

Winter 2000

## Edgar N. Pepler Retiring As President



After five busy and productive years as President of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association, M.W. Edgar N. Pepler, P.G.M., will relinquish that leadership role during the annual meeting, February 21 in Savannah, GA. He will remain a member of the Board of Directors until his term expires in February 2001. His successor as President of the Association will be elected during the annual meeting.

Brother Pepler recalls his half-decade of service as "satisfying and gratifying ...exciting and enjoyable." During his tenure as President, the Association has recorded notable achievements, but he deems two of them to be of the greatest importance: the steady improvement of finances and a vastly increased visibility of the Memorial and Freemasonry.

Among points relative to financial progress, he cites the increase in the Endowment Fund to approximately \$12 million. At the same time, he emphasizes the need for continued growth in involvement and support. Looking ahead financially, he sees two vital challenges. The first is generating more involvement on the part of the Grand Lodges. He quotes M.W. Paul E. Ellis, First Vice President, who reminds us that "Every Grand Lodge is an owner of a piece of property in Alexandria" and should want to further their investment. The other is assuring the success of the Planned Giving Program developed under the direction of R.W. W. Scott Stoner.

From the earliest days of his Presidency, Brother Pepler championed the need for higher visibility and broader recognition for the Memorial and Freemasonry, and the heritage and principles that emanate from them. During his term, the Board brought about the publishing of this quarterly newsletter, which has developed into a key communication medium among Grand Lodges and brethren and friends nationwide. However, when it comes to visibility, in the words of

Brother Peppler, "The biggest event was commemoration Day on June 26 when the gigantic emblem—the Square and Compasses—was dedicated on the terrace in front of the Memorial."

Brother Peppler also has been responsible for other capital improvements at the Memorial, such as the remodeling of the kitchen, installation of air conditioning to the auditorium and library, upgrading the electrical system, making the building handicap accessible and improving the landscaping. First Vice President Ellis and Third Vice President Stoner, both of whom worked closely with Brother Peppler, describe him as personable, determined and energetic.

"He has traveled extensively to Grand Lodges, Lodges and Appendant Bodies to encourage their support of the Memorial," said Brother Ellis.

Brother Peppler, who is a Past Master of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 28, Bordentown, NJ, was the M.W. Grand Master of Masons in New Jersey in 1979-80. He had served as R.W. Grand Marshal in 1971 and as a Trustee of the Masonic Charity Fund for ten years.

His mission to improve and enhance the Memorial to perpetuate the memory of George Washington, not only to the Freemasonry but the general public, will always be remembered and treasured.

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## **From The President A New Millennium; A Fresh Start**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with the George Washington Masonic Memorial and with all who have served with me. It has truly been a labor of love and I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the boards I have served with and particularly of the members of the executive committee who have given their time and talents to this association. It has been a privilege to represent the Grand Lodge of New Jersey as a member of this board and especially as its president for the past five years.



I especially want to thank M.W. Donald M. Robey who was instrumental in getting us on the right track and who went above and beyond in the work he did as our executive Secretary-Treasurer. Also to Jo Ann Guthrie for her many hours of dedication at the Memorial. She has been an outstanding worker for us and deserves every commendation given to her. I know that W. Brother George Seghers will find his niche at the Memorial and will continue the great tradition of dedicated service to the association.

The most outstanding event during my time has been Commemoration Day on June 26, 1999. The beautiful Masonic emblem on the front terrace is a true symbol of Masonic unity and certainly sends a message to all that freemasonry is alive and well, and tells everyone that the Memorial is a Masonic memorial honoring Brother George Washington, a dedicated servant of people and Freemasonry. As President and Brother

Gerald Ford said at the unveiling of his plaque in the auditorium, "When I think of things right about America, I think of this order for its sense of duty to country, its esteem for brotherhood and traditional values, its high principles and its belief in God as the Supreme Being."

When my family visited the Memorial, my then 3-year-old granddaughter Madison took one look at the building and said, "Wow, Pop-pop's castle." Since that time we have affectionately referred to it as "Pop Pop's castle." But seriously, it is the castle of everyone in Freemasonry and the only

unified effort of all the Grand Lodges in the United States. Remember that and do your part in your jurisdiction to support the programs and efforts of your board of trustees.

I wish for my successor the very best as he assumes the position of President of the association. I know he is a dedicated Freemason and will do his very best to keep the Memorial association, as something we as Master Masons can be proud of.

My dream and earnest prayer is that the future of the George Washington Masonic Memorial will be even brighter and greater than the present. I pray first, that our endowment fund will increase to such a point that its income will completely support the maintenance and programs of the Memorial, which can be accomplished by the planned giving program. Secondly, I pray that every Grand Lodge in the United States of America will feel a part of this association and will support it with time, prayers and contributions.

