Summer 2002

United States Military Bands Performing at the Memorial

The United States Army Band “Pershing's Own” performed in front of the Memorial June 18th and July 16th. The final concert by the 60-member, full-concert band will be held August 6th. The concerts are free and open to the public.

The United States Air Force Band Chamber Players completed a series of five concerts April 2nd. They will perform September 20th and 27th, October 11th and 25th, November 8th and 22nd and December 13th and 20th. All performances will be in the Memorial Theater and are free and open to the public.

The United States Marine Band "The President's Own" performed in the Memorial Theater April 28th. A series of seven concerts is scheduled for next year. All performances will be held in the Memorial Theater and are free and open to the public.

These concerts are part of the ongoing integration of the Memorial into the local community and a means to bring quality entertainment venues to the Memorial.

Grand Lodge Officers Make Contribution to Memorial

At the 176th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, all 12 Grand Lodge Line Officers contributed Life Memberships to the Memorial. The generous Brothers were Paul N. Cross, GM; David R. Bedwell, DGM; Lary R. Smith, SGW; Robert G. Helmic, JGW; Thomas F. Hamlin, GTreas.; W. Don Baugher, GSec.; Eddie R. Steffne, GL; Robert F. Light, GC; Richard P. Ruhland, SGD; Walter F. Wheeler, JGD; Ira S. Slaven, GMar.; and James A. Schad, GTiler and former State Chairman for the Memorial. This is the first time a complete Grand Lodge Line made Life Membership Contributions to the Memorial.
The George Washington Masonic Memorial Association was founded to promote the memory of George Washington as a Mason. The Memorial building is dedicated to that purpose, and its contents and collections promote that purpose. It is also important that we, as Masons, promote the memory of Washington everywhere and in every way possible.

As I mentioned in the last issue of the "Newsletter," the year 2002 is a very important Masonic anniversary. On Nov. 4, 1752, George Washington was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Nov. 4, 2002, will be the 250th anniversary of that event. The Lodge has long celebrated the anniversary of Washington's initiation, and this year will celebrate it November 2nd. The 17th-century Holy Bible on which Washington took his Mason Obligations will be on the Altar, and other Masonic artifacts relating to him will also be there.

We would be interested in knowing what other Grand Lodges are doing to celebrate this special anniversary. After all, George Washington, the most famous Mason of all, belongs to all Masons and all Masons should celebrate this special Washington anniversary. A quarter of a millennium is a long time. If you let us know what your Grand Lodge or your Lodge is planning, we will be glad to tell our readers about it. We should not let this important anniversary pass unrecognized.

My own Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, has a statewide event scheduled for October 26th in Hastings. There will be a Masters Degree in Colonial costume, and there is some indication that George himself will make an appearance at the banquet. We also hope to have in attendance a good group of uniformed Heroes of '76.

In another issue, we will describe what Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, George Washington's own Lodge where he served as Charter Master, is planning to do. The importance of this occasion cannot be overstated. Let me also say that all celebrations need not be in October or November. Any time during the year is appropriate to recognize Washington and this very special anniversary.
From the Secretary
By George D. Seghers, Exec. Sec.-Treasurer

Visitors to the Memorial often comment on the beauty, impressive scale and its well-maintained condition. The prodigious task of maintaining this great Memorial would be daunting enough if the building were new. The cornerstone for the Memorial was laid in 1923, and the majority of the Temple was completed in 1932 for the bicentennial of Washington's birth. Most of the plumbing, some of the wiring and of course the structure itself are now 70 years old. This wonderful historic building is both a sacred trust and a tremendous burden. The cost of even minimal restoration and maintenance, to which we are committed, is far higher than the cost of repairing and maintaining more ordinary structures and systems. Unlike publicly funded museums and memorials, we cannot go to Congress and request an appropriation. From the inception of the Memorial Association to the present, we have relied on the membership for the funds required to first construct and now to maintain the Memorial. At the present time we have identified $794,700 in needed repairs that we have placed in a "deferred maintenance" status. Deferred maintenance means we will spend much more money in the future to accomplish the repairs and maintenance that are needed now.

