

New President Elected

Anthony P. Wordlow, Past Grand Master of California, was elected President of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association at the Annual Meeting in Garden Grove, California, in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. President Wordlow has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1998 and was elected Third Vice President in 2002.

Other officers elected for the ensuing year are: Roger A. Simmons, First Vice President; Donald G. Hicks, Jr., Second Vice President; Ridgely H. Gilmour, Third Vice President; and George D. Seghers, Executive Director.



New President Anthony P. Wordlow (second from right) and wife Marilyn, along with Second Vice President Donald G. Hicks, Jr. (far right) and Board member Michael A. Sutton (far left) help greet visitors at the Memorial's booth at the Conference.

The following Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters were elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors: Thomas C. Jackson - Minnesota, George O. Braatz - Ohio, J. F. "Jeff" Webb - Louisiana, Philip G. Buchholz - Wyoming, Dennis D. Johnson - Oregon, Calvin K. Keyler - Vermont, Jimmie A. Berkey - New Mexico, and Donald G. Hicks, Jr. - Massachusetts.

The Memorial extends its appreciation to Immediate Past President Michael D. Brumback, Past Grand Master of Indiana, who served three years as President and 15 years on the Board. His outstanding leadership was instrumental in creating a new vision for the Memorial Association that has put it on a strong and steady course for the future. The Memorial would also like to thank the following members who served admirably and completed their terms of service on the Board: Alvin W. Jorgensen - Washington, John F. Kavanaugh - Florida, David J. Lamprey, Sr. - New Hampshire, Darwin D. "Dan" Lloyd - Arkansas, Lawrence Mersberg - Kansas, and W. Berry Rigdon - North Carolina.

Greetings From The President

Anthony P. Wordlow



Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

February 22, 2010, George Washington's birthday, will mark the centennial of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association. Our Masonic brethren of yesterday realized the urgent need to erect a fireproof edifice to preserve precious articles of George Washington for the ages. They realized such an immense undertaking should be an endeavor involving Masons from every jurisdiction, a national effort. Their deliberations led to a bold decision.

At the invitation of the Grand Master of Virginia, representatives from jurisdictions across the country met on George Washington's birthday in 1910 in Alexandria, Virginia. That meeting resulted in the formation of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association and the decision to build a magnificent, colossal structure to honor George Washington and Freemasonry.

Our brethren of yesterday left us an unparalleled legacy with a challenge to follow their example. We, the Masons of today, strive toward that goal. Our new mission statement, "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our

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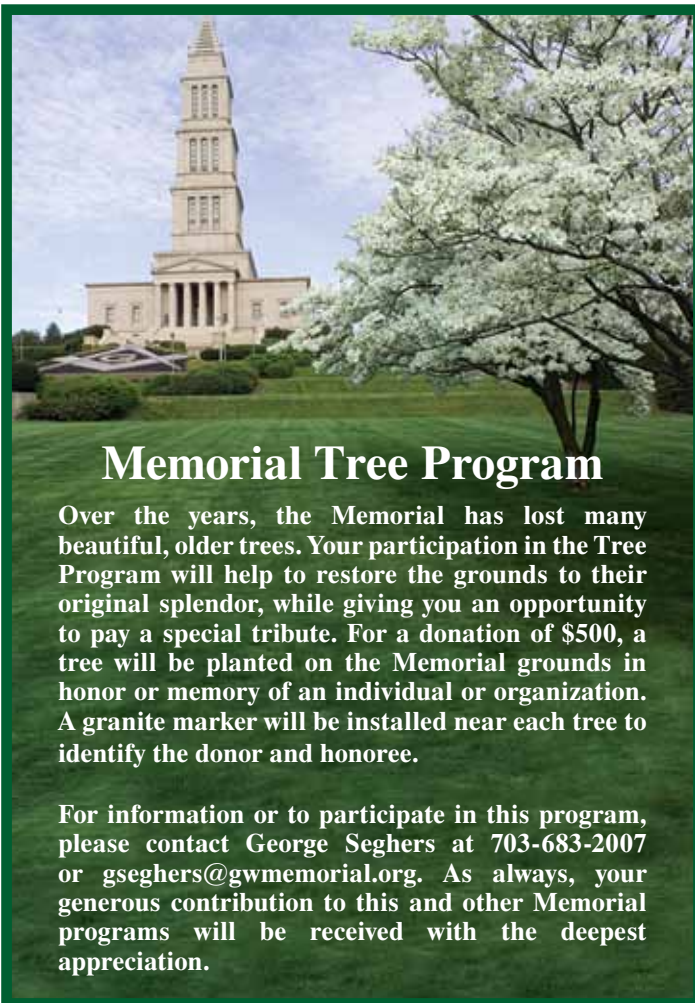
Greetings From The President, *continued from page 1*

