons of the United States for allowing me this great opportunity to serve. I have been humbled to be able to learn more about our fraternity, while doing my best to further the mission of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. I have been privileged to work with Grand Masters from all across our country who have unselfishly given of their time and talents. Our Board of Directors has made great strides to ensure the future of the Memorial. And to my wife, Mary, I owe a great debt of gratitude for supporting me for these many years.

The lessons of Freemasonry and the standards of integrity set by George Washington may be more important today than ever before. Challenging times cause people to focus on the important things in life. The Memorial stands ready to inspire generations of Americans, and perhaps motivate them to seek further light. After all, Brother George Washington recommended it!

### **A Presidential Legacy**, *continued from page 1*

the other hand, the determination of foreign policy became predominantly a presidential concern since the Constitution provided that he should negotiate treaties with the advice and consent of the Senate. While the Senate, according to the Constitution, had to give its consent to presidential appointees, Washington courageously insisted that he could remove them without Senate permission or approval. Although Washington was reluctant to wield executive authority single-handedly, and he took advice from his Cabinet most seriously, there was never any question at the time that Washington was President and that national policies had to have his approval.

As citizens, we must act responsibly and we must participate in our political system. Washington rightly believed that the Constitution was the people’s choice. In a letter to the “Inhabitants of Alexandria” dated July 4, 1793, he wrote, *“To complete the American character, it remains for the citizens of the United States to shew [sic] to the world, that the reproach heretofore cast on republican Governments for their want of stability, is without foundation, when that government is the deliberate choice of an enlightened people; and I am fully persuaded, that every well-wisher to the happiness and prosperity of this Country will evince by his conduct, that we live under a government of laws; and that, while we preserve inviolate our national faith, we are desirous to live in amity with all mankind.”*

In his Farewell Address on September 18, 1796, Washington wrote, *“This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its Laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty.”*

These are indeed trying times, however, thanks to the efforts of George Washington and our Founding Fathers, we have a well-established and solid form of government under which we will weather the storm and continue to thrive. Our words and our actions should reflect the personal responsibility, courage and perseverance of our first president, Brother George Washington.

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

## **The Royal Order of Scotland**

The Memorial gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Sir Edward H. Fowler, Jr., Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, U.S.A., for sponsoring this issue of *The Messenger* and for his continued support of the Memorial. For information on the Royal Order of Scotland visit [www.yorkrite.com/roos/](http://www.yorkrite.com/roos/).

## Message From Alexandria



George D. Seghers

The last quarter of 2008 was difficult for the Memorial, as it was for everyone. The uncertainties of the market have brought to the forefront the fact that in order for the Memorial to function and to thrive, the support of America's Freemasons is essential. The Memorial was conceived, financed and constructed by the Freemasons of America. A \$1 Per Member program was created prior to the laying of the cornerstone in 1923. The Masons that built the Memorial knew it would not be easy; the economic situation was much worse than it is today. However, they did not waiver. They held fast and secured the funds needed by developing statewide fund-raising committees. They had the courage to persevere and they succeeded.

In the 1920s, most of the Freemasons in the United States had pledged and were contributing \$1 per year to the Memorial. If they could do it then, certainly we can do it now. We are the stewards of this remarkable and awe-inspiring Memorial to our first president, the one man who

did more and gave more for the creation of this nation than any other. Not only is it our duty, it is also our privilege to see that the George Washington Masonic Memorial stands forever as a beacon spreading the light of Freemasonry to the four corners of the world.

George Washington's life was a journey of self-improvement. He was a just, honorable, upright and honest man and the Perfect Ashlar that we should all emulate. Without George Washington, we would not have the only truly free society in the world. These are challenging times, but I am confident that America's Freemasons will persevere like their brothers before them, and that we will continue to 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."

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

### Martha Washington Butterfly Pin

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is pleased to present *Martha Washington's Butterfly*. This pin is an exact replica of a painting that, according to Washington family tradition, was painted by the hand of Martha Washington. The original painting passed through descendants of Martha Washington for generations and was eventually



*Pin shown actual size*

presented to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 where George Washington served as the first master. It is on display at the Memorial. This pin was created to honor the significant role that Martha Washington played in the life of her husband and the similar role that wives have played ever since.

To order, please contact the Memorial Gift Shop at 703-549-9234 or visit [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org).