The highest achievement of architectural skill and the most enduring materials were used to build this monument to honor the model Mason and citizen, our founding father and first president, George Washington. On February 22, 2010 we will mark the 100th anniversary of The George Washington Masonic Memorial Association. We must accomplish the deferred maintenance projects prior to that date. We must ensure this Memorial, which is the largest and most imposing monument ever erected to honor an individual, is returned to the pristine condition it was in at its dedication ceremony in 1932.
A Key To The Bastille

Bastille is the French word for any strongly fortified structure. King Charles V built the Bastille of Paris as a fortress in 1730. Later it was used as a prison for people who displeased the kings or their courts. Consequently when the French Revolution began in 1789, the first thing the people did was storm the Bastille. But they made little progress until the governor lowered the drawbridge to admit some artillery of the Royal Guard. It was then that the citizens rushed in, stormed the Bastille and killed the entire garrison. On the following day, July 14, 1789, the people began to tear down that hated symbol of oppression. France now celebrates that date - Bastille Day - as its great national holiday, corresponding to our Independence Day.

On his last visit to America in 1825, The Marquis de Lafayette visited George Washington's Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia, and presented the lodge with a key to the Bastille. This vital symbol of a free society is on display in the George Washington Museum on the fourth level of the Memorial tower.

Jack Riddell

Alexandria's National Trails Day

Alexandria's National Trails Day kicked off at the Memorial Saturday, June 1st with a continental breakfast followed by a book signing by Pam Cressey, author of "Walk and Bike the Alexandria Heritage Trail." Events included a 15-mile, guided bike ride and a 3-mile, guided walking tour.
Archaeology Exhibit Unveiled

On Saturday, June 8th, Jack L. Allen, PGM, and Mark A. Bernardin, Director of Program Development of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, unveiled the new Archaeology Display in Assembly Hall. Funding for the display was secured through the efforts of Brothers Allen and Bernardin and was provided by the Masons of Ohio. The exhibit features artifacts unearthed on the Memorial grounds by the City of Alexandria Office of Historic Alexandria Archaeologists. The exhibit covers the history of the site from Native American stone tools and pottery, through the Mills/Lee/Dulaney Mansion, circa 1781-1842, the 1850s Brick Mansion, Fort Ellsworth and the Civil War, 1861-1865, to the present. The City Archaeology Department has been conducting excavations on the Memorial grounds since 1995 and will continue to do so in the future.

In What Do You Trust?

Some years ago a sojourning Mason was visiting Washington, D.C. A Past Master of a Lodge in France, he wanted to meet some local Masons and attend a D.C. Lodge. While in this country he also planned to visit New York City to see the Statue of Liberty, which was, he remarked, "A gift of my country to yours; a monument which stands as a symbol of the cherished values that the citizens of both our countries believe in.

"But much more important," he added, "is for me to have an opportunity to see first hand how you Americans use your Statutes of Liberty."
My visitor referred of course to the American freedom documents: the Declaration of Independence; Bill of Rights; and the four freedoms of Franklin Roosevelt - freedom from want and fear and freedom of speech and religion. All these are basic freedoms all Americans revere. He wanted to see first-hand how these documents shape American life, not in theory but in fact. In this respect he was not unlike millions of people around the world for whom America is a Mecca of opportunity and justice. He simply had to see for himself whether the "great experiment" was fact or fiction.

The Statutes of Liberty are especially appreciated by those of us who have had the opportunity to participate in the work of the Masonic fraternity, wherein all men of good report and noble intent, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or tongue, are welcomed. We recognize, as did those who
crafted those freedom documents we all revere, that diversity is a virtue out of which national or 
fraternal strength is forged. Regardless of how we look, talk or make a living, we recognize, in the 
parlance of the ritual and in the spiritual sense, that we all hail from a common origin.

While diversity is thus duly and fully honored in America, there is at the same time a general 
recognition within all sectors of our population of an absolute need to achieve a goal of even 
greater worth - that of unity. In this country, we share common values and strive for common 
goals within a regime wherein all men and women are called upon to strive for the common good. 
In doing so we have become a nation in which belief in God may be unequaled anywhere else on 
Earth. We have also become a people who have a devotion to keeping the peace, obeying the 
law and placing trust in all constituted leadership, both civil and spiritual.

In the last analysis we, the citizens of the United States of America, have shaped a nation that is 
trusting and trustworthy; may God give us the strength, intellect and the resolve to keep it so. It is 
our collective and individual duty to stay focused on what and in whom we, as Masons and 
friends of the Craft, place our trust. Let us not waver.