Country,” is foremost. Our 22-member Board of Directors, each from a different jurisdiction, is guiding the Association into a new era of leadership and vision. Our Executive Director and staff work in concert with the Board to maintain, operate and manage the Memorial.

In preparation for our Centennial Celebration, several projects are progressing on schedule. The new exhibit on Freemasonry is complete. Other exhibits are in the planning stage. The elevators are undergoing conversion to self-operation and air conditioning is being installed in Grand Masonic Hall.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is owned by the Masons of yesterday, today and tomorrow. But with ownership comes responsibility. Our role today is to ensure good stewardship of this magnificent, colossal, classical, architectural marvel erected to honor George Washington and Freemasonry and to conserve it for our brethren of tomorrow.

I am honored to be serving as your President during this historic time and look forward to working with you to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association.



Memorial Tree Program

Over the years, the Memorial has lost many beautiful, older trees. Your participation in the Tree Program will help to restore the grounds to their original splendor, while giving you an opportunity to pay a special tribute. For a donation of \$500, a tree will be planted on the Memorial grounds in honor or memory of an individual or organization. A granite marker will be installed near each tree to identify the donor and honoree.

For information or to participate in this program, please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or gseghers@gwmemorial.org. As always, your generous contribution to this and other Memorial programs will be received with the deepest appreciation.

George Washington Memorial Award And George Washington Symposium

On Saturday, February 21, in commemoration of George Washington's 277th birthday, the George Washington Masonic Memorial presented the George Washington Memorial Award to retired Army officer, educator and author Dave R. Palmer.

Palmer is the author of several historical books including *1794: America, Its Army, and the Birth of a Nation*; *Washington: First in War*; and *George Washington and Benedict Arnold: A Tale of Two Patriots*. Prior to the presentation, he gave a talk on George Washington and the formative years of the United States Army. The program honors individuals who have promoted the virtues, character and vision of George Washington.



Dave R. Palmer (center) receives the George Washington Memorial Award from Anthony P. Wordlow, President of the Memorial Association (right) and George D. Seghers, Executive Director (left).

The Memorial also hosted the Annual George Washington Symposium held just prior to the Award program. The Symposium this year focused on the military education of George Washington. A gala reception was held afterward that included toasts, a 4-tiered birthday cake, refreshments and musical entertainment. The events were part of the month-long birthday celebration sponsored by the City of Alexandria.



The Fife and Drum unit of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line performs at the reception.

Message From Alexandria



George D. Seghers

This is a challenging time for the Memorial and for Freemasonry. The easy and the safe course of action would be to reduce services to our members and to the public. However, that would not be the appropriate or the honorable course of action to take.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is a grand structure. It was created to honor the memory of a truly good and great man. Greatness is by definition extraordinary, and what is extraordinary is by definition rare. Extraordinary qualities reveal what is possible and underlie high standards of excellence.

George Washington always rose to a challenge. He never took the easy and safe way. He held to his convictions and acted with courage, integrity and determination in the face of adversity. The Memorial Association exists to honor the life and character of Washington. We must strive to act and do as he would if faced with the present challenges. We must not reduce our programs and services. On the contrary, we must continue forward with strength and courage. We must strive for excellence and follow the example of the man for whom the Memorial is dedicated.