*Crafted with pride in America*

### Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Adopts \$1 Per Member

At its Stated Communication in December, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts became the latest jurisdiction to join the *100% Participation By Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* campaign to support the Memorial with a \$1 contribution annually from every member. The Memorial gratefully acknowledges Donald G. Hicks, Jr., PGM of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and Third Vice President of the Memorial Association, Grand Master Roger W. Pageau, and the officers and members of the Grand Lodge for their support and assistance in achieving this important goal. We encourage other Grand Lodges to join the campaign to help ensure the Memorial's future.

### Memorial Updates Website

Be on the lookout for the new and improved George Washington Masonic Memorial website. Scheduled to launch by mid-February, the website will feature a new look for the homepage, easier navigational buttons, new features and updated information throughout. This updated site, however, is part of a larger transformation project under consideration for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Memorial Association in 2010. In the meantime, enjoy this updated version and visit often at [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org).

## Masonic Exhibit Opens 2011 At Mount Vernon

By Mark A. Tabbert

A singular moment in American Masonic history will occur in February 2011. For the first time, a major American museum will present an exhibition on Freemasonry and George Washington. A joint project of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the exhibition will open in Mount Vernon's new museum and education center.

The exhibition's working title "A Deserving Brother: George Washington and Freemasonry" derives from Washington's letter to King David's Lodge in Providence, Rhode Island in 1790. He wrote, "... I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving Brother." The title refers not only to Washington, but to all men who join the Craft seeking to be a "deserving Brother."

Like many things in Freemasonry, the exhibition will be organized in three parts. The first part, and constituting half the gallery, will be a Masonic biography of Washington. Four vignettes will highlight this story. The first will be a depiction of the lodge room in Fredericksburg, Virginia where Washington became a Mason. The second will recount Washington's band of Masonic brethren in the Continental Army's officer corp. The third will feature the U.S. Capitol cornerstone ceremony where Washington joined numerous lodges to initiate the construction of the "People's House." The last will feature Washington's funeral when he is laid to rest by his friends and Masonic brethren.

Section two will present other leaders who followed in Washington's Masonic footsteps. Beginning on the international level, such Masons as Bolivar of South America, Garibaldi of Italy, O'Connell of Ireland and Kossuth of Hungary will be featured. On the national level, the exhibition will highlight the other 14 U.S. Presidents and 18 Vice Presidents who were Freemasons. The third part of this section will spotlight three to four American Masons who are generally unknown to the public but who are revered in state grand lodges.

The exhibition's last section will examine Washington's transformation from an honored man to the very symbol of Masonic virtue. The culmination of the transformation will be the dedication of the George Washington Masonic Memorial during the bicentennial of Washington's birth in 1932. The exhibition will end with images showing today's Freemasons continuing Washington's life rituals: initiation, military service, cornerstone ceremonies and funeral rites.

With more than one million visitors to Mount Vernon every year, this exhibition will be a golden opportunity for Freemasons to articulate their history and moral philosophy. The exhibition will open on President's Day weekend 2011 and run through January 2012.

*Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.*

## Grand Lodge Month Program

The culmination of the Grand Lodge Month Program for 2008 was an Emergent Grand Lodge Session at the Memorial during December when the Grand Lodge of Washington visited to celebrate their month with a full complement of members. They also installed an outstanding display highlighting their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Grand Lodge of Washington is the only Grand Lodge and state named after George Washington. Geographically, they are far from the Memorial, however, in spirit, interest and support, they are very close to the Memorial. This Grand Lodge contributes \$1 per member annually to the Memorial and \$5 per initiate. They are also participating in the Digitization of Grand Lodge Proceedings Project with the Memorial. Our Board Member



Courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Washington

*Grand Master Douglas E. Tucker (right of the flag) and members of the Grand Lodge of Washington raise their flag at the Memorial heralding December as Grand Lodge of Washington Month.*

from Washington, Alvin W. Jorgensen, PGM, has been an active, committed and contributing participant. The Grand Lodge of Washington, and indeed all the Grand Lodges that participated in the Grand Lodge Month Program, are to be commended for their interest in and support of the Memorial.

The schedule for the Grand Lodge Month Program for 2009 is: January - Arkansas, February - Michigan, March - Florida, April - Texas, May - Iowa, June - Wisconsin, July - Minnesota, August - Oregon, September - Kansas, October - Utah, November - Nebraska, December - Colorado.