Stewart W. Miner
July 1, 2002
LIFE MEMBERS
Paul N. Cross - MI
David R. Bedwell, Sr. - MI
Lary R. Smith - MI
Robert G. Helmic - MI
Thomas F. Hamlin - MI
W. Don Baugher - MI
Eddie R. Steffne - MI
Robert F. Light - MI
Richard P. Ruhland - MI
Walter F. Wheeler - MI
Ira S. Slaven - MI
James A. Schad - MI
Charles O. Barclay, Jr. - VA
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E. Lawrence Broggini - FL
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Miguel Candelaria - GA
Burdette J. Chapman, Jr. - SC
Stephen Di Marco - MA
George E. Dewese - VA
Sheridan L. Dolvin - WA
Albert C. Donaldson - MA
William C. Dunham - FL
4th Masonic District - GA
Donald H. Geesey - VA
John I. Gilbert - CT
Harry S. Truman York Rite College - MO
Larry L. Henselmeier - IN
Thomas Hikida - WA
Robert W. Homann - IL
Harry R. Houston - WA
Humane Lodge No. 21, F. & A.M. - NH
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Milton E. Larson - MN
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John Gilbert - CT
William F. & Barbara Lott - CT
Tim Olsen - CT
James N. Katsaounis - PA
Joseph Maffe, Jr. - PA
Edward F. Nebola - SD
Peter F. Nostrand - VA
Tim Olsen - CT
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Betty Alice Reichel - TX
Sarah Jane Dement Reichel - FL
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Charles E. Sandeen - VA
Bernard L. Shain - OR
Ricky S. Sheppard - KY
William C. Stafford, Jr. - NJ
John E. Taylor - TN
Wayne C. Temple - IL
Joseph Turner - FL
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William Kenneth Woodard - FL
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Robert L. Atkins - MN
Lawrence W. Bachman - MN
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Samuel S. Blane - IL
George O. Braatz - OH
T.C. Braswell - OK
Bremond Lodge No. 241, A.F. & A.M. - VA
Eugene S. Brobst - CA
Larry C. Brown - WA
Michael D. Brumback - IN
John M. Buffington - NV
Carl R. Carlson - IL
Charles A. Carmack - DE
Joseph L. Casson - IL
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Frank R. Costanzo - AL
Denver Lodge No. 5, A.F. & A.M. - CO
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Leonard B. Fleming - MD
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Mace N. Foxwell - MD
W. Neil Fussell - TN
M. Donald Gardner - ME
Alexander Gaston - HI
Eldon E. Gearing - NV
James A. Grannes - IL
Gerald H. Grosskopf - NJ
Sharon Lodge No. 327, A.F. & A.M. - VA
Grove Lodge No. 824, A.F. & A.M. - IL
Carl R. Hansen - IL
*John B. Harry, II - VA
by Jane W. Harry
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Michael J. Hlatke, III - NJ
Holland Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A.M. - TX
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Clyde Kidd - CA
Larry Koch - NJ
Mancos Lodge No.100,A.F. & A.M. - CO
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George F. Parker - MA
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Norman B. Hodges - VA
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Gordon E. Hopkins - MO
Carl R. Hult - MI
O.J. Howell, Jr. - GA
A. Leslie Johnson, Jr. - VA
Hollis F. Kane - MA
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Liberty Council No. 50 - MO
George S. Martin - NJ
The Masonic Kilties of New Jersey - NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart W. Miner - VA
Melvin C. Monsen - WA
Mystic Brotherhood Lodge No. 21, F. & A.M. - NJ
Robert Newbern - IL
Ben L. O'Brien - CA
Calvin C. Overlock - MA
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George F. Parker - MA
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Harold Y. Weaver - FL
Mark W. Whiteley - TX
Bruce Widger - NY
William H. Young, Jr. - NM
Burch E. Zehner - OH
Wallace F. Zetrouer - FL
Memorial Tree Program

For a donation of $500.00 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, contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or Email: gseghers@gwmemorial.org

LIBRARY OPEN ON WEDNESDAY

The Memorial Library is open Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Harry B. Lyon Assistant Librarian on duty. The Library is open to the public for research on Masonry, Colonial America and George Washington.

Memorial Windows
Available for Dedication

To dedicate a window in honor or memory of an individual or an organization requires a donation of $7,500. The Memorial will install a dedicatory plaque at, or near, the designated window stating for whom the window is dedicated and by whom it was presented. This is an excellent way to support the Memorial and perpetuate the memory of an individual or organization. For more information contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or Email: gseghers@gwmemorial.org.

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