As we prepare for our Centennial Celebration, we look not only to George Washington for inspiration and guidance, but also to the remarkable Masons who conceived, financed and constructed the Memorial during the worst economic

depression our nation has experienced. They did not lament the harsh economic conditions of the time. They did not take the easy and safe way. They planned and acted with courage, faith and conviction. They were committed to create a magnificent edifice to honor Washington. These amazing men knew that the Freemasons of the United States would accept the challenge to establish a Masonic Memorial to the one man who best exemplified the morals, ethics and teachings of Freemasonry. George Washington was the Perfect Ashlar – the true exemplar of the just, honorable and forthright man that all Masons should aspire to be.

Thomas Jefferson said of Washington, *“He was in every sense of the words, a wise, a good and a great man....The whole of his character was in its mass perfect, in nothing bad in a few points indifferent. And it may be truly said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great, and to place him in the same constellation with whatever worthies have merited from man an everlasting remembrance...”*

Now is the time to test our resolve, our character, our courage and our commitment to continue to provide America, and indeed the world, with this magnificent Memorial to George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.

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

Centennial Celebration

On February 22, 2010, the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. To mark this historic event, the Association is commissioning a new portrait of George Washington as a Freemason, producing a book about the history of the Memorial, and issuing a Commemorative Medallion, Lapel Pin and Holiday Ornament. In addition, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America will be held in Virginia and the Association will hold its Annual Meeting at the Memorial. Other projects are underway to return the Memorial to the pristine condition it was in when it was dedicated so many years ago including new exhibits and structural restorations.

It is an exciting time and we are grateful to the many members and friends who have made a commitment to help continue our important mission to preserve, promote and celebrate the extraordinary life of our Brother, George Washington.

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. Her descendants presented it to Alexandria-Washington



Lodge No. 22. 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.

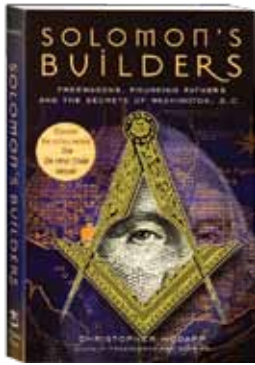
Book Review

Solomon's Builders: Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington, D.C., by Christopher Hodapp
Paperback, 324 pages, \$14.95, bulk discounts available

By Mark A. Tabbert

The American character blends blind ambition with boundless energy and fortitude. This characteristic, sometimes called "luck and pluck," was first identified by 19th-century author Horatio Alger in his tales about young boys who rise to wealth and respectability by seizing chances and working hard.

American "luck and pluck" is alive and well in Christopher Hodapp and his book *Solomon's Builders: Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington, D.C.* Luck came to Hodapp when the publishers of the "For Dummies" books, located in Indianapolis, contacted the Grand Lodge of Indiana looking for a writer to do a book on Freemasonry. Hodapp was recommended. A Past Master of two lodges in Indianapolis, he is also a founding member of The Masonic Society and editor of its journal. To date, *Freemasons for Dummies* has sold over 75,000 copies worldwide.



Hodapp followed his good luck with great pluck. With his wife, he wrote two more "For Dummies" books. And in between, he also wrote *Solomon's Builders*. The cover copy reads: "Discover the history behind *The DaVinci Code* sequel." Dan Brown's 2003 blockbuster spawned countless controversies and rebuttals. His expected sequel, *The Lost Symbol*, due out September 15, is now more than four years overdue. But this has not slowed numerous authors, writers and so-called experts from producing many preemptive books, videos and newspaper and magazine articles. What distinguishes *Solomon's Builders* from the good and bad, malicious and benevolent, is its honesty, humor and clarity.

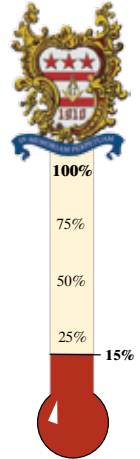
Solomon's Builders is roughly divided into three parts. The first part traces the origins of Freemasonry up through the American Revolution beginning with a young George Washington joining the Masonic lodge at Fredericksburg in 1752. Masonic stories and legends such as the Boston Tea Party, Prince Hall Freemasonry and the Society of Cincinnati are also discussed. The book's second part discusses Freemasonry in relation to the planning and building of Washington, D.C. Here Hodapp displays his ability, unlike so many other so-called experts, to admit lack of evidence, confess uncertainty and otherwise acknowledge history's inconsistencies.