### Dates to Remember

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| February 15-17 | Conference of Grand Masters of North America - Garden Grove, CA                      |
| February 22    | Washington's Birthday  |
| February 21    | Annual George Washington Symposium and George Washington Memorial Award Presentation |

# Planned Giving - *Your Way*

The George Washington Masonic Memorial was built entirely through the generosity of individuals. For nearly 100 years, dedicated friends from around the country have worked diligently to support the Memorial. Many of the contributions that helped build and now help sustain the Memorial have been through planned gifts – bequests, trusts and other contributions through a will or an estate plan. If not for their support, the George Washington Masonic Memorial would not be celebrating its 100th Anniversary next year.

Our mission cannot be accomplished without the support of our friends. Now, you can choose your own donation plan through the *Friends of the Memorial Program*. As a *Friend of the Memorial*, you'll make it possible for us not only to maintain and improve the Memorial, but to ensure that the great deeds, character and vision of George Washington will not be forgotten.

As a *Friend of the Memorial*, you contribute based on the plan that's best for you. For example, you may consider the following sample donation plans:

**Monthly** - \$10 per month

**Quarterly** - \$30 every three months

**Twice per year** - \$60 every 6 months

**Annually** - \$120 once per year (any month you choose)

When it's time to donate, you'll receive a friendly reminder. Or for easy payments, simply use your credit card, saving you time, paper and postage! At the end of the year, you'll receive an annual statement detailing your donations for tax-deduction purposes.

As a *Friend of the Memorial*, you will:

- Select the donation plan you like
- Help ensure the Memorial's future
- Receive an annual statement for tax-deduction purposes

**NOTE: Please be sure to check out the Planned Giving section of the Memorial website for more information.**

YES! I'm proud to join the *Friends of the Memorial!*

**I choose to give:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Twice per year  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually

**Signature required:** \_\_\_\_\_

No, I prefer not to become part of the *Friends of the Memorial Program* now,

but please accept this gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**If paying by check, please make check payable to: GWMM. To contribute by credit card, please complete the form below.**

*(Please Print)*

Please charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*(as it appears on card)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: GWMM, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301-2751 Or Fax to: 703-519-9270**

# Join The GWMM Today!

**Yes! Count on me to support our Memorial.**

Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

- \$100 - Silver Craftsman:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- \$250 - Gold Master:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- \$500 - Platinum Presidential:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- \$1000 - New Century:** Your gift will be acknowledged, you will receive a Membership Certificate and your name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.

## PATRONS

- \$5,000 - Millennium Architect**
- \$10,000 - Millennium Master Architect**
- \$25,000 - Millennium Builder**
- \$50,000 - Millennium Master Builder**
- \$100,000 - Millennium Grand Master Builder**

In addition to the above benefits, all Patrons will receive a Membership Plaque and your name will be permanently displayed on a Patrons Wall of Honor recognizing major benefactors prominently located in the Memorial.

*Already a Supporter? Great! Since Membership is cumulative, an additional contribution may upgrade your status to the next category.*

- Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Check enclosed made payable to *GWMM*  
Please charge my:  American Express  Discover  
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Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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To respond, please fill in your information, cut along dotted line and mail to:

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**101 Callahan Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22301-2751**  
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## Memorial Honored By Oklahoma Scottish Rite

The Guthrie, Oklahoma Scottish Rite Valley honored the Memorial by naming its fall program: "The George Washington Masonic Memorial Reunion." The reunion was held October 4-5, 2008 and featured key speakers George Seghers, Executive Director of the Memorial, and Mark Tabbert, Director of Collections. Attendees also visited the Memorial's exhibit booth which was on display throughout the program. The Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple was built during the same time period as the Memorial.

## 1797 Washington Medal Discovered On Memorial Grounds

A George Washington commemorative medal unearthed on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial by local archeologists was recently identified as a George Washington Baker 66 Medal dating to 1797. The medal is part of a special exhibit by the Alexandria Archeology Museum inspired by the 2009 Presidential



Inaugural and features artifacts relating to past presidents. The medal, discovered several years earlier, was in a fairly deteriorated state, and no date indicating when the medal was made could be found. In preparing for the exhibit, the medal was retrieved from storage and accurately identified by an expert numismatist. The obverse shows a profile with Washington's name arched above, while the reverse lists five events and dates associated with Washington's generalship and presidency.