Thank you for your great support over the past five years and may God bless each and every one of you.

Fraternally Yours,

Edgar N. Peppler, PGM

President, GWMMA

## **Where There's a Will, There's a Way**

Your will is one of the most important documents you will ever sign. To avoid problems, consider the following:

### **1. Do it now.**

The worst thing you can do in creating a will is to procrastinate. A will delayed is a will not done. Now is the time—while you are able—to plan for the future.

### **2. Seek professional assistance**

Saving a few dollars by writing your own will or using a mass-produced generic form will not provide the level of inner peace and confidence you and your family deserve. A qualified estate planning attorney who knows how to draft a will that meets the specific requirements of your state of residence will meet your individual needs.

### **3. Don't rely on it solely.**

Your will needs to be considered along with other transfer documents, such as life insurance policies, joint-ownership accounts and retirement accounts. Other estate planning documents might include: power of attorney, appropriate health care provisions and a living will.

### **4. Revisit your will periodically.**

Things change. Children grow up. New laws are passed. New developments occur regarding health issues and financial resources. It's a good idea to review your will every year.

### **5. Keep a copy with your lawyer.**

A will is worthless unless it can be located and duly recorded at your death. Let some one know where it is. A little foresight like this can spare your family added stress during their time of grief. A copy can go in your files at home, but your lawyer should have the original.

We at the George Washington Masonic Memorial want you and your loved ones to be protected with a thorough up-to-date estate plan. If you need help in finding an estate attorney in your area, we will assist you in any way we can. And if you are interested in contributing to the future work of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, an estate gift would be greatly appreciated. For planned giving information, contact W. Scott Stoner, Chairman, Planned Giving Committee, by writing to: 998 Nissley Road, Lancaster, PA 17601; or by calling 717-898-2185 (Fax 717-898-8956).

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## How High is the Memorial?

By J.P. Riddell, Curator, Replica Lodge Room



The George Washington Masonic Memorial sits on Shooters Hill, which originally was 125 feet above sea level. Prior to the Memorial's construction, the top of the hill had to be cleared of trees and brush, and the surface leveled sufficiently to accommodate the base of the Memorial, which measures 177 feet wide by 195 feet long. This leveling process reduced the height of the hill to 108 feet. However, when combined with the height of the structure, (333 feet), the Memorial rises to approximately 440 feet above sea level, making it 67 feet higher than the dome of the United States Capital.



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## Donations for Commemoration Day, June 26, 1999 will be accepted until June 26, 2000.



All significant donors will be listed on the marble marker to be erected at the foot of the Masonic Emblem.



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## Imperial Potentate Visits Memorial

Ralph W. Semb, Imperial Potentate, Imperial Council Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of The Mystic Shrine, accompanied by Tom Rousseau, Imperial Photographer; Kenneth L. Hall, Potentate of KENA Temple; Donald E. Smith, Chief Rabban of KENA Temple, and Mrs. Donald Smith visited the Memorial Sunday, November 7. Brother Semb expressed his delight and satisfaction with the various displays in the Memorial. He also confirmed that the Shrine Rooms will be updated and renovated in the near future.



## Windows Available For Dedication

Several years ago the windows in the Memorial were replaced with more energy-efficient models. The cost of the replacements has been underwritten by individuals or organizations dedicating a window or windows in honor of individuals or organizations. To date, all the windows in the fourth floor Museum have been dedicated. We have one dedicated in the Library and one in the Knights Templar Chapel. There are 13 windows available in the Library and 11 available in the Knights Templar Chapel. To dedicate a window in honor of an individual or organization requires a donation of \$7,500. The Memorial will install a brass plaque at, or near, the designated window stating for whom the window is dedicated and from whom. This is an excellent way to support the Memorial and perpetuate the memory of an individual or organization.

## 1999 Was a Banner Year For The Memorial

By George D. Seghers

Concluding a year of intense and exciting activity, 1999 was closed with the Memorial once again being a major participant in "First Night Alexandria," the alcohol-free, family-oriented New Years Eve Celebration. The Memorial hosted a children's puppet theater, clowns and balloon sculpturing, The Alexandria Choral Society, Alexandria's 250th anniversary birthday cake, and a range of musical events from swing bands to traditional music. The festivities ended with a spectacular fireworks display in front of the Memorial at midnight.