In the last four chapters, with a refined sense of irony, Hodapp works over the "usual list of Masonic suspects": the All-Seeing Eye of the Great Seal; symbols on the dollar bill; the Masonic cornerstone ceremony at the U.S. Capitol,

100% Participation By Our 100th Anniversary

Help Us Hit The Mark

The clock is ticking and soon the hour will strike: February 22, 2010. Only a short time to go before our Centennial Celebration, but we're a long way from reaching our goal of 100% participation. A contribution of \$1 per member annually from every Grand Lodge will help to ensure that this magnificent edifice will always remain to inspire future generations. What could be more worthy than to be part of a national effort to perpetuate the Masonic ideals and beliefs of the one man that Freemasons all across America hold in the highest esteem?



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 forever preserved for all time.

NOTE: If you are from a local lodge reading this and support this idea, please take your enthusiasm to your State Ambassador to the Memorial and encourage him to help get this on the agenda for your Annual Communication. (Please call the Memorial for the name of your State Ambassador.)

Washington Monument and others; and the mystical and misunderstood statue of Albert Pike. Not content to simply debunk or expose, Hodapp also encourages the reader to visit public Masonic buildings. Chapter 11 describes many sites: the 1870 Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia Temple, the current headquarters on MacArthur Boulevard, both Scottish Rite Temples on 16th Street, the Order of the Eastern Star international headquarters, and of course, the George Washington Masonic Memorial. My particular favorite is found just across the Potomac River. The real "Rosslyn Chapel" secret treasure is a Chevron gas station built under a United Methodist Church in Rosslyn, Virginia.

As the book begins with George Washington's initiation into Fredericksburg Lodge, the book concludes with Washington's passing to the "Celestial Lodge Above" in 1799, a fitting coda to a "luck and pluck" story. It was the luck of Washington escaping after the battle of Brooklyn Heights. It was the pluck of Washington to cross the Delaware on Christmas night. It was the pluck of men to create Masonic lodges in frontier settlements while the District of Columbia was designed as a great capital city. But, ultimately, it was with trust in God that free men and Freemasons built a great nation.

With books such as *Solomon's Builders*, some day the astrological signs, mystical cross-streets and conspiracy mumbo-jumbo of Washington, D.C. will be in its proper place – among the astrology predictions, crosswords and Junior Jumble of the funny pages.

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. To order, visit the Memorial's website at www.gwmemorial.org or call 703-549-9234.

Join The GWMM Today!

Yes! Count on me to support our Memorial.

Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

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- \$250 - Gold Master:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
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Grand Lodge Month Program



The Grand Lodge of Texas was recognized during the month of April. (Photograph by Mark A. Tabbert)

The Grand Lodge of the Month Program is now a permanent part of the Form and Function of American Freemasonry exhibit. A display case in the exhibit features artifacts and items of interest from the Grand Lodge being recognized. Since 2000, the Program has generated interest in, participation with, and support of the Memorial. It has been extremely successful and has provided an opportunity for Grand Lodges to present their history and information to the thousands of visitors to the Memorial.



1910 - 2010
100th Anniversary

Association Officers

Elected February 15, 2009

Anthony P. Wordlow	President
Roger A. Simmons	First Vice President
Donald G. Hicks, Jr.	Second Vice President
Ridgely H. Gilmour	Third Vice President
George D. Seghers*	Executive Director
Donald M. Robey	Exec. Sec.-Treas. Emeritus

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Term expires February 22, 2010

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Frank R. Dunaway, Jr.*	A-W Lodge No. 22
Reese L. Harrison, Jr.	Texas
John L. Palmer	Tennessee
Michael A. Sutton	Idaho
Anthony P. Wordlow*	California

Term expires February 22, 2011

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Claire V. Tusch	Maine

Term expires February 22, 2012

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Thomas C. Jackson	Minnesota
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Calvin K. Keyler	Vermont
J. F. "Jeff" Webb	Louisiana

*Member of Executive Committee

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The Messenger

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