During that era, the property belonged to Ludwell Lee who purchased it in 1790 and lived there with his family in an elegant mansion built by the previous owner in 1781. The property was valuable enough that Lee took out an insurance policy in 1797. This document records the mansion and two symmetrically placed frame outbuildings, a gardener's house and a laundry, which was the site where the medal was found. Washington was a friend of Lee's and noted in his diary that he had met there with Lee's father, Richard Henry Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1799, the mansion was sold to Benjamin Dulany. Dulany had married Washington's ward, Elizabeth French, in 1773, and Washington gave the bride away, Elizabeth's father having died many years before. During the Revolution, Dulany served as one of Washington's aides. Archeologists speculate that perhaps the medal belonged to either Lee or Dulany and remark that it seems fitting that the medal was discovered on property once owned by Washington's friends and a place visited by the first president himself.

## 100% Participation By Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary The Value Of A Dollar

The \$1 Per Member Campaign was designed as a fair and equal means of providing the funds necessary for the operation of *your* Memorial. The key to the success of this program is the participation of every Grand Lodge. With only eight Grand Lodges on board, we've got a long way to go to reach 100% Participation By Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. But we can do it!

While a dollar may not buy much in today's economy, it buys a great deal for the Memorial. An annual contribution from every Grand Lodge of just one dollar per member will result in long-term financial security for the Memorial and valuable peace of mind for every Mason in America knowing that their Masonic Memorial dedicated to their revered brother George Washington will forever endure.

The founding members erected the Memorial, but now it's up to us to continue the only National Masonic Memorial to George Washington. Let's "inspire humanity" and show the world that "the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country" will be preserved for all generations to come. Let every Jurisdiction unite behind this one symbol of veneration for Washington and let that unity ring out 100% strong by 2010!

NOTE: If you are a local lodge reading this and support this idea, please take your enthusiasm to your State Ambassador to the Memorial and encourage him to rally behind this at your Annual Communication. (Please call the Memorial if you do not know who your Ambassador is.)



100%

75%

50%

25%

15%

### Participating Grand Lodges

District of Columbia  
North Dakota  
Alaska  
Michigan  
Virginia  
Maryland  
Washington  
Massachusetts

All Jurisdictions that contribute \$1 Per Member annually will be honored with a large seal of their Grand Lodge to be prominently displayed in Grand Masonic Hall at the Memorial.

# Washington's Final Days

## The Quality of Healthcare Administered to Washington

By E.D. Carrel, M.D.

The last three days of George Washington's life have fortunately been preserved through an eyewitness report kept by his secretary, Tobias Lear. Lear's report gives a detailed account of Washington's activities and his physical condition right up until the moment he died, including the medical procedures administered to Washington by his attending physicians.



Courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Washington's physicians check his pulse during his last illness. (Early 19<sup>th</sup> century etching; author unknown) The pocket watch of Dr. Elisa Cullen Dick, one of Washington's attending physicians, is part of the Memorial's collections and is on display in the George Washington Museum.

The rationale for bleeding over a period of 10 hours was to dehydrate and reduce swelling in his throat. This appears to have worked since he did get better for a short time. These very experienced, well-educated physicians cared deeply for Washington. They were diligent, ethical, and in constant attendance at his bedside. They were brother Masons and knew each other. They consulted each other. It would not be right for us to look at them in hindsight, through the binoculars of 200 years of medical progress, and to be critical of their healthcare methods. In all probability, Washington suffered from strep throat with epiglottitis and died in septic shock rather than by therapeutic bleeding.

*Dr. E. D. Carrel is a surgeon in Anderson, Indiana. He is a learned Mason and an avid Washington historian.*



1910 - 2010

100th Anniversary

### Association Officers

Elected February 17, 2008

<b>Michael D. Brumback</b>	President
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<b>Roger A. Simmons</b>	Second Vice President
<b>Donald G. Hicks, Jr.</b>	Third Vice President
<b>George D. Seghers*</b>	Executive Director
<b>Donald M. Robey</b>	Exec. Sec.-Treas. Emeritus

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<b>W. Berry Rigdon</b>	North Carolina

Term expires February 22, 2010

<b>Michael D. Brumback*</b>	Indiana
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<b>John L. Palmer</b>	Tennessee
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Term expires February 22, 2011

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\*Member of Executive Committee

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The Messenger