

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial
newsletter

Summer 1999.

Commemoration Day - June 26, 1999



To commemorate the bicentennial of the death of our nation's First President, the Masonic Grand Lodges of the United States sponsored a special day of historic events, music and fireworks at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The day was a huge success with thousands of people attending. Nearly all the Grand Lodges of the United States were represented as were several foreign jurisdictions.



The event officially began with the firing of a cannon by the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line from their "living history" encampment on the grounds of the Memorial. The Regiment presented tactical demonstrations and portrayed camp life during the Revolutionary War. The participants proceeded out of the front entrance of the Memorial to the pipes and drums of the KENA Highlanders.

Artillery Crew of the First Virginia Regiment.

First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line fires cannon.



Heroes of '76 Color Guard.



Heroes of '76 and State Flags.

First in the procession were the Heroes of '76, National Sojourners who provided the Color Guard which consisted of the National, Virginia and Grand Lodge of Virginia colors followed by flags of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.



Heroes of '76 with State Flags.



Heroes of '76 with State Flags.



Heads of Appendant Bodies



Heads of Appendant Bodies

Next in the procession were the Heads of Appendant Bodies or their representatives, all the Appendant Bodies were represented.



Heads of Appendant Bodies and Representatives



Grand Masters and Heads of
Appendant Bodies.

Grand Masters Procession.

Grand Masters from almost all of the US Grand Lodges were present or represented and were next in the procession.



Grand Masters Procession.



Grand Masters Procession.



Following the Grand Masters were the members of the
Executive Committee of the George Washington Masonic
Memorial Association.



Grand Masters and Executive Committee.



The Officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in procession.



The Deputy Grand Master, The Grand Master and the Grand
Deacons, Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The Officers of The Grand Lodge of Virginia were the final participants in the procession.



The Grand Master and Grand Deacons, The Grand Lodge of Virginia.



The Grand Lodge of Virginia in procession.



The Officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in procession.



Following the procession M.W. Paul E. Ellis, Chairman of the Commemoration Committee led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The crowd was welcomed by M.W. Edgar N. Pepler, President of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association

The Pledge of Allegiance.



The Honorable Kerry J. Donley, Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia.

The Honorable Kerry J. Donley, Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia welcomed the attendees and introduced the members of the City Council. Mayor Donley spoke of the ties between Freemasonry, Alexandria, Virginia and George Washington. M.W. Pepler spoke on the reasons for the Commemoration and the inspiration and reasons for building the Masonic Emblem.



Brother James C. Rees, Resident Director of Mount Vernon presented an informative and inspiring speech entitled; "George Washington: A New Look at An Old Hero".

Brother James C. Rees delivers keynote address.



The Masonic dedication of the Square and Compasses was done with dignity and solemnity by M.W. George H. Chapin and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The ceremony continued the tradition of consecrating buildings and structures with Masonic Honors.



Officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia dedicate the Masonic Emblem.



Grand Honors - Dedication of the Masonic Emblem.



Grand Master George H. Chapin Dedicates the Masonic Emblem



Grand Honors - Dedication of the Masonic Emblem.



After the Dedication ceremony entertainment was provided by recording artist and Brother Daniel A. Hall. Included in his repertoire was "What a Mighty Building" a song written by Brother David O. Norris and Brother Daniel A. Hall for the occasion. M.W. George H. Chapin the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia spoke on the significance and importance of the days events and the effect George Washington had on the creation of our country.



A picnic was served on the grounds of the Memorial prior to a concert presented by the United States Army Concert Band. The festivities culminated at dusk with a splendid fireworks display in front of the Memorial.



This was a great day for The George Washington Masonic Memorial, Freemasonry and America.