The focal point of the year was "Commemoration Day, June 26," when the Masonic Emblem was dedicated on the front grounds. It commemorated the 200th anniversary of the death of our first President and foremost Freemason, George Washington. The event was a great success with several thousand participants from across the country and from several foreign countries. The huge Masonic Emblem was constructed in front of the Memorial as a means to identify the building as a Masonic structure. This has proven successful with the publication of numerous articles about the emblem and the Memorial in local and national newspapers and televised broadcasts.

According to the by laws of the Memorial association, the purpose of the Memorial is: To erect and maintain...a suitable memorial temple to George Washington, the Mason, which expresses 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. Our current association President, M.W. Brother Edgar N. Pepler, has worked extremely hard to uphold the bylaws and purpose of the association. He has been a tireless worker and promoter for the Memorial and has been an inspiration to all who have come in contact with him. Brother Ed has been the guiding force in returning the Memorial to a solid financial position so that it will endure for the coming generations. He has been a consummate ambassador for the Memorial in all the Grand Jurisdictions and Appendant organizations that he has visited. He was the perfect spokesman and Master of Ceremonies for the June 26 event. He has been a tireless fund-raiser and has worked equally hard to raise the awareness of the Memorial in and outside the Masonic Fraternity. Brother Ed will retire at the Annual Meeting in February.

***The entire Masonic Fraternity, and especially those of us at the Memorial, owe our Brother and our Friend a heartfelt and sincere thanks for a job well done.***



## The George Washington Penknife



The George Washington Penknife is the perfect gift to celebrate the birth and life of our First President and foremost Freemason. An exact replica of the George Washington Penknife is available through the GWMM Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop can be contacted by telephone at 703-549-9234 or by writing to:

**Gift Shop - GWMM • 101 Callahan Drive • Alexandria, Virginia 22301**

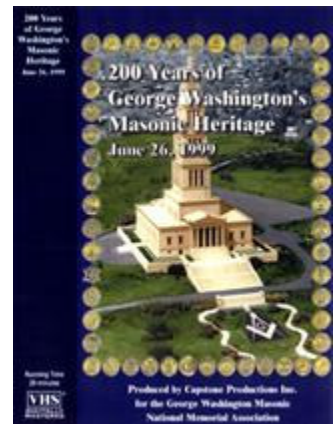
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## "Two Hundred Years of George Washington's Masonic Heritage"

The Commemoration Day, June 26, 1999 video is now available through the GWMM Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop can be contacted by telephone at 703-549-9234 or by writing to:

**Gift Shop - GWMM • 101 Callahan Drive • Alexandria, Virginia 22301**



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101 Callahan Drive,  
Alexandria, VA 22301.  
For information, call (703) 683-2007



## **Association Officers**

### **Elected February 22, 1999:**

Edgar N. Peppler President  
Paul E. Ellis First Vice President  
Warren D. Lichty Second Vice President  
W. Scott Stoner Third Vice President  
George D. Seghers Exec. Sec.-Treasurer  
Marvin E. Fowler Sec.-Treas. Emeritus  
Donald M. Robey Sec.-Treas. Emeritus

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## **Board of Directors**

### **\*Members of Executive Committee**

*Term expires February 22, 2000:*

Paul E. Ellis\* Seaford, DE  
Ronald E. Johnson Hydro, OK  
Carveth K. Neer Pittsburg, KS  
Eric J. Neetenbeek Duluth, MN  
David A. Olehy Idaho Falls, ID  
W. Scott Stoner\* Lancaster, PA  
Arnold B. Wasserman West Kingston, RI

*Term expires February 22, 2001:*

O.C. Boyd Jonesboro, AR  
Michael D. Brumback\* Anderson, IN  
Arthur K. Cronin Reno, NV  
Frank R. Dunaway, Jr.\* Alexandria, VA  
Thomas C. Ehlers Spokane, WA  
Edgar N. Peppler\* (Chairman) Bordentown, NJ  
Anthony P. Wordlow Sacramento, CA

*Term expires February 22, 2002:*

W.M. (Mike) Gower McAllen, TX  
Thomas W. Gregory Statesville, NC  
Warren D. Lichty\* Lincoln, NE  
Brian A. Paradis Harrison, ME  
Larry C. Schafer Phoenix, AZ  
Stanley S. Sheldon, Jr. Pomfret Center, CT  
Walter E. Winger Church Hill, TN

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## **21st Century Members**

\* Harry E. Hicks MI  
by Morning Star Lodge No. 556  
Gerald H. Grosskopf NJ  
Emil Klingenfus VA  
Tuoc Kim Pham CA  
Robert M. Stulz NJ  
\*Doris M. Robey VA  
by Donald M. Robey  
*\*In Honor/Memory of*

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## **New Life Members**

Barry R. Stocker NJ  
by Supreme Forest, TCL